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PANORAMA
OF CHESTER

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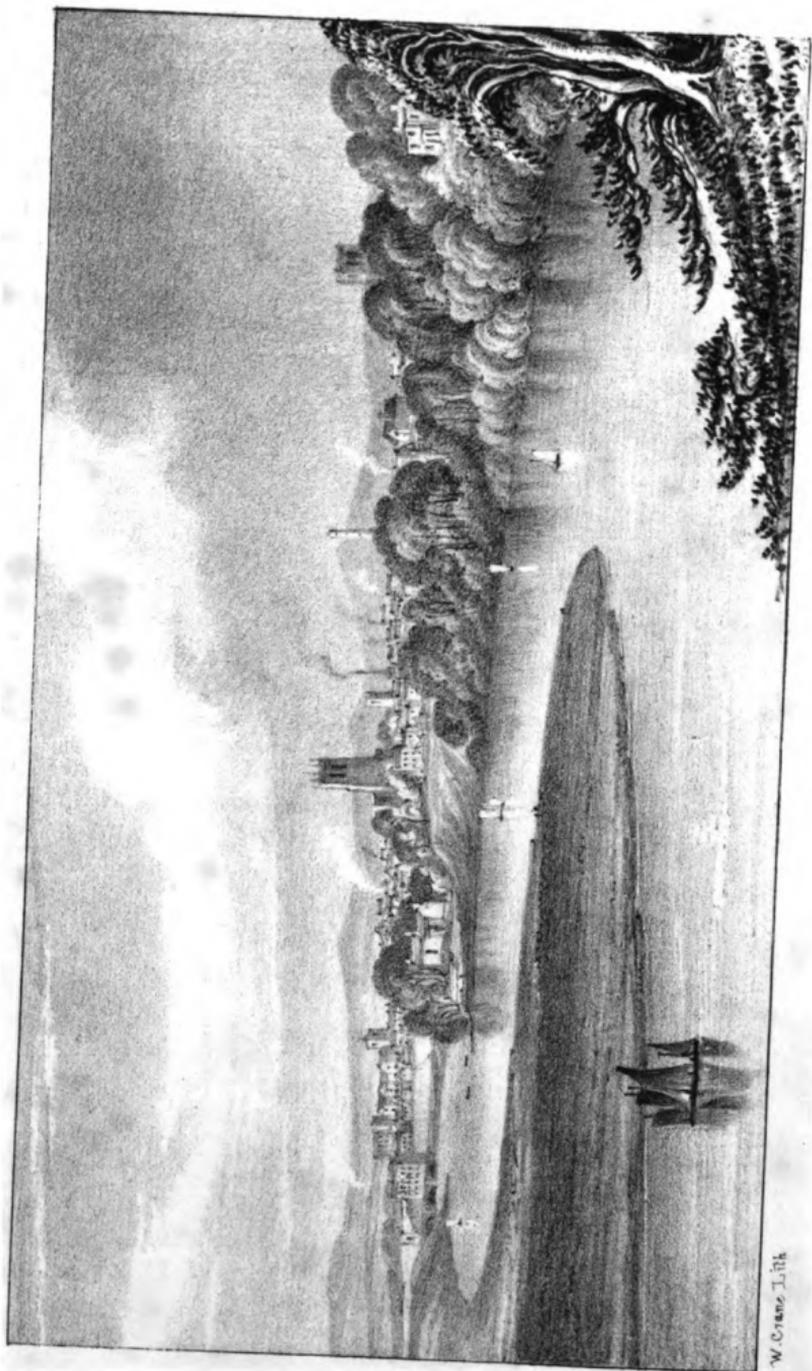
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CHESTER,
FROM THE MOUNT BOUGHTON.

PANORAMA
OF THE
CITY OF CHESTER;

CONTAINING ITS
CURIOSITIES, ANTIQUITIES, AND
ANCIENT & PRESENT STATE;

A
VISIT TO EATON HALL,
AND A NOTICE OF THE
MARKET TOWNS IN THE COUNTY;

INTENDED AS A
POCKET DIRECTORY
TO THE INQUISITIVE TRAVELLER AND CURIOUS TOURIST;
WITH PLATES.

BY JOSEPH HEMINGWAY,
*Late Editor of the Chester Chronicle,
And author of the History of Chester in two 8vo. volumes,
Panorama of North Wales, &c.*

CHESTER:

PRINTED BY T. GRIFFITH; SOLD BY R. GROOMBRIDGE,
PANYER-ALLEY, PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND BY
ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

1836.

D.



P R E F A C E .

A PERSON visiting a strange town, who has leisure at command, and possesses a taste for curious research, may usually gratify his inquisitiveness at a very small expence, as there are few places whose booksellers do not furnish *A Guide to the Traveller, Companion to the Stranger,* or some other such small book, by which the curiosities and attractions of the place are pointed out. At least such will be the practice of the traveller and tourist, whose professed object is to find out every thing worthy of personal observation.

If this be true in general, it is peculiarly so of such a place as the City of Chester, which furnishes subjects to the antiquarian and man of taste, far beyond what can be found perhaps in any other town or city in the empire.

Numerous small publications have been issued from the Chester press, the sale of which has been

extensive, and the object of which has been to assist the inquiries of the stranger in his researches here. I have no inclination to speak disparagingly of these bagatelles, but would take the liberty to remark, that the object of this publication has been not only to describe the principal attractions of the place, but to subjoin such a condensed *history* of the city, as may be read with advantage, when the curiosity of research is fully gratified; to render it not only a correct directory to the *stranger*, but a useful companion to the *resident*, and especially to the juvenile classes, who may have no other access to the knowledge of events and facts of their native city.

Great care and attention have been employed to render the publication as free from inaccuracy as possible; and to make it, what it is intended to be, a *standard work*, for the use of those for whom it is designed.

APRIL, 1836.

PANORAMA

OF THE

CITY OF CHESTER.

ORIGIN, NAMES, AND EARLY HISTORY.

THIS city, the metropolis of a county palatine, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Dee, at the extremity of the hundred of Broxton, and adjoining the east end of the peninsula of Wirral; distant from London, by the nearest route, 182 miles.

That the foundation of this city is of remote antiquity, all writers concur in acknowledging; and it is to this fact that may be ascribed the variety of opinions promulgated as to the precise time of its origin, and its early names. There seems, however, little or no credit due to those legends, which affect to give the city a flourishing existence prior to the invasion of the Romans. Its being peopled at all, at that period, can only be inferred from its inviting and commodious situation, and from the natural securities its river and neighbouring hills afforded against the predatory incursions of barbarous hordes with which the country, in those early days, were, more or less, infested.

 ORIGIN, NAMES, AND EARLY HISTORY.

From the very form of the place, it has been confidently inferred, by most writers, and amongst others, by the respectable antiquarian Pennant, that Chester was indebted to the Romans for its foundation. The four principal streets, Bridge-street, Northgate-street, Watergate-street, and Eastgate-street, crossing each other at right angles, still retain the form and appearance of a Roman camp. And although of this we have no direct historical evidence, it is well known to have been one of the principal military stations that the Romans had in this island.

Its British names of *Caer Lleon* "The Camp of the Legion," and *Caer Lleon Vawr ar Ddyfrdwy*, "The Camp of the Great Legion on the Dee," was derived from the twentieth legion having been chiefly stationed here. By the Romans it was called *Castrum Legionis*, "The Camp of the Legion;" *Deva* and *Deunana*, from the river; and afterwards *Cestria*, from the Latin word *Castrum*, "A Camp." The Saxons gave it the names of *Legancester* and *Lecacester*.

After the Romans departed from Britain in the fifth century, this place fell under the government of the British Princes. In their hands it remained until the year 603, when it was wrested from them by Ethelfrid, King of Northumbria. Brochwel Yscythroc, Prince of Powys, made a feeble attempt to oppose him. Relying on the interference of heaven in his behalf, he brought forward his army, composed only of monks, and other religions, from the monastery of Bangor* (which was but a few miles distance) and placed them upon an eminence,

* The place of the massacre of the monks, is not unfrequently ascribed to Bangor in Caernarvonshire; whereas it is a small town of that name in Flintshire.

ORIGIN, NAMES, AND EARLY HISTORY.

naked and defenceless. Ethelfrid observed them in the attitude of prayer, and considering them as much his enemies, in imploring the power of heaven against him, as they would have been had they opposed him in arms, commanded his soldiers immediately to the attack; in consequence, more than twelve hundred of them were slain.

Chester, after this period, seems to have been alternately possessed by the British, the Saxons, and the Danes; by the latter, however, it was held but a very short time, being restored to the Saxons by the valiant daughter of Alfred the Great, Elfreda, the wife of Ethelred Duke of Mercia. For this heroic exploit, the worthy lady was thus eulogized by the poets of the day :

Elfreda, terror of mankind,
Nature, for ever unconfin'd,
Stamp't thee in woman's tender frame
Though worthy of a hero's name.
E'en Cæsar's conquests were outdone,
By thee, illustrious Amazon !

After the Norman conquest, William created his nephew, Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and delegated to him the same jurisdiction in this county, that he himself exercised in the rest of the kingdom. By virtue of this grant, the Earls held parliaments at Chester, consisting of the Barons and tenants; their acts were as absolute within their jurisdiction, as those of the English senate in regard of the rest of the kingdom: the Earls also held their court, appointed officers of state, and in every respect had supreme homage paid to them as sole monarchs of the land; all the landowners in the county

ORIGIN, NAMES, AND EARLY HISTORY.

were mediately or immediately their vassals, and under the same allegiance to them as the rest of the nation were to the Kings of England.

Hugh Lupus, immediately after receiving the earldom, in order to secure himself from any encroachments, either of Welsh or English, repaired and strengthened the city walls, and erected the castle.

In several of the reigns subsequent to the Norman conquest, Chester was made a place of rendezvous for the English troops in all expeditions against the Welsh. In consequence of this, it frequently suffered very considerably. Camden informs us, that "the skirmishes here between the Welsh and English, in the beginning of the Norman times, were so numerous, the inroads and incursions, and the firing of the suburbs of Handbridge, beyond the bridge so frequent, that the Welshmen called it *Treboeth*, that is, "The Burnt Town."

From the time of Hugh Lupus, for near two centuries, Chester continued entirely under the jurisdiction of its Earls; but on the death of the last Earl, John Scott, without male issue, in 1237, Henry III. took the earldom, with all the powers annexed to it, into his own hands; and in return granted to the city its first royal charter. The title of Prince, instead of Earl of Chester, was conferred by Henry upon his son, afterwards Edward the first, and it has vested ever since in the reigning monarch's eldest son.

It was in this city that the Welsh made their final acknowledgment to the sovereignty of England in the year 1300, to Edward of Caernarvon, Prince of Wales, when the freeholders of the county did homage and fealty for their respective lands. Henry, Duke of Lancaster, afterwards Henry IV. in 1399 seized this city and its

HEALTHY SITUATION.—CITY WALLS.

castle, in his way to Flint against the ill-fated Richard II. and in returning to London, secured him one night in the castle.

PLEASING AND HEALTHY SITUATION.

The inhabitants of Chester enjoy advantages which scarcely any other place of equal magnitude possesses; peculiarly favoured by Providence, the situation is as pleasing as the air is salubrious. The late Dr. Haygarth, a gentleman of high professional talents, with whose residence here, the city was long favoured, in his observations on the population and diseases of Chester, published in 1774, has shewn, that it was, in a very extraordinary degree, more healthy than most other towns and cities, and that during a period of ten years preceding, the proportion of deaths annually had been only one in forty, and within the walls, exclusively of the suburbs, only one in fifty-eight. He attributes the healthiness of Chester to its elevated situation; its being built on a loose rock, which quickly absorbs moisture; and its being surrounded by the Dee. The Doctor observes also, that the air is uncommonly clear, there having been but six foggy, and thirty-two hazy mornings during the four years then preceding; and he considers the opportunities for taking air and exercise, afforded even to invalids by the rows and walls, well adapted to preserve and restore health. Dr. Aikin, in his history of the country round Manchester truly remarks, "that the small proportion of deaths, when compared with the number of inhabitants at Chester, is in part owing to the much less proportion of the lowest class of poor, than in manufacturing towns."

THE CITY WALLS.

One of the first objects of curiosity that strikes a stranger on entering Chester, is the City walls, which entirely surround the place, and on which there is an excellent flagged walking path of about two yards in width, the outer side being guarded by a stone parapet wall between four and five feet high, so that it forms a beautiful promenade for two persons abreast. The whole circuit is exactly one mile, three-quarters, and one hundred and twenty-one yards. These walls are the only entire specimen of ancient fortification existing in Britain; and although it is certain they had their origin in hostile warfare, they are now, and have been long, wholly devoted to the purposes of health, pleasure, and recreation. They are kept in constant repair by the corporation; and the walking path, being formed of flags, is always clean, and very soon, even after torrents of rain, become perfectly dry.

The present form of the walls is strictly Roman, which goes a great way to negative the old legends of the monkish chronicles, that the walls were enlarged one-third in circumference by Ethelfleda, the celebrated Saxon princess. The walls at present, says a judicious antiquary, is so entirely Roman, that any addition she could make, would have destroyed the peculiar figure which that wise people always preserved in their stations or castremetations, wherever the nature of the ground would permit. Besides, the reliques of antiquity which distinguish their residence are not confined to any one quarter; they have been met with in excavations on every side of the city.

The military architecture, continues the same writer,

CITY WALLS.

is still precisely on the Roman plan. It is probable that after their retreat, the walls fell into ruin, in the impoverished, turbulent, and barbarous ages that succeeded; yet they were never so totally demolished, but they might yield a defence to its possessors. We find the city wrested out of the hands of the Britons by Egbert, in 828; we again find it in possession of the Danes in 895, and besieged by Alfred, who slew all the banditti, whom he found *without the walls*; and lastly, we see it taken by Ethelfleda, and the voluntary surrender of its garrison. All this proves a continuance of the fortifications, probably in a ruinous condition; and most likely their repair and improvement is taken to be their *enlargement* by that illustrious lady.

Again we discover the Roman mode of fortification preserved to this day exactly on the same plan. From each side of the gates projected a *propugnaculum*, or *bastion*, in order to annoy the enemy who attempted to enter; between them, in the very entrance, was the *cataract*, or *portcullis*, ready to be dropt in case they forced the gates; so that part of them might be caught within the walls, and the rest excluded. Should it happen that the gates were set on fire, there were holes above, in order to pour down water to extinguish the flames. The walls were in many parts (especially on the north and east sides) guarded by towers, the remains of which are still visible, placed so as not to be beyond bow-shot of one another, in order that the archers might reach the enemy, who attempted to gain the intervals.* They were also

* "The towers," says Webb, who wrote upwards of two hundred years ago, "whereof there are divers upon the said walls, were, as I suppose, made to be watch-towers in the day, and lodging places in the night, and in the time

CITY WALLS.—EASTGATE.

mostly of a round form, as was recommended by the Roman architects, in order more effectually to resist the force of battering rams. And lastly, the thickness of the walls, answers to the breadth prescribed by Vertruvius. The great architect directs, that they should be of such a breadth, that two armed men may pass each other without impediment.

The materials of which the walls are built are of a red stone, obtained from quarries in the immediate neighbourhood of the city, which is peculiarly liable to decay on exposure to the air. The murage duties arising from the annual importation of Irish linens, were formerly amply sufficient for their constant repair; but that branch of revenue has now almost entirely ceased to exist. During its continuance, however, a sum had accumulated from this fund of upwards of two thousand pounds; and the corporation having appropriated this money to other purposes, the body, with the interest of this sum, repair the walls, which has lately been done very effectually.

There are four main entrances into the city, at each of which there is a gate or gateway, by which horses and carriages enter, and these respectively front one of the cardinal points. These gates or entrances are formed by elevated arches, thrown from one side of the street to the other, by which the circuit round the entire walls is preserved.

THE EASTGATE,

from which we shall commence our circuit of the walls, and which is the principal entrance from most parts of

of storms, for the watchmen that kept watch upon the walls in those times of danger, when they were so often besieged by armies of enemies, and in such perilous surprizes, though now some of them be converted to other uses."



EAST GATE.



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WATERGATE.

CITY WALLS.

the county, and the great roads from London, Manchester, &c. consists of a wide elegant arch, with posterns on each side, the whole surmounted by iron railings, and was erected at the sole expense of the late Earl Grosvenor. On the west side are the city arms, and this inscription :—“ *Began A. D. M.D.CCLXVIII. John Kelsall, Esq. Mayor.—Finished A. D. M.D.CCLXIX. Charles Boswell, Esq. Mayor.*” On the east side are the arms of the Grosvenor family, and the following inscription :—“ *Erected at the expense of Richard Lord Grosvenor, M.D.CCLXIX.*”—The annexed view of this gate will be found very correct.

As before intimated we shall now ascend the walls by a flight of steps close to the Eastgate, and proceed in our course northward. But before we set out, once for all, we shall acquaint the stranger, that the walls, of late years more especially, have undergone several alterations, not so much for strength as for ornament and convenience. The walking path has been made more level ; the battlements, which were in most places higher and kernellated with long perpendicular nicks or narrow holes, with transverse ones for bows and arrows, whilst they were the artillery in use, are now much lowered, and several of the turrets and bastions which we shall pass by, have put on a new face, having been rendered more commodious for the companies of the freemen, who for a while held their meetings therein, for the transaction of their business.*

* I have not been able to ascertain the exact time when the walls lost their warlike aspect, by the removal of the apertures for the bow ; but it was most probably about the year 1670, when the kingdom was restored to perfect tranquillity after our civil commotions. It is likely, about

CITY WALLS.

Advancing northward, as we proposed, twenty or thirty paces, we are presented with a south-east view of our venerable cathedral, formerly the conventual church of St. Werburgh, standing on the left, of which some notice will be taken hereafter. Proceeding onward a short distance, we pass over a small postern gate, which leads from the precincts of the abbey to the Kale-yards, and Frodsham-street on the right hand. This vacant ground, extending from nearly where the Post-office now stands to the Northgate, was formerly occupied by the monks of St. Werburgh, and was termed the Abbot's Garden. Edward I. made to them the grant of this land, and subsequently power was given to the convent to lock two gates which had been of old upon the walls; to keep two keys, to preserve the garden from robbery; and none were allowed to come within the precincts of the abbey on that side, unless in time of war, or for mending the walls.

Near to this postern, and opposite the end of Abbey-street stood the remains of a watch-tower, usually called the Saddler's Tower, because the company of saddlers occupied it as their place of annual meeting. This was taken down in the year 1779. There was an ancient square projection remaining which marked the place where it stood, but this was also removed in the year 1828. Something more than one hundred yards onward, we arrive at the Phoenix Tower, which stands exactly on the north-east angle of the walls. On the top of this tower the unfortunate Charles I. is said to have been stationed,

the same period, the turrets or towers were appropriated to the peaceful purposes of trade and conviviality. Most of these buildings have been long demolished, and the remainder are in a state of complete dilapidation.

CITY WALLS.

during the engagement between his general, Sir Marmaduke Longdale, and the Parliamentary leader, General Pointz, and witnessed the defeat of his forces, which were advancing towards Chester for the relief of the city, at Rowton, or rather Waverton-heath. The same night his majesty left the city for Wales. Upon the south side of this tower, which was formerly used as a chamber for business, several of the city companies had their arms placed; but of these the phoenix, the crest of the painters' and stationers' company, which were put up in 1613, now only remain, though the masonry is in a more perfect state than most of the other towers on the walls. Between this place and the Northgate, is no other object of a similar nature; we cannot, however, but observe, that this portion of the circuit of the walls, is remarkably pleasant. On the left hand, as before remarked, are seen the cathedral, Abbey-street and Square, the Dean's Field and mansion, and Abbey-green, with a row of genteel houses; and on the right, towards the centre of the county, in the distance, and to a wide expanse, are the Broxton and Peckforton hills, the old castle of Beeston, rising in the clouds, the shattered battlements and ruined fragments of which are perceptible to the naked eye on a clear summer's day. Inclining more to the left, the eye skims the ancient forest of Delamere, famed in Cheshire story, till at last, in the same direction, the interesting landscape terminates by a distinct view of the bold and precipitate hill of Helsby. This view embraces an extent of country of more than a dozen miles in length; while the intermediate scenery, from the nearest point to Chester, occupies from ten to twelve miles, and is most rich and various, forming a level vale, with very slight declivity. Here also may be viewed the church of

 CITY WALLS.—NORTHGATE.

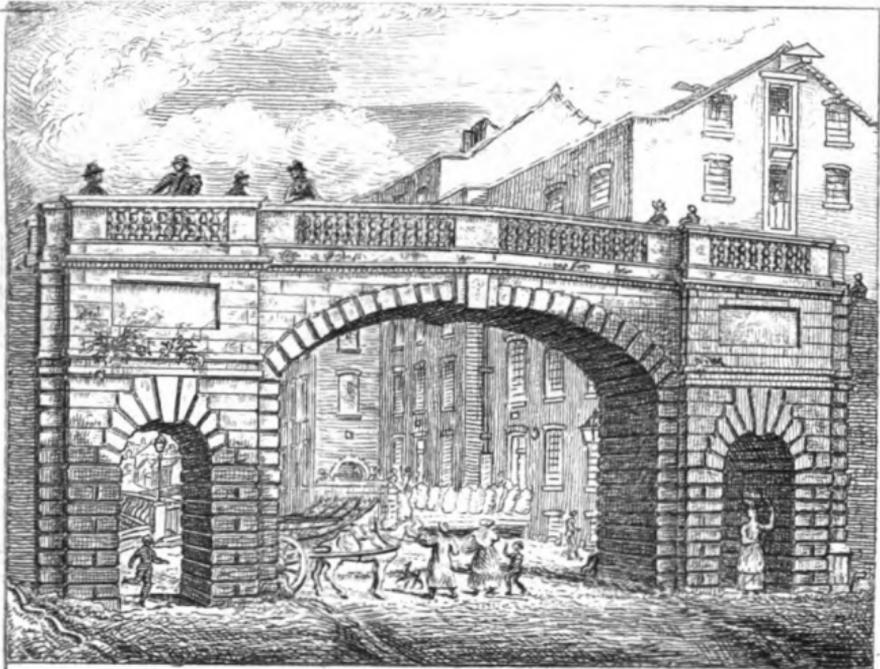
Waverton, and the church and village of Christleton; the thickly studded mansions of Littleton, Vicar's Cross, Hoole, and Newton. Still nearer, is seen the beautiful hamlet of Flookersbrook, abounding with neatly-built modern dwellings, to which, if the epithet elegant be not admitted, the term comfortable is very appropriate.

The canal from Chester to Nantwich runs parallel with this part of the walls; passes through Great Boughton, Christleton, Waverton, Hargreave, Huxley, Beeston, Tiverton, Tilston, Ternhall, Wardle, Barbridge, Stoke, Hurdleston, and Acton, to Nantwich. The act for cutting it passed in 1772, and it was finished in 1778. This canal was for many years an unproductive speculation to the proprietors. Shares of £100 were at one time sold for a mere trifle, or rather given away. Of late years, however, they have considerably risen in value, in consequence of junctions being formed with other canals.

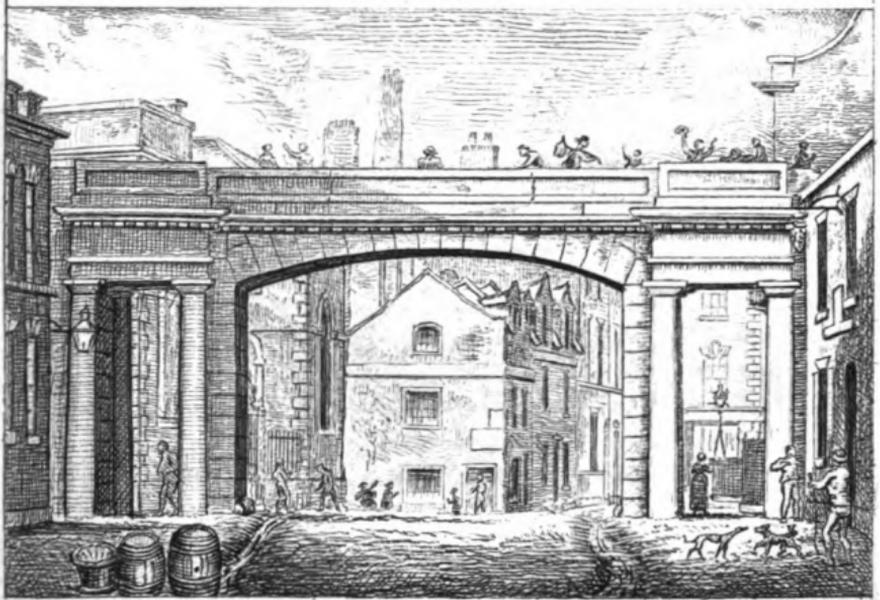
About one hundred and fifty paces from the Phoenix Tower, the stranger arrives at

THE NORTHGATE,

a handsome structure, forming a capacious elliptic arch of white stone, of the Doric order, divided from two smaller ones at the sides by two pillars; it was erected in 1808, on the demolition of the old one, when the city gaol, which also stood here, was taken down, and the prisoners removed to a new building, erected on the south side of the infirmary. The design was furnished by Thomas Harrison, Esq. the county architect, and the ceremony of laying the first stone was attended by Earl Grosvenor, and the Mayor and Corporation; the whole being executed at the sole expense of the former individual, now Marquis of Westminster.



BRIDGE GATE.



NORTH GATE.

CITY WALLS.

On the north side is this inscription:—"PORTAM SEPTEMTRIONALEM. SUBTRACTA A ROMANIS VETUSTATE JAM DILAPSAM IMPENIS SUIS AB INTEGRO PRESTITUENDAM CURAVIT ROBERTUS COMES GROSVENOR, A. R. GEORGHII TERTII LI." And on the south side the following:—"INCHOATA GULIELMO NEWELL, ARM. MAI. M.D.CCCVIII. PERFECTA THOMA GROSVENOR, ARM. MAI. M.D.CCCX. THOMA HARRISON, ARCHITECTO."

This gate stands on the most elevated ground of the city, and from its summit, north and south, commands an entire view of the Inner and Upper Northgate streets. But the prospect towards the west, viewed from the gate and the walls a little lower down, is enchanting, exhibiting the windings of the Dee to its estuary, the lighthouse on the Point of Ayre, the castle of Flint, the jubilee column on Moel Fammau, the whole range of the Clwydian hills, with the church and castle of Hawarden, and the richly cultivated meadows, called the Sands, long recovered from the dominion of the ocean. At each extremity of the gate is a commodious flight of steps, by which the passenger descends into the street.

This ancient gate, adjoining which was a mean and ruinous gaol, was an inconvenient and unseemly pile of building. It consisted of a dark narrow passage, under a pointed arch, with a postern on the east side, and the entrance to the prison. Immediately under the gate-way, at the depth of some thirty feet from the level of the street, was a horrible dungeon, to which the only access of air was through pipes, which communicated with the street. In this frightful hole, prisoners under sentence of death were confined—itsself a living death.

From time immemorial, the keeping of this gate has been confided to the citizens, upon a certain tenure of

CITY WALLS.

service, which can be neither honourable nor agreeable to the city, namely, that the Sheriffs shall be bound to see the extreme sentence of the law executed upon all malefactors, whether condemned by the city or county courts. There have been various unsatisfactory conjectures respecting the origin of this custom, one of which is noticed by Mr. Pennant, founded upon some old tradition, that a felon was formerly rescued in his way to the gallows by the citizens of Chester, and perhaps by the connivance of the magistrates, who from thence had the duty imposed upon them, as a punishment, of executing all county criminals as well as of the city. Another speculation is, that in very ancient times, the citizens, tenacious of their privileges, objected to the execution of all laws within the precincts of their jurisdiction, by any authority distinct from their own, and solicited and obtained this distinguished *honour*.

These fabulous stories are as ridiculous as they are destitute of truth, respecting the origin of this custom, which is sufficiently elucidated by some ancient records of the Corporation. It is stated in an inquisition taken in the year 1321, for the purpose of ascertaining the tolls payable at each city gate, that the Mayor and Citizens, as keepers of the gate, had a right to certain tolls, for which privilege they were bound to watch the said gate, and the prisoners in the prison of the Earl there imprisoned; *to keep the key of the felons' gallows; to hang up all the condemned criminals; to execute the sentence of pillory; proclaim the ban of the Earl within the city,* &c. &c.* Another record, entitled "The claymes of the citizens of Chester," after reciting their rights to various

* Black Book of the City of Chester, p. 20.

CITY WALLS.

privileges and immunities, states that there were certain customary tenants of the city, *sixteen* in number, who by their tenure were bound to watch the city three nights in the year, which are specified, and also to watch and bring felons and thieves condemned, as well in the court of the judiciary in Chester in the county there, as before the Mayor of Chester in full crown-mote, as far as the gallows, for their safe conduct and charge, under the penalty which thereto attaches; for which service the said customary tenants had certain privileges and exemptions.* This record is without date, but from the names of Sir Hugh Hulse, and some others to whom the houses to which these services were attached belonged, it appears to have been about the year 1400.

This satisfactorily accounts for the origin of that disagreeable task which is still imposed upon the city Sheriffs. On examining one of the corporation books, we find an entry in which the houses held by this tenure are enumerated, and which are still *sixteen* in number. At the bottom of the original entry above adverted to, is the following note, in the hand-writing of William Richards, Esq. late Town Clerk, a gentleman who was eminently conversant with the ancient usages of the city: "These rents originated from the above houses being held by a tenure liable to execute criminals for the county and city of Chester, which liability was compounded with the keepers of the Northgate-gaol, for the above rents. The keeper of the city gaol, I believe, has an unquestionable claim to these rents; but of late years they have not been collected."

Some strenuous efforts have lately been made to rid

* Black Book of the City of Chester, p. 27.

CITY WALLS.

the Sheriffs of this irksome part of their duty ; but just when it was thought the object of their endeavours was realized, they were suddenly thwarted. The Secretary of State had ordered the execution of the two murderers of Mr. Ashton, James Garside and Joseph Moseley, to be seen performed by the county Sheriff, but he demurred to the authority, and the sentence of the law remained unfulfilled for several months, until the criminals were removed to London, where they were hanged at Horsemonger-lane. In the meantime, several suits at law were tried as to the liability of the city and county Sheriffs to perform the duty, which ended without settling the dispute. A bill was then introduced into parliament by Mr. Jervis, one of the Chester members, to exonerate the city Sheriffs from the task, as it relates to the county ; but in the course of the discussion it was found that a certain clause had been introduced into a previous law for the alteration of the Welsh judicature, which in some degree contravened the object of the proposed bill, and it was consequently abandoned. Thus things remain at present ; but we trust that the city will renew its application to government for the removal of this anomalous liability ; for whatever was the origin of the practice, the ground on which it was founded has long ceased to exist. The city of Chester possesses all the attributes of an independent county, except this disgraceful adjunct, from which it ought, in reason and justice, to be exempted, there being no other county in the empire, upon whose civil officers the burden is cast of executing the criminal law beyond their own precincts and jurisdiction.

Having entered upon this discussion as much at large as our limits will allow, we shall proceed from the North-

CITY WALLS.

gate on our circuit. The first curious object we meet with in this direction is an old square building, anciently called *Morgan's Mount*, which is ascended by steps, from whose top is a fine extensive view; and not far from hence is another of these ancient erections, formerly known as the *Goblin's Tower*, now called *Pemberton's Parlour*, which being ruinous, the top part of it was taken down in 1702, during the mayoralty of the Earl of Derby; the lower part, being a semicircle, still remains, is arched over, and benched round with a stone seat. The front, which still bears the impress of some fine sculpture, remained entire till the year 1813, but partly from the soft and perishable nature of the stone, and partly owing to the mischievous spirit that actuates many of the lower orders of the city who are continually injuring the walls, both the inscription and the carved work are now almost obliterated. The following, however, may still be collected,—“ * * * * year of the glorious reign of Queen Anne, divers wide breaches in these walls were rebuilt, and other decays therein were repaired, two thousand yards of the pavement were new flagged or paved, and the whole repaired, regulated, and adorned, at the expense of one thousand pounds and upwards. Thomas Hand, Esq. Mayor, 1701. The Right Honble. William Earl of Derby, Mayor, 1702, who died in his Mayoralty.”

On the north-west angle of the walls, not far distant from the above, stands a square ruin, called the *Water Tower*. It seems to have been built for the purposes of defence, against the approach of an hostile maritime force; for it may be seen by an old map of Chester by the celebrated Hollar, that formerly the sea washed the walls of this tower, and probably covered all the land on which are now situated the Tower Field, the Crane-streets, &c.

CITY WALLS.

An author, who wrote about 1706, says, "The Tower, though it still retains the name of *New*, was built as early as the year 1322, by one Helpstone, a freemason, who undertook the building for £100. It is round 10½ yards in diameter, and in height 24 yards, having at convenient distances loop holes for cannons to play on such as will be so hardy as by force to enter our haven. On the outside of this tower are fixed great iron rings, being of use heretofore for mooring the ships, &c." It is certain, that long before the period in which this was written, vessels had ceased to approach this Tower. Old Fuller, in his *Worthies* of the city, concludes his account with the following patriotic wish:—"And now being to take our leave of this ancient and honourable city, the worst that I wish it is, that the distance between Dee and the new Tower may be made up, all obstructions being removed, which cause or occasion the same; that the rings on the New Tower (now only for sight) may be restored to the service for which they were first intended, to fasten vessels thereunto; that vessels on that river, (lately degenerated from ships into barks) may grow up again to their former strength and stature." Fuller published his book in 1662.

Nearly opposite this spot, on the right, the Nantwich canal empties itself into a capacious basin, which connects itself with that to the Mersey at Whitby, and also with the river Dee. Under the walls at this angle, and very near to the Water Tower, is a postern, which leads to the Sluice-house and the Canal Wharf, where a respectable tavern is built, and where also stand some spacious and commodious warehouses, suitable for the extended intercourse between this city and the Mersey, and of which more particular notice will be taken when we come to

CITY WALLS—WATERGATE.

speaking of the trade of Chester. The passage under the walls in this direction is probably of ancient date, and would be useful as a ready access to vessels, when they could ride close to the Water Tower; but it is most likely that the old postern was a few yards to the westward of the present, where an old arch is still visible, now filled up, and which appears to have been the original road to the water side. Below the tower is a circular arch, under which the tide flowed before the embankment of the Dee.

In proceeding onward on our route, the walls turn to the west, having on the right the Tower Field, belonging to the corporation, and lately rented by the guardians of the poor, by the cultivation of which, by spade husbandry, able-bodied paupers were very properly and advantageously employed. The first object we meet with is the Infirmary, a very handsome brick building, healthfully situated, and a most efficient establishment for the benevolent object for which it was erected. It was opened on the 17th of March, 1761, and since then has been the asylum and Bethesda of thousands. Near to the Infirmary, separated only by a narrow road which leads to the city, stands the City Gaol, which comprises also the House of Correction; on the west front of this building is occasionally erected the apparatus of death, when a violation of the laws has brought the criminal to an untimely end. A short distance hence are two rows of genteel dwellings, divided by a spacious area, which are occupied chiefly by the first families of the city. In a few paces we arrive at

THE WATERGATE,

which consists of a wide and lofty arch, thrown over the

CITY WALLS.—ROODEE.

bottom of Watergate-street, the rapid descent of which adds much to its apparent elevation; on the south end is also a small postern, and on the western front is this inscription:—"IN THE XXIX. YEAR OF THE REIGN OF GEO. III. IN THE MAYORALTY OF JOHN HALLWOOD AND JOHN LEIGH, ESQUIRES, THIS GATE WAS ERECTED.—THOMAS COTGREAVE, EDWARD BURROWS, ESQUIRES, MURENGERS." The old gate is represented in Hollar's Map of Chester as a simple arch, with no other addition; the present was erected on its site in 1788, and the expense discharged by a sum raised out of the murage duties. The custody of this gate was purchased by the city about 1778, from the Earl of Derby, to whose ancestors it had probably passed with the barony of Montalt, and the adjacent rectory of Trinity, and been considered anciently an appendage of the senaschalship of the earldom. The serjeant of this gate executes the mayor's procession on the Dee.

Looking westward from the top of this gate, we behold a large collection of houses, including the two Crane-streets and Paradise-row, which lead to the quay where vessels load and unload. Immediately on passing over the gate, is presented, on the right, that beautiful piece of ground, named the Roodee, where the races are annually run the first week in May, commencing on the Monday and terminating on the Friday—a diversion for which this spot of earth is better calculated than any perhaps in the kingdom, not a single yard of the view being lost by the eye of the spectator in any situation. This meeting has long been the resort of personages of the first rank—others may excel it in *number*, but not in *elegance* or *fashion*. The ground comprises an extent of from eighty to ninety acres, and the course something

CITY WALLS.

more than a mile. In the year 1817 a grand-stand was erected opposite the coming-in-chair, the back part communicating with the walls by an iron gate and platform, and was considerably enlarged in 1829. The accommodations have been abundantly satisfactory to the gentry, and the result not less so to the share-holders, who, after dividing a dividend that contents them, appropriate handsome sums to increase the value of several of the stakes.

In ancient times there is no doubt but this fine piece of ground, from the walls, formed part of the river Dee. This is manifest from an award in 1401, that it could not be tythed by the rectory of Trinity, in consequence of its being land recovered from the sea. It very probably lay open to the intrusion of high tides till about the year 1587; it was leased for twenty-one years, (an. 29 Eliz.) to Thomas Lyniall, merchant, being "of late greatly decayed and impaired, and likely to be more wasted;" with permission for him to embank as much land as he could from the Dee, and to have a toll of 2d. from every boat going in and out, in consideration of his making a sufficient quay there, and paying £20. per annum to the corporation.—*Harl. MSS.* The work was interrupted by the citizens, who received a reprimand from Sir Francis Walsingham thereupon, after which it proceeded; and it is believed that the present dyke or cop has originated in Lyniall's embankment. The measures adopted to confine the Dee within its channel in this part of its course, are generally efficient; though sometimes, at very high tides, the water rises so as to cover the lower part of Paradise-row, but which speedily disappears on the reflux of the tide. On the 24th of April, 1830, one of the highest spring tides known to human memory occurred, which rose to a level with the Roodee embankment, in-

CITY WALLS.

undated a considerable portion of the race-course on the west side ; rendered the lower part of Paradise-row impassable ; carried away and otherwise damaged some of the works erected for the building of the new bridge then in progress, and did many other injuries.

On this spot the city games, and gymnastic sports were formerly celebrated ; but of these the horse races now alone remain. On the west side of the Roodee stands that asylum for age and indigence, the House of Industry, whose inmates are provided with all necessaries of food and clothing ; it is regularly visited by a clergyman and a medical man, and contains a school, and an establishment for insane paupers. Nearly adjoining the House of Industry, on the banks of the river, which is navigable for vessels of 350 tons burthen, are excellent conveniences for ship-building, in which our artizans particularly excel. From the quays are exported some of the *richest* cargoes of that excellent commodity which affords to the taste of the Londoners the most grateful flavour, and presents the Cockney with what he calls “ the fattest *Velsh rabbits* in the *vorld*”—good old *Cheshire cheese*.

Among the MS. collections of the late Rev. Thomas Crane, now in possession of the author, is the following note, which may be useful, not only as an etymological explanation, but as containing also some information on two or three points :—“ *Rode*, for *cross*, is entirely Saxon. Many years later this word was spelt *rood*. Architects still talk of the *rood loft* in churches, a gallery where a cross was always placed in view of the congregation, and sometimes a crucifix of gold or silver, richly ornamented. The race-ground in Chester is called the *Rood-Dee*, i. e. the Dee-cross, to distinguish it from the cross anciently standing at St. Michael's and St.

CITY WALLS.

Peter's ; because a stone cross was erected on the race-ground formerly, to mark the boundary of the land there belonging to the Nuns of Chester. The shaft of this cross is yet standing on that part of the Roodee which is opposite to the old Nun's Garden."

In this conjecture respecting the origin of this stone cross, there seems to be a good deal of probability ; but the reader is left to decide whether the following relation of its history be entitled to the same degree of credibility : it is given by Mr. Willet, in his History of Hawarden Parish, who says it is a correct translation from an old Saxon MS. Whether true or otherwise, and without another preparatory word, here it is produced :—
“ In the sixth year of the reign of Conan (ap Ellis ap Anarawd) King of Gwynith or North Wales, which was about A. D. 946, there was in the Christian Temple at a place called Harden, in the kingdom of North Wales, a Rood loft, in which was placed an image of the Virgin Mary, with a very large cross, which was in the hands of the image, called Holy Rood ; about this time there happened a very hot and dry summer, so dry that there was not grass for the cattle ; upon which most of the inhabitants went and prayed to the image, or Holy Rood, that it would cause it to rain, but to no purpose.— Amongst the rest, the Lady Trawst (whose husband's name was Sytsylht, a nobleman and Governor of Harden Castle), went to pray to the said Holy Rood, and she praying earnestly and long, the image, or Holy Rood, fell down upon her head and killed her ; upon which a great uproar was raised, and it was concluded and resolved upon, to try the said image for the murder of the said Lady Trawst, and a jury was summoned for the purpose, whose names were as follow, viz.—

 CITY WALLS.

Hincot of Hancot, Span of Mancot,
 Leech and Leach, and Cumberbeach ;
 Peet and Pate, with Corbin of the Gate,
 Milling and Hughet, with Gill and Pughet :

who, upon examination of evidences, declare the said Lady Trawst to be wilfully murdered by the said Holy Rood, and she guilty of the murder, and also guilty in not answering the many petitioners ; but whereas the said Holy Rood being very old and done, she was ordered to be hanged. But Span opposed that, saying, that they wanted rain, and it would be the best to drown her ; but was fiercely opposed by Corbin, who answered, as she was Holy Rood, they had no right to kill her, but he advised to lay her on the sands, on the river below Harden Castle, from whence they might see what became of her, which was accordingly done ; soon after which the tide of the sea came and carried the said image to some low land (being an island) near the walls of the city of *Caer Leon* (supposed *Chester*) where it was found the next day, drowned and dead ; upon which the inhabitants of *Caer Leon* buried it at the place where found, and erected a monument of stone over it with this inscription :—

“ The Jews their God did crucify,
 The Hardeners their's did drown ;
 'Cause with their wants she'd not comply,
 And lies under this cold stone.”

What the good people of *Hawarden* did for a goddess to supply this loss, we are not told ; though it is probable they were not long *unfurnished*, when it is considered that they possessed *wit* and *wood* enough to make one.

CITY WALLS.—NEW BRIDGE.

