CORNISH'S

STRANGER'S GUIDE

THROUGH

BIRMINGHAM:

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF ALL THE

Public Buildings,

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

AND

Manufactories.

THIRTEENTH EDITION. IMPROVED & ENLARGED.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

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1867.

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THE

STRANGER'S GUIDE

THROUGH BIRMINGHAM.

Chapter the First.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THOUGH, within contemporary memory, Birmingham has filled a great place in the annals of England, it must be confessed that its early history is lost in the gloom of uncertain tradition. It has neither venerable ruins nor brilliant historical associations to excite the interest of those whom curiosity or business may lead hitherwards. Industrious antiquarians, bold in conjecture, fertile in invention, have sought diligently, but in vain, to recover the lost memories of "The hardware village;" but modern candour or indifference declines to accept the doubtful honours of long ancient parentage, and long-descended ancestry. The men of Birmingham prefer to be known as citizens of one of the busiest, most ingenious, industrious, and prosperous of English towns, rather than to plume themselves on the "fond invention" that their remote ancestors furnished alike the spears of Roman legions and the scythes of Boadicea's war chariots. Even the more authentic records of the middle ages possess little interest for those who boast that they were amongst the earliest as they are the most constant in the profession of Liberal opinions—that they ranged themselves on the side of the Commonwealth in the opening struggle of the Civil War; that since then, with one brief dark interval, their influence has been uniformly cast in favour of Civil and Religious Liberty, in all their forms. The visitor,

therefore, must take Birmingham for what she is—the seat of a great and constantly increasing population, trained to habits of steady industry, practised in the application of scientific principles to the improvement of manufactures; offering, in a thousand varied forms, illustrations of human ingenuity almost beyond belief—presenting, indeed, the spectacle of a vast community who combine in one place the industries which in other countries are spread through a hundred towns; and whose fame has been carried by their works through all the earth. If this shall appear too lofty a note of introduction, the reader is desired to suspend his judgment until by a perusal of the following pages he has become acquainted with the materials upon which the conclusion of the writer is founded.

From its wealth, population, and influence, Birmingham has received the designation of the Metropolis of the Midlands. From its geographical portion it puts forth a claim to be called "the heart of England." Lying somewhat out of the line of the Watling Street—the old Roman road from London to Chester—it stands upon the line of the almost equally famous Ikenield Street: the name of which is still preserved in one of its roads. It is situated on the new red sandstone, 443 feet above the sea level, in latitude 52° 59′ north; longitude 1° 48′ west of Greenwich. The distance from London is 112 miles, from Manchester 85, and from Liverpool 97. The local time is 7½ minutes later than London; but the public clocks are regulated by Greenwich, or "Railway" time. The parish and borough of Birmingham are comprised entirely within the county of Warwick; but the thickly peopled suburbs have long since extended into the adjoining counties of Worcester and Stafford.

So much for the topography of Birmingham. Now for its history. It has already been stated that no dependence can be placed upon the stories which assign a high degree of antiquity to Birmingham, and still less to those which ascribe to it remarkable industrial activity so far back as the Roman occupation of Britain. Even the name of the town is uncertain, both as to derivation and orthography. Stukeley boldly derived it from imaginary identity with the supposititious Roman Bremenium, and in support of this theory fancifully erected a Roman station here, upon the Ikenield Street. Hutton, the local

historian, with equal boldness and equally little warrant, adopts Bromwicham as the original name, derived from *brom*, heath, *wych*, village, and *ham*, home, and thus formulating in a single word the complex designation of "The Town on the Heath." Other authorities (?) have devised innumerable derivations and forms of spelling the name, until we arrive at nearly one hundred and fifty ways of rendering that which has at last settled down into "Birmingham," a designation evidently derived from that of the family which possessed the manor soon after the Norman Conquest.

Dismissing all these fancies, (and including with them the Saxon Uluwine, unveiled by Dugdale) we find in Domesday Book, the first authentic mention of Birmingham. It is described as "Bermingeha," and is entered as consisting of four hides of land and half a mile of woods, the whole valued at the rent of 20s. We have collateral evidence that it was then a place of some importance, being a market town, as was proved in 1309, when the then lord of the manor defended his rights in a suit at law, by showing that his predecessors enjoyed the right of levying market tolls, by custom existing anterior to the Conquest. Though all traces of these ancient lords have passed away (excepting the tombs of some of them of later date, still preserved in St. Martin's Church) it is a curious fact, that the present cattle market in Smithfield is actually held upon the site of the castle of the Birminghams, and the modern Corporation still collects the tolls which once passed into the coffers of the former possessors of the manor and lordship.

From the period of the Norman Conquest to the wars of the Commonwealth, the inhabitants, isolated as they were, and actively engaged in the operations of trade, enjoyed the blessings of uninterrupted peace, with the exception that in the reign of Henry III., the lord of the manor, William Birmingham, led some of the people, his vassals, to the battle of Evesham, where they fought on the side of the barons and of liberty, although unsuccessfully; a curious premonition of that liberal and reforming spirit which has ever afterwards characterised the town. In the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster the inhabitants do not seem to have taken part.

They were, however, deeply involved in the civil dissensions

of the time of the First Charles. They enthusiastically embraced the doctrines and policy of the Puritans, to many of whom Birmingham afforded a friendly shelter. They exhibited their devotion to that cause in various other ways, but especially in supplying the Parliamentary army with arms. Nearly 15,000 sword blades were supplied from the workshops of Birmingham alone, while the smiths refused to lift a hammer for the Royal cause.

When the unfortunate Charles, in October, 1642, marched from Shrewsbury towards London, he passed through Birmingham. For two nights he slept beneath the roof of Aston Hall, where he was the guest of Sir Thomas Holt. On the following day the king marched towards the Metropolis with his army, leaving his plate, carriage, and furniture to follow after. The inhabitants, however, rose in a body, disarmed the royal guard, and seizing the spoil, sent it to Warwick Castle for safety. Owing probably to this incident, Clarendon denounces the town as "declaring more personal malice towards his majesty than any other place;" and the neighbourhood as "the most eminently corrupted of any in England." On the other hand Richard Baxter represents the garrison of Coventry as including the most religious men of the parts round about, *especially from Birmingham* and Sutton Coldfield, and eulogises them as "men of as great sobriety and soundness of understanding as in any garrison in England."

The Birmingham people suffered a sharp retribution a few months after their anti-royalist exploit. In April, 1643, Prince Rupert, with an army of 2000 men and several pieces of artillery, marching to the north, arrived at Birmingham. He resolved to punish the inhabitants for their disloyalty to the king. They had received reports of his approach, and a band of them —a little army of 140 musketeers, supported by a troop of the Parliamentary cavalry—resolved to prevent his entering the place. They threw up barricades at the top of Deritend, and awaited his approach. The Prince encamped on a spot at the entrance to the town from the London road, still called Camp-hill, and sent a message demanding the surrender of the town. The inhabitants fired upon the messengers, and then commenced a fight, which resulted in the discomfiture and death of many

of the townspeople. The troops plundered the place, and then set fire to it in various quarters. About eighty houses were completely destroyed by the flames, and fifteen men and two women lost their lives. One of the men was a poor fellow whom Baxter says, "they most cruelly mangled and hacked to death," wrongly supposing him to be Mr. W. Roberts, a Puritan minister. Many prisoners were taken; but, according to a contemporary publication, "they were of no great quality, some redeeming themselves for 2d., 12d., and 8d. a piece, and some one or two for 20s." The loss to the town was estimated at £30,000 (nearly £120,000 of our money)—no slight indication of the growing wealth of the community. In this encounter the Earl of Denbigh (a Warwickshire nobleman, ancestor of the present Earl) one of the royalist leaders, was mortally wounded, and shortly afterwards died.

The town had not entirely recovered from this disaster, when it was visited by another calamity. In 1665, the plague, which raged in London, reached Birmingham. The place was nearly depopulated. Their one grave-yard was found too circumscribed for the interment of the dead. Away from the town at Ladywood Green, an acre of land was devoted to the burial of the plague-stricken populace, and from that period was known as the "Pest Ground," although at the present time all trace of this place of sepulture is lost.

At the time of the Restoration, in 1688, Birmingham took a very slight part in the contest. The people evidenced their Protestant zeal—as they had done before at the Reformation—by pulling down a Catholic chapel and a convent; but this was a very temporary ebullition of religious fervour, and was attended with no disastrous consequences.

The inhabitants of Birmingham, for many years thereafter, held aloof from the political or religious questions of the times. Their trade had increased most wonderfully; and, indeed, they had little time, and less opportunity, in their inland position, of becoming prominent for their opinions. For a century there is little to note in their history, excepting the important, but comparatively uninteresting record of material progress.

In 1791, however, an event occurred which is still fairly entitled to be considered as of historical interest. The Unitarians

had acquired considerable influence in the direction of local affairs. Dr. Priestley, one of the greatest men who has adorned their body, being settled here, had engaged in repeated controversies with the then dominant Tory party in church and state. By degrees, public feeling had thus become embittered against Dr. Priestley and his associates, and the animosity thus engendered found expression on the 14th of July, in the year first mentioned. On that day, a party of gentlemen (of whom Dr. Priestley was *not* one) had assembled at the Royal Hotel, to celebrate by a dinner those principles of liberty illustrated by the recent destruction of the Bastille, at Paris. Encouraged by leaders who were too cowardly to avow themselves, a "Church and King" mob attacked the chapels and the dwelling houses of the Unitarians. Two of the meeting houses, and many private residences, were burned; amongst the latter being that of Dr. Priestley himself, including his library, laboratory, and a most valuable series of philosophical manuscripts. The house and library of Hutton the historian were also destroyed. For three days the mob held possession of the town, and the saturnalia continued until the tardy arrival of a considerable body of troops put an end to it. Many of the rioters lost their lives in the incendiary fires, chiefly by suffocation in the cellars where they had drank themselves into a state of stupefaction. Four persons were afterwards hanged for their participation in the riots; and a pecuniary loss of near £50,000 had to be made good out of the county rates. But this was the least part of the evil, for, to the lasting shame of Birmingham, Dr. Priestley was compelled, for fear of his life, to fly from the country, and to seek in the United States that safety which was denied him by the community he had so greatly benefited. A full account of these disgraceful proceedings—which every Birmingham man would wish to blot out of memory—may be found in Hutton's works, in Dr. Priestley's letters, and (we blush to write it) in the history of England!

As if ashamed of the excesses of 1791, Birmingham from that time devoted itself to the propagation of Liberal opinions; and, with one exception, the conduct of the population has been marked by utter abstinence from political or religious outrage. In the years 1817-18-19, when the greatest distress was experienced

in the manufacturing districts, Birmingham remained undisturbed, when elsewhere riot, burning, and machine-breaking, were things of every-day occurrence. It is true that the inhabitants held meetings, and demanded to be represented in the House of Commons, and even went so far as to elect Sir Charles Wolseley their representative to that assembly. But they were averse to disorder; and even when some of them were tried for infringing the law, by the election alluded to, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, not a single pane of glass was broken, or any attempt at outrage made.

It was chiefly by the determined action of Birmingham that the great Reform Bill of 1832 was passed into law. Within the walls of a little room in Great Charles Street, the Political Union guided the opinions of every locality in the kingdom. They gathered around them men of all ranks—peers, commons, clergy, ministers, humbler artizans, and still humbler agricultural labourers—and by their monster meetings on a field at Newhall Hill (now covered by thousands of dwellings) they brought public opinion to bear upon the Legislature, so that the passing of the Reform Bill became a necessity. Those times, however, were very perilous; and it was only through the firmness and caution of Mr. Thomas Attwood, and the leaders of that vast confederacy, that the horrors of a civil war were averted.

Unfortunately, this spirit of temperate calmness in the pursuit of political enfranchisement was not quite unbroken. On the 4th of July, 1839, when the Chartist agitation plunged the country into dangerous excitement, an outbreak took place, arising from the determination of the authorities to put an end to nightly meetings of Chartists in the Bull Ring. They obtained the assistance of a considerable body of the metropolitan police, who were ordered to disperse the meetings, after proclamation. The result was a conflict, in which several persons were injured, and which was only terminated by the military being called out. On the evening of the 15th another meeting took place, when the mob set fire to several houses in the Bull Ring, one or two of which were completely destroyed, and others partially consumed. Since then, there has been no political manifestation of a turbulent character—political enthusiasm, though always decidedly exhibited, having been checked and

controlled by the wisdom of the leaders, and the advancing intelligence and education of the masses of the population.

The Parliamentary history of Birmingham may be briefly recorded. As we have seen, there were abundant evidences of political feeling manifested throughout the annals of the town, from the battle of Evesham until the formation of the Political Union. But it was not until the passing of the Reform Act of 1832 that Birmingham acquired the privilege of representation in Parliament. By that Act two members were assigned to it. Those first elected were Mr. Thomas Attwood, the founder and chief director of the Political Union, and Mr. Joshua Scholefield, one of his most trusted and energetic colleagues. On the retirement of Mr. Attwood, in 1840, Mr. George Frederick Muntz, a stout Liberal, whose name was long and honourably known in parliamentary annals, was chosen to succeed him. On the death of Mr. Scholefield, in 1844, his son, Mr. William Scholefield (one of the present members) was nominated, but on a poll he was defeated by Mr. Richard Spooner (the follower, partner, and friend of Mr. Attwood), who, beginning political life as a Liberal, had passed into ultra-Conservatism. At the next election, Mr. Spooner was displaced by Mr. William Scholefield, who remained for several years the colleague of Mr. Muntz. On the death of the latter, in 1857, Mr. Bright was returned without opposition, and since then Messrs. Scholefield and Bright have continued to represent the borough. In the appendix will be found a record of the parliamentary representation, since the enfranchisement of the town.

Quitting the troubled region of politics, we come next to a sketch of the social, industrial, and material history of Birmingham. The entry of the condition of the town in Domesday Book has already been mentioned. For two or three centuries subsequent to that period, there are no traces of progress, except by inference from one or two episodical occurrences. For the continental wars of Edward the Third, Birmingham raised only four men. The still small towns of Tamworth and Stratford-on-Avon sent as many, whilst Coventry sent forty.

But in the time of Henry the Eighth, we obtain a quaint and very graphic sketch of the town, which had now risen into some importance. Leland, who wrote about 1538, thus pictures the

place in his "Itinerary:"—"I came through a pretty street or ever I entered into *Bermingham* towne. This street, as I remember, is called *Dirtey* [Deritend]. In it dwell smithes and cutlers. There is at the end of *Dirtey*, a propper chappell and mansion house of tymber. . . . . The beauty of *Bermingham*, a good markett towne in the extreme parties of *Warwike-shire*, is one street going up along almost from the left banke of the brooke, up a meane hill, by the length of a quarter of a mile. I saw but one paroch church in the towne."

In a few short years after, a great change had been wrought in the appearance of the place. Camden, in his "Britannia," published in the reign of Elizabeth, speaks thus of the town:—"*Bremicham*, swarming with inhabitants, and echoing with the noise of anvils—for here are great numbers of smiths. The lower part of the town is very watery. The upper part rises with abundance of handsome buildings; and it is none of the least honours of the place, that from hence the noble and warlike family of the *Bremichams*, in Ireland, had both their original and name."

Coming down still farther in point of time, and again judging inferentially, we find that in the days of Charles the First, the relative position of Birmingham and the neighbouring towns had changed. In 1636, when Charles imposed the "ship-money" upon the country, Birmingham paid £100, Coventry £266, Warwick £100, and Stratford-on-Avon only £50. Thus Birmingham had acquired a position equal in importance to the county town.

In the days of the Commonwealth, although many towns of scarcely greater population were enfranchised by Cromwell, Birmingham had not that distinction conferred upon it. Indeed, it was still a small place, even at the Revolution, containing no more than about 4000 persons. Relatively, it was about a twelfth-rate town.

Down to a much more recent period it occupied a very humble position; for, paradoxical as it may seem, the place, though ancient, is the creation of yesterday. It is almost within the memory of octogenarians, that letters were addressed, "Birmingham, by Coleshill"—a village, even in this day, of scarce 2000 inhabitants, but on the mail-coach road, which Birmingham then was not. At the Restoration, it has been said that

Birmingham consisted of only three streets. That period was a new era in the history of the town. Its manufactures received an immense impetus, and consequently its size increased and its population was augmented. In the forty years that elapsed from the time Charles the Second ascended the throne till the year 1700, the town had wonderfully expanded: its three streets of less than half a century before, now numbered thirty.

It still went on increasing, and in fifty years after, in 1750, it was the second or third town in the kingdom; even Manchester and Liverpool were left far behind. In the latter part of last century, however, Birmingham suffered many reverses. The American and Continental wars, times of scarcity nearly approaching famine, in the one case paralyzed trade, and in the other retarded the growth of population. In the ten years which elapsed between 1791 and 1801, the population increased by only seventeen persons.

In order to present some idea of the progressive rise of the town, we append a statement from Hutton's History of Birmingham. His figures extend only to the period 1791, and some of them are entirely fanciful, particularly those relating to very early periods. The others are from the Government population returns:—

	Houses.	*Persons.*
In the time of the ancient Britons ...	80	400
750	600	3000
1066	700	3500
1650	900	5472
1700	2504	15,032
1731	3717	23,286
1741	4114	24,660
1781	8382	50,295
1791	12,681	73,653
1801	15,650	73,670
1811	16,096	85,755
1821	21,345	106,722
1831	29,397	146,986
1841	40,000	182,922
1851	48,894	232,841
1861	60,000	296,955

In 1867, according to the estimate of the Registrar General (as published in the official returns), the population of the borough amounted to 300,000.

Within the last half century the town has increased in size fourfold. When the nineteenth century began, Birmingham consisted of only some 15,600 houses; its population was about 73,000. During the first forty years after, there were many alternations of prosperity and adversity, bad trade, and poverty. But taking the average, we find that the yearly increase of houses was about 608, with an addition of 3000 to the population per annum. For the ten years ending March, 1861, when the last census was taken, the average increase of houses was upwards of 1000 every year, with an annual augmentation of the population of 6300. In 1852, nearly 3000 houses were erected: in 1853 no less than 2784; in 1854 there were 2219 houses raised; in 1855 there were 1253; in 1856 only 803; and in 1857 just 612. In the year after there were 605; in 1859, some 689; and in 1860 there were 778. Since then the numbers have been annually increasing until, in 1863, they reached 1501. This is altogether exclusive of the immense suburbs beyond the boundary of the borough, but which are in reality parts of Birmingham. If we were to include these, we should add several thousand to the number of houses, and place the population at about 330,000.

The returns of the building plans registered with the Borough Surveyor, according to the Local Improvement Act, from the 1st of January to the 31st December in each year, are so suggestive and interesting, that we append them. They show the following results:—

	1856.	1858.	1860.	1862.	1864.	1866.
Houses	803	605	778	1163	1273	1280
Churches	0	0	0	0	1	1
Chapels	1	3	2	1	3	1
Schools	1	2	10	4	2	2
Manufactories	8	4	10	0	10	11
Warehouses and Workshops	52	29	62	61	48	23
Stables, &c.	23	8	8	17	20	13
Alterations and Additions	34	69	54	78	18	35
Miscellaneous	0	0	9	21	44	36

In connection with the material progress of Birmingham, it must not be forgotten that thousands of houses which have been erected in the suburbs, and extend for several miles in almost every direction are excluded from the returns above mentioned, although they really belong to Birmingham. These, and their

inhabitants, if taken into account, would probably raise the virtual population of Birmingham to a total very little short of half a million. It should be mentioned that within the borough itself there are more than 150 miles of street, and that the annual rateable value, in local taxation, is upwards of £1,000,000. According to a Parliamentary return, issued in 1866, the assessment of the borough to the income tax was £1,394,161; the amount of income tax paid was £58,829; the total amount of assessed taxes (including income tax) was £81,502; the registered electors numbered 14,997, and the area of the borough was 13 square miles.

Within the last half century, Birmingham has almost completely changed its appearance. Spots that are now the most busy parts of the town, were villa residences, garden plots, bleak common, or orchards of fruit trees. Within the last ten years, the whole aspect of the suburbs has been altered.

The general appearance of Birmingham is rather prepossessing. Though the streets do not traverse the town in a direct manner, the irregularity is advantageous; for it gives nooks and corners which, well managed, form excellent sites for public buildings. The angular approach to the Town Hall is an example of this kind. The site of Christ Church, near the Town Hall, is so fine that it is to be wished the building itself were better. St. Martin's Church, in the Bull Ring, has a similarly fine site. The corner of Dale End and Bull Street, and the corner of High Street, and New Street, are salient angles, which would afford scope for fine buildings. The streets themselves are lively and bustling, full of good shops, and crowded with people. New Street is the Bond Street of Birmingham. Its glittering array of shops, its inns, fine Gothic School, its rooms for the Society of Arts, Exchange, Theatre, and Post Office, give the *ton* to that part of the town. High Street and Bull Street are localities of good shops and trade. The rest of the streets are almost entirely occupied by the numerous variety of Birmingham manufactures, and by their skilled workers, while the suburb of Edgbaston is given up to the *élite* of the town.

This chapter would be incomplete without some account of the Royal and other public visits to Birmingham. The first of

these is the literally flying call of Charles the First, already noticed, followed by the disastrous visit of Prince Rupert. From this period a long interval occurs, and we hear no more of royalty in connection with Birmingham until the record of a visit from Edward, Duke of York, in 1765, when special assemblies were given in his honour. Nearly a century elapsed before any similar event can be mentioned. On the 4th of August, 1830, the town was honoured with the presence of her Majesty, then the Princess Victoria, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. The august party were enthusiastically welcomed, and remained for two days, visiting, during their stay, many of the manufactories. Three times subsequently her Majesty passed through the town, namely, on the 29th of September, 1849; on the 30th of August, 1852; and on the 14th of October in the same year. It was not until 1858, however, that her Majesty paid Birmingham a special visit. On the 15th of June, she came to inaugurate the "People's Park" at Aston. Her Majesty was received with great splendour, and with the utmost enthusiasm, by hundreds of thousands of the town and district. Accompanied by the Prince Consort, the Queen arrived from Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of Lord Leigh, the lord-lieutenant of the county, in the morning, and drove to the Town Hall. This magnificent building was gorgeously decorated for the occasion. The Royal party entered the Hall amidst the thundering of cannon, the pealing of the national anthem, and the cheers of thousands of spectators. Her Majesty having taken her place before the throne, the Mayor (Mr. Ratcliff) presented an address on behalf of the corporation, to which Her Majesty made a gracious reply. An address was also presented to the Prince Consort, and his reply having been received, her Majesty conferred the honour of Knighthood upon the Mayor. The Royal party afterwards left the Hall, and proceeded slowly through the streets, to Aston Park. At Aston Hall another address was presented on behalf of the managers, and her Majesty declared the Park opened. After luncheon the Royal party left Birmingham amidst every demonstration of respect and attachment, and went back to Stoneleigh Abbey, her Majesty expressing to the Mayor, before taking her departure,

her acknowledgments of the hearty loyalty of the people, of the admirable order they maintained, and her pleasure and delight with "the grandest reception she had ever received."

The late Prince Consort visited Birmingham on three other occasions on the 29th of November, 1844, to visit the principal manufactories; on the 12th of November, 1849, to inspect the exhibitions of Birmingham manufactures as objects of industrial art (which suggested the idea of the great international exhibitions of 1851 and 1862;) and on the 22nd November, 1855, when the Prince came in state, to lay the foundation stone of the Midland Institute, on which occasion he was entertained at dinner in the Town Hall, and delivered one of the most memorable addresses since published in the collection of his speeches. The Duke of Cambridge also visited the town on the 1st of June, 1857, to open Calthorpe Park. In addition to the incidents just recorded, Birmingham has received visits from almost every distinguished personage in political or social life; and from nearly all strangers of note who have arrived in this country. In the list of those last mentioned, one of the most remarkable visits paid to the town was that of Louis Kossuth, the ex-Governor of Hungary, to whom a public reception was given on the 10th November, 1852. He was received by Mr. Muntz, M.P., Mr. Scholefield, M.P. (the Members for the Borough), Mr. Geach, M.P. (Member for Coventry), and other gentlemen: and then joined a procession, which accompanied him to the residence of Mr. Geach. Upwards of 250,000 persons, it is computed, were present in the streets on this occasion. On the 12th, Kossuth was entertained at a banquet in the Town Hall, and the result was a contribution of nearly £800 to the Hungarian cause.

In the same category, though not in the same connection, it may be mentioned that it was here also that Orsini and Pierri matured their plot against the life of the Emperor Napoleon, which so nearly succeeded in the Rue Lepelletiere, in 1858, and for which they suffered by the guillotine. The bombs they used were manufactured in Broad Street, their intended use, being of course, carefully concealed from the person who was induced to make them.

Chapter the Second.

GOVERNMENT, POLICE, JUSTICE, PUBLIC OFFICES, &c.

ORIGINALLY, Birmingham was locally governed by the lords of the manor, either directly, or by their manorial bailiffs. From the Conquest until 1537, the lordship was in possession of the family of the Birminghams, whose castle was erected on the site now covered by Smithfield Market, where, however, no vestige of it is now to be found, the last of them having disappeared about the year 1816. In 1537, the Birmingham family lost their possessions through a false accusation trumped up against Edward, the then lord, by John, Duke of Northumberland, the possessor of Dudley Castle, who desired to add Birmingham to his other estates. On the attainder and execution of Northumberland, the lordship was confiscated to the Crown, and was granted to Thomas Marrow, whose descendants held it for two centuries. In 1746 it was purchased from them by Mr. John Archer, and afterwards passed to the family of Musgrave, with whom it nominally remains. All real manorial rights, however, are extinguished by the powers granted to the corporation.

Up to 1769 the manorial officers governed the town: these consisting of a high bailiff, a low bailiff, two constables, a head borough, ale conners, flesh conners (who looked after the quality of ale and meat) and other subordinate officers. In the year above-mentioned, Birmingham having outgrown this primitive form of government, and desiring to put itself into better trim, an act of Parliament was obtained for the parish constituting a Board of Street Commissioners, with power to light, pave, cleanse, and watch the town. Other similar bodies were afterwards appointed in the adjoining parishes and hamlets, and for nearly a century these exercised co-ordinate and sometimes conflicting powers. So far back as 1716 application had been ineffectually made to George the First for a charter of incorporation. It was not until 1838, in the reign of her present Majesty, that this long desired object was accomplished. On

the 31st of October, in the year mentioned, the charter came into operation, the limits of the municipal borough being co-extensive with those of the parliamentary borough: *i.e.*, including the parishes of Birmingham and Edgbaston, and part of the parish of Aston. At first, however, the powers of the Corporation were limited, and its usefulness was greatly hindered by the other governing bodies existing within the borough; these altogether numbering not less than eight, and each having its own officers, and enjoying authority to levy rates, and execute public works. At last, the nuisance of conflicting powers became so intolerable that it was resolved to extinguish all minor bodies, and to emerge them in the Corporation. With much difficulty this object was effected in 1851 by the Birmingham Improvement Act, and ten years later this Act was supplemented by another, rendered necessary by the growing necessities of the town. The municipal affairs of the whole borough, are, consequently, now administered by the Corporation, which has the management of the streets and roads, markets, police, and all other matter incident to municipal government.

The extreme length of the borough is six miles and one furlong, its breadth three miles, and its area 8,420 acres. It is divided into thirteen wards. The town council—the governing body—consists of a mayor, fifteen aldermen, and forty-eight councillors, who are, at their own choice, divided into several committees, each one charged with a separate department of administration, but all of them subject to the council, which, in its turn has to submit to election by the burgesses. The council has power to levy a borough rate, of varying amount, for the purposes indicated in the Municipal Corporations' Act (1834); an improvement rate of not more than 2s. in the pound, and a strict improvement rate (for the purpose of widening and improving streets) of not more than 6d. in the pound. The average of these rates amounts to about 3s. 9d. in the pound, on an assessment of a little over £1,000,000. In addition to the rating powers above-mentioned, the corporation has borrowing powers, partly limited by Act of Parliament. The present municipal debt amounts to between £600,000 and £700,000.

The offices of the corporation (rate and public works department) are at the public office, Moor-street. The town clerk's offices are in Temple-street.

The parochial affairs of Birmingham (administration of workhouses and relief of the poor) are managed by three separate bodies of guardians. Of these the principal is that of the parish of Birmingham, which has its offices in Paradise-street, and the workhouse at Birmingham Heath. The average number of persons in the receipt of parish relief during the year ending Michaelmas, 1866, was 10,061; and the total annual cost of the relief administered was nearly £60,000. The poor rates in this parish average about 3s. 9d. in the pound. The population of the parish of Birmingham is about 212,000. That part of the parish of Aston within the borough is included in the Aston Union; it has offices in the Aston-road, and a workhouse at Erdington. The population is about 85,000 and the poor rate averages less than 1s. in the pound. The parish of Edgbaston is entirely within the borough, but is included in the union of King's Norton. The population of the parish is 15,000, and the poor-rate is about 7d. in the pound.

Having noticed the municipal and parochial government, we come next to the administration of justice. The police force of the borough consists of nearly 400 constables, under the control of the corporation. The command is entrusted to a chief superintendent, assisted by four superintendents, and a number of inspectors, and other subordinate officers. There is also a detective force. The cost of the police is about £25,000 annually, of which one-fourth is repaid by the government. The chief station and the offices of the police are in Moor-street, where there is a lock-up. There are five other stations in various parts of the town: all of them are connected by telegraphic communication.

