

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF
Her Majesty Queen Victoria.



Imperial and Local Progress of Sixty Years,
1837-1897.

ALTRINCHAM & BOWDON GUARDIAN SUPPLEMENT. 2nd Edition.

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The Queen's Life.

1837.



" May children of our children say,
' She wrought her people lasting good
' Her court was pure ; her life serene ;
God gave her peace; her land
reposed ;
A thousand claims to reverence
closed
In her as Mother, Wife, and Queen,' "

wrote Tennyson in 1851, of the monarch who had then been Queen of England for fourteen years, and who was destined to

rule the nation for a period unprecedented in history, either in point of length or of progress in almost every direction. Although, as a ruler or as a woman, Her Majesty cannot be said to have experienced perfect peace, and although her land cannot be said to have enjoyed uninterrupted repose, the prophecy of the Poet has been fulfilled in the course of time in a marked degree.

The Queen's Father and Mother.

The Queen was born at Kensington Palace on the 24th May, 1819, and is therefore just 78 years of age. Her father was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George III., and her mother Princess Victoria, daughter of the Duke Franz of Saxe-Coburg, and widow of Emich Karl, Prince of Leiningen. The Duke of Kent was 51 years of age when he was married, but he was a tall, stately man of soldierly bearing, and, in spite of baldness, might still have been called a handsome man. The Duchess, who was nineteen years his junior, was of middle height, of good figure, she had fine brown eyes and hair, and was altogether most charming and attractive. When the Princess

was born the Duke, Dr. Rudge tells us, was in raptures, for though there were several who stood between him and the throne, he was tolerably sure that the child would become Queen of England. He often said to those about him, " Take care of her, for she will be England's Queen." On one

occasion the fond father said to a bishop who was handling the Royal baby rather awkwardly, " Don't drop her; you might spoil a queen." The Duke died in 1820, before the Princess was a year old, through a chill brought on by hastening to the nursery before taking off his damp clothing, and George IV. and his brothers having no issue, Princess Victoria became heir-presumptive and, as we now know, the sixth English sovereign of the House of Hanover.

1897.



" Wept to wear a Crown."

The month after Princess Victoria became 18 years of age—on the 20th June, 1837—William IV. died at Windsor Castle, and the news was conveyed to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had administered the last rites of the Church to the dying king, and the Lord Chamberlain. Her first acts on learning that she was Queen of England form the keynote to her character during the long period it has been our good fortune to own her as Sovereign. She forthwith knelt with the Archbishop and implored his prayers in her behalf. Then her warm heart prompted her to write an affectionate letter of condolence to her aunt, whom she addressed as " Her Majesty the Queen," for, as she explained to her



From a photograph}

THE QUEEN AT HOME.

[By Mary Steen.

mother, she did not wish to be " the first to remind Aunt Adelaide of the change in her style." One writer says that upon this address being noticed the remark, " Your Majesty, *you* are Queen of England," was made, and the Queen replied, " But the widowed Queen is not to be reminded of the fact first by me." The Queen visited " Aunt Adelaide" at Windsor, and directed that the flag, flying half-mast in honour of the late King, should not be drawn up on her arrival. When she met her Lords in Council, Her Majesty declared that this awful responsibility was imposed upon her so suddenly and at so early an age, that " I should feel myself utterly oppressed by the burden were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it." On June 21st, the Proclamation was made and, in the midst of all the pomp surrounding the proceedings, the " awful responsibility " that had been cast upon her, and the sorrow that had been occasioned others by the hand of death that had brought her into her position were still dividing her thoughts. These thoughts moved her to tears—the first of the many she has wept during the many periods of sorrow she and her people have since experienced.



QUEEN VICTORIA IN HER SEVENTH YEAR.

A Queen " who wept to wear a Crown " inspired Mrs. Browning to write a poem on " Victoria's Tears," which time has proved to be literally true, and the concluding verse of which will find an echo in every English heart to-day :—

God bless thee, weeping Queen,
With blessing more divine!
And fill with happier love than earth's,
That tender heart of thine !
That when the thrones of earth shall be
As low as graves brought down ;
A pierced hand may give to thee
The crown which angels shout to see !
Thou wilt not *weep*,
To wear that heavenly crown

With the accession of Queen Victoria ended the union of England and Hanover under the same sovereign, Hanover passing to the next male heir, Ernest, Duke of Cumberland. The Queen was proclaimed as Alexandrina Victoria, but in the official papers that she had to sign she styled herself simply Victoria.

The Coronation.

The Coronation took place on the 28th June, 1838, in Westminster Abbey, and the event created such great interest and had been looked forward to with

such keen anticipation that when the great day did arrive it was said that the people had become " coronation mad." There was great demand for all kinds of accommodation in London, and it is interesting—in view of what is taking place in the metropolis at the present time—to know that in those days even the highest noblemen were tempted to let their houses, one receiving so much as £1,600 for his for three days.



STATUE OF THE QUEEN IN HER CORONATION ROBES.



THE QUEEN AT HER CORONATION.



THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

The Queen as a Wife.

The Queen married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg in February, 1840, in St. James' Palace Chapel. When asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury whether the word "obey" was to be omitted from the marriage service in this particular instance, Her Majesty's reply was "My lord, omit nothing; I wish to be married as a woman, not as a queen."

The Prince had many prejudices to fight down in the country before he became so popular, and established privileges in the household made him feel that he was only a husband and not a master. The Queen did all she could to make his position less difficult. When she was told that she ought to be head of her household, as well as of the State, her husband being but one of her subjects, her reply was that she had solemnly engaged to love, honour, and obey her husband, and this sacred obligation she could consent "neither to limit nor refine away." She writes of the Prince as "my inestimable husband and friend—my all-in-all." The Prince, on his part, was also very affectionate towards the Queen; and both were tenderly solicitous for the proper education and general well-being of their children. A loving and exemplary married life was terminated in 1861 by the Prince's death.

Amid the gloom of the death-chamber of the Prince Consort there are beautiful gleams of light both from earthly affection and heavenly love—the fond recognition of the Queen, even to the last moments, as his *Gutes Frauchen* and *Liebes Frauchen*—(his good and dear little wife)—and his repeating frequently lines of the hymn of Toplady—"Rock of Ages." The end came just after the castle-clock chimed the third quarter after ten; calm and peaceful grew the beloved form; the features settled into the beauty of a perfectly serene

repose; two or three long but gentle breaths were drawn; and that great soul had fled to seek a nobler scope for its aspirations in the world within the veil, for which it had often yearned. His remains rest in the Royal Mausoleum, at Frogmore. It is a lovely spot, and it is the intention of the Queen that her body is to rest beside that of her husband.

The same year witnessed the death of the Queen's mother. All "seemed dead" to Her Majesty, but she said "I will not shrink from duty." How nobly she has carried out her promise is well known. The result of the happy union has been that the succession to the Crown has been assured, and the misgivings on this point that have previously given cause for alarm have been laid at rest.

The Queen's Family.

During her twenty-two years of married life the Queen had nine children. Up to the present there have been 79 children, grand-children, and great grand-children, of whom only nine are dead. The heir-apparent is the Prince of Wales, whose son, the Duke of York, has three children. The oldest of these, Prince Edward of York, is just three years of age. The size of the Queen's family is equalled by the important part its members are playing in the different Courts of the world. The Queen's eldest daughter is the Dowager German Empress, and her grandson is the Emperor of Germany. Her second son, the Duke of Edinburgh, is the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. A grand-daughter is the Czarina of Russia. Counting Her Majesty's cousins and their descendants, it is computed that the Royal family numbers not less than 230.



STATUE OF THE PRINCE CONSORT AT BALMORAL.



THE QUEEN AT THE AGE OF FOUR.

The Soldier and the Queen,

The first public act of the Queen in England, after her bereavement, was a visit to Netley Hospital, near Southampton.



THE QUEEN'S ITALIAN SPITZ DOG.

In one ward she found a veteran Irish soldier from India lying at the point of death. After the Queen had spoken most kindly to him, he said—"I thank God that He has allowed me to live long enough to see your Majesty with my own eyes!" The Queen and Princess Alice were profoundly touched, for the words came from the very heart of the dying soldier.

Country Life and the Queen.

"The Prince, with his healthy home tastes, disliked the smoke and turmoil and late hours of London. As early as 1840 I told Albert that formerly I was happy to go to London, and wretched to leave it; but now, since the blessed hour of my marriage, I dislike and am un-

happy to leave the country, and could be content and happy never to go to town. The solid pleasures of a peaceful, quiet, yet merry life in the country, with my inestimable husband and friend, are far more durable than the amusements of London, though we do not despise or dislike them sometimes."—

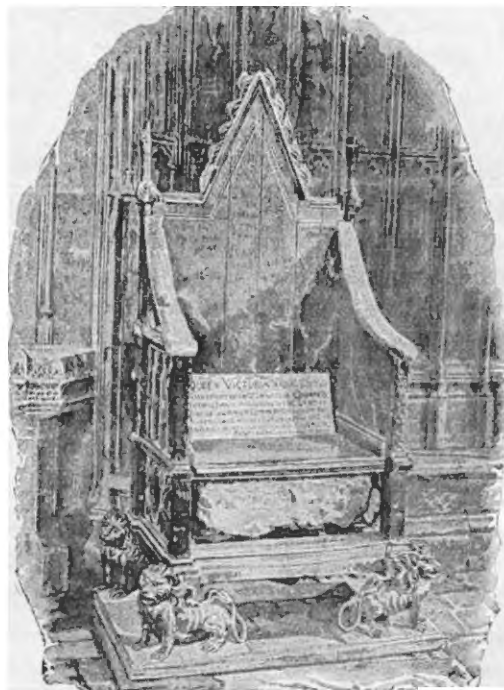
Victoria.



THE QUEEN'S PUG.

The Sympathy of the Queen.

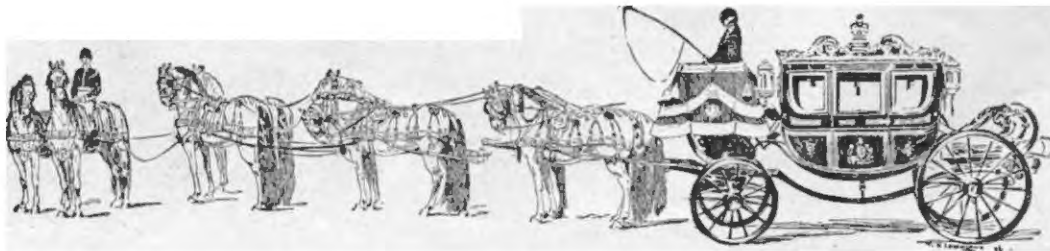
"The first time we saw the Queen was at Westminster Abbey at her Coronation; the last time was in the same Abbey, but on a far different occasion: the mother and her daughters—had come to join in the solemnities of Lady Augusta Stanley's funeral. There they sat in the Dean's old gallery, nearly opposite where we sat nearly forty years before; but she sat there not as Queen so much as friend and sister; she was present to pay the last tribute of affection to one worthy of her love. And when all was over, we caught a glimpse of her



THE CORONATION CHAIR IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

leaning on the arm of the bereaved Dean as he conducted her to her carriage, and saw the noble lady take leave of her sorrowing subject and friend as he fervently kissed her outstretched hand. May she long live, not only to reign over her wide dominions, but

with a sympathetic heart still to weep with them that weep, and to rejoice with them that rejoice."—*Dr. Stoughion.*



THE QUEEN'S CREAM-COLOURED HORSES AND STATE CARRIAGE.

The Queen's Reign.

Comparisons with other Reigns.

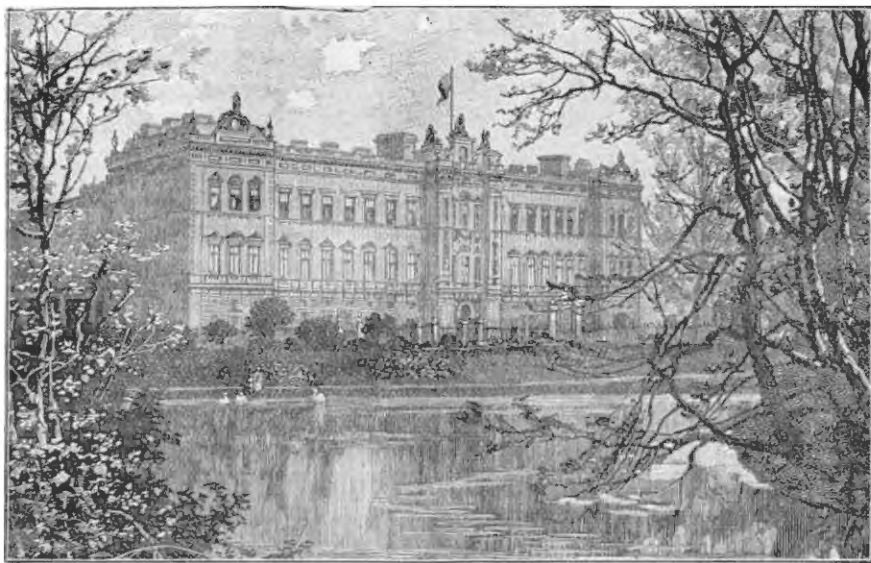
It is interesting to compare the Queen's record with the records of other sovereigns of this and foreign countries. To take the Question of length of reign first, we find that

There have been five queens of England—Mary I., Elizabeth, Mary II., Anne, and Victoria, whose combined reigns will compare to advantage with the reigns of any five kings selected from our history.

The Progress of the Reign,

A glance at the state of the country immediately before Her Majesty ascended the throne is most convincing of the enormous, if gradual, improvement that has taken place in the conditions under which we live. The year of Waterloo, 1815, although it witnessed the best of our military achievements, left the nation feverish and exhausted. Taxation was heavy, and the twenty-two years warfare with France had been instrumental in adding over £600,000,000 to the National Debt, which at length stood, when peace was declared, at £861,000,000, which represented an annual charge upon the country of £32,600,000. English industry had overstocked the markets of the world, and this fact, combined with the sudden return of the men who had been engaged abroad, rendered the chances of employment very doubtful. Over and above this, Green tells us,

"The scarcity caused by a series of bad harvests was intensified by the selfish legislation of the landowners in Parliament. Conscious that the prosperity of English agriculture was merely factitious, and rested on the high price of corn produced by the war, they prohibited by Act passed in



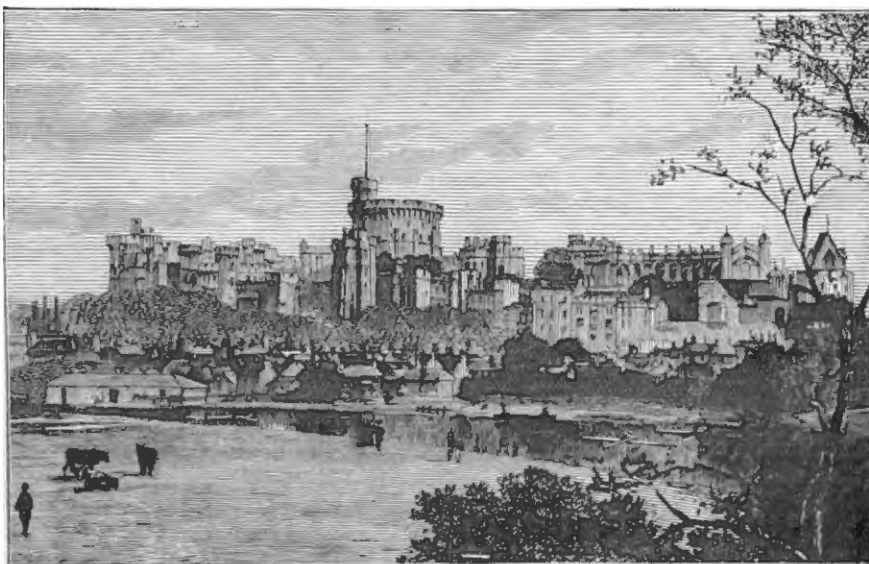
BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

of European monarchs only one has reigned longer—Louis XIV., who reigned 72 years, but a regency really reduced this period to 54 years. Louis XV. reigned 59 years. Other long reigns were:—Frederick the Great, the Prussian Emperor, 46 years; Frederick the Third, 43 years; Peter the Great, 36 years; Catherine II., 34 years; Gustavus Vasa, 37 years.

Of English sovereigns, Henry III. ruled 56 years; Edward III., 50 years; Elizabeth, 44 years; Henry VIII., 38 years; George II., 33 years; and George III., 59 years and 96 days.

The Queen has outlived all the sovereigns who were reigning when she was called to the throne. During her reign there have been five sovereigns of Prussia, four of Russia, Denmark, Spain, and Portugal. There have also been four Sultans of Turkey, three Popes; two Kings, one Emperor, and six Presidents of France, and two sovereigns of Austria and of Belgium.

Only one living sovereign, the King of Denmark, is older than Queen Victoria; he is 79, and has reigned 34 years.



WINDSOR CASTLE.

1815, the introduction of foreign corn till wheat had reached famine prices. The distress of the rural poor brought about a rapid increase of crime, while the opposition of the Government created a dangerous irritation, which brought to the front men whose demand of a 'radical reform' in English institutions won them the name of Radicals, and drove the more violent agitators into treasonable disaffection and silly plots."

By 1831, the year after William IV. succeeded George IV., the cause of reform, which has since maintained its sway, had asserted itself in the shape of a Bill which took away the right of representation from 56 rotten boroughs, gave 143 seats thus gained to counties or important towns which had no members, established a £10 householder qualification for voters in boroughs, and extended the county

franchise to leaseholders and copyholders. The Bill was rejected by the Lords, but an appeal to the country resulted so decisively in favour of the measure that in June, 1832, the Peers allowed it to become law.

In 1839 discontent created riotous demands for the People's Charter, which embraced universal suffrage, vote by ballot, annual Parliaments, equal electoral districts, the abolition of all property qualification for members, and payment for their services. Some of these demands have been met, some partly met, and some still remain with us as unsettled questions. In 1867, the borough franchise was extended to all ratepayers, as well as to lodgers occupying rooms of the value of £10 a year; the county franchise was fixed at £12, English boroughs lost 33 more members, 25 of the seats being transferred to English counties, and the remainder to Scotland and Ireland. In 1872 voting by ballot was conceded, and this and the measures which were passed with a view to putting down bribery at elections, completed the work begun by the abolition of the rotten constituencies, and had the effect of

effectually stamping out the last vestiges of corruption that had disgraced our electoral system. In 1884 the household suffrage was extended to the counties, and the re-distribution

of seats which followed this extended franchise divided* the country into more uniform divisions than formerly,

Side by side with Parliamentary reform many measures tending towards the betterment of the conditions of life have been successfully brought forward. The repeal of the corn laws, the establishment of Free Trade, and the subsequent

abolition of duties upon almost everything, besides giving a great stimulus to trade, brought down prices to the great benefit of the working classes. Compulsory education was established at so late a date as the year 1870, when the Elementary Education Act came into existence and placed upon ratepayers the duty of providing the necessary school accommodation in all districts where voluntary effort failed to supply it. Free education followed

later. We know what a transformation the education of the masses has brought about—it has perhaps been the greatest of the motive powers that have assisted in the levelling-up process witnessed this century. The temperance-movement, which dates back a little further than the Queen's accession, and which has been backed up where practicable by legislative action, has also been a power in the land, for if it has not convinced the majority of the wisdom of total abstinence it has made drunkenness the reverse of respectable. Better education and increased sobriety have resulted in a diminution of crime and a distinct gain both to the nation and the individual. Crime, in its turn, is dealt with more humanely, and a more

merciful administration of an improved set of laws has been accompanied by a striking decrease in the number of evil-doers.