Soon after passing the Watergate, on the left, there is a commodious opening to the city, called Smith's walk, at the bottom of which stands a mansion, more remarkable for the largeness of its bulk than its elegance, the northern portion of which is occupied by its proprietor, E. O. Wrench, Esq. and the other by the Miss Foulkes'. On the site of this mansion formerly stood the priory of the White Friars, or Carmelites. A narrow avenue, but of very early date, descending from Martin's Ash to the walls, called Wall's-lane, divides this building from a large space of ground, heretofore named the Nun's Gardens, where formerly stood the Nunnery of St. Mary, and said to have been founded, or probably only removed to this situation, by the second Randal, Earl of Chester. There is no vestige of this ancient building now remaining; though not many years back, while this piece of ground was occupied as a garden, some reliques of the ancient edifice were visible. It is now a large field, on the north end of which a good mansion was erected by the late Thomas Harrison, Esq. county architect, in which his daughters still reside. From this part of the walls there is an admirable front view of the castle, shire hall, the barracks, the new church of St. Bridget, &c. A little onward, we pass the ancient sallyport steps, which lead to a delightful walk on the river side, on what is called the roodee-cop; and close to this point, the road or approach to the

NEW BRIDGE,

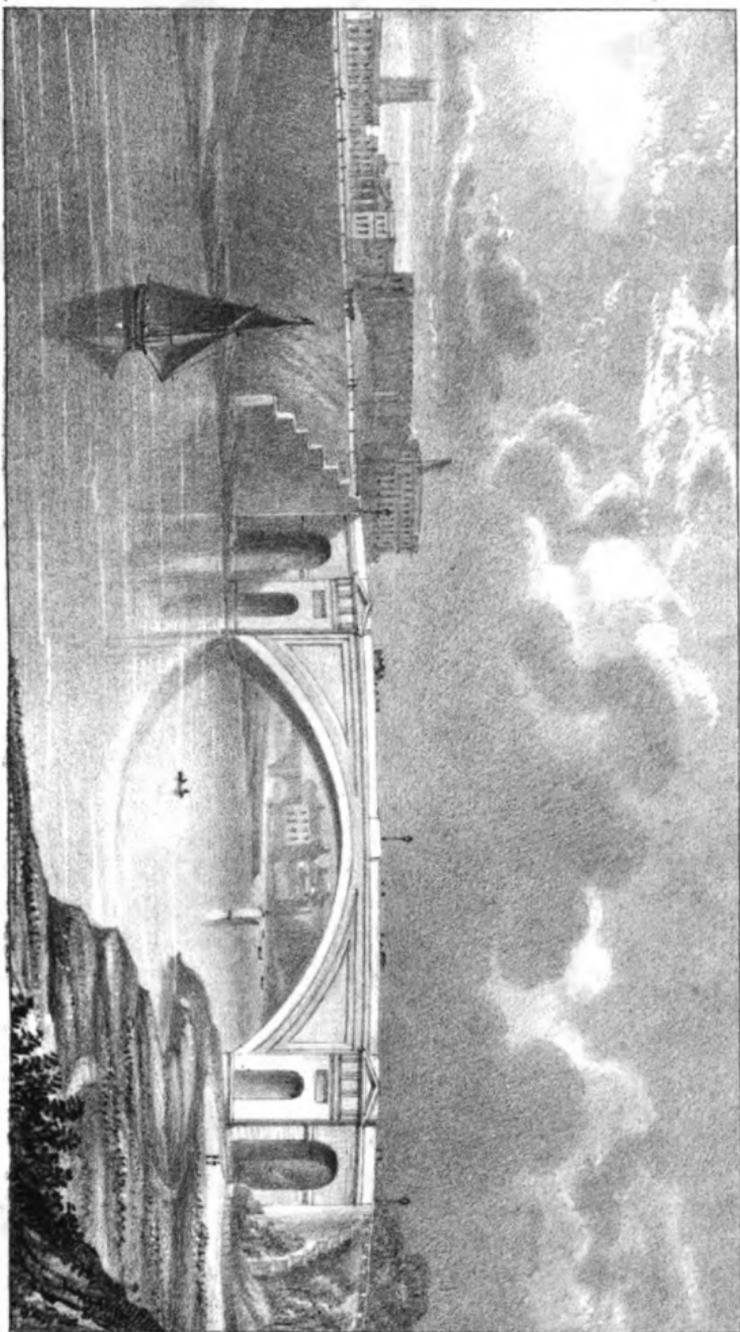
raised to a level, crosses the walls, at which it is distant something more than 100 yards. This stupendous work of art stands unrivalled in the history of bridge building, either in this country or any part of the known world. The first stone was laid on the 1st of October, 1827, by

CITY WALLS.

the Right Honble. Earl Grosvenor, now the Marquis of Westminster, accompanied by the corporate body and an immense number of the citizens. It was formally opened in October, 1832, by Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, on occasion of her visit, and that of Her Royal Parent the Duchess of Kent, at Eaton Hall. As an equally delicate and well merited compliment to her noble host, at the request of the commissioners, the bridge was named "Grosvenor Bridge," by the young illustrious Princess. It was opened to the public in December, 1833.

The bridge consists of one main arch, with a small dry arch over the towing path on each side, by which a land communication is preserved on both sides the river. The great distinguishing feature of this edifice is the unparalleled width of the chord or span of the main arch, which is of greater extent than that of any other ever known to be constructed. The execution of the project required a daring genius, equal to the boldness of the conception; and a competent undertaker was found in the person of Mr. Trubshaw, a gentleman of Staffordshire, who is extensively concerned in the building of bridges, and other public edifices. The terms of the contract were, for the erection of the bridge £29,000, and for forming the approaches £7000, making a total of £36,000. The architect Thomas Harrison, Esq., and the surveyor Mr. Jesse Hartley, of Liverpool.

Of the dimensions of this magnificent structure the following is an accurate delineation:—the chord or span of the arch is TWO HUNDRED feet, a capacity, as before observed, unequalled in the globe. Height of the arch from the springing line 40 feet. Dimensions of the main abutments 48 feet wide by 40; with a dry arch as a towing path on both sides, 20 feet wide, flanked with



W. Crane Litho

THE NEW OR GROSVENOR BRIDGE.

CITY WALLS.

immense wing walls to support the embankment. The whole length of road-way, 340 feet. Width of the bridge from outside the parapet walls, 35 feet 6 inches, divided thus : carriage road, 24 feet ; the two causeways, 9 feet ; thickness of the parapet walls, 2 feet 6 inches. Altitude, from the top of the parapet wall to the river at low water mark, 66 feet 6 inches.

The ground in Grosvenor-street, and that near Overleigh, where the new line will join the old road leading into Wales, is now nearly upon a level. The intermediate valley, formed by the declivity from the entrance of the castle to the Dee, and the ascent thence to Overleigh, were necessarily filled up at an immense expense of time and labour.

While the erection of this bridge is allowed to be a decided improvement, and a great ornament to the city, some doubt much whether the excessive tolls which it imposes will not materially injure its trade. Already new roads have been made from the town of Hawarden to the King's Ferry on the Dee, and from thence to the Mersey opposite Liverpool, and coaches set up by which Chester is comparatively avoided as a thoroughfare. The amount for which the toll at the New Bridge is now let, including that at Handbridge, is £2800. The money for erecting the bridge was raised in hundred pound shares, but hitherto the shareholders have had no reason to congratulate themselves on their speculation.

Returning again to the walls, we shall resume our walk, which will speedily bring us to the boundary wall of the county gaol. And here we must observe, to our ancient ramparts have been given a new direction. In order to afford more room for buildings to employ the prisoners, this part of the walls was taken down, and the

CITY WALLS.

boundary of the gaol advanced forward towards the river, inclosing a good part of the ground which was formerly known as Skinner's-lane. The new part of the walls therefore was built in a direction immediately towards the Dee; then skirts that river, and again turn from it till they join the old portion of the walls, the new boundary of the Castle still being on the left hand. The part of the walls newly built comprehends about 600 feet. The erection of the new part was executed by Mr. Stafford, in a manner which has given great satisfaction to the public.

Before the diversion of the old course of the walls, about seventy yards from the Bridge-gate, now inclosed within the castle boundary, there was a postern, which has always been considered by our best historians and antiquaries as a genuine relique of the ancient Roman colonists. This gateway consisted of a large round arch, decidedly of Roman architecture. The postern, in all ancient documents, was called the *Ship-gate*, but has been better known in later times as the *Hole in the Wall*. In mentioning its original name, an old author now before me, says "it was so called, as tradition informs us, not only because ships of burden in times past came and unloaded near it, but also from its being the landing place of the ferry from Handbridge and that side the river, before our bridge, and consequently the Bridge-gate, which is not far distant, was built." In this sentiment the ingenious Pennant concurs; he remarks, "that this postern seems originally to have been designed for the common passage over the Dee into the country of the Ordovices, either by means of a boat at high water, or by a ford at low, the river being here remarkably shallow. What reduces this to a certainty is, that the rock on the Hand-

 CITY WALLS—BRIDGE-GATE.

bridge side is cut down, as if for the convenience of travellers. And immediately beyond in the field, called *Edgar's*, in which stands the *Diva Armigera Pallas*, are the vestiges of a road pointing up the hill; and which was continued towards *Bonnum*, the present Bangor.

Pursuing our course from this, and after passing the works of the water company, and the Dee mills, by two or three steps we ascend

THE BRIDGE-GATE,

a handsome modern structure, having two posterns, erected in 1782, at the expense of the corporation. On a tablet of marble, over the western postern, is the following inscription:—“THIS GATE WAS BEGUN APRIL, M.D.CC.LXXXII., PATTISON ELLAMES, MAYOR, AND FINISHED DECEMBER THE SAME YEAR, THOMAS PAT-TISON, MAYOR.

THOMAS COTGREAVE, ESQ. }
 HENRY HESKETH, ESQ. } MURENGERS.

JOSEPH TURNER, ARCHITECT.”

On another tablet, on the south side:—“THIS GATE, HAVING BEEN LONG INCONVENIENT, WAS TAKEN DOWN A. D. M.D.CC.LXXXII.

JOSEPH SNOW, ESQ. MAYOR.

THOMAS AMERY, }
 HENRY HEGG, } TREASURERS.”

At this precise moment, the gratifying news arrived in Chester, of the signal victory of Admiral Rodney, in the West Indies, over the French fleet; when the record of that memorable event was indorsed on the back of the same plate, in the following terms:—“*The great and joyful news was announced this day of the British fleet,*

CITY WALLS.—OLD BRIDGE.

under the command of Admirals Rodney, Hood, and Drake, having defeated the French fleet, in the West Indies, taking the French Admiral de Grasse, and five ships of the line, and sunk one. The battle continued close and bloody for eleven hours."

The old gate consisted of an arched gate-way, flanked with two strong round towers, on one of which was erected a lofty tower, which served as a cistern for supplying the city with water, called Tyrer's water-works. This tower was built about the year 1601, and although it remained until taking down the gate in 1781, it had long ceased to be used for its original purpose. Near to this gate, southward, stands the Old Bridge, leading to the suburb of Handbridge, consisting of seven irregular arches, the passage over which, until the year 1826, was both inconvenient and dangerous from its narrowness. In that year, however, the carriage road was widened several feet on the west side, and on the east a raised foot-path was placed, four feet wide, bounded towards the river by a good iron railing, the projection supported by two courses of corbels. This has proved an essential improvement to the bridge, and was executed in good style by Mr. Kelly, mason, of Chester.

The precise period of the erection of the bridge is very obscure; but that here was the ancient passage, is a fact supported by the concurrent testimony of all old writers. It is not less certain, that the original mode of transit across the river was by a ferry, though we have the clearest evidence that a bridge of *some kind* was in existence before the conquest; in proof of which the reader is directed to a transcript from *Doomsday*, which refers to the time of Edward the Confessor, and in which it is stated, "for the purpose of rebuilding the wall, and

CITY WALLS.—DEE MILLS.

the bridge of the city, the prepositus commanded one man to come from each hide of the county." Grose, in his *Antiquities*, says, he "received a manuscript, which gives an account that the bridge at Chester over the Dee being finished by Edward the elder, which was begun by Ethelfleda his sister, before which time there was a ferry for passengers, under St. Mary's-hill, at the Ship-gate." It is also recorded in the "Notitia" of Bishop Gastrell, by extracts from "the Chronicles of the Abbey," that in 1227, "Pons Cestriæ totus cecedeta;" and again, in the same place it is stated, "1279, Mare erupit, pontem Cestriæ confreget et asportavit." It is very probable, that shortly after this date, it was built of stone on its present site. The south side of it is recorded to have been *rebuilt* in 1550.

Beneath the arch next to the city is a current, which by means of a great dam or causeway that crosses the river obliquely, supplies the city mills with water. These mills and the causeway were originally founded by Hugh Lupus, and retained by his successors, and afterwards by the Earls of Chester of the royal line. This very extensive property, belonging to E. O. Wrench, Esq. comprises twenty-two pairs of stones, and is let chiefly for the purpose of grinding flour, to several different tenants. The Dee mills have been twice destroyed by fire within the last forty years. The first conflagration broke out at twelve o'clock on Saturday night, 26th September, 1789, the second, about the same hour, the same night in the week, March, 1819; on which latter occasion, the progress of the flames was so rapid, that the whole of the premises, with the exception of part of the outward wall, was destroyed in the short space of six hours, and it was only by dint of the greatest exertions, that the devouring

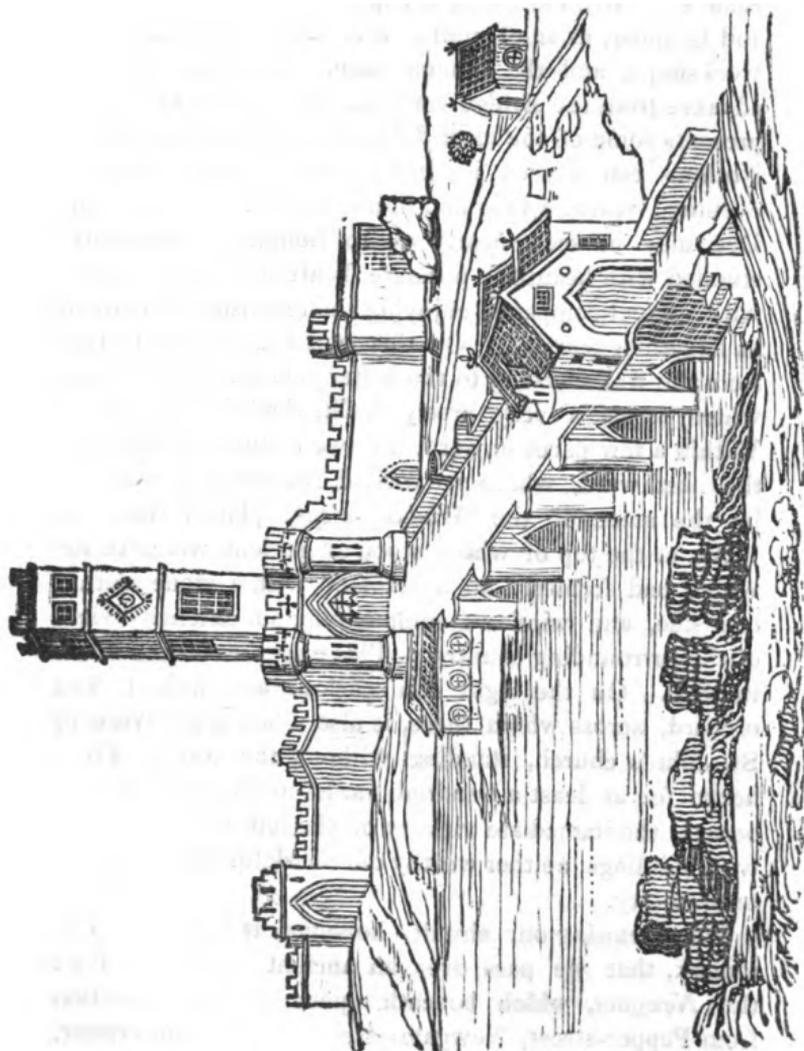
element was checked in its approaches to the line of warehouses in Skinner-street. The loss sustained was upwards of £40,000. These mills in early times produced a considerable revenue; they were in existence in 1119, and some of them were rebuilt by John Scott, Earl of Chester, who died in 1237. In the year 1284, they were leased by Edward I. at the high rent of £200 per annum.* The Black Prince granted them for life to Sir Howell y Fwyall, in reward for his bravery at the battle of Poitiers, where he took the French king prisoner. Edward VI. granted the Dee mills, with the fishing at Chester, in exchange for estates in Lincolnshire, to Sir Richard Cotton, of whose family they were, in 1587, subject to a reserved rent of £100 per annum, purchased by Thomas Gamull, Esq. father of Sir Francis Gamull, Bart. The Dee mills were inherited by the five co-heiresses of this baronet, the husband of one of whom having purchased two of the other shares, three-fifths passed by inheritance to the Shaws of Eltham, in Kent, of whom they were purchased, in 1742, by Mr. Edward Wrench, great uncle of the present proprietor.

At the south end of the bridge, formerly stood a gatehouse, with an arch in the centre. The annexed view from Handbridge, is a fine simile of a drawing by the third Randal Holme, representing the bridge, with its two gates, the mills, and Tyrer's tower for the elevation of the water, as they appeared about the middle of the seventeenth century. The gate at the Handbridge end

* In those early times this sum was equal to upwards of £6,000 per annum of our present money. Ray, in his *Proverbial Phrases*, has the following—"If thou hadst the rent of the Dee mills, thou wouldst spend it;" equivalent to our common address to a spendthrift, "Thou wouldst go through a mint of money."

CITY WALLS.

was taken down about the time of erecting the new Bridge-gate.



D

On the opposite side of the river, above the bridge, and near to the south end of the causeway, there stands some extensive buildings, occupied by Messrs. Moulson and Cropper, as snuff mills, Mr. Topham's, skinner's, workshops, and the salmon cage. At a few paces in advance from the Bridge-gate, the prospect up the river presents some of the most delightful scenery imaginable. Nothing can exceed its beauty on a calm summer's evening; where a long and uninterrupted portion of the Dee may be seen nearly up to Boughton, frequently studded with beautiful pleasure boats and barges, filled with genteel company, enjoying the exquisite delights of an aquatic excursion. On this spot are a flight of steps from the walls leading to the water side and the Groves, which forms a very pretty walk, shaded with trees. Within a few paces onward, the walls form an angle to the northward, where we ascend several steps, known by the name of the *Wishing-steps*, placed there in 1785, at the top of which stood an ancient watch tower which had formerly an apartment with a stone seat on one side, and windows commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. This tower was taken down in 1826. On the right is a spacious and well-stocked orchard, across which there is also a favourable view of St. John's church, standing without the walls. From hence for at least a hundred yards nothing of interest occurs, the immediate vicinity on the left being crowded with buildings, neither worthy of remark for their elegance or antiquity.

Before closing our circuit, however, it is necessary to remark, that we pass over an ancient gate-way, called the *Newgate*, which beneath opens a communication from Pepper-street, Newgate-street, &c. to John-street,

CITY WALLS.

John's church, and Dee lane, and is sufficiently capacious to admit the passage of a loaded waggon. It was anciently called *Wolfeld-gate* or *Wolf-gate*, and obtained its name from a *wolf's head*, the badge of Hugh Lupus, being cut in stone over its entrance. In 1608, the gate was entirely taken down and re-built, and has since sustained its present name of *the New-gate*. In describing this gate, our antiquary Webb says, "that *Wolf-gate* sometime had a hollow grate, with a bridge for horse and man, and it butteth against *Sowter's load* and *John-street*. And this gate was, in times past, closed up and shut, because a young man stole away a maior of Chester's daughter, through the same gate, as she was playing at ball with other maids, in the summer time, in *Pepur-street*." It would seem likewise, that the *New-gate* was sometimes called *Pepper-gate*; for Fuller, in support of the above old tradition remarks, "that the mayor of the city had his daughter, as she was playing at ball with other maidens in *Pepper-street*, stolen away by a young man through the same gate, whereon he caused it to be shut up, from which circumstance arose the saying, 'when the daughter is stolen, shut *Pepper-gate*'" equivalent to our north country adage, 'when the steed is stolen, lock the stable door.'

A short way further to the eastward, are some scanty remains of another watch tower, formerly known by the name of *Thimbleby's Tower*; and near to this on the right is a new flight of steps, entered by an iron gate, leading to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, for a convenient access to which from this quarter permission was granted by the corporation for its erection. The whole back front of this place of worship, which is very spacious, is seen from the walls, as also an adjoining

CITY WALLS.

building on the south wing, occupied as a Sunday school connected with that establishment.

From hence to the termination of our circuit is but about forty or fifty paces, all of the most uninteresting description, closely crowded with buildings on both sides, and furnishing not a single object worthy of notice. Directly before we ascend the steps leading to the Eastgate, on the left, is a flight of steps, which conducts the tourist into Eastgate-street, and on the further end of the gate the flight by which we first ascended.

In perusing the foregoing sketch of our walls, with the incidental notices of contiguous objects, it is presumed that individuals, most conversant with the localities of the city, will meet with several particulars, either to gratify their curiosity, or add to their information. And it may also be hoped, that should the account be read by those who are strangers to our ancient fortifications, and the peculiar attractions of Chester, it may excite a commendable inquisitiveness for a personal survey, at the same time that it may assist as a directory to their inquiries. In whatever point of view these old ramparts are considered, they possess an imposing interest, and confer incalculable benefits. To the invalid, the sedentary student, or the man of business, occupied during the day in his shop, or counting house; to the habitually indolent, who require excitement to necessary exercise, to all these, the promenade on Chester walls, have most inviting attractions, where they may breathe all the salubrious winds of heaven in a morning or an evening walk. Here the enthusiastic antiquarian, who would climb mountains, ford rivers, explore the bowels of the earth, and, regardless of toil, and the claims of nature, exhaust his strength in search of a piece of rusty cankered brass,

CITY WALLS.

or a scrap of Roman earthenware, can scarcely advance a dozen paces, but the pavement on which he treads, or some contiguous object, forces upon his observation the reliques of times of earliest date. Nor can the philosophic moralist encompass our venerable walls without having his mind, comparing the splendid and gigantic works of antiquity with their present condition, strongly impressed with the mutations produced by the lapse of ages, and the perishing nature of all mundane greatness.

We shall conclude this branch of our Panorama by citing the sentiments of a man well known to the republic of letters, regarding our ancient city, not indeed particularly as to her walls, but as to her general attractions. His information as a traveller was varied and extensive, and his discernment and intellect strong and acute. This gentleman, who was no other than Mr. Boswell, in a letter to Dr. Johnson, dated October 22, 1779, says, "Chester pleases me more than any town I ever saw. I told a very pleasing young lady, niece to one of the Prebendaries (Miss Letitia Barnston) at whose house I saw her, 'I have come to Chester, madam, I cannot tell how; and far less can I tell how to get away from it.'" Dr. Johnson in reply says, 'In the place where you are, there is much to be observed, and you will easily procure yourself skilful directors.' In another letter, dated November 7, in the same year, Boswell remarks, "I was quite enchanted at Chester, so that I could with difficulty quit it."

Those who have, as Cowper says "relish of fair prospects," may on the walls, as the same morally descriptive bard remarks, slacken their paces to a pause, and hear

"The ruffling wind, scarce conscious that it blows,
While admiration feeding at the eye,
And still unsated, dwells upon the scene."

THE ROWS.

THE ROWS.

We come now to notice another peculiarity of the city, which are its *Rows* or *Galleries*. As a stranger to the place, some of the descriptions I have seen in print would give me no distinct comprehension of these rows, nor am I sanguine in the hope that my own delineation will be more successful with regard to others so circumstanced. The rows occupy, or run parallel with a considerable portion of the four principal streets, within the walls nearest the cross, but in no instance do they reach to any of the city gates. The level of the walking path in the rows may be reckoned generally at about twelve feet above that of the streets, though in some places not so much. It should also be observed, that besides the flights of steps by which they are entered and quitted at each end, there are other similar conveniences placed at suitable distances on the side-path which lead to and from the streets.

On passing the main street, parallel with which these rows run, a stranger would scarcely be aware of the existence of the latter. He will perceive on each side of the street, a line of shops as in other towns, and take them to be the only ones in the same front. On looking upwards, however, he will perceive a wooden or iron balustrade running along the top of these shops, with upright pillars standing at intervals of five or six yards, supporting the superincumbent buildings, which range in a direct line downwards with the shops in the street. Now the space thus created, by cutting off the communication between the summit of the lower shops, and the higher part of the building above, and which may be taken to be from ten to twelve feet, forms the front or

THE ROWS.

opening of the row ; backward, within this front, stands another line of shops, the interval in width, occupied as a walking path, or for other purposes, being from four to five yards. Thus the passengers in the rows walk over the shops in the street, and under the first floor of the dwelling-houses ; and thus two lines of shops are created in one front.

The rows are generally well flagged, and kept in good repair, and are much frequented both by the citizens and strangers, to whom they will ever prove an object of curiosity. In hot weather, a continued stream of cold air passes along the rows, from the numerous entries or avenues which branch from them ; and in wet weather they afford ample protection from the " pitiless storm." Very considerable improvements in these have occurred within the last thirty years, and are daily taking place ; for whenever ruin or decay render a re-erection necessary, the spirit of the times, if not the potent influence of the police, imposes a more modern and elegant form of construction. Formerly, in front of the row, was fixed a clumsy wooden railing with immense pillars of oak, supporting transverse beams, upon which the houses, chiefly built of wood and mortar rested, and which leaned forward over the street in a terrific attitude. These old erections, to the no small mortification of the admirers of antiquity, are fast decreasing in most parts of the city ; though several of them yet remain, particularly in Watergate-street.

To trace the original cause of these rows, with any degree of certainty, is no easy task, concerning which a variety of conjectures have been formed. Some have attributed their origin to the period when Chester was liable to the frequent assaults of the Welsh, which in-

 THE ROWS.

duced the inhabitants to build their houses in this form, so that when the enemy should at any time have forced an entrance, they might avoid the danger of the horsemen, and annoy their assailants as they passed through the streets. This opinion seems to be adopted by Webb, and followed by most other writers on the subject. He says, "And because their conflicts with enemies continued long time, it was needful for them to leave a space before the doors of those their upper buildings, upon which they might stand in safety from the violence of their enemies' horses, and withall defend their houses from spoyl, and stand with advantage to encounter their enemies, when they made incursions,"

I am aware that this has long been, and still is the popular sentiment; but I think there is very good reason to question its correctness. There is irrefragible evidence, that the *form* of our city is Roman, and that our *walls* were the work of that people; and the same reasons which justify these conclusions, are not less cogent for presuming that the construction of our streets are Roman also. Pennant appears to have been governed by this view: he says, "These rows appear to me to have been the same with the ancient *vestibules*; and to have been a form of building preserved from the time that the city was possessed by the Romans. They were built before the doors, mid-way between the streets and the houses; and were the places where the dependents waited for the coming out of their patrons, under which they might walk away the tedious minutes of expectation. *Plautus*, in the third act of his *Mostella*, describes both their station and use:—

"Viden' vestibulum ante ædes, et ambula cum ejusmode?"

THE ROWS.

The shops beneath the rows were the *cryptæ* and *apothecæ*, magazines for the various necessaries of the owners of the houses."

The learned Stukeley countenances this hypothesis in his *Itinerary*, 1724, in which, noticing Chester, he remarks, "The rows, or piazzas, are singular through the whole town, giving shelter to the foot people. *I fancied it a remain of the Roman porticoes.*" The authors of the *Magna Britannica* dissent from the two last respectable authorities, but their objections would have been more satisfactory, if they had adduced some reasons, or suggested a more probable theory. "Mr. Pennant thinks," (say the authors), "that he discerns in these rows, the form of the ancient vestibules attached to the houses of the Romans, who once possessed this city; many vestiges of their edifices have certainly been discovered at Chester; but there seems to be little resemblance between the Chester rows and the vestibules of the Romans, whose houses were constructed only of one story."

In the oldest histories extant, descriptive of this city, in some form or other, the elevated rows and the shops beneath are recognized; nor have we the slightest intimation of any period in which these rows were constructed, or when the level of the streets were sunk so much below their surface, and the ground behind them. Among the uncertain conjectures that have been hazarded on this subject, there can be no presumption in giving an opinion that their construction is of Roman origin—a position which may be maintained on several grounds of probability.

It hardly requires a word by way of argument to shew that the pavement in Bridge-street, Watergate-street,

THE ROWS.

and Eastgate-street, were originally on a level with the ground-floor of the houses standing in the rows ; for it is utterly impossible to conceive, that the present sunken state of the streets, as contrasted with the elevated ground on each side, could be the effect of natural causes. It is most obvious, therefore, at some period or other, the principal streets have been made to take their present form by dint of human art or labour, and it is not less evident, that from the east, west, and south-gates, to the cross, and from the latter to nearly where the exchange stands, which is almost the highest part of the city, excavation has been employed. These conclusions, which, although incapable of proof from any existing testimony, have received the concurrence of all our historians and antiquaries.

It should be remembered, too, that the city was the residence of the Romans for the space of nearly four centuries ; and that the twentieth legion, with its auxiliaries was probably not less than ten thousand men. — The long period therefore they were stationed here, and the multitude of their disposable hands, added to the known policy of the Romans, to keep their soldiers in active employ, afforded the best opportunity of securing all the advantages of which their knowledge of the arts and manual labour were capable of producing. Thus we have the express attestation of Richard of Cirencester, that Chester was constructed by the soldiers of the twentieth. It is probable that protection and defence would be the first objects of the colonists, and it is, therefore, natural to infer that the erection of the walls would occupy their earliest efforts. Commodiousness and convenience would next occupy their attention ; and what would be more likely to present itself to the

THE ROWS.

discernment of the Romans, than the desirableness of an easy access to their great court of judicature, their camp, to the *auguroli* and to their *Prætorium*, all of which were situated in the centre, or highest part of the city. The original level of the carriage road, at the junction of Watergate and Bridge-streets, may be seen by the present height of the rows in those places, and the difficulty of the ascent up those two streets for heavy carriages, may be pretty easily conceived. It is also worthy of remark, in considering this question, that these were the only parts of the city which had an immediate communication with the waters of the Dee. The river encompassed the lower parts of both, and either at one or the other it was of course necessary to land their warlike stores, forage and provisions, or other heavy materials from the vessels coming thither, requisite for the use of the garrison, from whence they had to be conveyed to the camp. In these circumstances it appears to me, ample reasons are shewn for the necessity of reducing the steep ascent; and although they do not apply in an equal extent to Eastgate-street and Northgate-street, yet here the rise was also considerable, and the refinement of Roman taste would doubtless induce a decision for beauty and uniformity. If there be any correctness in these speculations, it does not appear that gaining new habitations, or the formation of shops on the new level, formed any part of the original Roman plan, but it is probable, that as the city increased in population and prosperity, they were formed from the sides of the wall standing between the rows and the street.

That this construction was executed by the Romans while they held possession of the city, may also be argued from its arduousness and extent. The excavations

THE ROWS

must have been made in all the streets through the solid rock, as is clearly ascertained from the back parts of the shops and warehouses, in different parts, particularly in Bridge-street and Watergate-street. The legionaries, from their numbers, leisure, and skill as artificers, seem alone capable of their execution; nor can we fix upon any other period of our history in which it is likely this immense undertaking could be performed. It is well known, that from the time of the evacuation of the island by the Romans, till within a short time of the Norman conquest, denominated the Saxon times, the city was occupied sometimes by one victor and sometimes by another, and it is hardly to be believed, that the inhabitants, but a short remove from barbarism, had either the taste or means of accomplishing so great an effort of labour or genius. There are still greater improbabilities, if we refer the formation of the rows, by cutting through the ascents to a period subsequent to the conquest. Our old histories abound with various accounts of the state and condition of the public works in the city from that epoch. We have relation, as well as existing documents, to shew by what means the bridge, the causeway, the mills, and other ancient works, were either built or kept in repair, and in what way the funds necessary for these purposes were raised. The institution of our fairs, the erection of several of our public edifices, and the origin of many ancient customs and usages, are given with great minuteness. But with regard to the excavations, inferior in labour and expence only to the erection of the walls, no mention whatever is to be found—a circumstance which cannot be satisfactorily accounted for, or the supposition of this great work being performed by our Norman ancestors. To this may be added, that the reason assigned

THE ROWS.

for the rows, namely, the facility of resisting the incursions of the Welsh, has no weight at all in it. For against this opinion it may be urged, that in none of their attacks upon the city, did they ever force their way within the gates; so that these being proved by experience to be sufficient bulwarks against the marauders, there existed no necessity for the creation of any other defences.

The shops in the rows are generally considered the best situations for retail shop-keepers, but those on the south-side of Eastgate-street, and the east-side of Bridge-street have a decided preference. Shops let here at very high rents, and are in never-failing request; and perhaps there are no parts of the city which have undergone equally rapid or extensive improvements. A person who traversed these rows thirty years ago, would hardly recognize them by their present appearance. There was one feature in the shops, which is worthy of notice.—At that period, or a little before, there was hardly a shop in the row which could boast a glass window. The fronts were all open to the row in two or three compartments, according to their size, and at nights were closed by huge hanging shutters, fixed on hinges, and fastened in the day-time by hooks to the ceiling of the row. The external appearance of the shops, except as far as regarded the commodity for sale, was little different to that of butchers' standings. At present the shops, and many of the dwelling-houses in the rows, are equal in elegance to those of Manchester or Liverpool. In a word, Eastgate and Bridge-street, are capable of supplying all the real demands of convenience, and the artificial calls of luxury, mental and corporeal; presenting a cluster of drapers, clothiers, jewellers, perfumers,

THE BOWS.—DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY.

booksellers, &c. as respectable as the kingdom can produce.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY.

Before we commence our peregrinations through the city, we shall just mention its ancient boundaries, which was prescribed by no less a personage than Edward the Black Prince. They extend westward from a spot called Iron-bridge (on the Eaton Road) across the Wrexham turnpike-road, down to the Lache; then crossing Saltney-marsh, near the second mile stone, and the river, leading up to Blacon Point: and along the course of the old river, turning to Stone-bridge, and along the brook side, cross the Parkgate road, and lead up to Bache Pool; and by the side of the brook lead to Flookersbrook; then crossing the canal, and the two turnpike roads to London, lead down to the river opposite Iron-bridge; making, in the whole circuit, about eight miles.

Within the walls, the city, as before observed, is divided into four principal streets, the centre of which is where the high cross formerly stood, close to St. Peter's church. The cross was erected in the time of James I. and was pulled down and defaced by the Parliamentarians, when they obtained possession of the city in 1646. The cross is delineated rudely in Randal Holmes's collections, Harl. MSS. 2073 of which the following is a representation. The upper portion of this remain of the olden times, which surmounts the plain upright shaft, is still preserved in the grounds of the beautiful villa of Sir John Cotgreave, of Netherlegh, near this city, though some of the carved figures are a good deal defaced:—



 DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY.

“ I imagine (says Mr. Pennant) that this building, St. Peter’s church, and a few houses to the north and west, occupy the site of the Roman Prætorium ; for they not only fill the very situation of that part of the old castrametations, but account for the discontinuance of the Bridge-street, which ceases opposite to these edifices. This also is the cause why the nearer part of the North-gate-street, where the Exchange and the Shambles stand, points directly towards the former ; but is interrupted by the space occupied by these buildings. The limit of the Prætorium on the east, was the narrow part of North-gate-street ; on the south, part of the present Bridge, Eastgate, and Watergate-streets ; on the west, Goss-lane ; and on the north, the place now occupied by the Fish-market. The Prætorium, with its attendants, demanded no small space ; for besides the spot possessed by the general, were the apartments of the *imperatoris contubernales*, or the young nobility under his care ; the *augurale*, where prayers, sacrifices, and other religious rites were performed, might have stood on the site of the modern church ; and the general might have had his tribunal on the very spot where the worshipful corporation at present sit for the redress of grievances.”*

The cross is famous for formerly being the annual scene of exhibition of that *polite play*, called a bull-bait ; where four or five of these *horned heroes* were attended by several hundred lovers of that *rational amusement*.— Till within a few years, the *dramatic personæ* of this elegant scene included even magistracy itself, the mayor and corporation attending, in their official habiliments, at the Pentice windows, not only to countenance the *diver-*

* At the time Mr. Pennant wrote, the old Pentice was standing.

THE BULL-BAIT.

sions of the *ring*, but to participate in a sight of its enjoyments. A proclamation was also made by the crier of the court, with all the gravity and solemnity of an oration before a *Roman sacrifice*; the elegant composition run thus:—"O yez! O yez! O yez! If any man stands within twenty yards of the bull-ring, let him take—what comes." After which followed the usual public ejaculation, for "the safety of the king and the mayor of Chester;" when the *beauties* of the scene commenced, and the dogs immediately *fell to*. Here a prayer for his worship was not unseasonable, as even the ermined cloak was no security against the carcasses of dead animals, with which spectators, without distinction, were occasionally saluted. We shall not attempt a description of the *tender* offices practised at such times, on so noble a creature;—one, however, we cannot omit mentioning; in 1787, an unfortunate animal, smarting under his wounds and fatigue, was very *naturally* induced to *lie down*;—the *argument*, made use of in this situation, as *naturally*, induced him to *get up*; his humane followers hitting upon the ingenious expedient of setting fire to some straw under his body; when, it is hardly necessary to add, "the wretched animal heaved forth such groans as stretched his leathern coat almost to bursting." This circumstance of the *fire* was, however, no bad *satire* (emblematically considered) on the transactions of the day—the whole being little better than a "*burning shame*."

The danger and inconvenience of this brutal amusement, in the midst of a populous city, and at a time when crowded with strangers, during the time of the great Michaelmas fair, were too obvious to need illustration. Mr. Hardman, an active and spirited magistrate, not only caused this ancient but mischievous practice to

THE CITY COURTS REMOVED.

be discontinued in his mayoralty (1599), but with a view to its total suppression, ordered the bull-ring to be taken up. It does not appear that he succeeded in his good intention beyond his own year of office; and it was not till the year 1754, in the mayoralty of Mr. William Cowper, that the corporation withdrew their sanction by absenting themselves from this cruel diversion. In 1776, another effort was made by Mr. Broadhurst, during his mayoralty, to suppress this nuisance, but his utmost exertions proved unavailing; and the lovers of the sport returned his endeavours to deprive them of it, by forcing the bull into the row below the Feathers-steps, where his worship resided, and fastening the end of the rope with which the animal was held, to his knocker, drove on the horned victim, which bore away with him in triumph the brazen utensil. It is said the worthy alderman was so much alarmed at the unexpected visit, that he made a hasty retreat down a passage into Pepper-street, from whence he fled precipitately into the country, nor made a moment's pause until he had secured a retreat at the distance of several miles. From this period no serious attempts were made to put an end to the bull-bait until the the year 1803, when a clause was introduced into new police act, by which it was finally suppressed.

Adjoining the south-side of St. Peter's church, stood the old Pentice, or court where the magistrates exercised their judicial duties, the city sheriffs sat to determine civil causes, and where the town-office was kept until 1803, when that building, with the shops underneath, were taken down for the purpose of widening the entrance into Northgate-street, at that time extremely narrow and dangerous. At the time of removing these inconveniently situated buildings, the bench of magistracy was removed to much more commodious apartments in the Exchange.

EASTGATE-STREET.

Close to the cross, originally stood a small stone building, forming a basin at the top, called the *conduit*, to which water was formerly brought into the city from St. Giles's well at Boughton, and thence conveyed in pipes to different parts of the city. It continued to be used for its original purpose many years after the water-works were removed to the Bridge, but in 1671, was removed to opposite the Abbey-court. Adjoining to the conduit formerly stood that terror to evil-doers, the *pillory*, which little more than thirty years ago, had its permanent station there ; but this *ornamental embellishment* was removed when the street was widened by the taking down of the Pentice. In compliment to the *morality* of the citizens, however, it may be mentioned, that for thirty years before its being taken away, only one or two persons were *ambitious* enough to aspire to *so elevated an honour*, and not more than three or four from the commencement of the last century. Near to this spot was also stationed a twin implement, not much more respected, *the stocks*, where many a sabbath-breaking tippler, and other minor offenders, have passed an uneasy hour, pointed at by the unmoving finger of derision.

From the Cross, the centre of the city, where the four main streets meet, we shall conduct the stranger through them, taking in order, the East, West, North, and South, and noticing the lesser, branching from each.

THE EASTGATE-STREET

is tolerably wide, and forms a direct line from the Cross to the Eastgate, being somewhat more than 200 yards in length. Some good buildings have lately been erected here ; but still it may be said, that the venerable appearance of many others, present to the eye, as it were, a model of every thing antique in the

 EASTGATE-STREET

universe ; where, in some places, new-built houses are intermixed with the old ones ; the appearance is motley and grotesque. To see a modern mansion, just finished, standing between two gothic structures, the youngest probably not less than two hundred years old, gives the beholder an idea, if the allusion may be allowed, of the picture of an *exquisite of the present day*, placed between the portraitures of a brace of beaux of the last century—or, if the hyperbole be too strong, of a splendid family mansion, flanked by a couple of mud-wall cow-houses.

About two-thirds down the street on the right, is Newgate-street, communicating in a straight line at its extremity with Park-street, on the west with Pepper-street, and on the east with John's-street, and John's church-yard, to which there is a passage under a fine arch in the walls, called the Newgate, already noticed in the circuit of the walls. There is another opening leading out of Eastgate-street northward, nearly opposite Newgate-street, which was formerly known by the name of Werburgh's-lane, but has lately been raised to the eminence of a street ; * it leads up to the

* Some few years ago, our police commissioners, whose paucity of means for public improvement is greatly to be regretted, supplied their want of power to render the city *actually* magnificent, by giving it an *artificial* grandeur ; that is, they converted all our close passages, alleys, and entries, into more *dignified* appellations, and I doubt whether they have left us a single *lane* in the city, except *Dee-lane*. A *street* is amongst the lowest order of description, while we abound with places connected with some exalted name, *walks, squares, terraces, &c. &c.* This is at any rate a proof of the march of refinement in our commissioners, and may impart to strangers an idea of ours being a "city of palaces ;" but I much question whether the change will supply an additional notion of grandeur to the natives :—

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

EASTGATE-STREET.—FOREGATE-STREET.

Cathedral, the old Linen-hall, and for foot passengers is a convenient thoroughfare into Northgate-street. Betwixt Werburgh-street and the Eastgate there are some good houses and shops, and a very excellent travellers inn, the Green Dragon ; close to the latter, is a passage which leads to the Manchester Hall, a poor irregular building, consisting of forty shops, which are plentifully stored with Manchester goods by the manufacturers, during our two great fairs at Midsummer and Michaelmas. On the opposite side of the street, is a spacious building, occupied as an hotel, and which is dignified with the title of Royal. It is a very fine edifice, has excellent accommodations, and is kept by a public-spirited gentleman, Mr. George Strutton.

Passing through the Eastgate, you enter Foregate-street, which is about 572 yards in length, and in general 18 in breadth. From this street issue John's-street on the right, and Frodsham-street on the left. In the former, which leads to John's church, and the Dee, are some good dwellings, and an excellent building with a circular front, used by the Wesleyan Methodists as a place of worship. Frodsham-street is narrow, with old mean houses, and conducts to Flookersbrook, Hoole, Frodsham, and Warrington.