Justice is administered daily in petty sessions (Moor-street) by a stipendiary magistrate (salary £1,000) and a number of other magistrates, county and borough, who sit in rotation. There are thirty-two magistrates in the commission for the borough; and besides these, twenty county magistrates are available for service in the Birmingham district. Courts of

quarter sessions are also held in Moor-street, by the recorder and deputy-recorder; and it is expected that a grant of assizes will shortly be made to the town. At present Birmingham prisoners committed to the assizes are tried at Warwick.

Besides the above-described provision for the administration of criminal justice, Birmingham is the centre of a bankruptcy district, with a commissioner and two registrars: the court is held at the Waterloo Rooms, Waterloo-street. It is also the centre of a county court district; the court is in Waterloo-street.

Chapter the Third.

HEALTH AND CRIME.

BIRMINGHAM is one of the healthiest of the large towns. Though of course, contrasting unfavourably with the death rate of the whole kingdom, it holds a very satisfactory place when compared with other great seats of manufactures or commerce. This will be seen from the following table, compiled by W. W. L. Sargant, from the Registrar General's report, and showing the annual death rate from *all* causes in every 10,000 males and females respectively, for the decennial period between 1851 and 1860:—

England and Wales ..	Males	230
.. ..	Females . ..	213
Birmingham *parish*	Males	280
.. ..	Females	250
Sheffield	Males	295
.. ..	Females	274
Wolverhampton	Males	284
.. ..	Females	267
Manchester	Males	336
.. ..	Females	295
Leeds	Males	294
.. ..	Females	261
Liverpool	Males	352
.. ..	Females	314

London..	Males	257
.. ..	Females	218
Bristol..	Males	297
.. ..	Females	241

A valuable paper on this subject by Dr. Heslop will be found in the volume entitled "Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District." From this we learn that of the decennial period 1851-60, the annual death-rate for England and Wales was 22·24 per 1000; for Birmingham *parish*, 26·51; and for Birmingham *borough*, 25·20. Last year (1866) the death-rate of Birmingham borough was about 24 per 1000.

This result (satisfactory in most respects, though it leaves much yet to be desired) is attributable partly to the situation of the town on the new red sandstone, partly to the undulating suface, which allows of the adoption of an efficient system of drainage, and partly to the circumstance that the town covers a larger space and the inhabitants are less crowded than in any other large town in the kingdom—much is also due to the care exercised by the Corporation, in the enforcement of sanitary measures, including the inspection of food, the regulation of slaughterhouses, the cleansing of the streets, and the liberal provision of public baths and parks. The ample means provided for the treatment of the sick poor (details of which will be found under the head of charities) must also be taken into account.

With regard to crime, a still more favourable report may be made. In the volume already referred to, will be found a paper on this subject, from which the following particulars are taken—the reader being referred to the paper itself for further details. "In the year ending September 1865 (the latest period embraced by the official returns) the criminal class in Birmingham was estimated at 3,068—namely, males under 16 years of age, 291; above 16 years, 1,573. Females under 16 years, 164; above 16 years, 1040. The division into classes is as follows:—Known thieves, 912; receivers of stolen goods, 129; prostitutes, 376; suspected persons, 591; tramps and vagrants, 1,060. The number of houses of bad character is returned as 866, of which

174 were licensed public houses, 148 beershops, 115 brothels, and 237 tramps' lodging houses. The total number of offences committed is stated as 1,258 indictable offences, and 9,188 cases of persons summarily proceeded against. For the indictable offences 805 persons were apprehended, and of these 437 were committed for trial.

"The crime committed in Birmingham is not often of a very serious character. Burglary and larceny (the former, in most cases, being little more than larceny at night) constitute the chief items under the head of indictable offences. The number of these offences for the two last years were—1864, burglaries and attempted burglaries, 289; larcenies, 224. In 1865, burglaries, 517; larcenies, 466. Of coining and uttering false coin there were 21 cases in 1864, and 67 in 1865. Cases of forgery, receiving stolen goods, embezzlement, and obtaining money or goods under false pretences, are much rarer in Birmingham than in most other manufacturing or commercial towns: and crimes of violence against the person are neither frequent nor serious. In 1865, for example, there was only 1 attempt to murder, 7 cases of manslaughter, and 25 of wounding with intent to do bodily harm; and this out of a population of nearly 350,000!"

The lighter class of crime (cases summarily dealt with) consists chiefly of thefts, assaults, (heard on summons) drunk and disorderly cases, and offences against local acts. The following table shows the number of these respectively, in the years 1864 and 1865:—

	1864.	1865.
Assaults	1918	2145
Drunken cases	1373	1706
Larcenies	1044	1052
Offences by Publicans	459	479
Offences against Local Acts ..	1695	1514
Offences against Vagrant Acts ..	706	900

On comparison with other places, it is found that, taking indictable and summary offences together, the following is the proportion of offences to population:—

	1864. 1 in	1865. 1 in
All England	40·8	39
Birmingham	32·28	28·34
Manchester	18·35	18·26
Liverpool	10·88	11·4
Leeds	30·94	26·0
Sheffield	33·6	30

In regard to indictable offences, Leeds and Sheffield were much better than the average of the kingdom; while Manchester and Liverpool were much worse. In 1864 Birmingham was about the average; in 1865 it was decidedly worse. Taking both classes of offences together, the large towns in 1865 stood in the following order of merit—Sheffield, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool.

Chapter the Fourth.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c., BELONGING TO THE CORPORATION.

HAVING traced the history and sketched the government of the town, we now proceed to give some account of the public buildings, markets, &c., under the control of the Corporation. Of these the principal are the

TOWN HALL.—This edifice fronts to Paradise Street and New Street. It was commenced on the 27th of April, 1832, and was opened, whilst in a partially unfinished state, on the 19th of September, 1834. One end, indeed, was allowed to remain in this condition till 1850, when the surrounding buildings were purchased and pulled down, and the structure finally completed. It was erected from designs by Messrs. Hansom and Welch, the motive of the design being that of a Grecian temple, which at the time of the erection was the fashionable style of the day. The facade is peripteral, having eight columns to the principal fronts, and thirteen columns on the flanks, the

columns being imitated or copied from those of the temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome; variety and a playful effect are gained on one of the fronts by the columns being partially dipteral; the whole is elevated on a lofty arcaded and rusticated basement. The material with which it is built is Anglesey marble.

We subjoin a table of the principal dimensions and characteristics of the building:—

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

The interior is noble, and is tastefully decorated. The great hall has a series of Corinthian pilasters on all sides, raised on a stylobate or basement, and having enriched capitals with an appropriate cornice, the whole supporting a richly decorated ceiling covered on all sides. There are galleries on three sides of the hall and the orchestra on the fourth; at the back of which is the noble organ (described hereafter). The galleries, reaching no higher than the stylobate supporting the pilasters, do not, as in many other buildings, interfere with or mar the harmony of the proportions of the hall, but, on the contrary, add much to the general effect. In the course of 1855, the interior was redecorated by Mr. Ingram, and the result is in the highest degree satisfactory. The gallery fronts are in bronze, relieved with gold, and lined with crimson cloth. The walls are covered with enamel, in imitation of highly-polished Sienna marble; the pilasters being enamelled white of a warm tone, their base mouldings and capitals being richly gilt. The architrave is white gold, and the white ground of the frieze is decorated with the Greek anthemion, from the Parthenon, so treated as to appear like an inlaid marble; the cornice is white, and the cantilevers and the egg and tooth mouldings gilt. The coved sides of the roof are divided into recessed panels, with central rosettes, and separated from each other by ribs, the sides of which are ornamented by the egg and tooth moulding. On the ribs are painted elegant arabesques; the mouldings being gilt and relieved with rich colour. In each of these circles are introduced sun-light gas-burners.

In a recess, at the back of a capacious orchestra, (which will hold nearly 500 performers) stands a magnificent organ, the property of the Governors of the General Hospital, erected at an expense of between £3000 and £4000, for the purposes of great Triennial Musical Festivals, which are held in the Hall. The organ case is forty feet wide, fifty-four high, and seventeen deep. The largest wood pipe measures, in the interior, two hundred and twenty-four cubic feet. The bellows of the organ are very large; they contain three hundred square feet of surface, and upwards of three tons weight is required to give the necessary pressure. It is calculated that the "trackers" in the organ, if laid out in a straight line, would reach above five miles. There are seventy-eight draw-stops, four sets of keys, and above four thousand pipes. The weight of the instrument is above forty-five tons; and, in the depth, power, variety, and sweetness of its tone is believed to surpass any in Europe. It was built by Mr. Hill, of London, and opened in 1834. A performance upon it is given every Thursday from one till two o'clock. A colossal marble bust of Mendelssohn, from the chisel of Mr. Peter Hollins, has been executed, and is placed in the landing of the principal corridor.

This Hall, one of the most spacious rooms in the kingdom, will accommodate more than 3,000 persons sitting; on great political occasions, when the benches have been removed, more than 7,000 persons have stood beneath the roof. The dimensions of the great room are: length, one hundred and forty-five feet; breadth, sixty-five feet; height, sixty-five feet; making 600,000 cubical feet. Besides the principal room, the building contains extensive corridors, a saloon, a grand staircase and ante-rooms, under the gallery a committee-room and several other apartments. Another extensive apartment, similar in size to the great hall—and immediately under it—has been constructed.

The Hall is devoted to the public assemblies of the inhabitants, who frequently meet here in thousands, to consider local and political subjects. Concerts of a high class, for which it is admirably fitted, are frequently given within its walls; balls, lectures, and other entertainments are by no means uncommon.

There are popular concerts on Monday evenings and organ performances at one o'clock on Thursday.

The building, which has cost between £40,000 and £50,000, is the property of the Corporation, who have the power of granting the use of it. The hall is open to visitors every day except Sunday. There is no charge; and admission may be obtained on application, at the upper door in Congreve Street.

THE MARKET HALL is in the Bull Ring, and runs back to Worcester Street, having also entrances from Philip Street and Bell Street. It is in the Grecian style of architecture, and was erected from the designs of Mr. Charles Edge. The entrances are arched, and supported by Doric columns. Its length is three hundred and sixty-five feet; its width, one hundred and eight feet; its height, sixty feet. The Hall is lighted by twenty-five windows on each side, with three at the east, and six at the west end. It contains accommodation for six hundred stalls. The total cost of the building was about £67,261. There are fruit, game and poultry shops, butchers' shops, and fish-stalls. In the centre is a handsome fountain, which was inaugurated on the 24th December, 1851. It is, with the exception of the pedestal, of bronze, and is the work of Messrs. Messengers and Sons, Broad Street. The Hall is open every day.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.—This market was formed in 1816, on the ground for many centuries occupied by the residence of the Lord of the Manor. Until a period quite within living memory, the beast, sheep, pig, and fish markets were held in the principal streets; the former being in High Street and Dale End, the later in New Street. The present market, which covers several acres, is divided into three departments, each of which is surrounded with a brick wall and palisades. Two are reserved for cattle, the third for sheep and pigs. There is another department allotted for the horse fair. The beast market is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a Hay and Straw Market, which was originally founded in 1791, in Ann Street, held at Smithfield every Tuesday.

ST. MARTIN'S MARKET is situated in Jamaica Row, near St. Martin's Church, and is used for the wholesale disposal of butcher's meat.

VEGETABLE MARKETS for wholesale purchasers, are held

in the mornings in the Bull Ring, and at Gosta Green, Aston Street.

FAIRS.—It is upon authentic record that in 1251, William Birmingham, Lord of the Manor, procured an additional charter from Edward III., reviving some decayed privileges and granting others. Amongst the last was that of the Whitsuntide Fair, to begin on the eve of the Holy Thursday, and to continue for four days. At the alteration of the style in 1752, it was changed to the Thursday in Whitsun week. He also obtained leave to hold another fair, to begin on the eve of St. Michael, which is commonly called "the Onion Fair," on account of the great quantity of onions sold at the fair.

THE CORN EXCHANGE.—Though not belonging to the Corporation, this building may be mentioned here, in connection with the markets. Until about twenty years ago, the farmers used to meet in the streets, in all weathers; but the inconvenience of this practice becoming intolerable, a company was formed, and the Corn Exchange erected at the back of High Street, with entrances from that street, and from Carr's Lane. The building was opened on the 25th October, 1847. It was designed by Mr. Hemming, and cost £6000. Externally it has no attractions, from the confined nature of the site. The architecture of the interior—an area of 172 feet long, and from 37 to 40 feet wide—is of the Italian Doric style, and the vaulted room, divided into three compartments by ranges of pillars, is remarkably light and elegant. The annual subscription to each stall is £6. The supporters are the first corn merchants in the district. The room is well adapted for balls, assemblies, and public entertainments, for which purpose it is frequently engaged.

THE PUBLIC OFFICE—is situated in Moor Street, and was erected in 1806, but was considerably enlarged about thirty years since, when the present elevation to the street was erected from designs by Mr. Edge, and consists mainly of a colonnade of the Ionic order upon a basement. A still further extension was made in the year 1861, at an expense of £10,000, from the designs of Mr. Martin, Borough architect. The edifice contains some fine and spacious apartments, amongst which may be noted the Council Chamber, in which the Corporation meets. The Borough Court

of Quarter Sessions is held in this building; and here is the General Police Court of the Borough. Several of the rooms are sometimes used for private purposes, such as meetings of institutions. At the back is a prison, used for the custody of offenders previous to committal by the magistrates. It contains separate cells for males and females, airing yards, and a bath-room.

THE BOROUGH GAOL, situated at Birmingham Heath, at the outskirts of the town, is a modern erection. Before it was built, all borough prisoners were committed to the county gaol at Warwick. The foundation stone of the building, which covers seven acres, was laid by the Mayor, Mr. Thomas Phillips, on the 29th of October, 1845; and the first prisoner was received within its walls on the 17th of October, 1849. It was originally built to contain three hundred and thirty-six cells; but large additions have since been made, increasing the cells to about four hundred. The whole of the building is of brick, with stone dressings, and, with the warders' turrets, has a castellated appearance; the style adopted being a kind of Romanesque. It was built from the designs of Mr. D. R. Hill, and is arranged upon the principle adopted at Pentonville.

THE BOROUGH LUNATIC ASYLUM, a neat and even elegant building in the Elizabethan style, is nearly close to the gaol. The first stone was laid on the 29th of September, 1847, by Mr. R. Martineau, the then Mayor, and in June, 1850, it was opened for the reception of patients. The building and grounds cover an area of more than twenty acres. Accommodation is provided for between 300 and 400 patients. The grounds are admirably laid out, and the whole of the fittings, conveniences, and amusements, have been provided with the view to the cure of the unfortunate inmates; and in this respect the result has been satisfactory. Books, newspapers, and periodicals, are provided for them; many are usefully employed; and during the season there are weekly concerts and balls of a very interesting kind. The building was erected from the designs of Mr. D. R. Hill.

PUBLIC BATHS.—There are three sets of baths. The principal are situate in *Kent Street*. The first stone of the building was laid by Mr. S. Thornton, Mayor, on the 29th of October,

1849, and the building was opened on the 12th of May, 1851. It is a handsome Elizabethan erection, from the designs of Mr. D. R. Hill. It contains sixty-nine private baths, two swimming baths, and three plunging baths. On the male side there are thirty first class private baths, twenty-four second class private baths, two private plunging baths, and two large swimming baths. On the female side, there are seven first class private baths, eight second class private baths, and one plunging bath. The charges are:—Private warm bath—1st class, 6d.; 2nd class, 3d.; private cold baths—first class, 3d., and second-class, 1d.; swimming bath—first class, 6d., and second class, 3d. The washhouses are fitted with twenty-five washing stalls, and thirty-two drying horses. Hot and cold water is abundantly supplied, and a large laundry adjoins, fitted up with every suitable convenience. *Woodcock Street Baths.*—This is a plain structure, containing forty-six private baths, besides plunging and swimming baths, and the charges are the same as at the other establishment. The Baths were opened on the 27th of August, 1860, and cost about £8000. *Northwood Street Baths*, containing private plunging and swimming baths; the charges the same as at the others. As buildings of any architectural pretensions these do not fairly represent the local profession, and being only one storey in height, they have an insignificant appearance, and the style of the designs anything but what they might have been. They were opened in 1862. In addition to these public Corporation Baths, there are private bathing establishments in various parts of the town. The chief of them are Turkish baths in the Crescent, Cambridge Street, and also Turkish baths on a larger scale at the corner of Graham Street and Frederick Street, Newhall Hill.

Other public buildings are described under the heads of religious edifices, churches, literary and educational institutions, and trade manufactures, &c. For these, see the respective chapters and the index.

Chapter the Fifth.

RELIGION.

BEFORE noticing the present religious condition of Birmingham, it may be worth while to glance at the foundations which existed in pre-Reformation times. The most ancient of these was the *Priory*, or Hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle. This religious institution was, so far as is known, founded in 1285, when the Lords of the Manors of Birmingham and Aston, and others, gave houses and lands for the erection of a religious house, wherein the priests should daily pray for the souls of the founders for ever. The Priory, built of stone, stood on the spot now the Old Square, and probably occupied some fourteen acres. It waxed very rich in the course of years; but at the Reformation, in 1536, Henry the Eighth suppressed the fraternity, and diverted its annual revenue of £8 8s. 9d. to the royal exchequer. It is supposed, that in the fervour of their religious zeal, the Reformers destroyed the building. No trace of it whatever has existed for upwards of 200 years; but in 1786, large quantities of human bones were dug up near the Minories. Another of these religious houses was the *Guild of the Holy Cross*, which was founded in 1383, for the maintenance of two priests, to celebrate divine service, "to the honour of God, our Blessed Lady his Mother, the Holy Cross, St. Thomas the Martyr, and St. Catherine." In a few years after, by a patent from Richard the Second, the fraternity of males and females was founded, and the Hall of the Guild built on the Hales Owen Road, which now forms New Street. Upon the suppression of the religious houses, after the Reformation, the possessions of the Guild, which were valued at £31 2s. 10d. yearly, were diverted to the Crown. The building, however, remained; and in the time of King Edward the Sixth, it was with its possessions, then amounting to £21 per annum, granted by the benevolent monarch to the inhabitants, to found a Free Grammar School, of which we shall subsequently give a notice. These, then, are the olden and decayed religious edifices which have flourished and been swept away.

With regard to the present religious condition of Birmingham much might be said, not altogether with satisfaction, if this were the place to say it. We must, however, content ourselves with noting the fact that church and chapel accommodation is not nearly equal to the wants of the population. Numerically, the town presents a respectable figure as there are (including licensed rooms) 45 places of worship connected with the Church of England, 96 Dissenting chapels, and 8 churches or chapels of the Roman Catholic communion; making a total of 148, to which it is expected that four churches of the Establishment will soon be added. But as regards the numbers these will accommodate, the account is much less satisfactory. The Church of England provides for 36,073 worshippers; but of the rest no accurate estimate can be formed. Some of the Dissenting chapels are large; but the majority are very small. In one respect, Birmingham compares favourably with other towns. There is here very little manifestation of religious bigotry. This is attributable, perhaps, to the traditions of the place, Birmingham having at a very early period afforded an asylum to ministers harassed during the civil war, or ejected by the Act of Uniformity. But whatever the cause, the town is distinguished by a high-minded liberalism in this respect—the liberalism of charity, not that of indifference; for there is no place in which decided views are more deeply cherished, or more forcibly expressed, whenever necessity arises. This, however, is not allowed to interfere with the constant union of ministers and laymen of different denominations in public works of beneficence or education; and the same good feeling is largely displayed in the social intercourse of private life. With this brief introduction, we pass on to notice the religious denominations represented in the town, taking first the Church of England, and mentioning the edifices of that body in the order of their consecration:—

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

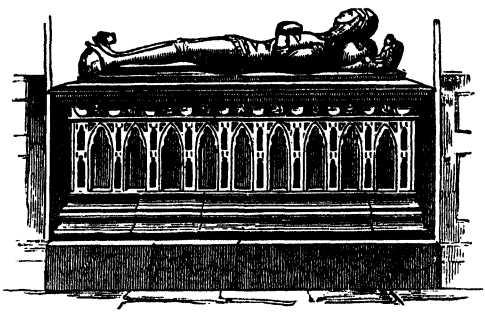
ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH.—The foundations of St. Martin's Church, the mother church of Birmingham, are of a far more ancient date, but the present edifice cannot be assigned to an earlier period than the beginning of the 13th century. The

interior windows of the belfry, as also other portions of the tower, are of the early decorated style of architecture; and during recent repairs, a window or doorway of the same style was disclosed at the west end of the south aisle. It is not improbable, therefore, that some portion of the church was erected by that Sir William Birmingham whose monument is situated in the south aisle. In the year 1690 the church and tower were cased with brick. The spire was several times injured by lightning. The meridian line on the south side of the tower was placed there by Ferguson the astronomer.

The Church was, in 1291, valued at seven and a half marks, but in the twenty-sixth year of Henry the Eighth, it was valued at £19 3s. 6d. The living is a rectory. In the year 1331 Walter de Clodshale, of Saltley, gave certain lands and messuages for the founding of a chantry at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, in this church, and for maintaining one priest to celebrate divine service there for the souls of himself, his wife, their ancestors, and all the faithful deceased. His son, Richard, gave other lands, &c., for the like purposes. In the twenty-sixth year of Henry the Eighth the value of the lands and tenements was estimated at a hundred and one shillings: Sir Thomas Allen and Sir John Grene, priests, being wardens thereof. A chapel must have been attached, as we find Richard de Clodshale, who served as sheriff for this county and Leicestershire in 1426, by his testament bearing date at Edgbaston, 1428, bequeathed his body to sepulture in the church, "within his own proper chapel of our Lady," constituting the Duke of Bedford one of his executors.

During the year 1846, the restoration of the ancient monuments of the "Lords Birmingham" was effected. They are curious. The most ancient is situated in the fifth window opening of the south aisle: it is the effigy of a knight, cross-legged, and recumbent, lying on a coffin-shaped slab. A shield, charged with a *bend lozenge*, is attached to the left arm, and his hands are joined in prayer. It is supposed to represent Sir William Birmingham, who bore for his arms the charge which appears on the shield. We find him in the year 1297 in the service of his sovereign, Edward the First, under the command of the Earl of Lincoln, who, attempting to relieve Bellegarde,

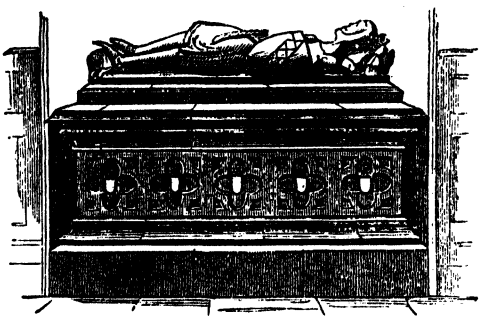
then besieged by the French, was defeated by the besiegers, and the earl, together with Sir William, eight more knights, and very many esquires, were taken prisoners and carried in great triumph to Paris. He died in the latter part of Edward the First's reign. The design of the tomb on which the effigy is placed is from one of the same period in Moccas church, Here-



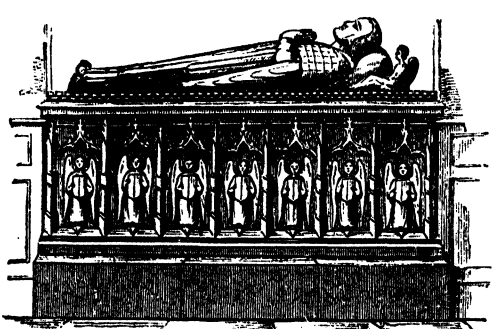
fordshire. It was furnished by Mr. M. H. Bloxham, of Rugby. The next monument in antiquity is situated in the west window of the south aisle. It is supposed to be the effigy of William de Birmingham, a man of great repute in the time of the second and third Edwards.

We return to the south aisle, and notice next a high altar tomb of alabaster, divided into compartments, on which is the effigy of a knight in plate armour. The slab on which the effigy reclines is of the form termed *en dois dáne*. It is presumed to represent John Birmingham, who bore for his arms *parti per pale, indented argent, and sable*, which charge appears on the jupon of the effigy, and who, in the year 1379, was sheriff of this county and Leicestershire; he was one of the knights of the shire in the Parliament held at Westminster in 1382, and a commissioner for raising power against the rebels, *i.e.*, the followers of John Wickliffe. To this John Birmingham we are indebted for the erection of one of the most splendid specimens of ecclesiastical architecture, viz., the two western towers of York Ca-

thedral, which were built by him about the year 1402. The most interesting of these monuments is the effigy of an ecclesiastic,



placed upon a high tomb of alabaster. The priest is vested as a canon of some cathedral, or member of a collegiate or conventional foundation, in the choir habit; his hands are joined on the breast in prayer; his under-robe consists of a long scarlet-coloured cassock, the skirts and sleeves of which are visible



about the feet and wrists; over this is worn a vestment (the surplice), above which appears the almucium, or aumasse, a furred tippet and hood, covering the shoulders and breast, with

broad pendant bands hanging down in front. The attire is precisely the same (allowing for the change of fashion in the different articles) as that prescribed to be worn, and worn at the present time by many of the clergy of the Church of England. Mr. Bloxham has assigned the date to the latter part of the fifteenth century, and considers it one of the most curious monumental effigies extant.

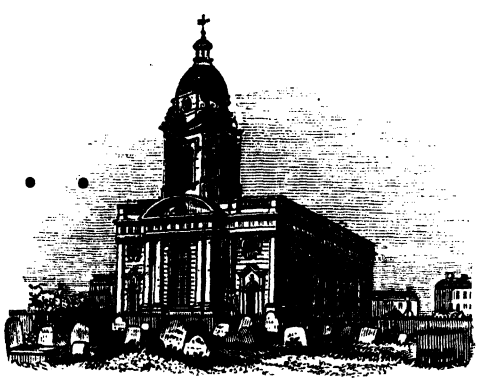
In 1849, in consequence of some rumours that the spire was in an unsafe state a proposition was placed before the public to restore the old church; plans of the proposed alteration were submitted and it was estimated that the cost would be about £12,000. Subscriptions were entered into, and about £5,000 collected. In January, 1851, the east window, which, prior to that time, was filled with square panes of common glass, was removed, and an elegant window of stained glass substituted. The window is in three lights, of foliated scroll-work, with sacred monograms and devices in the tracery. It was executed at Messrs. Chance's, and cost about £200, subscribed by the congregation. Although the scheme for the restoration of the whole edifice still continues in abeyance, yet the inroads of time upon the tower and spire were so great, that in the course of 1854, it became absolutely necessary to recase the former, and rebuild the latter. The cost was about £6,000. Plans of the restoration were prepared by Mr. Philip Hardwick, who proposed that the tower and spire should be erected in close conformity with the original design. The demolition was commenced in April, 1854. In the course of the operations some curious discoveries were made. The stone of which the building was composed was so friable, that it crumbled away at a touch. As the old brickwork casing was removed, the true style and proportions of the building were disclosed. The style is what is known as the "early decorated;" and it would appear that the tower had been built at different periods. According to the architect's opinion, it was commenced about 1180, judging from the lower moulding; but the upper part of the tower and the spire denote a later period, probably about 1300. In May, 1854, at the bottom of the tower, two arched recesses, each about seven feet in width, with subsidiary arched traceries of remarkably beautiful character, were discovered. These had evidently been designed

for monumental effigies, and Mr. Hardwick, concluding that they were the resting-places of some of the original founders, a careful examination was instituted. On the 14th August, in the same year, the workmen having removed a thick crust of lime which covered the tombs, found three skeletons in one recess, and a fourth in the other, all in a good state of preservation. One of the skulls was nearly entire, and in a portion of the lower jaw of this were firmly imbedded a good serviceable row of teeth, last used well nigh seven centuries since by some member of the Birmingham family, or other person of note, for the soul of whom mass was doubtless sung daily in the wealthy Priory of St. Thomas the Apostle, away up by what is now called the Old Square. The places of sepulture, cut in the foundation of the tower, were about two feet in depth and sixteen inches wide. Nothing was found except the bones. These were again deposited in their stone coffins; and Mr. Hardwick restored the recesses with the utmost decoration which the period would allow. In addition to the restoration of the tower and spire, a similar work was undertaken for the church clock, together with the beautiful bells and chimes, at the cost of £700. This latter work was hastened in anticipation of the visit of her Majesty, and subscriptions flowed in so rapidly, that the Queen was greeted by a merry peal from the mother church of Birmingham. The church is seated for 2100 persons, but the accommodation might be considerably increased by open sittings. The official seats of the Free Grammar School are in this church: the patrons are a private trust, consisting at present of the Dean of Carlisle, and Rev. Edward Auriol, Rev. C. Kemble, Rev. Daniel Wilson, and Rev. A. W. Thorold. The same patrons present to St. George's, St. Thomas's, and All Saints' rectories, all of which were severed from the mother parish.

