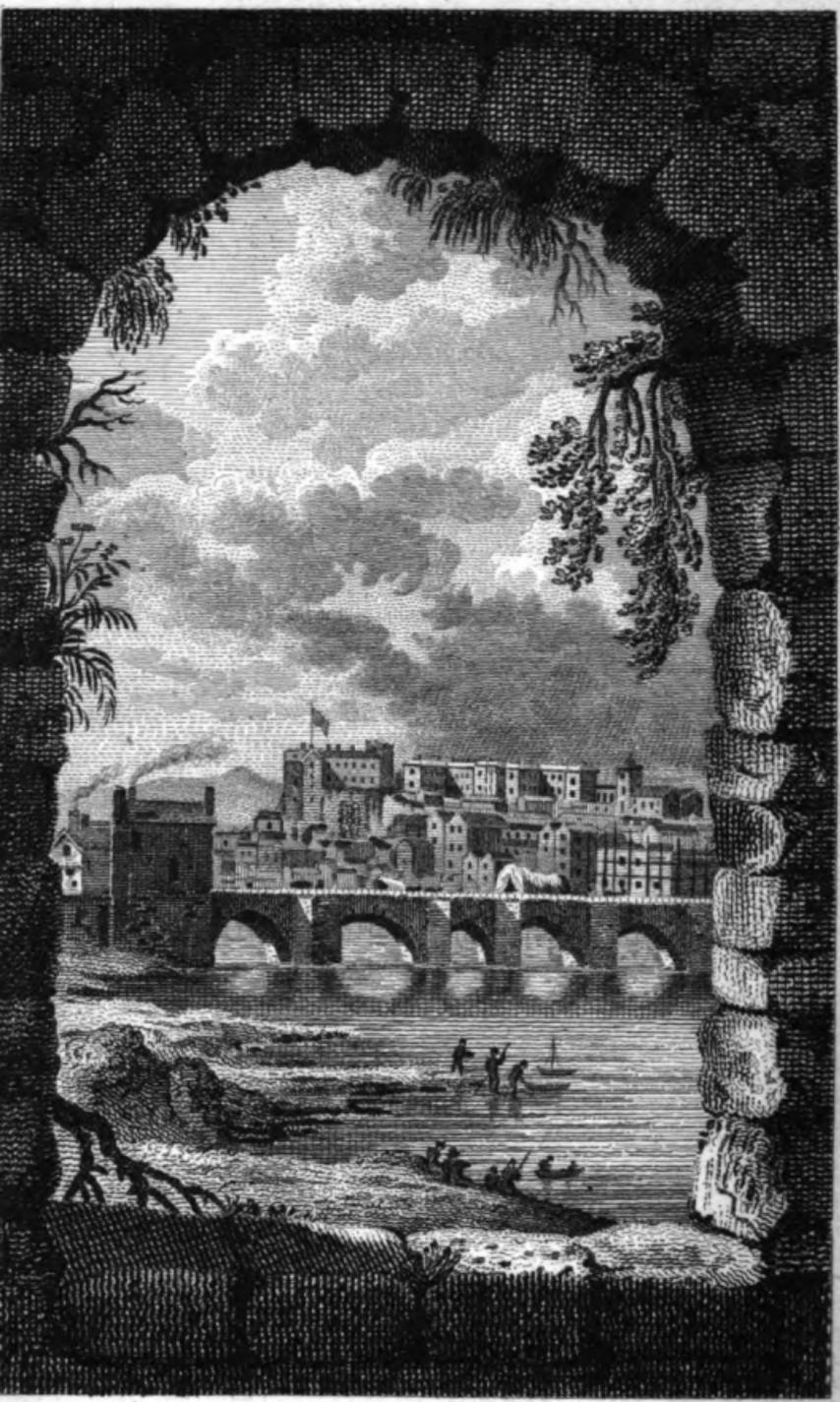

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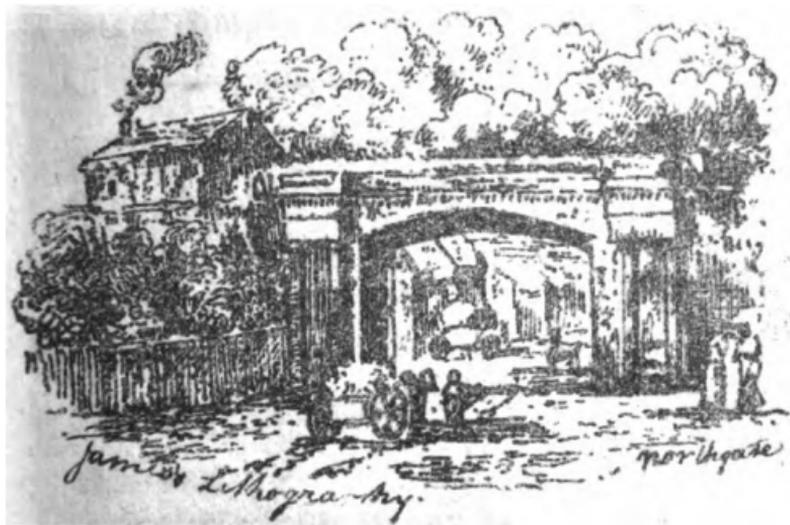
WALK ROUND THE

WALLS AND CITY

OF

CHESTER.

By John Broster.



SIXTH EDITION.

CHESTER, Printed & Sold by the Author, 1821.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

1851



1851

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE PUBLIC.

This work first appeared in the year 1782, under the title of the **CHESTER GUIDE**, by the late Alderman Broster, and since that period, has gone through **FIVE EDITIONS**.

It has ever been attempted to render this an useful companion to the visitor of this ancient City—the singular construction of which, and its antiquity, produce more interest in inspection, than perhaps any other City in the Kingdom.

For the purpose of accomplishing this intention, the traveller is in this work conducted regularly from scite to scite ; and every part interesting, is endeavoured to be represented faithfully, void of any extraneous local matter which can be of importance only to an inhabitant.

The decorations of the work have in course enhanced the expence of publication, but a wish to extend its circulation, and at the same time render it attainable to the generality of visitors, has been an inducement to offer it to the Public at the low price of TWO SHILLINGS, by their obedient servant,

JOHN BROSTER.

THE
ANCIENT HISTORY
OF THE
City of Chester.

THIS ancient city, which Ptolomy calls Deuanna, and Antonious, Deva, from the river on the banks of which it stands; the Britons, *Caer Legion, Caer Lleon Fawr, Caer Lleon ar Ddyfr Dwy*, that is, the camp of the great legion on the Dee, is now called Chester, from its westerly situation. It is situate in the west longitude, 20 degrees, 23 minutes; in latitude, 53 degrees, 15 minutes, and is 182 miles from London.

Chester was a place of great consequence in the time of the Romans, and to whom we owe the art of Cheese-making. The famous twentieth legion, stiled *Valeri and Victrix*, being here placed, after the defeat of Boadicea, by Sueton

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nious ; **Julius Agricola** formed a colony here, and called it **Colonia Devana**.

There has been several Roman altars found here ; one was in the possession of the late **Mr. Dyson**, erected by **Flavius Longus**, tribune of the victorious twentieth legion, and his son **Longinus**, in honor of the Emperors **Diocletian** and **Maximian**. Another was discovered in 1658, now at **Oxford**, inscribed to **Jupiter**. The statue of **Mithras**, in the possession of the late **Rev. Mr. Prescott**, was found here some years ago, and a beautiful altar, hypocaust, and other Roman antiquities were found in the **Yatch field** in 1779.

The coins of **Vespasian**, **Trajan**, **Hadrian**, **Constantius**, and other Roman Emperors, have been discovered here. The Roman Legions quitted this island in 448 ; afterwards the city was governed by the Britons, or Welsh, until the Saxon conquest. **Ethelfrid**, King of **Northumbria**, conquered in 607, and put to death 1000 of the Monks of **Bangor**, who came with **Brochmail Yschithroc** to its assistance. **Egbert**, about

the year 828, wrested it from the British Prince Mervyn, and his wife Esylht. The Danish Pirates wintered here in 895, but were driven hence by Alfred the Great. It was restored about 907, or 908, by the celebrated Ethelfleda, who was the daughter of King Alfred, and wife of Etheldred, Earl of Mercia, who, after the death of her husband, governed Mercia, and received the titles of Lord and King; and having erected nine castles in different parts of the kingdom, died at Tamworth, in 922.

King Edgar, in the year 973, was rowed in triumph from his palace on the south bank of the Dee, opposite the Castle, to the Monastery of St. John, now the parish church of St. John by eight Kings.

In the following century it was ravaged by the Danes; then Edmund Ironsides being driven out, it was possessed by Canute in 1016. It was afterwards possessed by the Earls of Mercia, until the Norman conquest in 1066.

Higden, in his Polychronicon, says, "In this cyte ben ways under erthe, with vowtes and stone.

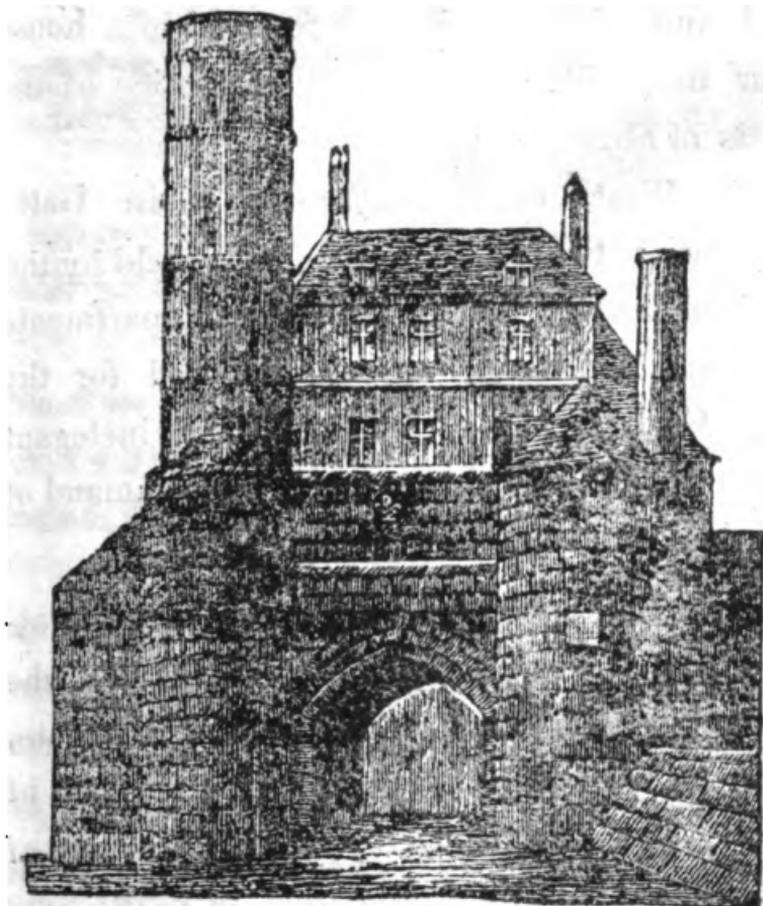
works wonderfully wrought thre chambred werks.
 Grete stones I grave with olde mennes names
 therein. There is also JULIUS CEZAR'S nam^e
 wonderfully in stones grave, and other noble
 mennes names also, with the wrytynge about :"
 But of these there are no traces now remaining.

Lucian the Monk, who lived 600 years ago,
 says much in praise of this city ; and Drayton
 in his Polly-olbion, celebrates the county thus---

- ‘ Of all our Counties, She the Place of Palatine
doth hold,
- ‘ And thereto hath her high Regalities enrolled ;
- ‘ Besides, in many fields since conquering Wil-
liam came,
- ‘ Her people she hath proved, to her eternal fame ;
- ‘ All Children of her own, the Leader and the Led,
- ‘ The mightiest Men of Bone in her full Bosom
bred.

The city is of a square form, which evinces its
 origin to have been Roman, being in the figure
 of their camps ; with four gates facing the four
 points, four principal streets, and a variety of
 lesser, crossing the other at right angles, dividing
 the whole into lesser squares.

The gates were formerly placed under the protection of certain great men, who held lands within the county palatine. The Eastgate, under the Earls of Oxford; the West, or Watergate, under the Earls of Derby. The Northgate, under the Mayor; and under the Earls of Shrewsbury, the SOUTH BRIDGE GATE.



The **BRIDGE-GATE**, next the city, (there having been one formerly at the other extremity of the Bridge,) was a plain Gateway, with two towers, and a superstructure on one of the towers erected for the purpose of supplying the city with water; this gate was held by the Earls of Shrewsbury. The Corporation purchased it in 1660.

A suit of Rooms are yet reserved in a house near the Bridge gate, for the reception of the Earls of Shrewsbury.

The West, or Watergate,---a plain Gateway, with two round towers, was held by the Earls of Derby; the Northgate, with apartments over and adjoining, was appropriated for the City Goal, a heavy, confined, and inelegant structure, and was always under the command of the chief Magistrate for the time being.