A little below Frodsham-street, on the same side, is a convenient opening, which leads to and exhibits, at the distance of about 40 yards, the *Commercial Hall*. This hall was erected in the beginning of 1815, and was first opened for the sale of goods at Midsummer fair in the same year. It is a quadrangular brick building, with a large area in the centre ; and contains 56 single, and 20 double shops ; has a commodious flight of steps at each angle leading to the upper tier of shops. This hall

FOREGATE-STREET.

is frequented during the two fairs, in July and October, by tradespeople, from London, Glasgow, Manchester, Derby, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Sheffield, when their respective manufactures are exposed for sale, wholesale and retail. It was erected at the expence of two individuals as a matter of speculation, and executed by Mr. Lunt in the space of five weeks. The *Union Hall* stands a few yards lower down the street, on the opposite side; it is also a regular quadrangular building, 160 feet long and 92 wide, with an area in the centre. This hall was built in 1809, distributed into shares, by the Manchester and Yorkshire manufacturers attending the fairs, and contains 60 single and 10 double shops, besides the upper story, which is not divided into shops, but is chiefly occupied by the stalls of the Yorkshire clothiers.

In proceeding further towards Boughton, on the North side, we reach Queen-street, of modern construction, containing on one side a range of pretty good dwellings, reaching to the canal, in which line there is an excellent chapel belonging to the Independents, a respectable body of Christians, and near to it a neat Catholic chapel, to which adjoins the officiating priest's house.

Further down the street, on the south side, is Love-street, celebrated for a manufacture, the *fame* of which has been *puff'd* in almost every city and town throughout England and Ireland—the making of *tobacco pipes*; and if the convivial disposition of the *Cestrians* is to be judged of by the consumption of that article among us, a stranger would pronounce us the most social set of people upon the earth.

Again crossing the street, and at a short remove downwards, we meet with Seller-street, called after the name of the late Alderman Seller. This is a good new street,

FOREGATE-STREET.—BOUGHTON.

containing some well built houses, and erected in 1818-19, from the upper part of which, is an avenue leading into Bold-square, containing 24 excellent dwelling houses, each of them having a little garden ground in front, inclosed by a neat iron railing. The site upon which these houses are built, and the area in the centre, stand immediately behind the mansion of Mrs. Bold, and was a large field, formerly the property and in the possession of the late Dr. Haygarth. Seller-street is connected with Egerton-street, which runs down to Flookersbrook and Brook-street, by a light and elegant cast iron bridge, thrown across the canal. Egerton-street commences immediately after crossing the bridge, and is 350 yards in length. On the right, a good road leads to the lead works, or shot manufactory of Messrs. Walker and Co. consisting of a huge pile of buildings, and to which is attached a circular chimney, several hundred feet high, visible at a great distance from the city.

Returning again to Foregate-street, a little further down, we arrive at Dee-lane, which leads to the river. At this place formerly stood a military defence intersecting the whole street, called the Bars, taken down something more than forty years ago, but still considered the boundary between Foregate-street and Boughton. The Octagon chapel, which was built and for many years occupied by the Methodists, but now in the occupation of persons belonging to Lady Huntingdon's society, stands near this place ; and also a chapel in Steam-mill-street, a little below, belonging to the Primitive Methodists. In this latter street there are also some very extensive buildings, occupied as a corn-mill and ware-houses by Messrs. Frost's.

From the bars, there is nothing to attract the stranger's

 WATERGATE-STREET.

attention till entering the hamlet of Boughton, which is little more than a long street. A range of very elegant houses have lately been built on the left hand side, where formerly stood (as a sort of *momento mori* to the passing traveller) the fatal tree where many an unfortunate fellow creature has forfeited his life to the violated laws of his country. A little beyond is Barrel-well, containing an excellent cold-bath, much frequented by invalids, adjoining which are some buildings erected by the new water-works company, *on pretence* of conveying pure water from that fountain. Near that spot has also been erected, within the last four years, a new church; the Rev. Francis Parry is minister, and it has greatly advantaged that populous neighbourhood. Just beyond this is an ancient burial place, called the Spittal (an abbreviation of hospital) wherein was formerly contained a building, appropriated for lepers, founded by Randal Blundeville, but which was destroyed by the republican army during the civil wars. On this spot, George March, an early reformer, suffered martyrdom, an unfortunate victim of the diabolical bigotry of the infamous Queen Mary, for conscientious scruples. Opposite the Spittal is that humane institution, the Penitentiary for unfortunate females.

The turnpike roads here divide, that on the left directing to Tarporley, Nantwich, and London; and that on the right to Malpas, Whitchurch and Shrewsbury.

There being nothing further worthy of remark in this direction, we again return to the Cross, in order to commence our course down

WATERGATE-STREET,

which lies westward, and is about 430 yards in length. This street is unique in its appearance, as it retains most

WATERGATE-STREET.

of its original buildings, untouched by the hands of modern improvement.

The south side of the street contains some very ancient houses, perhaps, the oldest in the city, one of which has a post, on which is carved the date of 1539; two or three of these are highly ornamented in front by curious old-fashioned devices. The first we come to is dated 1652, and has this motto, "God's providence is mine inheritance," said to have been inscribed by the occupier, as a grateful memorial, after escaping the plague, which had visited almost every other dwelling. Lower down, on the same side, is another very singularly decorated mansion: the lower part of the front is divided into several compartments, each having a sunk pannel, representing, in rudely carved work, some of the most noted events recorded in the scriptures, such as the Serpent beguiling Eve, the murder of Abel, Susannah and the Elders, &c. &c. In the two centre pannels are the arms and initials, supposed of Dr. George Lloyd, Bishop of Chester, who died in 1665, which date is on the pannel. The upper part of the house is also richly figured in the same pannelled style; nor is even the bottom neglected in the profusion of laborious handiwork, for even the pillars and brackets, which support the rows, are carved in a ludicrous manner.

Further on is a passage, called Puppet-show-entry, from a melancholy circumstance which happened there on the 5th of November, 1772. The upper part of the house was let to a showman, who was exhibiting his puppets to a crowded audience, when about 800lbs. of gunpowder, lying in a shop-keeper's store-room underneath, accidentally exploded, and upwards of 30 persons were killed, and about 70 were dreadfully burnt and bruised. The whole city felt the shock as from an earthquake.

WATERGATE-STREET.

The only branches from the south side of Watergate-street, are Weaver and Nicholas streets. The former, composed of mean paltry buildings, and leads into White Friars ; the latter is wide and airy, having on the right hand a range of modern brick dwellings, entirely in the London style, with sunk kitchens, enclosed by a neat iron railing. This forms an excellent road to Martin's Ash, St. Martin's and the New church of St. Bridget ;* the main entrance to the Castle, and the New Bridge, and is indeed the pleasantest part of the city. No other object, from the north end of Nicholas-street to the Watergate, if we except the handsome mansion built and occupied by Henry Potts, Esq. Clerk of the Peace for the county of Chester, standing on the site of an old building formerly occupied by the late Dr. Currie. A high wall, terminates the street, and reaches the gate ; immediately on passing through which you enter Crane-streets, which lead directly to the Wharfs by the river side.

Having only noticed the south side of the street, it may be most convenient to return to the Cross by the same route on the opposite side ; we first pass a range of genteel modern houses, delightfully situated for air, view, and quiet, at the end of which is a passage leading to Stanley Place, the residence of some of our best families. Close by stands the Linen Hall, erected by the Irish merchants, in 1778, containing 111 shops, which were formerly well stocked at our two great fairs with Irish linens, inclosing a pleasant and spacious area. Of late years this place

* In this perambulation, the Churches and public buildings are only just mentioned *en passant*. They will be found described under distinct heads in another part of this little work.

WATERGATE-STREET.

has been diminishing in attendance, and is at present almost entirely deserted; not on account of the decrease of the manufacture, but by the diversion of the trade into other channels. At present this hall, as well as the Commercial Hall in Foregate-street, is let to the farmers, in which cheese-fairs are held about eight times a year.

Something more than forty years ago, near this spot, some labourers discovered, very little below the surface, the remains of a Roman hypocaust, and sudatory or sweating-bath, with a beautiful Roman altar, inscribed to *Æsculapius*. But the whole was unfortunately destroyed by the rude hands of ignorance, before a proper drawing of them could be taken

A little higher in the street is Lower-lane, a miserable receptacle of vice, chiefly inhabited by the lowest order of people. At the corner of this street stands his Majesty's Custom-house, which, though a building of small dimensions and miserable appearance, is quite sufficient for the limited business of the port. Adjoining is Trinity church, which contains the mortal remains and memorials of the celebrated Matthew Henry, of pious memory, and of Parnel, the poet. Trinity-street leads up by the church, a narrow inconvenient street, in which is the Stamp office, and formerly a good chapel, built and till lately used as a place of worship by the Methodist New Connexion. Higher up is Crook-street, remarkable only for containing the chapel which was built for Matthew Henry, in the beginning of the last century, but now used by the Unitarians. The three last mentioned streets lead to Princess-street and St. Martins-in-the-Fields, a pleasant and open place facing the walls. The only remaining opening in this street is Goss-street, which by a narrow passage communicates with Hamilton Place, in

NORTHGATE-STREET.

which are two small chapels, one used by the Baptists and the other by the Wesleyan Welsh Methodists. Being now returned to the Cross, we proceed to

NORTHGATE-STREET,

which, as its name implies, forms the Northern quarter of the city, and is 440 yards long. The east side, of St. Peter's church forms the corner; close adjoining are the Commercial Buildings, which were erected for, and are now occupied as, a subscription news-room; the back of the same premises are rented as a public library, and on the ground floor in the front are two handsome shops. The Rows in this street are very much confined. That on the east side is very little frequented as a thoroughfare, but that on the west, called Shoemaker's Row is a bustling place for business. The row gradually tapers off here till it presents a level with the street at its termination, at the Fish-shambles. The regular market for fish and vegetables is held in an open square building here, which in general is plentiful and reasonable. In that useful article, salmon, no market in the kingdom did, some few years ago, excel it; indeed such was the profusion of this valuable fish, that masters were often restricted, by a clause in the indenture, from giving it more than twice a week to their apprentices.— Though the bounty of providence, in this particular, is yet unabated, such restriction is no longer necessary— some *artificial* cause, or other very *kindly*, rendering this fish, at the present day, a *delicacy* even to the masters themselves.

Opposite the fish shambles stands the Theatre Royal. No circumstance can evince the strange mutations to which mundane things are liable, more than this place;

NORTHGATE-STREET.

it was originally a *chapel*, dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, and devoted to *religion*; afterwards a *common-hall*, devoted to *justice*; next, a *warehouse*, devoted to *trade*; and is now a *play-house*, devoted to *amusement*.

The Exchange stands a little further, dividing the street into two. The city sessions, and election of members of parliament, are held in this building, and here also the corporation assemble on judicial business, on public occasions. In this area is the White Lion Hotel, a very excellent building, and a comfortable inn for travellers, with which is connected a respectable and extensive coaching establishment. Several coaches run every day from this inn to Liverpool, by way of Eastham Ferry. At a very short distance from the Exchange, are the Meat shambles. This market, with those for butter, poultry, and fish, were erected in 1828, and opened for use in the month of December in that year.

Over against the Market-halls, on the east side of the street, stands the Abbey-gate, consisting of a lofty pointed arch, with a postern at the side, both of which are in a larger obtuse one. The roof of the gate-way is vaulted with stone, with ribs and carved key-stones at the inter-sections; and the rooms over, occupied as the registry, where wills are kept, are approached by a spiral staircase.* The Abbey-square, into which this is the entrance,

* An incident connected with these rooms, which occurred some years ago, is still remembered and often spoken of by many of our ancient gossips. A Mr. *Speed*, the then deputy registrar, had been frail enough to entice a female as frail as himself, into a room adjoining his office; when an unexpected visitant arriving, who required his immediate presence, for fear of an unlucky discovery, he locked her up in the room. The fair one became so alarmed at her confinement, that she opened one of the windows looking into Abbey-square, from which she threw herself to the ground without

 NORTHGATE-STREET.

has an obelisk in the centre, surrounded by a large circle of iron pallisades, the houses regularly and handsomely built. On the south side is the Bishop's Palace, a large stone pile, erected in 1753. The Gothic structure of St. Thomas's Chapel, formerly the residence of the Dean, was taken down many years back, and on its site a spacious mansion erected, more suitable for that dignitary. On the west side of the shambles is Parson's-lane, or Princess-street, leading to the pleasant range of buildings before mentioned, named Martin's-in-the-Fields.

In approaching the Northgate, and when we reach the Little Abbey-gate, the street again narrows; and passing Abbey green on the right, and the Pied Bull, a respectable inn for travellers,* and King-street on the left, an open space, used as a Potato-market, is discovered. At the extremity of this area, a good brick building has been erected, and the upper part converted into a reservoir, which is, or ought to be constantly filled with water, to supply the city with that necessary article, and to be in readiness in case of fire. The apartments beneath are occupied as depositories for the fire-engines and other apparatus. The arrangements for this important portion of

any serious injury. The whole story, however, got wind, and the incident was subsequently celebrated in a humorous caricature; to which was appended the following distich, said to be written by the late Mascie Taylor, Esq.—

“ Since women are so fond of men,
 “ With *Speed* she will fly up again.”

* On the 13th of January, 1789, a fire happened at the stables belonging to this inn, which was attended with loss of life. The hostler having gone into the hay-loft, with a lighted candle, while in a state of intoxication, set fire to the combustible, and was burnt to death.

NORTHGATE-STREET.

police are now under the superintendence of a committee, who have adopted some admirable measures, promptly to meet and counteract the alarming occurrence of accidental fire.

Immediately after passing under the Northgate, we cross an arch thrown over the Ellesmere canal, which however is not discernible from the street, and an entire level is preserved. Each side of the arch or bridge is well guarded by an iron railing, from the tremendous precipice below. On the left hand, close to this spot, stands the ancient hospital of St. John, better known as the blue school, the south-wing of which is occupied as a chapel for divine worship, according to the forms of the church of England; it is extra-parochial, is denominated Little St. John's, and is in the patronage of the corporation. The centre is used by the schools, and the remaining wing is for the house of the master, and other purposes. Behind this building are six alms-houses for poor aged females, who thus pass the evening of their days in comfortable retirement.

Close adjoining to this building, is a road leading to the canal wharf, out of which diverges another path conducting to Stone bridge, Saughall, &c. Exactly opposite the top of Canal-street is George-street, leading to New-town and Flookersbrook, having on the left a lane, denominated Windmill lane, so called from a mill, situated at its extremity near the Bache, where the monks of St. Werburgh, and afterwards the tenants of the Dean and Chapter, had the *privilege* of grinding their corn. Nearly at the top of the south side of this street is the diocesan school, 80 feet long by 33 feet wide; it was built by public subscription in 1813, and is under the patronage of the Bishop of the diocese.

NORTHGATE-STREET.

There is no particular object in Further Northgate-street that claims any notice from the historian or antiquarian. It contains a few good houses, (particularly a spacious mansion, belonging to the Egertons of Oulton) but they are thinly scattered among many inferior ones; the street, however, is wide and capacious, and forms, if not an elegant, at least a commodious entry to this part of the city. At the further end there are two roads verging from the centre, the one on the left hand leading to Neston and Parkgate, the other, on the right, conducting to Eastham, and the Liverpool ferries on the Mersey. On the ground in front, which divides these roads, is an excellent brick building, that appears to great advantage, built by and the residence of the late John Fletcher, Esq. The top of this mansion is surmounted with a glass cupula, forming an excellent observatory, and admirably situated for an extensive view, on account of its great elevation, particularly on the western point. On this spot formerly stood the church of St. Thomas, or Thomas-a-Becket, which is distinctly marked on Daniel King's plan of Chester, and probably taken about 1620. A contemporary says, it was converted into a dwelling-house by alderman Richard Dutton, who served the office of mayor of the city in 1627, and was afterwards called *Jolly's hall*. In 1645 it shared the fate of most other buildings in the suburbs, and was demolished, that it might not afford shelter to the enemy during the siege. The writer of this has been informed that, in turning up the ground in Mr. Fletcher's garden, at the time of building his house, numerous reliques were found, indicative of the site having been a place of ancient sepulture.

A little beyond Mr. Fletcher's house, on the Bache

BRIDGE-STREET.

road, there is a good stone mansion, built about sixteen years ago by the late Mascie Taylor, and now occupied by Mr. Ayrton; and on the opposite side of the road another was erected by the late Mr. Joseph Lewis, controller of the customs. But the writer is reminded that he has travelled as far in this direction, as his proposed plan will allow; particularly as it is his purpose to take an excursive view, in a separate article, of the suburbs. We shall therefore return again to the cross, in order to complete the itinerary of the city, by a slight survey of

BRIDGE-STREET.

This street is 554 yards long, and in general wide and commodious; it is divided into *Upper* and *Lower*, the division being marked by St. Michael's church on the one side, and Grosvenor-street on the other. The view from the cross extends nearly to the bottom of the street, and the variety in the buildings, in which are intermingled the antique and the modern, of different sizes and forms, presents a grotesque appearance.

The first turning from Bridge-street on the right hand, is Commonhall-street, which is thus described by old Webb:—"As you descend from the High Cross, upon the west side lyes a lane, anciently called *Norman's-lane*, and many yet call it *Common-hall-lane*, because it was situate at a great hall, where the pleas of the city and the courts thereof, and meetings of the mayor and his brethren were once holden, and it joins *St. Alban's-lane*" (*Weaver's-lane*). The city courts were removed hence to St. Nicholas' chapel, where the theatre now stands, in the year 1545. On the south side of this street also stood the monastery of the White Friars, or Carmelites, which exhibited a fine spire, built in 1496, and taken down in

BRIDGE-STREET.

1597, of which the aforesaid Webb remarks, "that it was the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester." Commonhall-street contains likewise a Welsh Calvinistic chapel, and an extensive shot manufactory, with a high circular tower, built by the late Mr. John Mellor, and now carried on by Messrs. Ellis and Chandler.

Nearly opposite Commonhall-street is the Feathers Hotel, an inn of very superior character, and now kept by Mr. Wood. With this house is connected an extensive coaching establishment, from whence conveyances may be had to every part of the kingdom, and the concern is sustained with commendable spirit under the auspices of Messrs. Jones and Herbert. Close to this spot, are still to be seen in a tolerably perfect state, the remains of a hypocaust, and of a sweating bath, formerly much in use among the Romans, as a superlative luxury, which will be more particularly noticed in our description of Roman antiquities.

About eighty paces below, on the same side, stands the church of St. Michael, through the arched porch of which the row is continued, and here terminates. Close to the south side of the church is Pepper-street, leading to the Newgate and Eastgate-street; in Pepper-street stands a neat chapel belonging to a section of the Baptist community, and also a very splendid place of worship, erected in 1835, by the Methodist New Connexion; it has a stone front, and rests upon four fluted pillars; the collection connected with its opening services amounted to £265.

Opposite to St. Michael's, till within these last few years, was the church of St. Bridget, which, with some dwellings on each side of it, were then taken down, from whence an opening was formed, and a new road

BRIDGE-STREET.

made leading to the castle and the new bridge; it has been named Grosvenor-street, and has greatly improved the appearance of this part of the city. From the contiguity of the sacred edifices, this quarter received the appellation of *The Two Churches*. A gateway formerly crossed the street between the churches, dividing the Higher from the Lower Bridge-street.

Cuppins-street, so called, as tradition says, from licensed bagnios, or *cupping-houses* being situated here, is a little below: it is cut in two by the intersection of the new street, but is narrow, with many indifferent houses, and terminates at Martin's Ash. At the corner of this street, there formerly stood an old building called the *Lamb-row*, the upper part of which was supported by clumsy wooden pillars. The frame-work was of wood, and the interstices of hazel twigs, plaistered over with clay and mortar. This house is said to have been the residence of one of the Randal Holme's, a Chester antiquary, and had long stood nodding over the street to the terror of passengers. At last in May, 1821, *Time*, the slow, but certain conqueror of human ingenuity and skill, touched the edifice, and the whole front of the upper apartments, with the fore part of the roof, fell suddenly into the street with a tremendous crash. Although this happened while several of the inmates were in the interior, and at the noon-tide of the day, when many persons were walking to and fro in the street, not the slightest personal injury was sustained by any one.

The only spot on this side the street to be noticed, are Castle-street, and an opening directing to Mary's hill and Mary's church. The former leads to Glover's Stone, where malefactors are delivered by the Constable of the Castle to the City Sheriffs for execution, and was formerly

HANDBRIDGE.

the only road to the Castle. Below the entrance of Castle-street is an ancient mansion, which is rendered memorable for being the residence of Charles the First, during his short but disturbed stay in Chester, at the siege of the city. It was then the mansion of Sir Francis Gamull.

Opposite Castle-street is Olave's lane, and a little below on the same side is Duke-street, formerly called Clayton's lane, which leads up to Newgate-street and Pepper-street. A little before arriving at the Bridge-gate, the street widens, and a range of good buildings on the east-side, forms what is called Bridge-place. Passing under the gate and over the bridge, we enter Handbridge, situate on the opposite bank of the river, within the parishes of St. Mary-on-the-Hill and St. Bridget. It is an irregularly built long street, and is the main road to all parts of the Principality.

It was the property of the predecessor of the barons of Montalt at the conquest, and probably passed with that barony to the crown, but was a few years back, sold to John Edwards, Esq. of Foregate-street. In Doomsday book, this vill is written *Bruge*. In some deeds of the 16th Henry VIII. it is called *Hundbridge*. Handbridge was the suburb that generally fell a sacrifice to the Welsh in their predatory excursions and attacks on the city; hence, in the British language it is called *Tre-boeth*, the *burnt* or *hot-town*—significant of its having been the seat of border heat and contention.

In a field contiguous to Handbridge is a rock, on the front of which is cut the *Dea Armigera*, Minerva with her bird and altar. This is said to be the spot where the palace of the ambitious Edgar stood, though not a vestige remains to confirm the assertion. From this part of the

 THE CATHEDRAL

river, the above monarch (in 973) had the *singular felicity* of being rowed, by eight subordinate tributary kings, to the monastery of St. John the Baptist.

 THE CATHEDRAL.

Lo! where triumphant o'er the wreck of years,
 The time-worn fabric lifts its awful form :
 Scath'd with the blast its sculptur'd form appears,
 Yet frowns defiance on th' impetuous storm.
 What pow'rs—to more than giant bulk ally'd,
 Thy firm-compacted mass conspir'd to raise !
 Then bade thee stand secure to latest days,
 Wonder of after times—of *Cestria's* sires the pride.
Greswell's Monastery of St. Werburgh.

This stately and venerable fabric stands on the east side of the Northgate-street; the reigns of the three last Henries are mentioned as the periods in which the greater parts of the sacred edifice (now remaining) was erected. Simon Riply, chosen abbot in 1485, built the broad aisle. The abbey, which gave birth to this see, is of such antiquity, as to have been a nunnery more than eleven hundred years ago, founded by Walperus, King of the Mercians, for his daughter St. Werburgh; who, the good wives of the present day will wonder to hear, took the veil, after living *three years* with her husband Cedredus, in a state of *vestal purity*!!! Whether this chaste lady's *immaculacy* was more ascribable to her *constitutional coldness*, or *spiritual heat*, historians have not been kind enough to inform us; nor even have they vouchsafed to say, what sort of a *man* her husband was.

THE CATHEDRAL.

The buildings were next restored by Ethelfleda, of pious memory, and the *fair nuns* were very *unpolitely* supplanted by a set of *canons*. These *pieces of holy ordnance* were, in their turn *discharged* by Hugh Lupus; who *sans ceremonie*, placed in this *spiritual garrison* a well-fed body of *Benedictines*. The *canons* made a *loud report*, and *carried* the force of their complaints a *long way*; but to little purpose—the Earl was peremptory.

At the rising of that *sun* of reformation, Henry VIII. a general dissolution of what were called *religious houses*, followed, and this *reverend body*, with others, were *dissolved*—a *limb* of the body, (Thomas Clarke, the abbot) excepted; who, after a stubborn refusal, wisely surrendered, by selling his *creed* for the *deanery*, and embracing the *principles* of the *reformation*, and a *good living* at the same moment.

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

 THE CATHEDRAL.

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

External length	372 feet.
Internal ditto	350 “
The nave or broad aisle.....	175 “
The choir	110 “
St. Mary's, or Lady's Chapel	65 “
Transept, external 200, internal.....	180 “
Breadth, including aisles	74½ “
Height of the ceiling	73 “
Ditto of the chapel	33 “
Ditto of the tower	127 “
Diameter ditto.....	45 “

The cathedral, doubtless, owes as much for its venerable appearance, to the perishable nature of the materials of which it is formed as to its age; for we see many structures much older than this, with less mournful evidences of decay. It is to be lamented, says a writer of the present day, that owing to the low state of the chapter revenues, the whole building was suffered to fall into such serious dilapidation, before it was attended to. A subscription was, however, set on foot throughout the diocese about fifteen years ago, and a handsome sum was collected, though insufficient to restore the grandeur of its former architectural dignity. Accordingly the repairs as they now stand were completed at the least possible expence, and which, although not happily harmonizing with the exquisite skill of the earlier labours, are quite competent to the preservation of the remaining greatness of this stately national ornament.

In the interior will be found several objects well worthy

THE CATHEDRAL.

the inspection of the curious. The western entrance stands pre-eminent in architectural dignity, and is said to have been the work of Abbot Ripley. The broad sheet of light transmitted through the fine western window, discovers at once the beauty and ample dimensions of the broad aisle. The centre aisle is divided from the side aisles, by six pointed arches on each side, sprung from clustered columns, with capitals ornamented with foliage. In this spacious place are occasionally held our musical festivals, for the benefit of the public charities, which always prove a treat to the lovers of harmony, and a seasonable relief to the institutions they are intended to benefit. The west end, upon these occasions, is fitted up as an orchestra, to the centre of which the organ is removed from its usual station. These meetings are generally attended by an immense confluence of nobility and gentry from all parts of the kingdom, and the surplus of the receipts above the expenditure, usually amounts to from £800 to £1000, which is distributed to the charitable institutions of the city, according to their importance and necessities.

The neatness of the choir, and the Gothic appearance of the tabernacle work, have a pleasing effect on the eye. The Bishop's throne, which is superbly ornamented, is said to have been the ancient shrine of St. Werburgh. It is encircled by a beautiful groupe of small images, intended to represent saints and kings of Mercia. Some of these, either by accident or meddling fingers, were, something more than half a century ago, decapitated; accordingly a *mason* was employed to *mend* their majesties; but the artist, not being well acquainted with either *saints* or *sovereigns*, unluckily transposed their caputs, by putting *kings' heads* upon *queens' shoulders*, and *vice versa*. To

THE CATHEDRAL.

the body of a tender virgin saint, he placed the head of a veteran monarch! What sort of a head the artist must have had, we will not pretend to say: this much, however, he might truly have boasted—that he knew how “*to put old heads upon young shoulders!*”

The broad aisle is enriched with a few elegant monuments, deserving particular observation, some of which we shall here enumerate:—one to the memory of Sir William Mainwaring, a young officer who fell in defence of the city during the siege—to the memory of the late Dean Smith—of Mr. Ogden, surgeon—of the late Chancellor Peploe—of Mrs. Barbara Dod, who died in London, and devised her estate at Boughton and Childer Thornton to the Minor Canons of the Cathedral—of Captain John Philips Buchanan, who fell in the glorious battle of Waterloo, on the 18th of June, 1815—of Major Thomas Hilton, who died at Montmeir, in the Burmese empire, 2nd of February, 1829—of Augusta, the wife of the Rev. James Slade, Prebendary of the Cathedral, and daughter of G. H. Law, Bishop of the diocese—of Sir John Grey Egerton, Baronet, of Oulton, who died on the 25th of May, 1825, one of the representatives for this city in two successive parliaments.

Behind the choir is St. Mary's Chapel, where *two or three assemble together*, offering up their orisons, at the early hour of six every morning in the summer, and seven in the winter. Adjoining to the entrance of this chapel, stands a tomb, *said to contain the dust of royalty*; tradition telling us, that the remains of Henry IV. Emperor of Germany lie there: be this as it may, the *report* merely has given such a *value* to the bones, that the persuasion, while it has frequently *lengthened* the face of the enquirer, by adding to his *surprise*, has as often

THE CATHEDRAL.

lengthened the purse of the verger, by adding to his *fee*. On the south is the parish church of St. Oswald.—On the north side of the broad aisle stand the cloisters ; in which is that beautiful, well-finished edifice, the Chapter-house, where the bones of several Earls and Abbots lie in peaceful obscurity : it is 50 feet in length, 26 in width, and 35 in height. The supposition is, that it was erected by Randal Meschines, second Earl of Chester, who died in 1128.

In one of the wooden presses kept in the Chapter-house, is preserved the head-part of a stone coffin, found here in 1724, by Mr. Henchman, a school-master : the coffin enclosed a body completely wrapped in gilt leather, the scull and bones of which it is said, were quite fresh, and the strings which fastened together the ancles entire. Immediately over the breast was a very singular covering, or shroud, made of paper nicely platted, so as to form most elegant little squares of black and white ; a wolf's head is also cut on the coffin. From the latter fact, it has generally been taken for granted, that these remains were those of the great Lupus, our local monarch ; and in this conclusion our antiquary, Pennant, seems to concur. But notwithstanding this authority, aided by the popular sentiment, there is very good reason to doubt its correctness ; for although the wolf's head erased is clearly discernible upon the stone, indicative of the insignia of Lupus, yet, as the Lysons observe, "there is no reason for supposing it to have been coeval with him ; besides, as the same writers say, armorial devices do not appear to have been introduced on works of art before Richard I. who commenced his reign nearly a century after Lupus's death, nor no sepulchral monuments till the thirteenth century. In negating the

THE CATHEDRAL.

popular opinion, it may likewise be urged, that under the wolf's head, the stone bears, in cyphers, the initials of S. R. which can have no conceivable application to our Norman monarch. There is much more likelihood, that this relic designated the place of sepulture of the Abbot *Simon Ripley*, with whose name the initials are in perfect accordance. The name of this Abbot, who occupied his station from the year 1485 to 1492, is associated with magnificent improvements in almost every portion of the abbey, and he might, therefore, justly be thought worthy of honourable interment in the chapter-house.— In support of these hypothesis, Mr. Ormerod observes, “the initials are clearly S. R. and the wolf's head corresponds in style of carving with a similar one introduced by Simon Ripley on the tower of Saighton Manor-house,” now occupied by Peter Dutton, Esq.

On quitting the chapter-house, we turn to the right, and proceeding through a vaulted passage, called the maiden aisle, we gain the site of the once extensive kitchens, cellars, &c. belonging to the monastery, but which have been swept away to make room for modern alterations. Above these may still be seen remnants of the ancient dormitory; here also is a view of the outside of the chapter-house; and those who have witnessed its inward excellence, will lament the progress of decay obviously discernible in its external appearance.

There are in this see two archdeaconries, Chester and Richmond; it is a suffragan to York; and the diocese comprises Cheshire, and Lancaster, a part of Cumberland, Westmoreland, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. It contains 256 parishes, 101 of which are impropriate. The bishopric is valued in the King's books at £420 1s. 8d. per annum. The first Bishop of Chester was John Bird,

ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH.

in 1541 ; the present Bishop is John Bird Sumner, instituted in 1829.

ST. OSWALD'S.

In an architectural point of view the church of St. Oswald's forms an essential part of the Cathedral, of which it is the south transept ; but it is a parish church to all civil and ecclesiastical purposes. This transept is said to have stood on the site of the first church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was afterwards changed to that of the Holy Trinity, and finally to the name it now bears. On the re-building of the church, this transept was designedly enlarged, and attached by the monks to the neighbouring inhabitants, who were for the most part servants and tenants to the abbey. It does not appear that the abbots and monks felt satisfied in a surrender of what they considered a portion of their own precincts, to the use of the laity ; and, therefore, attempted to direct their attachments from this sacred edifice, by building and endowing a vicarage, another structure, to which they gave the name of the Chapel of St. Nicholas, which was situated a little to the south-west of the Cathedral. The inhabitants, however, disliking their accommodations, or probably jealous of the usurpation of the monks, made some efforts to be restored to their former church ; and by a composition between the Mayor and Abbot Ripley, about the year 1488, the south transept was again appropriated to their use, of which they have retained possession ever since. The chapel of St. Nicholas now fell into disuse, and has since undergone several changes, namely, a depot for merchandise, a common-hall for the dispensing of justice, and a theatre, for which latter purpose it is now used.

ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH.

Previous to the year 1525, there were no seats in this church, excepting those appropriated to the mayor and corporation. An old author, who wrote about the year 1622, says, "In this parish church is the great assembly both of the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, peers, and *the whole city*, to hear the sermons on the Lord's day and other festivals, especially in the forenoon, being indeed the most spacious and fit place for that occasion."

Additional accommodations were afterwards made; but the church had become greatly dilapidated, and unfit for divine worship, when Bishop Law presided in the diocese. That prelate, therefore, directed the parishioners to put it into complete repair. Accordingly the whole was new flagged and pewed; a new pulpit and reading desk added; the old gallery, which was on the west side, taken down, and another erected at the south end: the walls were cleaned, and the whole, as far possible, renewed, so that it is now one of the neatest churches in the city. These improvements were finished in the year 1827.

In the following year several other improvements were added by the munificence of Dean Copleston.—Hitherto the screen, which divided the parish church from the side aisles of the nave and choir, was comparatively low, but this he raised to the roof; a handsome throne for the bishop was also placed against this screen inside the church, on each side of which is an elevated seat, one for the dean, and the other for the precentor. Under the superintendence of Dr. Copleston, also, the ground within the cloisters, and the church-yard, was lowered to its level, and a trench dug round the building from south to north, in order to preserve the interior from dampness. Other material improvements owe

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

their origin to this truly learned divine, and he was projecting more, when he was elevated to the see of Llandaff, in 1827.

On account of the cathedral service occupying the usual canonical hours on the sabbath forenoon, the morning service in this church commences at nine o'clock, an arrangement rendered necessary by its contiguity to the choir. The present vicar is the Rev. William Harrison.

The memorials of mortality in this church have nothing to recommend them to the notice of the stranger.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

This church occupies the site of the dissolved collegiate church dedicated to the same saint, and the cathedral of the Norman diocese of Chester. The foundation of this church is ascribed by Webb to Ethelred, King of Mercia, and stated on the authority of Giraldus to have taken place in the year 689.

The cause for the selection of the particular spot on which this church stands, is thus recorded in King's Vale Royal, which every one is at liberty to receive or reject, according to the calibre of his credulity.—“King Ethelred, minding to build a church, was told, that where he should see a white hind, there he should build a church; which hind he saw in the place where St. John's church now standeth; and in remembrance whereof his picture was placed in the wall of the said church, which yet standeth on the side of the steeple towards the west, having a white hind in his hand.”

The situation of this church is without the walls, on the eastern side of the city, on a cliff of red rock, overhanging the banks of the Dee,—a site as picturesque as

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

any which the neighbourhood of the city could present, if the imagination of the observer may be allowed to clothe the opposite bank with the forests which certainly existed there long after its foundation by Ethelred, and to remove the modern obstructions which shut out from the prospect the hills of Wales and Delamere.

From the general ecclesiastical survey, 26th Henry VIII. it appears, that the body of the church, with one bell, was all that was deemed necessary for the use of the parishioners. The rest was actually stript of its lead, and exposed to dilapidation. In 1572, a great part of the steeple fell, and in 1574 half of the whole steeple, from top to bottom, fell upon the west end of the church, and broke down a great part of it. In 1581, the parishioners, having obtained a grant of the church from the Queen, began to build some part of it again, and cut off all the chapel above the choir.

Shortly after the advowson and impropriate rectory were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, and conveyed by him to Alexander King, from whom they passed to Alexander Cotes; after this period they descended through the families of Sparkes, Wood, and Adams, to John Adams, son of the Rev. Lawrence Adams, vicar of this church, by whom they were conveyed to the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, (now Marquis of Westminster) who is impropriate and patron. The present vicar is the Rev. William Richardson, instituted 1785.

The tower, about 150 feet high, and detached from the body of the church, contains an harmonious set of eight bells, six of them cast in 1710, and two in 1734. The approach to it is through the remains of the north aisle. The sides of the tower are decorated with a rich screen, and ornamented with figures placed in niches of

 ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

exquisite workmanship. In the year 1813, the chancel was thoroughly repaired; an entire new window was introduced over the communion, and the north and south transepts re-built and beautified, at the sole expence of the Marquis of Westminster, in whom, as already noticed, the advowson of the church is vested.

Dr. Cowper, in his *Il Penseroso* says, "In this church was an ancient rood or image of wood, of such veneration, that in a deed, March 27, 1311, confirmed by Walter Langton, the church was called, *The Church of the Holy Cross and St. John*. Richard Hawarden, of Winwick, Lancashire, by will, dated March 28, A. D. 1503, left "vis. viiid. to whatever priest would go for him to the Holy Rood at St. John's, Chester."

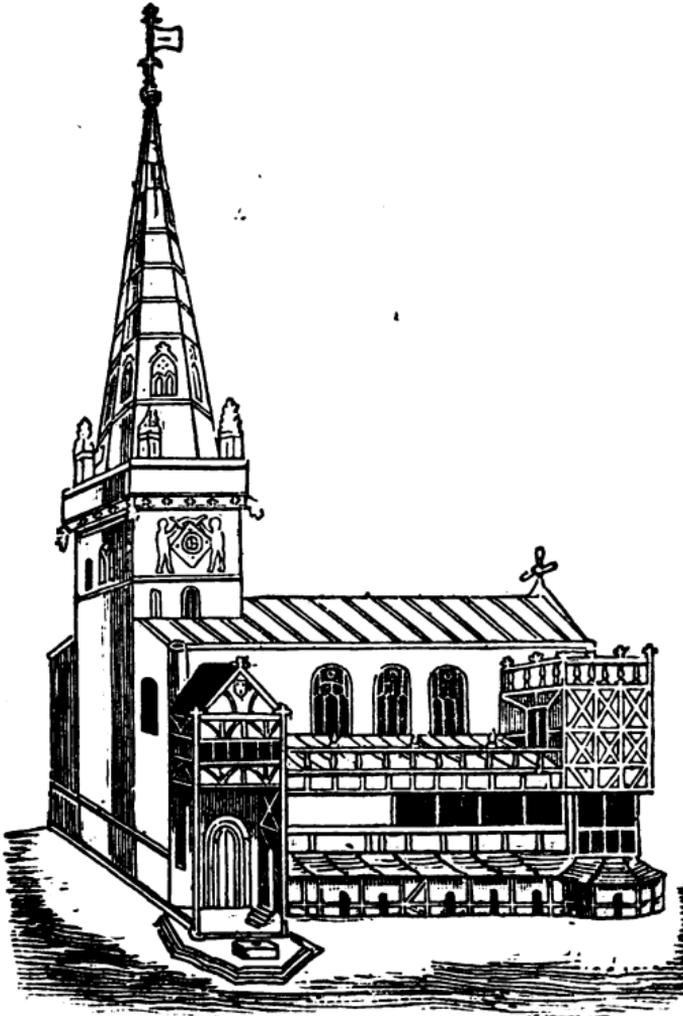
In this church there are a few curious monuments.—At the east end of the south aisle is a burial place of the Warburtons, with several monuments; and in the church there is memorials of the Aldersey, Wilcock, Warden, Bellot, Bostock, Bird, Falconer, Comberbach, Fernyhough, Gamul, Forbes, Gray, Hay, Kendrick, Lees, Maddock, Nicholls, and Barlow families.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

This church stands in the north-west angle of the four principle streets; on the site of which, as before noticed, according to Pennant, stood the Roman Prætorium. This church, saith Bradshaw, was the mother church and burial place to all Chester, and seven miles about Chester, and so continued for the space of three hundred years and more. The interior consists of a nave with side aisles, divided from each other by three pointed arches, and a third side aisle on each side, which appears to have been added to the others. The span of

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

the arches, and the height of the building, are very disproportionate to the present size of the interior, and give it the appearance of being the fragment of a larger structure. The following wood cut is the fac simile of a



G

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

drawing by one of the Randal Holmes* (Harl. MSS. 2073) taken after the siege of Chester, and exhibits the spire, built in 1580, which was taken down about 1780. On the steps is represented the pedestal of the ancient high cross, and on the right the old Pentice, corresponding precisely with the description given by Smith, in the Vale Royal. Before the taking down of the Pentice in 1803, the flight of steps leading to the entrance of the church, were immediately in front of the door, and the parsonage-house over them; but when the alteration took place, they were turned to the side of the church.

In 1787, the south-side of the church was re-cased with stone; in 1813 the steeple also was re-cased, and a new clock placed on it. The entire body of the church was new pewed in 1814-15. In August, 1835, the clock face was illuminated with gas, at an expence of ninety-one pounds, which was raised by a subscription among the inhabitants. This will be a public convenience, as by it the time may be ascertained at any hour of the night. In the steeple are eight bells, cast in 1709; on the treble are cast these words: "When you ring, I'll sing." The pentice bell was cast as early as 1589; and was originally used for the purpose of summoning the magistrates; it is now rung on corporate court days only.

* The sketch of this church, as well as of the five that follow, are copied from the great work of Mr. Ormerod. They are introduced for the purpose of shewing the difference between the structures at the time immediately before those of the present period. The churches of St. Oswald's, St. John's, and St. Mary's, retain the external form they have had from a distant period. In a MS. volume, part of the collections of the late Rev. Thomas Crane, I observe, however, the following note in reference to St. John's:—"I have seen a drawing of St. John's church, in its perfect state; it was originally built in the form of a cross.—T. C."

TRINITY CHURCH.

In the beginning of the year 1818, Sunday evening lectures were established in this church, under the patronage of Bishop Law, where Divine service is regularly performed by a clergyman, whose stipend, with all attendant expences, are defrayed by annual subscriptions, and collections made quarterly in the church. In the month of October, in the same year, the church was lighted with gas. The present incumbent is the Rev. John Halton, and the Evening Lecturer the Rev. R. Yarker.

The memorials in this church are not many in number, nor attractive in appearance.