ST. JOHN'S, DERITEND.—This church was founded in the year 1381; but the ancient building having fallen into decay, the present structure, which is a commodious place of worship, was built of brick in 1735, in the "no style" of the day. The interior was formerly divided into nave and aisles, somewhat after the manner of St. James', Piccadilly, London, one of Sir Christopher Wren's churches, and had a pretty appearance; but about twenty years since, the columns were swept away, and a

plain flat ceiling introduced, as ugly as could be designed. At the west end is a square brick tower corresponding with the church wherein eight bells and a clock were fixed in 1777. It is a chapel of ease for the parish of Aston, and is capable of holding 700 persons. The living is a perpetual curacy, the incumbent being called Chaplain of St. John's. Patron, the Vicar of Aston.

ST PHILIP'S CHURCH is placed in an open area of about four acres, and the most elevated spot in the town. The ground now occupied by the church and churchyard, and that upon which the Blue Coat School stands, was the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips and her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Inge. The church is about a hundred and forty feet long and seventy-five feet broad; was commenced in 1711, con-



secrated in 1715, and finished in 1719. It is built in the Palladian style, from the designs of Thomas Archer, a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren. Externally it is of the Doric order, worked in pilasters rising from stybolate or plinth, and supporting the usual cornice and balustrade; between each pilaster lofty well-proportioned windows are introduced. The principal entrances are at the west end, on each side of the tower, the doorways having finely moulded architraves with square columns on each side placed anglewise, the columns supporting richly carved consoles and moulded pedimental cornice. The tower rises boldly

from the ground, and is divided into three stories; the lower square on plan with coupled pilasters at the angles enclosing a large west window; the middle story has the four sides curved, the angles cut off and coupled Corinthian pilasters introduced: these support richly carved consoles, in their turn carrying the dome or cupola, and above that the lantern. The whole has a remarkably fine effect. Internally the church consists of a nave, aisles, and shallow apidal chancel. The nave is divided from the aisles by a range of well-proportioned semi-circular arches resting on piers with moulded caps and bases; a moulded cornice terminating the arcade, supporting coved and panelled ceilings. Galleries are introduced, though they do not impair the effect so much as in other churches of a similar style. The chancel is a square projection with the angles rounded, lighted by two windows in each circular portion; what appears as the east window externally is unfortunately blank internally, and the space occupied by painted decorations of no particular character, which mar the effect sadly. The reredos has some very fine oak carving. The communion rails also are a valuable specimen of the wrought iron-work of the period in which they were executed. In the year 1849, the whole of the high pews in the nave and aisles were removed and appropriate low ones introduced. On account of the friable nature of the stone used in the building, it had gradually gone to decay. The first step taken for its restoration was a voluntary donation of the restoration of the south-west portion by Mr. Peter Hollins (in memory of his father); this has been followed as the funds came in, by a restoration of the south, east, and north sides progressively, and will ultimately extend to the tower. The triennial musical festivals for the benefit of the Hospital were, previous to the erection of the Town Hall in 1834, held in this church. From the top of the tower a fine view is obtained of the town and neighbourhood. At the corner of the churchyard is the Rectory, and an adjoining building was erected in 1792, to receive a Theological Library, bequeathed by the Rev. William Higgs, the first rector, for the use of the clergy of the neighbourhood. Patron, the Bishop.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S—Was built in 1749, on land presented by John Jennens, Esq. It is a very plain brick building.

Consisting externally of two tiers of segment-headed windows, surmounted by a cornice internally, it is divided into nave and aisles by a colonade of the Doric order. There are galleries on three sides. The altar-piece was the gift of Basil, Earl of Denbigh. A remarkable circumstance connected with the church is, that the chancel points to the north, instead of being placed due east. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the Rector of St. Martin's.

ST. MARY'S.—Which is situated in the centre of St. Mary's Square, was erected in 1774, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament, passed in 1772, for the erection of two additional chapels in Birmingham. The land was presented by Mrs. Mary Weaman, in whom the right of presentation was vested. The edifice is a plain brick building of an octagonal form, with two ill-proportioned windows on each face, and a recently added tower and short spire, very much superior to the rest of the Church. The interior is what might be expected from the period of its erection—of no style whatever—though the form is one capable of great beauty. The living is a perpetual curacy. Patrons, Trustees.

ST. PAUL'S, gives the name to the Square in which it stands. The Church was built in 1779, but by whom designed, is unknown. The general appearance of the exterior is that of a copy of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. The tower and spire were added in 1823, from the designs of the late Francis Goodwyn, of London. The style is Greco-Italian. Internally the church is divided into nave and aisles by a two-storied colonnade. The chancel is a continuation of the nave, being of the same height and width, separated from the nave by a low, plainly-moulded arch, and has a large east window, Venetian in design, filled with stained glass, by Egginton, the subject being the Conversion of St. Paul. There are galleries on three sides. Patrons, Trustees.

ST. JAMES'S, ASHTED, is a plain, unpretending edifice, cemented externally; formerly the residence of Dr. Ash, a celebrated physician (founder of the General Hospital) by whom it was erected. It was afterwards purchased for the Church of England, and was opened as a place of worship on the 9th of October, 1791. This chapel may with propriety be called the

Barrack Chapel, as there is a special service for the troops every Sunday morning. The burial ground was attached in 1810, on the 7th of September, in which year the church was consecrated by the bishop of the diocese. Patrons. the Aston Church Trustees.

CHRIST CHURCH is in New Street. It was commenced in 1805, but the funds being found inadequate, the building was not finished till 1815, although it was consecrated on the 6th of July, 1813. The land was presented by William Phillips Inge, Esq. It was expected George III. would have laid the foundation stone; but being prevented by illness, the ceremony was performed by the High Bailiff. The period of its erection, being that of the "dark age" of English art, was unfortunate in every respect; the site being a remarkably fine one. The building is simply a plain square block, filled in with circular-headed windows. At the west-end is an ill-proportioned tetrastyle Doric portico, surmounted by a pediment, over which, in an apparently insecure position when viewed from the front, rises the tower and spire, as ugly as it well can be. Internally the church is a vast begalleried hall, plain and bare in the extreme, with a flat, unadorned ceiling. The cost of this building was about £26,000; a sum that would suffice to erect three good churches in the present day. By whom it was designed we have not been able to ascertain: and perhaps it is well the architect's name is buried in oblivion. The living is a perpetual curacy, to which is attached a prebendal stall at Lichfield. Patron, the Bishop.

ST. GEORGE'S is near Tower Street, Constitution Hill. The first stone was laid in April, 1820, by the commissioners appointed under the Act of Parliament for erecting churches; and it was consecrated July 30th, 1822. It contains about 2,000 sittings, of which 1,400 are free. It was built from the designs of the late Thomas Rickman, author of the still popular work on Gothic structure, and the earliest promoter of the revival of English Church architecture. It is in the decorated style, and consists of nave, aisles, and chancel, with a lofty tower at the west end. Externally, the nave and aisles present two ranges of three-light traceried windows, separated by buttresses, those to the nave terminating in pinnacles. The tower, which is 114

feet high, partakes, in its general proportions, very much of the Somersetshire type of towers of the fifteenth century. Internally, the nave is divided from the aisles by clustered columns, with carved capitals supporting moulded arches. Above these is a lofty clerestory, and a panelled ceiling, over

nave and aisles, partly worked in wood, and partly in plaster, the fashion of open timbered roofs not being then introduced. Considering the period of its erection, this church will contrast favourably with any building of the same date. Patrons, same as St. Martin's.

HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL stands at the top of Bradford Street. This beautiful edifice was built from the designs of Mr. Francis Goodwyn, of London, and, considering the period of its erection (1823), was far in advance of anything that had at that time been attempted in Gothic architecture—though the design is one that would not now be followed. The style is perpendicular. The plan is a parallelogram, with a shallow projection at the east end (for a sacrarium rather than a chancel) and a corresponding one at the west end. From the angles of each projection are bold octagonal turrets, finished with spirelets. In the centre of the west elevation is a noble pointed archway, within which are placed the entrances, and a large west window—the whole surmounted by a gable, in the centre

of which is placed an ornamental clock. On the north and south sides are appropriate entrances to the galleries, and ranges of lofty, three-light traceried windows, with buttresses between each, terminating in pinnacles. The east end has a large and handsomely stained rose window. Internally the building is surrounded on three sides by galleries. Over the altar is a painting by Foggo, representing Christ healing the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda. The edifice cost about £14,000. The living is a perpetual curacy. Patron, Vicar of Aston.

ST. PETER'S, Dale End. The style is Anglo-Grecian, from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. The plan is a parallelogram, having a tetrastyle Doric portico in front, the remainder of the building being a simple square block, with a projection at the east end by way of chancel. At the rear of the portico is an octagonal turret, with columns thereto, after the manner of the Temple of the Winds at Athens. Internally, the building is a vast hall, having galleries on three sides; above is the usual carved cornice and panelled ceiling. The east window is filled with stained glass, by Messrs. Pemberton, the subject being the "Ascension." The first stone was laid July 16, 1825, and the church was consecrated on the 10th of August, 1827. The cost was £19,000. It was partially destroyed by fire on the 25th of January, and was re-opened in 1837. Patron, the Rector of St. Philip's.

ST. THOMAS'S, Holloway Head. The style is Anglo-Grecian, from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. The design is a parallelogram, with a projection at the east end for chancel, and a square tower at the west end, in three graduated stages, rising to a height of 130 feet, the angles between the tower and the west wall being filled in with porticos, each forming a quarter circle on plan, of Ionic columns, the entablature of which is continued as a cornice all round the building. Large bald square-headed windows constitute the principal feature of each of the sides, each window surmounted with an ill-proportioned cornice. Internally it is a hall, with galleries on three sides. The church will contain 2,200 persons, 1,400 of which are free. The first stone was laid on the 2nd of October, 1826; and the church was consecrated on the 22nd of

October, 1829. It cost £14,222. Patrons, the same as St. Martin's.

ALL SAINTS, at Birmingham Heath, a small structure, in early English style, designed by Messrs. Rickman and Hussey. It was erected in 1833, at a cost of £3,817, and was consecrated on the 28th of September of the same year. Patrons, same as St. Martin's.

BISHOP RYDER'S, near Gosta Green, is a neat structure of brick, with stone dressings, from the design of Messrs. Rickman and Hussey. It is in the perpendicular style, and is a simple parallelogram in plan, with a lofty tower, imitated, on a small scale, from St. Botolph's, Boston. The interior has an open timber roof, of the common tie-beam class, and has also galleries on three sides. The church, which was consecrated on the 18th December, 1838, cost £4,500. It is a perpetual curacy. Patrons, trustees.

ST. MATTHEW'S.—This church was the first built by a society formed in 1838–9, to erect ten churches. It is placed at the east end of Great Lister Street. It is of brick, in the Gothic style of 1826, designed by William Thomas, of Leamington, has lancet windows, with cast-iron tracery, and a tower surmounted by a stone spire. It accommodates about 1000, including free and children's seats. It was consecrated on the 20th of October, 1840, and cost £2,200. The living is a perpetual curacy. Patrons, trustees.

ST. MARK'S.—This is the second of the new churches above alluded to, and is situated in King Edward Street, Summer Hill. It is interesting as being one of the early designs of the now celebrated George Gilbert Scott, A.R.A. The church is of the early English style, consisting of a nave and aisles and small chancel, with a tower and brooch spire at the west end of the north aisle. It was consecrated on the 29th July, 1841, and cost £3,100. It is a perpetual curacy. Patrons, trustees.

ST. LUKE'S, in the Bristol Road, is the third of the ten new churches. It is in the Norman style of architecture, designed by the late Harvey Egginton, of Worcester; it consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and tower, at the south-west angle of the nave. There is a fine stained window, by Messrs. C. and F. Pemberton. There are about 1200 sittings, nearly 600 of which

are free. The foundation stone was laid on the 28th July, 1841; and the building was consecrated on the 28th of September, 1842. Cost, £3,700. At the rear of the church are Sunday and day schools. Perpetual curacy; Patrons, trustees.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Newtown Row, is the fourth of the series above noticed. It is in the "geometric Gothic style," was designed by the late R. C. Carpenter, and consists of nave, transepts and chancel, with tower and spire at the north-west angle of the north transept, a portion only of the tower having been erected. Cost about £3,000. It will accommodate 1000 persons; 500 free. It was consecrated July 23rd, 1844. Patrons, Crown and Bishop in turn.

ST. ANDREW'S is the fifth and last of the proposed series, situate at Bordesley, near the Coventry Road, designed by the late R. C. Carpenter in the Decorated period of Gothic architecture. It consists of a nave, north aisle, chancel, and tower and spire at the west end of the aisle. At the east end of the aisle is a beautiful three light window, a gift from the architect. Cost upwards of £4,000. The foundation stone was laid on the 23rd of July, 1844; and the church was consecrated on September 30th, 1846. Patrons, Crown and Bishop in turn.

ST. SAVIOUR'S is at Saltley. It is in the perpendicular style, and is from the designs of Mr. Hussey, has north and south aisles, two porches, a chancel, a transept, and a nave with a clerestory. It was consecrated on the 23rd of July, 1850. The erection cost about £6,000, to which the patron was the principal contributor. Perpetual curacy; patron, Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P.

ST. JUDE'S, Tonk Street, is in the early English style, designed by Mr. Orford, consisting of nave, aisle, and chancel. It was consecrated on the 26th July, 1851, and cost about £3,000. There are 1300 kneelings, 1000 free. Patrons, Crown and Bishop in turn.

ST. JOHN'S, Ladywood. This very handsome structure, which was designed by Mr. Teulon, of London, is in the decorated geometrical style. It consists of chancel, nave, and aisles, with a tower terminating the north-western aisle. It affords accommodation for 1100 persons. Consecrated March 15th, 1854. Perpetual curacy; patron, the Rector of St. Martin's.

ST. PAUL'S, Balsall Heath. Foundation stone laid 17th May, 1852. The church stands in the parish of King's Norton, is in the style of the 13th century. The original cost, including the site, and £1000 endowment, was £5,500, but considerable additions have since been made. The architect was Mr. J. L. Pedley, of Birmingham. Perpetual curacy; patrons, Trustees.

ST. SILAS', Lozells. This is a plain building of brick, consecrated in 1854, from the designs of Mr. F. W. Fiddian, of Birmingham. It is Gothic in style, of the early English period, and is cruciform in plan, with the bell turret at the north-west end of the nave. Contains 1100 sittings; 430 free. Cost about £2650. Perpetual curacy; patron, Rev. D. N. Walton.

ST. MATTHIAS', Farm Street, commenced May 30th, 1855. Accommodates 1151 persons; 741 of the sittings being free. The style is "middle-pointed" Gothic. Architect, Mr. Pedley. Perpetual curacy: patrons, trustees.

ST. BARNABAS', Ryland Street, North. It is built of Hampstead redstone, with Hollington stone dressings, from the designs of Mr. Bourne, of Dudley. In plan it is a parallelogram, without aisles, having a large open timber roof spanning the entire width. There are galleries on three sides. The west front, the only elevation to the street, has an arcaded entrance in the centre. Above this is a large five-light west window, surrounded by the usual gable and cross. At the north-west angle is a tower surmounted by a lofty octagonal crocketted turret. Accommodation for about 850 persons. Cost £3,000. Consecrated 24th of October, 1860. Patrons, trustees.

ST. CLEMENT'S, Nechell's, a small cruciform church, from the designs of Mr. J. A. Chatwin, in the geometrical style of Gothic. Cost about £3,500. Patron, Incumbent of St. Matthews.

ST. MARY'S, Aston Brook, was erected from the designs of the late James Murray, of Coventry, by the family of the late Josiah Robins, Esq. The style is Gothic, of the latter part of the 13th century, with a free admixture of early French work in the detail. It is chiefly of red brick with bands and dressings of blue brick and Bath stone. The plan consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel, chancel aisle, or transept to the north,

and vestry on the south side. At the north-west there will be a tower and spire, the first stage of the tower only being erected. Internally the nave piers are of stone, with carved capitals supporting the nave arches, and a well-proportioned clerestory. The chancel is terminated by an apse with elegant three-lighted traceried windows, and is provided with open stalls with carved poppy heads. The roofs are all of open timber work, and the church is fitted throughout with benches of deal stained and varnished. This work is regarded as the most successful application of brick to ecclesiastical architecture that has been produced in Birmingham or the neighbourhood. Patron, Mr. J. Y. Robins.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, Road Street, consecrated 1865. Designed by Mr. E. Holmes. It is Gothic of the decorated period. Will accommodate about 1000 persons. Perpetual curacy; patrons, trustees.

ST. DAVIDS', Bissell Street.—Designed by Mr. Martin (Martin and Chamberlain). A handsome Gothic edifice, very broad and vigorous in treatment. Nave, aisles, chancel, tower, and spire; the latter visible from a great distance. Will accommodate about 1,200 persons. Cost about £5,000. Perpetual curacy; patrons, trustees.

There is also in progress a church at Spark Brook, from the designs of Messrs. Medland and Maberly, of Gloucester; and there are likewise churches at Edgbaston, Handsworth, and Harborne, which will be noticed under the head of those suburbs.

NONCONFORMIST BODIES.

UNITARIANS.

THE OLD MEETING.—This building, which gives its name to the street in which it stands, was erected, as we have stated, in 1689. It was set on fire in the riots of 1715: totally destroyed in the riots of 1791, and rebuilt in 1794. Contiguous to this place of worship is a very large burial-ground, which contains the mortal remains of some of the most respectable Nonconformists of the town. Attached are schools and a library, formed on most liberal principles, and which have effected a great deal of good among the working classes. It is a plain brick building, of no particular style.

THE NEW MEETING.—Though no longer used by the Unitarians, this must be mentioned in connection with that body. The second Dissenting Chapel erected in Birmingham was the Lower Meeting-house in Digbeth, built in 1692, of which three gables still remain standing, in a place called Meeting-House Yard. This site proving very inconvenient, the congregation built the New Meeting-house in Moor Street, which was opened for public worship, April 19, 1732. In this building the illustrious Dr. Priestley preached, having been chosen a minister of the chapel, December 31, 1780. In the riots of 1791 the building was dectroyed; and the present edifice, a massive structure of stone, in the plain "no style" of the day, was erected on nearly the same site, and opened for public worship, July 22, 1802. It contained a mural monument to the memory of Dr. Priestley, with the inscription written by Dr. Parr; and below was a medallion, bearing a good profile likeness of Priestley. There was also a marble tablet to the memory of the Rev. John Kentish, for fifty years pastor of this chapel, who died March 6, 1853. These have been removed to the church of the Messiah. A few years since, the congregation determined to erect a new place of worship, in consequence of the majority residing at Edgbaston or the neighbourhood. The New Meeting therefore was disposed of to the Roman Catholics, the last Unitarian services having been conducted in it on Sunday, December 29th, 1861. The new building erected in Broad Street is called the

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH.—This is a picturesque edifice, in the geometrical Gothic style, from the designs of Mr. J. J. Bateman. It is erected on massive arches over the canal. The plan of the church is a parallelogram, with a part only of a north aisle. The west front has a triple arcaded entrance, with granite columns, having foliated capitals, supporting richly moulded cusped arches. Above these is a large, five-light, traceried window, surmounted by a gable. On each side of the west front are towers with entrances and staircases to the galleries—the one at the south-west angle being terminated with a lofty spire to a height of about 150 feet. The sides of the building are gabled, each being filled in with a large four-light window, alternately with a two-light. Internally, the

building has a fine, open, timber roof. There are galleries in the aisle, and at the west end. At the rear of the building are vestries, class-rooms, schools, &c. The cost of the whole was about £15,000. Accommodation is provided for about 800 persons. The foundation stone was laid on the 11th August, 1860, and the church was opened for public worship on New Year's Day, 1862: the monuments already mentioned having been, with several others, transferred to it from the New Meeting-house.

The other places of worship belonging to the Unitarian body are Newhall Hill Chapel, a neat building, with schools attached; Hurst Street Chapel; Lawrence Street Mission Chapel, and a chapel in Villa Street, Lozells.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

At a very early period after the Quakers formed a body in the community, there were some adherents of their faith in Birmingham. For several years prior to 1703, they had a meeting-house in Bull Lane—now Monmouth Street—and in times anterior they met in private dwellings. They were at first much persecuted. Their late meeting-house was in Bull Street. It was erected in 1703, enlarged in 1778, and again in 1844. In 1856 the old building was pulled down, and another erected, somewhat in the rear of the former site. The style adopted is Italian of the simplest description. The materials employed are red brick, with Darley Dale stone dressings. In the principal front there is a handsome massive stone portico. The building comprises a Meeting-house, fifty-four feet by forty-four feet, with galleries along the sides and at one end; a lecture-room, forty-six feet by twenty-nine feet; library and cloak-room, and other apartments. The interior of the Meeting-house has a very pleasing effect. Notwithstanding the plainness imposed by the traditions of the Society, the architect has succeeded in imparting to the room an air of elegance as well as of comfort. The building was opened on Sunday, the 25th January, 1857. The architect was Mr. T. Plevins. The Society of Friends, although not a numerous body, contains members of the highest respectability.

INDEPENDENTS.

CARR'S LANE.—This body had its origin here in 1748, and was formed by the secession of many persons from the Unitarian congregations. This chapel was the first they erected. It was originally built in 1748, entirely rebuilt in 1802, and the present structure, designed by Mr. Stedman Whitwell, was erected in 1820. Externally it has a large lofty cemented front, in the pseudo Grecian style; the sides are of plain brick, with two tiers of windows. Internally there are galleries on all sides. A spacious building has been erected at the back of the chapel for school-rooms, &c. It was here that the Rev. J. Angell James, well known as one of the most eminent nonconformist pastors of his time, laboured for more than fifty years, dying full of years and of honours on the 1st of October, 1859, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

EBENEZER CHAPEL, in Steelhouse Lane, is a plain structure of brick, of the usual Meeting House type; it was opened on the 9th December, 1818. Contiguous to the chapel, almshouses are erected for twenty poor aged women, besides others for sixteen on the opposite side of the street, founded by the late Mrs. Glover, a member of this congregation.

HIGHBURY CHAPEL is a neat erection of brick and stone. It is situated in Graham Street, and was erected in 1844.

EDGBASTON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, in the Francis Road, Edgbaston, was erected in commemoration of the jubilee of the Rev. John Angell James, on the completion of the fiftieth year of his ministrations at Carr's Lane Chapel. The building (accommodating 1000 persons), is of stone, in the geometrical decorated style. The plan comprises tower and spire, nave, transepts, and vestries. The tower is 84 feet in height; the spire, of Bath stone, is 86 feet in height. Internally the building has an open timber roof. At the east end is the deacons' pew, different from the others by being formed of a wood arcaded screen of columns and trefoiled arches, in the centre of which is an ornamental pulpit. At the rear are vestries, schools, class-rooms, &c. The foundation stone of the building was laid by the Rev. J. A. James, on the 11th September, 1855, and it

was opened on the 8th of October, 1856. The architect was Mr. Yeoville Thomason, and the cost was upwards of £5000.

LOZELL'S CHAPEL, erected in 1862 from the designs of Messrs. Poulton and Woodman, of Reading, is a somewhat remarkable building. In plan it may be described as an ellipse, with a projection towards the street, in which are the entrances, and externally the principal elevation consists of a lofty archway supported by coupled piers, and surmounted by a pediment and cornice. Beneath this arch are the entrances. The remaining elevations are quite plain and devoid of windows, the building being lighted from above. The materials used are red brick, banded with blue and white brick and stone. There are two tiers of galleries carried nearly all round the building, with ornamental fronts, and supported on cast-iron columns. The effect of the whole, though good, is not in accordance with the usual ideas of a place of worship, having too much the appearance of a concert-room or theatre.

These are the principal places of worship; but there are many others:—in Moseley Road, Legge Street, Palmer Street, Bordesley Street, Small Heath, Gooch Street, Balsall Heath, &c.

BAPTISTS.

CANNON STREET was the first chapel erected by the denomination. It was built for the Particular Baptists in 1738, enlarged in 1780, and rebuilt in 1806. There is nothing remarkable in the building, it being of the usual Meeting House type.

BOND STREET is a neat chapel, with a cemented front. It was erected in the year 1786. There are excellent school-rooms adjoining.

NEWHALL STREET.—This place of worship was erected for the followers of Swedenborg, but was afterwards bought by the Baptists. There is nothing in the building that calls for remark.

MOUNT ZION CHAPEL is situated in Graham Street. The plan is octagonal, having at the entrance a massive stone portico, surmounted by a heavy pediment, bare and destitute of all enrichment. The interior has galleries on all sides. The chapel was opened on the 24th of March, 1824, and the celebrated and eccentric Edward Irving preached to the members of the

Scotch Presbyterian Church, who then occupied the place, which in 1829 passed, by purchase, into the hands of the Baptists. Adjoining the chapel is a lecture-room, erected in 1851, in celebration of the jubilee of the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Morgan, by whom the foundation-stone was laid. At the back are schools for boys, girls, infants and adult classes.

THE CIRCUS CHAPEL is situated in Bradford Street. It is a large cemented brick building, formerly used as an amphitheatre, and converted into a chapel at an expense of £1200. There is nothing particular in its architecture; it is well fitted up, and will seat 800 persons. It was opened October 24th, 1849.

HENEAGE STREET is a very neat and commodious building of brick, with cemented dressings, erected in 1840, at a cost of £4000.

WYCLIFFE CHAPEL, Bristol Road.—This is without exception the handsomest chapel in Birmingham. It is in the fourteenth century Gothic style, from the designs of Mr. Cranston, and cost upwards of £6000. The foundation-stone was laid by Mr. Middlemore on the 8th of November, 1859. In plan it is a parallelogram, with nave and aisles, and a tower and spire at the north-west angle. Externally the building is entirely of stone. The principal elevation has a central entrance, divided. In the tympanum of the arch a statuette of Wycliffe is introduced with very good effect. Above is a large traceried window surmounted by the usual gable, terminated with a rich cross. The sides have two stories of traceried windows, each window in the upper tier having a separate gable. The tower to the level of the roof is square, above it is octagonal and surrounded with clustered pinnacles and flying buttresses, above which is a richly crocketted spire, carried (with the tower) to a height of about 140 feet. Internally the nave is separated from the aisles by iron columns with clustered shafts. The capitals to the shafts are also of iron, with foliage of the same metal. The ceilings or roofs are entirely of wood, the central one having principals with arched braces, the spaces between each principal being panelled. The ceiling to the aisles are groined in wood with moulded ribs to the angles. At the east end is the baptistery, elliptical in plan, divided from the nave by a lofty

moulded archway, having piers with detached shafts, and enriched capitals. The baptistery proper is of marble, the pavement around being of encaustic tiles, the whole being raised a few steps above the general level. There are galleries on three sides, having enriched panelled fronts.

LOMBARD STREET.—This chapel belongs to the General or Arminian Baptists. It was opened in September, 1786, enlarged in 1807, and again in 1832. It will seat about 600 people, and has school-rooms attached. There is nothing in the architecture to call for any remark.

Besides these chapels there are smaller ones in Great King Street, Longmore Street, Spring Hill, Hope Street, Baggot Street, Lodge Road, Harborne, and King's Heath, and a new and handsome one in Yates Street, Aston Road, from designs by Mr. Cranston.

THE METHODISTS

Are represented in Birmingham in all their varied branches. Of these the chief are—

THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS, established here very soon after the formation of the Society. John Wesley, who preached here, in the open air, at Gosta Green, in the year 1743, and was roughly treated by the populace, founded a congregation in 1745. They worshipped for some years in a dwelling-house in Steelhouse Lane; and afterwards, in 1764, took the old theatre in Moor Street, which was, however, found too small for their increasing numbers. On the 7th of July, 1782, *Cherry Street Chapel* was opened by Wesley. It cost £1200. In 1823, it was rebuilt. This is the chief place of worship, of the Old Connexion. There are now three "Circuits" of the Wesleyan Methodists. In the *First Circuit*, there are four chapels, Bristol Road, Cherry Street, Islington, and Harborne. In the *Second Circuit*, the chapels are eight, viz., Belmont Row, Bradford Street, Newtown Row, Nechells, Bloomsbury, Lichfield Road, Lord Street, and Small Heath. In the *Third Circuit*, there are five chapels, Aston Villa, Nineveh, New John Street, Summer Hill, and Constitution Hill. Besides these, there are numerous preaching stations.

THE NEW CONNECTION have chapels in Unett Street, Moseley Road, Icknield Street West, and Balsall Heath Road.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS have chapels in Gooch Street, Sparkbrook, Spring Hill, Islington, New John Street West, Watery Lane, Camden Street, and elsewhere. Besides these, there are the UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, and the WESLEYAN REFORMERS, who have small places of worship in various parts of the town.

Only two places of worship belonging to the Methodists have any pretensions to architectural beauty. Both of these are attached to the Wesleyan Methodists (old connection), and both are Gothic. One is in St. Martin's Street, Islington, from the designs of Mr. J. H. Chamberlain (Martin and Chamberlain.) This is remarkably bold and original in exterior and design, particularly in regard to the tower and spire, which should not be missed by visitors to Birmingham. The interior of the chapel is also very beautiful. The other chapel is at the Lozells, from the designs of Mr. J. G. Bland.

PRESBYTERIANS.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Broad Street, is in the Italian style of architecture, from designs by Mr. J. R. Botham. The building has a lofty tower and campanile in the principal elevation in the street; the exterior is of blue brick, with stone dressings. The principal elevation has three lofty doorways, with pilasters, consoles, and cornice. Above these are a range of semi-headed windows, the whole surmounted by a cornice carried entirely round the building. Internally the building is lighted from the roof, through a panelled ceiling glazed with opaque glass. There are 900 sittings provided.