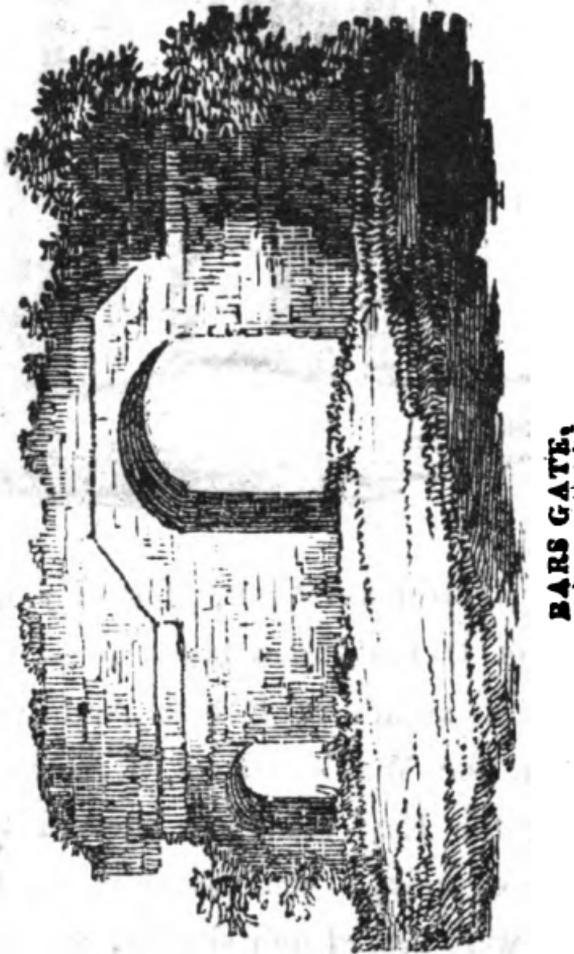
Each Earl appointed a serjeant at mace to attend the Mayor, Lord Crewe, of Crewe, who lately disposed of his property of the East-gate, still retains his right of appointing a serjeant of mace. The Earl of Derby sold his property of the Watergate to the Corporation, in 1778.



THE OLD EASTGATE, (formerly held by the Earls of Oxford,) now taken down, consisted of two wide arches of Roman Architecture; and was on the Watling-street, from Dover to this place; the East side was covered with a large tower, of a later workmanship, on the face of which were placed four shields, with the arms of Edward III. and is said to have been erected by him.

In the Foregate-street was an outer gate, a postern, called the **BARS**, or entrance within the outworks of the fortification of the City, which

encircled it from the river above St. John's Church to the Water Tower.



William the Conqueror gave Cheshire to Gherbodus, a noble Fleming; but he dying, appointed his nephew, Hugh Lupus, the first Norman Earl of Chester, and to him he delegated a great power; made it a County Palatine, and in-

vested with such a sovereign jurisdiction, that the ancient Earls held their own Parliaments.

Hugh Lupus, by virtue of the King's grant, (which runs in these words,) "tenere totum hunc Comitatum sibi, et hæredibus suis ita libere ad Gladium, sicut ipse Rex tenebat Angliæ Coronam," created several Barons to assist him in his council and Government, some of which we find upon record, as Nigel, Baron of Halton; Sir William Maldebeng, of Malbanc, Baron of Wick Malbanc, or Nantwich; Richard de Vernou, Baron of Shipbroke; Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton; Hamon de Massey, Baron of Dunham Massey; Warren de Poynton, Baron of Stockport; Eustace de Monthalt, Baron of Monthalt.

He converted the church of St. Werburgh into an abbey by the advice of St. Anselm. He continued Earl 31 years, died the 27th of July, 1101, and was buried in the Church-yard, and afterwards removed to the present Chapter-house of the Cathedral, where his body was found in 1724, wrapped in leather, enclosed in a stone coffin; at the head of the coffin was a stone in

the shape of a T, with a wolf's head, the arms which he bore, engraven on it.

His Sword of Dignity is preserved in the British Museum; which is in length about four feet, and so unwieldy as to require considerable strength to brandish it with both hands. His Parliament was formed of eight Barons, who were obliged to attend him, and every Baron had four Esquires, every Esquire one Gentleman, and every Gentleman one Valet. The Barons had the power of life and death. This government continued till the reign of Henry the IIIrd, 1237, who resumed the Earldom.

Chester was probably in the time of the Romans, or earlier, a considerable port; the Saxon navy was stationed here, and here was the seat of the Mercian kings. About the time of the conquest, the imports and exports were very considerable; one article of the latter was slaves, some of which they were probably furnished with in their frequent wars with the Welsh; and amongst the imports wine was not the least considerable, according to Lucian the Monk, who praised its

excellent flavour, and drank it plentifully ; and by the old Saxon law, if any persons made bad ale, they were to sit in a chair full of dung, or pay a fine of four shillings.

EARLS OF CHESTER.

Hugh Lupus was succeeded by his son Richard, who was drowned in his passage from Normandy : he governed nineteen years and was succeeded by Ranulph, surnamed Mechines, son of Margaret, sister to Lupus.

Ranulph died at Chester, A. D. 1129, and was succeeded by the heroic Ranulph II. surnamed Geronijs, who having held the Earldom twenty-five years, was poisoned in 1153.

He was buried at Chester, his son Hugh II. surnamed Cyvelioc, succeeded him, and continued in the Earldom twenty-eight years. He died at Leeke, in Staffordshire, and was buried at Chester.

He was succeeded by his son Ranulph, surnamed Blundeville, who for his benevolence was stiled Ranulph the good. He served in the holy

wars, and was as celebrated as any of the seven Champions of Christendom. After his return, he built Beeston Castle in this county, a fortress which, before the use of fire arms, might have been deemed impregnable. It is built on an insulated rock ; its summit is 100 yards above the level of the brook that runs at its base. It is the most distinguished feature in the county, as it is seen from Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire. It endured three sieges during the civil wars. The middle part of the slope is surrounded by towers ; the well in the upper part was cut through the live rock to the depth of 100 yards, but is nearly now filled up. The towers are dismantled. It belongs to Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart.

This Earl Ranulph, was besieged by the Welsh in the castle of Rhudland, and was relieved by Roger Lacey, constable of Chester, who collected a large body of fiddlers, Musicians, &c. who were then assembled at the fair of Hugh Lupus ; the remarkable privilege of which was, that no thief or malefactor that attended the fair, should be

attacked, or punished. With this motley crew, Lacey marched into Wales, and raised the siege; for which Ranulph rewarded him with full power over all the instruments of his preservation; with the privilege of licencing the minstrels.

John, son of Roger Lacey, assigned this power to the Dutton family, whose heirs claimed from the minstrels four bottles of wine, and one lance, with a fee of fourpence-halfpenny; and from every Meretrix in the county and city, officium suum exercens, four-pence.

The anniversary of this solemnity was, till, within these few years, constantly celebrated, on the festival of St. John the Baptist, by a regular procession of the minstrels, to the church of their tutelar saint in this city; and all subsequent vagrant acts, except the minstrel jurisdiction of John Dutton, of Dutton, in Cheshire, Esq. This Earl died in 1232, and was buried at Chester.

John, surnamed Scot, succeeded him in right of his mother, Maude, sister to Ranulph the Good. He married Helen, daughter of Llewellen ap Jorweth, Prince of North Wales, and died

without issue (supposed to have been poisoned) having been Earl almost five years.

The line of the Earls failing, Henry III. took the Earldom into his own hands in 1237, and gave it to his son Edward, afterwards King Edward I. who, with his father, being taken prisoners by Simon de Montford, at the battle of Lewis, 1264, in order to purchase their liberty, resigned the Earldom to him, who enjoyed it but a short time, being slain at the battle of Evesham, in 1265.

Edward, surnamed of Carnarvon, being born in the castle of that town, son of Edward I. was summoned to Parliament by the title of Earl of Chester, 1303, and was succeeded by Edward of Windsor, his son, in 1322.

Edward of Woodstock, commonly called the Black Prince, was created Earl, in 1233, his son, Richard of Bourdeaux, was created Earl in 1376, who, in the 21st year of his reign, erected this county into a Principality; which honor was of a short duration, being repealed in the first year of Henry IV.

Henry, eldest son of King Henry the Vith, was created Earl of Chester, in 1399, and was succeeded by Edward, only son of Henry IV. who was murdered after the battle of Tewksbury.

Edward, eldest son of King Edward IV. was created Earl of Chester in 1471, soon after the murder of the late Earl, and succeeded to the throne by the name of Edward V. who, with his brother Richard, Duke of York, was murdered by their barbarous uncle, Richard, afterwards Richard III.

Edward, only son of Richard III. was created Earl of Chester, 1483, and died the next year. Arthur, son of King Henry VII. was created Earl of Chester, 1489, and was succeeded by his brother Henry in 1504.

The next created Earl, was Henry Frederick Stuart, son of James I. in 1610, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by Charles his brother in 1616, afterwards Charles I. who, in 1630, created his son Charles Earl of Chester, afterwards Charles II.

The next created Earl of Chester was George, son of King George I. 1714 ; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Frederick, in 1728, who, dying in 1750, was succeeded in 1751, by his son George, his late Majesty. In 1762, George Augustus Frederick, (his present Majesty) was created Earl of Chester. Having given a short account of the Earls of Chester, we shall return to our history.

Here in 1159, Malcolm IV. King of Scotland, ceded to Henry II. all the lands that had been wrested from the English crown.

In 1255, Llewellyn ap Gryffyd, Prince of Wales, carried fire and sword to the gates of Chester. In 1257, Henry III. summoned his nobility and bishops to attend, with their vassals, at Chester, in order to invade Wales ; and in 1275, Edward I. appointed Chester as the place for Llewellyn to do him homage ; whose refusal ended with the ruin of him and his principality ; for in 1300, Edward of Carnarvon here received the final acknowledgment of the Welsh, to the sovereignty of England, and, in a few

years afterwards, this inoffensive Prince was brought a Prisoner here from Flint Castle. Richard II. visited this his favourite city in 1397, and in 1399, he was brought a prisoner from Flint Castle to the Castle of Chester, which Henry IV. had seized, and put to death many of his adherents. In Owen Glendower's wars, this city was a PLACE D'ARMES. In 1459, Henry VI. with Queen Margaret, and her son Edward, made a visit here, and bestowed little silver swans on the Cheshire Gentlemen who espoused her cause.

Henry VII. and his Queen, came here, in 1493. In the year 1617, Edward Button, Mayor, presented King James I. with a gilt cup, and in it a hundred Jacobins of gold. From this time nothing particular happened, till the city was involved in the calamities of a siege, in consequence of its loyalty to Charles I. The siege continued twelve weeks, and the besieged, having been reduced to eat horses, dogs, &c. yielded the city on February the 3d, 1645-6, on terms that did them great honor. An historical account of this interesting period in the annals of Chester, was

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published by the compiler of this work : the third edition was published in 1808, and is now entirely out of print. King William visited this city in the year 1690. Here was a mint for the coinage of silver, in the reign of this King, and by an act then passed, Chester was one of the six cities in England, where an Assay Master was appointed. This city had, for several centuries, public stews or brothels, which were permitted by the legislature, and the houses were distinguished by having the fronts white-washed, and their signs painted on the walls ; they were suppressed in 1542.

A WALK

ROUND THE WALLS.

IT is necessary, before we conduct the traveller upon the walls, to inform him, that they are the only entire specimen of ancient fortification now in the kingdom; are built on a soft free-stone rock, high above the circumjacent country; are one mile three quarters, and a hundred and one yards in circumference, and were kept in excellent repair by the Murage Duties, the most considerable of which is, a duty of two-pence on every hundred yards of Irish Linen brought into the port of Chester; but Liverpool having now become the emporium of trade, this branch is removed thence, and the benefit of such tax expired. These walls may be denominated “national remains worthy of the notice of the Bri-

tish Parliament;" the power which has with so much judgment and discrimination decreed aids to preserve the antiquities and remains of other countries, would not be wanting if properly applied to, in perpetuating the infant martial monuments of the first inhabitants of GREAT BRITAIN. The fortifications of York, Carlisle, and Shrewsbury, are now nearly mouldered away: Chester can alone boast of any entirement.

Ethelfleda is said to have "encompassed the city with walls," but she most probably only repaired the ruined fortifications, the whole form of which, plainly appears to have been Roman; and, near the North-gate, the huge stones shew the Roman wall most plainly. The old Towers, which are within BOW-SHOT of each other, are still remaining on the North and East sides: This mark of antiquity in these erections, conveys to a mind, interested in the history of his own country, a pleasing recollection of early historical facts, and reminds the beholder of the "heroes of other tymes."

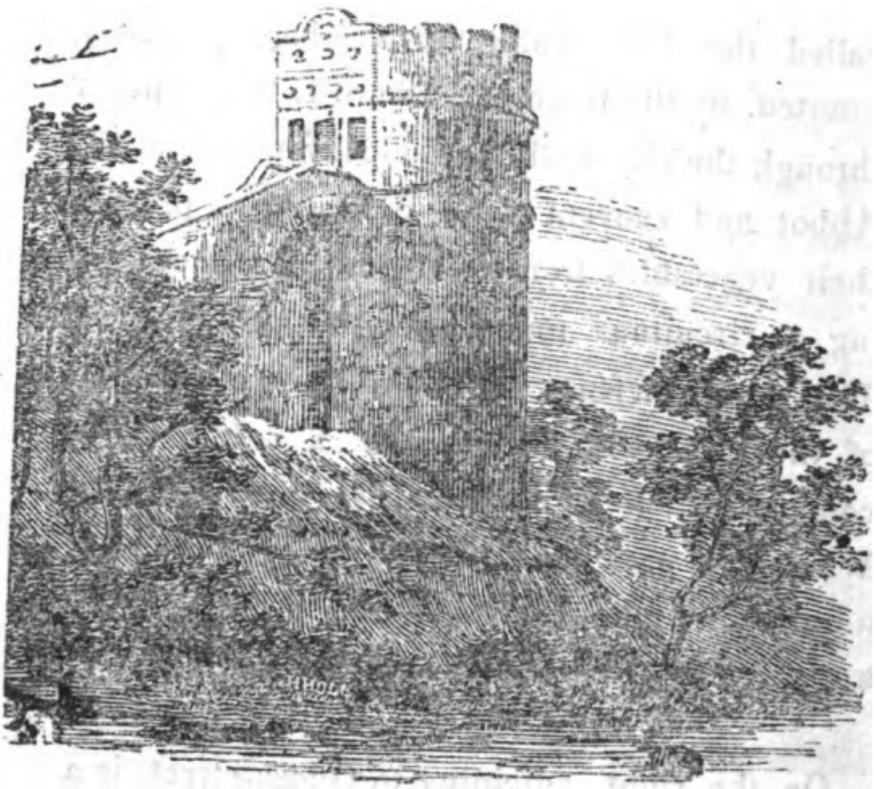
We commence our perambulation at a flight of steps on the North side of the Eastgate ; proceeding to the right a short distance, that venerable and time-stricken pile, the Cathedral, commands our attention ; seen in one of its best points of view : clear, and not disgraced by contiguous brick buildings.