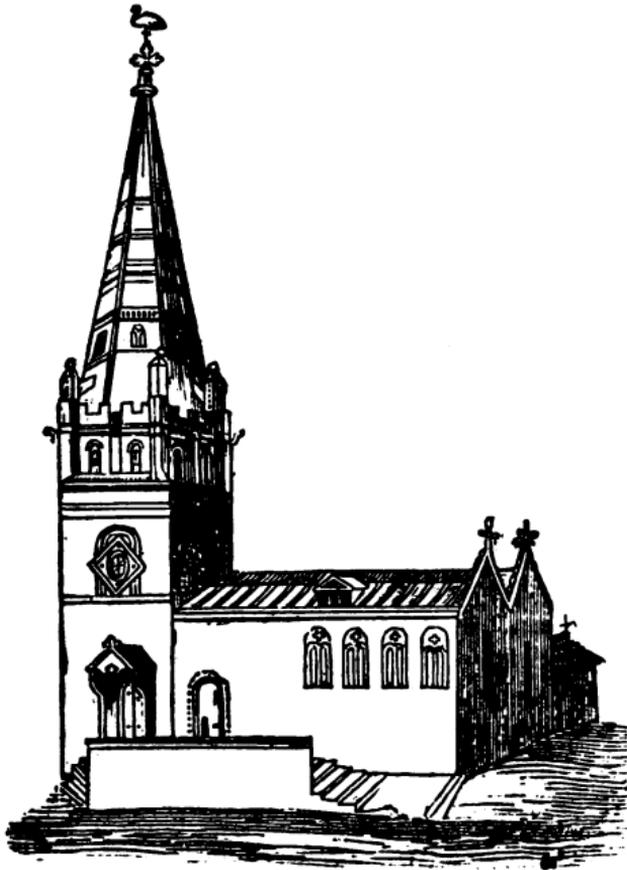
TRINITY CHURCH.

Trinity church is situated on the north side of Water-gate-street; it is chiefly built of the red sand stone of the city; the north wall of the north aisle is cased with brick. In the early part of the 17th century, the church was ornamented with a beautiful spire, a representation of which is annexed, from a drawing of one of the Randal Holmes. From its exposed situation, however, and the perishable quality of the stone, it required frequent reparation; and in addition to these natural causes of decay, the upper part suffered much in 1769 and 1770, from severe storms; it is stated to have been three times re-built within eight years.

Early in the year 1811, some very serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the spire, which had probably been rendered more sensitive from the fatal accident that had a little before happened to St. Nicholas's spire at Liverpool, by which a great number of people lost their lives. The late Thomas Harrison, Esq. was therefore employed to survey it, and in conse-

TRINITY CHURCH.

quence of his report, it was taken down, without the least accident. The stones which formed the summit of the spire, called the *Rose*, were placed by Dr. Thackeray in the Infirmary garden, as a pedestal for a basaltic column, from the *Giant's Causeway*. The east end and south of the church, with the pillars and arches, being



TRINITY CHURCH.

in a ruinous state, were rebuilt from the foundation in 1679. In 1771, the church-yard was enlarged from land, ceded by the rector to the parish, for which it was to pay him and his successors four pounds a year for ever. In 1774, the church was enlarged out of the church-yard, fifty feet in length from St. Patrick's aisle, and twenty-eight feet in width, from south to north, at an expence exceeding £500. In 1734, it was decreed, that the four bells, being cracked and broken, should be re-cast, and two new ones added to the peal; in 1736, the new bells, cast by Rudhall, of Gloucester, were placed in the steeple. The burying-place adjoining to the church, having been exceedingly crowded with bodies, and inadequate to the use of the parish, a fresh piece of ground, north of the Linen-hall, and east of the city gaol, was purchased in 1809, and consecrated September 22nd, 1810; the total expence, including the chapel, railing, &c. was about £1000. The interior of this church is kept in remarkably good order, every part of it presenting an appearance of beauty and cleanliness. There are two good galleries, one of them erected so late as the year 1826, a considerable portion of which is appropriated to the children of the parochial sabbath-school. Within the parish is situated the Roodeye; it is tithe free, but the parish rector is allowed the pasturage of one horse.

The advowson of the rectory was originally an appendage to the barony of Montalt, and passed with that barony successively to the crown, the Earls of Derby, and the Stanley's, of Lathom; and continuing vested in the family last-mentioned, after the loss of the barony of Montalt, is now the property of their representative,

 TRINITY CHURCH.

the Earl of Derby. The Rev F. Ayckbowm, is the present rector, instituted 1825.

In this church are many ancient sepulchral remains. Near the small eastern door, is the monument of John Whitmore, Mayor of Chester in 1372; it was of white marble, with a statue in armour, bearing on the shield the family arms—Richard Cliffe, Esq. of Huxley, who died 1592—Thomas Wooton, Mayor, 1433.—On the north side of the door before mentioned, is a memorial of Henry Gee, with this inscription:—“Here lieth the body of Henry Gee, once Mayor of this City of Chester, and in the same year he departed, the xiii. day of June, Anno Domini, MDXXXIX. whose soul hopeth for mercy.” Several other members of the body corporate also lie in this church: William Massey, Mayor 1590; William Johnson, Alderman Rowland Barnes, 1596, &c. &c. In this church are also the remains of Matthew Henry, the celebrated Presbyterian divine, on whose tablet to his memory is this inscription:—“Matthew Henry, pictatis et ministerii officii strenue perfunctus, per labores, S. S. literis scrutandis et explicandis impenso, confectum carpus huic dormitorio commisit 22 die Junii, 1714. Anno ætat. 52.”—Parnell, Archdeacon of Clogher, and a celebrated poet, was likewise interred here the 24th of October, 1718.

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH.

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH,
1720.

This church, called St. Martin's of the Ash, is a neat small brick building, with stone angles and finishings, and situated between the west end of White-friars and Cuppin-street. The present building was erected in 1721, of which the following inscription, cut in a small stone at the west end of the tower is a memorial:—
“ This church being ruinated, was new erected from the foundation, in the year 1721.” Previous to this, the church was of still smaller dimensions, and of a different form ; the accompanying wood engraving is a sketch of

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH.

the structure as it stood in the commencement of the eighteenth century : the interior is without chancel or side aisles.

St. Martin's is a rectory in the gift of the Bishop. In 1774, it was augmented by lands purchased with £400, of which £200 came by Queen Anne's bounty. In 1809, the yearly value of the living, arising from augmentation, tithes, rent charge, and surplice fees, was returned by the Bishop, to the governor's of Queen Anne's bounty, as amounting to £76 18s.

The foundation, says Mr. Ormerod, was certainly anterior to 1250, as appears from a deed of the evidences of the Earl of Shrewsbury, whereby Bernard, Lord of Trunmalle, releases to Philip the Clerk, son of Galfridus Munitor, 12*d.* rent, issuing from premises, near the church of St. Martin, in Chester, Allan le Zouche being then justice of Chester. William Clark was instituted to this rectory July 7, 1637, on the presentation of the Bishop of Chester. This is the first institution extant in the episcopal registers.

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

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

in which there has been constant preaching twice every sabbath-day, and lectures are delivered every Sunday evening, by the Rev. E. Evans, Chaplain to the Welsh Lecture Society, for the benefit of the inhabitants belonging to the Principality. The present minister is the Rev. William Godwin, M. A.

The only memorial worthy of particular notice is a pyramidal mural monument, on the south side of the communion table, ornamented with the arms of Chetwode, of Oakley, in a lozenge, and commemorating Abigail, relict of Thomas Jones, of Churton, Esq. daughter of Sir John Chetwode, of Oakley, county of Stafford, Baronet. She died June 11, 1776, aged 73.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

St. Mary's, anciently called the church of St. Mary *de Casto*, was given to the abbey of St. Werburgh, by Randal Gernons, fourth Earl of Chester. After the dissolution, the rectory was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester; it was, however, with the other chapter estates, got possession of by Sir Robert Cotton, in the time of Dean Cliffe, and confirmed to the fee-farmers generally by pat. 22 Eliz. Previous to this final settlement, Richard Hurleston had obtained from George Cotton, Esq. his interest in the same for £100 an. 13 Eliz. probably, however, only as a trustee of John Brereton, of Wettenhall, who had presented to this church in 1554. From this branch of the Brereton family, the rectory passed, with a moiety of Wittenhall and other estates, by sale to the Wilbrahams, of Dorfold; and from them by marriage to the Rev. Robert Hill, of the Hough, in right of his wife, daughter of the Rev. John Wilbraham, from whom, in 1819, it passed by

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

purchase to the Marquis of Westminster, who is the present patron.

The parish extends beyond the city liberties into the county, and comprehends the township of Upton, Little Mollington, Moston, Hurleston-cum-Lache, and Glover's Stone, within the city of Chester. The church stands high on a rock, near the Dee, between the Bridge-gate and the Castle, from which it is separated by a deep fosse, called the Castle-ditch. Like our other churches, it is built of red stone, and consists of a tower, containing six bells, a nave and chancel, with side aisles, and subordinate chancels at the end of these aisles. The aisles are divided from the side aisles by three pointed arches on each side, and by another pointed arch from the chancel: and each subordinate is also divided from its aisle by a pointed arch, and by an obtuse one from the principal chancel. Of these last, the arch on the north side has been modernized. The windows on this side are more obtusely pointed than the others, and contain fragments of stained glass; among others, the arms of Brereton and Ipstones, and golden tun, probably intended as a rebus.

The south aisle was anciently called *Troutbeck chapel*, and appropriated to the family of Troutbeck, of Dunham; it was originally built about the year 1433, by William Troutbeck, and Joan his wife, and here many of that family were interred, and had splendid monuments erected to their memory. Of these monuments, Randal Holmes says, "They were thought to exceed any thing of the kind in England."

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

remained in a dilapidated state until the year 1690, when the chapel, upon the application of Sir Joseph Jekyll, chief justice of Chester, to the Earl of Shrewsbury, (the representative of the Troutbeck family) was formally given up to the parishioners. The present south aisle was erected on its site, at the expence of the parish, which has ever since retained undisturbed possession of it. On one part of the site of this chapel, is a small neat vestry, and on another, an inclosed angle, in which is a modern font, which latterly replaced an ancient octagonal one, formerley ornamented with gilding and painting, but now thrown aside as useless : here also is an excellent pannelled seat for the convenience of women who come to be churched.

The north aisle was anciently called the chapel of St. Catherine, and contains a great many monuments worthy of attention. In 1793, a neat organ was put up in the west gallery, at an expence of £175.

In the registry of the church is the following curious entry, of the date of 1636 :—"Three witches hanged at Michaelmas assizes, buried in the co." This church abounds with memorials to the dead ; though many of the monuments mentioned by Webb, in the Vale Royal, no longer exist.

At the end of the north aisle are the arms and crest of Edmund Gamul, mayor of Chester.—Close to this is a curious tomb of Thomas Gamul, son of Edward Gamul, who died before his father, and was recorder of Chester ; this tomb is very curiously wrought in alabaster, with the statues of him, and his loving wife upon his right hand, his infant son (afterwards Sir Francis Gamul) kneeling with one knee at his mother's feet, his prayer-book lying open upon his other knee ; on the arched side

 ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

of the tomb are cut the figures of his three daughters, who died in their infancy, also in a kneeling position, and each holding in her hand the representation of a skull. The tomb is enclosed with strong spiked iron railing, and at the lower end is a long Latin inscription.

Near to this, and close to the same wall, is a very fine tomb of alabaster, curiously adorned, a well formed statue of Philip Oldfield, dressed in the costume of the age, with a ruff round the neck, leaning on the right side, with a roll in his hand. Below, on the right side, is a painted skeleton, and the slab is supported by kneeling figures of four of his sons, with their right hands applied to the hilts of their swords; on the left hand are shields, with the arms of Oldfield, Wettenhall, Somerford, Mainwaring of Croxton and Leftwich.

To the same pillar is attached a board, on which are painted the arms of Holmes, quartering Tranmoll, and Lymme, and impaling Alcock. This is a memorial to Randal Holmes, of the city of Chester, mayor in 1633, died the 16th of July, 1655, aged 84.—On the same pillar is a stone monument of Randal Holmes, his son, sewer extraordinary to King Charles the second, and deputy to the king at arms, who died March 12, 1699; also Randal Holmes, his son, deputy to Norroy, king at arms, who died 30th day of August, 1707. These three individuals were celebrated herald painters and antiquarians, whose collections, chiefly for Chester, have been uniformly had in great repute.

On a brass plate in the same aisle, is a memorial to William Brock, of Upton, who died the 10th of April, 1640, and also of his two wives, and several of his family.

On the Overleigh pew is a tablet inscribed to Matthew

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

Ellis, of Overleigh, one of the gentlemen of the body guard to King Henry VIII. son of Ellis ap Div ap Griffith, successor to Henry Kenrick Sais, a British nobleman, and lineally descended from Tudor Trevor, Earl of Hereford. He died 20th April, 1574.

On the south side of the altar rails is a memorial for several of the family of Eyton of Pentremadoc, and at the side of it the following :—“In this chancel lieth the body of Roger Wilbraham, late of Dorfold, in the county of Chester, Esq. who departed this life on the 24th day of January, 1768, in the 52nd year of his age.”

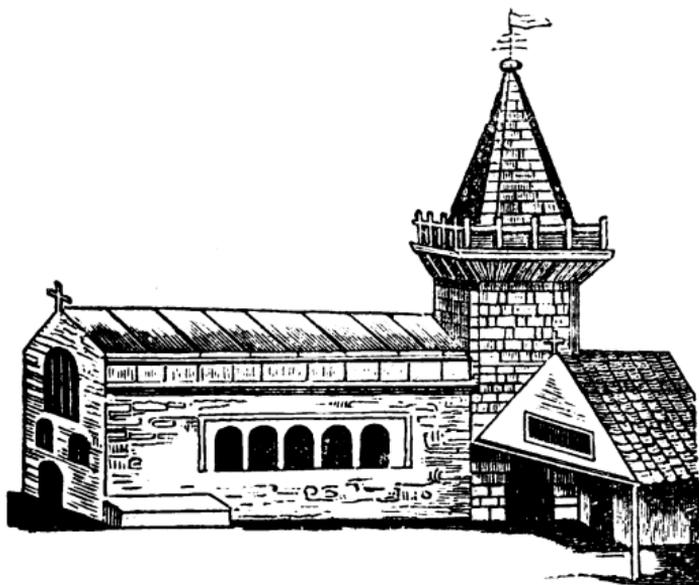
William Cowper, of Overleigh, died 12th of October, 1767, aged 66 years.

A marble tablet, with a Latin inscription, records the demise of Johannes Cotgreave, and Elizabeth, his wife ; the former died ... March, 1724, aged 80 years ; the latter, 27th November, 1735, aged 87. In the aisle is a vault, wherein are interred the remains of the late Mr. John Dodd, skinner, who served the office of sheriff of the city in 1818-19, and died in the month of March, 1827.

It is observed by Mr. Ormerod, from the Harl. MSS. 1251, that in 1578, there were various arms and inscriptions existing in the windows of this church, but which are now totally destroyed.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH,
(Middle of Seventeenth Century.)



The church belonging to this parish, till the year 1827, stood on the south side of White-friars, exactly opposite to Michael's church, where a division is formed between Upper and Lower-Bridge-street. Its contiguity to St. Michael's, gave to this part of the city the popular name of *the Two Churches*, which it will probably long retain, notwithstanding the removal of the cause which gave birth to it.

The origin of St. Bridget's church is buried in obscurity, but it may probably be dated from the reign of King Offa, who died A. D. 797, about which time we read, "That divers parish churches were erected in Chester." The church is now deemed a rectory; it is

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH.

in the gift of the Bishop, and the clerks have been regularly instituted since 1603. The Rev. W. Gibson is the present incumbent. The value of augmentation, stipend, and surplus fees, were returned by the Bishop, in 1809, as amounting to £68 3s. 2d.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the church was taken down, previous to which its appearance is represented by the wood engraving, copied from a sketch made by Randal Holmes. On the removal of this structure, the church was rebuilt, when a wall was erected round it, which enclosed several feet of the streets on the east and north sides, then used as a burying ground. In the year 1745, ground was purchased by the parish behind the church; the interred bodies were removed, and all the ground on the north and east of the church thrown to the street, much to the public convenience. At this time also the east and north walls of the church were re-cased with stone, the east passage to the vestry closed, and an additional door made eastward to the old one on the side; every other part of the church, at the same time, was thoroughly repaired, at a very great expence, which was principally defrayed by money sunk for annuities, after the rate of ten per cent. Since 1805, the steeple required several other repairs; the accompanying engraving will shew the form and appearance of this church immediately before the time of its entire removal.

When the erection of the new bridge was finally decided upon, St. Bridget's stood upon a site which it was deemed necessary to occupy, in order to form a suitable approach to the bridge. Before, however, the church could be removed, ground for a new structure must be provided; and in this emergency, the county magistrates,

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH.

who were anxious to remove every obstacle that stood in the way of the projected improvement, granted a suitable plot of ground on the north-west side of the castle, which was accordingly enclosed for the purpose. The ceremony of laying the first stone took place October the 12th, 1827, and was performed by the Right Rev. C. J. Blomfield, then Lord Bishop of the diocese; it was erected under the provision of the bridge act, by the commissioners for building churches; the length is about 90 feet, and the width 50, and is calculated to contain 1000 persons. It is rather a remarkable circumstance, that though St. Bridget's parish is wholly within the city, the ground occupied by the church and cemetery, is neither within the parish nor city, but altogether within the county palatine; but, by a clause in the act, it is enacted, that after the consecration, it shall "for all purposes, and for all intents whatsoever, be deemed part of, and situated within the said parish of St. Bridget's, and within the said city of Chester."

The old church in Bridge-street, was taken down in 1828; and soon after the consecration of the new burial ground, the grave stones, and, as far as practicable, the interred bodies were carefully removed to that cemetery.

Since the erection of the new church, some elegant memorials have been placed in it, among which, in an arched recess, on the south wall of the baptistery, is a splendid marble memorial with this inscription—"Near this place lie interred, the remains of Francis Edge Barker, of this city, Esq. who departed this life, June 10th, 1827, aged 40.

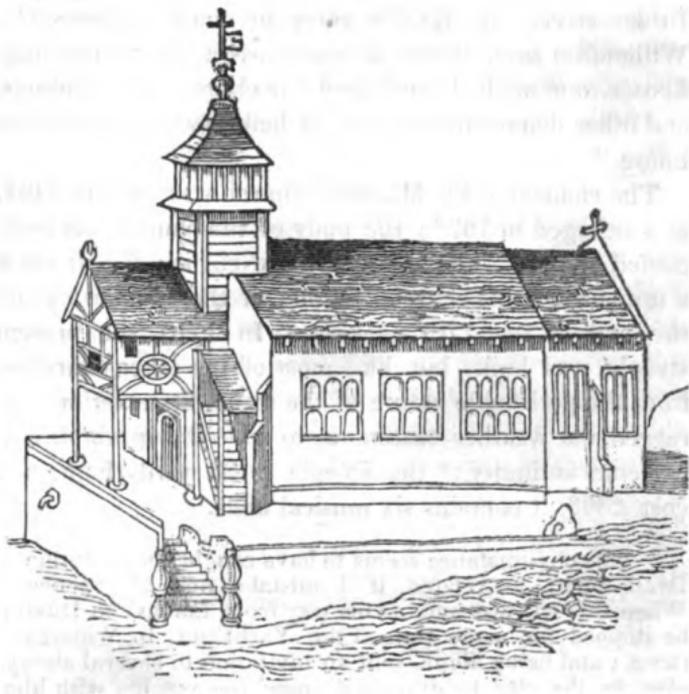
On the north wall of the baptistery recess, is a corresponding one with that which occupies Mr. Barker's monument, at present vacant. The author understands

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH.

that this is destined to be the receptacle of a superb memorial to Thomas Harrison, Esq. our late distinguished architect. A sketch of this monument has been prepared by the celebrated Chantry; and a subscription set on foot by the county gentlemen to defray the expence. Mr. Harrison lies interred in a vault on the north side of the church.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
(In 1700.)

The church of St. Michael, stands on the east side of Bridge-street, and on the north of Pepper-street. It is a perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty,



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

and in the gift of the Bishop. There is no historical data extant by which to ascertain the period of its foundation ; but as there is mention made by Bradshaw, of the existence of the *monastery* of St. Michael, early in the 12th century, it is probable that the *church* of that name was then in being. It is recorded by this writer, "That the monastery of St. Michael, was burnt by the great fire, which happened on Midlent Sunday, in 1118, at eight of the clock, (all being in church) and consumed the greatest part of the city." This monastery was confirmed to Norton abbey by King Henry VIII.. In relation to this monastery, I find the following note in the Crane MSS.—"It is conjectured to be situated in Bridge-street, in Rock's entry or court ; where Dr. Williamson says, before it was converted into dwelling-houses, one might have beheld fair church-like windows, and other demonstrations of its being part of a religious house."

The chancel of St. Michael's church was built in 1494, and enlarged in 1678 ; the body of the church was new-roofed in 1611. the annexed wood-cut is a fac-simile of a drawing of this church, by one of the Holmes, about the end of the 17th century. In 1710, the present steeple was built, but like most of the other churches, from the perishable nature of the stone, its exterior is so ragged and weather-beaten, as to give the appearance of extreme antiquity ;* the steeple is 23 yards high, and cost £366, it contains six musical bells.

* This circumstance seems to have caught the attention of Dean Swift, as related, if I mistake not, by Spence.—When this wit was once on his way from London to Dublin, he stopped for some time at the Yacht inn, in Watergate-street ; and being alone, sent an invitation to several clergymen in the city to dine and spend the evening with him.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

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

The value of the living, arising from augmentation, a legacy, and surplus fees, was returned by the Bishop in 1809, as amounting to £44 10s. The Rev. Joseph Eaton, M. A. is the present rector.

There are not many monumental memorials in this church possessing interest, and yet there are a few.—On a neat pyramidal mural monument, in the middle aisle, is an inscription to Roger Comberbeach, Esq. late prothonotary of Cheshire and Flint.—On a blue slab, within the communion rails, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Warburton, and late wife of Sir Humphrey Brigges; she died 24th June, 1659, and in the 37th year of her age. On the north side of the altar, the body of dame Mary Delves, relict of Henry Delves, of Doddington, and daughter of Randle Leycester, of Chester; she died February 1, 1600, aged 63.—On the north wall, the remains of Joseph Dennell, glazier, died 3rd September, 1757, aged 72.—Also of John his son, a proctor and

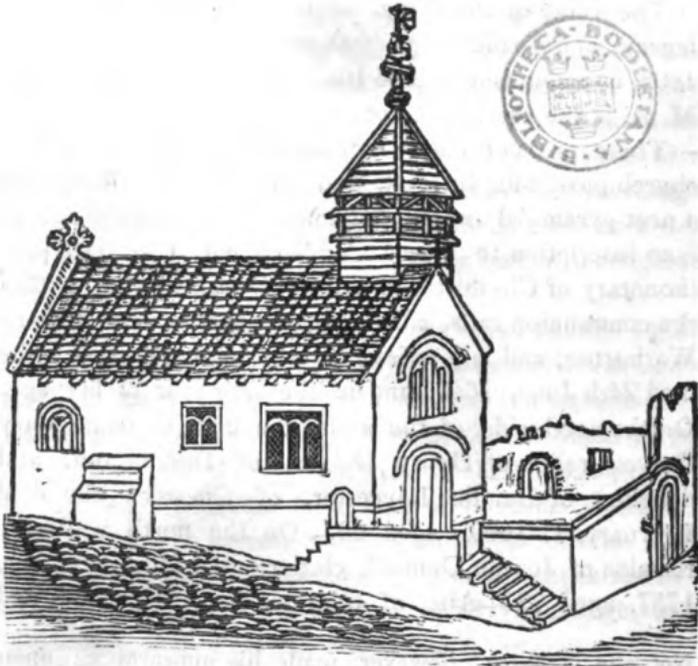
Not one of them, however, made his appearance; upon which the Dean vented his spleen in the following epigrammatic philippic:—

“ The church and clergy of this city
Are very near akin;—
They're weather-beaten all without,
And *empty* all within.”

 ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH.

public notary, died April 3rd, 1801, aged 76.* Also in different parts of the church, memorials of Thomas Falconer, Esq. the celebrated editor of Strabo; of Mrs. Adams, formerly of the Feathers inn; of Alderman Broadhurst, of William Tomlinson, late of the Royal Hotel, and of Mr. George Bulkeley, bookseller.

ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH,
(In 1660.)



* By the will of this gentleman, it was directed, that the boys taught at the Blue Coat Hospital should follow him to the grave, and sing a psalm, for which service they were each of them to receive the sum of TWO-PENCE! The will of the deceased was partially complied with.

ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH.

This church is situated on the east side of Lower-Bridge-street, and opposite Castle-street ; it is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Bishop. This church was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, in the year 1726 ; £100 being given by Sir Thomas Hanmer, £50 by Sir Richard Grosvenor, and £50 by the parish. A few years after, thirteen acres of land at Thornton-le-Moors were purchased with the money, and some parochial contributions. In 1771, it was again augmented by £200, for which interest was paid to the Rev Henry Docksey, who died in 1778, since which time the payment has been withheld. The value of the curacy, arising from augmentation, rent charge, and surplus fees, was returned by the Bishop, in 1809, as amounting to £42 ls.

The precise time of its erection is not known, but there are documents extant, which prove it to be of high antiquity. This church was given by Richard Piarna, (probably, says Mr. Ormerod, ancestor of the Butlers, Barons of Warrington) in the time of Richard Earl of Chester, to the abbey of St. Werburgh, to which it was confirmed by his charter of 1119, with the land adjoining to the church, and two enclosures in the market-place, given by the same.

The church is a low miserably-looking building of red stone, differing but little in its general appearance from the above fac-simile of a drawing by one of the Randal Holmes, about the year 1660. In 1802, a new *wooden* steeple (not much better than a pigeon cote) was built, covered with lead : the old one was covered with slates. Subsequent to the year 1664, the church fell into disuse, except for baptisms and for burials. Bishop Gastrell, in his *Notitia*, (1722) observes, "There is no provision at all for a minister ; and although the church be in tolerable

 LITTLE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

repair, it is not fit for a public service, nor is any performed besides baptism and burial. The minister of St. Michael's takes care of the parish at present, and has done so for twenty years past."

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

The church contains very few memorials, of which the following is the principal :—To the memory of Joseph Dale, of the county of Chester, died 3rd of February, 1814, aged 68.—Anne, wife of Thomas Townshend, Esq. daughter of George Mainwaring, of Bromborow ; she died August 22, 1774.—Also Mary his second wife, daughter of Henry Hesketh ; died September 21st, 1801, aged 56.—Also the above Thomas Townshend, who departed this life, May 27, 1822, aged 84.—Thomas Corles, of this city, merchant, died 8th April, 1788, aged 60.—Also Margaret, his wife, died 26th of March, 1790.—In this church also are interred, Joseph Dale, Esq. late of Bridge-street : — Drake, Esq. of Bridge-street ; Mrs. Rogers, mother of Alderman Rogers, &c.

LITTLE ST. JOHN'S.

(Extra Parochial.)

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

This chapel is of great antiquity. It was founded by Randal, Earl of Chester, for the sustentation of poor

NEW CHURCH AT BOUGHTON.

and silly persons, and granted in pure and perpetual alms; the same was confirmed by Henry III. and Edward I. when Earl of Chester, gave the keeping of the said hospital to the prior of Birkenhead. The chapel and hospital being destroyed during the civil wars, were rebuilt by Col. Roger Whitley, to whom King Charles II. granted the hospital estate for his life, and twenty years after. When the city charter was renewed, February 4, 1686, the reversion was granted to the mayor and citizens for ever. Col. Whitley died in 1697, and the corporation obtained possession in 1703, who, as patrons, have since presented. In the chapel-yard are six alms-houses, occupied by widows selected by the corporation, who receive a pension of £1 6s. 8d. a year each, and some perquisites.

NEW CHURCH AT BOUGHTON.

This church was built by public subscription, under the patronage of Bishop Blomfield, and Bishop Sumner. The building was raised in 1830, and cost about £2000, to which the subscription proved quite inadequate. It is situate near to Barrel-well, Boughton, will hold 700 or 800 persons, there being 400 free sittings for the poor. Under the church is sufficient space for a sabbath-school. The salary of the minister is paid from the pew rents alone, as there is no endowment to the church, which in fact is in the nature of a chapel of ease to St. John's.

UNITARIAN CHAPEL.

The Unitarian Chapel (improperly denominated the Presbyterian Meeting-house) has a prior claim to attention of all others, not only as it was the first dissenting

UNITARIAN CHAPEL.

place of worship in the city—the parent stock from which many of the others had their origin—but also as its history is intimately connected with the rise and progress of the dissenters in this part of the country, and may serve in some degree, to illustrate the changes through which they have passed, both in respect to opinions and number, from the reign of King Charles I. down to the present time.

THE UNITARIAN MEETING-HOUSE is a large brick building, with a burial ground in front, situated between Crook-street and Trinity-street, having an entrance from each of those streets. It was built in 1700, by a large, flourishing, and respectable society, which had been formed in 1687, by the celebrated Matthew Henry, son of the learned, pious, and laborious Philip Henry, one of the ejected ministers, whose life, written by his son, is generally esteemed a most valuable and interesting narrative, and has lately been reprinted, with notes, by Dr. Wordsworth. In the register-book, belonging to the congregation of this place, there is a short account of the rise, progress, and transactions of the society, written by Mr. Henry, in 1710, being the 23rd year of his ministry.

After the death of Mr. Cook, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Harvey, their congregations, at least the greater part of them, joined themselves to Mr. Henry's, and in 1797, a large gallery was built on the south side of Crook-street meeting-house, for their better accommodation. These were the three original non-conformist congregations united in one, under the pastoral care of Mr. Henry, who remained the only dissenting minister in Chester.—He was indeed a Calvinist, and a zealous assertor of the opinions of the non-conformists, but his spirit was never

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

inflamed by fanatic rage, nor embittered by rancour, by bigotry, or intolerance.

Mr. Henry removed from Chester to Hackney, in 1713, and died of apoplexy, in June, 1714, in the 57th year of his age, and was buried at Trinity church, in this city. Probably about 1750, a material alteration appears to have taken place in the society in doctrines, having abandoned Calvinism, and adopted the Unitarian creed, since which they are known to be distinguished.

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

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

This place of worship is situated on the west side of Queen-street, adjoining to which is a house for the minister, and behind a burial-ground. The chapel is a handsome brick building, has galleries on three sides, and will accommodate about 900 persons ; in the front of the chapel is an iron pallsading, where there are two entrances. The founders of this place were originally a part of the Presbyterian congregation in Crook-street, from whom they separated themselves, in consequence of a departure from the doctrinal sentiments held by their predecessors. For some years they worshipped in a large

WELLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

room now occupied by Mr. Wilcoxon's congregation, in Commonhall-street, and formed themselves into a church in 1772, when the Rev. William Armitage was chosen their pastor. The present structure in Queen-street was erected in 1777, and the congregation is large and respectable. The present minister is the Rev. Samuel Luke, who was ordained in August, 1835.

**WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL,
(Old Connexion.)**

This chapel stands in John-street, and was erected in 1811. It is a large, well-built, and handsome structure, with a semi-circular front, and three entrances, two of which are at the west side, near the city walls, from whence a flight of steps descend into the chapel-yard; the other, which is the principal one, is from John-street. It is galleried on three sides, and behind the pulpit is a good orchestra for a body of singers.

The introduction of Methodism into this city, occurred about the year 1750; and the first preacher who visited this neighbourhood was a Mr. John Bennett. He commenced his labours at Huntington hall, then the residence of Mr. George Cotton; from thence the preaching was removed to the house of Mr. Richard Jones, in Love-street, within the city, where a society was first formed. This house becoming too small to contain the numbers who came to hear, the society procured and fitted up a spacious barn, in Martin's Ash, situated on the south side of St. Martin's church, from which time they were regularly supplied with travelling preachers, and where the Rev. John Wesley frequently visited them in his annual excursions. It does not appear that during this time, the society was remarkable as to their numbers

NEW METHODIST CONNEXION CHAPEL.

or their respectability ; but, after remaining there for somewhat more than a dozen years, they had sufficient credit to obtain £520 upon bond, with which they erected, in 1765, the Octagon chapel, near the Bars, in Foregate-street, and continued to occupy it until 1811, when they removed to the present house in John-street, to which a good sabbath school is attached.—The society is highly respectable.

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

METHODIST CHAPEL,**(New Connexion.)**

This body of people have lately erected a place of worship in Pepper-street, which, in point of elegance and dimensions, is superior to any other dissenting chapel in the city : it is fronted with stone, and supported by four beautiful fluted pillars. The building was begun in September, 1834, and opened for service August 23rd, 1835. At the various services connected with the opening, the collections amounted to £264 7s. 6d., a sum larger in amount than ever was known on a similar occasion in the city.

The former chapel was situated in Trinity-street, and built in 1794 ; in 1797, the congregation joined themselves with a large body of the old Methodists, who had separated themselves in various parts of the kingdom, from the old connexion, and whose object was to effect what they deemed a reformation in regard to the power and authority of the preachers, the management of the funds, and the general government of their societies. With this body, which, by way of distinction, is denominated

OCTAGON CHAPEL—BAPTIST CHAPEL.

the *New Methodist Connexion*, Trinity-street chapel has continued to be united. The society is numerous and respectable, and is at present in a state of growing improvement. The officiating ministers, like those of the old Methodists, are itinerant, and receive their appointments from an annual conference.

THE OCTAGON CHAPEL

Is situated in Foregate-street, near the Bars, and, as already stated, was built in 1765, by the Wesleyan Methodists. Upon the removal of the society to John-street, it was purchased, and has since that time been occupied by its present possessors. The congregation was collected by the labours of the late Rev. P. Oliver, a clergyman of the established church, who had embraced the religious sentiments of Mr. Whitfield. This gentleman converted some outbuildings, near his house in Boughton, into a chapel, where he officiated until his death, without any other reward than the gratification of diffusing religious truth among his poor neighbours, according to the best of his judgment. At his death he bequeathed his chapel to his congregation for a term of years; but, on their removal to the Octagon, they sold their interest in it, and it has since been used as a Sunday school by the independent society of Queen-street, and occasionally as a place of worship by that respectable body of people.

The congregation at the Octagon is not very numerous; it is in connexion with the society which was under the patronage of the late Countess of Huntington.

THE BAPTIST CHAPELS.

The Baptists have two chapels in Chester, one a small

COMMONHALL-STREET CHAPEL, ETC.

but commodious brick building, in Hamilton place, erected in 1806, but the congregation have no stated minister. The other stands in Pepper-street; it is built of stone, in a neat style, and was erected in 1827.—Mr. Sim is the pastor, but the congregation is small.

COMMONHALL-STREET CHAPEL.

This place of worship consists of a good spacious room, ascended by a flight of steps inside, and well fitted with good seats and benches; it adjoins the shot manufactory of Messrs. Ellis and Chandler, in Commonhall-street.—The diversity of religious people who have had this as a place of worship, is worthy of remark. In 1772, as before intimated, it was used by the *Independents*; subsequently by the *Wesleyan Methodists*; then by the *Baptists*, who, with Mr. Aston as their minister, occupied it for several years; and lastly, in 1808, it was adopted by Mr. Wilcoxon, with a part of the congregation formerly belonging to the late Rev. Mr. Oliver, and by them it is still used. Mr. Wilcoxon officiates as the minister, without pecuniary emolument, and his congregation is very numerous.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS

Have a small chapel in Steam-mill-street, near the Bars, erected about the year 1825. This community has very considerably increased within the last few years, and now consists of upwards of 40,000, in different parts of the kingdom. The sect had its origin with about 40 individuals, who separated themselves from the Old Methodist Connexion at Burslem, in Staffordshire, about 1806. Their first and principal place of worship, was at the village of Tunstal, a mile from Burslem, where they re-

WELSH CALVINISTIC CHAPEL—CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

mained localized till about the year 1818, when they began to spread themselves in different parts of the kingdom, and are now risen to the above numbers. In Staffordshire, they were first called *Clowsites*, from *William Clowes*, one of their first and principal preachers; they derived the cognomen of *Runters* from their loud and vociferous mode of worship; but now they distinguish themselves by the name of *Primitive Methodists*, affecting to follow the example of the early disciples of the Rev. John Wesley.

THE WELSH CALVINISTIC CHAPEL

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

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL,

Situated on the west side of Queen-street, is a small but handsome brick building, with an elegant Doric portico, supported by four light stone pillars in front, and was built in 1799. The congregation is respectable, and has greatly increased since the erection of the chapel.

QUAKERS MEETING HOUSE—THE CASTLE.

THE QUAKERS MEETING HOUSE.

This is a plain building, capable of accommodating several hundred persons, with a burial ground in front, and stands on the east side of Frodsham-street. It is one of the most ancient now existing in the city, if not the oldest. The services in this place are seldom performed, and the numbers in the city are very small.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.**THE CASTLE.**

Ordericus ascribes the erection of the castle of Chester to William the Conqueror, in 1060. It was certainly the palace of the local monarchs, as well as their chief stronghold, and retained much of the appearance of this mixed character.

The castle is situated near the south-west angle of the city walls; but the ground whereon it stands, as well as a small portion of the vicinage, was constituted a part of the county palatine, by the charter of Henry VII. confirmed by subsequent acts of parliament. The ancient form and dimensions of this structure, are no more to be known but in the descriptive page of history; it was taken down towards the close of the last century, and the present edifice built on its site. Perhaps the best account we have of the old castle, is by Mr. Pennant who, in 1777, gave the following description:—

“The castle is composed of two parts, an upper and a lower; each with a strong gate, defended by a round bastion on each side, with a ditch, and formerly with draw-bridges. Within the precincts of the upper bailliage, are to be seen some towers of Norman architecture, square, with square projections at each corner,

THE CASTLE.

very slightly salient. The handsomest is that called Julius Cæsar's: its entrance is through a large Gothic door, probably of later workmanship. The lower room has a vaulted roof, strengthened with ordinary square couples. The upper had been a chapel, as appears by the holy water pot, and some figures, almost obsolete, painted on the walls. Its dimensions are nineteen feet four inches by sixteen feet six; the height also sixteen feet six. The roof is vaulted; but the couples, which are rounded, slender, and elegant, run down the walls, and rest on the connected capitals of five short, but beautiful round pillars, in the same style with those in the chapter-house of the cathedral, probably the work of the same architect.* The arsenal, some batteries, and certain habitable buildings, occupy the remaining part.

“On the sides of the lower court stands the noble room, called *Hugh Lupus's* hall, in which the courts of justice for the county are held. The length is nearly ninety-nine feet; the breadth forty-five; the height very awful, and worthy the state apartment of a great baron. The roof supported by wood-work, in a bold style, carved, and placed on the sides, resting on stone brackets. This magnificent building probably retains its original dimensions. The character of the first Norman Earl required a hall suitable to the greatness of his hospitality, which was confined to no bounds. He was, “saith Ordericus, not only liberal, but profuse; he did not carry a family with him, but an army. He kept no account of receipts or disbursements. He was perpetually wasting his estates; and was much fonder of falconers and hunts-

* This ancient tower was left standing when the rest of the building was taken down; and the description given of it by Mr. Pennant is still applicable.

THE CASTLE.

men, than of cultivators of land, and holy men ; and by his gluttony he grew so excessively fat, that he could hardly crawl about.'

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

“ In describing the county gaol for felons, I can do little more than confirm the account of it by the humane Howard. Their day confinement is in a little yard, surmounted on all sides by lofty buildings impervious to the air, excepting from above, and even unvisited by the purifying rays of the sun. Their nocturnal apartments are in cells, seven feet and a half by three and a half, ranged on one side by a subterraneous dungeon, in each of which are often lodged three or four persons. The whole is rendered more horrible by being pitched over three or four times in the year. The scanty air of their straight prison-yard is to travel through three passages to arrive at them through the window of an adjoining room, through a grate in the floor of the said room, into the dungeon ; and finally, from the dungeon through a little grate above the door of each of their kennels.* In such

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

 THE CASTLE.

places as these are the innocent and the guilty permitted to be lodged, till the law decides their fate.†

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

‘ No light, but rather darkness visible
 ‘ Serv’d only to discover sights of woe.’ ”

Such was the castle of Chester as described by Mr. Pennant, in the year 1777 ; but it now assumes a quite different appearance, both in regard to magnificence and convenience. The grand entrance is much like the views which have been handed down to us, of the *acropolis*, at Athens. It is 103 feet long ; in breadth 35 feet : it is built in the Grecian Gothic style, and is greatly admired by all those who have a taste for architecture. This elegant building is situated in the centre of a semi-circular

† Within the walls of this fortress was an instance of a felon suffering *prison forte et dure*, for standing mute on his trial, till he died of hunger. One Adam, son of John of the Woodhouses was, in 1310, the 4th of Edward II. committed for burning his own houses, and carrying away the goods. He stood mute ; a jury as usual was impannelled, who decided that he could speak if he pleased. On this he was committed *ad dietam* ; and afterwards John le Morgan, constable of the castle, testified that the aforesaid Adam was dead of *dietam*. This was the origin of the punishment of pressing to death, or the *peine et dure*, which seems a sort of merciful hastening of death ; for it must have been much more horrible, as well as tedious in the manner prescribed by the law of the first Edward, in whose reign it originated.—The term *dietam* was ironical, expressive of the sad sustenance the sufferer was allowed ; viz. on the first day, three morsels of the worst bread ; on the second, three draughts of water out of the first puddle ; and this was to be alternately his daily diet till he died.

THE CASTLE.

sunk fence or fosse, 13 feet deep, and 319 yards in diameter, cased with hewn stone, surmounted with stone pedestals, at equal distances, and the space filled up with handsome cast iron rails, forming the north-west boundary of the esplanade.

Opposite to the great entrance is the shire hall, beyond which is the county gaol. The shire hall is a magnificent structure, not surpassed in the united-kingdom. The white free stone, of which the whole of the castle is built, is chiefly from the Manley quarry. The portico, composed of heavy masses of stone, is supported by twelve immense pillars, each of them 22 feet high, and three feet one inch and a half in diameter, of one block. The hall is in diameter 80 feet, in height 44, 50 feet wide, and of a semi-circular form; twelve Ionic columns, each of one stone, support the roof, which is beautifully ornamented in stucco. The bar is in the centre of the court, and there is a passage from the gaol, by which the prisoners are brought to be tried, without causing any disturbance in the court. The whole has a good effect, and is admirably calculated to give due solemnity to a tribunal of justice.

Adjoining the hall are anti-rooms, for the jury, council, judges, &c. On the left of the hall, on the higher level, are the debtors' yards, and by a flight of steps also those of the criminals, which are on a lower level. In the interior of the building are contained a good dwelling-house for the Governor, and suitable residences for the turnkeys, a commodious chapel, where Divine service is performed every sabbath, and a variety of workshops, &c. which extend down to the river, close to which is the boundary wall. This enlargement of the prison rendered necessary the late diversion of the city walls.

THE CASTLE.

On the north-east wing of the shire-hall is a handsome stone erection, used as a barrack for the garrison, which usually consists of about 120 men; and on the south-west side of the esplanade, exactly opposite, is another correspondent building, till lately occupied as the armory. It is now appropriated to officers' apartments, and the residence of the judges at our assizes. The old buildings on the south side of the upper ward have been taken down, and a new stone one built in the middle of the area, to serve the purpose of the barracks. On the right hand of the upper ward, is the store-keeper's house and the old armory; on the left is the old tower, which tradition says was built by Julius Cæsar, but now used as a magazine for gunpowder, &c. The castle is a royal fortress, and has a governor and lieutenant-governor.—Store-keeper, Capt. W. M. Henderson; master armourer, Mr. James Alcock.

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

CITY GAOL—HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

gard for humanity ; the architecture is equally simple and majestic."