If women have not got the Parliamentary vote they have much to be thankful for in respect of their changed condition. Their education has been attended to; they have gradually broken down the barriers that limited their sphere of labour to narrow bounds. They now have the entree to almost all the profes-

sions formerly monopolised by men. They have obtained certain rights from Parliament which have placed them on a better footing than ever before. The Married Women's



OSBORNE.



BALMORAL

Property Act came into operation in 1883. The latest Act passed in their behalf provides better means of protection against brutal husbands. Children, too, have claimed attention, for in addition to regulating child employment with a stern hand, Parliament has been even more severe upon the inhuman class of parents or guardians who cause their young charges any unnecessary suffering. We have been given greater religious freedom and a free press, the poor are more humanely treated, and we have extended powers of Local Government by means of County Councils, District Councils, and Parish Councils, which have finally given the people the control of their own affairs. Increase of population has been accompanied by a necessary and highly beneficent advance in sanitary science and legislation. We are, consequently, better housed, and the general health was never in so perfect a state. The systematic war that has been made upon what are termed preventable diseases has been followed by a very marked decrease in the death rate.

Many have been the discoveries, inventions, and developments that have been made. The railway train was practically a toy when the Queen ascended the throne, and the development of the great systems that we now know has contributed more than anything else to build

up the enormous and growing trade of the country. Steam and the electric telegraph and telephone between them have annihilated space, and have brought the remotest portions of the country and of the Empire into the closest touch. It seems scarcely credible that at so recent a date as the Queen's accession we were dependent upon the wind to waft us our merchandise and our news from abroad into our seaports. The penny postage, which dates from the third year of the Queen's reign, has supplemented the

work of the railways in providing a means of communication, the non-existence of which we could not imagine as possible in these days of luxuries. At the present day the number of letters delivered each year in the United Kingdom is so large as not to be comprehended, viz., 1,834,000,000. Other work done by the Post Office—the increased facilities given for sending newspapers, books, parcels, money—has all had in view the convenience of the public.

In 1837 the United Kingdom had a population of under 26,000,000; at the last census the figure stood at 37,797,013.

The estimated population in 1896 was 39,465,720. In England and Wales in 1841 the population was 15,914,148; in 1891 it was 29,002,525. Besides the growth of our home population we have to take into account the emigration that has gone on during the reign to our Colonies and other parts of the world. There was very little emigration prior to 1815, in which year only 2,081 persons left our shores to find homes in distant lands. Between 1815 and 1895, 14,250,860 left. Although the United States has drawn away the greater share of these emigrants, our Colonies have provided homes for our surplus population to a very large extent, and have besides opened out new spheres for the exercise of British genius in innumerable directions. How vast



From Photo. by]

[Russell & Son, 17, Baker Street, W.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

has been the expansion of our Empire during the last sixty years a glance at a map will show the most casual observer, an expansion due as much to our trading habits and faculty for settlement as to conquest. In overcrowded Europe alone do we stand as we were. In fact, here our meagre possessions have been recently reduced by the handing over of Heligoland to Germany. In Asia our possessions have been extended enormously, notably in India—where the Queen is now acknowledged as Empress—and

Burmah. In 1837 the map of inland Africa was practically a blank; to-day it is marked out and divided among most of the civilized nations, and the Union Jack floats over some of the largest and wealthiest portions. On the American Continent, North and South, we are practically as we were sixty years ago—that is, we still own something less than half of the North—the Dominion of Canada—where some of the most loyal of the citizens of Greater Britain are to be found. In the South our possessions were not and still are not very extensive. Australia, like Africa, has been developed almost as a whole, but, unlike Africa, the whole in this instance has gone to England, along with innumerable islands. We now have an Empire thrice the size of Europe, with treble the population of all the Russias, or, put another way, we own one-fifth of the globe, and the territory acknowledging our Queen as Sovereign contains 350 millions of people, or over one-fifth of the entire human race.

We have the most powerful navy the world has ever seen, and an army, if small, competent and untainted by conscription to defend this Empire which the energy of the genius of the race has built up and consolidated. Then again our commercial navy in 1837 numbered 20,500 vessels with a total tonnage of 2,333,000, with very few steamships. The number of vessels has decreased because their size individually has increased. Latest statistics give the aggregate tonnage of the shipping of the Empire for the year as over 13,250,000 tons.

A mere list of the famous names of the reign would be a

sufficient indication of the great place the period will occupy in history. Science gives us Lyell, Darwin, Herbert Spencer, Faraday, Huxley; Discovery and Invention, Franklin,

Livingstone, George Stephenson, Robert Stephenson; Philosophy, John Stuart Mill, Fawcett, Carlyle; Heroes, Lawrence, Havelock, Campbell, Outram, Gordon, Roberts, Wolseley, Florence Nightingale; Literature, Thackeray, Macaulay, Kingsley, Lytton, Eliot, Bronte, Dickens, Gardiner, Ruskin, Froude, Freeman, Green, Lecky, and Besant; Poetry, Wordsworth, Tennyson, the Brownings, Rossetti, and Hood; Art, Turner, Landseer, Leighton, Millais; Politicians, Melbourne, Wellington, Peel, Cobden, Bright, Palmerston, Russell, Aberdeen, Derby, Beaconsfield, Gladstone, and Salisbury. The principal blessing the Queen and her subjects alike have enjoyed during this eventful period has

been the plenitude of capable and conscientious advisers who have been at command, and who, whatever their politics, have responded to the call of duty, and have piloted the ship of State safely through many a stormy sea.

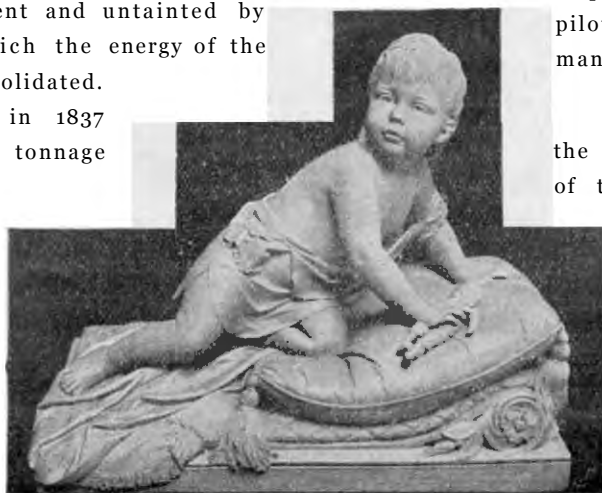
As we commenced our brief review of the reign with the words of the Laureate of the century, so we conclude with his words. At the close of sixty years we can say, as he hoped we might be able to say—

" ' And statesmen at her council met
Who knew the seasons when to take
Occasion by the hand, and make
The bounds of freedom wider yet

' By shaping some august decree,
Which kept her throne unshaken still,
Broad-based upon her people's will,
And compass'd by the inviolate sea."



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK



PRINCE EDWARD OF YORK.

ALTRINCHAM AND BOWDON,

1837 to 1897.

Pictures of Altrincham 60 Years Ago.

ALTRINCHAM, sixty years ago, it need scarcely be said, was a very different place from the town of to-day. The attempt here made to describe it is based mainly upon information given in a little book entitled "Tales and Sketches of Old Altrincham and Bowdon," published in 1880, together with some



From a Photo in possession of

[Mr. H. H. Balshaw.

OLD AXE AND CLEAVER HOTEL

(STATION ROAD SIDE).

Pulled down in 1881.

particulars kindly supplied by Mr. John Balshaw, The town then consisted of two main parts—Higher Town and Lower Town. Higher Town comprised the Market Place and the three streets by which it was approached—High Street (now Market Street), Well Lane (now Victoria Street) and Church Street. Lower Town consisted of George Street and the other lower lying portions.

Where Stamford Street is now was a large hollow, called Hollow Bank, extending from George Street to the site of Mr. Parkes' shop. There the ground went up like a small precipice to the old Market Place. On the right side of this hollow, near the Market Place, there was a bobbin-turner's shop and a bakehouse. Above the hollow on the left was High Street, going down which on the left hand side, on the site of the present Post Office and the suite of offices adjoining it, there were three cottages; then the house of Mr. William Nicholls, of the firm of Nicholls, Worthington and Harrop, solicitors; next to that, a large ladies' school, kept by Mr. Herford, the grandfather of the Rev. Brooke Herford, Unitarian minister, and then came the house of Mr. Hugo Worthington, solicitor. At the bottom of High Street, and facing it, was the house occupied for a long period by Mr. Norris, and pulled down in 1880 for the purpose of widening the road. It was, 60 years ago, the residence of Mr. Isaac Harrop, solicitor. Opposite the house was that, still standing, which is used for the offices of the Stamford Trustees, and which then served for the offices of Nicholls, Worthington, and Harrop. The row of houses on that side of High Street has escaped from the hands of the improver, and although a little more time-worn, the buildings are the same as they were 60 years since.

The Market Place has not appreciably altered in its appearance, for many of the houses which then surrounded it are still in existence. The most notable feature of its former aspect which it no longer possesses, was the old "Round-about" house standing about the middle of the square. It was a six-sided building, surrounded with palisades, with an upper and lower room, the former of which was

used as a Court-room and general Assembly-room of the town, and the latter as a Butter Market. It also contained a lock-up or dungeon, which is said to have been a filthy, unendurable place, and not fit for any human being to live in even for a few hours. The old Market Hall, or Town Hall as it is variously described, has been built since. At the south end, where Mr. Morrison's office and the Post Office now are, was a large and beautiful tree, which, was cut down about twenty years ago. It stood in a garden attached to the dwelling-house adjoining Messrs. Bowden and Parkes' shop. Under its spreading branches "with seats beneath the shade, for talking age and whispering lovers made," had laughed and played many generations; and when, before the march of progress, the green-robed monarch fell it was felt that the old Market Place had been robbed of its chief beauty.

There was no entrance from the Market Place into Dunham Road, and where the present road runs, at the corner of Cunliffes, Brooks, and Co.'s Bank, there was a public-house called "The Waggon and Horses," which was pulled down for the shaping of the new thoroughfare. The bank, which is now the most charming feature of the spot, is, of course, a modern structure. The imposing building, in the black and white style of architecture, is typical of an ancient front. It was built from the designs of Mr. George Truefitt, of London. The Unicorn was then, as now, the most important inn of the town. It was a posting station; and punctually at eight o'clock every morning its two postillions were dressed in their red jackets, laced hats, white plush breeches, brown top boots and spurs, ready for anyone who wished to hire them. Opposite the old Market Hall was old John Southern's baker's shop, and where Mr. Renshaw lives was a surgeon, Mr. Poole, commonly called Varnham Poole. Some shops followed, and at the end of the row was the old Horse and Jockey Inn, kept by Robert Boardman, and pulled down to make the new road. Robert used to breed race-horses for the Earl of Stamford. A noted horse of his was Bay Malton, of which one of Robert's sons painted a picture that was afterwards used by a man named Wright as the signboard for an inn he started at Seamon's Moss Bridge.



From a Photo in possession of

[Mr. H. H. Balshaw.

OLD AXE AND CLEAVER HOTEL (GEORGE STREET).

If a record could have been kept of some of the striking scenes which have been witnessed in the old Market Place during the last sixty years, a description of them would no doubt be exceedingly interesting to read. It would include, of course, an account of the official procession which took place annually for hundreds of years of the Mayor of Altrincham, with solemn accompaniment of constables, ale tasters, swine lookers, *et hoc genus omne*, when the announcement, quoted elsewhere, was duly proclaimed that "Sanjam" Fair was open. It would include also some of the incidents of "Sanjam" Fair itself when it was still held there, and was a really interesting and

❖ **T. B. PARKES',** ❖
MARKET PLACE, ALTRINCHAM.
 IS THE OLDEST-ESTABLISHED DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT IN ALTRINCHAM,
 And has been in the same family for the past Sixty Years.

Originally the Shop, House, and Garden occupied the one side of Market Place, and the whole side of Stamford Street down to the old Axe and Cleaver Inn.

The business has grown and developed with the town. The present pile of buildings, designed by W. H. Breakespeare, Esq., are considered the Finest Business Premises in Altrincham.

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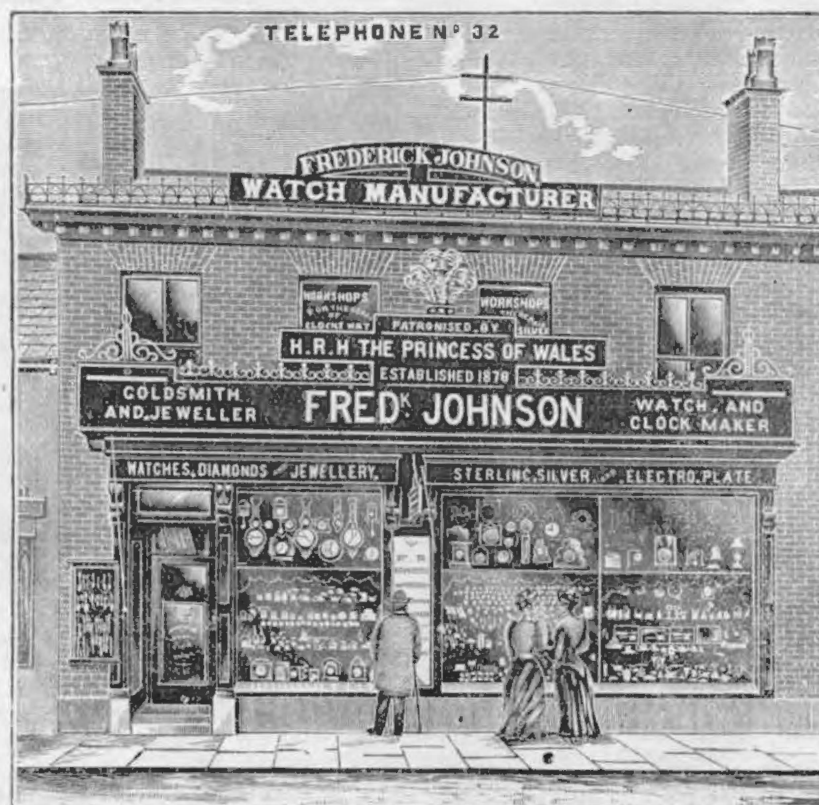
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picturesque function, which it ceased to be from the time it was transferred to the hideous square which, for some inscrutable reason, has been substituted for the old, historic, and handsome space where from time immemorial the markets, fairs, and other public gatherings took place. " Sanjam " Fair is now a thing of the past, and at some not distant date will probably appear the obituary notice of the last



From a Photo in possession of [Mr. H. H. Balshaw.
SHOP OF MESSRS. BOWDEN AND PARKES, OLD MARKET PLACE.
Pulled down in 1878.

of the swine lookers, and the brass pint mugs from which the ale was tasted by the ale tasters will be objects of curiosity and interest in the local museum.

One of the most memorable scenes in the old Market Place was the one which was presented ten years ago, when the Prince of Wales, in an open carriage with outriders, accompanied by the ever beautiful and charming Princess, stopped for a few minutes on his way from Tatton to the railway station, to hear the Sunday school children sing "God bless the Prince of Wales." Of a less tranquil beauty were some of the election scenes that have been witnessed on the same spot. That of 1880, for instance, when the crowd of Liberal sympathizers who were thronging the place, having received some sort of provocation from the Conservative committee rooms, assumed for one moment the posture of prayer, then quickly rising, delivered a brisk and effective discharge of paving stones at the Unicorn windows. Some lively scenes took place during the election of 1868. The Altrincham populace was at that time Liberal almost to a man, and gave expression to its feelings in a manner that was sometimes more than boisterous. On the afternoon of the election day the Liberal candidate, the Hon. John Leicester Warren, walked up Station Road to the Liberal committee rooms in the Market Place, leaning on the arm of Mr. William Milne, the crowd accompanying him with cheers of frenzied enthusiasm. They were for the moment mad, and it is scarcely necessary to say that the Conservative dissentients, if there were any present, maintained a discreet silence. The same afternoon the crowd began, in the neighbourhood of the Red Lion, to hustle the police. The latter were under the command of Mr. Steen, who was then in the prime of life, and who looked very handsome and soldier-like in his superintendent's uniform. For a minute or two the protectors of the peace got decidedly the worst of the encounter until Mr. Steen gave the order to his men to draw their staffs and charge, which was promptly executed. The chivalry of Altrincham resisted a moment, then wavered, broke, and finally bolted.

As an instance of the changes which have taken place in the laws and customs of the century, it may be interesting to relate an incident which was told to the writer twenty years ago by the late Mr. William Walton, who had witnessed it himself about sixty years before that date. It was the public flogging of three men in the Market Place for robbing a clothes-hedge at Sale. They were tried at Knutsford and sentenced to a term of imprisonment and to be flogged in the Altrincham Market Place. On the expiration of their imprisonment they were all three brought in a cart to the Market Place, accompanied by a powerful fellow and a gentleman from Knutsford on horseback.

The first to suffer the punishment was a young man of about 18 years of age. His hands were tied to the cart tail, and he was stripped to the waist. He was a well-nourished, healthy-looking lad, with a fair skin. The man who had come with them in the cart then stepped up, and drawing the lashes through his left hand, a movement he repeated before each stroke, laid them with a jerk upon the lad's

back. After half-a-dozen strokes or so, large weals arose on the victim's skin, and then he began to scream in a heart-rending manner, and danced again under the infliction, struggling to free himself, and appealing frantically for mercy. When he had received 18 or 19 lashes, by which time the blood was beginning to flow, the man on horseback interposed, and ordered him to be released, which having been done, the next culprit was tied up. He was a man of about four-and-twenty years of age, little and spare. He had received only a few lashes when the blood came, and after that every stroke told with terrible effect, the poor wretch's back being cruelly lacerated, while he danced and screamed, as the first one had done, almost maddened by the torture. Before he had received the full complement of thirty-nine lashes he was released and then the third man was tied up. This was the ringleader, and for him was reserved the severest punishment. He was a middle-aged man, broad set and strong, and when he stripped he showed a fine back for the work. He set his teeth when the flogging began, and neither moved nor uttered a sound as it went on, but preserved the same stoical calmness right through to the end of the thirty-nine lashes, receiving the whole lot of them without so much as wincing. As soon as he was released he walked up to the gentleman on horseback. "Now," said he, "if you'll just step down from that horse and stand up to me for a few minutes I'll take another forty lashes." There was a goodly crowd witnessing the punishment, and amongst it was a woman who made herself prominent on the occasion by her loudly expressed sympathy with the victims, and the strong appeals she made to the Altrincham people to attempt a rescue.