Crossing a small arch-way to the gardens called the Cale Yards, or Cabbage Gardens, granted, in the reign of Edward I. to be opened through the city wall, for the convenience of the Abbot and convent of St. Werburg, to procure their vegetables from their garden, without going a circuitous round through the Eastgate : The rapid increase of building in this part of the city, will soon render a public street communication in this district very desirable. When you pass the Abbey-street, you arrive at a butment on the right, on which formerly stood a tower, called the Sadler's tower.

On the right, adjoining to Queen-street, is a meadow called the Justing Croft, where the tilts

and tournaments, in days of yore, were held in magnificent array. The elevated tower and buildings adjoining, are the shot and white-lead manufactory, which form conspicuous objects in the different approaches to the city.

The lofty tower which stands at the angle, is called the PHŒNIX TOWER, and was formerly



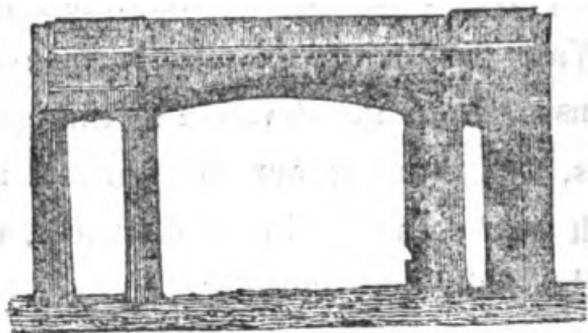
used by some of the companies of the city, as a chamber for business ; the Phoenix, the crest of the Painters and Stationer's company, was placed on the front, with other arms.

From the leads of this tower, King Charles I. had the mortification to see his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, routed by Gen. Pointz, at the battle of Rowton Moor. From its elevation and command of view over the township of Newton, it was formerly called **NEWTON'S TOWER**. It has been recently repaired, preserving it from the ruin which time threatened, and a suitable inscription appears in front.

Beneath the walls here, deeply cut in the solid rock, is the Chester Canal navigation, which extends to Nantwich.

In the time of the rebellion, a ditch surrounded these parts of the Walls, from the Eastgate to the Water Tower. As the view is so exceedingly expansive from the elevation of this part of the Walls, the pointing out the particular objects which strike the eye in the distances, will render the walk more amusing. As you approach

the North from the Eastgate, the ranges of Peck-
 ferton hills, Beeston Castle, the Forest of Del-
 amere, to Helsby Torr, form the back ground of
 the view, interspersed on the foreground with
 Waverton, and Christleton church and village ;
 the seats of Mr. Dixon, Liddleton ; Mr. Sellers,
 Vicar's Cross ; Lady Broughton's beautiful de-
 corated Villa, Mr. Brittain's, Mr. Sedgwick's,
 and Rev. Mr. Hamilton's, about Hoole, which
 was formerly an heath. Mr. Hesketh and Mr.
 Parker, of Newton ; Mr. Whittell, Brook Field ;
 Mr. Fielden, Mollington ; &c. ALL promiscu-
 ously dotting the ground as the eye passes over
 the district. In the interior, the Abbey-street
 and square ; the back of the Deanery ; garden
 and orchard ; also, a range of houses, pleasantly
 situated in the Abbey Green. Next, we arrive
 at the NORTHGATE.



The City Goal, has for ages been under the custody of the Mayor; it was lately taken down, and an elegant Grecian arch erected, at the expense of Robert Earl Grosvenor, which is built of white stone, and is of the Doric order, with an elliptical arch. On the North side is this inscription :
 “ Portam septentrionalem svbstrvctam a Romanis vetvstate jam dilapsam impensis suis ab integro restitvendam cvravit Robertvs Comes Grosvenor.

A. R. Georgii tertii li.”

On the South side is the following :

“ Inchoata Gulielmo Newell arm. Mai.

MDCCCVIII.

Perfecta Thoma Grosvenor, arm. Mai.

MDCCCX.

Thoma Harrison, Architecto.”

From the high elevation of this arch, the extent of view is great : on the right, the peninsula of Wirral, extending into the Irish Channel; in full tide the estuary of the Dee from the Point of Air on the Welsh coast, forming an uninterrupted line of view of the vicinity of Holywell, Flint Castle, Hawarden Castle, the seat of Lady

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Glynne, Church and Rectory; Hope, Marford, Gresford, to Wrexham; the Clywdian range of Hills, forming the back ground to this grand view, which is sometimes, and, alas! now but seldom, enlivened by a solitary sail, dragged through the nearly choaked-up passage of our Navigation. On the left hand of Further Northgate-street, stands the

BLUE COAT HOSPITAL.

situate near the Northgate, was founded by Bishop Stratford, (uncle to the Commissary) in the year 1706. Thirty-five boys are maintained four years, and then put out apprentices to sea, or to business. The annual subscriptions and benefactions to this charity, are instances, amongst many others, of the bountiful liberality and beneficence of the inhabitants of this city and neighbourhood.

One hundred and twenty-four boys are also instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is within this building; it was formerly an hospital, or sanctuary, and endowed with great pri-

vileges: The mastership was granted in the ninth year of Edward II. to the prior of Birkenhead.

In the time of King Henry VIII. it consisted of a Chaplain and six poor brethren; and had lands and profits, to the amount of twenty-eight pounds, ten shillings, and fourpence. There are now in the Chapel-yard, six alms houses for widows, who are each allowed one shilling and two pence weekly, besides a load of coal annually, and other small donations.

This part of the walls bear more the appearance of a fortification than any other, from the number of towers which appear in view; and, upon viewing the foundation of this part of the walls, the large massy stones, and the frieze on the top, prove the workmanship of the Romans in their original state, for they had no parapets.

A person, long resident in Chester, can with difficulty recall to his recollection the appearance of the place which the new canal warehouses, hotel, &c. now occupy, and the bustle of

trade causes him to form a pleasing contrast between its former and present appearance. As far as the surrounding eminence confines the view to the left of our navigation, in the memory of some persons now living, the tide ebbed and flowed daily.

A communication is now formed, through the medium of the old canal to Nantwich, Whitchurch, Ellesmere, Oswestry, Welshpool, Berriew, &c. into the beautiful vale of Montgomery; and also a branch to Chirk and Llangollen, by the stupendous aqueducts of Chirk and Pont Casylti.

The communication between Chester and Liverpool is increased much, by the easy, pleasant, and cheap passage by the canal boats, which leave each place every day, regulated by the serving of the tide, and of which a card, specifying the time, may be procured on board of the packet.

The embankment which keeps the river within its bounds, formed in 1735, is a delightful walk, when the tide is full in, and affords a very

fine view of the city and surrounding country ; nor will the valetudinarian in many places find a finer air, or more agreeable ride, than along the enclosed sands to Blacon Point.

There are two ferries established on the river, one at about the distance of a mile, and the other lower down about five miles, which convey the traveller into the county of Flint.

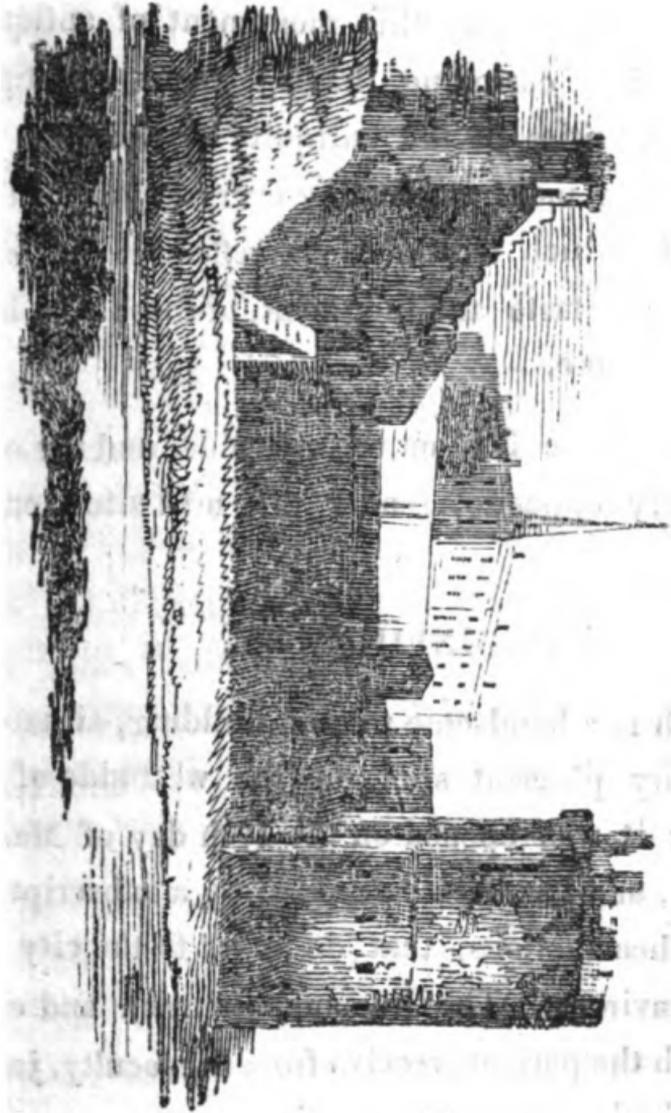
The Act of Parliament, passed in 1735, gave to a number of adventurers, incorporated as " the River Dee Company," all the land on the north-east side of the channel ; this, much to the injury of the trade and port of Chester, induced them to conduct the river in a circuitous course, which has now nearly choaked the Navigation ; but, from the circumstance of a clause in the Act, enabling Trustees to seize possession of the land so taken, in case the channel should not be a certain depth, the citizens are much indebted to the laudable exertions of C. Dundas, Esq. and other patriotic gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who have recently adopted measures, (agreeable to the intentions of the Bill) to clear the chan-

nel, which we hope, eventually, may prove a considerable advantage to the city of Chester ; the port of which, will, in stormy seasons, be a haven, void of the great risk of the dangerous banks of Hoyle, which are in the course to Liverpool: and if judicious measures were adopted, no doubt the trade, consequence, and emoluments of the city, would take the lead of individual interest, in a self-constituted company.

After viewing the distances, we now return in our walk. The large projecting tower at the angle, is called the Water Tower, which formerly jutted into the channel of the river, and to its sides the vessels were used to be fastened by iron rings, infixed in the stone. This tower was built in 1320, and was by contract finished, for the sum of one hundred pounds, by John Helpstone, a mason.

The Infirmary, and the spire of Trinity, render this ruin a pleasing object at a short distance.

WATER TOWER AND INFIRMARY.



We lament that this tower has suffered so much from the dilapidation of time ; and wish some spirited individual of taste, would step forth, and preserve this monument of antiquity from its corroding hand : such vestiges, or authorities of the antiquity of the city, are becoming more interesting every day ; the total loss of which will excite a reflection, at least, upon the taste and judgment, of those who have gone before.

The large field on the city side, and the open country opposite, render this a fit situation for the

INFIRMARY,

which is a handsome pile of building, situate on an airy pleasant spot, on the west side of the city ; it was opened on the 17th day of March, 1761, and has been supported by a subscription, and benefactions, that do honor to the city and its environs. The humane attention and care, which the patients receive from the faculty, justly entitle them to public thanks.

The portrait of Doctor William Stratford, Commissary of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, who was the founder, and left three hundred pounds to the charity, is placed in the council room.

On a piece of ground next to the Infirmary, is erected a commodious building, for the reception of a certain number of girls, who are maintained and educated, so as to qualify them for servants. It is supported by voluntary contributions and subscriptions.

On the left of Stanley Place, two modern ranges of handsome houses, which form one approach to the Irish Linen Hall, built by the Irish Linen merchants in the year 1778. It is a handsome brick building, and contains 111 shops, enclosing a spacious area.

The imports of linen cloth from Ireland, are very considerable, particularly at the time of fairs, on July the 5th, and October the 10th; likewise, hides, tallow, feathers, ox bones, butter, and sundry other articles.

PUBLIC
The decorations of
advanced the expence of
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at the low price of two
annuals.

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 ends level with the surface of
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 selae was composed, were of three
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 of the Emperors Adrian and Trajan;
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 the discovery of Sir John Grey Egerton,
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In the lower part of the field, where this half is built, in the year 1779, (in forming foundations for a row of houses near to the Watergate) was discovered, very little below the surface, the remains of a Roman Hypocaust and Sudatory, buried in their own ruins ; besides which, was part of a tessellated pavement, and an elegant Roman Altar, dedicated to the God Æsculapius; by a standard bearer of the " Legio Augusta," or second legion. The inscription is rendered imperfect by the violence used in getting it up.

The Hypocaust consisted of the same number of like formed pillars to those which are to be seen near the Feathers Inn.