THE CITY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This building was erected in 1807, and the prisoners at the old gaol at the Northgate removed to it in the following year. It is situated adjacent to the city walls, between the Water Tower and the Watergate. The prisons are constructed on one uniform plan, being built of brick, with an entrance of stone at the west end leading to the gaol, and one at the east end leading to the house of correction. In the centre of the building is a commodious chapel, which serves for both establishments, each having an entrance from their proper sides, where Divine service is performed twice on the Lord's day. Since the building was first erected, several expensive additions and alterations have been made, partly occasioned by acts of parliament, requiring the classification of prisoners, and partly to render the prisons more secure. Some years ago the precincts of the prison were considerably enlarged by an extension of the boundary wall towards the east ; on the newly-inclosed ground eight workshops have been erected for those prisoners sentenced to hard labour ; and on the north of the area, a lodge for the turnkey, with two lock-ups, one for the males, and the other for the females. Over the western entrance occasionally is fixed a *memento mori*, the fatal drop, where the county and city criminals are executed, and where numbers of unfortunate creatures have forfeited their lives to the violated laws of their country. The ground in front, between the gaol and the city walls, is inclosed with handsome iron railing, and occupied by the governor as a garden.

THE EXCHANGE.

THE EXCHANGE.

This building, where all the city business is transacted, stands on the west side of Northgate-street, nearly opposite the bishop's palace. It was begun in 1695, and finished in 1698, in which year the election of mayor and city officers was held, and to which the courts, formerly held in the old Common-hall, were removed. The structure, is chiefly of brick, with stone finishings, is spacious, has a fine appearance, and originally stood on stone pillars, having a commodious thoroughfare for foot passengers from north to south ; and on the east and west side, was also open for the use of the citizens and for traffic. In the year 1756, however, the west side was filled up with a range of shops, with which it is still occupied ; but they appear to have been erected less with a view to pecuniary advantage than from a necessity of sustaining the superincumbent edifice, which was thought to be in danger. In the south front, in the centre of the building, is a full-sized, well-executed stone statue of Queen Ann, in her coronation robes ; but this exquisite work of art has been shamefully mutilated ; the globe and sceptre, with a part of the royal hands having been broken off. This mischief has arisen from party violence in the heat of electioneering conflicts, particularly during the contests of 1784 and 1812, when the party hostile to the corporation took it into their heads to avenge themselves of the body corporate, by pelting her majesty with stones. On the same front is also a tablet containing the royal arms of England as borne before the introduction of the quartering of the house of Hanover, and a similar tablet with the arms of the earldom, &c. The banqueting or assembly-room occupies the south end of the building ; it is elegantly fitted up, has an orchestra in the centre, and is thirty-nine feet long by twenty-six feet and a half.

THE EXCHANGE—INFIRMARY.

The court of justice where the sessions are held, is a spacious room, sufficiently large for all its purposes, and fitted up, with suitable accommodations. Here are placed several full length portraits of distinguished characters connected with the city. Adjoining, and communicating with the town-hall, is the council-room, where the mayor and magistrates meet to hear complaints and transact business. Over the magistrates bench, is placed a full-length portrait of King George III. in his robes of state, presented to the corporation by the present Marquis of Westminster. In other parts of the room are portraits of several of the Grosvenor family, and others who have been representatives, recorders, &c. of the city. On the south side of the room are likewise a series of paintings in pannels, of city benefactors, with their several legacies recorded under each portrait.

The MARKET-HALLS, the COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, the CITY LIBRARY, the CUSTOM-HOUSE, HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, THEATRE, and the UNION, COMMERCIAL, and LINEN HALLS, have already been noticed in the perambulation of the city, as much at length as their importance seem to deserve.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The city of Chester abounds with institutions, whose object is to meliorate the condition of suffering humanity, in all its diversified forms of wretchedness. Of these we shall notice

THE GENERAL INFIRMARY

As the first in point of importance. The charity was opened in January, 1756, by permission of the corpora-

THE INFIRMARY.

tion, in the unoccupied part of the blue-school. This place being found inconvenient, the present building, situated on the west of the city, near the walls, was erected in 1761, and as for salubrity of station, few public hospitals are more favourably circumstanced. The plan of the building is that of a quadrangle of four stories, with an area of 54 feet by 42 in the centre. The sunk or basement story, consists of a series of arched cellars and other apartments, with fire-places, but being badly lighted, drained, and ventilated, they have hitherto been of little use. The ground floor is occupied by offices, defended from the weather by a corridor, or open gallery, running round the interior of the building, where the first and second floors are appropriated for lodging the sick and hurt. The principal wards lie to the north and south, and run the whole length of the infirmary, which is 100 feet. Each ward contains 24 beds, ranging along the opposite sides; and as for the east and west sides of the quadrangle, they are taken up with stair cases, chapel, and four small rooms for nurses, &c. looking into the area. The government is placed in the hands of certain governors; a benefaction of twenty guineas at one time, or an annual subscription of two guineas, constituting that privilege. The physicians and surgeons are also governors.

The governors, or such as choose to attend, meet every Tuesday to regulate all matters relating to the admission and discharge of patients, and the internal management of the house. The medical staff of the infirmary, is composed of three physicians and three surgeons, a house surgeon, and a visiting surgeon for the dispensary. No physician is eligible, who is not a graduate of one of the following universities:—Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, or Glasgow

 THE INFIRMARY—LADIES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

There is a fever ward attached to the infirmary, for each of whose board and accommodation one shilling per day is charged, instituted in 1784, under the recommendation of the late Dr. Haygarth and Dr. Currie.

Total number of patients admitted from the opening of the institution in 1756, to 1830, 133,828.

Present Medical Officers.

PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Llewelyn Jones.

Dr. Moore.

Dr. R. P. Jones.

SURGEONS.

Mr. T. Bagnall.

Mr. S. N. Bennett.

Mr. G. Harrison.

Honorary Governors and Consulting Physicians.

Dr. Thackeray and Dr. Cumming.

LADIES BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

This very useful charity was instituted in the year 1798, and owes its origin to the late Mr. Griffith Rowland, surgeon, aided by the ladies of Chester, and its neighbourhood. Its object was the gratuitous delivery of poor married lying-in women at their own houses, and the furnishing them with a certain portion of articles of comfort and necessity. Five surgeons of the city attend the charity in monthly rotation, superintend the midwives, and give provisional assistance when requisite. A matron and midwives are provided, and in attendance when wanted. Every annual subscriber of half a guinea has the privilege of recommending one poor woman to the benefits of the charity, and more after the same rate. The patients are supplied with the necessary articles of sheets, linen, &c. during their confinement; with two pounds of sugar, a quarter of a pound of tea, and a pound of soap each, but no other provision for food, except from the private assistance of the individual re-

LADIES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION—PENITENTIARY.

commending. Baby clothes are found in cases of great poverty, and the children are expected to be inoculated within the month. The number of poor women annually delivered averages near upon 300. The charity is well supported; the revenue arises from annual subscriptions, benefactions, and the interest of money in the public funds.

FEMALE PENITENTIARY.

This charity was established in 1828, in suitable premises in Boughton, of which the Marquis of Westminster and the Lord Bishop of the diocese are patrons. The Chester female penitentiary has for its object the affording an asylum to females, who, having deviated from the paths of virtue, might be desirous of being restored, by religious instruction, and the formation of moral and industrious habits, to a respectable station in society.—The laws and regulations for the government of the institution, are well adapted to their proposed objects. The permanent property is vested in twelve trustees. The gentlemens' committee to appoint, pay, suspend and dismiss the stipendiary servants; a ladys' committee to have the principal government of the females; the chaplain to visit once every week. The physician and surgeon, whose services are gratuitous, to attend whenever required by the ladies' committee, or matron. The inmates are instructed in reading, writing, and needle-work, and are entitled to one-fourth of their earnings. A hymn or psalm is sung, and the scriptures read, with prayer, every morning and evening. The house is calculated to accommodate sixteen inmates.

CHESTER HUMANE SOCIETY.

This very excellent institution was established in Sep-

HUMANE SOCIETY—KING'S SCHOOL.

tember, 1824, and is well supported by donations and annual subscriptions. Its object is the adoption of means to restore persons apparently drowned; as also those who from various causes, may be in a state of suspended animation. The city of Chester especially calls for such an establishment, the place being nearly surrounded by water, and numerous fatal accidents having occurred in several preceding years. The committee are active in circulating printed instructions, cases of resuscitation are provided, and placed in convenient situations; a stomach pump, and ice ladders and poles, have also been provided. During the time of severe frost, a number of men are stationed by the society in various places, where the most imminent danger is contemplated, for the express purpose of rendering prompt assistance in cases of accident. In one year, lately, the society published a list of cases, in number about fifty, wherein the efforts of the agents had been successful in rescuing so many individuals from death, or imminent danger.

ENDOWED AND CHARITABLE SCHOOLS.**THE KING'S SCHOOL.**

This school was founded by King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, for twenty-four boys, to receive £3 4s. each, who are appointed by the Dean and Chapter. They are not admissible under nine years of age; they may continue four years if their conduct is regular, and a year of grace may be added by the Dean. Two masters (elected by the Dean and Chapter) were appointed by the founder's statutes, with salaries of £22 to the head-master, and £10 to the under-master. By a regulation in 1814, the head-master's salary was increased, on the

KING'S SCHOOL—BLUE COAT SCHOOL, ETC.

condition that he took the sole charge and instruction of the foundation scholars, and confined the number of his private pupils to six. A part of the old refectory of Chester abbey is used as a school-room.

BLUE-COAT SCHOOL.

The foundation of this establishment, taught in a part of Little St. John's, near the Northgate, took place at the instance of Bishop Stratford, in 1700. The ground whereon this building stands, was conveyed to trustees by the corporation, for the special purpose to which it is now appropriated. At present there are twenty-eight boys educated, boarded, and clothed in a blue uniform, who are allowed to remain from the age of twelve to fourteen; and likewise sixty-four day-scholars, called Green Caps, taught by the same master, in accordance with the system of Bell and Lancaster. The blue-coats are usually elected from the green caps. The funds of the school are amply sufficient for all its important purposes. It is supported by annual subscriptions, and yearly collections at the respective churches in the city. The present master is Mr. Samuel Venables, who, for a long course of years, has uniformly obtained the approbation of the board and the public.

BLUE GIRL'S SCHOOL.

This excellent charity has existed under various forms, and under different modifications, for 115 years, being instituted in 1721. During that period it has been under the management of ladies residing in and near Chester, assisted by regular subscribers. The charity has now attained a permanent locality in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where, in 1810, the present school-house was built by

BLUE GIRL'S SCHOOL, ETC.

benefactors, on part of the ground belonging to the trustees of the infirmary, and granted by them for that sole purpose. The females benefited by it (sixteen in number) are instructed in religious and moral duties, and taught every part of household business. Two guineas are given when a girl leaves the school for service, and a further bounty of one guinea, if she remain in her service two years. The revenues of the institution arise from subscriptions, collections in churches, and the interest on funded property.

CONSOLIDATED SUNDAY AND WORKING SCHOOL.

This school, from a number of smaller ones, which were respectively supported by many benevolent individuals, is entirely composed of about seventy females, who are taught the rudiments of reading and plain sewing, &c. The original schools were formed into this one establishment, in the year 1816, and a portion of the building occupied by the blue-coat scholars assigned to it. The management is confided to a committee of ladies, under the direction of the national central society in London. Connected with this charity is a fund for clothing the children.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL.

This institution was established in 1812, by public subscription, under the patronage of the Bishop of Chester. Its object and design was to promote the education of poor children in the principles of the established church within the diocese of Chester. It is conducted on the Madras system, and in union with the national institution established in London. The building is situated on the south side of the top of George's-

MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER'S SCHOOL—INFANT SCHOOL.

street, eighty feet long by thirty-three wide, and capable of instructing 400 children; there is also a good house adjoining for the master. This, like most other of our public charities, is supported by benefactions and annual subscriptions, and the institution is in a prosperous condition.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER'S SCHOOL

Is a fine lofty brick building, situated on the north side of St. John's church yard, and was erected in 1813, by the nobleman whose name it bears, for the gratuitous education of the children of the poor. It consists of two stories, the lower one of which is occupied by boys, and the upper by girls. Both rooms are fitted up in the most complete manner, and capable of holding 800 children. This excellent institution was built at the sole expence of the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, the latter of whom takes the females under her special protection, the most deserving of whom are annually furnished with decent dresses. By the munificence of these individuals, also, a master and mistress are provided with a handsome salary, and a good dwelling-house; the children are furnished with books, slates, and every requisite for tuition; and at Christmas time every year, an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding is furnished at his lordship's cost, who, with her ladyship, and other branches of his family, usually attend.— On this occasion, his lordship delivers a suitable address to the scholars, distributing an immense quantity of useful books to those children who have been returned by the master as deserving of distinction for their progress in learning, or good behaviour.

INFANT SCHOOLS.

The first attempt to introduce infant schools into this

POPULATION.

city, was made in the year 1825, under the auspices of Dr. Blomfield, the bishop of the diocese. The first was built in the Kale-yards, which answering the expectation of the founders, others have been established in Boughton and Handbridge, where, under judicious management, they have been carried on, and prosper.

POPULATION OF CHESTER.

The population of this city has varied at different periods, but has been on the increase almost ever since the time we have any authentic data by which to ascertain its extent. By an old manuscript it appears, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were 431 houses in Chester which paid tax to the king, and 56 others that paid to the bishop; but it is by no means certain that these numbers included the whole population of the city, as there might have been houses exempt from paying taxes to the king or bishop. It appears from the survey, that when Hugh Lupus received the city from the hands of William the Conqueror, its value was much diminished from what it had been in the reign of king Edward; 205 houses out of 431, which had formerly paid taxes, being then in ruins, none having been rebuilt when the survey was taken.

We have no intermediate accounts of the population of Chester, till the year 1774, when the inhabitants being numbered under the superintendance of the late Dr. Haygarth, then resident in this city, were found to be 14,713. It appears by the returns made under the act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom in 1801, that the total number of inhabitants was then 15,153,

 POPULATION—MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

and taking both these accounts to be correct, the actual increase in 27 years was but 793. The official census of 1811 gives the population at 17,472, shewing the increase within the preceding ten years to be 2,320; the census of 1821, numbers the inhabitants at 19,949, from which it appears that the increase, in the interval between 1811 and 1821, was not less than 2,477; and the census of 1831 stood at 21,373, being an increase of 1,424. The number of inhabitants, as given in the last census, is thus distributed in the different parishes :—

St. Bridget's.....	766
Cathedral Precincts.....	449
St. John's.....	6035
St. Martin's.....	528
St. Mary's.....	3085
St. Michael's.....	643
St. Olave's.....	456
St. Oswald's.....	5209
St. Peter's	848
Trinity.....	3223
Spital Boughton.....	131
	<hr/>
	21,373

 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

From the time of the conquest, at least, the city has enjoyed several distinguished privileges, but there are no documents now known to exist, by which to ascertain when the office of mayor was first exercised. The first person holding the office, that can be traced with any

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

certainty, is Sir Walter Lynnett, who commenced his mayoralty in 1247. Stowe, in his Survey of London, fixes the date of 1189, as that when the first mayor was appointed to govern that city, and says, that the person so nominated continued to hold the office for twenty-four years. Admitting the correctness of this computation, the mayoralty of London is but *fifty-eight* years older than that of Chester.

The corporation of Chester was composed of twenty-four aldermen and forty common councilmen; from these were chosen, by themselves, the mayor, recorder, two coroners, two leave-lookers, a treasurer, one of the two sheriffs, and other officers of the select body. We shall purposely abstain from entering into a history of the late corporation, which, like all self-elected, irresponsible bodies, frequently acted in opposition to the inclination, if not to the interest of their fellow-citizens. This was nothing more than might be expected. Possessed of uncontrolled power, for an uninterrupted course of nearly six hundred years, it is not to be wondered at, that abuses had been introduced into the body, which required correction. This was too obvious to escape the observation of the present enlightened times, and in 1835, a bill was brought into parliament by the king's government, to reconstruct all the corporations in the kingdom, vesting the local government of every borough virtually in town-councillors, to be chosen for a limited time, and elected by the people at large. The period for these elections was directed to take place on the 26th of December in the same year, and on that day, Chester proceeded to the exercise of its new franchise. The city had previously been divided into five wards, each of which had the appointment of six councilmen. These

 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

having been filled up, the council proceeded to elect from their own body, ten aldermen, from amongst whom also the mayor was to be chosen. The following is a list of the whole body.

MAYOR,

William Cross, Esq. Distiller.

ALDERMEN.

Mr. Thomas Dixon, Banker ; Mr. Edward Samuel Walker, Lead-works ; Mr. William Brown, Mercer ; Mr. George Allender, Gentleman ; Mr. George Brydges Granville, Banker ; Mr. Edward Ducker, Roper ; Mr. John Hassall, Wine Merchant ; Mr. Henry Kelsall, Solicitor ; Mr. Alexander Booth, Hatter.

COUNCILLORS.

Boughton Ward.—Mr. Francis Aylmer Frost, Miller ; Mr. Thomas Walker, Brewer ; Mr. John Kearsley, Maltser ; Mr. Robert Miller, Brewer ; Mr. William John Seller, Brewer ; Mr. Joseph Janion, Woollen-draper.

St. John's Ward.—Mr. John Palin, Grocer ; Mr. Samuel Johnson Roberts, Solicitor ; Mr. Henry Brown, Mercer ; Mr. Robert Whitley, Woollen-draper ; Mr. John Royle, Builder ; Mr. William Harling, Gentleman.

St. Mary's Ward.—Mr. Edward Roberts, Gentleman ; Mr. Samuel Witter, Chymist ; Mr. Charles Gaman, Miller ; Mr. Gabriel Roberts, Gentleman ; Mr. Matthew Harrison, Draper ; Mr. Thomas Nicholls, Tobacconist.

Trinity Ward.—Mr. Joseph Ridgway, Fringe-weaver ; Mr. William Mulvey, Ship-builder ; Mr. Thomas Griffith, Printer ; Mr. Samuel Soorn, Woollen-draper ; Mr. George Harrison, Surgeon ; Mr. William Wardell, Banker.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

St. Oswald's Ward.—Mr. Joseph Musgrave, Timber Merchant; Mr. John Salmon, Wine Merchant; Mr. Benjamin Brassey, Grocer; Mr. John Grindley, Druggist; Mr. James Dickson, Seedsman; Mr. Richard Weaver, Grocer.

CORPORATE OFFICERS.

Town Clerk.—Mr. John Finchett-Maddock.

Clerk of the Peace.—Mr. T. W. Snape.

Treasurer.—Mr. Edward Roberts, jun.

Surveyor.—Mr. William Hankey, jun.

In looking over the list of the newly elected body, the citizens have every reason to be satisfied with the election. It is composed of individuals of the highest and middling classes, men of business and integrity, who are intimately identified with the prosperity of the city, and unfettered and unincumbered by previous predilection or engagement, which might warp their judgment, or divert their decision from the common good. One feature of the excellency of the municipal act, and which promises the utmost satisfaction to those who have to bear the burden of the local government is, that the executive officers are their own spontaneous choice; and another, which affords the best security against the weakness of human nature, and binds men to an honest and impartial discharge of their duty, is their election for a limited period, at the expiration of which they may be called upon to give an account of their stewardship. These wise provisions, taken in connection with an obligation to make public their proceedings, as far as relate to the expenditure of the city funds, will certainly prove a satisfactory guarantee that the city will have a discreet and economical government. In looking forward to future days, and anticipating concord and prosperity to the city, we have

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT—MIDSUMMER SHOW.

no inclination to cast a censure upon those individuals who have hitherto, and for a long period been in possession of the ruling power. While truly grateful to his majesty's present government for the great victory they have obtained for them, and the rest of the country, the citizens should bear their good fortune with dignified moderation, without mingling the language of censoriousness with the accents of exultation. The fact is, the *system*, under which the cities and boroughs of the empire have long been governed, was vicious and corrupt, and we are more disposed to find fault with *that*, than with the men who acted under it.

ANCIENT CUSTOMS, SPORTS, &c.**THE MIDSUMMER SHOW.**

From a very early period, certainly anterior to the existence of the office of mayor, the city of Chester contained certain guilds, or incorporated companies.— In the days of Hugh Lupus, and probably long before he was possessed of the city, it enjoyed by prescription, divers privileges, having a guild mercatory, analagous to a modern corporation; so that no person who was not of that society, could exercise any trade, or carry on any commerce within its precincts; and these immunities were afterwards confirmed by the Earls of Chester.— Two overseers, selected out of the most respectable citizens, were appointed to maintain the rights of this guild. When, however, the local government of the city was committed to a chief magistrate, these officers lost much of their importance, their duties being con-

MIDSUMMER SHOW.

fined to guarding their respective branches of trade from innovation by strangers. For this purpose, in very early times, each company appointed its alderman, steward, or warden, by whom it continues to be governed unto the present day.

The number of companies has somewhat varied ; they are nominally twenty-five, though two of them no longer exist in fact. For many generations these companies paid great deference to the mayor and the corporate body, by attending them with their respective banners, in their public processions, and walking before them, particularly on Midsummer day, but since the restoration, on the 29th of May, when great pageantry was displayed. The companies have now lost much of their ancient splendour and consequence, and with this loss has also disappeared that respect and reverence which was formerly shewn to the constituted authorities. With these companies originated the famous *Midsummer show*, which, as a most curious object, is worthy of particular notice.— This show, according to Webb, in King's Vale Royal, was instituted in 1498, and appears to have been composed of processions of the different companies, attended by various pageants and devices. Among the Harleian MSS. is an agreement between Sir Lawrence Smith, mayor of Chester, and two artists, "for the annual painting of the city's four giants, one unicorn, one dromedarye, one flower de luce, one camel, one asse, one dragon, six hobby-horses, and sixteen naked boys." In another MS. in the same library, it is said, "A.D. 1599, Henry Hardware, Esq. the mayor, was a godly and zealous man ; he caused the gyantes, in the Midsummer show, to be broken, and not to goe ; the devil in his feathers he put away, and the cuppes and cannes,

 MIDSUMMER SHOW.

and the dragon, and the naked boys." In a more modern hand it is added, "and he caused a man in complete armour to go in their stead; he also caused the bull-ring to be taken up," &c. But in the year 1601, John Ratclyffe being mayor, "set out the giants and midsomers show, as of oulde it was wont to be kept." The following payments were made for the show in 1628:—

To four men that carried the two beasts..... 4s. 8d.
 To the five men that held the boys that rides.... 2s. 6d.
 To painting the beasts and hobby-horses43s. 0d.

During the government of the Puritians, all these shows and pageants were suspended, and the giant's and hobby-horses fell a prey to the worms and moths. At the restoration of Charles II. it was determined to revive "the ancient and laudable custom of the Midsummer show, by the late obtrusive times much injured;" and as the following computation of the charges of the different parts of the spectacle are exceedingly curious, I shall lay them before the reader without any apology. In the ordinance by which the show was restored, we are told "that all things are to be made new by reason the old models were broken." The computest then proceeds:—

"For finding all the materials, with the workmanship of the four great giants, all to be made new, and neere as may be lyke as they were before, at five pounds a giant the least that can be, and four men to carry them, at two shillings and sixpence each." The materials for the composition of these monsters, are afterwards specified to be, 'hoops of various magnitudes, and other productions of the cooper, deal boards, nails, pasteboards, scaleboard, paper of various sorts, with buck-

MIDSUMMER SHOW.

ram, size cloth, and old sheets for their bodies, sleeves, and shirts, which were to be coloured; also tinsille, gold and silver leaf, and colours of different kinds, with glue and paste in abundance.' Respecting the last article, a very curious entry occurs in the bill of charges, which runs thus, 'For arsknick to put into the paste to save the giants from being eaten by the rats, one shilling and fourpence.' But to go on with the estimate, "For the new making the city mount, called the maiors mount as auntiently it was, and for hiring of boys for the same, and a man to carry it, three pounds six shillings and eight-pence!' The boys mentioned in this and the succeeding article was hung round the bottom of the frame, and extended to the ground or near it, to conceal the bearers. "For making anew the merchant mount, as it auntiently was, with a ship to turn round, the hiring of the boys, and five men to carry it, four pounds." The ship and new dressing it is charged at five shillings, it was probably made of pasteboard, which seems to have been a principal article in the manufacturing of both the moveable mountains; it was turned by means of a swivel attached to an iron handle underneath. "For making anew the elephant and castle, and a cupid, with his bow and arrows suitable to it, and also for two men to carry them, one pound sixteen shillings and eight-pence; for making anew the four beastes, called the unicorn, the antilope, the flower de luce, and the camell, one pound sixteen shillings and four-pence apiece, and for eight men to carry them, sixteen shillings; and for four hobby-horses, six shillings and eight-pence apiece, and for four boys to carry them, four shillings; for lance, staves, garlands, and bulls, for the attendants upon the mayor and sheriffs, one pound nineteen shillings; for making

 MIDSUMMER SHOW—SHERIFFS' BREAKFAST.

anew the dragon, and for six naked boys to beat at it, one pound sixteen shillings; for six morris-dancers with a pipe and tabret, twenty shillings. The whole expence for this pageant amounted to £45, which was paid in portions by the mayor, sheriffs, and leave-lookers.

In 1670 it was ordered, that the show held at Midsummer, should be observed on Whit-Tuesday, being more convenient; and all those failing in attendance, without a reasonable excuse, to be allowed by the mayor, should pay five shillings; and the company failing to "put forth their boy and horse, to pay five pounds to the city." The observance of this ancient custom continued until the year 1678, when it was finally abolished by an order of the corporation.

SHERIFF'S BREAKFAST.

Of this custom, the following account is given by Archdeacon Rogers, who states its origin to have been in 1511:—"There is an anchant custom in this cittie of Chester, the memory of man now livinge not knowing the original, that upon Monday in Easter weeke, yearely, commonly called Black Mondaye, the two sheriffes of the cittie, do shoote for a breakfaste of calves-heades and bacon, commonly called the sheriffes' breakfaste, the maner being thus:—The day before the drum soundeth through the cittie, with a proclamation for all gentlemen, yeomen, and good fellowes, that will come with their bowes and arrows, to take parte with one sheriff or the other, and upon Monday morning at the Rode-dee, the mayor, shreeves, aldermen, and any other gentlemen that wol be there, the one sherife chosing one, and the other sherife chosing another, and so of the archers; then one sherife shoteth, and the other sherife he shoteth

SHERIFFS' BREAKFAST—WHITSUN PLAYS.

to *shode* him, beinge at length some twelve scores; the archers on one side to shote till it be *shode*, and so till three sheetes be wonne, and then all the winners' side go up together, first with arrowes in their handes, and all the losers with bowes in their handes together, to the common-hall of the cittie, where the maior, aldermen, and gentlemen, and the reste, take parte together of the saide breakfaste in loveing manner; this is yearly done, it beinge a commendable exercise, a good recreation, and a loveinge assemblie."

THE WHITSUN PLAYS.

On the three first days in Whitsun week, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, it was customary for the 25 companies to represent "certain playes, called Whitsun playes, which were said to have been the composition of Randal Higden, Monke of Chester Abbye." They were first acted in the mayoralty of Sir John Arnewaye, about the year 1328. An old author, in describing these profane exhibitions, says, "All those companies and occupations, which were joined together to acte, or performe their severall partes, had pagaents, which was a building of a great height, with a lower and a higher rowme, beinge all open, and set upon power-wheels, and drawn from place to place where they played. The firste place where they began, was at the abbey-gates, where the monks and churche might have the first sighte, and then it was drawn to the high crosse before the mayor and aldermen, and soe from streete to streete; and when one pageant was ended, another came in the place thereof, till all that were appoynted for the daye was ended."—The plays were in number twenty-five, answerable to the companies, and the following were the titles of each:

WHITSUN PLAYS.

The Fall of Lucifer	Coming of Christ to Jerusalem
The Creation of the World	Christ's Maundy with his Disciples
Noe and his Shippe	The Scourging of Christ
Abraham and Isacke	The Crucifieing of Christ
King Balak and Balam	The Harrowing of Hell
The Nativity of our Lord	The Resurrection
The Sheppard's Offering	The Castell of Emmaus and the Apostles
King Herod and the Mount Victorial	Ascension of Christ
The Three Kings of Coline	The making of the Creed
Slaying of the Children by Herod	Profetts of the day of Dome
Purification of our Lady	Antechriste
Pinackle, with the Woman of Canaan	Domesday
Arisinge of Lazerus from Death	

These mysteries were the rude origin of the English theatre. Our drama, as Mr. Warton, in his History of English Poetry, remarks, was in early times confined entirely to religious subjects; and these plays were nothing more than an appendage to the specious and mechanical devotion of the age. The reader is referred to that gentleman's amusing history of the rise and progress of these performances; but that he may form his own estimate of their character and merits, I shall present him with a specimen of the gross and ridiculous exhibition of the times; when the auditory listened with the fullest admiration and devotion, as a late writer remarks, to what would at present fill a theatre with laughter from the gay, at the absurdity, or scandalise the serious part, with the (unintentioned) impiety. They were performed for above three centuries, to the staring audience, who

 EXTRACT FROM NOE AND HIS SHIPPE.

received the unvaried subject with the same annual pleasure, as the Romans did the efarcies of their times in the days of honest simplicity.

EXTRACT FROM NOE AND HIS SHIPPE.

“ Then Noe shall goe into the ark, with all his familie, his wife except,—the ark must be borded round aboute, and upon the bordes all the beastes and fowles, hereafter rehearsed, must be painted, that these wordes may agree with the pictures.”

NOE.

“ Wife, come in, why standest thou there ;
Thou arte ever forward, I dare swear !

NOE'S WIFFE.

Yea, sir, set up your sayle,
And row forth with evil haile,
For withoutten faile I will not cut
Out of this towne ;
But I have my gossippes every eich one,
One foote further I will not gone,
They shall not drowne, by St. John !
And I may save their life,
But thou wylt let them into the cheist,
Else row forth, Noe, where thou list
And get thee a new wife.

THE GOOD GOSSIPS.

The flood comes flitting in full faste,
One every side that spreadeth full farr,
For feare of drowning I am agaste,
Good gossippes let us draw near ;

 EXTRACT FROM NOE AND HIS SHIPPE.

Or let us drink, or we departe,
 For oft-tymes have we done soe ;
 For at a draught thou drinks a quart,
 And so will I doe or I goe ;
 Here is a pottell full of Malmesage, gode and stronge
 Yt will rejoyce both heart and tonge ;
 Though Noe thinks us never soe longe,
 Yet we will drinke aleke.

JAPHAT.

Mother, we pray you all together,
 For we are here, your owne children,
 Come into the shippe, for feare of the weather.

NOE'S WIFFE.

That will I not, for all your call,
 For I have my gossippes all.

SEM.

In fayth, mother, thou shalt,
 Whether thou wylt or not.

NOE.

Welcome, wiffe, into this boat.

NOE'S WIFFE.

Have thou that for thy notes.

(Gives him a box on the ear.)

NOE.

Ha ! ha ! marye this is hott,
 It is good for to be still ;
 A ! children, methinks my boate removes,

 EXTRACT FROM NOE AND HIS SHIPPE, ETC.

Our tarrying here highly me greeves ;
 Over the lande the water spreades,
 God do as he will."

Copies of these old plays are still in existence in the Harl. MSS.

Archdeacon Rogers concludes his account of these exhibitions with the following observations :—These Whitsun playes were played in A.D. 1574, Sir John Savage, Knight, being mayor of Chester, which was the laste time they were played, and we praise God, and praye that we see not the like profanation of holy Scripture ; but O the mercie of God for the time of our ignorance : God he regardeth it not, as well in every man's particular, as also in general causes."

 MISCELLANEOUS HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Chronologically Arranged.

[From the government of the local monarchs, to the close of the siege of Chester.]

It has been observed, that upon the death of John Scott, the last sovereign earl in 1237, King Henry III. annexed the earldom to the crown. The king bestowed the county on his son Edward, who did not assume the title ; and the latter afterwards bestowed it on his son, Edward of Carnarvon, who was the first English Prince of Wales.

At the period of the annexation of the palatinate to the crown, and until they were finally subjected, about sixty years afterwards, the Welsh were almost incessantly en-

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

gaged in the most inveterate hostility against the English monarchs. Of course Chester, on account of its proximity, was naturally adopted as the most suitable depôt for the warlike stores and the English soldiers; nor is the remark of Pennant destitute of foundation, that the city seems to have been a constant rendezvous of troops, and *place d'armes* for every expedition on this side the kingdom, from the times of the Normans, to the final conquest of Ireland by William III.

In 1255, the Welsh, under their Prince Llewelyn, made a powerful irruption into this neighbourhood, when he committed great ravages, carrying fire and sword to the very gates of the city, and destroying every thing around on both sides of the river. The following year Prince Edward, who had recently been created Earl of Chester, paid a visit to the city. The royal visitant was honourably received; he remained here three days, received the homage of the nobles of Cheshire and part of Wales, and afterwards made a military survey of his garisons in his earldom and principality. The hostile inroads and injuries of Llewelyn yet remained unrevengeed, a circumstance that manifests the weakness or imbecility of King Henry; but, in 1257, he made some demonstrations for retaliation. With this avowed object, he summoned his nobility to attend with their vassals at Chester, on a certain day, in order to an expedition into Wales.—The result of this assemblage is not stated by our historians; but this is certain, that its professed purpose was not carried into effect. The effectual chastisement of Llewelyn, and his subjects, was reserved to entwine the laurel around the brow of the first Edward.

In 1264, in the wars with the barons, the city and castle fell into the hands of the latter, under the Earl of

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Derby, when Henry and his son fell into the hands of Simon de Montford. To propitiate that haughty baron, the King invested him with the earldom of Chester, of which he took possession ; but it was recovered by Henry in the same year, after the battle of Evesham, which proved fatal to Montford and his party.

In 1272, Edward I. ascended the throne, and from the commencement of his reign gave strong indications of his determination to subject the Principality of Wales to the English crown. The monarch was here in 1276 and 1277 ; in the former year he came for the purpose of summoning Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, to do him homage, who having refused to comply, he returned the next year with an army, and marching from Chester, took Rhuddlan Castle, and made it a strong fortress.

In 1280, Llewelyn came down from the mountains of Snowdon to Montgomery, and was at length taken at Blinch Castle, where using reproachful words against the Englishmen, Roger le Strange ran upon him and cut off his head, leaving his dead body upon the ground. Sir Roger Mortimer caused the head of Llewelyn to be set upon the tower of London, crowned. This was the end of Llewelyn, who was the last Prince of Wales of the Britons' blood that bare rule in that country.

Again we find Edward I. in the city, in the year 1282, where he resided from the 6th of June till the 4th of July. The following year, having been victorious in his expedition against the Welsh, he was at Chester with his Queen, and attended mass in St. Werburgh's Church, on which occasion, as related by the chronicles of that abbey, he presented the convent with a cloth of great value. In 1284, the same King was at Chester for four days, in the beginning of September, and again passed

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

through the city in 1294, on his march to Wales, to suppress the rebellion of Madoc. And in this city was received, in 1300, the final submission of the Welsh to the sovereignty of England, by Edward of Carnarvon, the first English Prince of Wales, when the freeholders of the Principality did fealty for their respective lands.

The city was honoured with another royal visit in 1312, when Edward II. came to Chester to meet his favourite, Piers de Gavestone, on his return from Ireland.

When Henry of Lancaster, who was in arms against King Richard, was at Shrewsbury, several gentlemen of the county, among whom were Sir Robert and Sir John Leigh, repaired thither to tender their submission and allegiance. From thence he came to this city, where, mustering his forces before the walls, he took undisturbed possession of the place and of the castle.—His stay here was marked by one or two sanguinary acts of cruelty.—He ordered Piers Legh, of Lyme, for his faithful adherence to the unfortunate Richard, to be executed, and caused his head to be placed on one of the highest turrets of the castle; and it is also recorded by Hollinshed, that he imprisoned in the castle the Duke of Surrey, who had been sent to him with a message from the King.

At this time Richard was imprisoned in the castle of Flint, to which fortress he had been conveyed by his enemies. The royal victim was the game that Bolingbroke was in pursuit of, and, accordingly, on the 19th of August, he marched for Flint, before the castle of which he drew up his army. A conference with the royal prisoner followed,—the result of which is well known—the king, having no other alternative, put himself into the power of the ambitious Henry. On the

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

following day he was brought to this city, and lodged in a tower over the outer gateway of the castle, opposite to Glover's-stone, from whence he was conveyed prisoner to London.

The year 1409 is remarkable for the mayor, John Ewloe, being removed from the government of the city, which was transferred to Sir William Brereton, a military officer, who was appointed governor by the King. This violent proceeding was occasioned by the displeasure of the King towards the citizens, many of whom had taken part with Henry Percy, at the battle of Shrewsbury, for which they were fined, and afterwards pardoned. King Richard II. had rendered himself very popular in this county, particularly by his having adopted the Cheshire men for his body guard, and his erection of the county into a principality. Moreover, Earl Percy, the King's enemy, was well known and beloved by the citizens, and had filled the office of constable of the castle a few years before. This nobleman issued a proclamation as he passed through Chester, on his way to Shrewsbury, in which he appealed to their loyalty in favour of their late unfortunate monarch, whom he affirmed still to be alive. By these arts, numbers of the citizens and county men were drawn to his standard; but after the battle, which proved fatal to Percy and his adherents, a treaty of amnesty was concluded by Prince Henry's commissioners, with the Chester and Cheshire men, which was enrolled at Chester.

In the year 1465, says Dr. Cowper, happened a bloody affray between Reginald ap Griffith ap Bleddyn, (ancestor of the Wynnes of Tower) at the head of a great number of Welsh, and many citizens of Chester. There was a dreadful slaughter on both sides, and Regi-

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

nald taking the mayor prisoner, carried him away to his fortress near Mold, and there hanged him in the large ground room within the tower.* There are now (1765) in the hands of the owner of Rainault's tower, several copies of verses, composed by the Welsh bards, congratulating this his ancestor, on his several triumphs over the English, particularly for one signal victory, when he pursued his adversaries to the gates of Chester, and plundered and burned all Handbridge. This Rainault bravely defended the castle of Harlech, in Merionethshire, for Henry VI. which was the last fortress that held out for that unhappy Prince. On this account Rainault was attainted by the succeeding King.

On the 13th of July, 1494, the city was honoured with a royal visit, when Henry VII. with his mother and the Queen came to Chester, with a great retinue, from whence they proceeded to Hawarden; the Earl of Derby, and a number of "Chester gallants" attending. This Prince was greatly beloved by the Welsh, who were proud to claim him as a countryman; and to them he had been under great obligations, for their fidelity during his concealment in that country, before he conquered the crown from the cruel Richard III.

The summer of the year 1507 was memorable from an awful visitation of Providence upon the city, where that endemic disorder the *sweating sickness* raged for a short time with great violence. It is recorded that ninety-one house-holders were carried off in three days by this afflictive distemper; but it is not unworthy of remark,

* A respectable gentleman of Chester, assures me, that when on a professional visit to Tower, in 1829, he was shewn the staple, fastened to the ceiling, by which the mayor was suspended.

THE PLAGUE.

that the destroying angel's respect for the female sex was eminently manifested, as, out of that number, only four fell victims to the mortal disease.

THE PLAGUE.

About this period, 1517, and for more than a century afterwards, the sweating sickness and the plague, those dreadful scourges of the human race in the days of our ancestors, were more than usually destructive in the city. In 1517, the sweating sickness proved fatal to many of the inhabitants; and the city was again infected with the plague, probably to a more serious extent of mortality. I say probably, because, although we have no records of its precise ravages, there are some ominous expressions used by two of our Chester annalists, Smith and Webb, which naturally lead to such an inference:—the former observes, “that many died and fled out of the city, insomuch that the streets were full of grass;” and the latter, “that for want of trading the grass did grow a foot high at the Cross, and other streets in the city.” Now that I am upon this calamitous subject, I shall proceed to enumerate the various instances in which the city has been visited by the pestilence, without noticing the intervening historical events, to which, however, I shall afterwards recur. In 1550 the city suffered severely from the sweating sickness, which was prevalent also in various parts of the kingdom; and to this affliction was added a great scarcity of provisions; corn selling at Chester at sixteen shillings a bushel. From the year 1602 to 1605, with but very little intermission, the dreadful effects of the plague were experienced in the city. It is stated to have begun in the month of September, in the former year, at the house of one Glover, in St. John's lane, in

THE PLAGUE.

whose house alone seven persons died. The contagion was particularly fatal in 1603 and 1604 ; 650 persons died in the former year, and 986 in the latter ; at one period about 55 died weekly. So great was the alarm against the spread of the contagion, that those affected by it, were from time to time, removed to the suburbs of the city, particularly to the open space between the Water Tower and the river, where cabins were erected for their reception ; the expences attendant upon their care and support being paid by the city at large. Great numbers of people, especially of the higher ranks, sought safety in flight. It does not appear that any of the chief magistrates, during the continuance of the plague, abdicated their posts ; but it is particularly noted of Edward Dutton, who was mayor during its height, that he conducted himself with extraordinary zeal and fortitude, in his endeavours to arrest its progress, and provide for the comforts of the unhappy victims ; and although the contagion had reached his own house, and some of his children and servants were carried off by its ravages, he continued to exercise his arduous duties to the last. During this dreadful visitation, the fairs of the city were suspended ; the court of exchequer was removed to Tarvin, and the county assizes were held at Nantwich. The plague disappeared in the month of February, 1605.

In 1608, some slight appearances of a like scourge were visible in the city ; it began at the Talbot, and fourteen persons died of it. In 1647, the horrors of pestilence were superadded to the devastations occasioned by a protracted and destructive siege. Between the 22nd of June, in this year, and the 20th of April following, says Dr. Cowper, *two thousand and ninety-nine* persons died of the plague in the several parishes of Chester.

THE PLAGUE.

Grass, adds he, grew at the high cross, and in the most frequented parts of the city ; and an ordinance was issued by the houses of parliament for nominating city officers, as the assembly of citizens could not be held without danger. Cabins for the infected were built under the Water Tower, and in the adjacent Salt Marsh. Since the year 1647, the city has enjoyed an uninterrupted exemption from this horrible scourge.