The Presbyterians have also a chapel in New John Street; another at the Cape, Smethwick; and religious services are held on Sundays in the Exchange Assembly Room, New Street.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR.—This church, which is situated in Edward Street, was opened on the 8th of August, 1847. It was designed by Messrs. Bateman and Drury. The

principal elevation has a lofty archway, the entire height of the front, beneath which is a recessed arch, supported on Corinthian columns, and above is a rich cornice and pediment. Within this are the principal entrances. The remainder of the elevations are quite plain, being simply of blank arcades alternate, with buttresses worked in brick. Internally the effect is a departure from the usual type of chapels. It is lighted wholly from above, through a panelled ceiling partly glazed. An elegant platform in lieu of the usual pulpit occupies the east end, at the rear of which is a recess containing the organ. There is only one gallery at the west end. The cost of the structure was about £5,000. It is, however, chiefly remarkable as being in connection with no sect. The congregation is composed of persons between whom many differences of theological opinions exist. Its members do not think that agreement of intellectual conviction is the true basis of Christian union: that that basis should be dogmatic, but moral and spiritual. They strive to realize outwardly that communion of Christians of every sect, which has been admitted to have had an invisible existence by the best men of every age. The chief minister is Mr. George Dawson, M.A., the eminent lecturer.

In the large rooms adjoining, several schools meet. During the week-days, a boys' and girls' school; and in the evening, adult classes, singing classes, and a boys' school. On the Sundays, there are also boys', girls', and adults' classes.

THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH is situated in Summer Lane. The members of the New Church, or the New Jerusalem Church, are revivers of the doctrines of the word of God, as expounded in the writings of Swedenborg. A small society, in connection with this increasing and respectable body of Christians, was first established in Birmingham about 1789. In the year 1830, the Society erected the present chapel, which accommodates about six hundred persons. Day and Sunday Schools are attached, with libraries, a provident institution, a clothing club, &c.

Besides these, there are many other chapels belonging to different sects. LADY HUNTINGDON'S CONNECTION, which formerly occupied the old theatre, in King Street, now worship in Wood Street; the WELCH CALVINISTIC METHODISTS, in Wood

Street, Bath Row; the CALVINISTS, in Salem Chapel (opened in 1851), in Frederick Street, Newhall Hill, and Trinity Tabernacle, Parade: the PLYMOUTH BRETHREN, in Broad Street, and in Wynn Street; the ONE HOLY CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH is in Newhall Street; and the LATTER DAY SAINTS have several places of worship.

THE JEWS' SYNAGOGUE is in Blucher Street, Singer's Hill. This people had a synagogue in the Froggery in the beginning of the last century. They removed to Severn Street in 1807, and the building was taken down and rebuilt in 1827. It was from the Rabbi here that Lord George Gordon, after the "No Popery Riots" of 1780, and when he had embraced the Hebrew faith, received the rite of circumcision. One of the Burial Places for Jews is near Bath Row, and the other near the Worcester Canal.

The present Synagogue, from the designs of Mr. Yeoville Thomason, architect, was consecrated on the 24th of September, 1856. It is in the Byzantine style of architecture. The synagogue is eighty feet long by sixty feet wide within the walls, divided into nave and aisles by arcades of seven arches on either side, and arranged in two orders, the lower one to give support to the galleries (which are carried over the aisles and across one end), the upper one supporting a semicircular enriched ceiling; both orders having richly-carved capitals. The sanctuary is semicircular, with an arcade of columns, having enriched capitals, carried round, and opening to the main building by a large and bold arch, supported by four columns on each side, of a similar character to the others. The elevations to Blucher Street consist of a triple-arched portico, placed in advance of the main building, and flanked on either side by two residences, forming three sides of a quadrangle, the fourth being open to the road, and screened by an iron palisade. The whole is worked in brick, with white brick and Kingswood stone dressings. The cost, including the schools, was about £8000.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.

At the Reformation the whole of the revenues, and nearly all the religious houses connected with the Roman Catholic Church, were confiscated or destroyed. The only buildings which

escaped were St. Martin's Church, and the Guild of the Holy Cross. Subsequently, a chapel with a convent were erected near to "Mass House" Lane, King James the Second giving a donation towards the erection. At the Revolution, however, this disappeared; and no Roman Catholic place of worship remained excepting a small chapel at Edgbaston, long since disused. In 1789, however,

ST. PETER'S CHAPEL, was built in St Peter's Place, Broad Street. It is a plain brick building, but contains a handsome altar-piece and a fine organ. On Sundays there is mass at half-past eight and eleven o'clock, and vespers at half-past six. On week-days mass is at half-past seven and half-past eight o'clock.

THE CATHEDRAL, which is situated in Bath Street, is dedicated to St. Chad. It is from the late Mr. Pugin's designs, and is one of his finest works. Externally it is of brick, with dressings of stone. The west elevation consists of a large principal entrance, deeply recessed, and divided in the centre. Above this is a noble west window, filled in with geometrical tracery, the whole surmounted by a gable terminating with a cross. On either side are lofty towers of three stages terminating with slated spires rising to a height of about 180 feet. The north-west tower contains a fine peal of bells. Internally the nave is divided from the aisles by twelve clustered columns, six on each side, supporting lofty pointed arches, rising to a height of 75 feet, without any triforum or clerestory; thus forming the boldest and loftiest range of arches in the kingdom. The roofs are of open timber-work, the nave and aisles being covered in one span. A handsome rood screen divides the choir from the nave, and a similar, though richer description of screen partitions off the Lady Chapel, or Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, from the east end of the north aisle. The windows in the choir and aisles are lofty, of two lights; the west window, and those to the transepts, are of six lights, all filled in with tracery, and many of them with stained glass by Messrs. Hardman and Co. Among the antiquities of the cathedral should be mentioned the pulpit, an elaborate carving in oak, of the sixteenth century, and an episcopal throne and stalls of the fifteenth century. All these are either of Flemish or German workmanship. The walls and roof of the choir, Lady chapel, and transept,

are enriched with paintings and decorations in colour and gold. There are two organs, one over the vestibule at the west end, and one at the east end of the south isle. Beneath the cathedral is a crypt, dedicated to St. Peter, and divided into separate chantries, which serve as oratories and burial places for the dead. In addition to the principal chapel, three others are already fitted up, one (St. John the Baptist), for Mr. Hardman's family: another (St. James), for Mr. Waring's, and the third (St. John the Evangelist), for Mr. John Poncia. The edifice was consecrated by Bishop Walsh on the 14th of July, 1838, and cost about £29,000. The late Cardinal Wiseman (then Bishop of this district) and a great number of distinguished foreign ecclesiastics, were present on the occasion. The hours for mass in the cathedral are—every morning at seven, and on Sundays at seven, eight, a quarter past nine, and eleven o'clock, the one at eleven being the high mass. The vespers, followed by benediction, are at half-past six on Sundays, and there is a public service every Monday and Thursday evening at half-past seven. The side doors of the cathedral are opened, for private devotion, every morning and evening at six o'clock: but visitors wishing to enter the church during the day, must apply to the sacristan, who lives near the north door in Shadwell Street.

In addition to the above places of worship, the Roman Catholics have a chapel in Alcester Street. They have also purchased the "New Meeting" (Moor Street) before described, and altered, and fitted it as a church; and they have a large conventual establishment in Lowe Street, Bordesley, and an extensive cemetery at Nechells.

THE BISHOP'S HOUSE.—Nearly opposite the west front of the cathedral, in Bath Street, is the residence of the Bishop and clergy, which, as well as the Cathedral, was designed by Mr. Pugin, and is an almost perfect specimen of mediæval domestic architecture.

CONVENT OF SISTERS OF MERCY. — By "Sisters of Mercy" is meant a community of ladies, who having voluntarily forsaken the world, live in one common house, and labour together for the spiritual and temporal good of their destitute fellow-creatures. They have a convent in Hunter's Lane, Handsworth, provided for them by the late John Hardman,

Esq. It is of brick, with stone doorways, windows, &c.; and resembles in form and character, the conventual buildings of the middle ages. It consists of chapel, cloisters, oratory, cemetery, refectory, reception-rooms, cells, and community-room for the religious, and kitchen offices. The chapel, which is a singularly elegant building, is richly decorated throughout. Niches filled with ancient carvings, representing chiefly incidents in our Lord's history, break the long line of the cloister walls.

THE ORPHANAGE AT MARYVALE. — An offshoot from the convent of Sisters of Mercy was planted a few years back, at the "Old College, Oscott," now called Maryvale, and the Sisters there are occupied with an Orphanage, in which about fifty inmates are received and trained for service. The orphans, in addition to the branches of education suitable to their future condition in life, are taught lace-making on the plan so extensively used in Belgium. The house is about four miles from Birmingham, in the direction of the new Walsall Road, and is politely shown to strangers at any hour of the day.

THE HOUSE OF MERCY.—Near the convent, in Hunter's Lane, and united to it by a very picturesque cloister, is the "House of Mercy." Poor destitute young women are entertained here, if they can bring with them a good character; and they are boarded, clothed, and provided with work until proper situations can be procured for them. The house comprises laundry, wash-house, drying-room, work-room, bakehouse, and kitchen. Strangers, who wish to inspect either this institution or the convent, must procure a recommendation from one of the Roman Catholic clergymen of the town. It may be as well, however, to add, that visitors are not admitted on Sundays, nor during Lent or Advent. A beautiful little church has been added to the conventual buildings. It is enriched with exquisite stained glass, by Mr. Hardman, with designs by Mr. Pugin.

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.—The Institution of the Little Sisters of the Poor, 11, Crescent, Cambridge Street, was founded in 1840, at St. Servan, in Brittany, is the 8th foundation in the United Kingdom, and the 5th in England. The aim of this charity is to provide homes for the aged and infirm poor of both sexes, to feed them, clothe them,

and minister to all their wants. The Little Sisters of the Poor have no funds or revenues of their own whatever, they support their aged inmates by whatever public charity affords them, collecting daily from house to house,—scraps of food—old clothing—alms in money, or anything that may be offered them.

THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI.—The congregation of the Oratory is a society of priests and laymen, living together under the rule of St. Philip Neri, of Florence, established about the year 1575. The priests are called Fathers of the Oratory, and those not intended for holy orders are called Lay Brothers. The object of this society varies with the place and country. In Birmingham it has a large boys' school attached to it. Originally it was noted for its musical services. The word oratorio, as denoting a musical drama, is derived from the practice of sacred music in the Oratory. The members of the congregation in Birmingham were the first who established themselves in this country. The society at present consists of seven fathers, who reside in the Hagley Road, where they have a church (internally very handsome) and school buildings. The Father Superior is the Rev. J. H. Newman, D.D., formerly Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. High mass and sermon on Sundays at eleven; evening service at seven.

It is proper to state in this place, that there are in Birmingham many benevolent, religious, and educational societies. Though it is not necessary to enumerate the whole of these, some of the principal may be mentioned. The TOWN MISSION employs eight missionaries in various parts of the town; the society's offices are at 40, Paradise Street. Almost every church and chapel employs one or two persons in a similar way. The CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY supports many curates and Scripture readers, at an annual cost of £3,200. There are also branches of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge; for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews; the Church Missionary Society; London Missionary Society; Baptist Missionary Society; Wesleyan Missionary Society; Bible Society; Young

Men's Christian Association; Church of England Young Men's Association; the Educational Prize Scheme, which holds, annually, an examination of children in the various elementary schools and for evening schools; the Birmingham Society for Building and Endowing Churches; and many others.

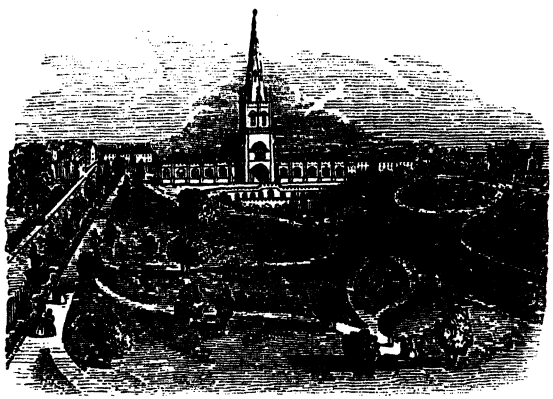
THE CEMETERIES.

There are three of these, one general (chiefly used by Dissenters); one for the Church of England; and one belonging to the Corporation.

THE GENERAL Cemetery is situate at Key Hill. The entrance is in Icknield Street East. It is a favourite place of resort for the inhabitants. It contains nearly eleven acres of ground. In the centre of the ground stands a plain classical chapel, designed by Mr. Edge, in which the burial service is performed. The grounds are agreeably and tastefully laid out with walks, interspersed with lawns and shrubberies. Like the celebrated cemetery at Liverpool, this is mostly excavated from the sandstone rock, in which are placed the catacombs. Several of the monuments are of superior merit. Near this cemetery—separated, indeed, only by a road—is

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Cemetery, situated between Vyse Street and Icknield Street, East. It was established by Act of Parliament in 1846, and consecrated 28th August, 1848. About nine acres of ground are now enclosed and consecrated; the whole of which has been laid out and planted with very great taste. The church, which is built of white freestone, is dedicated to St. Michael, and is used for public worship. It is a handsome cruciform building (Gothic, of the Perpendicular period), with nave, chancel, tower, and spire. The stained window at the east end was given by the makers, Messrs. Chance Brothers. There are cloisters separated from the body of the church, which form an ambulatory, of about 150 feet in length, with a range of stained windows on the western front, and at each end. In front of the church is a fine terrace walk, overlooking the grounds and the adjacent country, and crowning a circular range of catacombs, constructed in the banks of a deep and dry bed, or bank of gravel, faced with rough stone-work, and forming a

basement to the main building. The lodge contains offices and rooms for the directors. The chaplain is appointed by the directors, subject to the *veto* of the Rector of St. Martin's.



THE BOROUGH Cemetery, belonging to the Town Council as the Burial Board of the borough, is situated at Wilton, between Aston and Erdington, about three and a half miles from the centre of the town. It consists of 105 acres of land, of which 75 are at present used for the purposes of interment. The land is divided by a broad road, the portion on one side being consecrated for the use of churchmen, and that on the other being unconsecrated. A portion of the Cemetery is set aside for the use of Roman Catholics. In each division of the ground there is a suitable chapel. Those for the Church of England and the Nonconformists are from the designs of Mr. Clarke, of Nottingham. They are of fourteenth century Gothic, and are very nearly alike in plan and design—each being built of stone, and consisting of nave and apse, with lofty tower and spire at the west end. Internally, the chapels are fitted with longitudinal stalls and open timber roofs, and attached to each is a dead-house, approached by a cloister. These chapels have cost about £6,000. The Roman Catholic chapel cost £1200. The

Cemetery buildings also include offices, a board-room, and a house for the registrar. The total cost of land and buildings amounts to about £75,000. The Cemetery, which is open to visitors during the day, can be reached by railway to Aston or Gravelly Hill stations, from New Street, or by omnibuses which run from the Town Hall several times daily.

Chapter the Sixth.

CHARITIES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THERE are few towns in the kingdom where the charities are more numerous and varied than those of Birmingham. The following is given as a summary of the annual value of the various charities at the present time, calculated upon the estimated value in 1827. The real value, which there is no satisfactory means of ascertaining, must, however, be now very much greater.

	£	s.	d.
Lench's Trust (including charities) for repairs of ways and bridges, and in the default of such uses, to the poor	1670	17	8
Colmore's Charity, for the poor on Good Friday	0	5	0
Wrixham's, for the poor on Good Friday, and the Friday before St. Thomas's day	18	0	0
Ann Scott's, for the poor of Lench's Almshouses, £31 10s., and Digbeth premises (probably) £13 15s. 3d.	45	5	3
For the poor, at the discretion of the trustees,—Kilcup's Charity, £29 13s. 8d.; Shelton's Charity, £375 11s. 8d.; Mary Shelton's Charity (limited to old maids or single women), £35 16s.; and Ann Crowley's Charity £5	446	1	4
To Dissenting Ministers, their widows, or, in default, to apprentice poor boys, Richard Scott's Charity, £12; and Ann Crowley's ditto, £1	13	0	0
Putting boys apprentice and almscoats,—Jackson's Charity, £80; Banner's, £20; Hopkins', £37 10s.; Pemberton's, £3; Hollier's, £52 10s.	193	0	0
Dissenting Ministers, and bread for the poor,—Billingsley's Charity, £34 1s. 4d.; Hill's, £10; and Crowley's, £1... ...	45	1	4
To preach in favour of dumb animals,—Ingram's Charity ...	21	6	10
To educate poor children,—the total of ten charities	1393	3	4
Carr's Lane Chapel,—Joseph Scott's Charity	30	0	0
Free Grammar School,—about	13,000	0	0
Churchwardens of St. Martin's,—Kilcup's Charity, 13s. 4d.; Bell Rope Croft, £8	8	13	4
	£16,384	14	1

The following is a general summary of land devised :—

	A.	R.	P.
In Birmingham	201	1	0
Aston	258	2	19
Handsworth	24	2	38
Sutton	38	0	30
Marston Culie	9	2	34
	532	2	4

The most extensive and most costly of the Charities is

THE WORKHOUSE.—The first workhouse erected in Birmingham was built in Lichfield Street, in the year 1733 ; and, with the subsequent addition of two wings, cost £2,273 3s. 5d. It afforded accommodation for upwards of 600 inmates, although it was seldom that the house was full. Some approximate idea may be formed of the increase of population, and the growth of pauperism, from the payments made for relief during a series of years. The first record is in 1676 :—

	£.	s.	d.
1676	323	17	7
1700	661	7	4½
1722	939	18	0½
1750	1,167	16	6
1775	6,509	10	10
1796	24,050	14	1½
1825	39,976	0	0
1850	37,548	17	0
1855	29,057	0	0
1860	32,790	6	0
1863	49,986	5	0
1865	53,897	17	0
1866	58,339	17	0

The close and confined position of the Workhouse in Lichfield Street gave rise to numerous complaints; and at length it was resolved by the rate-payers that a new building should be erected on the parish land at Birmingham Heath, at a short distance from the Gaol and Lunatic Asylum. The first stone of the new building was laid on the 9th of September, 1850 ; and it was opened for the reception of the poor on the 29th of March, 1852. The building (which has been enlarged since its

erection) covers an area of above five acres, and is capable of affording accommodation for 1,973 inmates. It is a very creditable structure, and is from the designs of Mr. Bateman; recent alterations being by Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain. The chief characteristics of the building are the complete classification, not only of sexes, but of classes; and the isolation of the various departments from each other. There is a chapel, capable of accommodating 1,000 persons, attached, the interior of which is tastefully fitted up. Several of the windows are filled with stained glass, by Messrs. Chance. Attention has been paid, in the construction of the building, to the wants and comforts of the unfortunate poor to whom it is to be a home. For example, the rooms of the aged poor are all situated on the ground floor, so that the fatigue of climbing stairs is avoided. All the apartments are well lighted, and gas is introduced into each. There are also separate rooms for aged couples. Baths, lavatories, and other conveniences are in each department. The Asylum for children was formed in the year 1797, for the purpose of affording a home to the infant children of the poor. They are trained in industrial habits, and receive a good rudimentary English education. Prior to the opening of the new Workhouse, the Asylum was altogether distinct from the Workhouse, being situated at the outskirts of the town. It is now incorporated with that establishment. The erection of new and entirely separate schools (from the designs of Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain), has been resolved upon, at a cost of upwards of £20,000. If this project is carried out, the total cost of the Workhouse, and its complementary buildings, will have amounted to upwards of £65,000. Attached to the Workhouse (indeed, forming part of it), is

THE PARISH INFIRMARY, which is, in fact, a vast hospital, containing close upon 600 beds, most of which are constantly occupied. It is little to the credit of Birmingham that the direction of the Infirmary is imposed upon *one* medical officer. The out-door poor are attended by six medical officers: the average number of patients is about 250. The surgeons are paid by salaries, out of which they contract to find drugs, &c.

PARISH OFFICES AND RELIEF BOARD.—These are in

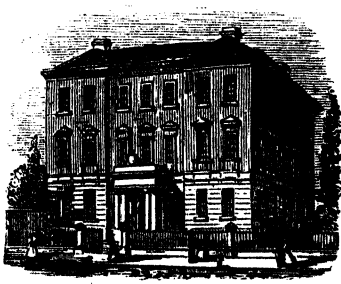
Paradise Street, at the corner of Suffolk Street, on land purchased from the Stour Valley Railway Company for £2,100. The building, which was designed by Mr. Bateman, is in the Italian style; and the cost was upwards of £3,000. The whole of the business of the parish is transacted here.

THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASYLUM is pleasantly situated in the Bristol Road. It had its origin at the anniversary dinner of the Victuallers' Society, on the 27th of August, 1845, when Thomas Phillips, Esq., then Mayor of the borough, occupied the chair. Indeed, that gentleman may be regarded as the founder of the institution, which affords a residence and a home for decayed members of the trade and their widows. At the meeting alluded to, Mr. Phillips began the subscription with £50, (which he afterwards increased to £100,) and £600 were subscribed in the room. The first stone of the building, which is in the Elizabethan style, from the designs of the late Mr. D. R. Hill, was laid by Mr. Phillips, on the 30th of August, 1848. It was opened for the reception of the inmates in the following year. The edifice contains separate houses for six families. Each house contains parlour, kitchen, a bed, and dressing-room, and other conveniences, with plots of garden ground behind. Coals are supplied gratuitously to the inmates, who are also allowed a small weekly stipend. The centre of the building is occupied as the Governors' room, and is decorated by the portraits of Mr. Phillips, the president, and the late Mr. William Cheshire, vice-president of the institution.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.—This noble institution, established for the relief of the poor inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, is situated in Sumner Lane. The building was commenced in the year 1766, but the funds being exhausted, the completion of the structure was delayed till 1778, when other subscriptions and donations were obtained, and in 1779 it was opened to the public. Two wings were added in 1791, and have since been greatly enlarged. Another wing was erected in 1857, costing about £2,000, the amount being raised by a fête at Aston Park in behalf of the Hospital. An east-wing, very commodious, and of remarkably tasteful design, was added last year by Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, by whom

the whole of the Hospital interior has been re-arranged. The Hospital contains extensive wards for the accommodation of the sick, with offices and apartments for the medical and other officers connected with the institution. A board-room, in which the committee assemble, contains a very fine portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Dr. Ash, an eminent physician, to whose exertions the establishment of the hospital is mainly to be attributed. It contains, also, a good portrait of the late Mr. Freer, by T. Phillips, R.A., also one of Joseph Hodgson, Esq., F.R.S., placed there in 1849 by public subscription, and one of Dr. James Johnstone, by Mr. W. T. Roden, and a bust of the late Charles Lloyd, Esq., by Mr. Peter Hollins. There are also busts of William Rolfe, Esq., a great benefactor to the charity, and the late G. Barker, Esq. The institution is under the management of a board of directors; four physicians and four surgeons render gratuitous service; twelve visitors are appointed to inspect the wards, and a clergyman of the Church of England officiates as chaplain. There are also a resident physician and surgeon, and an apothecary, with a steward and matron, who also reside at the hospital. The benefits conferred by the institution may be estimated, when it is stated that since its establishment more than 100,000 in-patients, and nearly 400,000 out-patients have been relieved by the Charity. The in-patients are about 2,000 yearly, and the out-patients upwards of 18,000. The hospital is supported by subscription, by the proceeds of invested property, and by funds arising from

THE TRIENNIAL MUSICAL FESTIVALS. — The first festival was held in September, 1778, at St. Philip's Church, and the performance, consisting of selections of sacred music, lasted three days. Since the completion of the Town Hall, the festivals have been held there. The highest class vocalists and instrumentalists are engaged on these occasions, and some of the finest compositions of modern masters have been produced here for the first time. Among these may be mentioned the oratorio of "Elijah," by Mendelssohn, who conducted at the festival of 1846, when it was first produced. The morning performances are generally an oratorio of Handel, or of some other celebrated composer, and the evening concerts



and Drury, approached by an elegant portico, surmounted by the arms of the Rev. Dr. Warneford (a great benefactor to the hospital). The building consists of a centre and two wings. There is a separate Fever Hospital. The institution was founded mainly through the exertions of William Sands Cox, Esq. The foundation stone was laid on the 18th June, 1840, by Earl Howe; and the wards were opened in the following year. The institution is supported chiefly by voluntary contributions. The claims upon the institution are very great, and increasing, the in-patients numbering more than 1,100, and the out-patients 13,000 per annum. The medical and surgical staff consists of three physicians and three surgeons, together with an assistant physician, assistant surgeon, dental surgeon, &c. The committee have placed to a reserved fund all legacies and donations, of a certain amount, since the first establishment of the charity, and as a consequence that fund now amounts to nearly £10,000. Up to within a recent period the hospital was intimately connected with the Queen's Colleges; but by recent changes in the laws, the governors have taken the management of the charity entirely into their own hands, with the most beneficial results to the hospital.

THE DISPENSARY is in Union Street. Over the entrance is a piece of sculpture in relief, the work of Mr. H. Hollins. The institution was established in 1794, and the present building was erected in 1808. The object of the Charity is to relieve poor patients, who must be recommended by a subscriber. The lowest subscription is a guinea per year. There are two resident surgeons, two dispensing apothecaries, and a surgeon-accoucheur. Two physicians and four surgeons also attend, whose services are gratuitous. Nearly 6000 out-patients are relieved annually.

THE EYE HOSPITAL.—This institution, which is situated in Temple Row, was founded by Joseph Hodgson, Esq., F.R.S., in

the year 1824, in Steelhouse Lane, in the building now occupied by the Children's Hospital. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and, with a comparatively small subscription list, does an immense amount of good. There are wards for the reception of patients whose cases require particular care, or operations for their cure. Two consulting surgeons and three other surgeons are connected with the Infirmary.

THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL, which is also a dispensary for the diseases of women and children, is situated in Broad Street, Islington; it was founded by Dr. Waddy, in 1812. The institution contains twenty beds, and has an extensive out-door department. Attached to the institution are, a consulting accoucheur, three visiting surgeons, and three resident surgeons.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL was established in 1862, chiefly through the exertions of Dr. Heslop. It is situated in Steelhouse Lane (in the building formerly occupied by the Eye Infirmary) and is designed exclusively for the treatment of the diseases of children. The patients both in and out are admitted *free* (a distinguishing feature of this charity) and the most rigid care is taken to exclude cases which, either from their nature, or from ability to pay for medical advice, are unfit objects of charity. The public favour already bestowed upon this hospital, and the large amount of subscriptions and donations, show that the Charity supplied a want which had long been felt. The medical staff consists of a consulting physician and consulting surgeon, and two acting physicians and three surgeons, besides a resident surgeon and a dispenser. The number of out-patients is about 9,000; and of in-patients, about 600.

THE MAGDALEN ASYLUM, originally established in Broad Street, in 1828, is now removed to the Portland Road, Edgbaston, where a new and commodious building has been erected from the designs of Mr. T. Naden. The institution has been considerably enlarged. It is managed by a committee of clergymen and gentlemen, the superintendence of the inmates being entrusted to a committee of ladies, assisted by a resident matron and by a chaplain.—Another institution of the same kind—a Refuge for Fallen Women—has been established in the Noel Road, Edgbaston, under the auspices of the Town Mission.

GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—This institution originated in the exertions of two benevolent ladies in 1846, became a public Institution in 1848, under the management of a committee and other officers; since which time, chiefly through the efforts of the treasurer, Mr. Thomas Goodman, who laid the corner-stone of the building on the 23rd of April, 1851, a large and handsome edifice, in the Elizabethan style, designed by Messrs. Coe and Goodwin, has been erected at Edgbaston, at a cost of upwards of £12,000, including organs, musical instruments, and furniture, together with playgrounds and gardens, the whole covering two acres of ground. It was opened for the reception of pupils on the 22nd of July, 1852. In this establishment nearly seventy blind persons are received as boarders, seventy-five of all ages are taught to read the Scriptures in Moon's embossed characters, at their own homes; and it is gratifying to the philanthropist and the Christian to observe that, though deprived of their visual organs, they make satisfactory progress in mental attainments, music, and singing, and they are also taught basket and mat-making, weaving, knitting, netting, and needlework. The institution is open to the public on Thursday morning from eleven to one o'clock: music and singing at twelve.

GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.—This establishment is situated in Church Road, Edgbaston, and is one of the most useful and interesting in the town. It was established in 1812. The average number of pupils is about ninety, who are partially maintained at the expense of their relatives, and partly by subscriptions of benevolent persons.