The Sudatory stood lower down, much nearer the gate ; the upper floor of which was supported by twenty-four pillars, composed of tiles, nine inches square, and two inches thick, filled up with a fine red clay ; on the top of each pillar, was placed a tile of two feet square, which seemed to have supported a double floor of course cement ; round the sides of the room, there appeared to have been a row of funnel bricks, (like

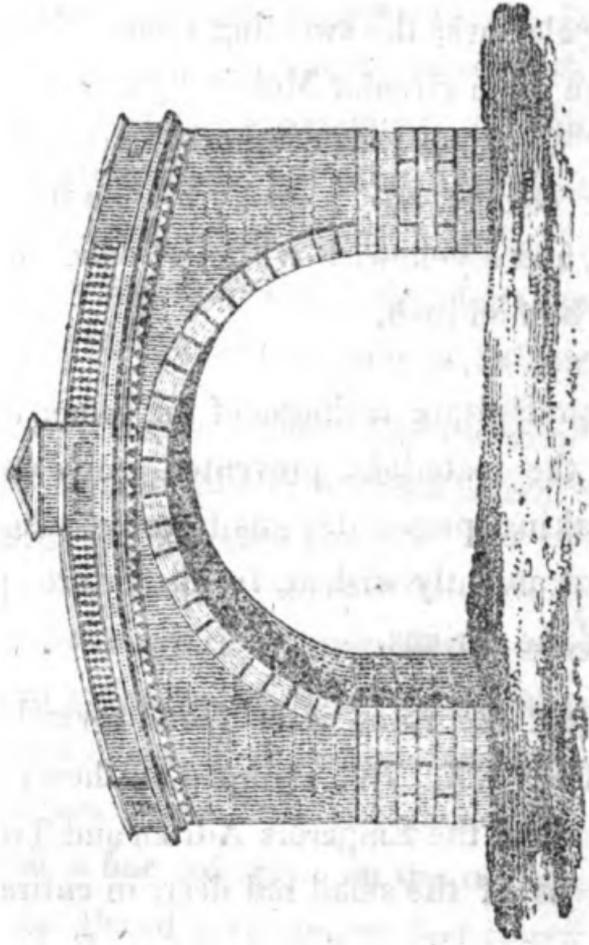
those found a few years ago at Wroxeter,) fixed with their upper ends level with the surface of the floor ; each tunnel having two opposite mortice holes, for a cross passage, to convey the heat more regular over the sweating room. Its pavement run in a circular Mosaic figure ; the Tesseræ of which it was composed, were of three different colours, viz. a dusky blue, a brick colour red, and a yellowish white, of cubes not exceeding half an inch.

The precipitate rashness of the owner in disturbing the materials, prevented many persons from making proper designs from the whole, as was most ardently wished, for the future speculation of the curious.

Amongst the ruins were found several tiles, with LEG. XX. VV. stamped on them ; some few coins, of the Emperors Adrian and Trajan ; also, horns of the small red deer, in entire preservation ; the altar and instrument of sacrifice, are in the possession of Sir John Grey Egerton, Bart. of Oulton, with great part of the antiquities.

We now ascend a handsome spacious Gateway, called the

WATERGATE.



From this Gate we stop to contemplate with much pleasure that large and spacious piece o

land, called the Rood-eye. This extensive flat, more than half surrounded by a range of high grounds, recently cultivated to their base, at which the Dee ebbs and flows ; and the circle, continued by the Walls to this Gateway, gives it the appearance of an amphitheatre, within which the races are annually held, in the beginning of May, continuing five days. The Prince of Wales's (as Earl of Chester) plate of 100 guineas ; the City Plate, a silver punch bowl, value sixty guineas, which is from ancient custom run for upon St. George's day, and, in less enlightened times, was sanctioned by the presence and good cheer of the chief Magistrate and his brethren. The gold cup, given by Earl Grosvenor, value seventy pounds ; and a purse, value sixty guineas, presented by the Members of the City ; with the Stand Subscription Cup, of one hundred guineas, are the prizes run for, besides matches and sweepstakes formed by the gentlemen of the turf.

When the weather is favorable, the views from the different parts of the course, are rendered

singularly interesting by the concourse of people, the various carriages and horsemen; and what adds still more to the whole appearance, is the beauty, fashion, and gaiety, which are ranged on the walls, and on the hill beneath them.

The meetings are honored with companies of the first rank, and the assemblies equal most in the kingdom.

On the West side of the Rood-eye, stands the general Work-house, or House of Industry, where the poor of the several parishes are employed, and provided for in a proper manner. It is a commodious building, and contains generally two hundred persons. It receives the poor from distant parishes, by agreement between the governor and the parish officers. On the North-east side is Paradise Row, a street built within these few years; beyond that, Crane-street. By an ancient map, in the Editor's possession, the deepest part of the river, two centuries back, was formed in the centre of these streets, and the channel flowed to the entrance of the Gate-way.

From the Watergate, up the street, the spire

of Trinity Church formed a conspicuous object, and was one of the most perfect and beautiful architectural needles in England ; but it was taken down a few years ago. This is a neat church, and has been enlarged and beautified within these few years. Here is an ancient monument to the memory of Thomas Wooton, Mayor, in 1433 ; the living is in the gift of the Earl of Derby.

A short distance further stands the house of E. O. Wrench, Esq. on the site of which stood the ancient priory of the White Friars, or Carmelites.

On the left, the church of St. Martin's occurs, a small neat structure, and a rectory, in the Bishop's patronage.

The nursery or nun's gardens on the left. In these gardens was a convent of Benedictine nuns, dedicated to St. Mary, and is supposed to have originated from the monastery of St. John, or was a relique of one of the old nunneries belonging to St. Werburgh. This (with other religious houses) was suppressed in 1537. The reve-

nues were, according to Dugdale, sixty pounds, eighteen shillings, and two-pence. The Church was twenty-two yards long, and fifteen broad, and supported in the middle by a row of pillars. The chapel was nine yards, by four and three-quarters; the cloisters thirty yards, by twenty. Vestiges of the walls and arches are yet remaining. In 1805, a Roman tessellated pavement was discovered, and may be seen in the gardener's house.

The city, viewed from this part, has rather a picturesque appearance, with the gardens in the foreground; and now the approach to the castle being completed, is truly magnificent.

At the end of the nun's gardens, you proceed to the castle and county goal.

The new approach to the castle is through a handsome gateway, on a large Esplanade, with the armoury on one side, and the barracks and provost on the other, the front of the county goal standing in the centre; through a magnificent portico, supported by twelve columns, emblematic of that great bulwark of Englishmen's

rights, the trial by Jury, you enter by one of the most elegantly designed and highly finished courts in England.

THE NEW COUNTY GOAL.

It is impossible to give the reader an adequate idea of the grandeur and magnificence of this Court of Justice, or the ingenuity, extent, and convenience, of the various cells, by a description; we, therefore, shall briefly say, it contains forty-two cells for criminals, and fourteen for condemned persons; there are five courts, two day-rooms, and working room, each; the women are separate from the men. Large and spacious apartments (on the higher ground) for the debtors, which form two wings to the centre, which is the goaler's house, so situated as to command a view of the whole of the courts and buildings; underneath which house is a neat chapel.

We cannot leave this building, without strongly recommending an inspection of the finest goal in the kingdom, erected from the profits arising from the navigation of the river Weaver; and

beg leave to observe, in respect to the architect, Mr. Harrison, that it would be presumption in the compiler of this work to introduce a compliment on the merit of an artist, who has called forth the applauding pen of a Cumberland, and the universal approbation of the most discerning men of science.

The castle was composed of two parts, an upper and lower; each had a strong gate, and round bastions on each side, with a ditch and draw-bridges, and, it is probable, was entirely rebuilt by the Conqueror, when he visited this city, A. D. 1109.

Within the higher Ballium, are some towers of Norman architecture; one called Julius Cæsar's, in the upper part of which has been a chapel, as appears by the holy water-pot, and some figures painted on the wall, and seems, from the elegant roof and pillars, to have been built at the same time, and in the same style, as the Chapter-house in the Cathedral. The arsenal, store-keeper's house, and some batteries, occupy the

remaining part. The view from these upper wards, is very fine.

Previous to the present new erections, on the east side of the lower court, stood the ancient Shire Hall, in which the courts of justice for the county used to be held. It was a magnificent building, near ninety feet in length, and forty-five in breadth ; the height very awful, and worthy the state apartment of the first Norman Earl, Hugh Lupus, who required a hall suitable to the greatness of his hospitality. Adjoining to this hall, was the Court of Exchequer, or Court of Chancery, of the county palatine of Chester. It was the Parliament House of the little kings of the palatinate, and had neat gothic seats for the abbot, and eight barons.

As you leave the castle to return to the walls, on the right hand stands Glover's Stone, which separates the city from the castle, and is part of the county, where non-freemen may exercise their trades, unmolested by the corporation. It is here where the criminals are delivered over to the sheriffs of the city for execution ; this cus-

tom is accounted for only by tradition, that when the city, by the charter of Henry VII. was made a county of itself, the citizens were so tenacious of their privileges, and independent rights, that they took upon themselves to conduct the criminals to execution, rather than the county officers should exercise any authority within their precincts.

Another tradition says, that a felon was formerly rescued in his way to the gallows, by the citizens, for which they had the disagreeable duty inflicted on them of executing all criminals, whether they be of the county or the city. The visitation of the sins of the fathers upon the children, is generally limited to the third and fourth generation ; but this malediction seems to be extended, in this instance, far beyond its usual course ; and it might be thought, either the energy of the citizens, or the liberality of the gentlemen of the county, possessing such very ample means to erect a drop, would, long before this, have prohibited this disgraceful and useless exhibition of a fellow creature dragged through an unfeeling gazing multitude, the ge-

neral demeanour of which, during the period, proving most clearly, that little good can accrue to them ; and that example which is generally urged in vindication of this procession, has no effect. Is there any place, at this day, in the kingdom, where this ancient barbarous custom is not abolished, by an erection for the purpose at the goal ?

You return to the walls by the same path, and continue by the side of the castle : on the left, on an eminence, stands

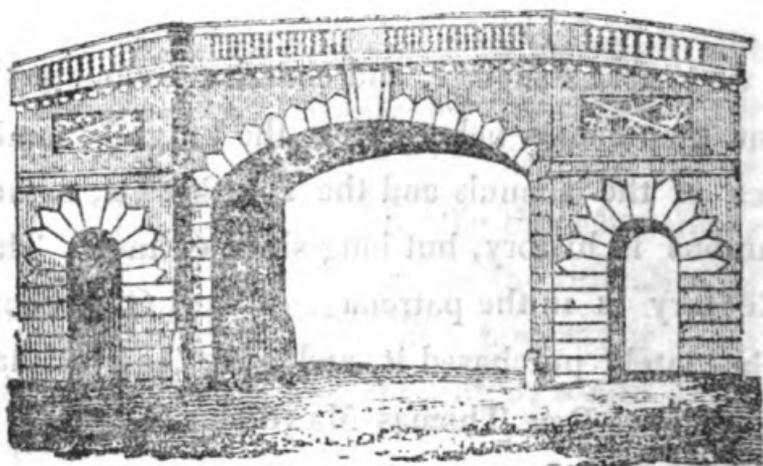
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

a very neat structure, and contains several ancient monuments belonging to the knightly families of the Gamuls and the Troutbeck's, names famous in history, but long since extinct. The Rectory is in the patronage of Earl Grosvenor, who lately purchased it, and gave the presentation to the Rev. Thomas Mawdesley.

Passing the outer walls of the prison, you descend a flight of steps which lead you to a round

arch, called the Hole in the Wall, and is the only Roman arch remaining in these parts ; through this postern seems to have been the common passage over the river Dee before the building of the bridge, (which is supposed to have been built by Ethelfleda) either by means of a boat at high water, or by fording it at low, the river being very shallow here.

We now ascend another handsome arch Gateway, called the BRIDGE GATE, built anno. Dom. 1782, at the expense of the Corporation. Joseph Turner, Architect.



BRIDGE GATE.

A large octagonal tower stood above the old gate, which was built in the year 1600, and was intended, by raising the water to a cistern at the top, to have conveyed it in pipes to all parts of the city : but this did not answer the purpose, and it was taken down.



OCTAGONAL TOWER, taken down 1781.

There was likewise an outward gate on the Handbridge side, which had a narrow passage made through the masonry, sufficient only to admit of one person at a time. The frequent attacks made upon this part of the city, by the Welsh, seems to have rendered this caution necessary. Between the two ancient round towers, was placed the plume of feathers, the badge of the victorious black prince, and of the succeeding princes of Wales.

The appearance of the banks of the river Dee, as you ascend the gate-way, is very striking. This grand river, so celebrated by the earliest poets and historians, approaches, with a majestic heaviness, over an extensive causeway, erected by Hugh Lupus, where it empties itself into the channel, and soon terminates its course into the bosom of the ocean. The distant grounds are terminated by the Castle of Beeston, and the successive ranges of Bucklow and Peckforton hills.

The traveller would be much gratified by taking a boat from the Groves below the walls,

where men attend for the purpose, and you sail up a river, which certainly affords as many subjects for the pencil and admiration, as any river in England ; the magnificent residence of Eaton; the seat of Earl Grosvenor, lately erected in the gothic style, the beauty and extent of the Park, and various new cottages, planted with infinite taste along the banks, add much by art to the natural beauties through which you sail ; nor should we omit here reminding the stranger of the contiguity of Eaton Hall--although, for its celebrity--for exquisite beauty in rich gothic architecture--its magnificence in interior as well as exterior decorations--few but what are aware, that a visit to Chester renders a view of Eaton one prominent excitement to the excursion.

Over the bridge, in the front of a rock, in the field on the right, is cut a figure of the DEA ARMIGERA,--MINERVA, with her bird and altar. Here were formerly some ancient buildings whose scite is marked by certain hollows ; for the ground (probably over the vaults) gave way, and fell in, within the remembrance of persons

now alive. Tradition calls the spot "the scite of the place of Edgar," from his being rowed in the year 973, by eight tributary kings, to the monastery of St. John the Baptist, and back again to his palace.

At the end of the bridge are the Corn Mills, which, with the causeway, were the works of Hugh Lupus, and retained to the succeeding Earls of Chester of the royal line. They were leased in 1355, by Edward the Black Prince, at the annual rent of one hundred and ninety pounds. The inhabitants were then obliged to grind at these mills, except the tenants of the abbot of St. Werburgh, (and in after times of the Dean and Chapter) who had a mill of their own at Beach-pool, about a mile from the city.

They were granted for life to Sir Howel y Fwyal, for his valour in taking John, King of France, prisoner, at the battle of Poitiers; here are also the water-works, which, by an engine, supply the city with water, for which the inhabitants pay the proprietors in proportion to the rent of their houses, or their consumption.

The bridge is built upon seven arches ; the passage over it is very disagreeable, and indeed, when crowded, very dangerous, owing to its being so contracted; a new bridge would certainly add much to the convenience of the public, and the appearance of the city.