After the Market Place, one of the spots most suggestive of old Altrincham is Church Street. Stamford House stood sixty years ago where it is to-day, but it was then called the Bowling Green. It was an hotel and posting-house, two postillions being kept there, as at the Unicorn. A bowling-green, the only one in the district at the time, was attached to it, and was much patronised by bowling men in Manchester, who regularly drove there to play on its velvety surface. The proprietor was Frederick Boardman, and the business of the house was conducted by his daughter Bridget, a one-eyed lady of great managing capacity. Next to this, going towards Altrincham, came the house of Lawyer Pass, whose offices were where Brooks's bank used to be, the house and office being separated by a field, Bank Street not being in existence in those days. After Pass's offices came the shop of old John Mort, grandfather of the late John Mort, originally a hand-loom weaver, whose business is now carried on in the same shop by Messrs. S. A. Smith & Son. Next to that was the shop of John Wyatt, clock and watchmaker, a most ingenious man, who could manufacture the best of alarums and musical clocks, some of which he sold for £50 each. He did all the Dunham work for a long time, and every article required in the mechanism of his pieces he made with his own file.



From a Photo in possession of [Mr. H. H. Balshaw.
OLD MARKET PLACE, 1858.

In Stamford Road the first building to be seen coming from Barlow's Crossing to Altrincham was an old worsted and wool-combing mill employing about a score of hands. It was a water mill, and was turned by a brook or trench which came from the Moss, and

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Axe and
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emptied itself in the mill-dam, which was where the engine sheds stand. Beside it, and nearer Altrincham, where Delves' saw mills used to be, stood a factory kept by a Manchester man, part of it being let off to a bobbin turner who employed ten or a dozen men. Alongside the factory was a street called Cinder Street, and on this side the factory stood a large corn mill, kept by old John Lupton. From that point, the first house which was met on the road to Altrincham was the private house still standing at the corner of Barrington Road. Next to that was a malthouse, where malt was ground, and then came Spring Bank House. Just past that were the double gates, which gave the entrance to old Lawyer Pass's farm, and then came the house formerly occupied by the Reform Club, but which was then a large ladies' school, kept by a Miss Wrangham. There was a number of cottages opposite as at present, but there were fewer of them, and they all had gardens. The Malt Shovels Inn stood as at present, and belonging to it was a barn, which gave the name to the locality behind it—Back-o'-th'-Barn, as it was called. Alongside of this were several cottages, and opposite, where the houses are in a line with the Victoria Inn, was the sloping ground called the Top Hillock, on which there

of the hostelry looking upon George Street. Here was the old Pig Market, to which breeders regularly brought their finest specimens from some of the best styes in Cheshire. The broom of reform has swept the market and its unsavoury accompaniments aside, and new and more imposing buildings have been built on the spot. The second view shows the back part of the hostelry, abutting upon what is now Station Road. The wall of the hotel, which enclosed a large garden, continued right up to the Market Place. The site of this garden is now occupied with the premises of Parr's Banking Company, the handsome shops of Mr. Parkes and Mr. Byrom, and the offices of Mr. John Balshaw. The opposite side of the road, which forty or fifty years ago was only partly built upon, is now covered with substantial shops such as those of Mr. Joseph Brooks, Mr. G. J. Plimmer, and Mr. J. Drinkwater. Close by, where Mr. Bowen's shop is, but on higher ground, were three old thatched houses, to which people went up by steps. Where Mr. Blackshaw's shop is there was a row of thatched cottages, and two other rows of similar buildings followed until Moss Lane was reached. In the last row lived old John Starkey, cabinet maker, the founder of the business now carried on under the style of Starkey & Neild. Opposite there



From an old Photo in possession of

[Mr. H. H. Balshaw.]

OLD COTTAGE IN GEORGE STREET (PULLED DOWN IN 1886).

were two or three cottages. Near these, at the foot of the present Victoria Street, which was then called Well Lane, was a well, called the Big Well, which supplied that part of the town with water. Close by it lived an old man with a club foot, who was a great horse-breaker. Old John Royle was his name, but he was generally known as Carely Royle. He was a very big man, and possessed a tremendous appetite, to satisfy which he consumed every morning two quarts of porridge for his breakfast.

The cottages on the brow near the Free Library were the same as at present, but presumably less dilapidated in appearance. The ground on which the Free Library stands was waste land, and there was a splendid well close by. In the row of cottages on the brow lived, amongst others, William Ashley, overseer of the parish. Ashley had only one eye, so in the picturesque phraseology of his townspeople he was called "Owd Billy Cock-eye." The old Axe and Cleaver stood then, and it was kept by Edmund Davenport—"Owd Yeb Davenport." Until about twenty years ago the Pig Market was held in front of the Axe and Cleaver hotel. It was then, as the photograph shows, a very simple and unpretentious building. The first view represents that portion

in the old house pulled down quite recently, the ragged and mouldy condition of which had earned for it the sarcastic title of "Marble Hall," lived an old woman, Amelia Priestner, who united in herself the two employments of teaching children and mangling clothes. On the gable of the house were some rudely-cut figures, indicating that the house was built in 1690. It formerly belonged to Mr. Rowland Fletcher, who, in 1884, disposed of it to Mr. James Worthington. In view of the making of a new street the old house was pulled down in 1886, and with its removal disappeared one of the last remnants of old Altrincham from George Street. It was at this identical house that in 1745 some of the troopers of the Pretender's army, on their way from Manchester to Macclesfield, were billeted. Two or three other houses followed Amelia's, and then came Shaw's Lane, which was at that time called Barnum's Lane. It contained some thatched property, some stables, and two cottages. At this point there was a landmark in the topography of the place. All that portion of Lower Town lying beyond there in the direction of Bowdon was commonly described as "O'er th' Gutter," and the inhabitants were considered to be of an inferior social status to the more favoured race living in Higher Town and that part



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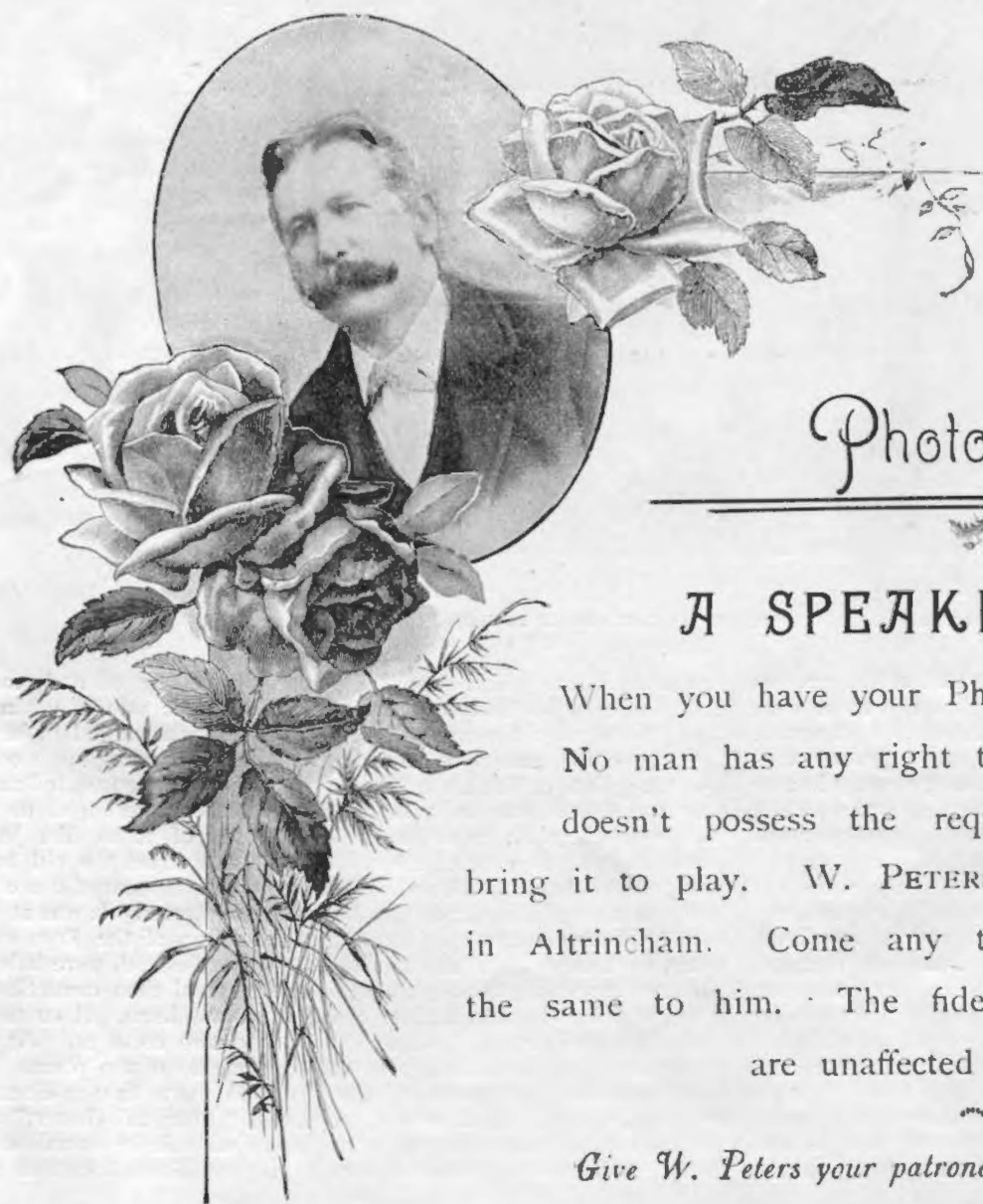
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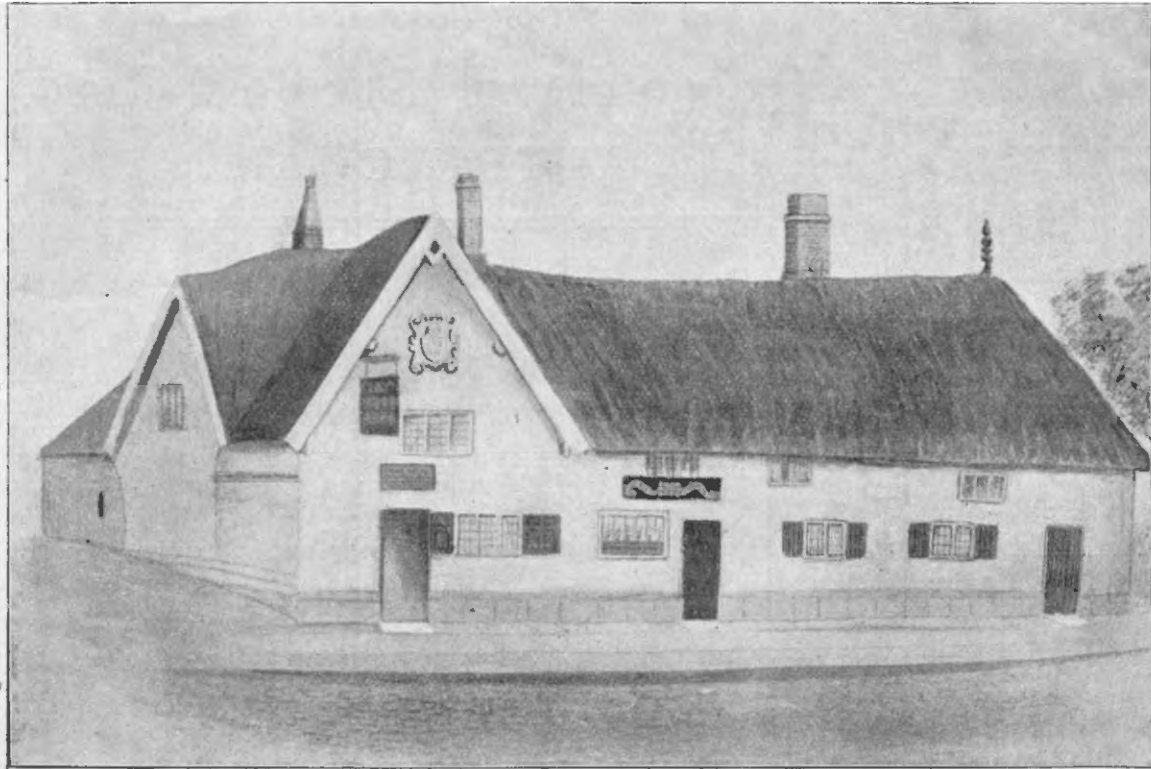
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Photographed from a Drawing]

[in possession of Mr. J. Rose.

OLD WOOLPACK INN, RAILWAY STREET (PULLED DOWN IN 1865).

-of Lower Town near it. At this point was built, in 1832, the business premises of Messrs. Warren & Collins. In those simple times the building of a shop in Altrincham was a great event, and it is fondly related by old inhabitants that people came from the distant country-side to see what were then considered to be windows of extraordinary size. On the opposite side of the narrow road, now occupied by the shops of Mr. Joseph Brooks, Mr. R. Fletcher, Miss Henshall, and the *Guardian* Office, were a number of low-thatched cottages with small windows of the diamond pattern. There was hardly one without its loom, and the monotonous sound of the shuttle was heard from dawn to dusk. How complete has been the change may be seen by a reference to the photograph of George Street of the present time, when both sides of the thoroughfare boast of spacious and busy shops.

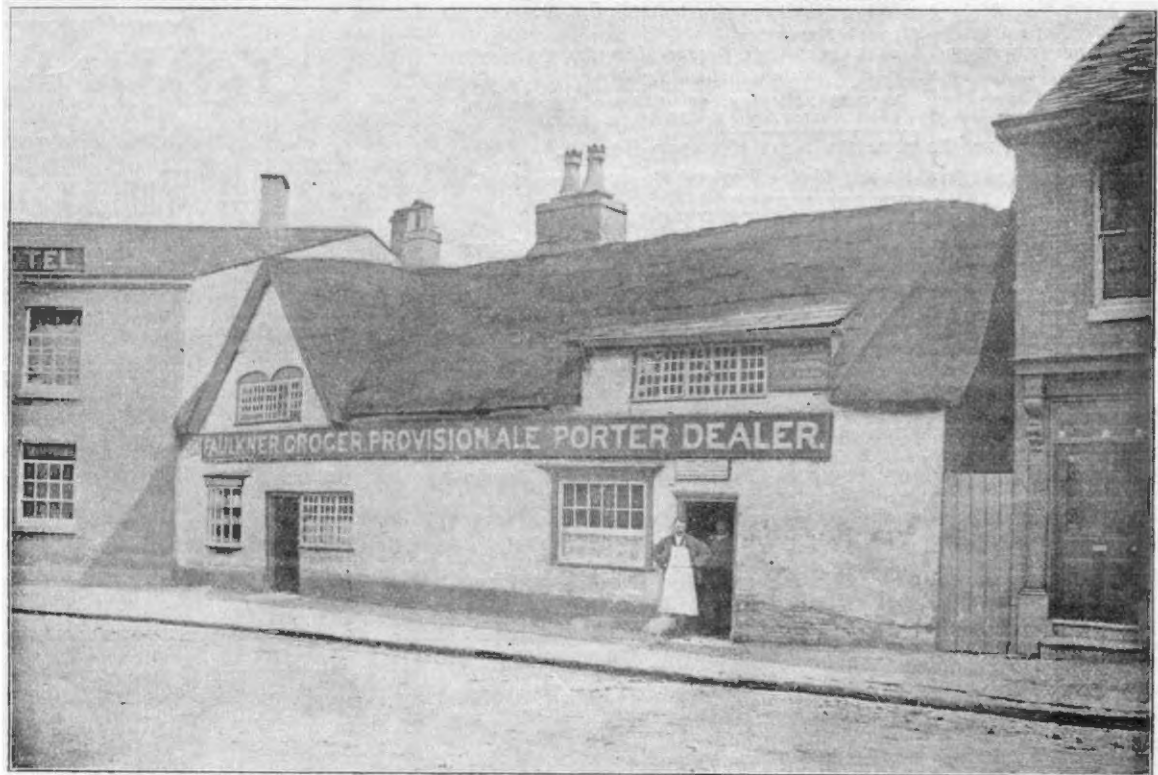
Following Barnum's Lane were some thatched cottages, and then came Beggar's Square, the same in name as at present. In the neighbourhood of the Water Works Office was Mr. Henry Race's School. It was a noted school, and boys came from great distances to it. Near it, on the brow called Race's Brow, stood two cottages, and then came the Woolpack Inn, which was then a low, picturesque thatched house. Here the proprietor brewed his own beer and generally conducted his house on those old-fashioned lines that inspired Shenstone to write :—

Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found,
The warmest welcome at an inn.

The opposite side of the road was chosen in 1849 as the site of Bowdon Station. Altrincham Station was then near to the present level crossing at Stockport Road. Both stations continued to be used until about fifteen years ago, when the large central station was built. The station possesses advantages that were denied to its two predecessors, and it meets the public convenience in a way that was not possible under the old conditions. While Altrincham Station was pulled down, part of the Bowdon Station remains, and some of the buildings are now used as carriage sheds. The opening of the new station rendered a new thoroughfare necessary, and Stamford New Road was cut across land which at that time was almost entirely made up of gardens and fruitful orchards.

The new road was made conterminous with Railway Street from a point almost opposite the old Woolpack Inn. A curious old public-house, which had probably occupied

the site for a couple of centuries, was demolished in the making of the road. This was known as Faulkner's Hotel, and the name still connects itself to the house subsequently built on the adjacent land. The construction of the road has completely changed the topography of this part of Altrincham, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph, which represents Stamford New Road at the present time.



From a Photo in possession of

OLD FAULKNER'S ARMS, RAILWAY STREET.

[Mr. H. H. Balshaw



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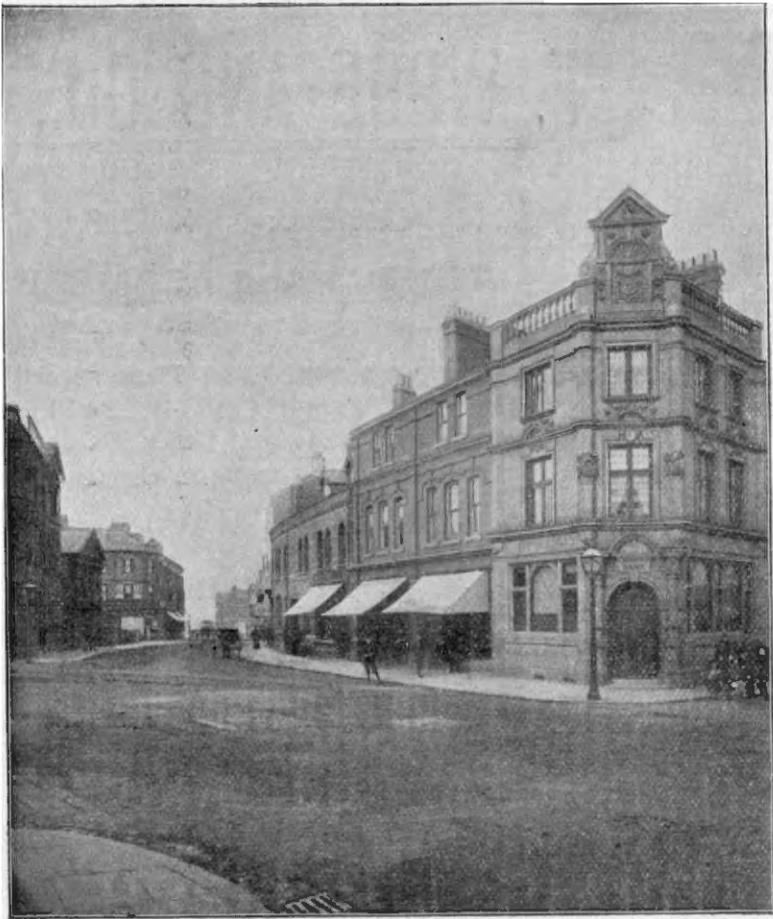
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From a Photo by]

STAMFORD NEW HOAD, 1897

[Walker, Altrincham.