This is not, perhaps, the proper place minutely to inquire into the causes of the evil with which we have so frequently been visited ; but there can be no doubt the principal one has been the stagnant filthiness which was formerly suffered to remain in our narrow streets. Under date of the year 1636, when it seems accumulated filth was discovered to be inductive to diseases, it is recorded, that the mayor, William Edwards, “ *caused many dung-hills to be carried away*, but the cost and time was on the poor.” Again, under the same date, “ *the maior caused the durt of many foule lanes in Chester to be carried, to make a bonke to enlarge the Roodey, and let shippis in.*” And, at a subsequent period, when the city was crowded with soldiers, and undergoing the extreme horrors of a siege, the necessity of a similar measure produced the following order .—“ *That the Lord Bishop be informed of the unwholesomeness of the puddle near the Eastgate, and the inhabitants be ordered to cleanse the streets before their respective doors within ONE MONTH, under a fine of ten shillings.*

Having concluded the history of our Chester pestilences, I shall again advert to the series of historical events. It is recorded in Cowper's MSS. that in 1510, an order was made that none go to priest's offerings, first mass, gospel ales, or Welsh weddings, within this city, under a penalty of ten shillings.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the year 1542, the mayor of this city, William Beswicke, laudably exerted his authority, by issuing out an ordinance for the suppression of stews and brothel houses. It is no favourable indication of the morality of our Cestrian ancestors, that for several centuries before this period, these receptacles of immorality had not only been tolerated, but actually licensed by the police; and what, says the late Mr. Cowdroy in his small history, was not a little whimsical, the *impurity* of the *inside* of the house was distinguished by the *purity* of the *out*; as they were made conspicuous to the eye of the stranger, by their being *white-washed*—thus, at least, shewing the *outward and visible sign*, though not of the *inward and spiritual grace*.

In 1554, George Marsh was burned at Spital Boughton, within the liberties of the city, for the profession of the gospel, who behaved with such unflinching fortitude during his sufferings, as astonished the beholders. In giving this account, Dr. Cowper adds, that after the exhibition of a conditional pardon, by the Vice-chancellor, Mr. Vawdrey, and the refusal of it by Marsh on the terms of recantation, the people pressed forward to attempt a rescue, headed by Sheriff Cowper, who was much afflicted by the martyr's sufferings. Mr. Cowper was, however, beat off by the other sheriff, and, effecting his escape, fled over Holt bridge into Wales, was soon after outlawed, and had his estates seized on by the government. After this, he remained quietly in Carnarvonshire, until the death of Queen Mary. The ashes of George Marsh were privately interred in the burial ground of the chapel of St. Giles, in Spital Boughton.

In the year 1556, there was a great scarcity of corn, wheat was sold at sixteen shillings a bushel, rye at fourteen shillings, and barley at twelve shillings.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The year 1558 is remarkable for a curious incident which occurred in the city, and which is related by Archbishop Usher and Mr. Ware, and quoted by most of our local historians. Dr. Henry Cole, Dean of St. Paul's, it seems, was charged by Queen Mary with a commission to the council of Ireland, which had for its object the persecution of the Irish protestants. The Doctor stopped one night here on his way to Dublin, and put up at the *Blue Posts*, the house now occupied by Mr. W. Brittain, on the east side of Bridge-street, then kept by a Mrs. Mottershead. In this house he was visited by the mayor, to whom, in the course of conversation, he related his errand, in confirmation of which he took from his cloak bag a leather box, exclaiming in a tone of exultation, "Here is what will lash the heretics of Ireland!" This annunciation was caught by the landlady, who had a brother in Dublin; and while the commissioner was escorting his worship down stairs, the good woman, prompted by an affectionate regard for the safety of her brother, opened the box, took out the commission, and placed in lieu thereof a pack of cards, with the knave of clubs uppermost. This the doctor carefully packed up, without suspecting the transformation; nor was the deception discovered till his arrival in the presence of the lord deputy and privy council at the castle of Dublin. The surprise of the whole assembly, on opening the box containing the supposed commission, may be more easily imagined than described. The doctor, in short, was immediately sent back for a more satisfactory authority; but, before he could return to Ireland, Queen Mary had breathed her last. It is added, that the ingenuity and affectionate zeal of the landlady, were rewarded by Elizabeth with a pension of forty pounds a year.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In Sir Peter Leicester's MSS. it is recorded that, in 1573, the city was violently disturbed by an affray between the retainers of Sir George Calveley, of Lea, and those of his brother-in-law, John Dutton, of Dutton, Esq. during the assizes. The occasion of this conflict is not stated; but the common bell was rung, and the skirmish lasted until many were wounded, and Mr. Tilston, the steward of Dutton, lost his life in the quarrel.

Up to this period, it appears that the supplies of the city with the common necessities of subsistence had been restricted to resident freemen; a monopoly which was felt to be both inconvenient and expensive. But, in 1577, during the mayoralty of Mr. Thomas Bellin, an ordinance was issued by the authorities, giving permission to the *country butchers* to sell flesh in the city on market days (Wednesday and Saturday), alledging as the reason, "the excess of price used by the city butchers, and want of provision which they ought to have made for the better supply of the city's wants." This regulation seems to have answered the end for which it was intended; for in the following year, the *country bakers* received a similar permission, which, with regard to both classes, has been uninterruptedly continued unto the present day.

On the 23rd of August, 1617, our city was graced with the royal presence of King James I. who, being attended by earls, reverend bishops, and worthy knights, and courtiers, besides all the gentry of the shire, rode in state through the city; being met by the sheriffs, peers, and common council of the city, every one with his foot cloth, well mounted on horseback. All the train soldiers of the city, standing in order without the East-gate, and every company, with their ensigns, kept their

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

several stations on both sides the Eastgate-street. The mayor and all the aldermen took their places on a scaffold railed and hung about with green ; and there, in most grave and seemly manner, they attended the coming of his majesty. At which time, after a learned speech delivered by the recorder, the mayor handed to the king a fair standing cup, with a cover, double gilt, and therein a hundred jacobins of gold ; and likewise the mayor delivered the city's sword to the king, who gave it to the mayor again ; and the same was borne before the king by the mayor, being on horseback. The sword of state was borne by the Right Hon. William Earl of Derby, chief chamberlain of the county palatine of Chester. The king rode first to the minister, where he alighted from his horse, and in the west aisle of the minister, he heard an oration delivered in latin by a scholar of the free school : after the said oration, he went into the choir ; and there in a neat seat made for the king, in the higher end of the choir, he heard an anthem sung. After certain prayers, the king went from thence to the penitence, where a sumptuous banquet was prepared at the city's cost, which being ended, the king departed to the Vale Royal. And at his departure, the order of knighthood was offered to Mr. Mayor, but he refused the same.

In the year 1636, the celebrated William Prynne, who, by his hostility to the hierarchy and the measures of government, had incurred the hatred of the court, and become popular through the country by the severe persecution of the star chamber, was conveyed through Chester, on his way to Carnarvon, to be imprisoned in the castle there. On his approach to the city, he was met by numbers, who had imbibed like sentiments with himself, and who testified towards him the most un-

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

measured sympathy and approbation. This conduct was narrowly watched, and eagerly represented by the emissaries of the court, and some were fined £500, some £300, and others £250. Mr. Peter Ince, a stationer, and one of the offenders, made a public recantation, before the Bishop in the cathedral, as did Calvin Bruen, of Stapleford, in the town-hall. Two of the others, Mr. Peter Lee, and Mr. Richard Golborne, suffered their bonds of £300 each to be estreated into the exchequer, rather than perform the conditions. In the following year, four portraits of Prynne, painted at Chester, were burnt at the High Cross, in the presence of the magistracy. The feverish state of the country now threatened some great political convulsion, and in this year (1636) King Charles appointed the mayor of Chester (Mr. William Edwards) the Earls of Derby and Rivers, and Viscount Cholmondeley, his commissioners of array for the county and city.

It is very probable, from all accounts that can be collected, that most parts of the city, except the four principal streets, remained unpaved until the beginning of the sixteenth century; some of them certainly did not receive that necessary addition to convenience until the year 1577; and we have already seen, that the plague and pestilence are referable to the filthy condition of the streets and lanes. Although we are tenacious to rank our city high in the scale of respectability, yet we can boast very little advancement in the arts of elegance or convenience, especially as regards our habitations or outward appearance of the place, until the commencement of the seventeenth century. One of our old historians of the county and city, has the following observation:—
“ In building and furniture of their houses, till of late

HISTORICAL NOTICES.—THE SIEGE.

years, they used the old manners of the Saxons. For they had their fire in the midst of the house, against a *hob of clay*, and their oxen *under the same roof*; but within these forty years, it is altogether altered; so that they have builded chimnies, and furnished their houses accordingly;” nor can I omit remarking, that our Cætrian ancestors appear to have been as strongly imbued as any of their neighbours, with the spirit of superstition, or impiety, or both. Of this the annual performance of the *Whitsun Plays*, of which an account is before given, is alone a sufficient evidence. These had their origin when Popery was predominant in the kingdom, but they did not terminate till some time after the reformation; and what is not very creditable to the morality of the times, Sunday was selected as one of the days for the exhibition of these profane performances.—As another instance of the little regard paid to the sacred doctrines taught by the reformed religion, even by the constituted authorities, it may be mentioned, that in the time of Queen Elizabeth, there was a custom, (then called an ancient one) for the aldermen and justices, sheriffs, and leave-lookers, to meet every *Sunday* in the inner pentice, to have a *shot*, or drinking, and every man to pay a penny. In 1657, the mayor sat every *Sunday*, Wednesday, and Friday, for the administration of justice.

THE SIEGE.

On the 8th of August, 1642, the first symptoms of civil strife was manifested in Chester. A number of the disaffected, of whom there was a sprinkling in the city, with Sir William Brereton as their leader, caused a drum to be beat publicly in the streets, inviting and

THE SIEGE.

exhorting the people to enlist themselves on the side of the parliament, and some few resorted to their standard. Information of this popular tumult, being given to the mayor, Mr. Thomas Cowper, this intrepid magistrate directed some constables to apprehend the leaders, but the latter forcibly resisted, and compelled the constables to retire; upon which the mayor stepped forward in person to expostulate with them on their conduct, and upon being disrespectfully treated, he boldly advanced up to one of the parliamentarians, and seizing him by the collar, delivered him up to the civil officers; at the same time wresting a broad sword from another of the party, with which he instantly cut the drum to pieces, securing the drummer, and several others. This firm and manly defiance on the part of the mayor, effectually put an end to the tumult, and finally repressed it. During this affray the common bell was rung, the citizens lent their cheerful aid to the chief magistrate, and when they had seen him in a state of personal security, the city was restored to peace. Sir William Brereton, a gentleman of competent fortune in the county, and knight for the shire, and who was a strong partizan for the parliament, was brought before the magistrates at the Pentice, to answer for the part he had taken in the above disturbance, though he owed his rescue from the popular fury, to the personal interference of the mayor; he was, however, discharged.

This ebullition of party enthusiasm, created an alarm amongst the loyalists, and measures of defence were instantly adopted by the constituted authorities. On the 25th of August, 1642, King Charles hoisted his standard at Nottingham, and proclaimed the signal of war between himself and the parliament. His first movement was

THE SIEGE.

directed towards Shrewsbury ; but on his route thither, while at Stafford, he dispatched a courier to Ghester, with the following letter :—

“ Charles R.—Trusty and well-beloved—we greeete you well. Whereas we have resolved to make repayre to our citie of Chester, on Friday next. These are to will and require you, to warne all the traine bands of that our citie to be in readiness, and to give their attendance to us, in our entrance into the citie, and to take care that necessary provision bee made for entertainment of us, and our retinue ; so not doubting of your diligence therein, we bid you heartily farewell. Given at our court at Stafford, 18th September, 1642.—To our trusty and well-beloved, the mayor, &c.”

The king entered the city on the very day he had named, accompanied with a numerous train of nobility and gentry ; the several incorporated companies, with their colours and banners, received his majesty at Spital Boughton, and conducted him to the Pentice, where he and his suite were entertained. The banquet closed with a very acceptable offering to the royal guest, to whom a gift of £200 was presented, and half that sum to the Prince of Wales. During the time of his remaining in the city, the king was lodged at the episcopal palace.

On the following day, his majesty issued his royal “declaration to all his loving subjects, upon the occasion of his late messages to both houses of parliament, and their refusal to treat with him for the peace of the kingdom.” His majesty’s departure was accelerated by intelligence, received by private report, respecting the advantages acquired by the royal arms at the battle of Worcester. On the 28th of September, the king proceeded to Wrexham, and was escorted by the corporation to the

THE SIEGE.

city boundary. The day following he was waited upon by the mayor, who had declined the honour of knighthood, and was here presented by Garter, agreeably to his majesty's orders, with a grant of arms, the bearings of which were coats assigned to the two first Norman earls of the palatinate.

When the king had decided upon open war, the city of Chester was deemed a place of great military importance; and it being considered that there was at this time no military character of eminence on the spot, that was able to the taking charge of, and directing to good effect the courage of the inhabitants, his majesty sent hither Sir Nicholas Byron,* a soldier of great talent and address, with a commission of Colonel-General of Cheshire and Shropshire, and to be governor of Chester.

But to recur to the efforts of the city for the objects of defence, it is necessary to state, that soon after the first alarm, created by the tumult headed by Sir William Brereton, the citizens prepared in good earnest to meet the threatened storm. A levy of three hundred men was ordered, independent of the trained bands, who were furnished with arms by voluntary subscriptions, and a rate was made for their maintenance. The outworks and entrenchments were carried on with such vigour, that in the beginning of the summer, 1643, the *mud walls, mounts, bastions, &c.* were all completed, and several effective batteries planted. The outworks commenced at the alcove, on the city walls, between the Northgate and the Water Tower, and proceeded towards the Stone

* This distinguished individual was the honoured progenitor, of the late Lord Byron, who died at Missolonghi, while assisting the efforts of the Greeks in their struggle against Turkish tyranny.

THE SIEGE.

bridge leading to Blacon ; then inclining to the north-east, took into the utmost limits of the Further Northgate-street, from thence they took an eastern direction towards Flookersbrook, which they crossed, and so on to Boughton, encompassing Horn-lane and the Justingcroft, and finally terminated at the brink of the river.

Upon Friday the 18th of July, 1643, Sir William Brereton, who had been appointed General of the forces in these parts by the parliament, came with his troops before the city, and on the Thursday morning following, made a violent assault upon the works, which were so resolutely defended, that he was beat off, and forced to retire. Many of his men were killed, and carried off in carts; the besieged sustained no loss, except that one person was killed, who was fool-hardy enough to stand upright upon the highest part of the mud-wall, in defiance of the enemy; and another was wounded, by exposing himself in like manner. Sir William Brereton, being so smartly repulsed, thought proper to draw off his men, and attempt nothing further against the city at that time. Soon after Spital Boughton was pulled down, and all the houses thereabouts; many other houses and barns in that neighbourhood were likewise destroyed, and the great wind-mill without the Northgate was taken down, to prevent the enemy from making lodgments in those buildings, to the annoyance of the city.

On the 11th of November, in the same year, the town and castle of Hawarden was treacherously surrendered to Sir William Brereton. The parliamentarians being in possession of that strong fortress, and likewise of the town of Hawarden, prevented all that neighbourhood from bringing coals, corn, or provisions of any kind to the city, which proved a serious inconvenience to the

THE SIEGE.

inhabitants. Upon this state of things, the suburbs of Handbridge were burnt down, as were also Overleigh-hall, Mr. Whitby's mansion, Bache hall, and Flookersbrook-hall, lest they might afford lodgments to the enemy. From Hawarden Sir William Brereton sent a summons to Sir Abraham Shipman, then governor of Chester, expressly requiring him to surrender that city, adding some severe threatenings in case of refusal. The governor sent him for answer, that he was not to be terrified by words, but bade him come, and win it and have it.

In the latter end of November, a party of the king's troops landed at Mostyn, and marched before Hawarden, whose commander having obtained a number of men from Chester, attacked the Castle of Hawarden on the 3rd of December, and on the following day the garrison hoisted the white flag, and capitulated on honourable conditions. The royalists, being further reinforced by some regiments from Ireland, marched into Cheshire, under the command of Sir John, lately created Lord Byron, and took Beeston Castle, for which the parliamentary governor was soon after executed for cowardice. The loss of this fortress was very severely felt by the neighbouring gentry and farmers on the parliamentary side, who had deposited within its walls all their moveable effects of value, which, with the ammunition and provisions for a long period, became the reward of the conquerors.

During the latter part of 1643 and 1644, the city authorities were indefatigable in perfecting the preparations for the defence of the city, and in procuring pecuniary supplies for that purpose. It was also agreed to raise three troops of horse, for the maintenance of which the citizens were assessed according to their abilities.—

THE SIEGE.

On the 31st of January, 1644, an order of assembly was made, that one hundred pounds worth of the ancient city plate should be forthwith converted into coin, for the necessary use and defence of the city. There was also an order made, that the sum of three hundred pounds should be presented to the king, and the same sum to the Prince of Wales.

In the early part of 1644, Lord Byron was invested with the chief command of the army in Cheshire, and made governor of the city. He soon after attacked Sir William Brereton and Colonel Ashton, near Middlewich, and cut off near 200 of their men, which was followed by the surrender of Northwich to the royalists. Crewe-house, after a stout resistance surrendered, and Dodding-ton-hall and Acton church were taken without much opposition. There was not now one garrison in this neighbourhood that held out for the parliament, except Nantwich. Upon this place Lord Byron made a sudden and violent attack; but being repulsed here with considerable loss, his lordship with some difficulty, made good his retreat to the garrison of Chester.

On the 13th of February, a detachment sallied out from the garrison, to attack a party of the parliamentarian forces, who had made a lodgment at Christleton. The battle begun near Great Boughton, and after a bloody engagement, the enemy were forced to retire.— In this battle, about a hundred men, officers and soldiers, were slain of the king's party, most of them Chester men. On the Wednesday following, Great Boughton was burnt to the ground to prevent the enemy from harbouring there.

During the summer, a variety of military operations were carried on in different parts of the county, by the

THE SIEGE.

two parties, but nothing particular occurred in respect of the city, until the 19th of September, when Colonel Jones and Adjutant-General Louthian, whose forces were then besieging Beeston Castle, in the evening drew off 1300 horse and foot from that place, and advanced during the night towards Chester. They arrived in the suburbs before day-light the next morning, and immediately transmitted by a flag of truce a peremptory summons.

Before the mayor had time to return an answer to this summons, the parliamentary commanders divided their forces into four squadrons, and stormed the out-works in many different places, obtaining possession of the works in some parts, even before the guards discovered them; and so with little loss, made themselves masters not only of Boughton, but likewise of St. John's church, the adjacent lanes, the Foregate-street, and all the eastern suburbs. They also occupied the mayor's house, seized the sword, mace, &c. which was afterwards sent up to the parliament, as a trophy of this victory. The enemy then made a brisk attack upon the city itself but were repulsed with loss.

The situation of the citizens was now become somewhat discouraging; their out-works had been wrested from them, and the city walls constituted the whole of their defence. After various skirmishes on each side, the besieging commanders opened a correspondence, which, however, terminated without leading to any accommodation.

About this period of the siege, the pecuniary levies upon the inhabitants amounted to about two hundred pounds every fortnight, for support of the garrison and other contingent expences. This was severely felt, and

THE SIEGE.

by many heavily complained of; and such was the difficulty of collecting the levy, that it was deemed necessary to employ the soldiers for the purpose, in some cases, and to commit the delinquent parties in others. Owing to the disturbed state of the city, there was this year no election of mayor, but that office continued to be exercised by Mr. Charles Walley, who had, with much credit to himself, officiated the preceding year. Poyntz, Jones, and Louthian, who in the absence of Sir William Brereton had commanded before the city, were about this time removed to other quarters, and their place occupied by the latter, who, on the 8th of November, renewed the correspondence with the garrison, which, like all the former, ended without producing any effect.

By the end of February, 1645, the enemy, who had been reinforced by additional troops from various quarters, had succeeded in surrounding the city, and placed garrisons at Hoole, Rowton, Eccleston, Iron-bridge, Upton, &c. The citizens were altogether employed in defensive operations, not being able to effect any object of importance against an enemy superior in numbers, who had possession of their outworks, and were quartered at their gates. In this position the affairs of the respective parties remained until about the middle of September, when the garrison were gladdened by the welcome news that the king had left Hereford, and was on his march with a large force for the relief of the city. The exultations of the citizens is represented as being beyond all bounds; they seemed to anticipate a speedy and complete victory over their enemies, against whom their long and extreme sufferings had greatly embittered them; and there is reason to believe, that in the excess of their joy, those measures of prudence, which would have realized their hopes, were grievously neglected.

THE SIEGE.

On the 26th of September, his majesty arrived at Chirk Castle, where he remained with his forces during the night. The next morning he detached Sir Marmaduke Langdale, with most of the horse, over Holt bridge, that they might be on the Cheshire side of the river Dee; intending that Sir Marmaduke should fall upon the enemy in the rear, and that all the forces within the city should, at the same time, sally out, and so inclose them between two fires. The king, with his guards, and Lord Gerard, with the remainder of the horse, marched this evening into the city, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the soldiers and citizens. His majesty was lodged at the house of Sir Francis Gamull, a mansion situated a little below Castle-street.

The condition of the garrison now presented a promising appearance. Sir Marmaduke passed the river at Holt, and, marching in the direction of Chester, drew up his forces upon Rowton heath, about two miles from the city. The parliamentary army had watched the king's motions, to which service Major-General Poyntz was appointed. The latter, who had marched a much shorter way, after he was informed of the king's taking this route, and was advanced as far as Whitchurch, sent a letter to the commander before Chester, informing him that he was come to his assistance, and desiring him to send some foot, that he might be more effectually enabled to act against the king's horse. This letter was intercepted by Sir Marmaduke, who turned it to his own advantage.

Early in the morning of the 27th of September, Poyntz advanced towards the city, where Sir Marmaduke attacked him with great resolution, and forced him to retire with considerable loss: the latter, however was not in a con-

THE SIEGE.

dition to pursue his advantage, and Poyntz again drew up his men, in momentary expectation of the arrival of the forces from before the city, to whom he had dispatched a second courier. During this time the garrison of Chester, not appearing to know the perilous situation of Sir Marmaduke, Lord Gerard sent him orders to advance towards Chester, where some troops should be ready to support him; but the execution of this order was rendered impracticable, as its attempt would be followed by an attack from Poyntz upon his rear. About noon, Colonel Jones, and Adjutant-General Louthian, having drawn out 500 horse and 300 foot from before the city, commenced a hasty march, which induced a persuasion in the garrison that they were on the flight. During this impression, a considerable portion of the garrison received orders to pursue. They sallied out through the Northgate, and so by Flookersbrook, the direct way through the Eastgate being blocked up by the besieged; but it soon appeared, that the supposed flight was no more than an eager desire to assist the operations of Poyntz. The latter now perceiving the advance of this body, and having rallied his troops, immediately fell upon Sir Marmaduke, and a most furious conflict took place. Now Sir Marmaduke having to engage Poyntz in the front, and Jones's reinforcement having fallen upon his rear, after having fought bravely was at length overpowered, routed, and forced to retire towards Chester. Poyntz pursued his victory, following most of the horse even to the walls of Chester, near which Lord Gerard and the Earl of Lindsey were drawn out with their troops, who charged and repulsed him. But those disordered horse, which fled with Sir Marmaduke, had crossed all the little passes, and narrow lanes between Hoole Heath and the

THE SIEGE.

city, a ground unfit for horse to fight upon, so that when a fresh body of the enemy's musqueteers charged resolutely upon them, they forced the king's horse to turn and route one another, and overbear their own officers who would have restrained them. The king's routed horse were scattered about the country, numbers made for Holt bridge, others ventured to cross the river at Boughton ford; for Poyntz, being sufficiently satisfied with that day's success, pursued them no further. In this fatal battle fell many gentlemen of high rank, and officers of distinction. It is computed that not less than 600 men were killed on both sides; and many persons of quality, of the king's party, were taken prisoners, amongst whom was Sir Phillip Musgrave, of the North. During the time of this fatal battle, his majesty, attended by the mayor, Sir Francis Gamull, and Alderman Cowper, had the mortification to witness the route of his army from the leads of the Phoenix tower.

The city was now deemed to be a place of very doubtful security to his majesty; and on the following day, the royal fugitive took his departure, after giving orders to Lord Byron, the governor, and the commissioners, that if after ten days, they saw no prospect of relief, to treat for their own preservation. The king marched over Dee-bridge into Wales with 500 horse, and not without some danger, arrived that evening at Denbigh castle, attended by Sir Francis Gamull, Capt. Thropp and Alderman Cowper. They remained with the king two days, when these loyal citizens took a sad and final farewell of their royal master; and on their return to Chester, found it, if possible, in a more distressed situation than when they left it; for at four o'clock that morning, the enemy had again forced the works at Bough-

THE SIEGE.

ton, which at the last battle they had been obliged to quit, and repossessed themselves of that part of the town without the Eastgate.

On the 29th of September, the besiegers effected a breach in the walls near the Newgate, by the battery of 150 cannon shot, and at night made a brisk assault upon this breach, but were repulsed. They likewise attempted to mount the walls with scaling ladders, in which attempt some officers and soldiers were hauled over the walls, several of the ladders dragged over, and many of the assailants thrown down and killed, the remainder precipitately abandoning the attack. On the 1st of October, the enemy removed their battery, planted thirteen pieces of cannon against the Eastgate, and played them furiously all that day, but with little or no damage to the city. Early the next morning, the citizens sallied out, dismounted some of their ordnance, killed seven or eight men, and brought in a lieutenant and engineer prisoners.

On the 4th, the assailants planted four large pieces against the walls, between the Northgate and the Water Tower, where the besieged had some cannon planted on Morgan's Mount. The following day the enemy played their artillery so violently, that they beat down some of the battlements, and forced the king's soldiers to retire from the walls: they likewise, by a shot, shattered the carriage of one of the largest cannon, which in the fall had two feet of the muzzle broken off. These damages, however, were repaired during the night by the besiegers, who made entrenchments in Lady Barrow's Hey, the field that now extends from the north side of the Infirmary to the Rope-walk, which were found to be highly serviceable in defence of that part of the city. On the 6th the enemy removed their ordnance about six rods

THE SIEGE.

downwards, nearer to the Water Tower, without any great effect; and on the following day they raised a battery on the Brewer's-hall hill, endeavouring with those cannon to clear the line within the city.

This seems to have been the utmost effort of the enemy to possess themselves of the place. On the evening of the 7th, the city was surrounded by their horse, and a violent assault was made in several places. The battlements were resolutely attacked, and as vigorously defended. For a long time the conflict was doubtful; the utmost courage and perseverance were equally displayed by both parties. At length the assailants, having with great difficulty gained the top of the walls, they were again beat off, thrown down and killed. Once more the besieged possessed themselves of their scaling ladders, and took a considerable number of arms, which the enemy had left in their fight.

From this time the parliamentary commander despaired of taking the city by assault, and immediately converted the siege into a close blockade—a high compliment to the gallantry of the inhabitants of Chester, to whom it was an acknowledgement that they were only conquerable by the resistless influence of starvation. In order to render the blockade more effective, the besieging army was reinforced by the troops just now released from their service at Latham-house; and immediately such dispositions were made, that the whole city was completely encompassed, every gate and avenue being closely guarded.

The beginning of the year 1646 found the garrison and the citizens in want of the common necessaries of life, which created discontent and murmurings almost to a mutiny. On the 10th of January, Sir William Brereton

THE SIEGE.

sent a threatening summons to the commanders, to which, for five days, no answer was returned. Sir William then sent another summons, peremptorily requiring them to answer it that day. A reply was then returned, in which they offered to proceed to a treaty, provided that they had permission to send to his majesty, and that he should be unable to relieve the city in twelve days.— This proposition was flatly rejected. In respect of provisions, the besieged were in a far worse condition than ever, being so reduced as to be compelled to feed upon horses, dogs and cats, so pressing was their situation become. Yet, by the judicious management of the governor and commissioners, both the town and garrison bore their sufferings with cheerful fortitude, as long as there remained the slightest probability of relief.

In this extremity the garrison rejected nine different summonses, nor, till they received undoubted assurances that there was no hopes of any succour, did they answer the tenth. Then, and not till then, they consented to a treaty, previous to which several letters passed between the parties relating to the preliminaries.

The preliminaries for pacification being at length settled, commissioners on both sides were appointed to arrange the precise terms. The negotiation for the final settlement occupied six days, when conditions, embracing eighteen articles, were agreed to, and subscribed by the commanders on both sides; the garrison to march out with the honours of war, and all the ammunition, stores, &c. in the castle, to be delivered up without injury to the besieging army.

In conformity with these articles, the brave and loyal city of Chester, which had held out twenty weeks beyond expectation, being reduced by famine to the utmost

THE SIEGE.

extremity, was, upon the 3rd of February, 1646, surrendered up to the parliamentary forces, who immediately took possession of it. From the picture exhibited in the preceding narrative, some estimate may be formed of the mental and corporeal sufferings, as well as of the pecuniary distresses, sustained by the inhabitants of Chester during this calamitous conflict. For a period of two years, nothing was heard but the sound of warlike preparations, and for a considerable portion of it, they were enclosed within their walls, the victims of starvation, while they were distracted with momentary apprehensions of the forcible entry of a vindictive and enraged soldiery. The incessant drains upon their property, in the shape of levies, for the maintenance of the garrison, and the support of their fugitive prince, had levelled the different classes of the community, and reduced the whole to one common condition of absolute beggary. Desolation and destruction marked the suburbs, which presented an undistinguished mass of ruins, the only remains of dwellings, once the peaceful habitations of content and security; while our walls and edifices within the city were defaced or battered down by the destructive cannon. In addition to this, the city lands were all mortgaged, the funds quite exhausted, the plate melted down, and the churches, particularly St. John's church, being so long in the possession of the enemy, greatly damaged.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS

*In Chester, from the close of the Siege, in 1646, to 1830,
Chronologically arranged.*

1649.—Colonel Robert Dukenfield appointed governor of Chester; and in the same year King Charles II. was proclaimed a traitor at the high cross.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- 1650.—The Bishop's palace, with all the furniture, sold for £1059.
- 1651.—A court marshal held at Chester, and ten individuals found guilty for holding a correspondence with the king, and executed.
- 1665.—Many of the principal gentry of this county, among whom were Sir Peter Leycester, Peter Venables, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Mr. Shakerley, and Mr. Massey, of Puddington, were sent prisoners to the castle of Chester, under suspicion of being disaffected to Cromwell's government.
- 1687.—James II. came to Chester, was received near the Bars by the corporation in their robes, and was afterwards entertained at the Pentice.
- 1690.—King William visited this city, on his way to reduce Ireland.
- 1691.—Ten young women drowned in the Dee, opposite St. John's church, by the upsetting of a boat, on Whitsun-Monday.
- 1694.—A mint being this year set up in Chester, coinage of money began the 2nd of October. There was coined 101,660 ounces of wrought plate; all the pieces had the letter C. under the king's head.
- 1710.—The Roodee inclosed with a cop.
- 1715.—Lord Charles Murray (son to the Duke of Athol) with several gentlemen, and a great number of private men, who had been taken in the rebellion at Preston, brought prisoners to Chester castle.
- 1720.—Part of the Roodee cop, being washed down, was rebuilt, and faced with stone.
- 1732.—Great contest for the representation of the city, between Sir R. Grosvenor, Bart. and R. Manley, Esq. which lasted seven days, and terminated in favour of the latter.—The act passed, incorporating the river Dee company.
- 1733.—First sod of the new cut of the river taken up by R. Manley, Esq. April 20th.
- 1745.—The Watergate, Northgate, and Sally-ports walled up, and several buildings adjoining the walls pulled down, under apprehension of the Scotch rebels attempting to enter the city.—A

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

number of the rebels brought in 16 carts prisoners to the castle, which being thus filled, the spring assizes were held at Flookersbrook.

- 1750.—Two Irishmen gibbeted on the Parkgate road for murder.
- 1756.—The shops on the west side of the Exchange built.
- 1758.—The House of Industry built.
- 1762.—First police act granted.—Mary Heald, a quaker, strangled and burnt at Boughton, for poisoning her husband.—St. Peter's spire rebuilt, when one Wright, in attempting to gain the top of the scaffolding for a trifling wager, fell on the leads of the church, and was killed.
- 1767.—First stone of the Eastgate laid on the 8th of August.—The race-ground enlarged, and two stone chairs erected.—Trinity spire struck by lightning; 8 yards built for £40.
- 1771.—Contest between Mr. H. Rider and Mr. Thos. Edwards for the office of sheriff; the former polled 365, and the latter 465.—The city illuminated, in consequence of the passing of an act for making a canal to Nantwich; the first sod cut on the 4th of May.
- 1772.—A horrid explosion of gunpowder, in Watergate-street row, on the 5th of November, by which a great many people lost their lives.
- 1775.
- May 2.—The Chester Chronicle established by Poole and Barker.
- May 8.—One of Sir W. Stanley's servants (at Hooton) riding at full speed, met a servant of Mr. Watts's, of Binley, also on full gallop, when both refusing to make way, the former and his horse was killed on the spot, and Mr. Watts's servant severely hurt.
- May 22.—The Cheshire militia, commanded by Earl Cholmondeley, embodied.
- June 21.—A gang of coiners discovered in Further Northgate-street; 600lbs. of base copper found, and materials for stamping buried in the garden. The parties made their escape.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

July 31.—Benjamin Catherall and Moses Dod found dead on the river bank, supposed to have been murdered.

Oct. 28.—A human skeleton found in digging in the ground of the old Yacht inn.

1776.

Jan. 12.—A fire in the shop of Miss Washington, milliner, Eastgate-street, which destroyed the greater part of the stock.

April 9.—Rev. J. Wesley preached in the Octagon chapel.

April 28.—Banns of marriage published in St. Oswald's church, between George Harding, aged 104, and Jane Darlington, of Mollington, aged 84.

May 4.—James Knight, for a burglary at Odd Rode, hanged at Boughton.

Sept. 4.—The communication between the canal and the river, near the Water Tower, opened. Sept 21, Christopher Lawless, Isaac Hutchinson, Alexander Solomon, and Isaac Joseph, (the three last Jews) executed for a burglary in the shop of Mr. Pemberton; they were afterwards buried behind the Roodee cop.

1777.

Jan. 24.—Dr. Beilby Porteus elected Bishop of Chester.

Aug. 1.—Light-house erecting at the Point of Air, in this port.

Sept.—Shock of an earthquake felt here.

1778.

April 5.—The city huntsman, for a considerable wager, rode his own horse round the walls in 9½ minutes. —Sarah Sant, for the murder of her bastard child, hanged at Boughton.—During this year, three privateers sailed from this port, viz. the Empress of Russia, of 24 guns and 120 men, the Hero, of 16 guns and 80 men; and the Spy, of ten four-pounders, twelve swivels, and 50 men. The former, after capturing a Swedish ship of 300 tons, was taken by a French frigate, and sent into L'Orient.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

1779.

- March 1.—Two Roman hypocausts found in the Linen-hall field, about three or four feet under ground. Sir John Egerton, of Oulton, had possession of one of them, and the other was accidentally destroyed.
- April 16.—William Ellis executed at Boughton, for a burglary at that place; also William Loom, for discharging a loaded pistol at Charles Warren, of Congleton.
- April 17.—General assembly of Quakers, held in the Linen hall field.
- Aug. 6.—Canal between Chester and Nantwich, opened for the passage of flats.
- Oct. 2.—Sarah Jones executed at Boughton for stealing twenty-eight yards of chintz, from the shop of Mr. Meacock.

1780.

- Feb. 13.—City illuminated in celebration of the victory obtained by Admiral Rodney, over the Spanish Admiral Langer.

1781.

- June 11 and 12.—The Cheshire militia marched hence to Coxheath.
- Aug. 11.—Mr. Topham's skin-warehouses, adjoining the snuff-mill, burnt down.—Judges on the circuit, Lord Kenyon and Daines Barrington.

1782.

- May 8.—A large fish, twenty-five feet long, caught at the Lower Ferry.
- Nov. 17.—Three felons escaped out of the county gaol; two of them retaken in St. Olave's lane, after a desperate resistance.

1783.

- Feb. 23.—The spire of St. Peter's church much damaged by lightning, which struck the weather-cock, and dislocated the masonry.
- May 3.—The Cheshire militia arrived in this city.
- March 1, 3, and 4.—Resolution Heap and Martha Brown, executed at Boughton; the former for a burglary at Whalley, the latter for a burglary at Over

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Whitley. Heap was 70 years of age, and had been twice before condemned.

Sept. 16.—The produce of the musical festival exceeded £600.

1784.

Jan. 1.—A hare, after running through the cathedral, caught in Eastgate-street.

April 16.—Contested election for the representation of this city closed:—the numbers were, Mr. Grosvenor, 713; Mr. Bootle, 626; Mr. Crewe, 480; and Mr. Barnston 38.

April 26.—Execution of Elizabeth Wood, for poisoning James Sinister, of Bredbury.

May 13.—John Oakes, executed at Boughton for coining,

Nov. 8.—George Cooke, the celebrated tragedian, made his first appearance at our theatre, in the character of Hamlet, for the benefit of Mr. Platt. He was announced as a young gentleman, his second appearance on the stage.

1785.

July 5.—The Rev. J. Wesley preached at the Octagon.

Sept. 1.—Mr. French ascended in Lunard's balloon, from the Castle yard, about 4 P.M. and descended at 6, at Macclesfield, 40 miles.

Sept. 7.—Mr. Baldwin ascended in his balloon, from the Castle yard, at half-past 1 P.M. and descended beyond Warrington.

1786.

Feb. 17.—St. Bridget's church repaired, and Bridge-street widened.

April 10, 11.—Mr. Wesley preached in the Octagon chapel.

April 24.—Execution of Peter Steers, for poisoning his wife.

May 6.—Edward Hall executed at Boughton, for a burglary at Knutsford.

Aug. 8.—Trial respecting the charter took place at Shrewsbury.

Aug. 28.—A man ran from the Eastgate to Christleton, and afterwards round the outside of the city walls, in 51 minutes. Distance nearly seven miles.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Sept. 13, 14, 15.—Festival of music; the orchestra for the first time erected near the great west window of the cathedral.

Oct. 1.—Execution of Thomas Buckley, for a burglary, aged 20.

1787.

March 20.—The second corporation trial took place at Shrewsbury, the King *v.* Amery and Monk.—General meeting of the Quakers, held in the field adjoining the old Linen hall.

Nov.—Dr. Beilby Porteus appointed to the see of London.

Dec.—Dr. Cleaver appointed Bishop of Chester.

1788.

March 20.—Howard, the philanthropist, in Chester.

April 21.—A pike, a yard and a quarter long, caught in the river; when brought to the shore it attacked several persons who attempted to kill it.

June 2.—Judgment pronounced by Mr. Justice Ashhurst, in the case of Amery and Monk, for the defendants, which established the charter of Charles II.

June 4.—Hon. Daines Barrington resigned the office of Puisne Justice of Chester; succeeded by F. Burton, Esq.

July 3.—The old Watergate began to be pulled down.

July 4.—Edward Bearcroft appointed Chief Justice of Chester.

Dec. 5.—John Parry, a civil officer, shot by Thomas Mate, in Handbridge, whom he was ordered to arrest.

1789.

Jan. 13.—Fire at the Pied Bull stables, in which the hostler was burnt to death.

Feb. 4.—Execution of Thomas Mate, for the murder of John Parry.

March 16.—The city illuminated in celebration of the King's recovery.

March 28.—A mare, belonging to Mr. Hodson, taking fright, ran with great fury down Wall's lane harnessed to a truck, and breaking down the railing, leaped over the walls on the Roodee, without the least injury.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

July 14, 15.—Mr. Wesley preached in the Octagon chapel.

Sept. 20.—Mrs. Jordan performed here ; she took away, in four nights, about £130.

Sept. 26.—The Dee mills destroyed by fire ; loss supposed to be £4000.

Oct. 10.—A man accidentally killed on Dee bridge, by striking his stick on the lock of the pistol of one of the 3rd dragoons, who was escorting deserters to Shrewsbury.

1790.

April 5.—Mr. Wesley preached at the Octagon.

April 19.—Judgment of the King's Bench, in the case of Amery and Monk, reversed by a resolution of the House of Lords.

June 13.—Lord Belgrave, present Marquis of Westminster, elected representative for Chester, in the room of R. W. Bootle, Esq. who resigned.

Sept. 2.—John Dean, of Stockport, executed for the murder of his wife, with a heavy hand brush ; she was in the 7th month of her pregnancy. He was afterwards hung in chains at Stockport.

1791.

April 18.—Lowndes, the mail robber, tried and convicted ; executed on the 21st.

June.—Cheshire militia embodied ; their parade ground in the Bottoms field.

Sept. 6.—Grand festival of music.

Oct. 8.—Execution of Allen, Aston, and Knocks, for a burglary, at Northen. The gallows was, for the first time, erected on the left hand side the road in Boughton.

1792.

Jan. 25.—The coachman of Mrs Cowper, of Overleigh, taking the carriage, with a pair of horses, down by the toll-house at the bridge, to the river to wash, drove them beyond their depth (the tide then flowing) the footman and horses were drowned ; the coachman clung to the carriage and was saved.

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 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

1793.

- Jan. 9.—Tom Paine burnt in effigy at the cross.
 March 8.—The Cheshire Militia left here for Hull.
 July.—Mr. Perceval (afterwards murdered by Bellingham) attended Knutsford sessions, as council against a man for selling Paine's works.

1794.

- April.—Sir W. W. Wynn's Ancient British regiment of fensible cavalry raised.
 Aug. 20.—Mr. Eddowes embarked for America.

1795.

- Feb. 13.—Death of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. M.P. for this city near 40 years.—Colonel Grosvenor introduced as his successor.
 Feb. 15.—Death of Foster Bower, Esq. recorder.
 April 3.—Not a single prisoner for trial at spring assizes.
 June 8.—Passage boat launched in the new canal for the Mersey.

1796.

- Nov. 10.—Shock of an earthquake felt in Chester.
 May 1.—Execution of Brown and Price, for robbing the mail, near Dunham; afterwards hung in chains at Trafford.
 Nov. 18.—Death of Judge Bearcroft.

1797.

- Oct. 19.—City illuminated in honour of Duncan's victory.
 Oct. 27.—The mayor's feast, formerly held on the first Sunday after his election, abolished by Rowland Jones, mayor.

1798.

- March 15.—The voluntary subscription in Chester, for the defence of the country, amounted to £6214.
 April 30.—John Thornhill, executed for murder.
 May 29.—Arthur O'Connor arrived here in custody, on his way to Dublin.
 July 21.—Death of Hon. Sergeant Adair, Chief Justice of Chester.
 Oct. 4.—The city illuminated, in consequence of Nelson's victory of the Nile.
 Oct. 5.—Execution of Peter Martin, for firing at a boat's crew in the Mersey, in the impress service.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- Oct. 10.—Nag's Head stables (Foregate-street) destroyed by fire : ten fine horses were burnt to death.
- Oct. 26.—Contest for the office of sheriff, between Mr. S. Bennett, and Mr. Edmund Monk ; Mr. Monk withdrew his opposition.
1799.
- July 12.—Munden, Bannister, and Miss Deaken, performing at the theatre.
- July 13.—Sir William Grant resigned the office of Chief Justice of Chester.
- Nov. 7.—Ancient British Fencibles arrived here, preparatory to their being disbanded.
1800.
- April 2.—Dr. Majendie appointed Bishop of Chester.
- May 24.—Execution of Thomas Bosworth, for forgery, and Alexander Morton, for burglary.
- Aug. 1.—Wheat sold in Chester market for 25s. per bushel.
- Oct. 10.—Execution at Boughton, of Mary Lloyd, for forgery, at Stockport.
1801.
- May 9.—Execution of Thompson, Morgan, and Clare, for burglaries. When just arrived opposite the gallows, Clare made a spring out of the cart, and precipitated himself down the hill into the river beneath, into which he immediately plunged, and was drowned. The execution of the other poor fellows was postponed till the body was found, and all were hung up together.
- June 1.—Shock of an earthquake felt here about 2 A. M. in direction from north to south.
- Aug. 2.—Dreadful storm of thunder, lightning, and rain ; Mr. Chamberlain's house, in Smith's Walk, struck by the lightning ; a young woman so frightened by it, as to cause her almost immediate death.
- Oct. 3.—Execution of Aaron Gee and Thomas Gibson, at the new drag, in front of the Northgate gaol, for burglary. On the signal being given, they were propelled out of a window and dropped about 20 inches, their bodies beating against the walls and windows below.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Nov.—City illuminated in consequence of the peace.
 Nov. 30.—Alarm of fire in the theatre ; a great number of people severely bruised.