The suburbs on the other side of the bridge, is called Handbridge; by the Welsh, Tre Boeth, or burnt town.

As we pass along this very pleasant part of the walls, the elegant houses and gardens on the banks of the Dee, with the venerable structure and ancient ruins of St. John's Church, render the scene worthy of admiration.

-This church stands without the walls, upon the banks of the Dee, on the East side of the city ; it was a collegiate church, said to have been founded by King Ethelfred, in 689, on being admonished by a vision to build it on the spot where he should find a white hind ; the legend is represented by a sculpture on the West side of the steeple.

This is the monastery King Edgar was rowed to from his palace.

The church has been a magnificent pile, and claims priority of foundation to any other ; the interior part is evidently of Saxon origin, the massy round pillars which support the circular arches, are sufficient proofs of its antiquity.

When Peter, Bishop of Lichfield, removed his episcopal see to Chester, he is said to have made this church his Cathedral.

A great part of the East end was demolished by the fall of the centre tower ; nor are there any remains of the North and South transepts, though there are evident marks in the wall of the parts to which they were joined. The ruins of the chapels above the old choir, (which is now the parish church) are remarkably picturesque, one part of which has lately been fitted up, in an elegant manner, as a residence.

The Chancel contains, amongst several others, a decayed monument belonging to the ancient family of Cotes, some time patrons of this church. Also, a mutilated figure of a knight

Templar, who, by the remaining arms upon his shield, appears to have been one of the knightly family of Carrington, long since consolidated with the Booths, now Earls of Stamford.

Here are some handsome monuments belonging to the Warburton family; likewise, a flat stone insculped with a flowery cross, on one side of which is a sword, with the following inscription, cut in Saxon characters, HIC JACET JOHANNES LE SERGEUM.

At the dissolution here were found, a dean, seven prebendaries, seven vicars, two clerks, four choristers, sextons, and other servants. Their yearly income, in the 26th of Henry VIII. was eighty-eight pounds, sixteen shillings, and eight pence. On the East side of the church, stood the chapel of St. Ann, afterwards called Cholmondeley hall, but now totally demolished.

On the South side of the church-yard, impending over a high cliff, supposed to be the Radclive of the Dooms-day book, is a small anchorite's cell, dedicated to St. James, to which, it is said (by Giraldus Cambriensis) that Harold,

after his defeat at the battle of Hastings, retired and ended his days here.

‘ Harolde had many woundes, and lost hys left
 ‘ eye wyth the strooke of an arrowe, and was
 ‘ overcome; and yescaped to the countrey of
 ‘ Chester, and lived there holylie, as men trow-
 ‘ eth, an Anker’s lyfe, in Saynt Jame’s cell, fast
 ‘ by Saynt John’s church, and made a goode
 ‘ ende, as yt was knowen by hys last confession.’

Some few years ago, in altering the cell, the workmen discovered two human skeletons, deposited in coffin-shaped cavities, cut in the live rock.

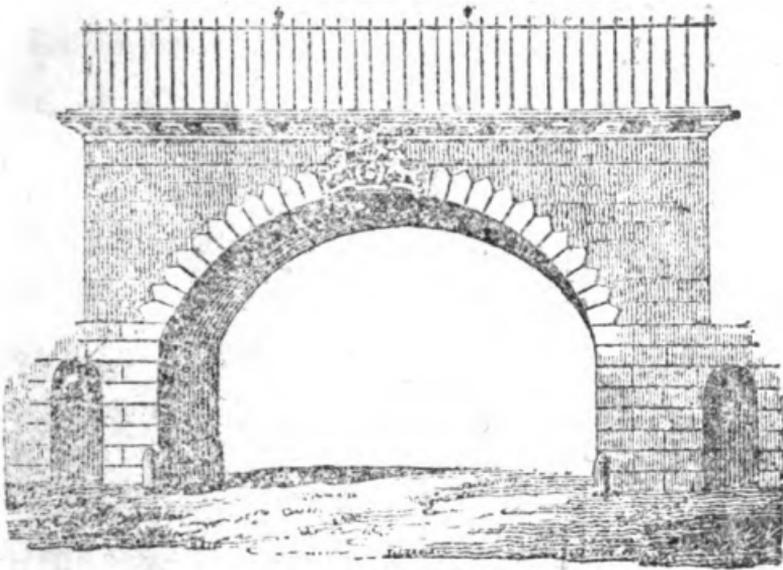
Near this church was the monastery of St. Mary, mentioned in Domesday-book, but the scite is not now discoverable. The church-yard is embellished with the picturesque ruins of the old chapel, and affords a most beautiful and extensive prospect.

The munificence of the present Earl Grosvenor, has induced him in an inclosure opposite the Church, to build a plain, but extensive SCHOOL,

erected for the free education of the children of the poor of this city, on the new system.

Crossing an arch-way called Newgate, the scene becomes uninteresting, owing to the number of dwelling houses which have been improperly allowed in former times to encroach upon the walls, until we arrive at the

EASTGATE.



This is the termination of our circular excursion, and is a magnificent arch, erected in 1769, at the expense of the late Richard Lord Grosve-

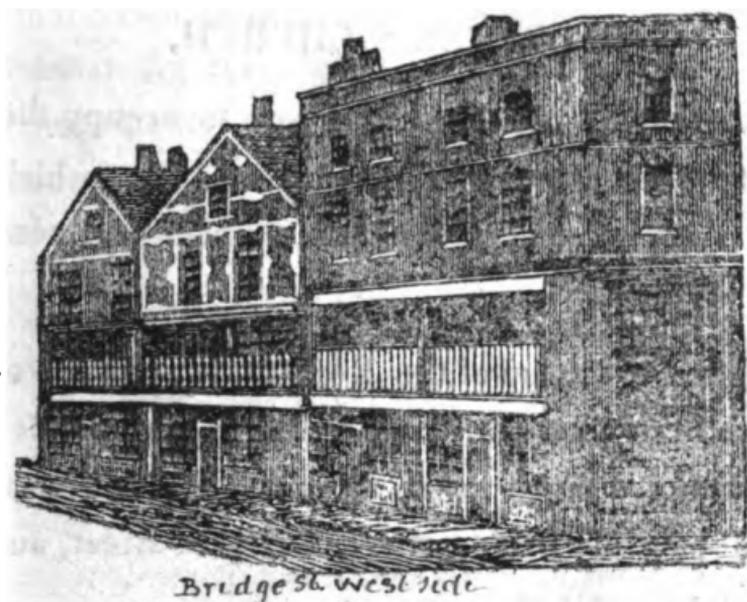
was, upon the site where, a few years ago, the old Postgate stood, which consisted of two wide arches, of Roman architecture; the East side was covered with a large tower, of later workmanship, on the face of which were placed four shields, with the arms of Edward III. and is said to have been erected by him.

This had been a *PORTA PRINCIPALIS*, was the grand entrance into the town, and was upon the great Watling-street road from Dover to this place. This gate was formerly held by the Earls of Oxford.



A WALK

Through the City.



ROWS, OR GALLERIES.

IN commencing the walk through the city, the stranger is particularly struck with the singular appearance of the rows, or galleries; formed on each side the streets, with two ranges of shops in the front, and the houses above; the streets are excavated out of the ground, the back gardens being uniformly upon a level with the rows, and

was supposed to have been so planned by the Romans, that the citizens might repel the frequent incursions of the Welsh into the city, by bows and arrows from these elevations.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

at the Cross, which is supposed to occupy the scite of the Roman Prætorium, and from which we shall commence our walk, as being the centre of the city.

The Prætorium of the Romans, is recorded to have been where St. Peter's church now stands; it occupied much room; to the shambles North, and part of Bridge-street, Eastgate-street, and Watergate-street.

This church was finished in 1489, and was ornamented with a handsome spire, taken down some time since; when it was repairing, a few years before, a man was killed by a fall from the scaffold. The living is in the gift of the bishop. Nearly opposite to the church, stood the conduit: this elevated ancient piece of masonry, held a large cistern, lined with lead, and, upon every coronation of a new heir to the crown, a

cask of wine was emptied into it, and suffered to
 run down pipes to the people below ; adjoining
 this church was the Pentice Office, where business
 was transacted by the sitting Magistrates ; but from
 the circumstances of these buildings projecting
 so far in the centre of the city, and a spirit of
 improvement having shewn itself in the inhabi-
 tants, which has since been manifested in vari-
 ous quarters, it was deemed necessary to
 remove these two buildings : in taking the
 approach down, was discovered the re-
 mains of the ancient Cross, which, in the time
 of Cromwell, was wrathfully deposited beneath
 a large flight of steps leading to the church, the
 mutilated remains of which are now in the grounds
 of Sir John Cotgreave, of Netherlegh House.

Proceeding eastward, we enter

EASTGATE STREET,

A large spacious street, where the markets
 for fowl, butter, and cheese, are kept, which,
 for cheapness and plenty, equal most in the king-
 dom. It is about 209 yards in length, and in

most parts, fifteen yards in breadth. On the right hand side, is Newgate-street, and opposite, is St. Werburgh's street, leading to the Cathedral.

Passing under the arch, you enter Foregate-street, which is a spacious airy street, about 572 yards in length, and in most parts 18 yards in breadth; on the right is St. John-street, which leads to the church. At the entrance, a chaste and beautiful erection, by Wyatt, for the Chester Bank. The Methodist Chapel stands lower down, with a semicircular front; which form gives the interior a very grand and pleasing effect; Harrison the Architect.--- On the opposite side, is Frodsham-street.--- On the same side, is Queen-street, the houses in which have been built within these few years; here is a Meeting-house for a sect of Independents; also, a Chapel for the Roman Catholics,

A new street called Sellar Street, communicates by an iron arch, of judicious construction, over the canal, to another called Egerton-street, and comes into Frodsham road in Brooke-street; this communication, accomplished by a spirited

individual, enables the traveller to avoid the narrow passage of Frodsham-street.

Nearly opposite to this street, is Love-street, where a considerable trade is carried on, in making tobacco pipes, great quantities of which are exported; and, at the bottom, is Barker's-street, where the Tanners have their yards.

A little below stood a strong large Postern-gate, a few years ago, called the BARS, which divided Foregate-street, from the suburbs, called Boughton, which is a very wide street: here was formerly the place of execution for criminals, but which is now removed to the East part of the City Gaol; and nigh this spot, George Marsh was burned, for his adherence to the Protestant cause, in the reign of Queen Mary.

A little further, on the right hand side, just where the roads to Nantwich and Whitchurch divide, stood the hospital for Lepers, instituted in the beginning of the reign of King Edward II. and is still used as a place of interment

for the parish of St. John ; it is now called Spital Boughton.

Near this place is a pleasant retreat called Barrel Well ; affording a most beautiful prospect, and an excellent cold bath.

Returning to the cross, we proceed down the West, or

WATERGATE STREET.

which is in length about 429 yards, and about 11 in breadth. On the right hand side, is Goss-street, which has a foot passage through, and forms a communication with, the Northgate-street, near the Fish Shambles.

A little below is Crook-street, in which is the Anabaptist and Unitarian meeting houses, the latter was built by the pious Matthew Henry : lower down, is Trinity-street, at the end of which stands the Church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Opposite, is Weaver's-street.

Adjoining to the Church, is His Majesty's Custom House, where attendance is given from ten o'clock in the morning, until four in the evening, holy-days excepted.

Close to the Custom House is situated Linen Hall street. Opposite, is Nicholas-street. Near this place, was a house of Grey Friars, which was as ancient as the time of King Henry III. Speed says it was founded by King John, and places the church in the field where the Linen Hall stands, and where the Roman hypocaust before alluded to, was discovered. Passing through the

WATERGATE,



You enter the Roodee, where the races are annually held in May. At a very full meeting of the gentry of this and the adjacent counties, it was thought that the erection of a Grand Stand would not only add to the effect of the scene, but prove a great acquisition to the comfort and convenience of the higher ranks attending. A spirited subscription was immediately opened, and soon after, the sum of 2,500*l.* was collected. Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor ; Sir W. W. Wynn ; Sir John Grey Egerton ; Sir Thomas Stanley ; Sir Richard Brooke ; Sir H. M. Mainwaring ; the Honourable Thos. Grosvenor ; the Rev. H. D. Broughton ; F. R. Price, Esq. and James Kelsall, Esq. have two shares each. The remainder are single shares. The Committee for the year consisted of the following Nobleman and Gentlemen :--

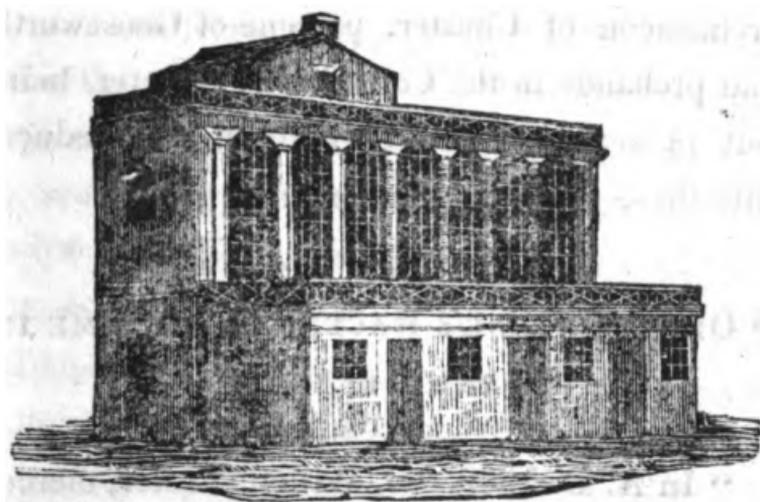
The Right Worshipful the Mayor,

The Sheriffs, and Stewards for the time being.