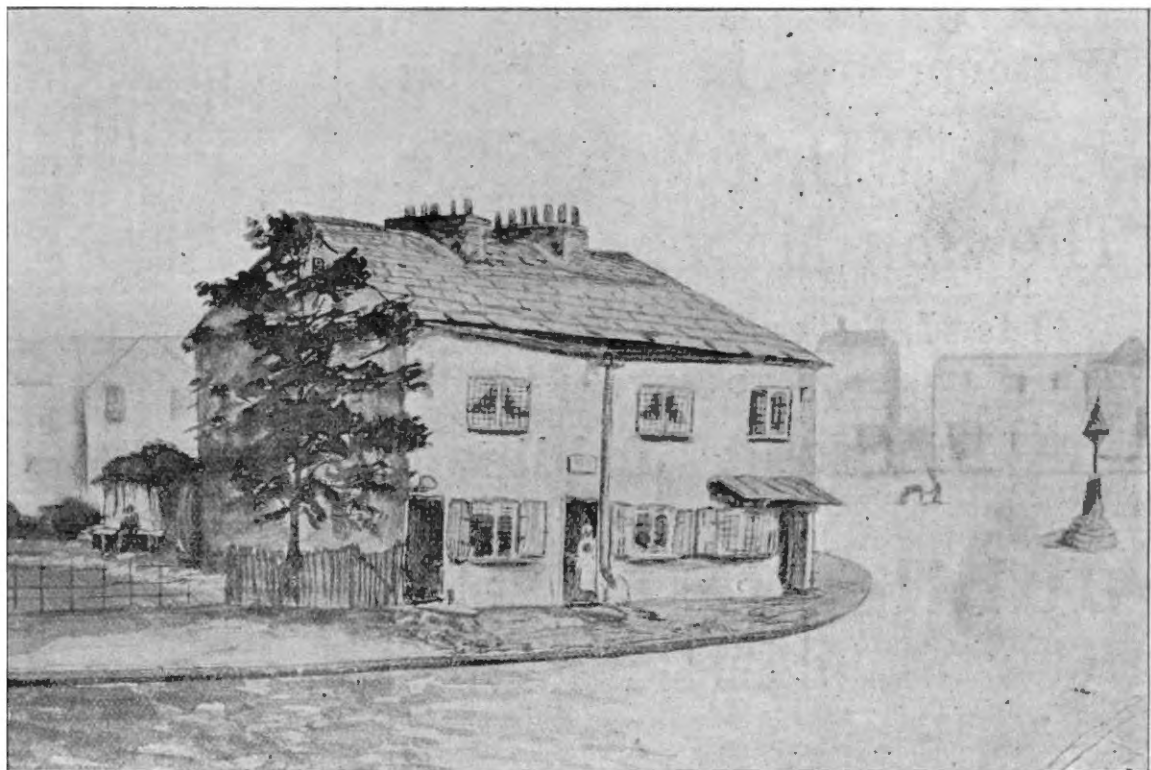
blackberry bushes and gleaming with golden gorse. Then further away were the mellow orchards of Hale and, on the other side, the leafy lanes of old Bowdon. Such was one picture of the Altrincham of sixty years ago.

On the right-hand side of Ashley Road, on the site of Mr. Brookfield's shop and those adjoining it, was a row of cottages which remained until 1876. That at the end nearest Railway Street was, for several years before its demolition, used as an office by Mr. Brierley, cab proprietor; the second was occupied by Mr. Bowland, and the third by Mr. Sumner. Along the wall, at the gable end of this last, facing St. John's Church, was a grand pear tree, which when in blossom was one of the sights of the neighbourhood. A long garden followed, and beyond that there were nothing but fields up to St. John's Road.

Where St. John's Church is was old Ralph Pickston's farmhouse, the shippons and stables being on one side of the road, where the church is, and the house on the other. On the left-hand side of the Ashley Road there was a pleasant-looking thatched house, which remained until about twenty-three years ago, in the occupation of Mr. Hough. It was then pulled down to make an outlet for Oxford Road. Here William Royle, boot and shoe maker, lived. On the same side, higher up, were the cottages which are still standing, in one of which—the farthest from Altrincham—a young Wesleyan named Oswald Leicester, started the first Sunday School in Altrincham, over a hundred years ago. There were, up to within the last twenty years, some steps outside the cottage leading to an upper room in which the school was held, but these have been pulled down. Young Leicester afterwards took orders, and in 1799 became the first Vicar of St. George's Church. He always retained tender feeling towards the Wesleyans, and never held services on Sunday evenings at St. George's, in order that as many of his congregation as liked might attend the Wesleyan Chapel. The St. George's choir were in the habit of going almost in a body to the chapel, bass fiddles and everything else, to a place assigned to them in one of the galleries.

Perhaps in no part of Altrincham have changes occurred more rapidly than in Railway Street. The opening of the railway in 1849 impressed itself on the street, as is evident by the conversion of some of the tiny cottages into shops, with all the dig ity and glory of plate glass windows. From time to time new shops were built and, as Bowdon and Hale advanced, the street became an important

Pinfold Brow was a name that lingered long after the building of Bowdon Station. The station was built on the "brow," which acquired its peculiar title from the fact that it was hard by the Pinfold. The precise site of this ancient institution is marked by Lloyd's Hospital. It was on Pinfold Brow that the sturdy sons of Altrincham after imbibing somewhat freely, were accustomed to settle differences by means other than those of mere argument; and it is hinted that many a battle royal was waged on this common ground until the appearance of the village constable caused hostilities to cease. Not far away, on Hale Moss, was the old cock pit, where great conflicts used to take place. There were several modest cottages on the brow as well as a number on Goose Green. The ivy climbed over their grey porches, and roses peeped in at their little windows. The gardens were gay with flowers, and the neatly sanded walks testified to the care and the simple tastes of the forefathers of the hamlet. The meadows beyond were bordered by the Moss thick with



(From a Photo of a drawing by Mr. John Bowland,

[in possession of Mr. Jacob Bowland.)

COTTAGES ON THE DOWNS (PULLED DOWN IN 1876.)

FORMERLY OF JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER.
ESTABLISHED 1829.



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Jubilee Buildings, 

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Flags, Shields, Medals, Lanterns, Loyal Devices, Royal Mottoes, Novelties for Decorations.
THE ORIENTAL BAZAAR.

avenue and a centre of business activity. In 1894 a portion of the site of the old Station was let on lease to a firm of builders who, taking advantage of the strides that Altrincham was making towards prosperity, covered the land with shops. By this one stroke, the entire aspect of the locality was changed. With its additional shops, many of them spacious and handsome, the street has become a popular promenade without a single trace of those rural beauties that were apt to impress the visitor half a century ago.

Even the characteristics of the Downs—name suggestive of breezy heights and swelling hills—have been altered. Sixty years since we should have seen on the right of the Downs, just past the road going into Wellington Place, two cottages and a house of a somewhat larger kind. Then came Geoffrey Allcock's house and farm buildings. On the left hand side of the Downs was a place known as the Dog Kennels, where Johnny Walker kept a pack of harriers. Johnny was usually dressed in a green plush jacket, with waistcoat and breeches of the same material. Turning up Regent Road (then called Chapel Walks) was a bakehouse, over which was a room. A flight of steps outside gave admittance to the room. It was called "Jacob's Ladder," and the room was inhabited by a family named Royle, the first Irish family to make Altrincham a permanent home. Soon after their arrival another Irish family named Brady came, and these were the only Irish people in Altrincham for several years. Off Chapel Walks was Farthing Street, now called Albert Street, which contained some half-dozen houses, all inhabited by hand loom weavers, the weaving being done in the cellars. Chapel Street was also the residence of weavers, who filled some five and twenty houses. These had nearly all their spacious gardens. New Street did not then exist, and of the present row of houses past New Street in Regent Road, the two houses at the end were the only ones. Norman's Place was pretty much the same as it is now. But the neighbourhood immediately surrounding has assumed an entirely altered form and its most familiar friend would fail to identify the original. New streets have been built, roads have been widened, gardens have been turned into building plots, and with all the freedom and grace that mark the popular suburb, Altrincham has added that latest attraction, a Golf Link.

The next photograph represents the old Market Place at the present time. Most of the buildings were to be found there sixty years ago. Some of them, indeed, belong to the middle period of the last century. Time has scrawled a rude autograph on their quaint fronts, but they still possess a fascination as examples of curious architecture, and as genuine specimens of ancient Altrincham'. The site of the old "Roundabout" House is now planted with shrubs, and the grave injury done by the builder in days gone by has, to some extent, been repaired by the introduction of bright and fresh vegetation. The old Market Place is still the main centre of business enterprise, and closely adjacent are the principal public offices and buildings.

" THE OLD BLEEDING WOLF " INN.

Another landmark linking our hurrying time with the past is soon to be swept away. The old-world hostelry, with its unique title, is said by local tradition to have been built soon after the Restoration.

Sir Peter Leycester, in his "History of Cheshire," writing about 1670, remarks upon the number of new houses recently erected about "Altringham." The country-side explanation of the unusual name of the old inn, unlike the Squire's Arms over the doors of the taverns in neighbouring villages, is that the last wild wolf seen in England was killed near this spot about 1470, and that when the original inn was built, in 1617, the title of the "Old Bleeding Wolf" was adopted. This original hostelry seems to have been, from internal evidence and local tradition, really that quaint picturesque house near called "Ashley Heath," in front of which a Scotch traveller or packman was murdered one long bygone Christmas-time, according to a story by Mrs. Hibbert Ware. The neighbourhood then, instead of being laid out with trim roads and drives lined with smart villas with their neatly kept gardens, would be a sandy down or "Moss," crossed by a Roman road. Here, village farms and cottages, with their antique looks; there, perhaps, a grassy barrow; in places, woodland clumps

with their branches stirred by the wind, and where the fall of a woodman's axe was then seldom heard. On December 2nd, 1745, that daring handful of hussars which formed the bold vanguard of Bonnie Prince Charlie's wondrous little army left their quarters at Altrincham early. One of the rearguard or a straggler was, with his own sword, slain by the sturdy host of the inn as they rode past on their venturesome reconnaissance eastwards to regain the main body, then assembled at Macclesfield. Up to the end of the last century, or early in this, the fragment of another ancient road, said to be also Roman, connected by a track locally known as "Sondy Lone," Peel Causeway, with Ashley Heath. This is now the modern "Ashley Road," Hale. The greater part of the traffic then deserted the ancient circuitous way now called "South Downs Road," and the sign and business were transferred to an old farm, now the inn, and shortly to vanish before the all engulfing tide of modern progress. In 1818, when the greater portion of the Crewe estate at Hale Barns was sold, the business of the sale was effected at the "Bleeding Wolf." Up to 1871 there was a troop of the County Yeomanry Corps called the Altrincham or "F." This was chiefly composed of the tenants of Harrop's, of Hale, and Cooper's, of Thome's Green estates. In



From a Photo by]

RAILWAY STREET, 1897,

(Walker, Altrincham.

this body, rode as Volunteers some 70 years ago, two of the quondam Mayors of Altrincham, Robert Shelmerdine, and the celebrated Nathaniel Pass, possibly on his old charger "Waterloo." He was quartermaster or sergeant at one time. There were also a few smart young townsmen of military tastes. The foot-drills for sword exercise of this troop were held at the inn, which was then thatched, and a brother of the present host, who is intending to build here a handsome modern hotel, was for some years corporal and a distinguished swordsman. The surviving members of the disbanded Altrincham troop have now shrunk to a small handful of veterans, the heroes of a tale which has been told. Many readers of the *Guardian* will remember several such highly respected elderly acquaintances, and will agree that the inexorable and all devouring progress of time, which has withdrawn many of them from the field, is removing many peculiar, striking, and historic features of ancient manners. Our old friends' love of past times, their tales of martial prowess "on th' Rewdee," and of mad pranks played in their billets when "up at Chester," are all of deep

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interest, and their treasuring of cups, epaulettes, o'ld spurs, pictures, and other memorials of the time in which they still seem to live, is an interesting enthusiasm, such as Jacobitism became in the days "when George III. was king." Very shortly will disappear this quaint old road-side inn, the first halting place on the Ashley and Mobberley road from Altrincham, and to the weary traveller townward returning marking the last mile from home; its "neatly sanded floor" and old-world features recall to mind Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," and the genial hospitality dispensed there for a quarter of a century by the jovial host, reminds one of "man's finding his best welcome at an inn."

Oh, the auld house, the auld house,
What tho' the rooms were wee!
Oh! kind hearts were dwelling there,
And bairnies fu' o' glee;
The auld house, the auld house,
Deserted tho' ye be,
There ne'er can be a new house
Will seem sae fair to me.



From a Photo by

OLD MARKET PLACE, 1897.

Walker. Altrincham.

"'Tis Sixty Years Since."

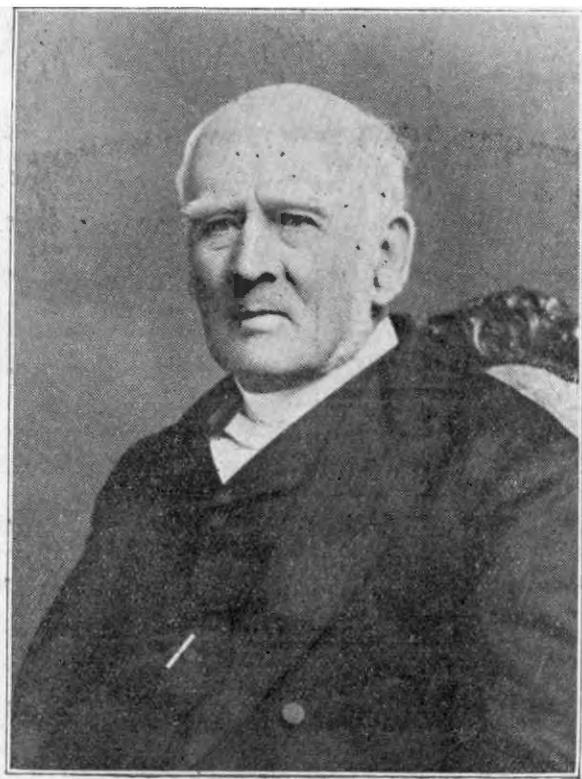
BY THE REV. F. WAINWRIGHT, M.A.

SUCH was the secondary title of a work which, in view of all that followed from its publication, might justly be called the most famous book of the century. When Sir Walter Scott first published "Waverley," he added these words to the title page, chiefly, no doubt to ward off the possible charge of disloyalty. So strong was Scott's sympathy with the lost cause of the Pretender, and so powerfully had he depicted in that novel some of the sorrows and defeats of that unhappy race, the Stuarts, that it was thought even

probable that the book might give offence to many stout champions of the Hanoverian line, as being charged with seditious and explosive material. For in those days loyalty was not the free, fearless, and tolerant spirit which it has now become. The year in which "Waverley" was published (1814) marked the very lowest ebb of public virtue, and the deepest panic of political bigotry. Napoleon was caged in Elba, and the genius of Europe was imprisoned in senseless restrictions. On this point we have the testimony of Sydney Smith, a man as clear in his vision as he was droll in his conceptions. "There was no more hope of a better state of things at that time than of a thaw in Nova Zembla." And by the way it was in this very year of 1814 that this future Canon of St. Paul's came northwards, and became a kind of neighbour of ours (in a broad sense) by accepting the living of Foston, in Yorkshire. And further, I was reminded of the same year by the recent departure of a dear old lady, Mrs. Martha Parker, on whose coffin I read the other day that she was born in February, 1814, so that she had completed her 83rd year. What an enlarged experience! What a durable link with the past! And yet we have some links remaining that have proved even more durable. For instance, there is the Reverend Samuel Smith, formerly minister of the New Connexion body, who still walks about our parish in hale heartiness, having enjoyed an unusually long innings in the game of life, and having already run up a score of 91, "not out!"

Well, I was saying that disloyalty was suspected in 1814, because disloyalty was in the air. There was little or nothing to recommend the Throne to the affections of English people at that time. To be sure, the nation did keep a Jubilee festival in 1810, but it was a flash in the pan. From 1810 to 1837 was a dark period. A monument was erected on Moel Vamau, in Denbighshire, to commemorate that Jubilee, but it has been dismantled by lightning, and so stands before men as a sermon in stone upon the vanity of much that was honoured then.

How different is the state of the national heart to-day! Difficulties there still are, to be sure, and discontents are not unknown, but the people's pulse beats, on the whole, with a steady, hearty, and spontaneous joy. We can afford now to laugh at the suspicions of 1814 because we are all agreed. In fact, the very thing which misled some foreign observers who visited this country about 50 years ago is still a sign of our political wholesomeness. People declaim with severity on national evils, and attack various public abuses, and what this very fact proves is the reality and depth of our freedom. We speak plainly



REV. SAMUEL SMITH.