MISCELLANOUS MEDICAL CHARITIES.—These are numerous. Amongst them are,—the EAR INFIRMARY and INSTITUTION for RELIEF of DEAFNESS, Cherry Street; EYE and EAR HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY, Suffolk Street; ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, for the cure of hernia, club foot, spinal diseases and all bodily deformities, Great Charles Street; DENTAL DISPENSARY, Upper Priory; HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY, Old Square; MEDICAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY; SANATORIUM for the reception of convalescent patients from all hospitals, and privately recommended, temporary buildings, Spark Hill, near Birmingham.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS.—These are collections made annually in all churches and chapels, on the last Sunday in October, the proceeds being allocated as follows:—General Hospital, one year; Queen's Hospital, one year; and one year to various miscellaneous charities. The collections are under the management of a committee of ministers and laymen of all denominations. The following are the proceeds since the establishment of the scheme in 1859:

1859—General Hospital, £5200.
1860—Queen's Hospital, £3433.
1861—Amalgamated Charities, £2953.
1862—General Hospital, £3340.
1863—Queen's Hospital, £3293.
1864—Amalgamated Charities. £3178.
1865—General Hospital, £4256.
1866—Queen's Hospital, £4056.

Besides the charities above mentioned there are a vast number of minor establishments connected with the various churches and chapels; and there are also sick clubs and provident societies in abundance. Birmingham is likewise very liberal in its collections for general charitable purposes, having, for example, raised £5000 for the distressed operatives at Coventry some years ago; £15,000 for the Lancashire operatives; and large amounts for such funds as the Holmfirth and Sheffield inundations, the Barnsley and Talke colliery explosions, &c.

Chapter the Seventh.

EDUCATION.

IT is very difficult, if not impossible, to give a decided account of the position of Birmingham in regard to the education of children. The census of 1851 gave the following results:—82 public Day Schools, with 14,310 pupils; 413 private Day Schools, with 9606 pupils; and 87 Sunday

Schools, with 22,575 scholars. These numbers have, of course, been greatly increased during the time which has since elapsed. The latest and most authentic account of elementary education is that given by the Rev. H. M. Capel, Government Inspector of Schools, in a paper read by him at a meeting called by the mayor (Mr. G. Dixon), to form an Education Aid Society. Mr. Capel says :—"The population of the borough was computed by the Registrar General to have reached 335,800 at the beginning of last summer (1866), and in my calculations I take it to be now between 342,000 and 343,000. Of this number 23.3 per cent., or 80,000 are between the ages of 3 and 13, and as children are not recognised by the Privy Council Office as fit subjects for school education under 3, and the working man's child's education scarcely ever lasts beyond 13, I propose to confine myself mainly to those 80,000 boys and girls. Of these 80,000 I believe one-fifth or 16,000 may be considered as either belonging to the upper classes, or inmates of the Workhouse, Blue Coat, Free Industrial and other boarding schools, and the number of children of the Manual Labour class living with parents or guardians may be taken to be 64,000; at the time the census was taken the number of such children was about 59,200. A systematic canvass of 26 small districts in 17 different parishes, and four large districts, has been undertaken during the last month. The results of this canvass are as follows :— Of 8,771 children in the houses visited, 47 per cent. are at school, 14½ per cent. are at work, 38½ per cent. are neither at school nor at work. If these districts be fair samples of the whole borough, and such I fully believe them to be, then of the 64,000 children of the Manual Labour class, only 30,000 are at school; only 9,280 are at work; 24,720 are either doing nothing, or only helping to nurse their young brothers and sisters." Having thus glanced at the general education portion of the town, we proceed to give some account of the colleges and schools which may justly be considered public institutions.

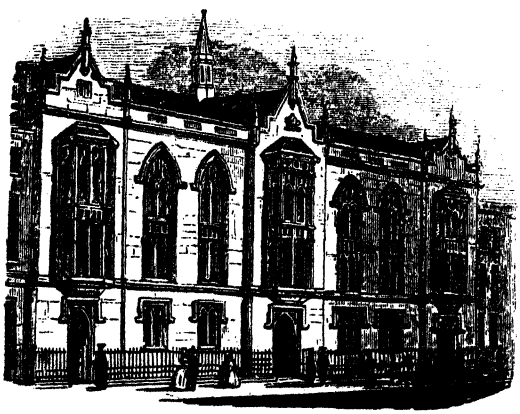
THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, which stands in New Street, occupies the first place. This school was founded by Edward the Sixth, in 1552, the fifth year of his reign. The original endowment of this charity belonged to a building called the Guild of the Holy Cross, erected in 1383, valued by the

commissioners of Henry the Eighth, in 1536, at £31 2s. 10d. annually. The present income is upwards of £11,000. The first edifice was taken down in 1707, and another erected in its stead. This latter falling into decay, the Governors obtained an Act of Parliament to rebuild the school, and to establish branch or preparatory schools in various parts of the town. The present beautiful building was erected from the plans of the late Sir Charles Barry, the architect of the New Palace at Westminster. The design is Gothic, seven ranges of windows in front. The elevation to New Street was arranged in two stories, with accompanying buttresses, pinnacles, crowns, crosses, roses, &c., with bold bay windows at each extremity. The material employed is Derbyshire stone. The dimensions of the building are, 174 feet in front, 125 in the flanks, and sixty feet in height. The form of the building is quadrangular, and the entrance is through a spacious porch, highly ornamented. Two large apartments, with oak-panelled walls and ceilings, are the school-rooms for the commercial school, in which are generally about 300 boys; and the classical school, in which are an almost equal number. The latter room is 120 feet long, forty-five feet high, and thirty feet wide, and has a lofty open timbered roof, supported by a series of magnificent obtuse-angled arches of the Tudor style. At the end, where the chair of the head master is placed, is a handsome, lofty oak carved screen. The second master's chair is opposite to this, and the ushers' chairs are on the sides. The desks and forms for the boys occupy the intermediate space, and are capable of accommodating 250 pupils. The cost of the building, furnishing, &c., was £67,000. The salary of the head master is £400 per year, but with fees it reaches £1,700; of the second master, £500, besides privileges of considerable value. There are also under-masters, with salaries varying from £160 to £250 each. There are ten exhibitions of £50 each, at either of the universities. A number of gentlemen self-elected as governors have the management of the property. The school contains a good library, and there is in the Board Room a fine bust of Edward VI., by Scheemaker. In the classical and English schools there are about 600 pupils, taught by upwards of twenty masters; but, besides these, there are four branch schools in different parts of the town, supported

out of this foundation, in which about 500 girls and a similar number of boys are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and in addition the girls receive instruction in needlework. In these schools are thirty-eight masters, mistresses, and assistants. The tercentenary of the foundation of the school was celebrated on the 16th of April, 1852. In the morning, about 1,400 of the pupils, accompanied by some of the nobility connected with the neighbourhood, the Lord Bishop of Worcester, the Lord Bishop of Manchester (formerly head master of the school), the clerical dignitaries of the diocese and of the town, many dissenting ministers, the Mayor, the municipal authorities, the members for the borough and county, and influential inhabitants went in procession to St. Martin's Church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Jeune, master of Pembroke College, Oxford (now Bishop of Peterborough), and formerly head master of the school. In the afternoon commemorative addresses were delivered in the classical school, and prizes distributed among the pupils. At the same time commemorative medals, struck for the occasion by Messrs. Allen and Moore, in silver, were presented to the Bishops; and a magnificent copy, of pure gold, weighing upwards of three ounces, was subsequently presented to her Majesty. In the evening the governors entertained nearly two hundred gentlemen at dinner, when R. Spooner, Esq., M.P., the bailiff of the school, occupied the chair. The present head master is the Rev. Charles Evans, M.A., formerly of Rugby School.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, in Paradise Street, founded by Mr. Sands Cox, is an imposing building, of Gothic architecture, designed by Messrs. Bateman and Drury. The style is perpendicular, the principal elevation is of brick and Bath stone, and consists of a centre and wings, each having an entrance doorway, and, above, three lofty oriel windows reaching the full height of two stories, the whole surmounted by a gabled parapet, with pinnacles; and the remainder of the college buildings, consisting of the students' rooms, 70 in number, laboratories, anatomical rooms, libraries, museum, chapel, &c., occupy three sides of a quadrangle; the buildings first described comprising the fourth. The chapel, which was consecrated in 1845, contains a window of stained glass ("Christ healing

the sick"), executed at the expense of the students, by Messrs. Pemberton, from a design furnished by Mr. Brooke Smith, jun. The altar-piece contains a fine work of art in silver, the subject being the "Shield of Faith," designed by Flaxman, executed by the late Sir Edward Thomason. In the dining-hall are placed the fine portraits of the founder, W. S. Cox, Esq.; of the First Principal, Dr. Johnstone; of the Vice Principal, the Rev. Chancellor Law; and of the great benefactor to the college, the Rev. Samuel Wilson Warneford, LL.D.; also three magnificent paintings from the palace of Wells, presented by the Vice Principal, one of which, "The Return of the Prodigal Son," by David, merits especial attention. The design of the college is to provide instruction for young men intending to engage in one or other of these professions:—In Medicine and Surgery; in Arts; in Laws; in Civil Architecture and Engineering; in Theology (with a view to ordination). At present, however, it is useless to describe these departments in detail, as the



College system is under re-arrangement by the Charity Commissioners, acting through the Court of Chancery. Connected with the college are Museums of Human and Comparative Anatomy, containing upwards of 3,000 specimens, enriched by collections of the late George Freer and the late Alfred Jukes,

surgeons of the General Hospital, and the pathological models of the late Dr. Felix Thibert; of Zoology, Geology, and the other departments of natural history, by the collection of the late Earl of Mountnorris, the late Viscount Valentia, and Major-General Whylock, R.M., and also by the Weaver collection, purchased at the sum of £1,500. Owing to long-continued neglect, the Museum generally is, however, in a wretched condition.

SYDENHAM COLLEGE is situated in Summer Lane, opposite the General Hospital. It was established in 1851, in order to afford the students of the General Hospital facilities for a complete medical and surgical education without residence elsewhere. It is devoted exclusively to medical instruction, and is under the direct control of a medical council, consisting of many of the most eminent medical practitioners of the Midland Counties. The college contains museum, library, laboratories, and every facility for a complete and liberal medical education. Attendance upon lectures at this institution qualifies for admission to examination at the various Medical Boards in the United Kingdom. Prizes are given to the most distinguished students in each of the classes, after a public examination.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE.—This institution, which is connected with the London University, is a theological school for the Independent body, including a course of arts. The College owes its existence to the pious benevolence of George Storer Mansfield, Esq., formerly of Derbyshire, but in the close of life a resident in Birmingham. It was suggested to him, that the founding of a college in which pious young men should be educated for the Christian ministry would be the most important object to which his property could be applied. He approved of, and determined to adopt, the suggestion. By deed of gift he conveyed certain landed estates to trustees for this purpose. His sisters, Mrs. Glover and Miss Mansfield, also approving of the project, joined with him in carrying it out, and consecrated a large portion of their personal property to this purpose. The College derives its name from the residence of Mrs. Glover and Miss Mansfield, which was situated at Birmingham Heath, on the Staffordshire side of the town. Being anxious to see the institution established in their lifetime, these excellent ladies surrendered their dwelling for this purpose in the year 1838.

About twenty young men were immediately received. Three Professors were appointed to the chairs:—Of (1) Dogmatic and Exegetical Theology, Ecclesiastical History and Homiletics; (2) Philosophy, Logic, and Mathematics; and (3) Classical and Oriental Languages. The scheme of the College has since been considerably expanded, and the institution is now one of the most flourishing as well as the most valuable, in connection with the Independent body. As the house in which the studies were commenced was always inconvenient, and the neighbourhood in which it was situated was growing undesirable, from the great increase of manufactories, the Committee determined upon the erection of a new building. For this purpose they purchased twenty acres of freehold land in the hamlet of Moseley, about three miles from the centre of Birmingham, in a most healthful and beautiful locality. The new building was erected after a design furnished by Mr. Joseph James, of London, and contains a spacious library, used also as a chapel, besides dwellings for the resident Professors and matron forming the wings of the edifice, a large dining-hall, class-rooms for the Professors, and studios and dormitories for thirty-six students. It was opened in November, 1856. The College, including land, building, furnishing, and other expenses, cost about £18,000, raised by the voluntary contributions of friends in Birmingham and many other places, the property granted by the founders being set apart for the maintenance of the College, but not for the erection of buildings.

THE BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL occupies a great part of one side of the square in which St. Philip's Church stands. Erected in the year 1724, and considerably enlarged in 1794, for the purpose of receiving and educating a limited number of poor children, preference being given to those who are orphans, or who have lost one parent. The charity is supported by private and other contributions. The average number of children in the school is one hundred and forty boys and sixty girls. The building is a plain erection of stone, four stories in height, having a simple cornice over the whole. On each side of the principal entrance is a statue of a boy and a girl in the costume of the school, by Grubb, of Bath. A few years ago important additions were made to the school building, at an expense of £5,000.

BIRMINGHAM AND EDGBASTON PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

BIRMINGHAM AND EDGBASTON PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.—This institution, which is pleasantly situated, in the Hagley Road, is a handsome structure, in the Elizabethan style, designed by Sir Hugh Smith. It was established by a body of Proprietors in January, 1838, in order to provide for their sons a school, in which the advantages of a classical and commercial education should be combined, and from which corporal punishment should be excluded. The shares, which are transferable, are £20 each, and may still be had on application to the committee. Proprietors have the right, under certain regulations, of nominating one pupil in respect of each share. Persons not proprietors must obtain the nomination of a proprietor. There are eight masters besides the principal, Mr Robertson.

THE DIOCESAN TRAINING COLLEGE, SALTLEY—This institution had its origin in a meeting of the clergy and laity of the diocese of Worcester, held in Birmingham on the 7th October, 1847. It was then resolved to found a college for the training of schoolmasters for the diocese. A sum of £9,400 was subscribed, and the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P., gave a site of three acres of freehold land on his estate at Saltley. The first stone of the college was laid by Sir J. Pakington, Bart., M.P., on the 10th October, 1850. The building, which is in the style of the domestic architecture of the thirteenth century, is a plain but tasteful edifice from the designs of Mr. Ferrey. The Rev. W. Gover, M.A., Honorary Canon of Worcester, is Principal. The institution was opened at Easter, 1852. Various additions and improvements have since been made, and the college now serves as a training school for the dioceses of Lichfield and Hereford, as well as that of Worcester.

THE PROTESTANT DISSENTERS' CHARITY SCHOOL, in Graham Street, Newhall Hill, was established about 1760, and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions; it is earnestly recommended to the attention and support of the benevolent friends of education of all denominations. Between thirty and forty poor girls are clothed, educated, and fitted for service. Mr. D. R. Hill was the architect of this building.

THE FREE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—In Gem Street, which is a plain brick erection, designed by Mr. C. W. Orford, was

built by subscription, raised chiefly through the exertions of the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, rector of St. Philip's. The inscription stone was laid by M. D. Hill, Esq., Q.C., the Recorder of the borough, on the 12th of April, 1849. The school was opened at the beginning of 1850, and has since then been in active operation. The average number of children attending the school is about 220, amongst whom are several orphans of soldiers, paid for by the Committee of the Patriotic Fund.

THE REFORMATORY INSTITUTION, SALTLEY.—This important institution, designed to rescue juvenile criminals from a course of vice, is situated at Saltley, on land given by the Rt. Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P. The institution has been enlarged to accommodate 100 boys, of whom a considerable number are paid for by the county of Stafford. Agents exist in Canada, at Natal, and in Tasmania, for giving assistance to such boys as feel disposed to emigrate after their term of detention has ceased. The institution is sustained by subscriptions, aided by a weekly allowance from the Treasury towards the maintenance of each inmate detained under conviction by a criminal court. The school was commenced in 1852, before the law recognized the necessity for such establishments, and the promoters are entitled to the praise of having been mainly instrumental in bringing about the present system of following up the penal discipline of a prison by the corrective treatment and useful training of a home and school. The boys are employed in agriculture (about twenty acres of land being attached to the school), and are taught various trades, such as tailoring, shoemaking, printing, &c.

THE GIRLS' REFORMATORY, Coppice, Smethwick, was originally established in November, 1854, as a branch of the Saltley Reformatory, and was under the management of the same committee. The school was then carried on in Camden Street, but after a short interval was removed to Smethwick, where it is managed by an independent committee of ladies. The institution contains from thirty to forty criminal girls. The inmates are employed in knitting, laundry, and needle work, by which a considerable sum can be realized towards the cost of the institution. It is sustained by subscriptions and

an allowance from government, as in the case of the boys' Reformatory.

DISCHARGED PRISONERS' AID SOCIETY.—In connection with the Industrial Schools, which may be considered as an institution for the Prevention of Crime, and the Reformatory Schools, which are intended for its cure, in the case of youthful offenders, we may here mention the very useful, unpretending society to assist, and exercise friendly supervision over, discharged prisoners from the borough gaol, both juvenile and adult. The society procures lodgings and employment for prisoners who stand in need of such help, and occasionally furnishes temporary maintenance and small loans, and in other ways gives encouragement to the attempt to return to the path of virtue and honest industry. The Prisoners' Aid Society is a Preventive Institution of great value, sustained by subscriptions, and admirably worked by its honorary secretary, chaplain to the Borough Gaol, under the supervision of a committee, including the Visiting Justices of the Gaol.

CERTIFIED INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—There are two established under a recent Act of Parliament, for the detention and instruction of vagrant and neglected children, who, though not actually criminal, are in danger of falling into crime. One (for boys) is in Penn Street, Westend. The other (for girls) is in Vale Street, at the back of the Central Railway Station.

Besides the institutions above mentioned there are many other agencies devoted to the work of education, such as an Education Society (recently founded) for the promotion of new schools, and the payment of school pence for poor children; a Prize Scheme Examination, which gives rewards to candidates sent up from any schools choosing to enter for competition.

Chapter the Eighth.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

THE FREE LIBRARIES. — Availing itself of the Free Libraries Act of 1855 the Town Council, in April, 1861, opened a Free Library and Newsroom in Constitution Hill. This was found to be so largely used and so highly appreciated, that it was resolved to provide a Reference and Lending Library of some magnitude in the heart of the town. For this purpose the building in Ratcliffe Place was erected from designs by Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, at a cost of £14,000. The Newsroom and Lending Departments were opened during the meeting of the British Association in Birmingham in 1865. The Newsroom is supplied with the leading London and provincial papers daily, and all the principal periodicals and reviews. The number of persons using this room varies from one thousand to twelve hundred per day. The CENTRAL LENDING LIBRARY consists of over ten thousand volumes of standard works in literature, science, and art. During 1866, the issue of books has been from five hundred to nine hundred volumes per day. The CENTRAL REFERENCE LIBRARY was opened 26th October, 1866. At present it consists of only 16,000 volumes; the smallness of this number as compared with the number of volumes in existing libraries, is amply compensated for by the fact that the books are singularly choice; the committee of selection have been too jealous of the space at their command, and of the future character of their library to admit books merely to swell the number of volumes. Every work in the library has been bought singly, and for its fitness for a library of reference. Many costly works on Art, Workmanship, and Designs, valuable works in Natural History, in Antiquities, in early and recent Travel, in History, on Language, &c., fill its shelves, and are constantly being added to its stores. Between six and seven thousand pounds have already been expended exclusively on the purchase of books for this depart-

ment. CONSTITUTION HILL FREE LIBRARY.—This, once the only Free Library in Birmingham, crowded by hundreds of readers daily, is now, by the opening of the great Central Libraries, reduced to comparatively small dimensions; but is still very useful and highly valued by the residents in its neighbourhood; it issues more than one thousand volumes weekly, and its Newsroom is largely used. DERITEND FREE LIBRARY.—This building, erected from designs by Messrs. Bateman and Corser, at a cost of £1200, has a large Newsroom and Library of five thousand volumes. Here the issue of books is over 1500 per week. There is another (smaller), Free Library at Adderley Park; and a fifth is in course of erection at Gosta Green, the whole being under the control of the Corporation, and supported out of the rates. The avidity with which the population avails itself of these Libraries and Newsrooms is intensely gratifying to those who believe in the pleasure and benefit derivable from reading. The Newsrooms cannot be supposed to be merely the means of supplying those who use them with the latest news or the excitement of the last accident; the various political and social questions of the day, treated from the different points of view taken by the many papers and periodicals found there, must have a tendency to induce thought and lead to sound judgment. The books issued from the library, even the lighter literature, gives pleasure and relief to many who have more than enough of work and care; while the scientific and historical works bear evidence of hard reading. The statistics of the character of books issued illustrate the courage and perseverance of many of our artizans; Euclid, Homer, and works in Mathematics and Moral Philosophy, as well as in History and Travel, being well in demand with them.

THE SHAKSPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY.—Several gentlemen, well known students of Shakspearian Literature, had long desired to form in Birmingham a complete collection of all the editions of Shakspeare's works, and of the books to which they have given rise. No satisfactory means of carrying out this wish could be devised, until the erection of the Free Library. It was then resolved to celebrate the Tercentenary of Shakspeare's birth by the formation of the proposed library, and it was also resolved to present the library to the Corporation,

to be deposited in the Central Reference Library, where a separate room is to be assigned to it, the conditions laid down by the donors being, that the collection shall be kept distinct, and shall always be open free to whoever may wish to use it for the purposes of reference. A large sum of money has been subscribed for the purchase of books, many valuable works have been presented; and it is believed that, in the course of time the original design will be completely fulfilled. The Committee of the Shakspeare Library do not refuse, but at the same time they do not solicit, donations in money from persons not resident in Birmingham; but they do earnestly solicit donations of books, especially of such books as are not easily attainable in the market. At the inaugural breakfast given on the 23rd of April, 1864, by Mr. W. Holliday, the Mayor, it was announced by Mr. M. D. Hill, the then Recorder, that his old friend Mr. Charles Knight intended to give to the Library the whole of the books used by him in preparation of his various editions of Shakspeare's works. The Committee hope that this noble example will be followed by others. The Hon. Secretaries of the Library are Mr. G. Jabet, Mr. Samuel Timmins, and Mr. J. H. Chamberlain. The Treasurer is Mr. John Jaffray; and any of these gentlemen will receive donations.

THE BIRMINGHAM (OR OLD) LIBRARY is in Union Street. The building is of stone, and was erected in 1798, apparently by the same architect as the Dispensary and the Blue Coat School. Over the portico is the following inscription:—"*Ad mercaturum bonarum artium profectus, et tibi et omnibus ditesces.*" The library was formed under the direction of Dr. Priestley. It contains between thirty and forty thousand volumes, many of which are rare and valuable. There is also a Medical Library attached to it, of considerable value. The Library belongs to a body of about four hundred proprietors, but on their nomination the public generally are admitted as subscribers. The subscription is £1 1s. annually—shareholders and subscribers standing on the same level in this respect. The President is Mr. George Dawson, M.A., and the Hon. Sec. Mr. J. Thackray Bunce.

Besides these Libraries there are many others of less importance, connected with various Church (and other) Instruction

Societies. There is also a Theological Library, for the use of the clergy, attached to St. Philip's Rectory, and under the care of the Rector. It is not, however, much used; if, indeed, it is used at all.

Closely connected with the literary institutions of the town are

THE NEWSPAPERS.—Of these there are six, two daily and four weekly, as follows:—

THE BIRMINGHAM DAILY POST, published on each day of the week. It was established on the 4th December, 1857, and is of independent Liberal politics. The circulation extends throughout the whole of the midland counties. The offices are in New Street.

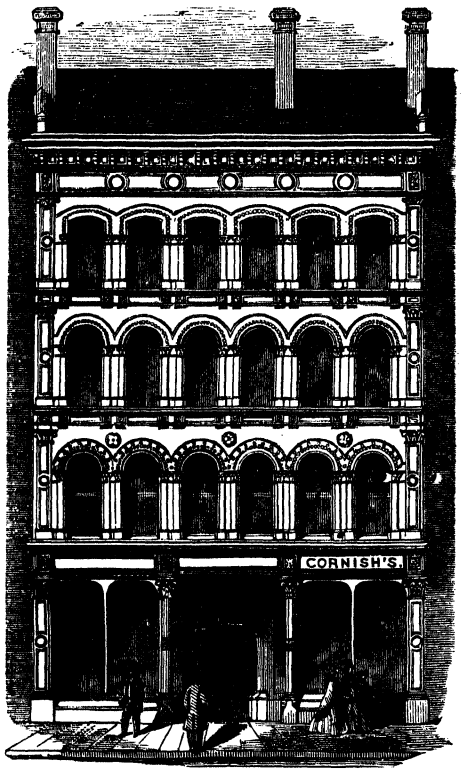
THE BIRMINGHAM DAILY GAZETTE, established May, 1861, is of Conservative politics. The offices are in High Street. The paper is published only on five days of the week, its place being supplied on Saturdays by

ARIS'S BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE (weekly), established in 1741. This journal is also of Conservative politics, and is issued at the offices in High Street.

THE BIRMINGHAM JOURNAL (weekly), established June, 1825, is published on Saturday morning. It is of Liberal politics. The offices are in New Street.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, established December, 1857, is strictly a newspaper intended for the working classes. The offices are in New Street.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES HERALD (weekly), is neutral in regard to politics. It was established July, 1836, and is published on Thursdays. The offices are in Union Street.



OFFICES OF "THE JOURNAL," AND "DAILY POST,"

AND

CORNISH BROTHERS' BOOK ESTABLISHMENT.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE.—This Institution was incorporated by act of parliament in 1854. The Institute buildings are situate by the side of the Town Hall, on a site granted for the purpose by the Town Council; they are from the designs of Mr. E. M. Barry, and form one of the leading architectural features of the town. The first stone was laid by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, on Nov. 22, 1855: and the Lecture Theatre was opened by Lord Brougham, on the 16th October, 1857. The plan of the Institute embraces a GENERAL DEPARTMENT and SCHOOLS OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE. Under the former head are:—1st, The *Literary Branch*, comprising Reading Room and Lectures; 2nd, *Museums;* 3rd, *a Collection of Mining Records;* 4th, *Lectures on General Scientific Subjects;* 5th, *Periodical Meetings* for the reading and discussion of original communications, upon the plan of the sections of the British Association; and 6th, *a Gallery of Fine Arts*, for the reception of examples of Painting and Sculpture.

The other department is a SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE, the members of which are provided with systematic lectures and class instruction in the various branches of science, with especial reference to their particular occupations; and will also partake of the advantages of the General Department. The classes include chemistry as applied to the various manufactures and

agriculture, mechanics, metallurgy, mineralogy, and geology, ventilation of mines, and mining engineering. The education of artizans, practical miners, and others, in the scientific principles of their daily avocations, is thus a primary object of the Institute. The MUSEUMS are devoted to geology, mineralogy, their economic application, such parts of natural history as illustrate these sciences; those animal and vegetable productions used as raw materials in manufactures; manufactures, particularly those of the district, comprising specimens of articles in their different stages of process, and finished articles of different dates and countries; to models, and specimens of machinery, tools, furnaces, and other instrumental means and appliances used in the various manufactories. Classes have been established, and a systematic course of instruction has been given to artisans in chemical and physical science, in history, writing, English grammar and composition, English literature, elementary and advanced arithmetic, and in the French and German languages. The buildings comprise a commodious lecture theatre, museum, news room, laboratories, class room, &c. Externally the buildings are in the Italian style, the principal elevation is of Hollington stone, and consists of a rusticated basement with square headed windows, inserted, and above them a colonnade of the Corinthian order, with the usual entablature, and attic over. The end of the building fronting Paradise Street, is semi-circular, to conform to the line of the street. There are nearly 800 subscribers (£1 1s. annually) to the Institute; and the various classes afford instruction to about 1,300 students.

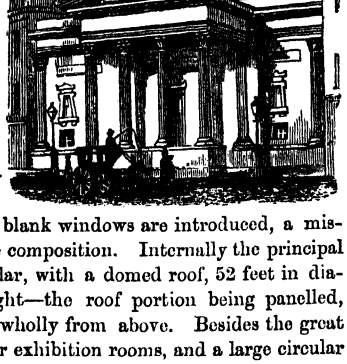
Connected with the institute are several scientific bodies, such as the Natural History Society, the Microscopical Society, the Chemical Society, &c. There are also in Birmingham various medical societies; and the INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS has its offices (Newhall Street) and holds its ordinary meetings here. The BRITISH ASSOCIATION has three times visited the town; on the last occasion in 1865.

We come next to the various institutions devoted to the promotion of the Fine Arts. First of these should be mentioned

THE PUBLIC ART GALLERY.—This, which belongs to the Corporation, forms part of the pile of buildings in Ratcliff

Place, in which the Midland Institute and the Free Libraries are situated. It consists of a single room, of about seventy feet in length, well lighted, and richly decorated. Several pictures given to the town are deposited here; and it is intended to increase the collection by purchase or gift. For this purpose the funds of the Library Hall are available, and a society has been formed expressly with the view of raising subscriptions for the presentation of works of art. The first work presented through the society—a noble landscape by Mr. Henshaw—was given by Mr. T. Dixon, the Mayor, who selected it from the Spring Exhibition of the Society of Artists, in 1867. A fine collection of drawings (by Cox, De Wint, Westall, &c.) is to be found in the institute reading-room; where there is also a valuable display of Limoges' enamels, given by the late Sir F. Scott, Bart.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS.—This Institution occupies a fine building in New-st., designed by Messrs. Rickman & Hutchinson. The façade consists of a tetrastyle Corinthian portico of elegant proportions, with fluted columns, the cornice of the building being continued on the remainder of the front. In the centre of the portico is the principal entrance, and on each side blank windows are introduced, a mistake that mars the entire composition. Internally the principal Exhibition room is circular, with a domed roof, 52 feet in diameter and 45 feet in height—the roof portion being panelled, the light being obtained wholly from above. Besides the great room, there are five other exhibition rooms, and a large circular room used as a school for drawing from the life. The society consists exclusively of artists, who, however, have no personal beneficial interest in its funds, these being applied wholly for the promotion of the fine arts. The President is Sir F. Grant, President of the Royal Academy; the Vice-President is Mr. P. Hollins; and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Allen E. Everitt.