Earl Grosvenor ; Sir J. G. Egerton, Bart. ; E. V. Townshend, Esq. ; George Brooke, Esq. ; Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. ; Sir. T. Stanley, Bart. ; Sir R. Brooke, Bart. ; Sir H. M. Main-

waring, Bart. ; General Grosvenor, M. P. ; F. R. Price, Esq. ; Aldermen' Larden and Francis ; C. Cholmondeley ; C. Morrall ; H. Hesketh ; John Fletcher, and James Kelsall, Esquires.

GRAND STAND.



In giving the present state of the races, its antiquity claims, and perhaps would prove, a more interesting investigation to the stranger therefore make the following extract from the collection of the late William Nicholls, Esq. of Chorlton, to whose researches in the History of Cheshire,

Lysons, Ormerod, and others, are so richly indebted ; and whilst the compiler regrets his loss, feels a pleasure in paying this just tribute to his memory. The MS. from which this is extracted, is entitled “ Certayne collections of anciant times, concerning the anciant and famous cittie of Chester, collected by that Revrend Man of God Mr. Robert Rogers, bachelor of divinitie, archdeacon of Chester, parson of Gooseworth, and prebande in the Cathedral of Chester, being put in scattered notes, and by his son reduced into these chapters following :”

“ OF ST. GEORGE’S RACE, OF LATE TIME INVENTED, AND WHEN ALTERED.”

“ In A. D. 1609, Mr. William Lester, mercer, beinge mayor of Chester, one Mr. Robert Amerye, ironmonger, sometime sherife of Chester, (A. D. 1608,) he, with the assent of the mayor and cittie, at his own coste chiefly, as I conceive chiefly, caused three silver cupps of goode value, to be made, the which saide silver cupps were, upon St. George’s daye, for ever to be thus

disposed : all gentlemen that would bringe their horses to the Rood-dee that daye, and there run, that horse which with spede did over-rune the reste, shoulde have the beste cuppe there presently delivered, and that horse which came seconde, next the firste, before the reste, had the seconde cuppe, there also delivered ; and for the thirde cuppe, it was to be run for at the ringe, by any gentleman that woulde rune for the same, upon the said Rood-dee, and upon St. George's daye : being thus decreed, that every horse putt in soe much monie as made the value of the cupps or bells, and had the money, which horses did winne the same, and the use of the cupps, till that daye twelve month, beinge in bonde to deliver in the cupps that daye ; soe also for the cuppe for the ringe, which was yearly continued accordingly, until the yeare of our Lorde 1623 ; John Brereton, inn-holder, beinge mayor of Chester, he altered the same after this manner, and caused the three cupps to be sould, and caused more money to be gathered and added, soe that the intereste thereof would make one faire silver cuppe, of the value of 8l. as I sup-

pose, it maye be more worth, and the race to be altered, viz. from beyonde the New Tower a great distance, and soe to rone five times from that place rownd about the Rood-dee, and he that overcame all the reste the last course, to have the cuppe freely for ever, then and there delivered, which is continued to this daye. But here I must not omit the charge, and the solemnitie made the first of St. George's daye ; he had a poet, one Mr. Davies, whoe made speeches and poeticale verses, which were delivered at the high crosse, before the mayor and aldermen, with shewes of his invention, which booke was imprinted and presented to that famous Prince Henry, eldeste sonne to the blessed King James, of famous memorie. Alsoe, he caused a man to go upon the spire of St. Peter's steeple in Chester, and by the fane, at the same tyme he sounded a drum, and displayed a banner upon the top of the same spire. And this was the original of St. George's race, with the change thereof, as it is now used.

“ Alsoe, the saide Mr. Robert Amery caused

the jacks, or boyes, which strike quarterly at St. Peter's at High-crosse, to be made and erected.

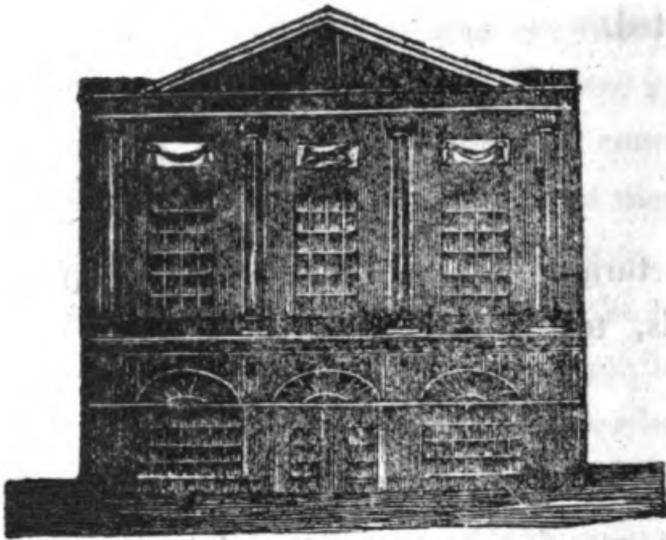


Returning to the Cross, we proceed northwards, to

NORTHGATE STREET,

which is in length about 440 yards; the entrance was for many years much incommoded by a projection of shops, which supported an ancient building, called the Inner Pentice, and rendered it very dangerous for passengers, at fairs and public times; but, by a voluntary subscription of three hundred pounds by the inhabitants, they were taken down, some years before the outer Pentice was removed. Near the scite of the old inner Pentice, and nearly adjoining St. Peter's Church, in the year 1809 was erected by Subscription, the present handsome

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.



In all ancient towns where buildings were originally crowded, little attention is paid to space, and the value of ground is more estimated than the grandeur of appearance ; most public buildings requiring to be pointed out, from the narrowness of the street in which they are erected, or being lost in surrounding houses : we lament this more, in this instance, than in any other ; the simple elegance of the design of this front, would have formed a fine termination to a street, or a centre of a square. The building bespeaks the architect---Mr. Harrison. Within

this building, in an appropriate large room, is deposited the City Library, first instituted by the late Alderman Broster, an. 1770 ; and, from that period, has been so encouraged and increased, as to assume the form of a most respectable and well-selected English Library.

The daily market for fish and vegetables, is held opposite to the Exchange, which is well supplied, and reasonable.

THE EXCHANGE,

is a large handsome pile, supported by five columns in the centre, and has a row of shops on the West side. It was built about the year 1698, in the mayoralty of Colonel Robert Whitley, who gave his toll towards defraying the expenses of the building. The length is 126 feet, and the breadth 46 feet. The Courts of Justice are held in a large commodious common hall over the Exchange, which is adorned with the following portraits :

King Charles II. ; King James II. ; Sir R. Levintz, Recorder ; Sir Harry Bunbury ; Sir Thos.

Grosvenor ; Sir Richard Grosvenor ; Sir Robert Grosvenor, ancestors of the present Earl Grosvenor ; Roger Comberbach, Esq. Recorder ; John Egerton, Esq. ; Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. ; Robert Townshend, Esq. Recorder ; and H. Leicester, Esq. Recorder.

In this place the Mayor, assisted by the Recorder, holds the courts of crownmote, portmote, and Sessions. Here the body corporate hold their assemblies for making bye-laws, and other public business. The elections for Mayor, and other annual Officers ; as likewise for Members of Parliament, are held here ; this is also the Mansion House, where the Mayors have their entertainments, and the citizens their assemblies, during the winter. The interior of this building has recently been considerably improved, under the direction of Mr. Harrison, comprising a very commodious Justice's Room, Offices for the Town-clerk, &c. which, together with the Town-hall and entertaining room, form a convenient and handsome suit of rooms for every purpose required. In the entertaining room, the city assemblies used to be held monthly, during winter

THE ENGINE HOUSE,

near the Exchange, is a neat building, with fluted columns, and a rich cornice, of the Corinthian order, and was built at the expense of the Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The fire engines are kept here at the expense of the Corporation, and the keys by persons in different parts of the city. On the East side of the Exchange, stands the Bishop's palace, and the Cathedral.

In respect to the Palace, two rooms, of large dimensions, occupy the principal space ; and we cannot say much in praise of the architect, who, with such ample means, might have erected a building more accordant with true taste and grandeur.

The two flesh shambles, (where the country butchers are allowed to sell their meat upon market days,) fill up a great part of the street ; upon one of which is placed a large cistern, or reservoir of water, conveyed there by pipes, from the water-works at the bridge, which supplies the inhabitants of the upper part of the street, with

water. Perhaps, in future improvements, the propriety of removing these long standing nuisances, may be removed, and a general market erected in some central situation ; which, independent of the removal, would considerably add to the improvement of the street, and prove a great convenience to the inhabitants at large.

On the West side of the Shambles, is Princess-street, which leads to the Infirmary. Opposite to which, passing through the Abbey-gate, which is a noble entrance of two Gothic arches, included within a round one of great diameter, you enter the

ABBEY COURT.

On the arch over the gateway, is the Register's Office, consisting of large convenient rooms, surrounded with neat oak cases, where the wills are kept, and two smaller rooms, for the Register and his clerks. The present Register is Benjamin Keene, Esq. ; William Ward, Esq. public notary, his deputy.

On the front of the gate are two niches ; in one

of which, the image of Hugh Lupus was used to be placed during the fairs.

The Abbey Court is a neat square, within an obelisk, with a large lamp on the top, lighted up with gas, and grass-plot in the middle, enclosed by a neat iron railing; there are handsome modern built houses, on two sides; the Bishop's palace filling up the South side, which is a plain stone pile, built by Bishop Keene, in 1753, upon the walls of the ancient Abbot's house.

The house in which the Dean resides, was lately built upon the walls of St. Thomas's chapel, and is a commodious handsome building.

The Prebends, Minor Cannons, and Vicars Choral, have houses within the Abbey Court.

The Abbey-street leads to the city walls, and to the Kale Yards, which were formerly the kitchen gardens belonging to the Abbot and monastery.

THE CATHEDRAL,

is situated on the east side of the Northgate-

street, and is the largest church; the principal parts now standing were built in the reign of Henry VI. VII. and VIII.

The broad aisle was begun by the Abbot Ripley, the initials of whose name appear on the capitals of some of the pillars interlaced in cypher. He was elected abbot in 1485. The abbey out of which this see was formed, was of great antiquity. It is said to have been originally a nunnery, founded in 606, by Wulpherus, King of the Mercians, for his daughter St. Werburgh, who took the veil, after living immaculate for three years with her husband Ceolredus.

The pious Ethelfleda restored the buildings, and established a set of canons in the place of the nuns.

Hugh Lupus suppressed the canons, and, by the advice of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, established a set of Benedictines.

At the dissolution, Thomas Clarke, the abbot, surrendered, and was rewarded with the Deanery.

The Choir is separated from the broad aisle, by a neat Gothic skreen, that supports the organ; on the upper parts, are painted the arms of the ancient Earls of Chester, the episcopal bearings, and coats of the old Barons.

The Choir is very neat, and the Gothic tabernacle work is carried on in an elegant manner. In the Chancel are four stone stalls, for the officiating Priests, and a few recesses for the preserving either the relics or sacred utensils. The Bishop's throne is a fine piece of stone sculpture, of curious workmanship, said to be the ancient shrine of St. Werburgh, and is richly ornamented with gothic carving.

Round it is a range of little images, designed to represent the King and Saints of the Mercian kingdom. Each held a scroll in one hand, with the name inscribed, but the names are now obliterated. By a judicious suggestion of Mr. Harrison, the wainscotting, which formerly obscured this great curiosity, was removed to its base, and shews it to that advantage it deserves.

Here are several handsome monuments of Bishops and Churchmen, and one of Sir William Mainwaring, a young officer, who was killed in defence of the city, during the siege.

In digging a grave for the late Dean Smith near this spot, a stone coffin was taken up, having a roof-shaped lid, and within it, a leaden one. The curiosity of some persons induced them to open it; the body appeared to be in fine preservation, and to have lain in a liquor or pickle, which had an agreeable scent. It is very probable that it was the body of abbot Berchelsey, alias Lythelles, who, according to Brown Willis, succeeded to the Abbacy in 1291, died in 1324, and was buried under a grave-stone that had his effigy on it in brass, in the south side of the choir, and, on his breast, was placed a crucifix, embossed upon a piece of vellum.

The Altar piece is of very fine tapestry, representing the history of Elymas the sorcerer struck with blindness, from a design of Raphael; and which was said, by Mr. Wright, of Stretton, the author of Travels in Italy, &c. in 2 vols. 4to. as

being superior to most of the tapestry in Rome.

In the windows of the north aisle of the choir, amongst some relics of painted glass, are the arms generally given to King Edward the Confessor ; and, azure, three crowns, or, the ensign of the kingdom of the East Angles.

Behind the choir, is St. Mary's chapel, which was formerly the high altar, in which prayers are read at six o'clock every morning ; in the aisle leading to which, is a tomb, of an altar form, said to contain the bones of Henry IV. Emperor of Germany ; but which statement is considered, by historians, as somewhat doubtful. The transepts are of an equal length ; the South is very large, and is the parish church of St. Oswald.

This is said to have stood on 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 rebuilding of the church, this aisle was designedly enlarged, and allotted by the monks to the neighbouring inhabitants.

At first, the religious wished to have the whole to themselves ; and, on that account, built at a distance from this aisle, a Chapel, called St. Nicholas, and endowed it with a vicarage for the use of the Laity ; but, afterwards, at the request of the inhabitants, and by a composition between the Mayor and Abbot, about the year 1488, they were restored to the church of St. Oswald, which they still retain : Lord Chancellor Gerarde, lies buried here, he died in the year 1581, his coffin was discovered in 1794, and appeared to be quite perfect.

The remains of the chapel of St. Nicholas, with regret we observe, is at present appropriated as a Theatre Royal ; independent of the incongruous conversion, the approaches are contracted, the lower part used as a warehouse for storing goods for land or water carriage ; and the general construction of the building of that description, as to render a new one, in a better situation, desirable.

There is a chapel of ease to this church, at Churton Heath, about three miles distant. This vicarage is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter.