R. H. TOOTILL, M.P.S.,
Pharmacist and Chemist - - -
 (Pharmacien Français).

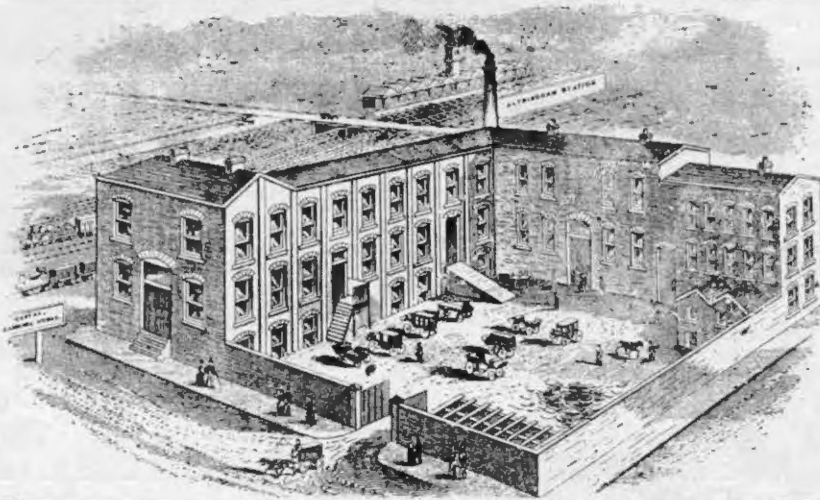
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because we are fearless. Yes, we even allow people who call themselves Jacobites to strew flowers and even bend the knee before the statue of Charles I., because we view them simply as fossil curiosities in our political museum. And what about the Church meanwhile? Ay, *there* we see even more striking transformations. And it would not be easy to bring forward a better witness on this subject than the one who is already in the box, Sydney Smith himself! An able man,



From a Photo by]

[Bradshaw, Altrincham.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

assuredly, and an honest man, but he had his limitations. And here we find one of the many proofs of the immeasurable superiority of "the Church" over any one of its members, and even over all of them combined. For while the witty Canon of St. Paul's was acting as a safety valve of reform in one direction, he was also acting as a dead-weight of repression in other ways. Pioneer of education, champion of free thought, sworn foe of abuses—at the same time disparaging missions, ridiculing enthusiasm, and proving himself a wet blanket round all spiritual energies! And so it must ever be. One teacher has to supplement another,

And God fulfils Himself in many ways
Left one good custom should corrupt the world.

Yes a comparison of 1837 with 1897 reveals changes both of form and spirit that are simply marvellous. And these cannot as a whole be attributed to the influence of any one man, or of any single tendency, or of any solitary class or school. It is true that various "movements" (for that seems to be the accepted word which is used in this connection) have passed through the area of the last 60 years, and in our own neighbourhood we have felt something from time to time of their varying qualities, at least so far as is likely to be the case in a quiet district like this! Some people wish to be thought "in the swim," whether they are or not, but we Altrincham people live in a nook of provincial life, and it is as well that we should not forget the fact. Still, even here some impulses from "things that in the great world be" have reached us, although faintly. Any old resident would be able to illustrate by local types the leading characteristics of Church life in our day. From the Rev. W. H. G. Mann, the still remembered Vicar of Bowdon, to Archdeacon Woosnam, our most recent dignitary, the interval is, in point of time, quite trifling, for many people who are familiar with one can recall the other. But in point of growth in spiritual activities how enormous is that interval! A whole system of parochial methods, and an entire round of ecclesiastical instructions have since arisen, like the walls of Thebes at the music of Amphion. When Victoria ascended

the throne, the great Evangelical party was still in possession of the middle class of this country, but a new power had encamped by the gates. In 1837 the first of the Oxford Tracts was published, and the series continued to appear till 1841, their claims advancing in boldness as the pamphlets advanced in size, till the notorious Tract Ninety proved to be a bomb-shell, which by its explosion alarmed the nation, ended the series, and almost scattered the party which it had too boldly ventured to interpret! Into the breach thus opened various other forces have since made good their entrance. And so early as the year 1853 my old master, Conybeare, attempted in his famous article, entitled "Church Parties," to deal in a scientific spirit with such of the movements as were visible to him at that time. Under the rough and ready classification of High Church, Low and Broad (which though often corrected, is still in common use) he sought to arrange the phenomena of spiritual activity. But his efforts were futile even then; how much more so to-day! For just consider the controversies of the last half century in their ever varying restlessness, and what a seething cauldron is presented to view! To tabulate a few names is quite sufficient for our purpose. "Christian Socialism" suggests itself as the first name, and rightly so, for its impassioned apostle was Charles Kingsley, formerly Canon of Chester, who used to write letters in defence of the Chartists, and signed himself "Parson Lot." Moreover, that controversy is the very one which is most to the front at this very hour. But take a few more titles of subjects we have seen debated at one time or another. Muscular Christianity, Colenso and the Pentateuch, Essays and Reviews, Vestments and Ritualism, Papal Aggression, Papal Infallibility, the Pope on Anglican Orders, Free Church versus Established, the Church in relation to Strikes, the Church in relation to the Colonies, and to Dissenters, and to Foreign Communions, and to the Old Catholics especially; Revision of the Prayer-book, Revival of Convocation, Increase of the Episcopate, the Sectarian difficulties in the way of National Education, and the countless debates on such subjects as the Higher Criticism, Inspiration, the Athanasian Creed, Darwinism, and the doctrine of endless punishment.

The effect of these and other variations of public thought, ramifying in many directions, has been to produce perhaps a more composite, and (may we not hope?) a more free and tolerant type of religious character in our times. In fact, it is seldom if ever correct to label a man as "broad" or "high" now-a-days, seeing that, if he has "broad" qualities in one or another sphere, the chances are that he is "high" everywhere else. Surely this is progress, and it is pleasant to be able to say in reply to the accusations sometimes made of bigotry, arrogance, panic, and the harshness which springs from panic, no doubt these things used to be the case, but then, 'tis sixty years since."

"Progress," much vaunted word, not to be used without caution! Our late Laureate lived to modify somewhat of the youthful ardour which his poetry once had chanted. After 60 years he wrote a second "Locksley Hall" in which the note of disenchantment predominated, and while we allow for the inevitable diminution of hope



From a Drawin,

by]

[Messrs. Tate and Fopplewell.

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in an aged seer (although Browning's fervent soul was a proof to the contrary), yet we are compelled to admit some substantial foundation for these lamentations of this modern Jeremiah. Nothing can be more

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shallow and unworthy than the vainglorious celebration of plentiful manufactures, swift travelling, and cheap food, to which even so great a man as John Bright sometimes allowed himself to descend. And it is exactly the same in the sphere of Church work. The mere multiplication of churches—the subdivision of parishes—the doubling of services does not in itself ensure either life or growth. An earnest worker of our day wrote thus not long ago: "Ecclesiastical corpses lie all about us in caskets lined with satin. . . . These Churches have died of respectability and are embalmed in complacency."

After all, perhaps the most astonishing, and certainly the most satisfactory, proof of the unique character of the Victorian era is to be found in the Missionary spirit which has become so enthusiastic, so urgent, and so influential, especially in the last thirty years, or the second half of Her Majesty's reign. Our Saviour struck the keynote of His gospel, when he told us that "He came to seek and save the lost." And this has become the dominating idea of our generation, in pointed contrast to the keen cruelty of mere commercial competition on the one hand, and to the veiled selfishness of that "organized hypocrisy," the Concert of Europe, on the other! About fifty years ago, a great writer expressed his view of life's experiences in a work entitled "Loss and Gain," and those words will still serve as a suitable motto for the story of Missions. Truly the losses are enormous, but then consider the gains! And also we must never forget that many of the gains (perhaps all of them) are the direct result of the losses. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Many years ago, Dean Vaughan expressed the wish that more graves of Bishops should be traceable abroad, and his suggestion has been fulfilled. From Bishop Heber downwards to our own time, the official "leaders" of Church work abroad *have* led, and many of their lives have been freely surrendered there. Such were Patteson, Hannington, Mackenzie, Steere, French, and others, besides the rank and file who have died without celebrity. Yes, the losses have been heavy, and in some parts of the Mission field the mortality has been so great as to make it seem almost an unreasonable thing to go on confronting the dangers! Yet this very heedlessness of self-sacrifice, and the dauntless spirit in which "the ventures of faith" have been hazarded, these things have resulted in clear gain. For just as there is nothing more likely to restore the tone and brace the nerves of an army than a forlorn hope, the emulation for which turns common soldiers into heroes—so does the enthusiasm of a daring Missionary enterprise infect and inspire the stay-at-homes, who were in danger of lapsing into selfishness and indifference. And it is to be hoped that what we are now beholding—young and gifted people of both sexes volunteering for work abroad—will advance and multiply itself greatly. Nothing will promote this better (under God) than the study of great examples—the history of those who have gone forth, hazarding their own lives. If Themistocles was kept awake at night by his generous emulation of the trophies of Miltiades, so may these past worthies prove a stimulus and an encouragement to many! It is reported of George III. that when people told him General Wolfe (who took Quebec) was a madman, his reply was this: "Well, I wish he would bite all my other generals." Surely there is something that bites and stings the apathetic soul when it beholds what others can do! On the other hand, what a harvest of gain is gathered from the loss of good men, when their lives continue to be eloquent to those who remember them, and in this sense "their works do follow them!" Certainly we in Altrincham can point to a long and brilliant roll of worthies, especially laymen, who spent their energies freely, and wore themselves out in the Master's cause. The latest, and not the least of these, was Mr. F. G. Whittall, of whom I heard a cottager say, "Shall we ever be able to fill his place?" Our answer to a question like this, which has been so often asked before in other cases, must be to this effect: It is wonderful how people are raised up to fill places which we had given up as permanently vacant, and, further, as the passing seasons develop the soil of memory, and elicit from the reminiscences of good men a product which is new and varied, we see more and more how true the Saviour's words were, both in His own case and in that of His followers: "It is expedient for you that I go away." Loss is gain.



Sixty Years of Civic Progress.

DURING the past sixty years the forms of local government in Altrincham have undergone a complete change, and in the popularly-elected Urban District Council of to-day there are but faint traces of the machinery which shaped the fortunes of the town in the first half of the century. For a counterpart of the old vestry which, among other powers, had the privilege of the appointment of Surveyors of Highways, we should look in vain, and although the still more ancient Court Leet has survived the shocks of time, it remains on the stage of action with but a remnant of its former executive authority. The Lighting and Watching Inspectors, who were mainly responsible for the lighting of the streets and the orderliness of the town, have also been superseded by agencies that more appropriately represent the progressive spirit of the times. The modern District Council may be said to combine the various powers exercised at different periods by the Vestry, the Surveyors of Highways, the Court Leet, and the Lighting and Watching Inspectors. Its authority is even more extensive than theirs could possibly have been, for it not only concerns itself with such prosaic duties as those relating to the construction, the lighting and the draining of highways, but interests itself actively in the domain of morals by the wide and judicious provision it makes for the education, no less than the recreation of the people. No doubt the system of local government is far from perfect, but it is obviously one possessing many advantages over the slow and cumbrous methods of the past; while in its adaptability to the constantly changing conditions of an expanding community it contains many of the principles essential to material and moral progress. The earliest form of government enjoyed by Altrincham was that of the Court Leet, of whose vigour and vitality testimony is afforded by the fact that, with a Saxon imprimatur, it continued until within a comparatively recent period to discharge important obligations and, as the central seat of authority, to command obedience to the law. Indeed the Court Leet still remains to connect the present with the past; and although it no longer exercises the prerogatives formerly associated with its rule, it retains much of its ancient dignity, and in the means for the organization of the forces at its command it is not wholly without influence.

Changes have followed each other in such rapid succession that it is difficult to realize that during a large part of the Queen's reign the Court Leet was the dominating factor in the affairs of local government, and on that account, as well as from the importance of its unique history, a brief outline of the salient facts will not be inappropriate. To thoroughly comprehend the position of the Court Leet it is necessary to consult the charter granted to Altrincham, about the year 1290, by "Hamon of Massey, Lord of Dunham." The privileges of a free borough—"a Guild Mercatry in the same borough, with all liberties and free customs unto such manner of Guild belonging, according to the custom of the Borough of Macclesfield"—conferred upon the burgesses were exercised by and through the Court Leet, whose records indicate how jealously they were preserved and how closely they were interwoven with the threads of local history. The charter, which is yellow and shrivelled with age, is now in possession of the Altrincham Town Trust, a body formed some years ago by order of the Charity Commissioners. That the charter and the other interesting relics belonging to the town may be protected from injury the District Council has provided a fire-proof safe at the Free Library, where, in future, they will be open to public inspection.

Although more than six centuries have passed away since the granting of the charter, the privilege of electing a Mayor is still exercised, and in a recently published list, the names of all the men of "light and leading" who have held the office, from the year 1452 to 1896, were to be found. The records do not carry us beyond 1452, but the assumption is that the burgesses regularly made choice of a mayor to preside over and maintain the dignities of the Court Leet. If this conclusion is correct, the present holder, Mr. Lindsell, is the 607th occupant of the chair. The chain worn by the Mayor on special occasions is formed of solid gold links. A link is contributed by each Mayor during his year of office, and each one is engraved with the name of the donor and the year of his mayoralty. The large silver medal appended to the chain bears on the obverse the inscription:—"The Honourable Booth Grey, Mayor of Altrincham,

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71, George Street, Altrincham.

1759 and on the reverse there is the armorial bearing of the Mayor and the motto "A Ma Puissance." The medal is believed to have been struck in honour of the election of a distinguished son of the Earl of Stamford. From 1290 up to the middle part of the present century the Court Leet furnished the chief means for the administration of the law. Through it the markets and fairs were regulated. Its constables were responsible for the public peace, and its various officials were clothed with authority for the settlement of disputes arising out of trespass. They were furthermore charged with the management of bake houses and brew-houses, and in their hands was vested the necessary authority for securing the purity of the water supply. Chimneys, which in the days of half-timbered dwellings and thatched roofs were a greater source of danger than they are now, claimed special attention, and, for a department requiring peculiar knowledge and activity there were earnest and painstaking chimney lookers, whose duty it was to bring careless householders to the feet of justice.

Then there were swine lookers, ale tasters, and dog muzzlers, all of them possessing real and substantial powers, such as are in these more enlightened days fulfilled by the officers of the District Council and the police.

It is not a little remarkable that while the Court Leet has been superseded by other agencies, none of its powers have been repealed, and the appointment of the officials is still just as much a part of the procedure of the Court as it was in 1290. The constables, who wore blue coats with red collars, did active duty until the year 1856, when an Act of Parliament made it compulsory on the magistrates of the county to establish a police force under the Acts of 1839, and 1840. The market lookers did not retire from the public service until 1878. In that year the manorial tolls were purchased by the Altrincham Local Board of Health from the Earl of Stamford, and the market became, instead of a private monopoly, the property of the public, with regulations that rendered the old office of market looker unnecessary. The fact that to the office of mayor was attached a substantial endowment explains, in a large measure, the perpetuation of the Court Leet long after its supersession. In 1699, the Earl of Warrington endowed the mayoralty with an amount of land of

the probable yearly value of £5. Additional land was conveyed by the Earl in 1716. Both gifts were made with the express covenant that the lands were "for the further and better defraying of the charges and expenses which the mayor of the borough and his successors for the time being was and were likely to be at during his and their mayoralty." Since the conveyances were effected the land has increased in value, and the fact that the Court Leet was the only means provided for the application of the income probably influenced the Legislature in specially exempting Altrincham from the operations of the Municipal Corporation Acts, under which many of the old boroughs and corporations were suppressed. From a statement made by Mr. Lindsell, on his election to the office of Mayor in 1896, it appears that while originally the lands produced about £5 a year, the income has increased very considerably owing to the enhanced value of land. In 1867 it stood at £70; but by an exchange of a portion of the land in that year it was increased to £200. By

the sale of some of the land in 1875 the income advanced to £250, and in 1893, by the sale of a plot to the Local Board it grew to about £330. "The right of the Mayor," said Mr. Lindsell, "to spend it within certain bounds, as he thought fit, could not be and was never seriously questioned, and he knew well that most of the Mayors were guided in their action by a very large sense of moral obligation; but inasmuch as the money was given for the better defraying of the expenses that the Mayor might be put to during his mayoralty, it was conceded that in exercising reasonable hospitality the Mayors were acting in accordance with the wishes of the founder." That an improvement was possible was distinctly recognized by the trustees of the endowment, and in 1887 they formulated a scheme for the establishment of a Public Hall with the object of giving the inhabitants all the benefits it was possible to obtain from the income. This enabled a public inquiry to be held by the Charity Commissioners, and interest was fully indicated by the

variety of proposals advanced by contending sections. Eventually, the Charity Commissioners determined upon a scheme under which the mayoralty was provided with a fixed income of £45 a year. The order further directed that the entire proceeds of the endowment beyond that sum should be applied to the maintenance of a free library, technical schools, and the local hospitals. The order of the Charity Commissioners was accepted as a fair and equitable settlement of a question that had long been the subject of dispute, and the spirit with which it is acknowledged by the Mayor's trustees is shown by the substantial sums paid over to the support of education, and the cause of the hospital. Since the new order came into force the local authorities have received no less than £1,150 for the maintenance of the Free Library and Technical School, while the Altrincham Provident Dispensary and Hospital has benefited by payments amounting to a total of £600.

As indicated in the foregoing pages, the Court Leet governed the fairs held within its jurisdiction. The principal, and certainly the most interesting, was that appointed to be held on the eve of St. James' Day. This fair, established in 1319, replaced the one granted by charter to Hamon de Massey

in 1290, and it maintained its place in the local calendar until May, 1895, when, by petition of the Urban District Council, it was abolished by order of the Home Secretary. The festival was popularly known as "Sanjam Fair;" but as a rude and primitive form of merry-making it had out-grown its usefulness and, although its great age may have given it a title to more courteous treatment, its departure will not be regretted. Other fairs for the buying and selling of cattle were held in April and November. These fairs were vigorously conducted until some twenty or thirty years ago, when dealers found that the advantages they offered were inferior to those of markets of the larger towns. The current of traffic drifted into new channels, and the Altrincham Market Place which, at one time, was filled with cattle and horses and buyers and sellers, was left high and dry. "Sanjam" Fair was regularly opened with a show of ceremony until 1894. It was one of the principal duties of the Mayor to see that the rules were duly carried out, and for that purpose, it was his custom, escorted by the constables and other officials, together



From Photo by)

MR. F. B. LINDSELL

101. Walker, Altrincham,

S. W. SCOTT,

Confectioner and Caterer.

Brides' and Birthday Cakes
TO ORDER.

Best Cakes in Variety.

Potted Meat, Veal, and Ham Pies. ♡ ♡

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Pork Pies Biscuits and Cakes in great variety.

Sweets and Chocolates.

Birthday and Bride Cakes made to order.

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Ladies' & Children's Outfitting & Fancy Drapery Establishment.

Underclothing, Corsets and Skirts in great variety.

Baby Linen a Speciality.

Try our Celebrated Kid Gloves, 1/11½ per pair. Every Pair Guaranteed.

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Latest Novelties in Ribbons, Laces, Fall Nets, Gloves, Ties, Hosiery,

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with a body of the burgesses, to perambulate the boundaries of the fair, and afterwards to have orally proclaimed the laws regulating the proceedings. No doubt, in times gone by, when his powers had not been superseded by other forms of legal machinery, the duty of the Mayor was of a very real and important character, and one can well imagine the awe with which the august procession of officials would be regarded by the simple villagers. The last fair was held on the eve of St. James's Day (old style) in August, 1894, and it was opened with all the quaint and curious ceremonies which for centuries before had distinguished it. On that occasion the old proclamation of the Court of Pie-poudre, which was the court of the baron for the settlement of all disputes arising within the bounds of the fair, was read from the steps of the Unicorn Hotel. As the custom of reading the proclamation may not again be revived in consequence of the abolition of the fair, we venture to include a copy as a document of historic interest. The document is as follows :—

"O yes ! O yes ! O yes ! Draw near and hear the Queen's proclamation ! I——, gentleman, Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Altrincham, in the name and on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and in the name and on behalf of the Right Honorable the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, Lord of this Borough, and the liberties thereof, strictly chargeth and commandeth all manner of persons resorting to this fair that they do keep the peace during the continuance thereof, upon pain of forfeiting for every assault or affray five pounds, and their bodies to prison.