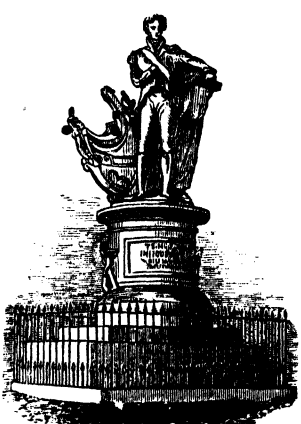
Exhibitions, open to the works of all artists (British and foreign) are held each autumn, beginning usually in September, and closing in January.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF ART.—This institution is now located in a wing of the Birmingham and Midland Institute. The formation of the Society of Arts was due, in a great measure, to Sir Robert Lawley, who, in 1821, presented a collection of casts moulded from the original Grecian marbles. It has also received donations, presents of works of art, and valuable works, from many noblemen and gentlemen. The management is vested in a committee, and the office of president has been filled by several noblemen and gentlemen of distinction. In 1843, the school was opened as a School of Art—a liberal grant, and donation of casts and necessary furniture, having been made by the council of the Government School of Design, in London. The grant was subsequently increased to £600, but soon after the formation of the science and art department, all direct aid from Government was withdrawn, and, only partial assistance in allowances to the masters and in providing prizes has since been afforded. Within the last few years even this assistance has been greatly diminished, and the school is now almost entirely dependent upon the pupils' fees, and upon voluntary subscriptions. The head master is Mr. David Raimbach, B.S.A.

In connection with these exhibitions (but independent of the Society of Arts) is the ROYAL BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES ART UNION, established under license from the Privy Council, and under the direct patronage of her Majesty the Queen. The offices are at the Society of Artists' Rooms.

STATUES.—*Sir Robert Peel.*—Soon after the lamented death of this distinguished statesman, in July, 1850, a meeting of the inhabitants was held, at which it was resolved to commemorate his memory by a statue of bronze, to be erected by subscription. The commission was entrusted to Mr. Peter Hollins, of Birmingham, who has obtained a wide-spread celebrity as a sculptor. The statue was inaugurated with much ceremony on the 27th of August, 1855, and is placed at the top of New Street. It was cast in bronze by Messrs. Elkington, Mason and Co., of Newhall Street, and cost about £2,000.—*Thomas*

Attwood: The inhabitants of Birmingham could not let the memory of "the Father of Political Unions" die. In the national struggle for the Reform Bill, Thomas Attwood took the most prominent part, and, in fact, in organizing Political Unions, first made popular opinion felt. When he died, full of years and honours, on the 6th of March, 1856, the inhabitants met, and resolved to perpetuate the memory of a good man, a long-tried friend, and faithful representative, by erecting a statue to his memory. The work was entrusted to Mr. John Thomas, sculptor, of London, who produced in marble a most effective and admirable statue. It was erected at the junction of Stephenson Place with New Street, and was inaugurated on the 6th of June, 1859. The cost was about £1,000.—In the Bull Ring, facing St. Martin's Church, and near to the entrance of Moor Street, is *Nelson's Statue.* This handsome work was executed in bronze by Westmacott, at an expense of about £2,500. It was inaugurated 25th Oct., 1809, being the day on which was celebrated the jubilee of his late Majesty George III. The figure rests on a ground marble pedestal, which is ornamented with allegorical sculptures; the left arm reclines on an anchor, and the group is made up with the model of a ship of war. The statue is surrounded by a square of iron palisades, resembling boarding pikes, the corners of which are appropriately ornamented with castings of cannon.—*The Sturge Statue:* Joseph Sturge, an eminent philanthropist, who was long connected with every movement which could promote the benefit of his countrymen and fellow-townsmen, has his memory perpetuated by the erection of a statue at the junction of the streets at the Five-ways. Many illustrious men, including Lord



Brougham, joined in a subscription opened for this purpose, and Mr. John Thomas was entrusted with the execution of the memorial. The design is very elegant. On the base, in front and back, project bold tazza-shaped basins, from the inside of which pretty jets of water rise. On each side, upon pedestals, are seated life-size figures typical of the leading characteristics of Mr. Sturge. Charity is nursing a child in her arms, and at the same time is giving food to a little negro. On the other pedestal is Peace with her dove, a lamb, and other emblems. Under these figures are simple drinking fountains, the water issuing from lilies and falling into marble shells. The pedestal on which the statue stands rises up between the two subordinate figures. Mr. Sturge is represented with one hand on the Bible, and the other is extended towards the figure of Peace. The subordinate figures are executed in Portland stone, and the statue in Sicilian marble. The height of the group is 24 feet, and the cost was £1,000. The statue was inaugurated with much ceremony on the 4th of June, 1862.—*Prince Consort emorial:* A statue in memory of Prince Albert is now in progress, from the designs of Mr. Foley. It is to be erected between the Grammar School and the Exchange, under a Gothic canopy. Designed by Mr. J. H. Chamberlain.—Other statues are also in progress; the *Watt Memorial* (by Mr. Munro); a statue of *Sir Rowland Hill* (by Mr. P. Hollins), and a bust of Mr. M. D. Hill, late recorder of Birmingham (also by Mr. Hollins), voted by the Town Council, and to be placed either in the Council Chamber or the Sessions Court.

FOUNTAINS.—These are not numerous. The best is that in the Market Hall, executed by Messrs. Messenger; there is another of an ornamental kind in the wall of Christ Church at the top of New Street. The rest are ordinary drinking fountains.

Chapter the Ninth.

AMUSEMENTS AND SOCIAL CONDITION.

WE have indicated, by the best of all tests, the social character of the inhabitants of the community. We have spoken of their institutions; of their provision for public worship; of schools for their education; of hospitals and asylums for their reception in sickness and misfortune. There is, however, something more still to be said. The variety of occupation is advantageous to the community, inasmuch as it is impossible that all can suffer at one time from depression. It also tends to a more general diffusion of wealth. Here are no millionaires, but a multiplicity of "small masters;" and the consequence is more widely-spread comfort. "The variety and independence of labour exercised," says a recent report of a Government Inspector, "produces freedom and independence of thought and action. In no place will there be found more freedom of intercourse between the employer and the employed than in Birmingham, or more general intelligence and comfort amongst the work-people, or more forethought and kindness from the employer for the employed." This is undoubtedly true; although a considerable amount of comfort is sacrificed in public-houses, of which there are between two and three thousand. The wages of the artizans are generally good; many of the workmen earn from 30s. to 40s. a week; but, of course, this is much above the average rate. Women, on an average, earn from 5s. to 9s. a week, although many of them are much more highly paid. All estimates of wages are, however, very delusive, as almost every skilled workman makes his own bargains with his master. Birmingham is essentially a social community, and hospitable as it is social. Nothing is done by isolated effort: everything by co-operation. Thus it was shown, that between 1830 and 1847 the number of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES allowed by the justices was no less than 213. There are probably, however, double that number now in existence. BUILDING SOCIETIES, by which, for a small weekly payment, money is advanced for the purpose of erecting a house, are numerous, and the capital invested

in them must amount to several hundred thousand pounds. There are also FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETIES, the purpose of which is to foster habits of providence amongst the working class of the population, and while giving, by a periodical payment, as much freehold land as will suffice for the erection of a house, they also confer a county franchise, the property never being less in value than forty shillings per annum. Nearly two thousand voters have thus been placed upon the register in Warwickshire and the neighbouring counties.

The AMUSEMENTS of the people are numerous and varied. In the olden time the chief amusements were bull-baiting, cock and dog-fighting, and other "sports" of a kindred kind. There is now, perhaps, less of similar brutalising amusements here than in any other part of the kingdom.

THE THEATRE ROYAL, New Street, is one of the chief places of amusement, although theatrical representations in Birmingham are of comparatively recent date. Before 1740 the players had their booths in the meadows in the neighbourhood of the town; but in the year mentioned, they opened what had been a stable in Moor Street. Subsequently the place became a Methodist Chapel. Another theatre, also subsequently devoted to religious purposes, was opened in King Street, but both street and theatre have now been swept away. The present theatre, in New Street, is an elegant building, distinguished by the chasteness and beauty of its design. The façade in front presents a piazza surrounded by a colonnade, and ornamented with wings at the extremities, in the face of which are medallions, representing Shakespeare and Garrick, by whom designed we have been unable to ascertain. The first building was erected in 1774, but on the 7th of August, 1792, was destroyed by fire. A larger and more commodious edifice was built on the site, which was opened in 1795. This, however, likewise became a prey to the flames, on January 6th, 1820, but fortunately, on neither occasion was the front injured. In the course of the same year, the interior of the present theatre was built, from designs of the late Mr. Beazley, which, in point of accommodation, chasteness of design, and scenic effect of its stage, is not to be surpassed by any provincial theatre. It contains a commodious pit, two rows of boxes, and an extensive gallery, and will

hold about two thousand persons. Few theatres have produced so many distinguished actors; amongst whom, Mr. Macready may be mentioned. But not alone great actors have received their first meed of applause in connection with this theatre—Mr. Grieve, of her Majesty's theatre; Mr. Stanfield, R.A., once the scenic artist at Drury Lane, and Mr. Alfred Bunn, the lessee of that theatre, held like official appointments here. The eccentric Robert William Elliston was lessee for several years. The present lessee is Mr. M. H. Simpson. The entrance to the boxes is in New Street; to the pit, through a small passage in Lower Temple Street; and to the gallery from a small street at the back of the theatre. Prices of admission: dress boxes, three shillings; upper boxes, two shillings; pit, one shilling; gallery, sixpence.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, Broad Street.—This building, formerly the property of a Joint-stock Company, was designed by Mr. Cranston, in the Gothic style of the fourteenth century. The original building had wrought open timbers to the roof, and two tiers of galleries with orchestra and other arrangements complete for the purpose of the Company. The original intention having failed, the property was disposed of to the present owners, who converted it into a theatre, with the above named designation. The whole is fitted with appropriate gallery, stalls, pit, boxes, orchestra, &c. The lessee is Mr. Rodgers. There are two entrances, both from Broad Street, leading up to the theatre by spacious corridors, closed by ornamental iron gates.

CONCERT HALLS.—There are three of these, open every evening, besides numerous others, open less frequently. The three principal are HOLDER'S, in Coleshill Street; DAY'S "Crystal Palace," in Smallbrook Street; and BIBER'S "London Museum," in Digbeth. The performances are of the usual kind, vocal and instrumental music, ballet, gymnastic and other parts, and stage decorations. Refreshments may be had in each of the halls; and it should be added that the whole of them are respectably conducted.

THE CIRCUS, only used occasionally, is a handsome building in Suffolk Street, opposite the end of Paradise Street.

TOWN HALL CONCERTS.—Independently of the Mu-

sical Festivals (described under the head of the General Hospital) cheap concerts are given in the Town Hall every Monday evening, by the Festival Choral Society, and there is an organ performance every Thursday, at one o'clock.

PUBLIC PARKS.—Within the last few years Birmingham has been exceedingly fortunate in acquiring no less than three Public Parks for recreation and amusement. The first, Adderley Park (twelve acres) situated at Saltley, was the gift of the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P. It was opened with considerable ceremony on the 30th of August, 1856. The second, Calthorpe Park (thirty acres), situated in Pershore Road, was the gift of Lord Calthorpe, and was opened by the Duke of Cambridge on the 1st of June, 1857. The third, Aston Park (forty-two acres) was inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen on the 15th of June, 1858. The Company formed for the purchase having failed to complete it, the Corporation (aided by a private subscription of £7,000) have, at the cost of £20,000 additional, made good the deficiency, and thereby secured the Park (together with the Hall, noticed elsewhere) for the people.

The "LOWER GROUNDS" at Aston Park, a kind of Vauxhall or Cremorne, on a small scale, are very beautiful. They are open daily.

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.—These are situated in the Westbourne Road, Edgbaston (near St. George's Church) and will be found a delightful walk or drive from the town. They were opened in 1829, and contain a large conservatory, hothouses, and a great variety of rare shrubs and plants. The situation, the manner of laying out, and the beauty of the neighbourhood, are delightful. On Monday the grounds are opened to the working classes, at one penny each person; on other days of the week the charge is one shilling.

EXHIBITION OF CATTLE, PIGS, AND POULTRY.—This show was originated on a very humble scale in 1848; the first show (of pigs and poultry only) being first held in some stables in Worcester Street; but through the public spirit of a few individuals, and chiefly through the exertions of Mr. T. B. Wright, it has become one of the most important in this part of the country, being, until his death, under the immediate patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, who was in-

variably an exhibitor. The show is held in Bingley Hall, which was erected by a Joint Stock Company in 1850, with the view of affording accommodation to these exhibitions, and cost about £6,000. It is an immense building, situated in Broad Street, and covers upwards of an acre and a quarter. It is also occupied as a parade ground for the Rifle Corps. There is also a great ANNUAL SHOW OF SPORTING DOGS, which takes place in the same week as the exhibition at Bingley Hall, and is held in Curzon Hall (the circus above mentioned).

Chapter the Tenth.

TRADE, COMMERCE, RAILWAYS, CANALS, &c.

THE EXCHANGE.—Birmingham has long felt the want of a central meeting place for manufacturers, merchants, and other persons engaged in business. At one period the want was in some measure supplied by the News Room, in Bennett's Hill on the opposite site of the County Court), and when this was closed, a small but inadequate room was provided in the Midland Institute. Through the perseverance of Mr. E. Lander, Hon. Secretary of the Exchange, a company was at last formed with a capital of £25,000 to erect a suitable building. A site was obtained on lease from the Governors of the Grammar School, on the left hand side of Stephenson Place, and competitive designs were invited from a large number of architects. Ultimately the design and plan of Mr. Holmes was selected; and on 21st January, 1863, the first stone of the building was laid by Mr. Henry Van Wart, chairman of the company. The edifice was opened for use on the 2nd January, 1865. The general appearance of the building will best be gathered from the illustration given herewith. It will, consequently, be sufficient to state that the plan comprises a large room to be used as an Exchange-room, for the meetings of the Chamber of Commerce, Telegraph Offices, Assembly-rooms, and Dining-rooms,—the

latter combining the accommodation of a first-rate club-house. The two principal fronts are arranged for retail-shops. The building has a frontage of 180 feet to Stephenson-place, and one to New-street of about 63 feet. The principal front consists of arcades of arched windows, four stories in height, and for the general appearance the reader is referred to our engraved view. The ground-floor, being arranged for retail shops, has to each a triple arcade of flat ogee arches, supported by iron columns, one of the openings serving as a doorway; above these is a mezzanine story, containing triplets of plain two-centred arches. The first-floor windows are also divided into triplets ranging over the shops; below, each window has columns with carved capitals, and a carved impost continued as a string-course all round the principal fronts. The second-floor windows are simply an arcade of trefoiled arched openings, with a carved impost; the third floor consists of an arcade of unequal Gothic windows to the wings, and Dormer windows to the remainder; above is the cornice, and a high pitched roof, slated in parti-colours. In the centre of the principal elevation to Stephenson-place is the entrance to the Exchange, under a tower carried up to a height of about 100 ft. The entrance is the only portion of the Exchange (proper) that appears in the principal elevation. As to the interior, two rows of small iron clustered columns, with wrought iron arches and foliated spandrils, run the length of the Exchange, (which is 70ft. by 40ft. and 23ft. high), and carry the beams of the assembly room floor. A committee room is provided adjoining the Exchange, with a private entrance from the lobby. The Chamber of Commerce is in close proximity to the Exchange, and situate on the ground-floor; there is a small ante-room adjoining. The refreshment or supper room is entered from the assembly room, and also from the lobby, which communicates with the corridor. It is 46ft. long, and 20ft. wide. The dining room is immediately below the refreshment room: it is on the mezzanine floor, and is of the same size as the refreshment room. In connection with this department are spacious coffee, smoking, and billiard rooms. The kitchen and other culinary offices are arranged on the upper floor over the dining rooms. A residence for the superintendent of this department is provided on the upper

floor. A room, 38ft. long by 32ft. 6in. and 21ft. high, with dressing and ante-rooms attached for the convenience of masonic meetings, is on the third floor, fronting New-street. It is approached by the assembly room stairs. The hall-keeper's residence is in the central tower. The remaining space for disposal, after arranging the principal rooms on the various floors, is divided into offices of convenient sizes and suites. The Exchange and Assembly Room are heated by Haden's hot-air apparatus. The floor of the Exchange and entrance are laid with encaustic and plain tiles, and bands of stone upon brick arches. Admission to the Exchange News and Meeting Room is restricted to subscribers; but the place is open to view by strangers.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—This body, which is largely supported by mercantile firms and others, has its rooms in connection with the Exchange, and holds periodical meetings for the discussion of questions affecting general and local trade. It has a library, and a valuable collection of "blue books" and other official documents, open to the members and their friends. The secretary is Mr. Harding, who is also secretary to the Exchange.

THE POST OFFICE.—The present building presents no external attraction, so far as architectural beauty is concerned. It is situated in the main thoroughfare of New Street, close to the Theatre Royal. When removed from the opposite side of the street in October, 1842, it was admirably adapted to the then existing wants of the town; but, owing to the enormous increase of business which has taken place since that period, it can scarcely now be said to offer sufficient accommodation. We believe it is in contemplation to make such alterations as the increasing importance of the town requires.

There are thirty-one branch offices in the town, and thirty-eight pillar and wall letter-boxes. The staff consists of nearly two hundred persons.

THE STAMP OFFICE and the **INLAND REVENUE OFFICE** are in the same block of buildings as the Post Office. The **MONEY ORDER OFFICE** is in Cannon Street; and the **POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK** is located in the same building,

which was formerly used for an ordinary Savings Bank, now replaced by the Post Office Bank.

The **ASSAY OFFICE** is in Cherry Street. Here the gold and silver goods made in the town are tested, or "assayed," to determine the genuineness and standard quality of the metal. The duty collected is paid to the Government. In the year 1865 the quantity of gold assayed was 31,960 ounces, and of silver 99,951 ounces.

The **GUN BARREL PROOF HOUSE** is in Banbury Street. Here all the gun and pistol barrels made in the town must be brought to be tested, and stamped with the proof mark, without which they cannot be lawfully sold. The process of examination and firing is very interesting. Admission can be obtained only by private application to the Proof Master or one of the Wardens or Guardians.

CONSULS.—Many foreign states have Consuls or Consular Agents in Birmingham. The *French* Consulate is at Wellington Chambers, Bennett's Hill (M. Boisselier); *United States*, Exchange Buildings, Stephenson Place (Mr. Elihu Burritt); *Austrian*, Charlotte-street (Mr. E. Gem); *Belgian*, Kingston Works, Adderley-street (Mr. Everitt); *Italian*, Summer Row (Mr. Paraviso); *Spanish*, Broad-street (Mr. Villanueva); *Brazilian*, Charlotte-street (Mr. C. Reeves); and the Consulate for the following countries (Mr. G. R. Collis, consul) is in Church-street, namely, Russia, Prussia, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, Turkey, Uruguay, and Honduras.

BANKS.—There are seven banking companies in Birmingham. These are, the *Branch Bank of England*, Bennett's Hill; the *Birmingham and Midland Banking Company*, Union-street, (for which new premises are to be erected at the corner of Stephenson Place, New-street;) the *Birmingham Joint Stock Bank* (Limited), Temple Row West, with a branch in New-street; the *Birmingham Banking Company* (Limited), Bennett's Hill; the *Birmingham Town and District Bank*, Colmore Row; *Lloyd's Banking Company* (Limited), High-street, with branch in Cherry-street; and the *Branch National Provincial Bank of England*, Bennett's Hill. Some of the banks are located in handsome buildings, particularly the Joint Stock, the Birmingham, and the National Provincial; but the rest are

plain structures, or houses adapted to banking purposes. In connection with the Banks may be mentioned the

FINANCE COMPANIES, of which there are two: the *Birmingham*, offices, Waterloo-street; and the *Midland*, offices, Temple Row.

FIRE OFFICES.—Recent changes have reduced the number of these institutions, by amalgamating local offices with others having their head-quarters in London or elsewhere. The only purely local fire insurance company now left is the *Birmingham* (Limited) offices and engine station, New-street. The others are, the *Norwich Union*, office, *Bennett's Hill*, engine station, Temple-street; the *Lancashire*, offices, Union-street, engine station Union Passage; the *Alliance*, office and station, New-street; and the *Royal*, offices and station, Temple-street. It is proposed to consolidate the separate bodies of firemen maintained by these offices into a Fire Brigade, under the control of the Corporation.

WATERWORKS.—The water supply is provided by a private company, established under an Act of Parliament in 1826, with extensive powers. The offices, and repairing and fitting shops of the company are in Broad-street. Large reservoirs have been formed at Aston and Witton, principally supplied from the brooks in the neighbourhood, and four powerful engines are placed there for the purpose of pumping the water from the reservoir, and one at Edgbaston for the purpose of again raising the water to a higher level for the supply of Edgbaston. An Artesian well is also sunk at Aston.

GAS COMPANIES.—Of these there are two, the *Birmingham* (commonly known as the "Old Gas Company.") Its offices are in Cherry-street, and its works are in Fazeley-street and Richard-street, Aston Road. The other is the *Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Company*. Its offices, a very handsome pile of stone buildings (designed by Mr. Thomson Plevins), are in the Old Square; and its works are in Adderley-street and Saltley. Both companies extend their operations far beyond the borough of Birmingham.

CANALS.—Prior to the year 1767, the difficulty of communication between the town and other parts of the country was exceedingly great. About that time, however, the system of

canals, which shortly before had been demonstrated as perfectly practicable, were brought into operation here. The first, the *Birmingham Canal*, was constructed at the period we have mentioned, and extended from the town to near Wolverhampton, where it joined the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, which connects the Trent with the Severn. The new branch, from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, is one of the finest works of its kind in the kingdom, and was the production of the late eminent engineer, Thomas Telford. It runs through the very heart of the mining district, and the main canal is 22 miles in length. In 1782 the *Fazeley Canal*, which joins that of Coventry, and is about 15 miles in length, was completed, and afterwards these two concerns amalgamated. The *Worcester and Birmingham Canal* was finished about 1820, and is about 30 miles in length, joining the Severn near Worcester. The *Warwick and Birmingham Canal*, which is about 22 miles in length, was finished about 1800. These water-courses open up a communication with almost every part of the kingdom.

RAILWAYS.—Birmingham may be said to be the focus of the Railway interest; from this point radiate lines to every locality in the country. The first and greatest of these is The *London and North Western*, originally the London and Birmingham. In 1832, after repeated delays, the Birmingham and London Railway Bill received the royal assent, Mr. Stephenson being appointed engineer in chief. The estimate of the cost of the railway was £2,500,000; but the actual cost was about £5,000,000. We are speaking now not of the gigantic system included in the management of the North Western Company, but simply of the London and Birmingham line. The line was commenced in June, 1834, and was opened to the public on the 17th of September, 1838. Originally, the Birmingham Station was in Duddeston Row, in the poorest and most unprepossessing of the suburbs. The Queen's Hotel, a remarkably massive and handsome building of stone, was at first intended as the entrance to the Station, but was subsequently devoted to the purpose of an hotel, and now it has reverted to its original use, and is also used as an office for the carrying department.

THE GRAND CENTRAL STATION is in New Street, wherein the traffic of no less than six lines is concentrated. First, there

is the *London and Birmingham*, to which we have alluded; the chief stations being Coventry, Kenilworth, Leamington, Warwick, Rugby, Wolverhampton, and Watford. Second, the *Grand Junction*, which was merged into the London and North Western in 1845, and which opens up a communication with Liverpool, Manchester, and Scotland direct. The chief stations are Wolverhampton, Stafford (where there is a branch to Shrewsbury), Crewe, Manchester, Liverpool, Holyhead, &c. The third is *The Midland*, by which parties may book to Derby, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Hull, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Scotland, opened February 10th, 1842. In the summer months, cheap and delightful trips are got up on this line to Matlock and the Peak in Derbyshire. The fourth is *Bristol and Birmingham*, opened September 17th, 1840. By this line parties can proceed to all parts of the West of England, Devonshire, Cornwall, and the Southern Coast; through Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Worcester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Bristol. It is now under the management of the Midland Company. The fifth is the *Stour Valley*, under the direction of the London and North Western, which opens up the mining district by Dudley, Tipton, Wolverhampton, &c. It was opened for goods traffic on the 30th of February, 1852. The sixth is *The South Staffordshire*, which also runs into the mining district, although in a different direction. The principal stations are Walsall, Dudley, Lichfield, Burton, &c.

All these lines centre in the Central Station, of which we append a concise notice. At the entrance from New Street, at the bottom of Stephenson's Place, is a plain gateway, affording three entrances for carriages, and two footways, the division pillars being surmounted by large and elegant lamps. Passing through the gateway, we come upon the main front of the station and a hotel, which is a handsome building in the Italian style, designed by Mr. Levich. The principal elevation is 312 feet long, and consisting of a centre and right and left wings. The centre, which projects about 20 feet from the wings, is 120 feet long, and four storeys in height. The lower storey is composed of an arcade, divided by Doric pilasters into ten arches, and deriving richness of effect from each pilaster being flanked by piers of rusticated masonry. This story is built entirely

of Derbyshire stone. Above the arcade runs a boldly moulded cornice; over this, corresponding with the arcade, are ten handsome windows with pedimented heads, and at the foot of each is an elegant balcony. The first floor is divided from the second by a string course, above which is another line of windows, with square heads and cornices. Above this is another string course, and a range of smaller and less ornamented square-headed windows, placed immediately under the principal cornice. The whole front is surmounted by a handsome balustrade, broken at convenient distances by the introduction of pedestals, between which the chimneys are placed, with due regard for regularity of line. The edifice, with the exception of the lower storey, is constructed of white brick, the mouldings, cornices, and the rusticated quoins being formed in cement. The wings are only three storeys high, and are, of course, less ornamented than the centre, the windows being all square-headed, and the cornices plainer, but the mouldings and string-courses are carried on so as to preserve uniformity. The hotel, which is entered by a fine stone porch, comprises the whole of the left wing, the centre, excepting the ground floor, and the third storey of the right wing, and the whole of another wing erected in 1858. The remainder of the edifice is devoted to railway purposes exclusively.

Entering the station by the arcade, we arrive at the booking-offices for the respective railways, and passing through these emerge on a magnificent corridor or gallery, open to the station (but enclosed by the immense glass and iron roof), from whence broad staircases afford access to the departure platforms. We then stand on a level with a long series of offices appropriated to the officials of the companies, and a superb refreshment-room, about eighty feet long by forty broad, divided into three portions by rows of massive pillars. This room has a communication with the hotel. It is almost impossible to convey an idea of the appearance presented by the station. We must ask the reader to imagine that he stands on a stone platform a quarter of a mile long; that behind him is a range of forty-five massive piers projecting from the station wall; that in front of him are ten lines of rails, four platforms, and a broad carriage way, bounded by another range of forty-five massive iron columns; and that

above all this there stretches from pier to column a semi-circular roof, 1,100 feet long, 212 feet wide, and 80 feet high, the span length greater than has been attempted for a railway station in England: composed of iron and glass, without the slightest support, except that afforded by the pillars on either side. Let him add to this, that he stands on a stone platform a quarter of a mile long, amidst the noise of a dozen trains arriving or departing, the ringing of bells, the crowds of bustling travellers, and the passing to and fro of two or three hundred porters and workmen; and he will have a faint idea of the scene witnessed daily at the Birmingham Central Railway Station.

The roof—a most remarkable and daring piece of engineering—merits more particular description. If we take it in detail, we find that it rests solely on forty-five massive Doric piers, springing from the station wall, on the one side, and by iron columns of a similar order on the other. There is no intermediate support whatever. Thirty feet above the platform the spring of the roof begins, and consists of thirty-six principals or arches of iron, strongly framed together. Each of these principals weighs about 25 tons. They are placed at intervals of 24 feet from each other, and each is composed of five distinct pieces, riveted together. These ponderous metal bars were raised by means of a travelling stage, and it is a singular coincidence that the last rib was fixed on the anniversary of the day when the first pillar was set up. The pillars weigh 5 tons 12 cwt. each. The covering is composed of glass and corrugated iron, the former bearing a proportion of three-fourths to the latter, which runs along in a broad strip on each side, and in two bands on the crown of the arches. There are in the roof no less than 120,000 feet of glass, the manufacture of Messrs. Chance, at Spon Lane. The glass alone weighs 115 tons; and the corrugated iron sheeting extends to 92,120 feet. The ends of the station in Worcester Street and Navigation Street are screened off with common glass in compartments; but a smaller and subsidiary roof has been constructed to the bridge in the last-named street. The chief peculiarities of the roof are its immense span and the great rise of the curve of the tie bar, which always previously was made almost horizontal. Although containing altogether full 1,400 tons of iron, it looks light and airy, its tracery of rods and bars form-

ing some curious geometrical combinations from different points of sight, and its gigantic ribs, though 25 tons each, appearing even fragile at the great distance up. This part of the work was executed under the direction of Mr. Philips, for the firm of Fox, Henderson and Co., Smethwick.