On the north side of the aisle, are the Cloisters, which now consist only of three walks, and appear, by the different arms on the roof, to have been repaired at several times; from the time of Edward III. to that of Wolsey, whose arms, with those of the See of York, with the Cardinal's cap, are also to be seen here. The burying ground in the quadrangle, was levelled by the late Dean Cholmondeley, and judiciously opened the South cloister, which is now removed, being in ruins, and very correctly opens the monumental recesses of the four mitred abbots, viz. Richard, the first abbot; William, the second abbot; Ralph, the third abbot, and Hastings, the sixth. In the East walk is the beautiful edifice

THE CHAPTER HOUSE,

which merits a visit from every traveller. The Vestibule is arched, and supported by eight elegant pilasters; it is thirty-three feet by twenty-seven.

The Chapter House is fifty feet long, twenty-six wide, and thirty-five feet high; the neatness

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of the masonry is remarkable ; a narrow gallery runs along three parts of the room, divided from the windows by a triplet of most elegant slender lofty pillars ; the roof is of stone ; the springs of the arches are supported by neat pilasters, with palmy capitals ; it is surrounded by book-cases, which reach up to the bottom of the windows ; and it is the opinion of Pennant and other Antiquarians of taste, that their removal would add much to the architectural beauty of the building ; but, when it is reflected the use they are appropriated to, the reception of a valuable ancient Library, in which are many rare books, from the collections of Bishop Walton, the learned and laborious editor of the Polyglot ; Bishop Pearson, the author of the Work on the Creed, with those of other learned donors, the regret is confined ; and we only lament that more contributors have not been added to the list, as in the Cathedrals of Worcester, Gloucester, &c. where a rule is adopted, that every new member of the church contributes a sum to the increase of the Library. It is supposed to have been

built by Randal Meschines, Earl of Chester, who died in 1128.

Here the body of Hugh Lupus was found interred, wrapped in leather, in 1742, having been removed out of the church-yard to this place. Several others of the Earls of Chester, their countesses, and the abbots, were buried here.

On one side of the Cloisters stood the Fraternity, part of which is now the Free School, and was founded by King Henry VIII. for twenty-four boys, who are appointed by the Dean and Chapter, who likewise appoint two masters for their instruction.

In the cloisters is a flight of steps which led to the dormitory, and the kitchen and cellars belonging to the ancient priests.

The late Dean Cholmondeley, with a laudable zeal, even to protect the remaining ruins from further decay, cleared the rubbish from these buildings, opened and repaired many beautiful specimens of ancient architecture, with much

taste and judgment ; and with pleasure we announce, that our much respected and worthy Diocesan, has recently, with great exertion, raised a large subscription to preserve this venerable pile from that decay to which it was rapidly approaching.

The Bishoprick was founded by King Henry VIII. It was anciently in the diocese of Lichfield, untill, by doom of cannon law, all Bishops were to reside in the greatest cities in their diocese ; and thereupon, Peter, Bishop of Lichfield, A. D. 1075, removed his seat to Chester, and was styled Bishop of Chester ; but Robert de Lindsay, his next successor, leaving Chester, fixed his seat at Coventry, A. D. 1095, which was again brought back by Roger Clinton, in the reign of Henry I. from which time the Bishops took their titles from the places of their residence ; and, finally, in the thirty-third year of Henry VIII. at the dissolution of monasteries, the King ejecting the monks, it was made an entire Episcopal See.

There are in it two archdeaconries, Chester

and Richmond ; it is a suffragan to York. The diocese includes Cheshire and Lancashire—a part of Yorkshire, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. It is, considering its great extent, one of the least in value of any in England ; the first Bishop, J. Bird, having granted the manors and demesnes of the see, and accepted impropriations in their stead.

It contains two hundred and fifty-six parishes, one hundred and one of which are impropriate. The Bishoprick is valued in the King's books, four hundred and twenty pounds, one shilling, and eight pence ; and the clergy pay, for their tenths, four hundred and thirty-five pounds, twelve shillings, per annum.

A few paces further, is a lane which leads to Gorst Stacks, and, opposite, is a small lane called Canal-street, which leads to the Crane. At the end of the street, are two roads ; that on the right hand leads to Eastham, and the Liverpool ferries ; and that on the left, leads to Park-gate. Soon after you enter the Eastham road,

on the left hand side, are the remains of St. Thomas's chapel, now used as a barn.



BRIDGE STREET.

The South or Bridge-street, is an open spacious street, in length, from the Cross to the Bridge, about 533 yards. The house at present occupied by Mr. Brittain, was formerly a most excellent Inn,—perhaps the only one in the city—known by the sign of the Blue Posts, and was the scene of a remarkable transaction :—

In the year 1558, Dr. Cole, being appointed by Queen Mary one of the commissioners for the purpose of prosecuting the protestants in Ireland : whilst the Doctor was at Chester, he was waited on by the Mayor, to whom he communicated the business that he was going about ; and taking a leather box out of his cloak-bag, said, “ Here is a commission that shall lash the Hereticks of Ireland.” The woman of the

house over-hearing their conversation, and having a brother then in Dublin, was troubled at the Doctor's intention ; and, whilst he complimented the Mayor down stairs, she opened the box, and, taking out the commission, placed in its stead a pack of cards, with the knave of clubs upperwards. The Doctor, unsuspecting, packed up the box again, and, upon his arrival at the Castle of Dublin, presented the box to the Lord Deputy and Privy Council, who, upon examining the contents, found the pack of cards, with the knave of clubs uppermost, to the great surprise of the Doctor, who assured the Deputy and Council, that he had a commission, but was entirely ignorant how it was gone. The Deputy made answer, " Let us have another commission, and we will shuffle the cards in the mean time." The Doctor, in great disappointment, returned to court, and obtained another commission ; but before he could return again to Ireland, the Queen died, and Queen Elizabeth rewarded the woman, whose name was Elizabeth Edmunds, with a pension of forty pounds a year during her life.

On the West side, is Common Hall street where the old Common Hall of the city yet remains, and is at present used as a meeting-house for some of the city companies, and as a conventicle for a sect of Anabaptists. The only remains of any hotel, and that of no very ancient date, stood on the North side of this street, near the old Common Hall, which, when entire, surrounded a square, and communicated with Watergate-street. It was founded by Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor of England, and Chamberlain of Chester.

On the 5th of November, 1772, this place was the scene of a most dreadful calamity: the first floor was engaged by a man of the name of George Williams, a puppet-show man; at the moment he was exhibiting to a very full audience, by some unknown accident, eight hundred pounds weight of gunpowder, which was lodged in a cellar or warehouse beneath, took fire, and blew up three stories. Twenty-three people perished, eighty-three were much burnt, bruised, and received broken and dislocated

limbs, of which number only three died, and those with locked jaws.

Near the plume of Feathers Inn, in this street, is a Roman Bath, entire, though the only part that can be seen is the Hypocaust, which is of a rectangular form, supported by thirty-two pillars, two feet, ten inches and half high, and about eighteen inches distance from each other; the antiquarian may be indulged with a view of these remains by applying at the shop under the Feathers.

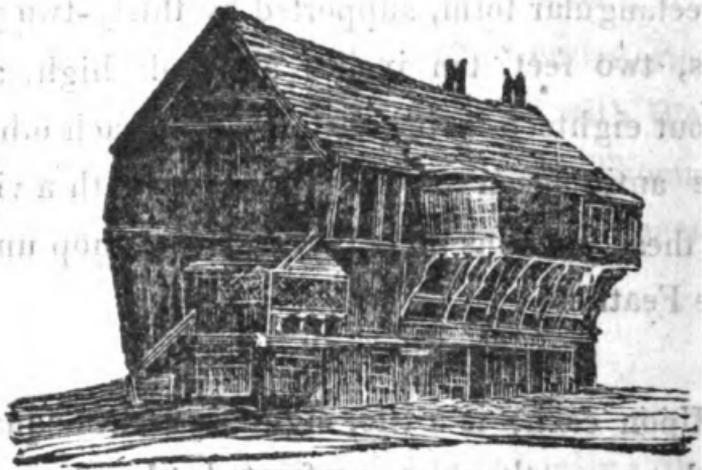
Upon each, is a tile, eighteen inches square, and, over them, a perforated tile, two feet square: such are continued over all the pillars, which stand on a mortar floor, spread over the rock. On the South side, is the vent for smoke. Here is an anti-chamber, which was the room where the slaves attended to heat the place; in the sweating chamber above, the people used to sit during the time of the operation.

As a specimen of the earliest building of the

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original rows, or galleries, in Chester, we have selected the

LAMB ROW,



and would recommend the visitor to gratify his curiosity by an inspection of this rude pile.

A little higher, on the right hand side, is White Friars, where the Carmelites, or white friars, had a convent in St. Martin's parish; and the ancient arches of the gateways towards the street, were lately remaining. By a view of the

city in 1581, the church appears to have stood a little West of it. Here stands the two churches of St. Michael and St. Bridget. The monastery of St. Michael is mentioned in the charters of Roger the Constable, and Henry II. to the canons of Norton. Opposite to St. Bridget's church, is Pepper street, which leads to Newgate-street; opposite to which is Cuppin's-street, (from a cupping-house or bagnio being formerly in that lane) which leads to St. Martin's Ash; a small cross lane called Bunce-street leads to the castle.

Chester—with respect to its situation—the salubrity of the air—the singular convenience of the rows—the delightful pleasantness of the walls—and the prospects of the adjacent country—merits the notice of the man of taste—claims the attention of the antiquary—and courts the admiration of the stranger.

Before we close our walk, amongst other numerous charitable institutions already noticed, it would be unpardonable to omit mentioning the

following excellent endowments, of all other charities the most beneficial, as contributing to the comforts so much wanted by the infirm and aged of our fellow creatures; and which are always contemplated with pleasing sensations and grateful remembrances to those, who, when leaving this world, have so piously provided for their needy survivors.

The first is an institution for thirty-five decayed freemen, of upwards of sixty years of age, who are allowed four pounds, (nine of the Senior, by Alderman Cotgreave, and Alderman Broadhursts', will have five pounds yearly) and a gown every third year. They go in procession before the Mayor to church on public days, when they are allowed one shilling, and a beverage.

Mr. Owen Jones, one of the donors to this city, bequeathed the annual profits of an estate in Denbighshire, to the poor of the several city companies, in rotation; a very rich lead mine was discovered on the estate, so that the interest

of the annual profits of the legacy, which has been funded, is now upwards of four hundred pounds.

From a late regulation, it was hoped by the disinterested, that the intent of the will of the donor, would be fulfilled ; that is, that it might be justly administered, and that the unfortunate, or decayed citizens, could look forward with the pleasing hope of living with comfort at the close of life, the casualty of the discovering of the mine, proving a source of comparative riches to those who really want them. Much pains has certainly been taken to regulate this charity, through the medium of the Lord Chancellor ; but, it is the opinion of many, that a revision of that decision would prove salutary.

The portraits of the donors ornament the Pentice.

ALMS HOUSES.

Besides the other houses mentioned, there are the following : In little St. John-street, four,

built by Mrs. Deighton Salmon, in 1738, with a small endowment.

Ten alms Houses in Pepper-street, in St. Michael's parish, called Jones's alms houses, for six poor men, and four poor women, decayed housekeepers, of good reputation, with good endowment.

Six alms houses in Common-hall-street, with an annual endowment of one pound six shillings and eightpence each.

Six alms houses in St. Olave's parish, with an annual endowment of twenty shillings each.

Four alms houses in St. Martin's in the fields, with an annual endowment of twenty shillings each.

Twelve alms houses for decayed Freemen, with an annual sum to each, in Trinity parish, erected by the Right Honourable Robert Earl Grosvenor—a description of charity beyond most others desirable. After a life of labour and industry, it often happens, that the weight of bringing up a large family, prevents the la-

houring class from accumulating a sufficiency for their support when their strength and vigour leave them—how grateful to find an asylum like this, which not only affords comfort to the afflicted, but the highest sense of charitable gratification to the opulent endower.

This charitable department of our history we cannot quit, without offering our mead of praise to the kind generosity of the departed benefactors to the city—trusting they are receiving the reward expected from such acts—nor can we leave our subject without paying a just and unprejudiced encomium on the present Earl Grosvenor, who has generously exceeded and followed the examples of his ancestors in acts of this description.

The present William Lewis, who, with a becoming spirit, at all times contributed, and saw the good of this and other recent handsome gifts to the different charities of his native city,

Besides these, Alderman Thos. Wilcocks, left

an estate in Wirrall, between the parishes of St. John, St. Bridget, and town of Neston, the profits of which to be distributed annually amongst those decayed housekeepers, who have never troubled the parish, and conducted themselves soberly and piously; deducting small sums for a sermon, &c. and reading the will annually, at the altar of each church so named, when the money is then distributed to the objects attending for that purpose.



Local Information.

POSTS.

The London mail is made up every night, except Friday, at ten o'clock—arrives here every night, except Monday. A mail for Dublin is made up every night at five o'clock, and takes letters for all parts of Carnarvonshire and Anglesea.—A mail is made up every night for Wrexham, Ruabon, Llangollen, Oswestry, and all parts of Shropshire, Montgomeryshire, Meri-

onethshire, Birmingham Walsall, and the West of England—A Mail is made up every night at ten, for Liverpool, Frodsham, Neston, Warrington, Manchester and all parts of the North of England.

By a new regulation, in future, no answers can be given at the window, in consequence of the quick dispatch of the evening mails, between the hours of 5 and 7.

WM. PALIN, POSTMASTER.

Daily Coaches

FROM THE WHITE LION INN.

London Royal Mail, every morning at half-past four ; Holyhead Royal Mail, every night at six ; Holyhead Light Post Coach every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 5 in the morning ; Manchester Royal Mail, every morning at half-past four ; Manchester Pilot Coach, every day, (Sunday excepted) quarter before twelve,

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and on Friday at 8 in the morning ; Manchester Post Coach, a quarter before two ; on Sunday a quarter before one ; Liverpool Royal Mail every morning at half-past four ; Liverpool Royal Umpire, to Tranmere, every morning at seven ; Liverpool Alexander, to Tranmere, at twelve, noon ; Liverpool Princess Charlotte, to Eastham, at eight and four ; Shrewsbury Post Coach, through Wrexham, at twelve ; Shrewsbury Post Coach, through Whitchurch, at twelve ; Oswestry Coach, (except Sunday) at six every morning ; Nantwich Post Coach, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, at 2 o'clock ; Birmingham Coach, every morning at six o'clock, (except Sunday.)