"And that all manner of persons do forbear to carry any unlawful weapon or weapons, but that they leave the same at their respective lodgings upon pain of forfeiting the same weapons.

"And that all manner of persons do forbear to buy, sell or exchange any horses, mares, geldings, cows or other cattle in any stable or back-yard, or any other place except in the open fair or market.

"And that all persons who bring any goods or cattle to sell above the price or value of fourpence half-penny, do pay the accustomed toll for the same upon pain of forfeiting the same goods.

"And that no town dweller do keep in or about their houses, any goods or cattle to defraud the Lord of his toll, upon pain of forfeiting for every such offence, 6s. 8d.

"And lastly, the said Mayor strictly commandeth all rogues, vagabonds, and other idle wandering persons who can give no just account of their repair hither, that they forthwith depart this fair, and the liberties thereof, upon pain of such punishment as this law appointed for such offenders. God bless the Queen, the Lord of this borough, the Mayor, and all her Majesty's loyal subjects."

As one of the events of the present reign, the establishment of the Altrincham Local Board of Health cannot be overlooked. The members composing the first Board were—Messrs. R. Broadbent, (chairman); Samuel Barratt, Jesse Blew, Robert W. Bennett, Edward Joynson, Thomas Marsden, John Mort, W. Milnes Millington, and Wm. Warren. The Board was formed in 1851, under the Public Health Act of 1848. It acquired a transfer of the powers of the Board of Surveyors, who were mainly responsible for the repair and improvement of the highways, as well as of some of the privileges of the overseers and the ancient vestry. In 1851, the town was beginning to stretch out its arms, and the indications of growth, which began to manifest themselves upon the opening of the Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway in 1849, offered ample scope for a spirited policy on the part of the new authority. How much has been accomplished may be understood only from the standpoint of a comparison of the Altrincham of to-day with the Altrincham of sixty years ago. From the narrow, ill-paved and badly lighted streets of those days a great stride has been taken. Public and private enterprise has been fruitful of change ; and, in the spacious thoroughfares of to-day, with architectural examples that bespeak a flowing tide of prosperity, Altrincham has put on a new face and lost nearly all the traces which sixty years ago gave it a character peculiarly its own. The disappearance of old landmarks is one of the penalties of the modern spirit of improvement, and upon the removal of some of the picturesque memorials of a past generation a feeling of regret not unnaturally arises. But changes were inevitable if Altrincham was to fulfil the destiny marked out for it as the centre of a residential district which embraced the green slopes of Bowdon, the leafy lanes of Hale, and the pastoral dales of Dunham Massey. To these fair prospects, the opening of the railway gave ready means of access, and, although the invasion of the builder has deprived them of

many of their rural beauties, they were doubtless the determining factor in moulding the future of Altrincham. When the Queen commenced her reign, the population of Altrincham did not number three thousand. Bowdon, with a few cottages clustering round the venerable Parish Church, contained barely five hundred villagers, while Dunham Massey and Hale had 1,105 and 942 respectively. Timperley was a township of almost similar size, with 752 inhabitants, and Baguley and Carrington had each more than five hundred. In 1841 the population of Altrincham had grown to 3,372. Bowdon had increased to 549, Hale to 974, Timperley to 943, and Dunham Massey to 1,253. In 1851, the year of the formation of the Local Board of Health, Altrincham had a population of 4,488. Bowdon had more than doubled its inhabitants, who numbered 1,164. Hale with 974, Timperley with 1,008, Dunham Massey with 1,255, and Baguley with 570 showed little increase, but the next ten years was a period of rapid growth, for we find that the population of Altrincham had advanced to 6,628, and that of Bowdon to 1,827.

The following table perhaps more readily illustrates the growth of Altrincham and Bowdon and the immediately adjacent townships :

POPULATION.								RATABLE VALUE.		
	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1841	1871	1896
Altrincham.	2708	3372	4488	6628	8478	" 2 4 9	12424	£	£~	T
Bowdon...	458	549	1164	1827	2262	2559	2792	4932	31308	66508
Hale.	942	974	995	1160	1711	2221	3128	1823	21317	26408
Dunham Massey	1105	1253	1255	1535	1790	1977	2079	3767	11602	24006
Timperley.	752	943	1008	157	2112	2241	2461	5674	17462	28660
Ashley	379	377	379	375	380	385	412	3259	13581	19420
Agden	99	113	76	98	109	104	106	2340	3894	4735
Baguley...	468	500	570	611	634	736	814	984	1540	1376
Bollington.	268	297	300	277	253	272	223	2456	5366	8427
Carrington.	552	559	536	521	469	438	568	1245	1639	1789
Partington.	466	457	485	445	511	438	576	2271	3645	4896
Rostherne.	376	386	388	393	391	382	407	1393	2955	3931
Sale.	1104	1307	1720	3031	5573	7916	9644	1845	2658	2922
Ashton-on-Mersey	974	1105	1174	1476	2359	3325	4234	5954	34652	67495
								3743	15998	29183

The Ratable Value of Altrincham in May, 1897, was ;£69,302 ; and the Population was estimated at 15,000.

The progress disclosed by these figures threw upon the Local Board of Health important responsibilities. One of its first undertakings was the construction of a complete and comprehensive system of drainage. Under the old authority the sewerage of the town was carried out according to plans of the most modest description, and it was evident that the development of the district would, sooner or later, necessitate a scheme of a more perfect shape. An inquiry, conducted by Sir Robert Rawlinson of behalf of the Local Government Board, confirmed the impression, and it was eventually decided that a sum of £3,000 should be borrowed for the immediate purposes of the drainage scheme. By this system the sewage was conveyed to Timperley brook, but the plan proved to be not the most satisfactory that could have been devised. Complaints were constantly made of the pollution of the brook, and the pressure for an altered plan ultimately became so great that the Local Board was compelled to adopt measures that were less open to objection. Accordingly, in 1869, the sewage was diverted from Timperley brook and conveyed to Woodcote Farm, at Sinderland, which was taken on a lease of twenty years from the Trustees of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. Here the irrigation principle was followed with so much success that on the expiration of the lease the freehold of the farm, comprising over 70 acres, was purchased for a sum of £11,000. Since 1890, when the purchase was completed, the farm has been under the direct management of the local authority, and its success may be judged by the fact that last year a profit was made of £170. This is, of course, exclusive of an annual charge of £441 for the repayment of the loan and the payment of interest. Deducting the profit of £170 from this amount it will be seen that, during a year of marked activity, the whole of the sewage of the district has been satisfactorily disposed of at a cost of not more than £271. From time to time new drainage works have been necessitated, and between the years 1871 and 1890, sums amounting to £14,350 were expended. This is inclusive of a sum of £4,000 involved by the diversion of the main sewer to Sinderland and the laying out of the farm.

That the Local Board in the early years of its history did not set before it the loftiest ideals of government, is clearly demonstrated

ALTRINCHAM GAS COMPANY.

**Gas Cooking Ranges, Gas Fires,
Grillers, Boiling Burners, &c.,**

By the Leading Makers.

Incandescent Lights and other Gas Appliances.

A varied assortment of **STOVES, &c.**, can be seen at the Company's
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CHARLES HILDAGE,
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	ALSO CORN EXCHANGE, MANCHESTER, J. DERBYSHIRE, Bespoke Tailor, GEORGE ST., ALTRINCHAM; AND STOCKPORT ROAD, TIMFERLEY.	OUR BICYCLE  CLOTHING
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In the policy which omitted to obtain possession of the water supply, To a similar lack of public spirit may be ascribed the failure to secure the property of the Altrincham Gas Company. Both undertakings for the supply of gas and water are vested in private companies, and such advantages as public management must necessarily have conferred upon the district have been irretrievably lost. The improvement of the water supply was a subject that early attracted the notice of the Local Board. Up to the establishment of the authority a meagre supply was afforded by primitive pumps and open wells. One of the latter was formerly to be seen near to the site of the present Free Library. Upon what is now Victoria Street, it conferred the name of Well Lane, and to the adjacent thoroughfare it presented a designation which is still retained in "Springfield Road." There was also a copious flow of water from a spring on Hale Moss, and from this source more than any other it was hoped to obtain the future supply for the town. Numerous experiments were made with the object of testing the possibility of pumping the water to a tower which it was proposed to erect on the Downs, but on account of the hardness of the water it was decided to abandon the project. Other suggestions were under consideration from time to time, but a fear that the provision of water could only be made by adding seriously to the public burdens paralysed the action of the Local Board. The courageous stroke that might have placed the ratepayers in possession of the water supply was not made. Weak and timid counsels dogged the laggard steps of the authority, and while it halted and hesitated the opportunity was taken advantage of by private enterprise. In 1857 the North Cheshire Water Company was formed under the joint Stock Companies Act of 1856. The Company, which was incorporated in 1864, obtained what amounts practically to an inexhaustible supply from the mains of the Manchester Corporation, and they have successfully kept pace with the requirements of the local authority, by carrying out important extensions as occasion has arisen. Early in the present year the Company committed themselves to a further large expenditure, in order that a supply of a largely improved and increased character might be at the command of a rapidly advancing district.

Prior to the year 1844 the crooked lanes of the hamlet were lit with oil lamps. These were provided by the Inspectors under the Lighting and Watching Act of 1832 by means of a voluntary subscription. An old print shows one of these lamps blinking dimly through the blackness of a winter's night, while a watchman hard by, muffled to the ears in a blue coat with a red collar, and carrying a lantern, is represented as proclaiming the hour and the state of the weather. The introduction of gas as the illuminating agency and the establishment of the county constabulary banished both the oil lamps and the historic and picturesque watchmen. Gas was first manufactured in Altrincham in the year 1844 by Mr. George Massey, who seems to have been a man of some degree of enterprise and energy. Not only did Mr. Massey conduct the Unicorn Hotel, but he laid down a small plant for the manufacture of gas, and it was under his direction that, in the old Market Place, the new light was first tested. It at once leaped into popular favour, and a wider application followed as a matter of course. So that the manufacture might be fully developed, the Altrincham Gas Company was formed with a subscribed capital of £4,000. This was in 1846, and the company commenced by purchasing the modest plant erected by Mr. Massey. The expectation of a large demand was more than realized. It was speedily discovered that the small plant was insufficient, and the Company commenced the erection of new works on a spacious site on Hale Moss. The manufacture of gas was begun at these works in May, 1847. An extension of the system of lighting by gas was made to all parts of the town by the Local Board, who recognized its superiority to the ancient oil-lamps. At the present time the town is lighted by 433 public lamps at a cost of between £600 and £700 a year. In addition to these, the Company supply 162 lamps in the district of the Bowdon Urban District Council. Seventy-two are lighted by the Lighting Committee in the Township of Hale, and 73 by a similar body, whose powers are exercised under the provisions of the Lighting and Watching Act, in the township of Dunham Massey. The Company have, in recent years, found that a demand has arisen for gas for the driving of machinery. Fully fifty engines in the district are supplied with gas from the mains of the Company, at a rate of from 2s. 8d. down to 2s. 5d. net, per thousand cubic feet, according to consumption. The price for lighting and domestic purposes is 2s. 6d., a rate contrasting very favourably with that of ten shillings which was charged half a century ago. The Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1872. Up to that year the paid-up capital amounted to £40,000. Subsequently to the Act of 1872, the Company issued further shares of the value of £40,000, and the paid-up capital now stands at £80,000. In 1893 further extensions were needed, and fresh powers were obtained under an Act of Parliament. Authority was given for the raising of an additional sum of £40,000, making a total authorized capital of £120,000. Of this, however, only £80,000 has been called up. By their special Acts, the Company have power to borrow £15,000 on mortgage, and to issue Debenture Stock, also a further power to borrow on mortgage one-fourth of the amount of capital issued and fully paid up under the special Act of 1893. The total loans borrowed up to December 31st, 1896, amounted to £10,000, and the expenditure of the Company to the same period had been no less than £89,931 14s. 6d. On two noteworthy occasions attempts were made by the Local Board to acquire the property of the Gas Company by purchase. In 1871 negotiations were opened, and the Company fixed upon £57,000 as the selling price. At a public meeting the terms were rejected, but the matter was re-opened in the following year, when the directors of the Company offered to dispose of the works for the sum of £54,000. As they had previously fixed upon £60,000 as the reserve price, it was deemed by many that a concession had been made which should be met from the other side. The Local Board, however, declined to give a larger sum than £52,000, and negotiations were suspended. Twenty-one years later—1893—another attempt was made to acquire the property for the ratepayers. Protracted negotiations took place, and the Local Board and the Gas Company mutually agreed upon £162,300 as a fair value. The proposals for the purchase were brought before a public meeting in February, 1893, but the ratepayers declined to give their sanction, and thus the second effort of the Local Board to acquire a valuable property ended in failure. The profit, or the Company in 1896 amounted to no less than £7,330.

The Local Board purchased the manorial tolls from the Earl of Stamford and Warrington in 1878. Besides paying a sum of £1,000 they entered into a condition to erect a new Market Hall. The site ultimately chosen was that at the corner of Shaw's Lane and Market Street, a neighbourhood which in recent times has been considerably improved by the removal of several old buildings. The Market Hall was opened in 1880, the total cost of the scheme being £5153. So far it has proved to be much larger than was requisite, and less profitable than was expected. Another spin of the wheel of fortune may probably bring the dawn of that prosperity for which the market has long waited. The former market was a dismal vault under the Town Hall, built in 1847. Its abandonment was not regarded with regret by the purveyors of eggs, butter, and cheese who gathered there every Tuesday, and they gladly exchanged their quarter space provided by the new market, by the material addition to the public resources was made in 1880, by the opening of Stamford Park. The site, comprising a total area of sixteen acres, was conveyed by a deed of gift to the Local Board by Lord Stamford. It then formed part of the common land of Hale Moss, a spot abounding with traces of neglect. The dedication of the land to the public had the direct result of benefiting Altrincham by the possibilities it afforded of effecting a much needed improvement. The ground was cleared, the swamps were filled up, and the whole was enclosed and laid out with a taste that has deservedly won the highest admiration. The total cost of the Park, including some unfortunate leal proceedings which ensued after the laying out of the site, was £7,587. Pains have been taken to enhance the attractive aspect of the Park in every possible way, and the spaces appropriated for the purposes of bowls, cricket, and football are singularly popular. Another addition of four acres is shortly to be made to the Park under the terms of an arrangement with the Trustees of the Earl of Stamford. This is the outcome of negotiations concluded during the present year which had for their object the placing of the remaining portions of the Moss under proper control. The conditions provide for a definite grant of fourteen acres to the Parish Council of Hale in addition to the four acres that will be added to the Park. Certain covenants have been entered into between the Trustees and the two Councils in order to define the exact responsibilities of each party—in the event of the development of the adjoining land for building purposes.

Under the Libraries Acts a Free Library was established in 1892. Among the various educational agencies established during the past sixty years the library is one that most clearly reflects the spirit of the age. The Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1872. Up to that year the paid-up capital amounted to £40,000. Subsequently to the Act of 1872, the Company issued further shares of the value of £40,000, and the paid-up capital now stands at £80,000. In 1893 further extensions were needed, and fresh powers were obtained under an Act of Parliament. Authority was given for the raising of an additional sum of £40,000, making a total authorized capital of £120,000. Of this, however, only £80,000 has been called up. By their special Acts, the Company have power to borrow £15,000 on mortgage, and to issue Debenture Stock, also a further power to borrow on mortgage one-fourth of the amount of capital issued and fully paid up under the special Act of 1893. The total loans borrowed up to December 31st, 1896, amounted to £10,000, and the expenditure of the Company to the same period had been no less than £89,931 14s. 6d. On two noteworthy occasions attempts were made by the Local Board to acquire the property of the Gas Company by purchase. In 1871 negotiations were opened, and the Company fixed upon £57,000 as the selling price. At a public meeting the terms were rejected, but the matter was re-opened in the following year, when the directors of the Company offered to dispose of the works for the sum of £54,000. As they had previously fixed upon £60,000 as the reserve price, it was deemed by many that a concession had been made which should be met from the other side. The Local Board, however, declined to give a larger sum than £52,000, and negotiations were suspended. Twenty-one years later—1893—another attempt was made to acquire the property for the ratepayers. Protracted negotiations took place, and the Local Board and the Gas Company mutually agreed upon £162,300 as a fair value. The proposals for the purchase were brought before a public meeting in February, 1893, but the ratepayers declined to give their sanction, and thus the second effort of the Local Board to acquire a valuable property ended in failure. The profit, or the Company in 1896 amounted to no less than £7,330.

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the month of July, in many cases at Half-
price, previous to STOCK-TAKING.

age. Its foundation was largely aided by the enlightened and spirited action of the Directors of the Literary Institution, whose property, which then consisted of a large public hall, library, newsroom, and classrooms, was of the probable value of £4,000. Recognizing that the possibilities of its usefulness would be largely increased by the adoption of the Libraries Acts, the Directors generously acceded to an invitation to transfer it to the management of the Local Board. The annals of the old Literary Institution form an interesting page in the history of Altrincham. Its first home was in a modest and unpretentious cottage in Well Lane. Here it began in the year 1847 with the laudable object "by means of a well-selected Library, a Reading or News-room, Lectures and Evening Classes, to supply to the young men of the neighbourhood opportunities of mental cultivation and improvement at a cheap rate, at the same time that it affords to the adult inhabitants a rational and agreeable mode of spending their leisure hours." In 1852 a building was erected on the site of the present Library at a cost of £800. A lecture hall was added in 1866 at a further cost of £800. The whole of the money was raised by public subscriptions. The old hall was burned down in the November of 1878, but the damage was repaired in the following year. Until 1892 the Directors vigorously maintained all departments of the Institution, and they were handed over to the Local Board in a condition that promised additional success. On acquiring the property the Local Board acted in a remarkably liberal spirit. Adopting the Act, a rate was levied for the purposes of Technical Instruction, and, assisted by a grant of £486 from the Cheshire County Council and some private subscriptions, an important extension was determined upon. The adjoining land, upon which were a number of cottages, was purchased and cleared. Here were built the Library, News-room, and Technical School, while, at the other end, the large hall was extended and improved. The enlarged premises were opened on the 5th May, 1894, but pending their completion the library was carried on at the Oddfellows' Hall in Market Street. The total cost of the project was about £6,000, of which a sum of £5,100 was raised by a loan on the rates.