John Scott Waring, Esq. High Sheriff this year ; he made a splendid cavalcade with his tenants, who were dressed in new liveries.

1802.

Jan. 21.—Dreadful storm of wind. The vanes blown off the churches, and several houses unroofed. The storm was general throughout this part of the kingdom.

March 30.—Five prisoners broke out of the castle.

April 15.—Arrival of the Royal Cheshire Militia from Liverpool.

April 25.—The militia disbanded.

May 10.—Volunteers disbanded at the castle yard.

July 6.—Lord Belgrave and General Grosvenor elected members for the city.

Aug. 5.—Death of Earl Grosvenor ; he was the oldest Alderman of the Corporation of Chester.

Aug. 17.—Remains of Earl Grosvenor passed through the city to Eccleston in grand procession ; 23 carriages formed part of it, in which were the Mayor and Corporation ; and a long train of tenantry on horseback.

Aug. 20.—Drax Grosvenor, Esq. canvassed the city.

Aug. 25.—First court held by the Mayor in the Exchange, after taking down the Pentice at the Cross.

Nov. 26.—Ralph Eddowes in England, on a visit to his friends.

1803.

April 4.—The militia called out, and assembled at the castle.

July 15 —Cooke performing at the theatre.—Quota of the army of reserve for Cheshire, 702.

July 27.—Meeting of the city to raise a volunteer corps.

Sept. 1.—Prince William of Gloucester arrived here.

Sept. 4.—Volunteers inspected on the Roodee by His Royal Highness, who accompanied them to the Cathedral, where the Bishop preached.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- Sept. 5.—A cask, containing coins of William III. to the amount of £800, found by a stone-mason, on Windle-hill, near Parkgate. King William's army encamped there, on its way to Ireland.
- The Corporation, in their corporate and individual capacity, subscribed towards equipping a volunteer corps, £1066 13s. Od.—£3500 raised in Chester for clothing the volunteers.
- Dec. 28.—A rupture between the press-gang, and some individuals of the volunteers.—The Northgate broken open, and a prisoner liberated.
- 1804.
- Feb. 7.—Volunteers inspected by Colonel Cuyler; they mustered 1266.
- March 19.—Colours presented to the Chester volunteers by the Colonel's (Barnston's) lady.
- June 4, 5.—Volunteers marched to Oswestry and Ellesmere.
- July.—Vicary Gibbs, Esq. appointed Chief Justice of Chester.
- Aug. 24.—Trial of the volunteers for the tumult with the press-gang.—Daniel Humphreys found guilty.
- Oct. 26.—Mr. Broster opposed for sheriff by Mr. J. Williamson, in consequence of the part his father took in the squabble with the press-gang.—Mr. Williamson returned sheriff.
- Nov. 2.—The "Young Roscius," (Betty) performing at the theatre.
- 1805.
- Jan. 8.—Parry and Truss's coach-manufactory burnt down.
- May 15.—The volunteers marched to Warrington for 21 days permanent duty.
- Nov. 9.—City illuminated in consequence of Nelson's victory.
- Dec. 10.—Death of Dean Cotton, at Bath.
- 1806.
- Jan. 25.—Rev. Hugh Cholmondeley appointed Dean.
- March 4.—Old buildings at the cross pulled down.
- May 22.—Davies Davenport, Esq. returned for the county, in the room of W. Egerton, Esq. deceased.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- July 28.—Dreadful storm; the mast of a ship at the Crane shivered to pieces by the lightning.
- Aug. 24.—Joseph Crofts, the city beadle, conducting a runaway apprentice to the house of correction, at the Northgate, was pushed down the steps there, and fractured his scull, so that he died on the Wednesday.
- Sept. 24.—Loss of the King George packet, off Hoylake in this port, with 170 passengers on board; only four sailors and the steward were saved.
- Sept. 30.—Festival of music; Mrs. Billington one of the principal singers.
- Oct. 31.—General Grosvenor, and Drax Grosvenor, returned as members for the city.
- Nov. 25.—Snuff mills destroyed by fire.
- 1807.
- Jan. 7.—One of the watchmen, named Boulton, found drowned in the canal locks at the Tower Wharf. Verdict of the inquest—*wilful murder*.
- April 28.—Colonel Hanmer offered himself to the citizens, in the room of Drax Grosvenor.
- Colonel Hanmer retired, May 4; and Mr. John Egerton elected May 6.
- Sept. 18.—Meeting of the corporation, at which Earl Grosvenor declared his determination of opposing Mr. Egerton's election.
- Oct. 23.—Earl Grosvenor elected mayor.
- Nov. 5.—Grand dinner given by Earl Grosvenor, to the corporation, bishop, clergy, military, &c. in the Exchange; 300 dined.—Five convicts made their escape from the castle.
- Nov. 9.—Grand dinner to Mr. Egerton's friends, at the Hotel; Colonel Barnston in the chair, 220 dined.
- Dec. 15.—Grand dinner given by Mr. Egerton to the officers of the volunteers, at Oulton.
- 1808.
- Jan. 1.—Splendid dinner given by Earl Grosvenor, at the Exchange, to 200 persons; a Christmas pie on the table which weighed 154lb!—R. Dallas and F. Burton, Justices of Chester.
- Sept. 27.—King's picture in the council-room (given by

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- Earl Grosvenor) fixed up. The likeness by Gainsborough ; the drapery by Sir Joshua Reynolds.
- Oct. 21.—Mr. Seller proposed, but not elected mayor.
- November.—Chester local militia established, its number 1223 men.
- Nov. 20.—Disturbance at the theatre, in opposition to the song of the *Sixth of May* being sung.
1809.
- Jan. 13.—The sugar house in Cuppin's-lane destroyed by fire.
- Jan. 27.—Fire in Mr. Fletcher's premises, Hop-pole Yard.
- April 5.—Joseph Lancaster lectured on his system of education, in the Exchange.
- May 6.—Execution of William Proudlove and George Glover, the first criminals executed in front of the house of correction, for wounding an officer of excise when on duty at Odd Rode. When the drop fell, the ropes broke, and the poor fellows fell to the ground in a state of strangulation. Soon after they were taken to the drop again, and other ropes being procured, they were hung up effectually.
- May 4.—Chester local militia first assembled.
- July 5.—Union Hall, Foregate-street, first opened.
- Oct.—Dr. F. B. Sparks elected Bishop of Chester.
- Oct. 25.—Celebration of the jubilee on King George III. having reigned 50 years ; an ox roasted, the corporation and all the public bodies went in procession to the cathedral.—Grand ringing match of 5040 changes, at St. John's.
- Oct. 31.—Contested election for the city sheriffs ; Grace 278, Brittain 210.
1810.
- March 22.—Dinners given at the different inns on Lord Grosvenor's birth day.
- April 1.—Grand dinner of Mr. Egerton's friends, at the hotel ; 372 present.
- May 2.—Execution of Thomas Done, for the murder of Betty Eckersley, at Lymn.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- July 10.—Rowton and Morhall's bank stopped payment.
- Aug. 22.—Prince of Orange in Chester.
- Sept. 22.—Trial of George Taylor, Alexander M'Gregor, John Evans, William Gill, John Gough, and James Arnett, for a riot in the theatre: they were all found guilty.
- Oct. 10.—Execution of Smith and Clarke, for breaking into and robbing the shop of Mr. Fletcher, watch-maker, at the Eastgate. They both died impatiently.
- Nov. 9.—Piece of plate, value 150gs. holding about two gallons, presented by the officers of the local militia, to Colonel Barnston.
- 1811.
- Jan. 1.—Grand dinner by the mayor, General Grosvenor, at the exchange.—A Christmas pie was on the table, weighing 200lbs.
- March 24.—Scaffolding erecting for taking down the spire of Trinity church.
- Sept.—Earl Grosvenor presented two elegant full-length portraits of himself and his noble father, to the corporation, which were placed in the council chamber.
- Dec. 5.—Parry and Truss's coach manufactory again burnt down.
- 1812.
- Feb. 6.—First application for a mandamus against the Mayor of Chester, refused by the court of King's Bench.
- April.—Arrival of a great number of Luddites at the castle, escorted by the Ashton Hayes cavalry.
- June 5.—Execution of Temple and Thompson, for rioting.
- June 23.—Arrival of Dr. Law, the new bishop.
- Aug. 14.—Edith Murray and John Lomas tried and convicted of murdering the husband of the former.
- Aug. 21.—Execution of John Lomas. The execution of E. Murray was postponed, she pleading pregnancy.
- Oct. 8.—Great contest for the city representation, which

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

lasted 11 days ; at the close of the poll the numbers were

For General Grosvenor	627
Mr. Egerton	602
Sir Richard Brooke	572
Mr. Townshend.....	537

1813.

April 23.—Edith Murray executed for the murder of her husband. She met her death with great hardihood.

June.—Mr. Webb, the philanthropist, in Chester.

June 26.—Execution of William Wilkinson, James Yarwood, and William Burgess, for a rape on Mary Porter, near Weston Point, Runcorn.

Oct. 1.—Simeon Beaton, William Beaton, and James Renshaw, executed for a burglary at Henbury.

Nov. 5.—The mayor, Sir W. W. Wynn, gave a magnificent entertainment in the exchange, to above 200 persons. A baron of beef decorated the table, weighing above 500lbs.

Dec.—Mrs. Jordan performing at the theatre.

1814.

May 25.—William Wilson, aged 70, executed for arson, committed at Tiverton, near Tarporley. He died with great hardihood.

June 17.—The city illuminated in consequence of the peace. In fastening up the lamps at the new bank, a stone was displaced, which fell upon a fine young woman below, and fracturing her skull, her death ensued.

July 7.—General thanksgiving for the peace ; the corporation, free-masons, and other public bodies, went in procession to the cathedral.

Aug. 15.—Grand fete given to Lords Combermere and Hill, for their gallant services in the wars of the Peninsula and France.

Sept.—A man named George Post, who had been convicted by false evidence, of highway robbery, and was to have been executed on the 24th, received a respite, and afterwards a free pardon.

Sept. 26.—Festival of music held in the cathedral ; principal singers, Braham and Catalani.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Nov.—St. Mary's church-yard inclosed with iron railing.
1815.

March 8.—Frances Buller, aged 65, a respectable woman from Newton-in-the-Willows, found dead on the bank of the river, near the Sluice-house, with her skull fractured, and other marks of violence upon her person. Coroner's inquest returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

April.—Execution of Griffith and Wood, for burglary.

April 23.—Kean the tragedian's first appearance at the Chester theatre, in the character of Richard III.

Sept. 23.—Earl of Chester's legion of yeomanry cavalry, commanded by Sir J. F. Leicester, Bart. 450 strong, on duty here.

1816.

March.—Ann Moore, the celebrated *fasting* woman, confined in the castle, for a robbery at Stockport; during her confinement she *miraculously* recovered her appetite.

April 21.—The body of Samuel Williams, collector of the Northgate tolls, found in the canal, under the old house of correction. It was supposed he had been murdered.

May 24.—Warehouse of Mr. Whittell, roper, on the Roodee, destroyed by fire.

July 4.—The mayor, J. Cotgreave, Esq. received the honour of knighthood.

Aug. 6.—A gallery erected in the shire hall, for the accommodation of the county magistrates, &c.

Sept. 4.—The different lodges of Freemasons went in procession from the Feathers Inn to Boughton, from whence they went in carriages to assist the P. G. M. in the ceremony of laying the key-stone of the steeple arch of Delamere church.

1817.

Jan. 4.—The Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, (the present emperor) who had been making a tour of the northern part of England, visited Chester. On the following day his highness inspected our walls, and several public buildings, and in the evening set off for Wynnstay.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

A subscription of £1500 raised in aid of the poor during the severity of the season.

Feb. 28.—Public meeting held at the town-hall, at which a petition to the house of commons was agreed upon, against renewing the law for suspending the *habeas corpus* act.

March 13.—A coach, escorted by a strong body of the Earl of Chester's cavalry, arrived at the castle, with 21 men, charged with treasonable practices at Heaton Norris.

June 3.—A serious fire in the ship yard of Mr. Courtney, near the Crane.

A King and Constitution Club established in Chester ; Colonel Barnston, president.

Oct. 20.—A savings' bank established in Chester.

Nov. 19.—This being the day for the funeral of the Princess Charlotte, the shops were closed, and all business suspended.

A second attempt was made this year to establish a third newspaper, on whig principles ; it was well supported for a time by a party of city and county gentlemen, but at last, in November, 1823, it died a natural death.

1818.

This year was only distinguished by a contest for the city, in which the candidates were, on the one side Lord Belgrave and General Grosvenor, and on the other Sir J. G. Egerton and Mr. J. Williams, on the final close of the poll, the numbers were—

Lord Belgrave	813
General Grosvenor	737
Sir J. G. Egerton	607
J. Williams, Esq.....	522

1819.

Jan.—Gas lights introduced into the streets.

March 6.—This night being Saturday, a little before twelve o'clock, a dreadful fire broke out in an upper story of the Dee Mills, which raged with resistless fury, till the whole of that large fabric,

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

with its contents, were consumed, notwithstanding the most vigorous efforts were made to subdue its rage; one life was lost. The destruction of property has been estimated at £40,000.

March 15.—A public meeting held at the Town-hall, when a petition to parliament was adopted for the erection of a new bridge.

May 10.—General Grosvenor presented by the citizens with a piece of plate, for his long parliamentary services.

Oct. 16.—Prince Leopold, consort of our beloved Princess Charlotte here, when he was presented with the freedom of the city.

1820.

Jan.—A subscription entered into by the higher orders for the suffering poor in the city, during the inclemency of the season, to which the Marquis of Westminster contributed £100.

April 15.—Jacob M'Ghinnis, a radical reformer, executed for shooting Mr. Birch, a constable at Stockport; he died with great penitence, confessing his guilt.

April 22.—Thomas Miller executed for a burglary at Bowden.

June 16.—The Court of King's Bench granted a rule for a criminal information against Mr. Williamson, late mayor, for refusing to admit several individuals to their freedom during the late election.

Sept. 16.—Execution of Ralph Ellis, for a burglary at Elton, and William Ricklington, for setting fire to the rectory-house at Coddington.

Dec.—The Duke of Wellington, entertained with a grand dinner at the Exchange, at which also was present Lords Combermere, Hill, and Kenyon, Sir W. W. Wynn, with a number of other distinguished individuals.

In this year a whig club was established for Cheshire and North Wales.

1821.

Jan. 13.—Fire broke out at the lead-works, which however, was got under without much injury.

May 5.—Execution of Samuel Healey, for a highway robbery at Stockport.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

June 11.—The coronation of George IV. splendidly celebrated in this city.

Sept. 25.—Grand Festival of Music at the Cathedral, which yielded a handsome sum to our public charities.

Oct.—Was a time of bustle and conflict among our corporation and anti-corporators, two mayors, and two sets of aldermen and common councilmen were chosen; but the independent party were subsequently ousted.

1822.

March 24.—The Sunday evening lecture at St. Mary's church established. Present lecturer, the Rev. Thomas Harrison.

March 31.—Samuel Yate Benyon, Esq. Recorder of Chester, died in London.

May 4.—William Tongue, for a rape on an infant, and George Groom, for a highway robbery of a man named Joseph Kinnerley, executed.

June 29.—A most afflictive accident happened by the bursting of a steam boiler in Cuppin-street, belonging to Mr. Boulton, tobacco manufacturer. The explosion was terrific, and instantly laid a considerable portion of the premises in ruin, and the windows of the adjoining houses were also shattered. Mr. Boulton and three of his men, were so dreadfully injured, that they all died in a few days afterwards.

In this year a great bustle in the city for erecting market-halls; public meetings were held, committees appointed, reports made, but all ended in smoke! Scheme also proposed for establishing a station for steam-packets to Dublin, at Dawpool; after a variety of attempts, the project was finally abandoned.

Sept. 4.—Execution of Thomas Brierley, for a highway robbery near Congleton.

Dec. 5.—One of the most tremendous storms of wind ever known; between nine and ten at night, the wind at north-west, the relentless gusts gave melancholy note of the approaching devastation;

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

the sky was pitchy dark, and the spirit of the storm rode in tremendous majesty; the rain descending in torrents. The anxieties and alarms of that horrific night, will never be obliterated from the recollection of those who witnessed its wide spreading desolation. There was no neighbourhood, nor scarcely a habitation, but what was either the scene of ruin, or their inmates placed within hearing of falling chimnies, the bursting in of roofs, the beating in of windows, or the confused noise of broken fragments descending upon the pavements. The storm raged with unceasing fury until about three o'clock in the morning, when it happily abated, and a scene of desolation presented itself which cannot easily be described. The storm was equally violent in Liverpool, where many houses were blown down, and where numerous lives were lost. Among the calamities of the dreadful night, was the wreck or the Prince Regent packet, plying between Liverpool and Ellesmere port; the packet sailed from the pier head for the latter place about three o'clock in the afternoon, with from 22 to 24 persons on board, including the crew. The vessel, however, made very little progress, as the tide was ebbing, and about five o'clock, when she was near Eastham, the gale had very much increased. Darkness had come on, the vessel become unmanageable, and after the most arduous exertions on the part of the captain (Dimond) and the crew, the boat sunk in deep water, about two in the morning. Previous to the vessel's going down, she was within about 70 yards of land, which three or four of the passengers made by jumping out of her. The rest left in the vessel, among whom was the captain, (about fourteen or fifteen persons) were all drowned. The disasters of that dreadful night on the coast, were truly appalling.

1823.

Feb. 24.—The coach manufactory of Mr. Parry, in Fore-

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

gate-street, *for the third time* completely destroyed by fire. The whole building, with its contents, were burnt down in two hours.

- April 14.—Execution of Samuel Fallows, for the murder of his sweetheart, at Disley.
- April 26.—Great rejoicings in the city on the birth of a son to Lord Viscount Belgrave. A fine ox was roasted on the Roodee, and twenty barrels of ale distributed to the populace; in the evening there was a splendid display of fire-works.
- May 13.—A young gentleman, of the name of Yate, drowned by the upsetting of his boat in the Dee, opposite the Groves.
- May 20.—Execution of John Kragon, for a rape on an infant at Stockport.
- Sept. 13.—Execution of Edward Clarke, for a highway robbery at Stockport.
- Sept. 30.—The coming of age of R. H. Barnston, son and heir of Colonel Barnston, celebrated in the city with lively demonstrations of attachment. A fine ox was roasted on the Roodee, and 21 barrels of ale distributed. Eighteen fine sheep were roasted at so many public houses, where the friends of the family dined.
- 1824.
- April 21.—Execution of Joseph Dale, for the murder of Mr. Wood, near Disley. He had been convicted at the preceding assizes, but execution was deferred in order to take the opinion of the judges on a point of law. He died with great composure.
- June 7.—Mr. Sadler ascended in his balloon from the castle yard; he descended near Utkinton, from whence he returned to Chester the same evening.
- June 28.—A most frightful accident happened at the Lower Ferry, on the Dee. A party who had been witnessing a regatta there, crossed the river at eleven o'clock at night, and being somewhat elated with liquor, they ran the boat violently against a vessel on the other side; the boat instantly upset, and thirteen of the party were drowned.

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

- Sept. 2.—The coach manufactory of Mr. Parry, in Fore-gate-street, for the *fourth time* destroyed by fire.
1825.
- At the spring assizes in this year, a cause was tried, which in its results, went to establish the right of strangers to carry on business within the city without being compelled to purchase their freedom.
- June.—A number of our “*No Popery*” citizens presented two fine cheeses, one to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and the other to the Bishop of the Diocese, for their determined opposition to the catholic claims. The Duke’s present weighed 132lbs. and the Bishop’s nearly as much: they were fine specimens of the staple commodity of the county.
- June.—The act for erecting the new bridge over the Dee, &c. passed both houses of Parliament this month.
- During this year, a new steam packet was built by a number of tradesmen, to ply between Chester and Flint; it proved a losing concern, and in December in the following year, it was brought to the hammer.
1826.
- April 26.—Execution of Phillip M’Gowan, for the robbery of an inoffensive man, near Disley, and Abraham Stone, for a robbery near Cow-lane bridge, under circumstances of great violence. On this occasion, the apparatus for execution was removed from the east to the west end of the city gaol, where these melancholy spectacles have ever since been exhibited.
- May 4.—Charitable assembly for the starving Macclesfield silk weavers; it produced, including £100 from the Marquis of Westminster, and £50 from Lord and Lady Belgrave, the sum of £540.
- May.—The Chester water-works bill this month passed through both houses of parliament.
- June.—In this month the citizens had another delectable treat, in the shape of a contested election for the representation, in which Lord Belgrave and the

 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

Hon. Robert Grosvenor were the successful candidates.

Aug. 26.—John Green executed for burglary.

Dec. 9.—The body of a young man, named Thomas Reeves, was discovered in that part of the canal nearly opposite the Phœnix Tower, and not more than a yard from the shore, on the towing-path side. The circumstance of a severe wound on the head, the tattered appearance of some parts of his apparel, and above all, the finding his hat upon the walls, at the distance of about eighty yards from the place opposite to which he was found, naturally suggested a suspicion that, after a struggle with some murderous villains, he had been thrown over the parapet wall.

1827.

Oct.—First stone of the new bridge laid by the Marquis of Westminster, attended by the bishop, clergy, the corporation, and a vast number of citizens.

1828.

July 24, and 25.—Excessive fall of rain, and hail, which did immense injury in the city and neighbourhood. About 15 yards of the city walls, between the Abbey-street and the Phœnix Tower, fell down with a terrible crash, the earth having been completely excavated and washed away by the descending torrents; vast quantities of hay and other agricultural produce was swept down the Dee, much cattle was drowned on the sands, and the roads out of the city were completely inundated.

Sept. 30.—A dreadful fire in the oil and drug warehouse of Mr. Thomas Bowers, Northgate-street. It was late at night before it was discovered, and it raged with great fury till the morning. The building was destroyed, with its contents; and some injury done to the adjoining premises.

1829.

March 7.—Dreadful accident at the officers' barracks, adjoining the castle. On that day Lieut. L. W. Halstead, who had been absent from his regiment, dined at the mess; in the course of the evening he

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 INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

advanced to one of the windows, through which he fell into the castle field beneath, a height of 16 yards. He lingered a few days, when he expired, and was interred with military honours in the cathedral.

May 9.—John Proudlove executed for highway robbery, and John Leir for burglary, in the house of the Rev. Matthew Bloor, attended with aggravated circumstances of violence.

Sept. 26.—Execution of Joseph Woodhouse, for a rape on his own daughter, and Joseph Henshall, for firing at the keepers, while poaching on the grounds of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

In the autumn of this year we had another splendid festival of music; a new feature in this meeting was a fancy dress ball, held at the Royal Hotel, which commanded an immense company, the proceeds of which was added to that of the oratorios, in aid of the public charities.

1830.

No public events or occurrences, this year, presented any thing deserving of public record, if we omit the demise of George IV. which necessarily led to a new election of our city members. Lord Belgrave having offered himself as one of the county representatives, the new candidate for the city was Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, who was returned without opposition; and with this item we take leave to conclude our chronological series.

 ROMAN AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES,

Found in Chester.

At the time when Mr. Pennant wrote his *Tours in Wales*, about the year 1778, several monuments of antiquity had been discovered, which were sufficiently indicative of the residence of the Roman Legions within the city; but since his publication, numerous other evidences of the same fact have been brought to light; and,

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

indeed, it seldom happens at this day, but some relics of the olden times are discovered, whenever the foundations of ancient buildings are dug up. In the following list of Chester antiquities are comprehended all those that have been recorded by former writers; to which numerous others are added, which have been brought within the author's personal cognizance.

1. The first inscription discovered here, of which there is any knowledge, commemorative of the 20th Roman Legion, was in the year 1653, on an altar found in Forest-street; and is now among the Arundelian marbles at Oxford. The back plain, on one side a *præferculum*, and on the other an uncommon *patera*. A piece of iron had been fixed upon the top within the *thuribulum*. The inscription when perfect, was—

I. O. M. TANARO
T. ELVPIVS. GALER
PRAESENS. GVNTA
PRI. LEG. XX. V.V.
COMMODO. ET. LATERANO.
COS.
V. S. L. M.

i. e. *Jovi Optimo Maximo Tanaro Titvs Elupius Galeria (tribu) Præsens Guntia primipus (or præfactus) legionis vicesimæ Valentis Victricis Commodo et laterano Consulibus Votum Solvit libens merito*. It was first published by Selden and Prideaux, in their *Marmora Arundeliana*; then in Dr. Gale's *Antoninus*, p. 3. The epithet of *Tanarus*, which occurs only here, is equivalent to *Tonars*. Prideaux and Gale read *Præces* instead of *præsens*; but Horseley says, the N was too plain to admit of this alteration. He supposed *Præsens* another name of the dedicator. But he forgot he had but the *tribu* between these names. We must, therefore, probably read *Galerius*. *Guntia* expresses his country, which some took for *Gwinedha*, or *North Wales*, but professor Ward for *Guntia*, in *Vindelicia*. The date is A. D. 154, A. U. 906, when Lucius Aurelius Verus, surnamed Commodus, was consul with Sextelius Lateranus under Antonius Pius.

2. An altar, found in digging a cellar for Mr. Heath, near the Eastgate; the stone was about two feet square,

 ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

and was lying with the inscription, of which the following is a transcript, downwards :—

PRO. SAL. DOMIN
 (ORV)M. NN. INVI
 CITISSIONORVM
 AVGG. GENIO LOCI
 FLAVIVS. LONG(VS)
 TRIB. MIL. LEG. XX (VV)
 LONGINUS. FIL
 (E)IVS. DOMO
 SAMOSATA
 V. S.

i. e. *Pro salute Dominorum nostorum invictissimorum Augustorum Genio Loci Flavius tribunus militum Legionis Vicesimæ (Victricis et) Longinus filius ejus domo Samosata votum solverunt.* Horseley supposes the emperors, on whose account it was erected, to have been Diocletian and Maximian. On the back of the altar is represented a curtain with a festoon, over which is a globe surrounded with palm branches. On one side is a vase with two handles, from which issue acanthus leaves supporting a basket of fruit; on the other side is a genius with a cornucopiæ in his left hand, and an altar on his right. On the top of the altar is a human face within the thuribulum. Around it were found the marks of sacrifice; heads, horns, and bones of the ox, roe-buck, &c. and with them two coins; one of Vespasian in brass, with his head, inscribed IMP. CAES. VESP. AUG. COSS. III. and on the reverse, VICTORIA AUGUSTI S. C. and a winged Victory standing. The other was of copper, inscribed round the head of Constantius, FL. VAL. CONSTANTIVS NOB. C.; and on the other side GENIO POPULI ROMANI; alluding to a genius holding in one hand a sacrificing bowl, in the other a cornucopiæ.

3. An altar found in the Watergate-street, in 1779, still preserved in the grounds of Oulton-park. This beautiful altar is addressed by the family and freemen of a certain person, FORTUNÆ REDUCI ET ESCULAPIO. The inscription, with a few restorations, is as follows :—

FORTVNÆ. REDVCI
 ESCVLAP. ET. SALVTI EIVS,
 LIBERT. ET. FAMILIA

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

(CAII) PONTII. T. F. CAL. MAMILIANI
 RVFI (A)NTISTIANI. FVNINSVANI
 VETTO(NIA)NI. LEG. AVG:
 D. D.

On the sides are the emblems of those deities, and various sacrificial instruments. This is also in possession of the Oulton family.

4. Another Roman altar in excellent preservation was found in a field at Boughton, between the Tarvin and Christleton turnpike-roads, in the year 1821. It is four feet high, and bears the following inscription:—

NYMPHIS
 ET
 FONTIBUS
 LEG. XX.
 V. V.

Thus rendered into English—"To the Nymphs and Fountains, the 20th Legion, the invincible and victorious."

This valuable piece of antiquity was purchased by Earl Grosvenor, who erected a small Gothic temple for its reception, in his fine grounds at the east front of Eaton-hall, where it still remains.

5. Dr. Gale gives an inscription (Antonini) noticed also by Selden, and in the Appendix to the *Marmora Oxoniensia*, which he states to have been found at Chester:

DEAE
 NYMPHÆ
 BRIG

6. The next is a statue, in possession of the late Rev. Mr. Prescott, of Stockport, with a *Phrygian* bonnet on his head, a little mantle across his shoulders, and a short jacket on his body. He is placed standing, with a torch in his hands declining. This is supposed to have been *Mithras*, or the sun; a deity borrowed from the Persians, and much in vogue among the Romans in the second and third century. An inscription, DEO SOLI MITRÆ, has been discovered in Cumberland. The *Phrygian* bonnet marks him for a foreign deity. The declining torch shews the funebrious occasion of this stone.

7. In 1788 was discovered, in digging foundations in

 ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

the market-place a fragment of slate, on which was cut the figure of a *Retiarius*; a species of gladiator, who fought furnished with a trident and a net; with the last he entangled his adversary, with the trident he slew him.

Movet ecce tridentem

Postquam vibrata pendentia retia dextra
Nequicquam effudet—*Juvenal.*

His antagonist was called *Secutor*. He was armed with a long shield, and a dagger; and seems to have been sure of victory, in case the *Retiarius* missed his throw. The stone is so mutilated, that only part of the shield of the *Secutor* is preserved. This relic is in the possession of Henry Potts, Esq.; and so curious was it thought by Mr. Pennant, that he informs us he procured a cast in plaster from the stone.

8. Mr. Horseley mentions another stone, discovered in digging a cellar in Watergate-street, in 1729. The inscription is so imperfect, that he ingenuously confesses, that without the aid of fancy, it cannot be made out.

9. A tessellated pavement was discovered near the site of the Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary, in making some recent alterations at the castle a few years ago, which was unfortunately destroyed by the workmen. In noticing this old relique, a gentleman observes, "When nearly every morsel was gone, I had the curiosity to see what was *under* it. There was broken grotted rubble; the remains of a knife, quite swelled out with corrosion, and a feather or large quill, perfect, but blackened as with fire."

10. There was a Roman altar, with the thuribulum perfect, and prettily cut and grooved, found on the north-west angle of St. Bridget's new church, where the plantation stands; there was no inscription on it; it was in the possession of W. H. Henderson, Esq. by whom it was presented to Colonel Barnston. Near it at the same time was thrown up a medal of silver, or white metal, 'Neptunus et Pallas,' with Neptune on the obverse, and a vessel, and figures on the reverse; a deal of broken tiling, with a LEG. XX. VV.; some crockery of the finer red clay, with figures, and several stamped with the

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

maker's name. "It struck me," says the gentleman who communicated the above, "that at that spot there had formerly been a temple, that it was the nearest temple to what was the landing place from the sea, and it was dedicated to Neptune." A leaden lamp and an iron key (such an one as is engraved in Pennant, found near Flint) were also found, and given to Colonel Barnston." The same gentleman adds, "I gave a Roman *Fibula* to the late Mr. Nicholls, who I imagine had a good collection."

11. In 1813, several vases and lamps and a demi figure habited in a sacerdotal costume, were found at Netherlegh, within the city liberties, near the line of the Watling-street, in sinking a cellar at the residence of Sir John Cotgreave. The vases were of red clay, and arranged in cells a little below the surface, each cell containing four or six vases. Some of them contained ashes, and in others the lamps (which were of white hard clay) were deposited. One alone was got up unbroken, which was presented to, and is now in the possession of Earl Grosvenor. The broken fragments, together with the lamps, were presented by Sir John to W. M. Henderson, Esq. of the castle. Since the above, several other memorials of antiquity have been dug up near this mansion, as Roman fasces, spears, rudely sculptured stones, a spear head, part of an ancient spur, and a GUN-LOCK partaking of the style of the 16th CENTURY.

12. The Roman streets are traced by the existence of pavements below the four principal streets, which are occasionally laid bare, and in some places cut through the rock on which the city stands, from three to four feet below the natural level of the ground.

13. In digging up the ground for building the new Linen-hall were found several Roman bricks about 18 inches long, and 12 inches in breadth; they had each of them an edge turned upon each side, raised an inch above the surface of the brick. One of them had the following inscription impressed:—LEG. XX. V.V. *Legio Viccesimo Velens Victrix*. At the same time there were found upwards of twenty Roman pieces of money, but the inscriptions and the figures were so obliterated, that very little could be made from them, excepting two,

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

which were of the first order, particularly one of Nero, of the large copper.

14. At the back of a smith's shop, at present occupied by Mr. Fowlds, nearly under the Feathers Hotel, in Bridge-street, are preserved, in a tolerably perfect state, the remains of a hypocaust, and of a sweating bath, much in use among the Romans, as a superlative luxury. The entrance of the hypocaust is in height six feet, grooved round the outside probably for the falling into it of an iron door. The breadth of the entrance is two feet nine inches. The length of the hypocaust in the inside is fifteen feet. The depth is six feet seven inches. There is a room twice as large as the hypocaust, surrounded with a strong stone wall, which you go through and afterwards ascend some broad steps to the hypocaust. When the machine for the weighing of coals (now removed) was erected, part of the angle of a Roman building was pulled up at that time, which was undoubtedly one end of the bath; from thence to the hypocaust is thirty-five feet, and according to the rules of architecture in *Vitruvius*, thirty-five feet more for the building must be allowed on the other side of the hypocaust, for the hypocaust was always placed in the centre of the building, and the *depth* of the building must have been not less than sixty feet. In the hypocaust there are thirty-two square pillars; the height of each is three feet; top and bottom twelve inches square, the middle part nine inches. There are four rows of pillars, the bottom is covered with thick brick tiles, laid in cement of a great thickness; the pillars support large square tiles, fixed in cement.—The upper part of the hypocaust has several rows of vents or spiracula, to convey the heat upwards, and at the sides, into the tubes of iron or copper, for the use of the hot and warm baths, and the different *Sudertoria*. The wall, which is stone, surrounding the hypocaust, is two feet in thickness.

15. Another hypocaust was discovered in Watergate-street, in January, 1779, but apparently of greater extent, which is thus described by Mr. Pennant:—"It contained two sudatories; one smaller, having only ten pillars on two sides, and a vacant space in the middle.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

Adjoined to it was a small apartment, with the walls plastered, which probably was the room in which the slave stood, who supplied the place with fuel. Before these was a large chamber, with a tessalated pavement of black, white, and red tiles, about an inch square. On the further side was a subterraneous passage, possibly a drain. Adjoining to this is a sudatory, resembling that within the Feathers Inn; and beyond that is a small apartment, floored with tiles, four inches and a half by two and a half, set edge-ways. The large perforated tiles for conveying the steam, and the layers of mortar, the pillars, and other particulars, were found here as in the former." These were removed to Oulton Park.

16. A Roman *Fibula*, or brooch, gilt and enamelled, with deep blue in front. This ancient relique was found about six years ago, when sinking a cellar underneath the shop occupied by Mr. Richard Weaver, grocer, on the north side of Eastgate-street. On comparing this antique with a drawing and description by Mr. Pennant, in his tours in Wales, I find it to correspond in every particular, both in form, size, and colour, with that which he has given.

17. A brass *Pin*, about three inches long, very much resembling the Roman *Stylus*, and probably that instrument, found on sinking the ground at Martin's Ash.

18. A *Lachrymatory*,* about six inches high, of cream-coloured clay, found in 1817, on sinking a cellar, at the house on the south-east end of Seller-street; and at the same time and place, were dug up several copper-coins of Vespasian.

* The *Lachrymatory* is certainly entitled to a high degree of antiquity, and is supposed to be alluded to by the Psalmist (Ps. lvi. 8.) in the following words, *Put thou my tears in thy bottle*. Dr. A. Clarke, in his commentary on these words, says, "Here is an allusion to a very ancient custom, which we know long obtained among the Greeks and Romans, of putting tears which were shed for the death of any person into small phials, called *Lachrymatories*, or *Urne Lachrymales*, and offering them on the tomb of the deceased. Some of these were of glass, some of pottery, and some of agate, sardonyx, &c. A small one in my own collection is of hard baked clay."

 ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

[The three last antiques are in the possession of Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith.]

19. Another *Lachrymatory*, of a smaller size, formed of red clay, about four inches high, found in Foregate-street, in 1826.

20. A Roman *Urn*, of a similar material, found in a field at Boughton, near the junction of the Roman road to Mancunium and Midislanum (Chesterton in Staffordshire) in the beginning of the present century.

21. A Roman *Tile*, measuring about 9 inches by 4, in fine preservation, bearing the inscription, in bas relief, LEG. XX. V. V.

[The reliques No. 19 to 21 are in the possession of Mr. S. Gardner, of Eastgate-street.]

Coins in the possession of Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith.

22. A large brass Roman coin of Hadrian in fine preservation; obverse, the emperor's head, *Legend, Adrianus Aug. Cos. IIII. P.*; on the reverse, a genius holding in one hand a sacrificing bowl, and in the other a cornucopiæ, with the initials S. C. This coin was found in Linenhall-street, about five years ago.

23. A silver coin of Augustus Cæsar; on the reverse a star and crescent; found in a garden near Boughton, in 1828.

24. Another of Antoninus Pius; found in Windmill-lane, in 1829.

25. Another of Hadrian, in fine preservation, found in the Tower-field, about fourteen years ago.

26. Another of Julia, found in Mr. Potts's garden, in Watergate-street.

27. A silver coin of Canute the Dane, coined at Derby, found in Bridge-street, in 1830.

The following scarce coins were lately in the possession of Mr. S. Gardner:—

28. A colonial coin of second brass, found within the Watergate; on the obverse, the heads of Julius and Augustus, inscribed IMP. & DIVI. F.; on the reverse, the conquest of Egypt is represented by the figure of a crocodile, (an animal at that period considered altogether

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

peculiar to that country) which is chained to a palm tree, at once a native of the country and symbolic of victory.—[Julius Cæsar was slain forty years before Christ; Augustus began to reign 28 years before Christ.]

29. A silver coin, found near Stanley-place; obverse, an eagle between trophies, inscribed LEG. XX.; reverse, a Roman galley.

30. Another, found near Netherlegh-house; obverse IMP. CÆSAR VESPASIANVS AUG.; reverse, a figure with the hands chained on the back, sitting on the ground near a palm-tree, inscribed IVDAEA.

31. A gold coin, found in making the foundations of the castle; obverse, IMP. COES. VESP. AVG. CEN.; reverse, a figure with an olive branch, standing by an altar, inscribed PAX. AVG.

32. A gold coin found in Boughton; obverse, IMP. CAES. NERVA. TRAIAN. AVG. GERM.; reverse, a figure with an instrument of sacrifice, inscribed P. M. T. R. P. Cos. IIII. P. P.

33. A gold coin, found in the Nuns Gardens, of Faustina the elder, wife of Antoninus Pius; obverse, the portrait, inscribed DIVA FAUSTINA; reverse, a female figure, inscribed AVGVSTA.—[This coin is in a very fine state of preservation; the portrait is beautifully executed: the hair is fastened in many wreaths to the top of the head, and ornamented with pearls or beads.]

34. A large brass coin, found at the Eastgate; obverse, T. Caes. Vespasian. imp. Pon. Tr. Pot. Cos. VI.; reverse, ANNONA AVGVST. S. G.—[The emperor Titus having occasion to import a large supply of corn during a scarcity at Rome, that supply, or the ANNONA is finely represented as a sedate lady with a cornucopiæ in her left hand; in her right hand, over a basket filled with wheat, she holds a little image of Equity, known by her scales and pointless spear. Behind the ANNONA is the prow of a ship decked with flowers, to indicate, that the corn was brought by sea (from Africa) and that the ship had had a prosperous voyage.]

35. A gold coin, found in a field near Smith's-walk, Nicholas-street; obverse, the portrait, inscribed NERO CÆSAR, AUGUSTUS; reverse, a figure in a sitting posture, the legend, SALVS.

 ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

An old arch, called the *Ship-gate*, or *Hole in the Wall*, has been already noticed as of Roman-origin, and it has always been so deemed by our best antiquarians. This venerable erection was situated on a part of the walls which it was necessary to pull down, in order to their diversion nearer to the river, by which Skinner-street was inclosed by them. In April, 1831, the old arch was removed, but I am happy to say, that its materials, and even its form, will be preserved, being removed to the garden of J. F. Maddock, Esq. behind his house in Abbey-square, where it is re-erected.

Another piece of antiquity, decidedly Roman, has also been adduced, in our account of the old Eastgate, where, in the middle of the gates, fronting the east, there was a statute, ten feet from the ground, cut upon one large stone in alto relievo, grooved or fixed into the gate by a kind of dove-tail work, and could not weigh less than half a ton. It has been stated by several writers that this curious antique was afterwards honoured with a station in the garden of a Mr. Lawton, but what has since become of it I have not been able to learn.

SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES.—On the site of some new buildings, which now stand between Grosvenor-street and Cuppin-street, formerly stood that old edifice, called *Lamb Row*, beneath which I conjecture that there was anciently a subterraneous passage. In the *Polichronicon*, the existence of these passages is maintained, and Stukeley, in his Itinerary, supports this hypothesis. Mr. Penant, however, seems to doubt the fact, but without giving satisfactory reasons for his opinion, beyond this, that he had never been able to discover any of these hollow ways. Upon application to an intelligent gentleman for information on the subject of the *Lamb Row*, and the passage found under it, I received the following account, which I give in that gentleman's own words:—"I have been informed that the building was formerly the residence of one of the celebrated Randle Holmes, as a slight corroboration of which, I found a stone in one of the walls,

H.

inscribed R. M. ; and it appears by the corporation books, 1609,

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

that on the 10th January, 1667, Randle Holme was fined £3. 6s. 8d. for contemptuously proceeding with his building in Bridge-street, contrary to Mr. Mayor's command. This, I suppose, was the young Randle Holme, and one would incline to believe, that the order applied to some alteration at the Lamb Row, as none but an antiquarian would have put together such an heterogenous jumble of antiquity as it presented at the time it fell; and the tremendous overhanging of the upper story fully justified the infliction of a penalty, even in those times, when deformity and obstruction seemed to be the order of the day. The present building is retired from its original front about eleven feet, and the overhanging projected into Bridge-street upwards of ten feet more in some parts, making a projection of 21 feet from the present site—a fact which we can hardly reconcile to credibility, though so recently witnessed. The old building formed a square, with an area of about 14 feet by 30 in the centre, partly galleried round, and on the north side was a large room open to the roof, with an immense fire-place. It had undergone the vicissitudes of a private house, an inn, a chapel, a theatre, a mart for the sale of Welsh salt butter, a leather maket, a currier's workshop, and a common lodging-house, besides the various occupants of the ground story in retail shops. It is not possible now to say at what period the old wood building was erected, as I fancy it must have been of a date nearly a century antecedent to that inscribed on the stone before alluded to; but previous to that erection, there had evidently been a stone building on the spot of considerable magnitude, probably connected with the adjacent church, as in enlarging the cellars, we came to the foundation of a stone pillar about four feet high, and five feet in diameter, covered over with rubbish, and unattached to any walls of the building, though nearly in the centre of it. There is a singular excavation running through the whole building to the extent of upwards of 100 feet, and not terminating at either extremity of the premises. It is perhaps a branch of one of those subterraneous ways, alluded to in our ancient histories; it is uniformly through its whole extent about five feet wide and 16 feet deep in the rock, as I

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.

have ascertained with iron rods, and in one place where I had the curiosity to sink to the bottom, I found it filled with soil, and at the depth of eight feet it appeared to have been boarded across with three-inch oak plank, dividing it into an upper and lower road, each eight feet high. The direction of it is nearly due east and west, rather inclining to the left of the line of Cuppin-street, and at intervals there are small square enlargements, as if intended to admit a passing. It would be gratifying to curiosity to trace this road (or aqueduct), which could be done, particularly at the east end, where the ground is not high above the rock, at a trifling expence, with a common iron rod, if permission could be obtained where it was necessary; for there can be no doubt but such an excavation must have been intended for some public purpose, the nature of which, by following the direction of it some distance, might possibly be pretty accurately surmized."

Although tradition alone is but uncertain data, upon which to found an hypothesis, yet when it is supported by facts that give an air of probability to its correctness, we should pause before we discard it as fabulous. The above, and other instances mentioned in the preceding pages, certainly go a great way towards a very probable conclusion, that there have been passages under ground. Besides, it is now decidedly ascertained, that in other towns they have existed; and if in one town, I can see no reason why they may not in another, and particularly in such a place as Chester, whose ancient remains are more numerous than those of any other city in the kingdom. The following quotation from Troughton's History of Liverpool, may serve in some measure to illustrate this point:—"A long subterraneous passage was discovered by the workmen employed in sinking the foundation of the Exchange Buildings in 1804. It commenced at a wall which stood at a place formerly known by the name of the *White Cross*; extended underneath the space occupied by the west wing of the new building, and terminated under the prison at the bottom of Water-street. This prison was formerly a tower, and

 REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT.

the passage was probably intended to answer the purposes of supply, or communication, during a siege."

 REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT

For the City of Chester, from the Revolution in 1688.

- 1 Will. and Mary.—Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart. ;
Richard Leving, Esq.
- 7 Will. III.—Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart. ; Roger
Whitley, Esq. ; on whose death was substituted
Thomas Cowper, Esq.
- 10 Will. III.—Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart. ; Peter
Shakerley, Esq.
- 12 Will. III.—Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart. ; Peter Shak-
erley, Esq.
- 13 Will. III.—The same.
- 1 Anne.—The same.
- 4 Anne.—The same.
- 7 Anne.—The same.
- 9 Anne.—The same.
- 12 Anne.—The same.
- 1 Geo. I.—Sir Henry Bunbury ; Sir Richard Grosvenor.
- 8 Geo. I.—The same.
- 1 Geo. II.—Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart. ; Thomas
Grosvenor, Esq. ; on whose deaths, July, 1732,
and Jan. 1732-3, were substituted Robt. Grosvenor,
Esq. ; and Sir Charles Bunbury, Bart.
- 8 Geo. II.—Sir Robt. Grosvenor, Bart. ; Sir Charles
Bunbury, Bart.
- 15 Geo. II.—The same. On the death of Sir Charles
Bunbury, April, 1742, was substituted Philip Henry
Warburton.
- 21 Geo. II.—Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart. ; Philip H.
Warburton, Esq.
- 27 Geo. II.—Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart. ; Richard
Grosvenor, Esq. On the death of Sir Robert
Grosvenor, Aug. 1755, was substituted Thomas
Grosvenor, Esq.

 REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT.

- 1 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. ; R. Wilbraham Bootle, Esq.
- 8 Geo. III.—The same.
- 15 Geo. III.—The same.
- 21 Geo. III.—The same.
- 24 Geo. III.—The same.
- 30 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. Robert Viscount Belgrave. On the death of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. 1795, was substituted Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.
- 36 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. Robt. Viscount Belgrave.
- 42 Geo. III.—The same. On Lord Belgrave's succession to the Earldom of Grosvenor, 1802, was substituted Richard Earle Drax Grosvenor.
- 47 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. ; Richard Earle Drax Grosvenor, Esq.
- 47 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. ; John Egerton, Esq.
- 53 Geo. III.—The same.
- 59 Geo. III.—Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. ; Lord Viscount Belgrave.
- 1 Geo. IV.—The same.
- 7 Geo. IV.—Lord Viscount Belgrave ; Right Hon. Robert Grosvenor.
- 1 Will. IV.—Right Hon. Robert Grosvenor ; Sir Philip Grey Egerton. Bart.
- 1 Will. IV.—Right Hon. Robert Grosvenor ; F. Cunniffe Offley, Esq.
- 2 Will. IV.—Right Hon. Robert Grosvenor ; J. F. Maddock, Esq.
- 4 Will. IV.—Right Hon. Robert Grosvenor ; J. Jervis, Esq.
- 5 Will. IV.—The same.

EATON HALL.

VISIT TO EATON HALL,

The seat of the Marquis of Westminster.

There are very few strangers visiting Chester, whether on business or pleasure, who do not feel impelled by curiosity to survey this splendid mansion. It would then be extraordinary if the curious traveller or tourist, whose immediate object is the "sublime and beautiful," did not with avidity avail himself of the contiguity of Chester, to view this scene of magnificence. To give a minute description, would require more space than the plan of our work will allow; but the accuracy of the following sketch, as far as it goes, may be relied upon.

The house is seated in a beautiful park, about three miles from Chester, to the left of the Wrexham and Shrewsbury road. The present magnificent edifice, the designs for which were furnished by Porden, was erected upon the site of the old hall (a stately brick mansion, built by Sir John Vanburgh, taken down in the year 1803), and is probably the most splendid modern specimen of the pointed Gothic in the kingdom. It consists of a large centre and three stories, finished with octangular turrets; and of two extensive wings, connected with the main part of the building by lofty intermediate towers, the whole enriched by buttresses, niches, and pinnacles, and adorned with elaborate carving.

The principal entrance is on the western front, under a lofty portico (admitting a carriage) the clustered pillars of which support a beautifully groined ceiling; from this a flight of steps leads to a pair of massive bronzed doors, admitting to a view of the interior of the hall, which is large and lofty, with a vaulted ceiling: the branching compartments terminate in a rich centre piece, from which is suspended an immense lanthorn, of antique pattern, that sheds its profuse light, "when day closes in," over a pavement composed of the choicest marbles, and throws a chaste light upon the mailed figures that occupy the niches on each side of the chimney pieces; above these are two large pictures, viz. the Continnence of Scipio, and Masinissa and Sophonisba.

 EATON HALL.

At the end of the hall, a screen of five arches supports a gallery connecting the bedchambers of the north and south sides of the house, which are separated by the elevation of the hall; under this gallery, two open arches conduct, on one side to the great staircase, on the other to the chapel, and the state bedroom is opposite to the entrance; through a pair of massive richly carved mahogany folding doors, the visitor is ushered into the saloon, which forms the centre of a suite of apartments of unequalled beauty and magnificence.—The groined and fretted ceilings, of these rooms, decorated with the endless ramifications of fanwork tracery, and the most beautiful varieties of Gothic foliage, brilliant in colour and rich with the herald's skill, yet chastened by the direction of an exquisite taste, and subdued by the propriety of the arrangement—the walls hung with lutestring of delicate hue or costly Genoa velvet, receiving and reflecting still more glowing hues as the sunbeams stream through the painted glass, with which the windows are profusely ornamented—the paintings of the first-rate excellence—the chandeliers of elaborate workmanship—the gorgeous furniture corresponding with the house—the cabinets of Mosaic ivory and pearl—the golden vases sparkling in the niches—in short, the whole finishing and furnishing of these apartments constitute a combination of costliness and good taste which may justly command the admiration of each visitor.

The rooms are best seen beginning with the dining-room, 50 feet long and 38 feet wide, including the bay, which contains the following pictures and statues :—

The Meeting of David and Abigail.....*Rubens*.
 The Judgment of Paris.....*Peters, after Rubens*.
 Marquis & Marchioness of Westminster..*J. Jackson, R. A.*

The four statues in this room are—

At the upper end—Joan Lady Grosvenor, heiress of Eaton.
 Sir Gilbert le Grosvenor, nephew of
 Hugh Lupus.

EATON HALL.

At the lower end—Mary Davies, Lady Grosvenor.
 Sir Robert le Grosvenor, the crusader.

The ante-dining or billiard-room, in which are hung West's celebrated pictures of Cromwell Dissolving the Long Parliament, and the Landing of Charles on the Beach at Dover.—The saloon is next entered, a cube of 30 feet, the stained glass windows in which represent the subjects of the statues placed in the dining-room, with the addition of William the Conqueror, and the Bishop of Baieux. To this room succeeds the blue drawing-room, of the same form and dimensions with the anti-dining room, containing some exquisite wrought cabinets in ebony and pietro duro. The great drawing room completes this most perfect suite of apartments; in its decorations and furniture it presents the richest and most gorgeous appearance, and vies with that to which it leads, viz. the library, which is considered the most beautiful room in the kingdom. The pictures in the drawing-room are—

Judith with the Head of Holoferness *Guercino*.
 Ruben shewing the Bloody Garment of Joseph
 to Jacob *Guercino*.
 Antiochus and Stratonice *Pietro de Cortona*.
 Christ and the Woman of Samaria *P. Mignard*.
 Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh *West*.
 Elijah raising the Widow's Son *West*.

From the furthest point of the library, which contains many valuable books and manuscripts, the eye commands a gallery, leading to the extremity of the house, 430 feet in length; the portraits in the corridor are—

Earl and Countess Grosvenor *Pickersgill*.
 General Grosvenor *Hoppner*.
 Sir Thomas Grosvenor *Sir Peter Lely*.
 Jane Lady Grosvenor *Chamberlain*.
 Mr. Thomas Grosvenor *Hoppner*.
 Mary Davies Lady Grosvenor (when a widow) —
 Mrs. Levason, her daughter
 Marquis of Westminster, when at college *Hoppner*.

MARKET TOWNS.

In the saloon, a pair of folding doors open to the garden, leading from which (after passing through a vaulted cloister) a flight of steps terminates in an extensive terrace, 350 feet in length, laid out in numerous Gothic compartments, each filled with rare and beautiful flowers, and surrounded with a rich balustrade, carved in the Gothic style : a second flight of steps, of immense width, leads to the pleasure grounds and flower garden, the extent of which is 42 acres, exclusive of the part (7 acres) appropriated solely to culinary produce. The principal ornaments of the ground are, a Gothic conservatory and temple, the latter built for the reception of a Roman altar, discovered near Chester (at the junction of the ancient roads to Mancunium and Mediolanum) in the year 1821 ; the Mosaic pavement of the temple was brought from a palace of the Emperor Tiberius, in the Island of Capri, by Lord Robert Grosvenor.

A light and elegant iron bridge of 150 feet span, crossing the river Dee, which runs through a part of the grounds, is likewise a real embellishment to the landscape ; it is exceedingly ornamental, and was erected by Hazle-dine at an expense of about £8,000. The stables, which form a large quadrangle on the north side of the hall, have been erected in a style of architecture correspondent with that of the house, and are separated from it by a small shrubbery.

MARKET TOWNS IN CHESHIRE,**WITH THE**

Routes by which they are approached by the Traveller.

Though the city of Chester contains in itself alone curiosities and antiquities which have been thought sufficient to attract the presence of the learned and the curious from afar, yet the strangers who visit it have generally an ulterior object in view, that of exploring some other parts of the country. Having exhibited all the rarities contained within our walls, it may not be unacceptable

 MARKET TOWNS.

to these if I shortly point out the best roads leading from the city, to various places to which they may be destined, the conveyances by which they may be accommodated, and a short description of the towns and villages they will have to pass through, at least to the extent of the county.

In furtherance of this design, we shall first direct the traveller to the large and flourishing town of

MANCHESTER,

the direct line to the northern and eastern parts of the kingdom. To this place there are two roads, one of which is through Warrington, the route of the mail, which runs from the Post-office, and is dispatched every morning at half-past five; a coach also leaves the Feathers Hotel every morning at six o'clock, and follows the mail through Flookersbrook and Hoole, where are several neat villas, the villages of Trafford, Dunham, Helsby, and the town of

FRODSHAM,

Which is pleasantly situated ten miles north-east from Chester; it consists of no more than one long street: about half a mile south from the town stands the church, and near it a great hill, called Overton Hill, the lofty situation of which commands extensive and beautiful prospects, inferior to none in the kingdom, highly worthy the notice of travellers; giving delight to the man of taste, and often renovation of health to the valetudinarian. It hath a good weekly market.

Something more than a mile from hence is Frodsam Bridge, which crosses the *River Weaver*, a most important stream, that yields to the county an annual sum of near £20,000, arising chiefly from the tonnage of salt vessels, which carry that useful material from the manufactories in the interior of the county, to Liverpool. Here is a road which diverges from the turnpike on the left, leading to

RUNCORN,

About three miles distant. The Duke of Bridgewater's

• MARKET TOWNS.

canal passess through a great part of this parish, and communicates with the Mersey by ten locks. This part of the Mersey is called Runcorn Gap, and it has long been a favourite project to throw a bridge across the river, by which the road from Liverpool to London would be reduced more than a dozen miles. Runcorn, which had previously been a poor village, has in consequence of the trade on the canal, and its having become a place of considerable resort for bathing, grown very populous, and been improved in its appearance by the erection of many handsome buildings. The parish abounds in fine stone quarries, from which considerable quantities of hewn stone are sent by water to Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, &c.

Pursuing the main road from Frodsham Bridge, at the distance of four or five miles, we pass Preston Brook; and soon after, at a place called London Bridge, cross the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, where a good deal of trading bustle is observable. From hence, at the distance of about two miles, we reach Warrington, and the coach proceeds through Prescot to Manchester, a distance from Chester of about 37 miles.

The other road to Manchester before mentioned, is esteemed the best, on which two or three coaches run from the Feathers and White Lion hotels, Chester, daily, at different hours of the day. This route takes the way through Vicar's Cross, and the three Traffords, to

TARVIN.

This was formerly a market town. About the middle of the sixteenth century, Sir John Savage, lord of the manor, procured a charter for a market and a fair to be held here, which have long been disused. It is a pleasant village, with a well-built stone church. A grammar school was founded in 1600, with a house for the master, by John Pickering, who endowed it with £200, which was laid out in lands now producing an annual income of £18, for which 20 children are instructed. Here are deposited the remains of Mr. Thomason, remembered for his unrivalled ability in the art of penmanship, which was manifested by the most beautiful and elaborate

MARKET TOWNS.

performance, probably ever seen. A manuscript prayer book, was presented by the artist to the hand of royalty.

The village of Kelsall, lies about two miles further, and was formerly a military post of great importance, commanding the principal approach to Chester; and soon after passing through this place, we enter upon the ancient Forest of Delamere; this was formerly a royal forest, and was almost wholly common land, until 1812, when it was inclosed and erected into a parish by act of parliament, certain allotments having been reserved to the crown and others. A new church was also built, which was consecrated in 1817. This parish gives the title of Baron Delamere, to Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. of Vale Royal. Delamere Forest, which once contained a great number of red and fallow deer, exhibits a pleasing variety of well-wooded hills and rich vallies for pasturage, and meres affording plenty of fish and aquatic fowl. At a little distance from the road side, on the left hand, is Delamere Lodge, the residence of George Wilbraham, Esq. one of the members for the county; and a little further on, on the right, is the celebrated Vale Royal, the residence of Lord Delamere. Within a mile of Delamere Abbey, still further to the right, stands the little town of

OVER.

This place, although diminutive and insignificant in appearance at present, was once *large* in consequence. It was recently important in prerogative, having a mayor, aldermen, and other corporate officers; of whose chartered rights they were as tenacious as the first corporation in the kingdom. Its situation is in Eddisbury hundred, a city of that name (now consigned to oblivion) having once stood on the chamber of Delamere Forest.

Returning again to the main turnpike, and passing Sandiway Head, in about four or five miles, we arrive at the flourishing town of

NORTHWICH,

Which stands where the river Dane falls into the Weaver, 17 miles N. E. from Chester. Its weekly market is on

MARKET TOWNS.

Friday, and its fairs (two annually) are on the 2nd of August, and on the 6th of December. The fame of this town is extensively diffused for its salt works, which are very considerable, and which give employment to a respectable fleet of small vessels between that place and Liverpool; affording a nautical nursery, where many a brave seaman has received the rudiments of an education, which have led him to glory, and enabled him to render the most essential services to his country.

The rock salt is conveyed down the Weaver; one-third undergoes a refining process at Frodsham, and the works on the Lancashire side of the Mersey, and the remainder is sent to Liverpool, whence it is exported to Ireland, and the ports of the Baltic. From an account published in 1818, it appears that two hundred thousand tons of manufactured salt, and upwards of forty thousand tons of rock salt, were landed at Liverpool during the preceding year, and that upwards of two hundred and eighty thousand bushels are annually sold for internal consumption, by far the greater portion having been obtained in this neighbourhood; since that period the business has materially increased. The number of vessels thus employed, and which return with coal, is about three hundred, of from 90 to 100 tons burden each.—Many others are engaged exclusively in the importation from Liverpool of timber, grain, wine, spirituous liquors, raw cotton, grocery, &c. and these frequently return with oak timber. Some vessels of small burden are built here in the docks and ship-yards. Facilities of water carriage are supplied by the Weaver, which flows through the town, and the grand trunk canal, which passes in a semi-circular direction through the salt works, about one mile to the northward. Two or three days spent in this neighbourhood would certainly be highly gratifying to the inquisitive traveller; and if he has time, and is so disposed, he may visit the neighbouring town of

MIDDLEWICH,

which is but a few miles distant. This town derives its name from standing in the *middle* of the two *Wiches*, namely, between Northwich and Nantwich. The situa-

MARKET TOWNS.

tion of this place is on the river Croke. The prosperity and opulence of this town, may be said to be principally preserved by *salt*, very considerable quantities being made here; there are also some silk manufactories. Its weekly market is on Tuesday, and its two fairs are annually held on the 25th of July, and on Holy Thursday. Middlewich is a deanery, hath burgesses, and other privileges, as the rest of the Wiches have. Half a mile N. E. of the town is the goodly manor place of Kinderton, belonging to Lord Vernon, called the *Barn of Kinderton*. The town is well built, and a desirable place of residence, not only from pleasantness of situation, but what is far better, for the friendly and hospitable disposition of its inhabitants.

The town of Northwich being near the centre of the county, a visit may also be advantageously made to the towns of Knutsford, Macclesfield, Stockport, Congleton, and Sandbach, all within the county of Chester.

KNUTSFORD.

The town consists principally of two long streets, and is well paved, and supplied with water. The houses are in general indifferently built; but in the immediate neighbourhood, there are a numerous resident gentry; the environs are pleasant; and near the town is a good race course, the races commencing on the last Tuesday in July. The annual race meeting is remarkable for being honoured with a more brilliant assemblage of nobility and gentry than any other in the county, not excepting Chester. Assemblies take place in the town in November and December. The manufacture of thread, which formerly flourished here to a considerable extent, has, since the introduction of machinery, given place to the weaving of cotton, by which the principal part of the population is employed, working with hand-looms, for the manufacturers at Manchester, and the adjacent towns. The market is on Saturday: the fairs, to which a small number of cattle is brought, from the neighbouring villages, are, April 23rd, July 10th, and November 8th. The sessions house, and house of correction for the county, were erected in 1817; the former is an elegant edifice, comprising spacious court-rooms,

MARKET TOWNS.

with the requisite accommodation for the business of the sessions ; the latter, a spacious and commodious building, contains a governor's house, infirmary and schools, eight day rooms, seven airing yards, in some of which are tread-mills, and one hundred and fifty separate cells, for the classification, employment, and instruction of the prisoners.

MACCLESFIELD.

This town exhibits another very striking instance of the salutary effects of a staple manufacture. It is pleasantly situated near the southern extremity of the forest. The rapid increase of population, which, according to the last census, amounted to 17,746 inhabitants, has created a proportionate augmentation of the number of buildings, and an extension of the town in every direction, within a short period ; the streets are well paved and lighted with gas, and the inhabitants are amply supplied with water brought from springs from the east of the town, and conveyed by pipes to their houses.

Macclesfield was formerly noted for the manufacture of silk buttons, which was introduced at a very early period. To this succeeded the manufacture of silk, which is carried on in all its branches to a considerable extent. The first silk mill in this town was erected by Mr. Roe in 1756 ; since that time the trade has rapidly increased, and at present there is not less than seventy mills for throwing silk, which is here manufactured into handkerchiefs and broad silks, the weaving of which, with the manufacture of twist, sewing silk, and buttons, is now the principal source of trade. The cotton manufacture was also introduced about the same time, and the first mill erected for that purpose was in 1758 ; since which period it has progressively increased, but with less rapidity, and with less fluctuation than the silk trade.— In the neighbourhood are extensive mines of coal, and quarries of slate and stone of a superior quality for building, of which great quantities are sent to Manchester, Stockport, Staffordshire, and other parts of the country. The market is on Tuesday and Saturday ; the fairs are May 6th, June 22nd, July 11th, October 4th, and No-

MARKET TOWNS.

ember 12th. The guildhall was taken down in 1826, and handsomely rebuilt in the Grecian style of architecture, at the expense of the corporation : it is a spacious and commodious edifice, containing, in addition to the court-rooms, handsome assembly and concert rooms ; attached to it is the town gaol, which was rebuilt at the same time. The town stands on the road from London to Manchester, is 36 miles from Chester and 167 from London.

STOCKPORT.

This town is of great and growing population, evincing the certain and considerable benefits that flow from the hand and labour of toil. It is romantically situated on elevated ground of irregular and precipitous ascent, on the south bank of the river Mersey, which here sweeps round its eastern and northern boundary, and is joined by the Tame : from the banks of the former, the houses rise in successive tiers round the sides of the hill, from the base to the summit, and the numerous extensive factories elevated above each other, and spreading over the extent of the town, present, when lighted during the winter months, an appearance strikingly impressive. The town extends, on the south-east, a very great distance along the road to Chester ; and on the north-east by a bridge over the Mersey, to Portwood ; on the west towards Cheadle and towards Manchester, by another bridge across the Mersey on the north, on which side of the river is the township of Heaton-Norris, forming part of this town, though in the county of Lancaster. According to the last census, the parish contained 44,957 inhabitants, of which number 21,726 were in the town of Stockport. Its weekly market is on Friday. The number of fairs in the year are four, viz. on the 4th and 25th of March, on the 1st of May, and on the 25th of October.

CONGLETON.

This town is situated on the river Dane, 161 miles from London, and eight from Macclesfield. Here are two churches, one in the town, the other at the bridge-end, at the opposite side of the river. The town is neat, and has a charter of incorporation. Saturday is the

 MARKET TOWNS.

market-day ; and the four fairs are, on Friday preceding Shrove Tuesday, on the 12th of May, the 13th of July, and the 22nd of November. The town consists of narrow and irregularly formed streets. The environs abound with scenery, beautifully diversified by the windings of the river, on the banks of which are numerous stately mansions, and elegant villas. The manufacture consists in throwing of silk, and the spinning of cotton, for the former of which not less than fifty mills have been erected since 1752, when that branch of manufacture was introduced by Mr. Pattison, of London. The population contains 6405 inhabitants.

SANDBACH.

This town stands on a high bank, upon the little river Wheelock ; the place is small, and was made a market town by Sir John Radcliffe, Lord thereof, which market is continued weekly, every Thursday ; it hath also two annual fairs. King's Vale Royal tells us, that in the market place are two square crosses of stone, or steps, with certain images and writings thereon engraven ; which a man cannot read, except he be turned *topsey-turvey*, and his head where his heels should be ; a situation the author's head must certainly have been in when he penned two such *elegant* couplets, which are transcribed for the *entertainment* of the reader :—

In Sandbach, in the Sandy Ford,
Lieth the ninth part of Diblin hord,
Nine to, or Nine fro,
Take me down, or else I fall.

Whether the *treasure* was ever found, the history of the place does not inform us. Sandbach contains a well-built stone church.

The only town through which the road passes from Northwich to Manchester, is

ALTRINGHAM,

situated very near to the edge of the county, a few miles previous to the arrival at which, you pass Dunham

MARKET TOWNS.

Massey, the park and mansion of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, Lord Lieutenant of the county. Altringham is a small market town, having two annual fairs, viz. on the 5th of August, and on the 22nd of November; its weekly market is on the Tuesday. Some London idolators have a *good-natured* saying, "the farther from the capital, the farther from arts and civilization." This little spot is among the many in the kingdom, which may be adduced as striking exceptions to so curious a remark; for though Altringham is situated at the distance of 184 miles from the capital, it is the seat of a considerable manufactory in the worsted branch: and, for civilization, though the inhabitants may not have laid in so large a stock of *complaisance* as some *cocknies*, they are in possession of a *commodity* that will last longer and wear better, namely—*plain dealing*.

To London, and the southern parts of the kingdom, coaches from Chester run daily by two different routes. The mail takes the direction of Tarvin, from whence on the right hand, the road leads to

TARPORLEY.

It is situated ten miles s. e. of Chester, on the London road, and is a pleasant market town. This town is remarkable for a meeting of the leading gentlemen of the county, at an annual hunt, not more distinguished for the pleasure of the chace, than for the festive joy, conviviality and friendship which usually prevail on the occasion. The market is on Thursday, and fairs are held May 3rd, the first Monday after the 24th August, and December 11th. The town has a very neat appearance, and consists of one long street, which is well paved, and terminates at the southern extremity of the ancient manor-house.

A little beyond Tarporley, the road passes through Alpraham and Calveley, on the right hand side of which about three miles distant is the mansion of Oulton, the residence of Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton, one of the members for this division of the county. A few miles further, we arrive at the village of Acton, and speedily after at

MARKET TOWNS.

NANTWICH.

This town is situated upon the river Weaver, near the borders of Staffordshire and Shropshire, the direct post road from Holyhead (*via* Chester) to London, from which city it is distant 162 miles. Its situation is in a fertile vale, encircled by some of the richest cheese land in the county; several of the neighbouring dairies producing single cheeses from 120 to 140 pounds weight! The town is almost a mile in length, from east to west, and about three quarters from north to south, containing several large and spacious streets, and has a good weekly market on Saturday, filled with the plenteous produce of the country; it has three annual fairs, namely, March 26, September 4, and December 15. Throughout a long period the brine springs were a source of extensive commerce. In the time of Henry VIII. there were three hundred salt works, but their number, from the destruction of several by fire, and the discovery of springs and mines of superior quality elsewhere, where the facility of communication by water was greater, has been gradually reduced, until only one spring remains. In the time of Elizabeth and James, the tanning business, and the manufacture of bone, lace, and stockings, prevailed somewhat extensively, but they have been long superseded by that of shoes, chiefly for the London and Manchester markets, gloves, and cotton goods, which afford employment to about two hundred persons. The inhabitants enjoy one peculiar advantage, which is, an exemption from serving on juries out of the town, or mixed with strangers, confirmed to them by Queen Elizabeth, in the tenth year of her reign. In the year 1438, the town suffered greatly by fire, but much more deplorably in 1583. On the 12th of June, 1604, the plague broke out, and continued till the 2nd of March following, destroying between four and five hundred persons. In the month of August, 1617, King James I. honoured this town with his presence; he shewed great pleasure in visiting the salt works, and had a sermon preached before him at the parish church. The town was besieged in the unhappy days of Charles I. in the first week in January, 1643, by Lord Byron's party. The siege was raised on

MARKET TOWNS.

the 25th of January, by General Fairfax, defeating Lord Byron, and the town remained in possession of the parliamentarians until the end of the war. The church is an ancient and noble edifice, in the form of a cross, with a steeple rising from the middle. There are numerous alms-houses in the town, besides many annual charitable donations left for distribution among the poor.

Soon after passing Nantwich, the main road enters Staffordshire, and the mail proceeds through Stafford, Litchfield, Atherton, Northampton, &c. to London.

The other route to the metropolis passes through Rowton and Handley. About three miles beyond the latter village stands Bolesworth Castle, the seat of G. Walmsley, Esq. near to which a new road is cut, which leads to

MALPAS.

This town is called in Latin *Malus Passus*, a name it derives from the road to it not being very pleasant or agreeable. It is in the south corner of the county, within three miles of Shropshire, Denbighshire, and Flintshire. It hath three streets paved, a grammar school, and a charitable foundation, both erected by Sir Ranulph Brereton. Here is a weekly market, and a fair yearly on the 8th of December. Here also is an excellent church, the princely revenues of which afford a very handsome endowment to two rectors and two curates. In this church is a vault belonging to the Marquis of Cholmondeley, where a long race of that nobleman's ancestry are entombed. The late learned and pious Dr. Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, was a native of this town, his father having been rector of the higher mediety Philip Henry, the non-conformist, resided at the Broad Oak, in this parish, where his son, Matthew Henry, the celebrated commentator on the bible, was born. Malpas confers the title of viscount on the Marquis of Cholmondeley.

From this place the coach proceeds to Whitchurch, Newport, Birmingham, and from thence to London.

The road on the western side of the city, through the Watergate, was formerly but little travelled. It leads to Sealand, a district of rich meadow land, upwards of 4000

MARKET TOWNS.

acres of which has been recovered from the sea, by the river Dee company. There is a fine and pleasant walking path along the river Dee cop, of five or six miles, and a road for carriages which runs parallel with it, both of which terminate at the King's Ferry. This has lately become a place of much travelling from Wales, a good turnpike having been cut from Hawarden, a commodious boat for passengers and carriages being established across the river, and a turnpike made to join the Chester and Liverpool road above Shotwick. In this route coaches ply daily to the Mersey ferries, by which the distance from the principality to the town of Liverpool is much less than by passing through Chester.

To gentlemen intending to make the tour of North Wales, Chester is certainly the most eligible point at which to commence their undertaking, not only as there are good roads along the coast to the extremity of Carnarvonshire, and excellent conveyances, but as the route embraces the most attractive objects which are to be found in the Principality, namely, the town of Holywell, St. Asaph, Abergele, Conway bridge, the bridge of Bangor, the Snowdonian mountains, &c. &c. The road lies over Grosvenor Bridge, across the Dee, and Hough Green; near to which place, at the entrance upon his new road to Eaton Hall, the Marquis of Westminster is building a splendid lodge, similar in design to that approaching the house at Eccleston Hill. The road on the left leads to Wrexham, and the interior of Denbighshire; and further on is a turnpike road to Mold. The main roads in Wales abound in good inns, and excellent accommodations for travellers; but we would recommend those who intend to explore the beauties and curiosities of the Principality, to purchase a small publication descriptive of the country, which would furnish them with an entertaining companion and guide.

Of the four main avenues out of the city, one only remains to be noticed, which is that through the North-gate, leading to the peninsula of Wirral, and the Liverpool ferries on the Mersey. At the end of the town, a

MARKET TOWNS.

road verges to the left, which passes through Mollington, and at the distance of ten or eleven miles, reaches

NESTON,

A small town, where is a good market on Friday. Its situation is highly favoured, the inhabitants enjoying the most desirous advantages from purity of air, and pleasantness of prospects. Nor are these advantages the less, from its contiguity to Parkgate, where the convenience of sea-bathing is inferior to none; indeed, the growing attention shewn to it during the late seasons, is a better proof of its accommodations in this particular, than any recommendation that can be given of it here. Both these towns are tolerably populous. Formerly the packets from Dublin had their station at Parkgate, but they have been removed some years ago, owing to the choking up of the river. Neston contains a very good church, of which Archdeacon Clarke is rector. Formerly the mail coach to Liverpool, proceeded through Neston to Tranmere, but it now passes through Sutton to the Woodside ferry, from whence the bags are conveyed to Liverpool.

FERRIES ON THE MERSEY.

The direct road from Chester to the Liverpool ferries, lies in a straight line through Bache Pool, a short distance from which, on the left hand, is a very large brick edifice, built a few years ago, by the county, as an asylum for lunatics. It is on a very extensive scale, has numerous unfortunate inmates, and is under the medical superintendance of Dr. Llewelyn Jones, of Chester. The coaches pass the villages of Sutton and Thornton, skirt the park and lodge of Hooton, the seat of Sir Thomas Stanley, on the right, direct to the village of EASTHAM, whence there is a road leading down to the river and the ferry house. This ferry is very much travelled, the coach conveying passengers to and from Chester five or six times in a day, usually well loaded; the distance is from the city about ten and a half miles, and the passage by water six or seven. These coaches run only from the White Lion, and the ferry at Eastham is conducted by Mr. Smith. Eastham is about the most picturesque

MARKET TOWNS.

point on the Mersey. From the ferry the river scenery is seen to the greatest advantage; the view ranging from Liverpool, along the wood and villa-studded Lancashire shore, to Helsby hills, and the low country round Ince, in Cheshire. Turning from the river scene, we have the tastefully laid out grounds attached to the ferry-house, which are always open to visitors; the deep woods, which inclose the ferry on three sides; and the rich and beautiful domain of Hooton, the seat of Sir T. Stanley, Bart. And if we ramble onwards, especially to Poolton, a series of woodland scenes present themselves, which are unrivalled in that part of the country. We are conscious that few of our tourists of a day are acquainted with the many beauties of nature which a ramble of a few miles round Eastham discloses.

The road to the lower ferries turns to the left on passing through Eastham, and runs in a line parallel with the Mersey for several miles. The following ferries, to which (with the exception of the first) from two to five coaches run daily, chiefly from the Feathers Hotel, and which are situated at a distance from each other of from half-a-mile to two miles, are reached in succession, viz. NEW FERRY, ROCK FERRY, TRANMERE FERRY, BIRKENHEAD FERRY, and WOODSIDE FERRY; to the latter of which the Liverpool mail is destined, the bags being sent over the water in a steam boat. Besides the above on the Cheshire side, we may add SEACOMBE, EGREMONT, and NEW BRIGHTON FERRIES, which are now much resorted to by the Liverpool public, who visit them for a day's pleasurable excursion.

The increase of travelling on this line of road, between the city of Chester and the town of Liverpool, by these ferries, within the last half century, is almost incredible. Fifty or sixty years ago, there was not one regular conveyance that travelled on the road. But it is within the recollection of some persons still living, when a person, residing in Further Northgate-street, kept two ponies, which he occasionally hired to take passengers to one of the ferries, who from thence made their way across the Mersey in the best way they could, by any boat they might meet with. It was usual for the owner of the

MARKET TOWNS.

beasts to accompany his travellers on foot to their destination, and thence return to Chester with his cattle.

At the commencement of the present century, very little increase in travelling on this line of road had taken place. In 1801, there was only the mail, which ran through Neston, and left the city at one or two o'clock in the morning, and a small oblong coach which plied to Eastham once a day, at high water, and these coaches were far from being loaded. At present, the vehicles running to the Mersey ferries, and returning the same day, generally crowded with passengers, are not less than eighteen or twenty; while the passengers going and returning, do not amount to less in number than *three hundred and fifty persons*!

There are almost as palpable improvements on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, as far as regards population and elegant buildings, as in the increasing intercourse between us and Liverpool, which we have been considering. The whole shore, from the New Ferry to the newly-designated villa of New Brighton, near to the Black Rock, extending half-a-mile or upwards in shore, large groups of genteel dwellings have suddenly risen into existence. Especially in the neighbourhood of Tranmere, Birkenhead, and Woodside, there is the appearance of an elegant and extensive town. This part of the coast has already been dignified with the title of **NEW LIVERPOOL**; and if the present rage for building continues for a few years, the name may be adopted with considerably less danger of intrenching upon hyperbole.



DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

The names of the respective towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

		<i>Distance from London.</i>											
	Altringham.....												180
Chester....	31	Chester											182
Congleton	21 33	Congleton										162	
Frodsham..	24 10 29	Frodsham									192		
Knutsford..	7 25 14 17	Knutsford								176			
Macclesfield	16 38 9 28	Macclesfield.....							167				
Malpas	37 15 30 24 33 35	Malpas						169					
Middlewich	16 20 13 18 9 19 21	Middlewich.....					167						
Mottram ..	17 48 25 40 22 16 51 31	Mottram.....				187							
Nantwich ..	28 20 18 24 21 23 12	Nantwich.....			164								
Northwich	13 18 19 12 7 20 26 6 30 17	Northwich		174									
Parkgate ..	36 10 42 16 31 45 26 30 53 30 28	Parkgate.....		190									
Runcorn ..	24 15 36 6 16 28 36 20 41 27 14 20	Runcorn		188									
Sandbach ..	19 25 9 23 11 17 22 5 41 10 11 35 25	Sandbach		162									
Stockport ..	9 40 20 33 14 12 44 23 8 35 22 45 33 25	Stockport....		179									
Tarporley..	25 10 25 51 19 26 14 10 42 9 12 20 16 15 34	Tarporley 176											
Tarvin	25 6 27 10 19 32 18 14 42 14 12 16 12 19 34 4	Tarvin 172											

DISTANCES FROM CHESTER TO THE NEIGHBOURING TOWNS.

FROM	MILES	FROM	MILES
Chester to Wrexham.....	12	Chester to Tarporley	10
“ Ellesmere	24	“ Northwich	17
“ Shrewsbury... ..	40	“ Nantwich.....	20
“ Mold	12	“ Middlewich ...	20
“ Holywell	18	“ Knutsford.....	25
“ Ruthin	20	“ Macclesfield... ..	38
“ Denbigh	28	“ Stockport	39
“ Abergele	36	“ Whitchurch ...	20
“ Parkgate.....	12	“ Warrington ...	20
“ Liverpool.....	17	“ Manchester ..	38

INDEX.

	PAGE
Antiquity of Chester	1
Ancient coffin found in the Chapter-house	74
Altringham, notice of	220
Advice to North Wales Tourists	224
Blue Coat School	124
— Girls' School	ib.
Boughton, description of	54
— New Church	106
Boundaries of the City	46
Bridge New, description of	26
— Old, widening of	30
Bridge-gate, description of	29
Bridget's Church, description of	94
Bridge-street described	65
Bull-bait, the Annual	48
Cathedral, description of	69
Castle the, described	110
Charles I. witnesses the defeat of his army	11
Cheshire monarchy assumed by the crown	4
Chester, its British name	2
City Gaol, description of	117
Church of St. John described	78
— of St. Peter described	80
Commonhall-street Chapel	109
Consolidated and Working Schools	125
Congleton, notice of	219
Criminals, Origin of the City Executions	14
Dee Mills and Causeway	32
Diocesan School	125
Diversion of the City Walls	28
Dreadful accident by the Explosion of Gunpowder	57
Eastgate, when built	9
Eastgate-street described	52

	PAGE
Elfreda's heroic exploits	3
Exchange, description of	60
Female Penitentiary	122
Foregate-street described	53
Fortifications of the Walls and Gates, Roman	7
Frodsham, notice of	213
Hawarden, History of Holy Rood	23
Healthful situation of the City	4
Historical Notices	141
Hospital of Little St. John	63
House of Correction	117
Humane Society	122
Independent Chapel	105
Infant Schools	126
Infirmary	119
Interesting Incidents	170
Kaleyards, anciently Monks' Gardens	10
King's School	123
Knutsford, notice of	217
Lamb Row, an Old Building	67
Ladies' Benevolent Institution	121
Linen-hall erected	58
Little St. John's Church	102
Liverpool Ferries on the Mersey	225
Lupus Hugh, created Earl of Chester	3
Macclesfield, Notice of	218
Malpas, Notice of	223
Martin's Church described	87
Martyrdom of George Marsh	58
Marquis of Westminster's School	128
Mary's Church described	89
Methodist, Wesleyan, Chapel	106
Methodist New Connexion Chapel	107
Middlewich, Notice of	216
Michael's Church described	97
Midsummer Show	132
Monks of Bangor, massacre of	2
Monuments in Cathedral	73

	PAGE
Monuments in Trinity Church	86
————— in Mary's Church	92
————— in St. Bridget's Church	96
————— in St. Michael's Church... ..	99
Municipal Government	128
Nantwich Canal cut	12
————— notice of	222
Newgate, or Wolf-gate	35
Northgate, description of	12
Northgate-street described	60
Northwich, notice of	215
Nunnery of St. Mary	35
Octagon Chapel	108
Olave's Church described	100
Oswald's Church, description of	96
Over, notice of	215
Pemberton's Parlour	10
Pentice, old, the removal of	50
Phoenix Tower	10
Plague	147
Prætorium, Roman, at the Cross	48
Primitive Methodist Chapel	109
Postern, old, near Water Tower	18
Population of Chester	127
Prison, old, at the Northgate	13
Quakers' Meeting-house	111
Representatives in Parliament	207
Roodee, account of	21
Roman Hypocaust found in Watergate-street	58
Roman Catholic Chapel	110
Roman and other antiquities, list of	194
Rows, the	38
————— most probably of Roman origin	42
————— choicest situation for business	45
Runcorn, notice of	213
Saddler's Tower	10
Sandbach, notice of	220
Sheriff's Breakfast	55

	PAGE
Shot Tower	136
Ship-gate, inclosed in boundary wall of the castle...	32
Siege of Chester	155
Stockport, notice of	219
Tarporley, notice of	221
Tarvin, notice of	214
Tribute of commendation to Chester	37
Trinity Church, description of	83
Tyrer's old Water Tower	32
Unitarian Chapel	108
View fine, from the Walls	12—13
—— (a cut) across the Old Bridge	33
—— of Chester from the Mount, to face	title
—— of the Old High Cross	47
—— of the New Bridge, to face page	26
Views of the Four Gates, to face page	8—12
Visit to, and description of Eaton Hall	209
Walls of the City	6
—— kept in repair by the Corporation	8
Water Tower, formerly washed by the Sea	17
Watergate, when built	20
Watergate-street described	57
Welsh Calvinistic Chapel	110
Whitsun Plays	137

DIRECTION FOR THE PLATES.

View of Chester, to face	Title Page.
View of Eastgate and Watergate, to face	page 8
View of Bridge-gate and Northgate	12
View of the New Bridge	26



CHESTER : PRINTED BY T. GRIFFITH.

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36
32
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