FROM THE

Golden Lion Inn, daily.

London, at half-past twelve o'clock ; Salop Coach, at half-past twelve ; Liverpool Coach, at a quarter before seven every morning ; Liverpool Coach at a quarter before one ; Manchester Coach, by Preston-brook, at eight ; Manchester



Coach at two—Sunday at one o'clock ; Birmingham and London Coach, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at six.

WAGGONS,

FROM THE WOOL-HALL, NORTHGATE-STREET.

To London, every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, in six days, thro' Tarporley, Nantwich, Stone, Stafford, Lichfield, and Coventry. Daily conveyance by canal to London, and to all parts of England.—Waggons to Preston-Brook, Warrington, Manchester, and all parts of Yorkshire, every day. Waggons to Wrexham, every Wednesday, and Saturday evenings. Waggons to Birmingham, and all parts of the West of England, through Whitechurch, Newport, &c. every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Waggons to Holyhead, and all parts of North Wales, every Monday evening at eight o'clock ; and Edward Frimstone, to Abergele, St. Asaph, Rhyddlan, &c. every Thursday ; William Twist to Rhyddlan, every Thursday.

**FROM THOMAS RUTTER'S WAREHOUSE,
HOP-POLE YARD.**

By way of Frodsham, Preston-brook, and Warrington, to Manchester, every day. Conveyance from Preston-brook to London, by water, every day. Also, to all parts of Staffordshire, Worcestershire, the West of England, &c. &c. Conveyance from Warrington to Edinburgh. Conveyance from Manchester, to all parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Also to Wrexham, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. John Maxon, to Shrewsbury, every Tuesday and Friday, through Wrexham, Overton, and Ellesmere.

**FROM KENWORTHY'S WAREHOUSE, ST. JOHN
STREET.**

Fly Waggons every day to Warrington and Manchester. Goods forwarded to all parts of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire, &c. and all places in the East, West,

and South of England. Also, Kenworthy and Holt's, (late Higginson's & Co's) old Established Fly Boats and Waggons, set out daily from their Warehouses, the Axe Inn, Aldermanbury, and Wharf, No. 5, Paddington, London; Cockpit Yard, Chester.

Edward Paddock's waggon loads in St. John's street, every morning, for Preston Brook, from whence goods are forwarded to all parts of the kingdom. Waggons to Wrexham every day. Every Monday and Friday to Oswestry, Welshpool, and Shrewsbury.

free access unto him ; but he denying to come to do his homage, the king gathered an host of men minding to expel the prince out of his inheritance.

He builded the castle of Flint, strengthened the castle of Ruthland and other against the Welshmen.

1278 This year the king came to Chester, and after some time to Shotwick, and so over into Wales, having ordered that all the gentry in Cheshire that could expend 20l. per annum should come and be made knights.

1280 The king compelled the citizens of Chester to rebuild Dee bridge at their own charge, and to receive the common-law of England, "contra libertates sibi concessas." Vernon's transcript of the Red Book of St. Werburgh.

David lord of Denbigh being reconciled to his brother the prince Leolin, against whom he had been a traitor, upon condition he should ne-

ver after serve the king of England, but become his utter enemy, laid siege to the castle of Harwarden, and took therein sir Roger Clifford, a noble knight, slaying all that resisted, and after spoiling all the country.

1281. Leolin prince of Wales came down from the mountain of Snowden, to Montgomery, and was at length taken at Blinch castle, where useing reproachful words against the Englishmen, Roger le Strange ran upon him, and cut off his head, leaving his dead body on the ground.

Sir Roger Mortymer caused the head of Leolin to be set upon the Tower of London crowned with joy : this was the end of Leolin, who was the last prince of Wales, of the Britons' blood, that bare rule in Wales.

During the operations against Llewelyn, the king was chiefly at Chester, where he arrived May 30, 1281. He received at Chester in this year an obligation of fidelity from Hubert de Burgh, younger son of the celebrated justiciary of England, temp. Hen III.

1284. This year queen Eleanor stayed some days in Chester, as she went to lie in at Caernarvon.

1300. Edward, prince of Wales and earl of Chester, came to the city of Chester this year, where he received the homage of the freeholders in Wales.

1307. It appeareth by an old record, that about this time the custom of murage was granted unto the city both here and at Frodsham for two years, to the reparation and amendment of the walls of the same city, and towards the paving thereof; in the same record is set down by particulars what is to be paid, and for other things that are not therein named, to pay for every two shillings a farthing which is two pence halfpenny upon the pound. The record doth begin thus: "every stanock of all kind of corn shall pay a halfpenny, and of meal and malt a farthing," &c.

Also in this year a jury was impaffelled to enquire what custom was due at every gate of the city.

1322. In this year the New Tower was built at the cost of the city, by John Helpstone, a mason, who conditioned to build the same, as appeareth by an indenture, wherein is the heighth, breadth, and length, with the proportion of the same set down, and was to have for the building thereof 100l. as also by the said indenture appeareth.

1379. A bushel of wheat sold for 6d. a gallon of white wine for 6d. a gallon of claret for 4d. a fat goose for 2d. and a fat pig for a penny.

1393. On Friday before St. James's day, sir Baldwin de Rudyngston, John Hert, Griffith Reynolds, Roger Wall, and others, excited a riot within the precincts of the abbey of Chester, but were finally driven out of the city, after a serious disturbance, in which the mayor was ill-treated, one of the sheriffs made prisoner, and the other much hurt. This Baldwin de Rudyngston escaped into Lancashire, but returned in a few days with near 300 horse raised for him by sir John Stanley of Latham, and attempted to

surprize the city, but failed in his attempt, and many of his followers were taken.

1394. In the month of September the king, attended by the duke of Gloucester, and the earls of March, Salisbury, Arundel, Nottingham, and Rutland, was entertained in Chester on his way to Ireland. The sword of state is said to have been presented by the king to the mayor.

1398. King Richard was present at the installation of John Brughill, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, in the church of St. John's, then a cathedral of that bishopric, and entertained many of the prime nobility on that occasion.

1399. The duke of Lancaster and his army were at Chester, and during his stay sir Piers Legh of Lyme a trusty adherent of king Richard, was beheaded, and his head fixed on one of the highest turrets of the castle. After the submission of the unfortunate king at Flint, he was brought to Chester, and lodged in the castle. The scene of his short imprisonment is said to

have been a tower over the great outer gateway of the castle, opposite to Gloverstone, which was destroyed in the late alterations.

1400. A precept was issued to the mayor of Chester to apprehend and imprison John and Adam Hesketh, because they and their confederates had assaulted the castle, had taken the keys of the Eastgate, had beheaded Thomas Molineux, and made divers proclamations in Chester against the king, and in behalf of Richard II.

1409. The mayor was removed, and a military governor appointed, probably in consequence of dissatisfaction, still existing from the citizens taking part with Henry Percy at the battle of Shrewsbury, for which they were fined, and afterwards pardoned, as noticed in the list of the city charters. The popularity of Richard II. in this county had been considerably enhanced by his adoption of the Cheshire guard, and his elevation of the County Palatine to a principality. Percy was also known personally to the citizens,

having been appointed constable of Chester castle in 1299. When he passed through Chester, on his way to Shrewsbury, a proclamation was there issued, by which numbers of Cheshire men were inveigled into his ranks under a fraudulent pretence of Richard being then living. After the battle a treaty of amnesty with his Chester and Cheshire adherents was concluded by prince Henry's commissioners, and enrolled at Chester.

1459. Sir John Dore, and Mr. Troutbeck, and many others, were slain at the battle of Bloreheath, taking part with the queen against the earl of Salisbury.

Previous to the battle of Bloreheath, queen Margaret, according to the Chester annalists again visited Chester, and won the hearts of the citizens by her royal courtesy and hospitality. After the battle, the earl of Salisbury's two sons, who had been taken early in the fight, and sent off immediately to Chester castle, were imprisoned for a short time, but were released by the king's orders to sir John Mainwaring, who in compliance with the said mandate delivered to

the lord Stanley his prisoner, Thomas and John Neville, sir Thomas Harrington, James Harrington, Raufe Rokusby, Thomas Ashton, Robert Evereus, and others.

1465. Many citizens of Chester were slain at the Mold Fair, by Reginald Griffith, a Welshman, and his retinue.

Dr. Cowper thus amplifies this account :
 “ This year happened a bloody fray between Reginald, ap Griffith, ap Bleddyn, (ancestor of the Wynnes of Tower) at the head of a great number of the Welsh, and many citizens of Chester. There was a dreadful slaughter on both sides, and Reginald having taken prisoner, Robert Brynn, who had been mayor of Chester three years before, carried him away to his fortress near Mold, and there hanged him, in the large ground room within the tower. There are now (1756) in the hands of the owner of Raintault'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 Reinault bravely defended Harlech Castle, in Merionethshire, for king Henry IV. which was the last fortress that held out for that unhappy prince. On this account Reinault was attainted by king Edward IV." For an account of Reinault's Tower, see Leland's Itinerary.

1493. Mr. Jo. Pulston of Wrexham, esquire, did strike one Patrick Killing, at the high altar, within the abbey of Chester, and almost slew him, and so suspends the church; and the abbey was reconciled on St. Werburg's day, and the parish church on St. Oswald's day.

1499. Prince Arthur came to Chester the fourth of August, and the Assumption of our Lady was played before the prince at the abbey-gates; the 26th of August, the prince made Mr. Goodman, esquire, and the 9th of September he departed from Chester.

1519. This year an order was made that none go to priest's offerings, first mass, gospel ales, or Welsh-weddings, within this city, under penalty of 10s.

1539. The offering of balls and footballs laid down, and gleaves of silver offered in their stead.

1545. The Common-hall, that now is within the city of Chester, was built and made of St. Nicholas's chapel, in the year 1545, towards the building whereof Mr. John Walley then mayor, and master of the company of iron-mongers, gave freely of a common bargain of fifty-two tons of iron lately discharged within the said city by a special merchant, three tons of the same iron, which was then worth twenty-four pounds sterling.

1551. Dr. Cowper says, that the flood rose so high at Chester, that many timber trees were left by the ebb, on the top of Dee Bridge!

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1554. This year George Marsh was burned at Spital Boughton, within the liberties of this city, for the profession of the gospel, who did constantly endure his martyrdom with such patience as was wonderful.

Dr. Cowper adds to this account that after the exhibition of a conditional pardon by the vice chamberlain Mr. Vawdrey, and the refusal of it by Marsh, on the terms of recantation, the people pressed forwards to attempt a rescue, headed by Sheriff Cowper, who was much afflicted at 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 privately in Caernarvonshire until the death of queen Mary. The ashes of Marsh were privately interred in the burial ground of the chapel of St. Giles, in Spital Boughton.

1556. This year a bushel of wheat sold at 16 shillings, rye at 14 shillings, and barley at

12 shillings ; whereupon contention grew between the mayor and the bakers of the assize of bread. And whereas there were always four old bushels allowed them to the quarter, he would allow them but three ; which indeed was the full quarter by the statute, and somewhat more ; but after long suits, the bakers acknowledged their fault, and were remitted, and their fines pardoned.

1563. Upon the Sunday after Midsummer-day the history of Eneas and queen Dido was played in the Roods-Eye, and were set out by one William Croston, gent. and one Mr. Mann ; on which triumph there were made two forts, and shipping on the water, besides many horsemen well armed and appointed.

1575. This year sir John Savage caused the Popish plays of Chester to be played the Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after Midsummer-day, in contempt of an inhibition and the primate's letters from York, and from

the eael of Huntingdon. For which cause he was served by a pursuivant from York the same day that the new mayor was elected, as they came out of the common-hall ; notwithstanding, the said sir John Savage took his journey towards London, but how his matter sped is not known. Also Mr. Hankey was served by the same pursuivant for the like contempt when he was mayor. Divers others of the citizens and players were troubled for the same matter.

1583. Robert earl of Leicester, chamberlain of this county palatine, came to Chester the third of June, accompanied with the honourable the earls of Derby and Essex, and the lord North, and also met and attended by most of the gentlemen in this shire, with their whole train, and as it was thought they were in the whole 1500 horse, they were received at the High-cross by the mayor and his brethren, and the whole council of the city. They lodged at the bishop's palace, dined by the mayor the fourth of June, and presented with a gilt cup, and forty angels therein.

1586. Salisbury, who conspired with Babington to kill the queen, was apprehended at Frodsham by Mr. Jo. Pool, then son and heir to Mr. Pool, of Pool, esq. the 13th of August, who fled into the forest, and was taken the day following, being Sunday, and shortly after was brought to London, and there executed with others of his faction.

There was hue and cry made throughout England, that London, Chester, and Bristow, were on fire, and that the Spaniards were landed at the New-Key.

1590. The mayor set down an order by an assembly, that when any man came to be made a freeman of the city, he should bring with him furniture for his body, and should swear that they were his own.

1595. Orders in this city that ale and beer should be retailed the London quart for a penny.

1598. The earl of Essex, lieutenant-general for the wars in Ireland, came unto Chester, and

with him three other earls, besides many other lords, knights, and gentlemen, who were honourably received by the mayor and his brethren, and after a banquet prepared for them in the Pentice, there was given unto the earl of Essex a fair standing cup, with a cover double gilt, and in the same forty angels of gold.

1599. The mayor (Henry Hardware, esq.) was a godly zealous man, but got not the love of the commons, for he put down some ancient orders, used among some companies, especially the shoemakers, whom he much opposed, caused the giants not to go in the Midsummer Watch or Show; he caused the Bull Ring at the High Cross to be taken up; also the Dragon and the naked Boys in the same shew not to go, nor the Devil for the Butchers, but a boy to ride as other companies.

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