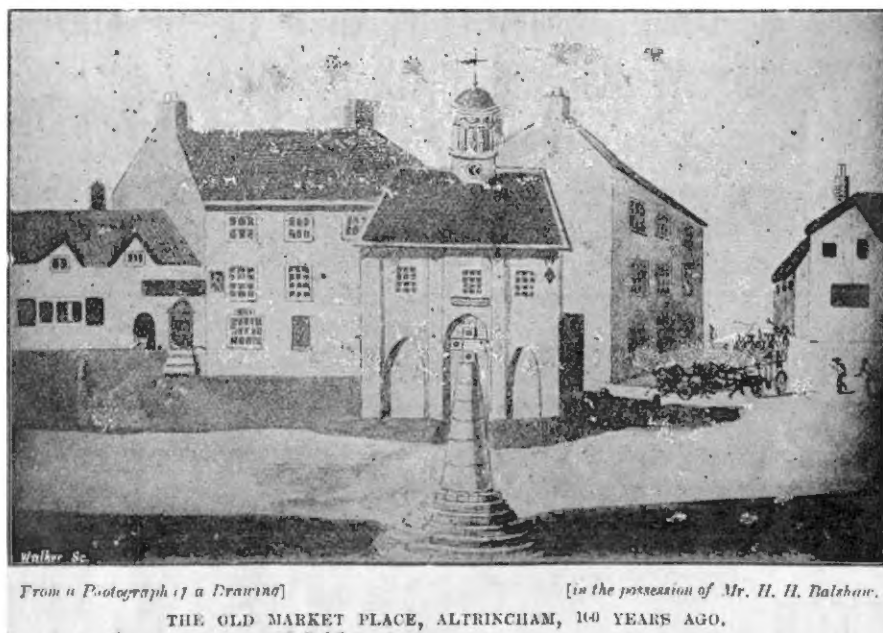
The Cemetery in Hale Road was constructed at a cost of £8,650. The site, which comprises some ten acres, has been tastefully laid out, and the attractive aspect of the grounds is enhanced by the handsome stone chapel in the centre, built from the designs of Mr. Wm. Owen. When the Local Board in 1891 proposed to purchase the site, the inhabitants of Hale, in whose township it was situated, offered a strong opposition, and a costly inquiry, in which the Local Board were professionally represented by Mr. Lindsell (the present Mayor of Altrincham), extended over several days. At first a decision was given by the Home Secretary against the selected site, but this was reversed by his successor at the Home Office in 1892. The Cemetery was opened on the 21st November, 1894. It marked the completion of one of the most important undertakings of the old Local Board, and in its conception and execution it worthily represents the zeal which set in in the latter days of the authority, to meet the requirements of the community, in view of an anticipated early closing of the ancient burial ground at Bowdon Parish Church. Up to the present time about 150 interments have taken place in the Cemetery. The refusal of the Local Board, subsequently confirmed by the District Council, to consecrate the ground has placed a limitation upon its use; and it is probable that a proposal for a new burial ground in Bowdon in connection with the Parish Church will, sooner or later, assume a practical form.

The Local Board was successful in initiating and carrying out several important street improvements, all of which, more

or less, contribute to the convenience of the growing population. In 1870 the narrow road leading from High Street to Norman's Place was opened to its present width at a cost of £1,000. Formerly the road, which was aptly described as "The Narrows," was only available for the passage of a single vehicle. It was a source of danger, and, although the improvement involved the sacrifice of some curious old landmarks, public safety, no less than the necessity, of a new outlet for the increasing population, imperatively called for a change. About the same time a new road was made over the land popularly known as "The Patch," from Norman's Place to Dunham Road. How much the improvement has been appreciated may be judged by the large number of residences which now skirt the road. A prominent site on the road was secured by the Conservative party for the erection of a club, which was built in 1882 at a cost of £2,000. In 1896 that admirable example of the Church's activity known as St. Margaret's Church Institute was built on the adjoining site at a cost of £2,300, and, as a further testimony of the growing popularity of the road, it may be mentioned that the District Council regards the site formerly occupied by the residence of Mr. S. Norris, J.P., as extremely appropriate for its new Public Offices. How much has been done by property owners in the formation of new streets may be gathered from the fact that from 1876 to 1897 sums amounting to £17,500 were expended in this direction alone, this is, of course, quite apart from the large amounts annually spent by the Local Board upon such repairs and improvements as have from time to time been necessary. In 1870 the gross expenditure of the Local Board was not more than £2,000 per annum. The multiplication of interests, has, however, been attended by increased charges, and the last "budget" of the District Council showed that provision has now to be made for an annual expenditure of not less than £10,000. This will be met, during the present year, by a district rate of 2s. 7d. in the pound.

On the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894, the Altrincham Urban District Council came into existence. The last meeting of the Local Board was held on the 28th December, 1894, under the chairmanship of Mr. George Bowen. With the largely-increased powers conferred by the new Act the Council has quickened the pace of local government, and various "new departures" denote an active and enterprising spirit. One of the first works of the new Council was to spend £3,500 upon a variety of street improvements. It is only fair to state that the project was shaped by the Local Board on the eve of the transfer of its powers, and the District Council may, therefore, be said to have acted in a strictly executive capacity. One part of the scheme provided for the removal of the ancient "cobble" in the old Market Place and relaying with square setts. The Council also revealed a commendable desire for the adornment of the town by planting the middle of the Market Place with shrubs and flowering plants, and at once effected a decided change, which, in course of time, will possibly be pursued in other directions. Another important work was the construction of the spacious Town's Yard in Moss Lane. This involved the purchase of an extensive plot of land from the

trustees of the Mayor's Land Charity at an annual chief rent of £86 13s. 4d., and the entire scheme, which cost upwards of £2,500, was completed early in this year. At the present time the District Council is in negotiation for the purchase of land in Market Street (formerly High Street) for the erection of offices of a larger and more pretentious character than the modest premises which have done duty since 1863. In the encouragement of technical education the Council has manifested a keen interest, and a bold and enlightened policy has been the distinguishing feature of its work in connection with the Free Library. Indeed the progress made



From a Photograph (of a Drawing)

(in the possession of Mr. H. H. Dalshaw.)

THE OLD MARKET PLACE, ALTRINCHAM, 140 YEARS AGO.

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PROPRIETOR - - JAMES F. FRAY.

by the Free Library under the fostering influences of the local authority is one of the progressive signs of which Altrincham may justly boast. In May, 1897, the Library contained over 7,000 volumes. The names of no fewer than 2,892 persons are on the borrowers' list, and the average daily issue of books is 250. Between 300 and 400 students were in attendance at the various technical classes in the spring of 1897, and in every department evidences were revealed of success, together with an earnest desire on the part of the Council to advance the general welfare of the school.

For electoral purposes Altrincham was, under the Local Government Act, 1894, divided into five wards. These are named North, South, East, West and Central respectively. To each ward three representatives were appropriated. The Local Board comprised only twelve members, but the larger amount of work to be performed by the establishment of fresh interests made an increased representation desirable, if not absolutely essential. The change was effected after an inquiry on the 24th May, 1894, by a Committee of the Cheshire County Council. The County Council further directed that Altrincham should return a poor law guardian for each ward, thus increasing the total number returned by the township from four to five.

The first election of members to the District Council took place on the 15th December, 1894, and in the following month the new authority was invested with all the powers formerly exercised by the Local Board. The chairman, under the provisions of the Act, was placed on the Commission of the Peace, while a number of duties hitherto discharged by the magistrates, such as the issuing of game licences, became part of the ordinary business of the Council.

In order that a complete record of the Council may be preserved, we append the names of members elected in each year from 1894 to 1897 inclusive, with the number of votes recorded for each :—

NORTH WARD.			
T. H. Vernon	...	...	148
John Newton			129
C. Pierson	...		127
SOUTH WARD.			
George Drinkwater.	...		287
Joseph Hill	...		183
Isaac Watts...	...		164
EAST WARD.			
A. Barker	...	..	215
Jno. Palmer	...		214
T. H. Caine...	...		130
WEST WARD.			
E. Yarwood...			118
Jas. Boyd	...		108
Jas. Gott	...		96
CENTRAL WARD.			
R. Gatley	...		165
J. Drinkwater	...		131
G. Bowen	...		105

* Mr. Pierson resigned his seat in March, 1895, and the Council filled the vacancy by appointing Mr. George Allan.

The above named formed the first Council. The unsuccessful candidates were as follows :—North Ward: Messrs. George Allan, J. G. B. Barber, W. Griffin, S. R. Armitage, H. Congreve, and G. Arrowsmith. South Ward: Messrs. T. Turner, J. Percival, J. E. Makin, W. Pearson, W. Atkinson, and W. H. Pendlebury. East Ward: Messrs. W. Hulme, J. Steen, S. Arnold, J. Gregson, C. H. Skipper, W. Okell, and T. Hildage. West Ward: Messrs. W. S. Mainprice, J. N. Sidebotham, W. A. Renshaw, Jno. Smith, Jno. Gibbon, John Robson, and J. R. Ward. Central Ward: Messrs. Jno. Brierley, S. Birtles, J. Wood, J. Brooks, and S. W. Scott.

At the first meeting of the Council Mr. George Bowen was appointed chairman, and occupied the position until April, 1896, when he was succeeded by Mr. John Newton. On the death of Mr. Newton, in December, 1896, Mr. Every Yarwood was appointed to the chair, and held office until April, 1897, when the Council appointed as his successor Mr. Isaac Watts.

By direction of an order of the Local Government Board, the first Council held office until April, 1896. In that month one member in each ward retired, the order being determined by his position on the poll. Thus the member who polled the fewest votes in each ward would retire at the end of one year, the member who was second

at the end of two years, and the member who was at the head of the poll at the end of three years.

The polling at the 1896 election was as follows :—

NORTH WARD.	
Samuel Thompson	185
George Allan	98
SOUTH WARD.	
Isaac Watts	200
J. E. Makin	79
R. Pearson	7
EAST WARD.	
Mark Pearson	194
William Hulme	118
T. H. Caine (who withdrew)	3
WEST WARD.	
Joseph Brooks (unopposed).	

At the April election of 1897 the following was the result :—

NORTH WARD.	
A. C. Sparkes	131
G. Allan	119
SOUTH WARD.	
E. Smith	204
J. Hill	129
EAST WARD.	
J. Palmer	121
J. Macdonald	59
WEST WARD.	
J. Bowland	156
J. T. Hughes	121
CENTRAL WARD.	
J. Drinkwater	153
S. Birtles	108

The number of electors on the register in 1897 was 2,865, distributed in the five wards in the following proportions :—North, 516; South, 707; East, 597; West, 535; Central, 510.

The Bowdon Local Board was established in 1864 under the Public Health Act. Acquiring most of the administrative functions of the old vestry the township was governed by the Local Board until December, 1894, when the Urban District Council came into existence. Under the powers of the Public Health Act provision was early made for the sewerage of the district, and a scheme was carried out in the "sixties" at a cost of £2,500. Gas, for the purposes of public lighting, was introduced in the winter of 1868. Road improvements have engaged much of the attention of the Board, and in the perfection of its sanitary arrangements the township occupies a singularly high position. This is proved by the smallness of the death-rate, which compares favourably with that of the met famous health resorts in the kingdom. On the formation of the District Council the number of representatives on the governing authority was increased from nine to eleven. The vigour with which the contest for these seats was conducted was an unusual feature of public life in Bowdon, where its waters are accustomed to run sluggishly, and the extraordinary spectacle of twenty-three candidates in the field was witnessed. The Council adopted the triennial system of election, and the following were returned as members of the first Council :—Messrs. H. T. Gaddum, J. Hall, E. J. Sidebotham, F. G. Whittall, J. Alderley, R. A. Warburton, A. Haworth, R. W. Trenbath, S. W. Gillett, D. Senior, and J. Ferguson. Mr. H. T. Gaddum, J.P., was elected the first chairman of the Council. An active policy has been pursued by the authority. In 1856 a loan of £2,500 was raised for the construction of new outfall sewer works which were completed in 1897. Probably the most noteworthy achievement has been an experiment in the system of allotments. In 1896 the Council obtained the lease of four acres of land from the Stamford Trustees, which they have let out to cottagers at a half-yearly rental of 3s. per plot of 64 yards. The Council has also laid out a recreation ground, which will be brought into use during the present summer.

The latter years of the Queen's reign have been distinguished by a material growth unexampled in the previous history of the district. In Altrincham, Bowdon, Hale, Dunham Massey, and

SUCCESS leads to SUCCESS,

and well-deserved effort gains in time its own Reward !

On every hand are to be found reasons for heartiest congratulation.

The spectacle of a trusted, free, and happy people, working with united will and earnest endeavour to fittingly emphasize their gratitude for Sixty Right Royal Years of truly Queenly Rule, and the Sovereign Lady's heartfelt message to them, is the culminating example of the "Mutual Rectitude" basis on which Britain's Greatness has been founded and is now so firmly maintained.

Locally, we have not far to seek for examples of the same principle.

The *Guardian's* splendid Jubilee Supplement Issue meets its due reward; and the demands of an appreciative public necessitate the present re-issue.

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is to be found in the steady progress of the ALTRINCHAM ELECTRIC SUPPLY LIMITED. Starting with the fixed determination to meet the public needs, and keenly striving to do so to the fullest, result to-day in pleasant facts which may thus be summarised:—

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Timperley large additions have been made to the ratable value, while a no less substantial increase has been made to the population. In Broadheath, where the development has, perhaps, been most conspicuously marked, houses have sprung up by the hundred. This has been due to its selection as the seat of a variety of new industries. It is a long time since the days of silk weaving in Altrincham, when almost every cottage had its loom. There are still people who not only can remember these halcyon days, but whose memories recall the existence of a number of small weaving mills. These little industries disappeared long ago, only to be succeeded by trades having no affinity to the residential character which the neighbourhood assumed after the opening of the Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway on the 20th July, 1849. The invasion of trade, while it has brought new interests, has also had the effect of destroying the rural character of Broadheath. About fifteen years ago the Atlantic Engineering Works were built at Broadheath. Here employment is found for close upon three hundred artizans. In 1888 the works for the making of photographic apparatus were built by the Thornton-Pickard Manufacturing Company, and, later still, they were followed by the erection of large works for Messrs. Luke and Spencer. On the 25th February, 1896, the pastoral character of a large part of the Oldfield Estate, once the residence of Lady Murray, was doomed. On that date the Linotype Company obtained possession of more than thirty acres, and they have since built extensive works for the manufacture of that latest marvel of the printing world, the Linotype composing machine. The workshops and offices cover more than four acres of ground, and the dusky head of a huge chimney raises forebodings for the future. More than a thousand workmen will soon be employed at the large manufactory, and the erection of three or four hundred houses is a distinctly certain event of a joyous Jubilee Year. Indeed the entire face of the district has undergone a wonderful transformation, and as one of the achievements of private enterprise during Her Majesty's reign, reference to the change cannot be omitted.

As denoting the progress of Altrincham, there is no more noteworthy indication than that offered by the wonderful readiness with which electric lighting has been taken up and patronized by the inhabitants. A private company—the Altrincham Electric Supply, Limited—with a capital of £25,000 obtained a Provisional Order in 1894, and the work of building a generating station and laying the mains was commenced in the same year. The generating station which was built at Broadheath, between the railway and the canal, is completely furnished with boilers, engines, and dynamos, while large workshops adjoin for the manufacture of all kinds of electric appliances. From this centre, the electric mains extend throughout the district, and their extent may be gauged when it is noted that they supply places as far apart as Park-road, Bowdon; Bollinworth, Bowdon; Arthog-road, and Park-road, Hale; the Lawn, Timperley; the village of Ashton-on-Mersey, two or three miles in the opposite direction, and Oldfield Brow and Park Gates, Dunham Massey. Over nineteen miles of mains have already been laid. The steady increase in the demand for the new illuminant has enabled the Company to reduce the cost on three separate occasions, and as this policy will doubtless be pursued in the future, the prospects of a still larger application of electricity may be regarded as hopeful. It is interesting to mention that by a clause in the Provisional Order the District Council obtained powers to purchase the works and plant of the Company at the cost of 71/2 per cent, over the actual expenditure.

More Backward Glances.

IN the advancement of Altrincham private enterprise fills a large space on the historical canvas, and it is necessary to refer to just a few of the agencies that have grown up within the span of the Record Reign. Chief among these is the Altrincham Provident Dispensary and Hospital. The institution was built in 1870 at a cost of, £3,000 from funds provided by the Trustees of the Altrincham Workhouse Charity. This money was obtained from the sale of land, some eight acres of which had been granted in 1755 by the then Earl of Warrington. Here for a long time existed the workhouse for the poor of Altrincham. On the formation of the Altrincham Poor Law Union in 1836, and the employment of other methods for maintaining the poor, the workhouse became unnecessary, and

the premises were adapted as dwellings. Previously a portion of the land had been disposed of to the promoters of the Warrington and Stockport line of railway, so that the Trustees had ample means, under the direction of an order of the Charity Commissioners to provide for the erection of a hospital suited to the needs of the district. Since then most of the surplus land held by the trustees has been sold, and so carefully have the resources of the trust been managed that it has been possible to provide sums amounting to a total of £2,700 for the further endowment of the institution. The endowment has also benefited by a number of handsome gifts from private donors, including the following:—Mr. Humphrey Nicholls, £200 (1871-2); Mr. Robert Platt, Dunham Hall, £115 (1872); Mr. Wm. Smith, Stamford Road, Bowdon, £300 (1873); Mr. John Finnie, Bowdon Lodge, £200 (1874); Mr. J. Coston, Bowdon, £100 (1874); Exors. of Mr. R. Satterfield, Bowdon, £100 (1878); Executors of Miss Daine, Ashton-on-Mersey, £450 (1879); Executors of Mr. Jackson, Hale, £100 (1880); Executors of Mrs. Holland, Sandiway, Altrincham, £500 (1885); Executors of Mrs. Taylor, Oakfield, Dunham Massey, £100 (1887); Mrs. Hayes The Downs, £100 (1889); Sir William C. Brooks, Bart., £500 (1893); Executors of Mr. Wm. Berry, Parklands, Bowdon, £1,000 (1896). The ordinary income of the hospital in 1896 was £2,570, and the number of patients treated in the wards during the year was 204. There are 44 beds in the hospital, and the number of members on the books of the Provident Dispensary is 4,202. Additional accommodation is one of the requirements of the hospital, and it is hoped to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by providing a sum of £4,000 for the purpose.

The establishment of societies of all kinds has been a distinguishing characteristic of the growth of Altrincham. The Altrincham Agricultural Society, established in 1862 has reached a vigorous old age, with a fund at its back of £2,000. The highest record of the society was reached at the show of 1896, when there were no fewer than 3,363 entries. A still older society is the Altrincham and Bowdon Floral, Horticultural, and Rose Society, founded in 1854. Its weight of years has not impaired the vigour of the society, and it still pursues a spirited and enlightened course. For ten years the Broadheath Cottage Gardeners' Association has done much to cultivate a taste for gardening, and many cottage windows are all the brighter for its existence. The work of the different friendly societies has been successfully conducted, and one organization—the Stamford Lodge of Oddfellows—had the proud satisfaction in 1896 of celebrating its 64th anniversary. For more than twenty years the Altrincham and Bowdon Amateur Dramatic Society has entertained the public, and the frosts of winter have neither chilled the blood nor checked the ardour of its members.