THE SNOWHILL STATION OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY, a temporary erection, accommodates the traffic of two lines. First, the BIRMINGHAM and OXFORD, which opens up the most pleasant route to London, through Solihull, Warwick, Leamington, and Oxford. By this line Kenilworth and Stratford-on-Avon are easily reached. By means of the BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON, and DUDLEY line, which runs into the same station, communication is opened up with the Smethwick, West Bromwich, Bilston, and Wolverhampton, and with Wales through Shrewsbury, Llangollen, and Chester. Both lines received Parliamentary sanction in 1845.

STREET CONVEYANCES.—In connexion with the subject of conveyance, we may mention that in all the principal streets are CAR and CAB Stands. The first street conveyance in Birmingham appeared in 1775, when a man set up a hackney coach. Now, they number about 400. The charge for a car (four-wheel) for four persons is 1s. a mile; for a Hansom cab, 8d. per mile. There are also numerous threepenny omnibuses, which run to and from various parts of the town and suburbs.

CLUBS.—There are two of these. First, the *Union*, in Bennett's Hill, for which a large and handsome building is being erected in Colmore Row from the designs of Mr. H. Yeoville Thomason, at a cost of £12,000. Second, the *Albert*, in Paradise Street. Another club-house is projected in connection with a Masonic Hall, proposed to be erected in New Street, near the Post Office.

MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES, &c.—These are numerous. Amongst them are three companies for the manufacture of flour and bread—the *Old Union*, the *New Union*, and the *Britannia*. There are also several railway waggon and carriage building companies, namely, the *Midland*, the *Brighton*, the *Metropolitan*, and Messrs. Brown, Marshall, & Co. The works are situated chiefly at Saltley. Two large metal rolling companies may also

be mentioned—*Muntz's Metal Company* (French Walls, Smethwick) and *Elliott's Sheathing Company* (Selby Oak).

TELEGRAPH STATIONS.—*Electric*, Exchange Buildings, Stephenson Place (open night and day); *Magnetic*, New Street; *United Kingdom*, New Street.

Chapter the Eleventh.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF BIRMINGHAM.

EDGBASTON.

THE neighbourhood of Edgbaston will not fail to please the visitor, with its villas, terraces, and park-like and picturesque beauty, forming, as it does, the *west end* of Birmingham. It is here the "aristocracy" of the town take up their residence. The visitor, as he paces the spacious and finely-built streets and roads, and surveys the houses which are profusely scattered on every side, will acknowledge that the business man of Birmingham carries with him into his retirement a taste not only for the useful, but also in some degree for the beautiful and the picturesque. The great landholder of Edgbaston is Lord Calthorpe, who will not permit any small houses to be erected on his estate; and such attention has been paid to its improvement, as to render it, independent of other advantages, the most eligible spot for building close to Birmingham. Edgbaston is approached on one side by Bristol Road, and on the other by Broad Street. The ground rises rapidly from the former, and more gradually from the latter, as far as the Five Ways, whence it spreads over a fine level surface, for a considerable distance, intersected by roads, laid out with much skill and ingenuity, so as to present suitable sites for villa residences. The roads are excellent, and for the most part bordered with trees, behind which are placed extremely handsome houses, in every variety of style and dimensions.

EDGBASTON HALL was formerly the seat of the Lords of the Manor, and during the Civil Wars was garrisoned by detachments of the Parliamentary army. It was burned by the population at the Revolution, who feared it might become a refuge for Roman Catholics. The present hall, a plain structure of brick, was built by Sir Richard Gough. It is placed in a small but well-wooded park, ornamented with a fine sheet of water.

EDGBASTON CHURCH, which is close to the Park, presents a most pleasing and picturesque appearance. This church (which is dedicated to St. Bartholomew) is of very ancient date, and is frequently mentioned in old records and documents, and also in Domesday Book. In common with many other places of worship, it was pillaged by the Commonwealth soldiers, who nearly destroyed it. After the Restoration it was rebuilt, and the interior decorated by Sir R. Gough. Of the style of the original structure there are not any remains, excepting the lower portion of the tower, which is of the third pointed or perpendicular period: as rebuilt by Sir R. Gough, after the Restoration, it was in all probability of the debased style of the age, portions of which still remain in the upper stories of the tower. From old prints still extant the structure appears to have consisted of a nave and north aisle, with a gabled roof to each, but nothing characteristic of the details can be made out. The divisions between the nave and aisle were obliterated in 1810, and the space roofed over in one span; in 1843 it was again reroofed, also in one span as before. The new roof (which still remains) is an indifferent specimen of the perpendicular period. At the same time the present windows were inserted. In the year 1856 a new south aisle was added, from designs by Mr. Fiddian; the aisle opens into what now forms

the nave, by an arcade of moulded arches of the obtuse four-centred kind, resting on clustered piers, with moulded caps and bases; it has an appropriate open-timbered roof, ceiled only between the rafters. All the seats are in character with the present style of the building. A fine organ was presented by two members of the congregation, Mr. C. Ratcliff and Mr. S. Messenger. The east windows (for there are no less than three), and the east window of the new aisle are enriched with stained glass, gifts of various members of the congregation. There are several monuments in the church, but scarcely any of them possessing any interest. The living is in the gift of Lord Calthorpe.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, situated in Calthorpe Street, at the corner of the Westbourne Road and the Highfield Road, erected in the year 1838, constituted a District Church by Her Majesty's Commissioners in 1852, is from designs (we believe) by Mr. Railton, of London. It consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and vestry. The style is early English, which is consistently carried out throughout, though of a type that would not now be followed. The west elevation has a lofty triplet, beneath which is a pedimented doorway, which forms the principal entrance. Above the triplet is a round window, the whole surmounted by a gable and cross, and flanked on each angle by boldly projecting buttresses, that support tall and richly-worked pinnacles; the sides have lofty lancet windows between buttresses, with the usual plinth, cornices, and parapet. The chancel and spirelet erected in 1856 is carried out in a corresponding style, the spirelet (only) being somewhat too short. The chancel, erected from the designs of Mr. C. Edge, has an open-timbered roof of good design, and together with the windows, reredos, pavements, &c., is much superior to the style of the church. The

building contains 1100 sittings, of which 220 are free. Lord Calthorpe is the patron.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, a structure in the decorated style, is situated on a piece of rising ground near Elvetham Road, and was consecrated on the 1st of June, 1852. The church is cruciform, with an east aisle to the transept, and a tower and spirelet at the south-east angle of the chancel and transept. Externally it is a stone erection, in the decorated style. The nave has windows of two lights between buttresses; each transept has a large rose window; the east end has a large window of five lights; all the windows have appropriate tracery. Internally it has a massive timber roof of very steep pitch, that has a very fine effect; the chancel has a similar roof, but not so lofty as that of the nave: the principals rest on richly carved corbels, the subjects being chiefly angels playing upon musical instruments. The total cost was about £6000. Lord Calthorpe is the patron.

HARBORNE.—This village, lying beyond and approached through Edgbaston, has become a suburb of Birmingham, large numbers of persons engaged in business in the town having taken up their residence there. Many parts of the village are extremely picturesque, and from the churchyard very fine views of the Clent and other ranges of hills may be obtained. Harborne was for many years the residence of David Cox, the celebrated water-colour painter, who died there, and is buried in the church-yard of

THE PARISH CHURCH.—This edifice, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, has a "late perpendicular" tower, but until lately the rest of the building was so barbarously "Churchwardenised" as to have lost all character. It has recently been thoroughly restored and enlarged under the superintendence of Mr. Yeoville Thomason. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH is situated at Harborne Heath, and is in the Decorated style, from designs by Mr. Yeoville Thomason. In plan it has a nave, aisles, chancel, and vestry. Externally it is of white brick, with dressings of Bath stone. The west front, toward the road, has a principal entrance under a deeply-moulded arch, surmounted by a large four-light window,

with gable and cross. At the angle of the nave is a lofty octagonal turret, finished with a spirelet. The east window is filled with stained glass, the gift of the Misses Simcox. There is accommodation for 850 persons. The cost was upwards of £3000. Patron, the Rev. Joseph Smith.

HANDSWORTH, situated in Staffordshire, although closely adjoining Birmingham, was the scene of the labours of the immortal Watt, and in Handsworth repose his remains, and those of his partner, Mr. Boulton.

THE OLD CHURCH is dedicated to St. Mary. With the exception of the tower, it has been mostly rebuilt, but very poorly. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Very Rev. John Peel, D.D., Dean of Worcester. The principal attraction of the church is the chaste and beautiful statue in white marble of Watt, from the chisel of Chantrey, placed in a chapel expressly erected for its reception. There are several old monuments in the church: one, the figure of a knight, was forty years since, to the disgrace of the authorities, sawn in two, to make way for a staircase. There is also a striking bust of Boulton, by Flaxman. The church is pleasantly situated; in the churchyard are several handsome monuments.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, a plain structure, is on the West Bromwich Road. It has no features calling for remark.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH was built in 1862, by subscription of the parishioners, aided by the Lichfield Church Extension Society, in the centre of Soho Park, close to the residence of the late Mr. Boulton. It was designed by Mr. Bourne, of Dudley, is of the Decorated period, and consists of nave, aisles, chancel, and tower—the last unfinished. The building is of Hampstead stone, with Bath stone dressings. The roofs, of good pitch, are open timbered (internally); the seats open, and the whole work, inside and outside, is thoroughly well carried out. The cost was about £6000.

TRINITY CHURCH, BIRCHFIELD.—First stone laid Tuesday, May 26th, 1863, consecrated May, 1864. The Rector is the patron of all the district churches.

ASTON.

THE HALL AND PARK are seen to the best advantage from the lane leading to the church. The Hall is a noble edifice in the Elizabethan style, with a fine avenue of trees at its front, and sheltered on all sides by the foliage; it was erected in the reign of James I., by Sir Thomas Holte, Bart., who had the honour of entertaining Charles I. for two nights previous to the battle of Edge Hill, in consequence of which loyalty the Parliamentary forces levied heavy contributions upon Sir Thomas, and cannonaded the Hall; the marks of the balls are still shown on the staircase. Aston was for some years the residence of the late James Watt, Esq., son of the eminent engineer. The beautiful park which surrounded it has been cut up into streets, and let on leases for building purposes. Of the remainder of the estate not thus appropriated, some forty-three acres have been secured as a place of public recreation. In 1857, a number of gentlemen, actuated by a desire to preserve from destruction the venerable Hall, with its interesting historic associations, and at the same time to secure to the town of Birmingham the advantages of a park and place of recreation and amusement, obtained from the proprietors an offer of the Hall, and about forty-three acres of land, at the sum of £35,000, which they endeavoured to raise by a Company, under the Limited Liability Act. The Queen consented to visit the town, and inaugurated the Park on the 15th June, 1858, with much ceremony. As we have previously stated, the Company having failed in its object, the Park and Hall were bought by the Corporation, and are now open free to the public.

ASTON CHURCH, situated near the Hall, a fine and picturesque structure, is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Patrons, Trustees. George Paganal, Baron of Dudley, in the time of Henry the Second, appropriated the great tithes of Aston to Tickford Priory, at Newport Pagnel, Bucks. These were confirmed to the monks by Giles de Erdington, in A.D. 1231 (the 15th of Henry the Third), at which time it is supposed the nave and west part of the chancel were built. In

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

and spire were erected. In the chancel are four altar tombs. The one at the north-east was erected to the memory of Walter de Arden, A.D. 1407. The two on the south side of the chancel came from the Erdington chantry (founded in 27 of Henry the Sixth for one priest, by Thomas de Erdington, for an altar of the Blessed Virgin), at the east end of the south aisle or nave (where now the pews are higher than the rest). The monument at the north-west of the chancel is to the memory of Sir Edward Devereux, who died in 1677. In the north aisle of the nave there is an altar-tomb to the memory of one of the Holte family, and a brass (A.D. 1640) with this inscription under the figures:

Thomas Holte here lyeth in graue, and for thy passion
On him Lord, haue compassion, and his soul do saue.

A legend likewise runs round the stone. There are a great number of mural tablets of all kinds in the church, but they

deserve no detailed notice. The church was mutilated in the most barbarous manner in 1790. In that year the floor was raised eighteen inches—the roofs ceiled—the nave filled with new pews—the sedilia in the chancel, and the piscinæ (one in the chancel and one in the Erdington chantry) blocked up—the west gallery made, blocking up the beautiful tower arch, the doors on the north and south of nave inserted, the mullions and tracery of the nave windows removed—the parapets taken down—the western door made into a window—the west porch into a vestry—and a floor constructed for the ringers, hiding the interior view of the fine perpendicular windows of the tower. The four stalls now existing in the chancel were brought a few years since from St. Margaret's, Leicester, being displaced from their original position in the chancel of that church as "rubbish." These four, of course, form only a small remnant of the original series, which were erected by Abbot Penny, who died in 1508, and have been engraved in the "Glossary of Architecture" as excellent specimens of that kind of work. Some fine old antique stone seats, discovered within the altar rails, were opened in the course of 1852. A relic of the churchyard cross, of early English date, is preserved in the chancel; the subjects carved on it are worthy of note. On one side is the Crucifixion, on the opposite the Virgin and Child, and on the two others figures of St. Peter and St. Paul. The west window of the aisle was a few years since erected and filled with stained glass of a very beautiful character, and many of the smaller windows have been lately restored, from the designs of Mr. Pugin.

Chapter the Twelfth.

THE MANUFACTURES OF BIRMINGHAM.

IT has been the fashion to claim for Birmingham the distinction of great antiquity as a manufacturing town. The evidence of this, however, is more fanciful than real. The

"fond" notion that the ancient Britons obtained from this town their swords and spears, and the scythe blades which armed their war-chariots, has no foundation in authentic history. The earliest mention of Birmingham, indeed, occurs in Leland's Itinerary, where it is affirmed that "there be many smithes in the towne, that used to make knives, and all manour of cutting tooles, and many lorimers that make bittes, and a great many naylors; so that a great part of the towne is maintained by smithes." In Elizabeth's days the reputation of Birmingham had become more widely diffused. "The place," says the old antiquary and topographer, "swarmes with inhabitants, and echoes with the noise of anvils." By Charles the First's days the manufacture of swords had been added to the trades of Birmingham. But it was not until the Restoration that the staple trade of gunmaking was added to the list; and at about the same time the so-called "toy" trade—the making of buttons, clasps, and ornaments of metal began to be practised. A recent writer on the progress of Birmingham says:—"Before the middle of the eighteenth century there were no manufactures in brass. Soon after these were established, glass-making was commenced. It was followed by papier-maché, then came jewellery, then steel pens, and so on by rapid strides the town accumulated in its workshops, either by creation or adoption, the numerous trades which have now become peculiarly its own. The first great impulse given to Birmingham was the substitution of coal for wood in the smelting of iron. The application of steam as a motive power was the most important step towards prosperity, although communities other than Birmingham have received most benefit from the steam-engine. When it was ascertained that a machine driven by steam would, with unerring certainty, and at wonderful speed, make a yard of calico or a ball of cotton, the multiplication of these products became a simple question of demand. If a manufacturer wanted to make more calico or more cotton, he had simply to set up more spindles, and he was at once enabled indefinitely to extend the amount of his production. Here the steam-engine was essential—it superseded all other motive power; the trader was able to estimate with certainty the exact measure

of assistance it could afford him; he could adjust his means to the designed end with mathematical accuracy. But in Birmingham steam machinery has never been more than an auxiliary force. In some trades it is still altogether dispensed with; in others it is able to do only a small portion of the work: in none does it altogether supersede skilled labour. Large numbers, probably the majority of Birmingham workmen, are employed in their own homes, or in little shops not large enough to hold more than four or five men. These artisans depend chiefly upon skilled hand labour; either they make parts of articles only, or if they find it necessary to have recourse to the aid of steam to facilitate their operations, they hire a room, through which a shaft, driven by steam power, is made to pass. The result of this arrangement is, that Birmingham in some measure disappoints the visitor, who expects to see huge factories like those of the north, their long plain fronts pierced with hundreds of windows, cold and hard by day, but at night emitting a thousand streams of light. There are, it is true, a few factories in Birmingham which may vie with any the world can show, but these are very few; and as we have previously said, the major portion of the work is performed in small shops, or not unfrequently in the garrets of houses. The stranger who desires to form an adequate idea of the industry of the great iron district should station himself on a dark night on the railway viaduct which rises itself above some of the business streets of the town. Beneath him, and seemingly for miles round, he will observe thousands of twinkling points of fire, indicating the spots where industrious artisans are engaged in fashioning articles of Birmingham manufacture. As he travels slowly into Staffordshire he will mark before him, and on every side, an endless range of houses and workshops, similarly illuminated, until he reaches the lofty hill crowned by the ruins of Dudley Castle, some seven miles distant. Standing on this hill, and looking over the great mineral basin which spreads out its ample breadth below, he will behold a sea of fire, leaping up from the countless pits and forges incessantly employed in yielding coal and ironstone, and in converting the latter into the metal which, under the hands of skilful artificers,

becomes to the labouring world more valuable than the finest gold. Fringing the edge of the great valley he will perceive a great band of light—the combination into one grand illumination of the tiny sparks that floated beneath and around the railway viaduct of Birmingham. Such a journey, and only such a journey, will enable a stranger to comprehend the vast extent of midland industry; to understand the gigantic labour bestowed on the conversion and adaptation of metals; and to estimate at its proper rate the immense benefit conferred upon England and upon the world by the skill and capital engaged in developing and manufacturing the exhaustless stores of mineral wealth which lie hidden under the coal and ironstone strata surrounding the midland metropolis." Birmingham has not unfrequently been called "the toy-shop of Europe." The title [says the writer just quoted] is somewhat of a misnomer. "Birmingham makes toys enough, no doubt; but they are intended for the rough hands of hard-working men; not to amuse the idle hours of laughing children. Her toys are the gun, the sword, the axe, the spade, the anvil, the steam-engine. Wherever *useful* work has to be done, wherever stubborn Nature needs to be subdued to the wants of man, wherever wild wastes are to be brought into blooming cultivation, or the bowels of the earth to be rifled of their rich and varied mineral treasures, *there* are to be found the toys of Birmingham—toys in producing which her hardy sons have sweated over the glowing forge, or toiled at the swift-revolving lathe, or wielded the ponderous hammer, or plied the sharp-biting file. In her early days Birmingham altogether lacked the graces with which she has since bedecked herself. To use the words of her sole historian Hutton, 'she was comparatively small in her size, homely in her person and coarse in her dress; her ornaments wholly of iron from her own forge.' The manufactures of Birmingham are now, however, dispersed over the whole world. Wherever commerce has been established, Birmingham has found a market for some, at least, of the infinite variety of her wares. In the luxurious capitals of Europe, in the vast empires of Asia, in the dense forests of Western America, in the boundless plains of Russia, in the thriving communities of Australia, in the farthest islands of

the Eastern and Western Oceans, Birmingham has supplied the ever-growing wants of man, civilized or savage. The Arab Sheikh eats his pillau with a Birmingham spoon, the Egyptian Pasha takes from a Birmingham tray his bowl of sherbet, or illumines his harem with glittering candelabra made of Birmingham glass, or decorates his yacht with cunningly-devised pictures painted by Birmingham workmen, on Birmingham *papier* maché. The American Indian provides himself with food, or defends himself in war by the unerring use of a Birmingham rifle; the luxurious Hindoo loads his table with Birmingham plate, and hangs in his saloon a handsome Birmingham lamp; the swift horsemen who scour the plains of South America, urge on their steeds with Birmingham spurs, and deck their gaudy jackets with Birmingham buttons. The negro labourer hacks down the sugar-cane with Birmingham matchetts, and presses the luscious juice into Birmingham vats and coolers. The dreamy German strikes a light for his everlasting pipe with a Birmingham steel on tinder carried in a Birmingham box. The emigrant cooks his frugal dinner in a Birmingham saucepan, over a Birmingham stove, and carries his little luxuries in tins stamped with the name of a Birmingham maker. But we need not continue the catalogue. It is impossible to move without finding traces of the great hive of metal workers—the veritable descendants of Tubal Cain. The palace and the cottage, the peasant and the prince, are alike indebted for necessaries, comforts, and luxuries, to the busy fingers of Birmingham men. The locks and bolts which fasten our doors, the bedsteads upon which we sleep, the cooking vessels in which our meals are prepared, the nails which hold our shoes together, the tips of our boot-laces, the metal tops of our inkstands, our curtain rods and cornices, the castors upon which our tables roll, our fenders and fire-irons, our drinking glasses and decanters, the pens with which we write, and much of the jewellery with which we adorn ourselves, are made at Birmingham. At home or abroad, sleeping or waking, walking or riding, in a carriage, or upon a railway or a steamboat, we cannot escape reminiscences of Birmingham. She haunts us from the cradle to the grave. She supplies us with the spoon that first brings our infant lips into acquaintance with 'pap,'

and she provides the dismal 'furniture' which is affixed to our coffins. In her turn, Birmingham lays the whole world under contribution for her materials. For her smiths and metal workers, and jewellers, wherever Nature has deposited stores of useful or precious metals, or has hidden glittering gems, there industrious miners are busily digging. Divers collect for her button-makers millions of rare and costly shells. For her, adventurous hunters rifle the buffalo of his wide-spreading horns, and the elephant of his ivory tusks. There is scarcely a product of any country or any climate that she does not gladly receive, and in return stamps with a new and richer value."

It is impossible to give in this chapter anything beyond the most general idea of the manufactures of Birmingham, especially so far as processes are concerned. Whoever desires to make himself acquainted with these points may do so, in the fullest degree, by consulting the volume entitled "The Resources, Products, and Industrial History of Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District." (The volume, published by Hardwicke, may be had at the establishment of Cornish Brothers, the publishers of this "Guide"). It was undertaken as a memorial of the visit of the British Association to Birmingham, in 1865, and under the editorial supervision of Mr. Samuel Timmins, many of the persons best acquainted with the manufactures of Birmingham and the district undertook to contribute the materials for the volume, the result being a collection of papers embracing all the varied forms of local industry. With such a record accessible, we need do no more than briefly sketch the leading features of local manufactures.

THE BRASS TRADE

Is one of the most important, perhaps *the* most important of Birmingham industries, and of late years it has made great advances. In 1831, for example, there were only 1,785 persons engaged in the trade; in 1851 this number (see census returns) had risen to 8,334, and is now (1867) estimated at 10,000. The extent of the Brass trade may be gathered from the following statement of the quantity of metal consumed in 1865, in the different branches of the trade:—

Metal	*Tons.*	*Value per Ton.* £ s.	*Total value.* £
Copper	19,000	86 0	1,634,000
Old Brass	5,000	60 13	303,333
Old Tubes	2,000	60 0	120,000
Old Metal	1,000	56 0	56,000
Spelter	11,000	21 12	237,600
Tin	200	94 0	18,800
Lead	100	19 0	1,925
Total	38,300		£2,371,658

These figures are taken from a paper by Mr. W. C. Aitken, in the volume above mentioned. The same authority gives the following enumeration of the different branches of the Brass trade, and the number of manufacturers engaged in them :—

1. General Brass Founders and Stampers	176
2. Bell and Cock Founders, &c.	39
3. Brass Candlestick Makers	14
4. Brass Casters	42
5. Curtain Ring Makers	4
6. Brass Nail Makers...	3
7. Rolled Brass and Wire	31
8. Tube Makers	20
9. Lamp Lustre and Chandelier Makers...	63
10. Gas Fitting Makers	25
11. Mediæval Brass Founders	4

The processes in use in the trade are casting, stamping, beating *(repoussé)*, riffling, chasing, burnishing, lacquering, and others too technical for explanation. Some of the brass founders have show-rooms which are open to the public, and it is not difficult to obtain permission to see the processes of manufacture, but there are few recognised "show places."

Amongst the principal works may be mentioned the following :—

The CAMBRIDGE STREET WORKS, and Rolling Mills of Messrs. R. W. WINFIELD AND SON, situated at the upper end of Great Charles Street, and is one of the largest manufactories in Birmingham. Here upwards of seven hundred workmen receive constant employment, and the order, regularity, and system preserved throughout are justly celebrated. The various processes in the manufactory are very interesting. Messrs. Winfield are the proprietors of the original patent for the construction of

Metallic Bedsteads. The department of the works connected with the production of the various articles in Gas Fittings is also interesting. The rapid progress of art applied to manufactures is at once obvious in the many beautiful lamps and chandeliers which adorn the show-room. Another department of these works is devoted to the production of articles for upholstery and general furnishing purposes, consisting of cornices, cornice ends, patent glass curtain bands, picture frames, china, and every description of mortise furniture, balustrade bars, pier and console tables, with marble and papier maché tops, hat, umbrella, and flower-stands, shop fronts, &c. Tubes, plain and ornamental, and wire of all kinds are also made here in large quantities, and stamped and general brass foundery of every description. The extensive and powerful rolling mill, formerly the property of the Union Rolling Mill Company, has been purchased, and now forms a part of the Cambridge Street Works. In this department of the works is carried on the new process for the ornamentation of metals by pressure, by which designs are introduced upon metal used by Electro-Plate and Britannia Metal workers, &c. The show-rooms are always open for inspection, and there is no difficulty in obtaining an order from Messrs. Winfield for admission into the manufactory. Attached to the works is a school, where between one and two hundred of the boys employed, also children of the workmen, receive instruction in various branches of useful knowledge. Mr. R. W. Winfield, for the superiority of his work displayed at the Great Exhibition, 1851, was of the few who in this district received a Council medal, he also had a medal awarded at the Exhibition, 1862.

The bedstead works of Messrs. PEYTON AND PEYTON, in Bordesley, are amongst the largest in the world, and are renowned for the excellence of their designs, and the high quality of their workmanship. There are many other makers of the same class of goods in the town and neighbourhood. Amongst them may be mentioned Messrs. TONKS AND SONS, Moseley Street; KEY AND HOSKINS, Bordesley, and Messrs. WHITFIELD AND SONS, of Oxford Street. The last named firm are also celebrated for the manufacture of iron safes, locks, &c.

In brass and bronze, although in a different but by no means

less interesting branch, the establishment of Messrs. HARDMAN and Co., Newhall Hill, is very prominent. There the manufacture of ecclesiastical and decorative metallic furnishings is carried on to a great extent. Ecclesiastical metal work is also made by Messrs. THOMASON AND BRAWN, and other manufacturers.

Another firm, where many interesting processes are carried on, is that of Messrs. MESSENGER AND SONS, Broad Street, the originators of a superior style of metal work founded upon the study of the antique. In connection with the celebrated architect, Bassevi, the gates of the Fitzwilliam Museum, at Cambridge, were produced; the metal-work of the staircase in Northumberland House, Strand, London, the Town Hall bracket, the gorgeous chandeliers, for St. George's Hall, Liverpool, and the chandelier for the Queen's summer-house, in Buckingham Palace Gardens, were all executed by Messrs. Messenger and Sons; and last, but by no means least, the fountain which now decorates our Market Hall—the only instance of a metallic artistic casting executed for the purpose, and by a manufacturer, which is in existence in England. In the show-rooms, which may be visited, will be seen, along with objects of a more useful kind, a great collection of small bronze and metal objects indicating the existence of true taste and feeling, as characterizing the present head of this establishment.

In CABINET BRASS FOUNDING, and STAMPED BRASS FOUNDERY, there are many eminent houses. One of the oldest established firms in this branch of trade is that of WILLIAM TONKS AND SONS, of Moseley Street Brass Foundry and Tube Works, who were awarded medals for the excellence of their workmanship at the three Great Exhibitions, London, 1851; Paris, 1855; and London, 1862. Their principal trade is the production of the multifarious articles of convenience and decoration in brass and iron, used about our houses and furniture, and as nearly every kind of metal-work is made on the premises, there is perhaps no establishment where the visitor may more conveniently see so many details of metal manufacture.

In connection with the brass trade may be mentioned the Mint, conducted by Messrs. Heaton, in Icknield Street, where many millions of coins are produced yearly, by powerful machi-

nery, including some of the presses formerly in use at the famous Soho Factory.

MANUFACTURES IN IRON AND STEEL.

The manufactures in iron are not in Birmingham so extensive as is generally imagined, although certainly they are carried on to a considerable extent. Most of the great works are situated at a little distance from the town.

The manufactory at SOHO WORKS is a most interesting spot, connected as it is with the labours and the memory of James Watt. Steam engines are still constructed to a great extent there; and the many processes connected with this branch of industry may be seen in perfection. For an account of what Soho was in its great days, the reader is referred to Mrs. Linder's Lives of Boulton and Watt, and to the volume of "Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District," in the paper entitled "The Trades of Birmingham," (p. 205) by the editor, Mr. S. Timmins.

Under the head of the Iron Trade may be mentioned the ROLLING MILLS of MR. CLIFFORD, Fazeley Street. The importance of reducing metals by means of rollers being understood—uniformity in thickness, solidity and the quickness by which these qualities are effected, all speak in favour of machinery. The rolling machines consist of two smooth iron cylinders, revolving at a certain distance from each other, which distance may, however, be increased or diminished, according to the thickness of the metal desired, and by dragging in the piece of metal offered to them by a man on one side, roll it to the desired thickness, and deliver it out to a person opposite. The metal is annealed at certain stages; this facilitates the progress, as passing between the rolls hardens the sheet, and makes it brittle. This method is applied to all kinds of metals as well as iron.

WIRE DRAWING comes also under this head. The largest Wire Mills, perhaps, in the world, are those of Messrs. WEBSTER AND HORSFALL, situated at Hay Mill, just beyond the borough boundary, on the Coventry Road. These mills are supplied with metal from the steel works of the same firm at Killamarsh, near Sheffield. All kinds of wire are made here; and some idea of the resources and of the reputation of the firm

may be gleaned from the fact that Messrs. Webster and Horsfall completed within twelve months the two thousand tons of steel wire required for use in the Atlantic Submarine Telegraph. Other large wire drawers are Messrs. Cornforth, Dartmouth Street; Mr. John Cornforth, Berkeley Street, &c.

Cut nails, of which, perhaps, 300 tons are made weekly in Birmingham, likewise come under this head; also screws of all kinds, fire-irons, fenders, grates, and all kinds of general iron-founding.

In regard to manufactures of steel we take the following from a paper by Mr. Timmins, in the volume previously mentioned: —"During the last century, Birmingham earned the famous name given it by Edmund Burke, 'the toy-shop' of Europe. This phrase has been generally misunderstood, for the word 'toy' has now acquired a different meaning, and had a special technical reference in the days of Edmund Burke. The 'toys' of Birmingham have always been the trinkets, as they would now be called, made in endless varieties, and formed from *steel*. They were not the toys of children, nor the toys of men, but that large class of wares made from steel or well hardened and well polished iron. The toy trade of Birmingham a century ago included even the buckles, the purse-mounts, the chatelaines, the brooches, the bracelets, and the endless varieties of steel watch chains, and other small wares in iron, or iron and steel. In our day the phrase still remains, but in a divided form. The *light steel toy trade* includes most of the articles just named, with the addition of key rings, key swivels, &c.; while the *heavy* steel toy trade is a misnomer, few of the goods being 'heavy,' very few all 'steel,' and none at all 'toys' in the modern sense of that word. A century ago, before gold was common, or silver comparatively cheap, steel goods for male and female use were highly fashionable: and the 'toy' trade of that age represented and anticipated the extent of the jewellery trade of the present time. Oddly enough, the revival has commenced, and Birmingham manufacturers are working up old buckles, studs, and other light steel ornaments which the revolution of the wheel of fickle fashion is bringing into favour again." The writer of this passage is himself the representative of the oldest

and largest firm of steel toy makers in Birmingham,—namely, Richard Timmins and Sons, Mark Lane, Pershore Street.

GLASS MANUFACTURE.

It is not above eighty-six years since glass making was introduced into Birmingham. At first the manufacture was on a very limited scale, but at the present time it has become one of the leading trades of the town, and Birmingham one of the principal seats of the trade. There are various kinds of glass made here. In window glass, optical glass, and lenticular lighthouse apparatus, the Messrs. CHANCE'S GLASS MANUFACTORY, Spon Lane, is the largest of its kind in Great Britain.

In the richer and more elaborate department of the glass trade, the establishment of Messrs. OSLER, Broad Street, stands pre-eminent. The chief portion of the articles manufactured and sold by them consist of glass chandeliers, candelabra, lustres, and the finer description of cut glass for the table; these, however, are of too great a variety to render a description of them practicable here. The Messrs. Osler are well known to the world as being the manufacturers of that pair of unique and beautiful crystal glass candelabra for the tomb of the Prophet, and for Ibrahim Pasha's palace at Cairo. From this exquisite specimen of workmanship, Messrs. Osler were commanded by H.R.H. Prince Albert, to manufacture a similar pair, on a smaller scale, for presentation to Her Majesty on her birthday, which are placed in Osborne House.

Messrs. Lloyd and Summerfield, Birmingham Heath, are large manufacturers of glass, both "pot metal" and "flashed," optical glass, and articles made of all kinds of glass.

Mr. Arculus, Etna Works, Broad-street, is also notable for the production of table glass.

Stained glass is most largely produced by Messrs. Hardman and Co., Newhall-street, where many of the finest windows known in England have been made, from designs by the late A. W. Pugin and by his son-in-law, Mr. J. Hardman Powell.

The production of glass in this town is estimated at about five million pounds weight annually. In Birmingham almost 900 workmen are employed at the furnaces, besides nearly 600 cutters, embossers, engravers, gilders, and painters. Only the

best quality of glass is made in Birmingham; the cheaper and commoner kind of "pressed" glass being produced chiefly in the North of England.

GUN AND SWORD MAKING.

For many years Birmingham has been the seat of manufacture of the instruments of warfare. In the time of Charles the First, as we have said, sword-making was one of the trades of the town; and it supplied the parliamentary army with no less than 15,000 sword blades in the course of the civil wars. It is now carried on to a considerable extent, but not nearly on so large a scale as formerly. The chief sword maker is Mr. C. REEVES, in Charlotte Street. Guns of all kinds, and naval and military ornaments, are produced by the same maker.

With regard to gun making, the current tradition is that the trade was founded in the time of William the Third. It was not, however, until the latter end of last century that it became a great trade. Then a gun every minute was produced—a fact scarcely credible, except when the minute subdivision of labour is considered. Every separate part of a gun forms a distinct branch of trade; and there are very few firms indeed on whose premises a complete piece is made. An idea of the progress of Birmingham gun-making may be gleaned from a few brief figures. Between 1804 and 1815, during the French war, 1,743,382 arms of all kinds (excluding swords) were made in Birmingham for the Board of Ordnance. So greatly had the capability of the trade since improved, that between December, 1854, and March, 1857, Birmingham supplied to the government 231,800 stand of arms, and in addition furnished about *one million* stand to other customers, the total make for the two years being 1,069,616! All the guns made in Birmingham, of whatever price, or quality as regards finish, are carefully "proved," that is, fired with double charges, at the Proof House, in Bambury Street, which is open to inspection on application. The manufacture of guns by machinery is now carried on at the Small Arms Factory, at Small Heath, an extensive building, erected by a Limited Liability Company, at the cost of £20,000, now employing 700 men, and stocked with the most perfect American and English machinery, procured at an enormous cost. Every

part of the process of gun making is effected in this establishment by the use of machinery, from the rough shaping of the "stocks" down to the final polish of the barrels. Amongst the private establishments, the largest are those of Messrs. COOPER AND GOODMAN, Woodcock Street; Messrs. SWINBURN AND SONS, Messrs. HOLLIS AND SONS, and Mr. TRANTER, St. Mary's Square; Messrs. TIPPING AND LAWDEN, Constitution Hill; Mr. W. L. SARGANT, Edmund Street; Mr. WILSON, Great Charles Street; Messrs. OSBORNE, Whittall Street; Messrs. MOORE AND HARRIS, Loveday Street; and Messrs. WESTLEY, RICHARDS AND CO., High Street, have a world-wide reputation for the manufacture both of military and the higher class of sporting guns. The number of manufacturers in different branches of the gun trade is close upon 600 (some of them are very "small" masters) and the total number of workmen employed is 7,340.

BUTTON MAKING.

When buttons began to be used no one can tell. They are, however, as old as Chaucer's day, although it was not for centuries afterwards that Birmingham made them. It is almost impossible to enumerate the materials from which buttons are now made. They are composed of brass, copper, steel, pewter, cloth, linen, glass, porcelain, pearl, bone, wood, horn, &c. The making of plain and fancy gilt buttons for gentlemen's dresses, which was so important a trade twenty years ago, has now entirely ceased, but metal buttons of various kinds are more or less required for military and other purposes, and the trade has received a recent revival by the demand for fancy buttons for ladies' dresses. Much ingenuity and taste is displayed in the production of these small articles, and the different processes they undergo are extremely interesting to an intelligent observer. All branches of the trade are extensively carried on at the manufactory of Messrs. HAMMOND, TURNER AND SONS, Snow Hill, one of the oldest establishments in the town, where all kinds of livery, club, and other metal buttons are also made, and where a large collection of the best dies and most artistic designs in these goods may be seen. The proprietors do not admit strangers, unless with a letter of introduction.

The florentine, or cloth button, which is now generally worn, was introduced about thirty years ago. Messrs. DAIN, WATTS, AND MANTON, of Regent Street; Messrs. ASTON, of St. Paul's Square; Mr. W. ASTON, Princess Street; Messrs. SMITH AND WRIGHT, Brearley Street West, are extensive manufacturers of metal, paper, cloth, and glass buttons, bell-fittings, and brass and gilt ornaments of various descriptions.

With respect to bone button making, and the conversion of the other materials we have named into the manufactured article, we should state, that in all the process is nearly identical, the only difference being in details, so that having witnessed the operations in one case, the principle regulating the manufacture of all other sorts of buttons is seen. The number of persons engaged in the button trade is about 6,000; namely, metal buttons, 1,200; covered or florentine, 1,500; pearl, 2,000; vegetable ivory, 700; other kinds, glass, horn, bone, wood, &c., 600. The French and Germans now compete very sharply with Birmingham in this trade.

PAPIER MACHE.

This trade had its origin here in the early part of the last century, and was first practised by Mr. CLAY, some of whose workmanship is still in existence. It is a very beautiful manufacture, and is practically confined to Birmingham. Recently the manufacture has been greatly extended, and sent out to all parts of the world. The establishment of Messrs. J. BETTRIDGE AND Co., late JENNENS AND BETTRIDGE, removed from Constitution Hill to Barr Street, St. George's, is the oldest in connection with this branch of manufacture. Amongst the numerous articles manufactured are tea trays, tables, sofas, cabinets, chairs, writing desks, folios, work boxes, dressing cases, &c., for the ornamentation of which Messrs. J. Bettridge and Co. have patented the inlaying of aluminum and its alloys. Messrs. Jennens and Bettridge have been patronized by royalty during the last three reigns, and have been visited by Her Majesty, H.R.H. Prince Albert, Emperor Louis Napoleon, Queen of Spain, the Duchess of Kent, and by almost every distinguished personage who has honoured our borough with their presence during the last half century. Messrs. MCCALLUM AND

HODSON, Summer Row, are also extensively engaged in this branch of trade.

GOLD, SILVER, AND ELECTRO-PLATE.

This, although a trade of comparatively recent introduction into Birmingham, has become one of the greatest staples of the town. Some idea may be formed of the extent of working in the precious metals in Birmingham, when it is stated that upwards of 3,000 ounces of gold, and more than 40,000 ounces of silver, are annually assayed at the Assay Office; and that many thousand ounces more are manufactured into small articles which are not subject to duty. To a limited extent the old system of solid hand-plating is still practised, but in ninety-nine cases in the hundred the electro process is adopted. Originally, the hand-plating was practised at Sheffield. It was introduced into Birmingham by Mr. Boulton, and carried on at Soho, and the articles produced there being of excellent quality, a large and important trade was by degrees created. This was further developed by Mr.—afterwards Sir Edward—Thomason, who was employed at Soho, but left Boulton and Watt, and set up his famous manufactory in Church Street (now G. R. Collis and Co.). By Sir Edward Thomason, and Messrs. Ryland and Waterhouse (a firm no longer existing), the manufacture of "solid" plating was carried to the highest pitch of excellence, and this was maintained until the introduction of *electro plating*.

The principal establishment in connection with electro-plating is that of Messrs. Elkington and Co., Newhall Street, where there is a magnificent series of show-rooms, always open to visitors. The firm employ about 1000 work-people, most of them skilled artisans. For a full description of the history and process of electro-plating, the reader is referred to other sources, and amongst them to the volume on the Industries of the Midland Hardware District, already mentioned. It must suffice to mention here that the first successful process of coating metals with a solution of gold, was discovered by Messrs. Elkington in 1836, and patented by them, both in England and France. The patent was most severely

contested in France, having been tried in a variety of forms before all the courts of law in succession, but the question was finally decided in favour of the patentees. The "Societé d'Encouragement" of arts and manufactures awarded their gold medal for this invention at an early period of the patent. Messrs. Elkington patented in 1840 the application of alkaline substances for the deposition of gold and silver in connection with an electric current, and without this change in the nature of the solutions no satisfactory deposit has, we believe, been yet obtained of either gold or silver. About the same time they also patented the same invention in France, and the "Academie de Sciences" awarded the Monthyon prize of 12,000 francs conjointly between Messrs. Elkington and M. de Ruolz; the latter gentleman having extended the application of the same kind of solutions to other metals, such as platinum, nickel, cobalt, &c. At the various exhibitions which have been held from time to time, this house has been eminently successful, taking the highest award given in every case—the "Council Medal" of "Hyde Park Exhibition, 1851," Gold Medals of New York and Dublin, and the gold "Grand Medal of Honour" of Paris, 1855, till at the last great Exhibition of 1862, their merit was acknowledged as beyond the province of Medals, Mr. Frederick Elkington being appointed a Juror. The Commissioners having, however, decided to present Medals to artists who had distinguished themselves, five medals only were awarded, two of which fell to the lot of artists in Messrs. Elkington's employ, with numerous others of minor importance. The whole of the electro-plated articles manufactured by Messrs. Elkington and Co., are produced from a metal which consists of an alloy of nickel, &c., the introduction of which is one of the most important improvements in connection with the manufacture, as the alloy is of greater hardness, while its colour approaches exceedingly close to that of silver. The articles exhibited in the show-rooms prove that the most beautiful plain surfaces, as well as every description of style, however elaborate, or whether embossed or engraved, can be produced with equal facility and success. One great feature in this establishment is the manufacture of bronzes, ranging in size and importance from colossal groups and figures, down to the smallest busts and statuettes.

No visitor to Birmingham should omit an inspection of this attractive place, which vies with the oldest and most wealthy establishments of its class, in the perfection of its models and designs, and its well-earned reputation for excellence of workmanship.

Other leading manufacturers in this trade may be mentioned, amongst them Messrs. Prime and Son, Messrs. Collis and Co., Messrs. Wilkinson and Co., Messrs. Cartwright and Woodward, and Messrs. Yates and Sons.

In connection with this trade should also be noticed the important works of Messrs. EVANS AND ASKIN, George Street, and Icknield Street. This firm is celebrated for its manufactures of nickel, German silver, and of cobalt. The metals it produces are largely consumed by the Birmingham and Sheffield manufacturers, and the cobalt is used throughout the Staffordshire potteries.

JEWELLERY.

The character and extent of this trade, so far as Birmingham is concerned, is greatly misunderstood. It is supposed that all the very cheap and bad jewellery is made in Birmingham, and all the best jewellery in London. This, however, is not the case, the truth being that a great quantity of the gold and silver jewellery sold in London, and a still greater proportion of the electro-plated jewellery, is made in Birmingham and supplied to London shopkeepers, either direct, or through the factors and merchants. It is quite true that very little Birmingham jewellery has been displayed at any of the great exhibitions, and this omission has assisted to foster the false impression already mentioned—the fact, however, being that the manufacturers could not exhibit in their own names without injuring themselves by coming into competition with their London customers. Within the last few years the trade has enormously increased, so much so that the whole of the St. Paul's quarter of the town seems to be almost entirely given up to the jewellers and kindred trades. The number of masters in

these trades is estimated at between 500 and 600; the number of workmen is given as follows:—

Jewellers proper	3,000
Silversmiths	1,000
Gold and silver chain makers	1,500
Gilt toy makers	1,000
Box-makers, die-sinkers, and subsidiary trades	1,000
	7,500

There are three descriptions of jewellery made in Birmingham—gold and silver, plated, and gilt toys; the last-named imitation gold, electro-plated. The total value of the gold annually consumed in Birmingham by the jewellers and kindred trades, is estimated at about £700,000, and the consumption of silver would probably bring up the total of the two metals to little short of £1,000,000, to which must be added another quarter of a million for the value of the precious stones and their imitations annually used.

Amongst the leading manufacturers are Messrs. Bragg, Vittoria Street; Messrs. Randel, Vittoria Street; Messrs. Aston and Sons, Regent Place; Mr. Goode, Regent Place; Mr. B. W. Goode, St. Paul's Square (gold chains), and Mr. B. Harris, Great Hampton Street (gilt toys). The St. Paul's and St. George's districts, however, literally swarm with jewellers, whose names and specialities must be sought in the directory.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN METALS.

STEEL PENS.—This trade had its origin here about 1829, the first pens being made by Mr. Joseph Gillott, whose name has since become so closely identified with the trade. Mr. Gillott's manufactory (Graham Street) is open to visitors on application. There are twelve steel pen makers in Birmingham. Messrs. Hinks and Wells, Buckingham Street; Mr. Mason, Lancaster Street; Mr. Mitchell, Newhall Street, and Cumberland Street; and Mr. Brandauer, New John Street West, being amongst the principal. The number of men employed in

the trade is 360, and of women and girls 2,050, besides whom a large number of box-makers, &c., are constantly engaged. The quantity of steel used weekly for the production of pens is about ten tons, and the number of pens made *weekly*, 98,000 *gross*, *i.e.*, that is 1,176,000 dozen, or 14,112,000 separate pens. Thus, in one year, pens enough are made in Birmingham almost to supply one pen to every existing member of the human race. The prices range from 12s. to 1½d. per gross. To quote a recent writer (from whom most of these facts are taken) when it is remembered that each gross requires 144 pieces of steel to go through at least twelve processes, the fact that 144 pens can be sold for 1½d. is a singular example of the results attainable by the division of labour and the perfection of mechanical skill."

PINS.—Pin making is an old Birmingham trade, and employs about 1000 hands. The processes are extremely ingenious, and are mainly carried on by machinery, which turns out in the course of a year pins by millions of grosses. The chief manufacturers are Messrs. Phipson, Edelsten and Williams, Iles, Edridge and Merrett, &c. Some of the pin makers unite with the trade the production of hooks and eyes, hair pins, and other small articles connected with the dress and the toilet.

SCREWS.—In 1819 the number of iron "wood" screws made in England was about 70,000 gross per week. At the present time about 130,000 gross per week are made in Birmingham, for which purpose 1600 persons are employed, and more than 5000 tons of wire consumed annually. The power and extent of the machinery used in the trade may be estimated from the fact that it is driven by engines of not less than 1000 horse-power. The principal manufacturers are Messrs. Nettlefold and Chamberlain.

IRON BEDSTEAD MAKING.—There are twenty manufacturers in this trade—Messrs. Peyton, Whitfield and Sons, Key and Hoskins, and Winfield, being amongst the chief. The trade gives employment to about 2500 persons, of whom half are boys and a considerable number girls and women. About 6000 sets of bedsteads are made weekly.

TUBE DRAWING is now one of the staple trades of Birmingham, and affords an excellent illustration of the power and ingenuity of the machinery employed in the town. The making

of articles in BRITANNIA METAL is also an important branch of manufacture; there are several manufactures of SADDLERY and HARNESS; and Lock Making (the famous Cotterill lock which baffled Mr. Hobbs is well known) and BELL Founding are also carried on; besides an infinite number of other industries, which it is quite impossible even to glance at.

One or two recently introduced trades may, however, be mentioned. Amongst them is the manufacture of WIRE ROPE, and of wire and hemp rope united, by Messrs. John and Edwin Wright, Garrison Street, the patentees of the mode of construction adopted in the Atlantic Telegraph Cable. Both here and at their works at Millwall (London), the two united being probably the largest establishment of the kind in the world, the whole process may be seen of preparing and spinning hemp by machinery, and the manufacture of ropes and twine in all their branches.

Under the same heading may be noticed the manufacture of ENAMELLED IRON, carried on at the works of Mr. Benjamin Baugh, 288, Bradford Street, forms an entirely new feature in the multitudinous productions of the "World's Workshop." The wrought iron sheets being coated with a hard silicious enamel, with which they are amalgamated by fusion, present a surface entirely incorrodible, and upon which devices are produced in colours capable of withstanding the effects of the most severe temperatures. A glance at the advertising pages will give an idea of the purposes for which this material has been employed, but the application is unlimited and new adaptations are constantly being made. The latest is an enamelled iron medallion for brooches, card-cases, caskets, &c.

References to some of the leading manufacturers in the various branches of trade above mentioned will be found in the "Directory to the Manufactories" appended to this Guide. Others may be ascertained by reference to the ordinary street or trade Directories, which may be obtained of Messrs. Cornish Brothers, 37, New Street, the publishers of the Guide.

Chapter the Fourteenth.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

IN former editions of this guide, short biographical notices of eminent persons formerly connected with Birmingham, have appeared in the shape of notes. We have now thought it better to bring them together in one place, and to make one or two additions to them.

BASKERVILLE.—John Baskerville, whose name is associated with those of Fournier, Breitkopt, Bodini, Didot, &c., as one of the true restorers of typographic art, was so long and intimately associated with Birmingham, that our readers will excuse our devoting some space to a notice of the operations of his genius, and of the singular character of the man, as manifested in his pursuits and habits of life. Baskerville was born at Wolverly, in Worcestershire, in 1706. It is said that at an early age he was apprenticed to a stone-cutter; but, if the fact be so, he did not long continue in that employment, as we find him in Birmingham, still a youth, teaching writing in the Bull Ring. He was skilled in design, and had an exquisite taste; and, deserting caligraphy, he devoted himself to the manufacture of *papier-maché* trays, of which, if not the inventor, he was one of the earliest to apply to useful purposes. The business of japanning prospered under his hands; and, in 1745, he took a lease of several acres of ground at Easy Hill, and built a mansion, admirably furnished—a spot which is now crowded with workshops, and the house itself a manufactory. Literature and the fine arts found in him a devotee, and, fired by the success of Caslon in the production of types, he resolved to rival, if not to surpass, the efforts of that celebrated founder. In this he succeeded—but it was at the expense of a fortune. So fastidious was his taste, that it is said he spent £600 before he produced one letter to please himself. He printed various works, amongst which his great Bible stands prominent. All of them are

characterised by great beauty. Dr. Dibdin says, "such elegance, freedom, and perfect symmetry are in vain to be looked for among the specimens of Aldus and Colonæus." His talents and exertions became generally recognised, and his growing reputation was such as to bring round him, as friends, Shenstone and Dodsley, Benj. Franklin and Dr. Kippis, Mr. Derrick, and many other contemporary *litterateurs*. But his printing speculations turned out unfortunate, from various causes; and he writes to Horace Walpole, in a bitterly sorrowful letter, that he wished to withdraw from the business of printing, "which," he says, "I am heartily tired of, and repent I ever attempted." He died not long after, on January the 8th, 1775, at the age of 69, leaving the greater part of his fortune, which amounted to about £12,000, to his widow, and £500 for the erection of a Protestant Dissenting Charity School. He had singular notions with regard to religion, and before he died had fitted up what had at one time been a windmill, situated in his garden, as his last resting-place, placing on the top of it an urn with this inscription:—"Stranger! beneath this stone, in unconsecrated ground, a friend to the liberties of mankind directed his body to be inurned. May the example contribute to emancipate thy mind from the fears of superstition and the wicked arts of priestcraft." There accordingly, he was laid; and sixteen years after, when rioting disgraced the town, this mausoleum was destroyed, and not a stone was left to tell of the spot where his ashes lay. In 1821, however, the body was discovered, while the workmen were employed in constructing the canal. It was still in excellent preservation; and was finally deposited in a catacomb under Christ Church. After his death his widow endeavoured to dispose of his types, but unsuccessfully; and ultimately they were purchased by a literary association in Paris for £3,700, for the purpose of printing a magnificent edition of Voltaire, under the editorial care of Beaumarchais.

WATT AND BOULTON.—Of JAMES WATT it is almost unnecessary to speak. His name is "familiar as a household word." He was born in Greenock in January, 1736, and settled in Birmingham as the partner of Matthew Boulton in 1774. He remained in Birmingham the centre of a distinguished scientific circle, and continually inventing until he died, full of

years and honours, in August, 1819. He lies buried in Handsworth old church, where, within a chapel, is placed a noble statue of this great man from the chisel of Chantrey. MATTHEW BOULTON, a man of wealth and great commercial enterprise, was born in Birmingham in September, 1728. He brought round him at Soho some of the most remarkable men of his day, and when he died in August, 1809, honours had been bestowed upon him by nearly every European potentate in estimation of his manufacturing labours. He also was buried in Handsworth old church, and upon his monument is a bust from the hand of his friend Flaxman. WILLIAM MURDOCH, a Scotchman, born in 1754, was employed at Soho. He constructed the first locomotive engine, and invented gas lighting. He died in November, 1839, and was also interred in Handsworth church. FRANCIS EGGINGTON was another Birmingham worker at Soho, and from his hand came some of the most gorgeous stained glass to be seen in English palaces and cathedrals, and in some foreign churches.

PRIESTLEY.—To Joseph Priestley the world of science owes many obligations, and as a theologian, irrespective of his peculiar religious convictions, of which this is no place to express an opinion, he occupies a high place. He was born at Birstal-Fieldhead, near Leeds, on the 13th of March, 1733. He was educated as a Calvinistic Dissenter, but at an early period a change took place in his religious convictions, and he embraced the doctrines of Unitarianism. While only in his 22nd year, he was appointed minister of an Independent congregation in Suffolk. After various ministerial engagements, during which he had published several philosophical works, he accepted the office of librarian to the Earl of Shelbourne, in which situation he contributed greatly by his discoveries to the knowledge of chemical science, and was frequently eulogised by the Royal Society. After a residence with the Earl for seven years, their connection ceased: Priestley retiring to Birmingham, with an annuity of £150 per annum. He became minister of the New Meeting congregation, and while diligently attending to his ministrations, pursued his literary and scientific occupations with undiminished vigour. The boldness of his religious opinions, the liberality of his political principles, and his theologi-

cal controversies, embittered the public feeling against him, and the consequence was the riots, in which he was only one of the sufferers. After leaving Birmingham, he occupied the pulpit of Dr. Price, at Hackney. During his residence in London, addresses from all parts of this country, and from France, poured in upon him; but they only provoked attack. Dr. Priestley felt he was a marked man, and resolved to leave England for a tranquil life across the Atlantic. He sailed in 1794 for America, and took up his residence in Philadelphia, where he was offered a professorship, which, however, he declined. There he lived, peacefully descending the hill of life, in the midst of his family, until the 8th of February, 1804. He died on that day, aged 71.

HUTTON.—William Hutton, the first historian of Birmingham, is a striking illustration of what may be accomplished by a strong mind and indomitable perseverance. He was born at Derby, of parents in humble circumstances, on the 30th of September, 1723. At seven years of age he was sent to work at a silk mill in his native town, where he was employed for some years, and was then apprenticed to his uncle, a stocking maker at Nottingham. It did not, however, suit his inclinations, and he ran off to Birmingham, but was compelled to return by distress. Stocking making, however, he had resolved to abandon, and accordingly, in 1746, he purchased a broken-down press, and taught himself bookbinding. He endured many hardships, but toiled on hopefully and patiently, and in 1750, took the lesser half of a little shop here, at the rent of 1*s.* a week, and furnished it with a small supply of books. His humble shop and pitiful little handful of stock were looked upon with contempt, and for two years he was the object of suspicion to the overseers, under the idea that he would become chargeable to the parish. At this time 5*s.* a-week covered all his expenses, and at the end of the first year he had saved £20. From that time success crowned all his efforts. There was scarce an honorary office in the town that he did not fill, and he became a rich man, notwithstanding the losses he sustained in the riots. During his long life he published many amusing and popular works, the chief of which, however, is his "History of Birmingham,"—faulty, it is true, in many respects, but still the

standard history of the town. This man, of whom it has been said, "that in many particulars of energy, perseverance, and prudence, he deserves to be called the English Franklin," died here on the 20th of September, 1814, a few days before the completion of his 92nd year.

ELKINGTON.—George Richards Elkington was born on the 17th of October, 1801, at St. Paul's Square, Birmingham. He was the patentee of the electro-plating and gilding processes, which he introduced commercially in the year 1840, and so rapid was the application of the principle to the manufacture of all kinds of articles, that from the small beginning of perhaps a score of persons employed by Mr. Elkington in the first instance, the firm which he founded now employ upwards of 1,000 persons, and the trade has become one of the most important in his native town, where he may thus be said to have been the founder of an entirely new branch of industry, giving employment, directly and indirectly, throughout the United Kingdom, to probably not less than 10,000 persons. His great enterprise and good taste have no doubt largely conduced to place the products of his works in the high estimation in which they are universally held. He was an extensive exhibitor at all the great international exhibitions, and never failed to carry off a large share of the medals and rewards that were obtainable. Though always desirous of encouraging native talent in all branches of his trades, he was still obliged to admit that in designing and modelling, this country has still much to learn from the French, and he has, consequently, always employed both French and English artists in those departments. He was well known to be always ready to adopt any improvements in machinery—so much so, that any new methods of accomplishing any of his processes of manufacture, were generally at once offered to him by the inventors, and his works at Birmingham now comprise all the leading improvements, and are among the standard attractions of his native town. He was also extensively engaged in copper smelting and coal mining operations in South Wales, employing several hundred workpeople, which businesses, as well as those carried on by him in Birmingham and London, in connection with which he was more generally known, will now be continued by his sons. His kindness of

manner, just dealing, and unostentatious liberality, were proverbial, and his death has been universally regretted. His death was caused by paralysis, and took place at his residence, Pool Park, Denbighshire, on the 22nd of September last.—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

THE END.

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CORNISH BROTHERS, PRINTERS, BIRMINGHAM.