Philanthropic effort is well represented by the Altrincham and Bowdon Provident Society, which has taken a prominent part in relieving temporary distress and in checking mendicity. That educational institutions are multiplying so rapidly is one of the tokens by which advance may be registered, and one of the chief characteristics of the reign will be found in the zeal and enthusiasm of the managers of public schools, clergymen and ministers, in meeting the increasing demands upon their resources. This work has been of an eminently practical and useful kind, and the outlook for the future education of Altrincham and Bowdon is decidedly hopeful. In 1895, Archdeacon Gore, D.D., Vicar of Bowdon, successfully carried to a close a scheme for the enlargement of the Parish Schools, at a cost of more than £1,000. St. Margaret's Church Schools were enlarged in the same year, and important alterations were made at St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Schools. The British Schools were enlarged some four or five years ago. At St. John's Church of England Schools, the New Street Wesleyan Schools, the Rigby Memorial Schools, Broadheath, the Seamon's Moss Endowed School, and St. George's Church of England Schools, a valuable educational work has been carried on, and the liberal view of their responsibilities on the part of the managers is a distinctly encouraging sign for the future of education. With the exception of those of Bowdon and St. George's, the schools in Altrincham have sprung up within the last half century. Abundant proofs of their efficiency are to be found, and a ready acknowledgment of the impress left on the intellectual life of the town is forthcoming.





From a Photo in possession of]

[Mr. H. H. Balshaw.

BOWDON PARISH CHURCH BEFORE RESTORATION.

Sixty Years of Church Progress, 1837-1897

BY THE REV. F. WAINWRIGHT, MA.

"Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and the hole of the pit whence ye are digged."

Spoke Isaiah long ago, and the lesson is still in force. It is always profitable to recall the day of small things, partly because it is humbling, and therefore wholesome to remember that we were not always as we are at present, and partly because it yields a lasting encouragement to observe how much can be made of so little! And few suburban neighbourhoods can show a contrast so striking as that between the Bowdon of to-day and the Bowdon which met the eye when the Queen began her reign. In the present paper, however, it is not the whole of this contrast which concerns us, but simply the changes of church life in that period.

Approaching Altrincham from Liverpool by rail, or driving to Bowdon along the Knutsford Road, the eye takes in a picturesque grouping of spires and domes, every one of which has arisen at a date long subsequent to the Queen's accession. Perhaps the best point for commanding this panorama is on the heights of Hale, a little above that bosky dell which used to be known as "Jacob's Ladder." Alas! those quaint features which made Bank Hall Lane so interesting in the old days have vanished for ever. But the view from the hill above is still fresh and clear, and, perhaps, more animated than in former days by reason of these very towers and spires, which have been clustered together within the last 40 years.

Or, take your stand on the road which leads to Rostherne, by the east side of the Mere, at a point where the former Vicar of Bowdon, Wm. Pollock, played a droll trick on the former Vicar of St. Margaret's, John Kingsley. The trick was this. They were out together on a country stroll, and Pollock kept Kingsley in close conversation till they came to a particular spot, where the spire of St. Margaret's appears above the tower of Bowdon Church, exactly as if it rested upon it. Then Pollock, who loved a joke, being a thorough Irishman, as indeed Kingsley was also, suddenly drew his attention to the singular view, and said abruptly:—"Why whatever have they done to Bowdon Church?" and poor Kingsley was quite confused for a moment, and almost began to fancy that some architectural freak had been committed.

Well, standing there, you begin to take in the features of our social scenery as it may be called—the mansions, churches, chapels, and schools which owe their origin to comparatively recent days. First of all there is the mother church of Bowdon itself, many centuries old

as a foundation, but the actual edifice that we now behold was restored (that is, re-built) about forty years ago. And Kingsley himself, whom we mentioned above, was for many years curate of the Parish Church under Mr. Mann, and was left in charge when he retired. This restoration was planned and carried out by Pollock, who carved his name deeply on the local annals; for he also re-built the school, and built St. Mark's in Dunham Massey. and by the sale of the old Vicarage (now called the Priory) on the banks of the Bollin, he procured for himself and his successors the admirable new Vicarage in Park Road. He also had much to do with the erection of St. John's. In fact, the brief period of his stay at Bowdon was marked by great energy and success, till his health completely failed, and he died before reaching old age.

Next in rank, and much more conspicuous as a landmark, is St. Margaret's, the lofty spire of which can be descried at great distances, crowning the northern height of the little Bowdon ridge, just as Bowdon Church crowns the southern point or ridge. People are fond of comparing the views from these two eminences, and generally the preference is admitted for the southern view, travelling as it does towards Alderley Edge and Mow Cop and the central plain of Cheshire. A pleasing landscape to be sure, and well wooded, but personally I prefer the bolder panorama from St. Margaret's, which embraces the region of the Ship Canal and the brown patches of the mosses of south Lancashire, and at last is nobly closed in by the stern mass of Rivington Pike. And in the very front of this view is to be seen a thoroughly modern element of landscape—rows of cycles, resting round the walls during service on Sunday mornings, while their riders are within. A sign of the times!

The Queen had been 18 years on the throne when St. Margaret's was opened, since which time mighty changes have been effected around it. Mansions and villas have arisen, new roads and streets been opened out, and not only has there been for years a Mission Church (All Saints') made out of what used to be a Wesleyan Chapel, in which John Wesley himself had preached, but within these last few months, a handsome Church Institute has been built, and opened for many purposes of public utility which never entered into the jog-trot routine of our forefathers. Still standing in that pretty country lane, we easily make out some other prominent objects, such as the chapel with the dome, the tower of St. George's, the spires of Trinity Presbyterian Church, and St. John the Evangelist's; besides some conspicuous dwellings, such as Miss Wallace's School, Mr. George Haworth's house of High Lawn, which still suggests the name of Alderman Neild, and



From a Photo by]

BOWDON PARISH CHURCH (RESTORED 1850), 1897.

[Walter, Altrincham.

others besides. Every one of these landmarks has its own story to tell of changes and developments in the social and spiritual history of our neighbourhood. Take for instance the dome which predominates in many of our local views. Who would have dreamt 50 years ago that so imposing a structure would have been erected by the followers of John Wesley? Originally they had only one place of worship hereabouts, the one which gave its name to Chapel Walk, and is now transformed into All Saints', Regent Road. Presently a new one was built on Rose Hill. This was pulled down some years ago, and its stones are yet to be seen as "facings" for two houses opposite Laurel Bank. At a still later date Bank Street Chapel was built, the stone being laid by the well-known Miss Wood, afterwards Mrs. Greg, who at that time lived in Green Walk, in a house afterwards occupied by Mr. Edward Owens, long since deceased. And still later arose "St. Paul's-in-the-fields," as it has sometimes been called, or the "Wesleyan Cathedral," Mr. Brakspear being the architect, who had also designed the renovated parish church of Bowdon. Unfortunately this soaring dome proved too burdensome for the walls which supported it, and the Wesleyans of Bowdon had to cope with various difficulties, financial and architectural, in connection with their handsome chapel. This they did heroically, and in course of years the whole burden was satisfactorily removed—local generosity and enterprise being well backed up by occasional visits from some of their great preachers, such as Punshon and Macdonald.

A little lower down the hill we come to three places of worship in one group, viz., the Downs Chapel, Trinity, and St. John's. Each of these represents a long story of loving and generous endeavours. The first was erected in the garden of the late Mr. Grafton, and was of modest dimensions in its early stages, till the inevitable need for enlargement caused its "lateral extension" to take place, and at a later date the present handsome and most commodious lecture-room was added as a kind of wing. What various gifts and powers have been exercised here, from Mr. Christopherson down to the present day, when the name of Dr. Mackennal has become one of national celebrity. Passing down a side street we are in a few yards confronted with the graceful spire of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Surely here too we at once detect the signs of development such as meet us elsewhere. What would the Covenanters of "Old Mortality" have said to these grinning monsters at the base of the spire, which rejoice in the name of gargoyles? Be that as it may, this congregation can afford to smile at such an objection, for if their ornaments are monkish and mediaeval, their methods are spiritual and up-to-date. For a long period they worshipped in a little chapel at the foot of the Downs, which can still be traced in part behind and above the shop of Mr. Tootill, chemist, and it is worth tracing, for it has been a nursery and foster-parent to more than one denomination. By degrees this modest shrine became too small for them, and they gladly moved across to their new house of prayer in Delamer Road, since which time they have sent out a vigorous offshoot in the form of Trinity Mission at the foot of Victoria Street. The Downs Chapel also has for many years carried on a Mission in the British School, besides other enterprises further away.

You see this is the age of colonial expansion. Nearly 3,000 years ago the ancient Greeks exhibited a faculty of colonization, such as has never been equalled till quite modern times. In this particular line the mantle of ancient Greece has certainly fallen upon Great Britain, "who wears it with a difference." For a century and a half we have been showing the world how to colonize by examples on nearly every shore, and this is one of the chief trophies that we are able to exhibit in our national rejoicings over this 60th year. And what we exhibit abroad we cultivate at home, and every sect within this realm is keenly watching for chances of growth. For instance, starting from St. John's, we come at once to a building with a handsome Italian front, and we find it is a Baptist Chapel, itself the offshoot of a colony from the Downs, and at one time sharing its members with a neat little structure in Railway Street, playfully known as the "Tin Tabernacle," which has since been taken down.

A few yards to the left is the British School, where, for 15 months, during the building of St. John's, the nucleus of our own congregation was being gathered together. There also a Congregationalist Mission is maintained in the large front room, while in the handsome class-room the Welsh have for many years met to worship in their own tongue. Happy comprehensiveness, and worthy to be called a parable in brick and mortar! Pursuing our journey by Hale Road, we pass the handsome chapel just erected—as the youngest colony of Wesleyan enterprise. This is at the entrance of Henry

Street, half-a-mile from which brings us to the new Cemetery, where the old difficulty of Denominationalism is not yet quite removed. Further on is the pretty Mission Church of Hale Barns, and the next mile or so brings us to the Mother Church of Ringway. Formerly the old structure was picturesque with ivy and decay, instead of which we now have the charm of solid fitness and grace. This new church is practically the gift of Lord Egerton, and if we turn to the west we can return to Altrincham by the village of Ashley, where we see another handsome gift, in the form of St. Elizabeth's Church, designed, indeed, by the present Lord Egerton, but built at the expense of his lamented father. A leisurely walk of half-an-hour will land us at St. Peter's, Peel Causeway, the result of Archdeacon Gore's enterprise and the generosity of many Bowdon residents, especially Mr. R. H. Joynson. So complete, indeed, are the features of this House of Prayer (in spite of the damage twice sustained from storms) that the simple little structure of St. Luke's Mission Church, built for the special use of the cottagers in Bowdon Vale, seems now to be quite eclipsed in the glories of its younger sister!

Yes, expansion is the order of the day. Let us, as it were, turn the telescope round, and view the northern hemisphere, beginning from west to east. Why, what do we see at Warrington, ten miles away? Is there a spire to the Parish Church, or is it only a joke, like the one already mentioned? Some 30 years ago, under the generous leadership of the late Sir G. Greenall, a subscription was raised, and the Warrington people did put the finishing touch to their church. And now we see another spire at Oughtrington, almost in a direct line with that at Warrington; and nearer home we descry three new churches, one at Partington, a second at Warburton (in place of the picturesque old building, which is now used only as a mortuary chapel), and a third at Ashton-on-Mersey. This last was built in Mr. Ray's time, and is now held by Mr. Atkinson. Another half mile lands us at the ancient church of St. Martin, Ashton, which has been enlarged and renovated in very recent years.

From this point we veer round to the east and south. First comes the outline (somewhat deficient of a tower or spire to relieve it) of St. Paul's, Sale, where within a small rectangular block of district a large population is quickly springing up; and from thence the eye overleaps both canal and railway, and recognizes the spire of St. Ann's, Sale,—a vigorous church, itself not quite 50 years old, yet rejoicing in the energies of its daughter, St. Paul's, and of its close relation, St. John the Divine, Brooklands. And by a natural connexion, we cross the fields from Brooklands and arrive at Christ Church, Timperley, which was opened for divine service in 1849. Mr. Dowling, its first Vicar, had previously won his spurs in the Mission held in Albert Street, Altrincham, where Mr. Kingsley continued to hold services, which were also carried on by his successor, Mr. Hodgson, over a long period of years. Similar services were also at one time held in what is now St. John's Day School, which at that date was a double school, that is, for boys and girls in separate departments, under Mr. Tvisss and Miss Taylor.

From Timperley Church, we turn our steps once more to the West, and again begin to catch that clustered group of spires round Bowdon which has been described above. Unfortunately for the climate and greenery (so to speak) of our neighbourhood, other objects less agreeable have of late lifted up their unwelcome heads on the scene, such as tall chimneys, massive factory buildings, and ever increasing blocks of cottage houses; necessary, perhaps, but not congenial! Well, let us accept the inevitable, and walk onwards! To the right we can just see the missionary daughter of Timperley Church, St. Andrew's, built for the Deansgate people. And now we pass on the left hand, the Mission, held by St. George's, in Oakfield, and find that St. George's people themselves are in a sense camping out in the fields, holding their services in the Literary Institute, while their dear old church, attractive in spite of all its old-fashioned plainness (which has so often been touched up in the past), is being fitted with a new and handsome nave. Meanwhile their daughter church of St. Alban's, Broadheath, is giving birth to a grand-daughter, of which we shall soon see visible tokens on the Manchester road. Not far away to the left is the pleasant little structure lately erected by the loving hands of pious memory from St. Margaret's Church, as a place of worship for the people of Sinderland Green.

"Pious memory," did I say? Yes, on every side we trace its sphere, and by its aid we judge our progress and count our victories. Just contrast the time when the future St. George's consisted of nothing more than a small class of children in a cottage room, up a flight of steps (now demolished) on the Ashley road! And now there

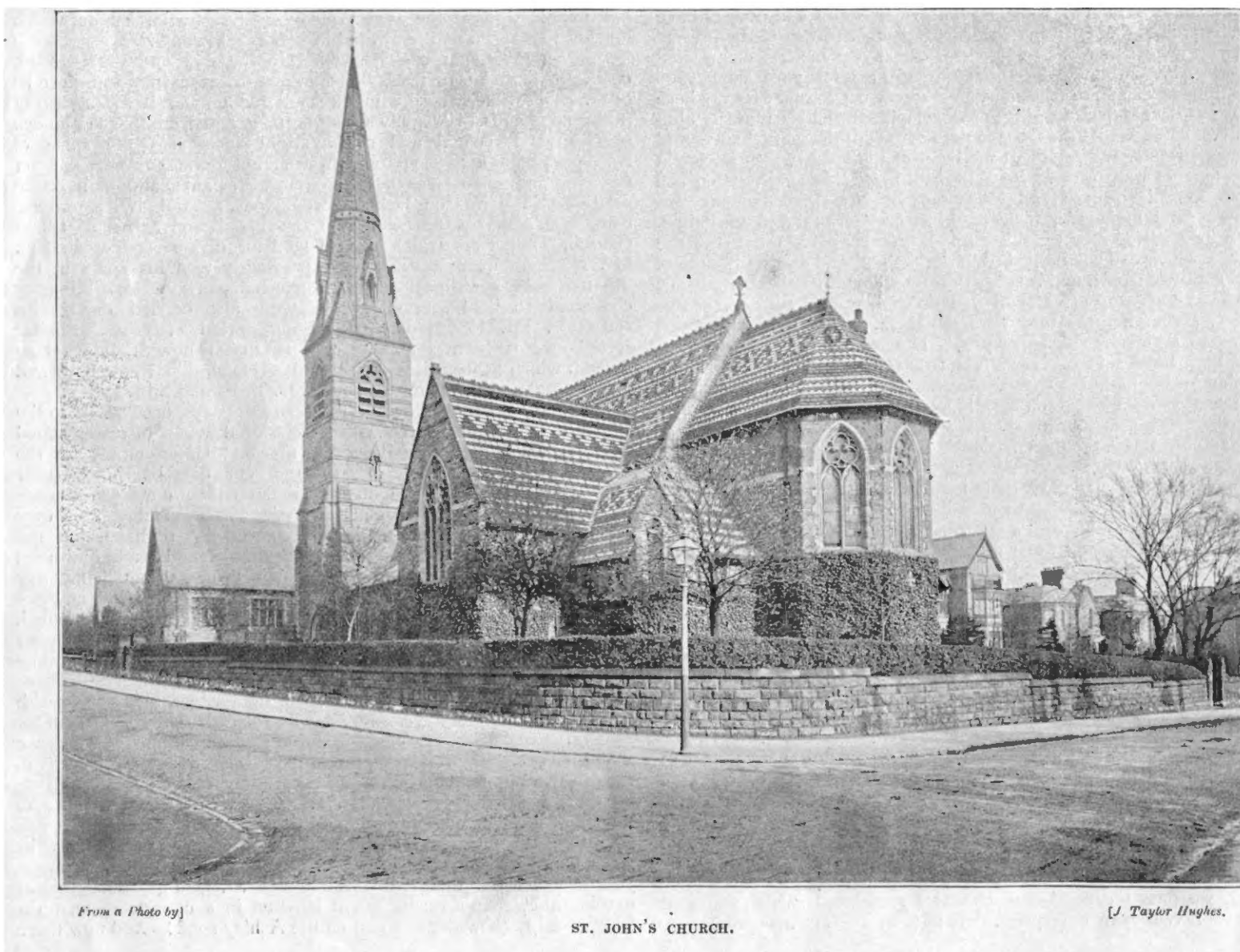
stands at a few yards' distance from that same cottage, the church of St. John the Evangelist. It, too, has been enriched during only a half of Her Majesty's reign with vicarage, parish room, infants' school and the like, as most of the neighbouring parishes have been. But our best and happiest advance is the one I reserve to mention in the very last place, the building of St. Elizabeth's Mission Church, **61/2** years ago, and its spiritual history under such men as Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Birch. Truly we may borrow Jacob's words, when we review (as he did) the works that God hath wrought: "With my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I am become two bands." Praise the Lord!

F. W.

St. John's Church, Ashley Road, was opened on the 14th December, 1866. As the town has spread out its arms, the Church of St. John's has always been able to meet the new requirements upon its resources, and the position now occupied in the educational and religious life of the district is perhaps the best proof that can be offered of its success. Besides the large day schools connected with the church, through which some thousands of children have passed during the past thirty-one years, a variety of useful departments, educational, recreative, and philanthropic, are in active operation. For some years a mission school has been maintained in Newtown, and 1889 saw the completion of St. Elizabeth's Mission Church, which has become a vigorous branch of the mother church.

The style of architecture of St. John's is what is known as "Early decorated." Various kinds of stone are used in the construction. To the south-east, from which the above view is taken, the church presents a bold and striking appearance. The five-sided apse, with

its traceried windows, rises to a great height upon Ashley Road, while the lower roofs of the organ chamber and vestry add to the apparent loftiness. Behind the organ chamber is the south transept, gabled transversely to the nave, and containing a four-light window. More to the west is the south aisle, lighted by six two-light windows, and over its sloping roof the clerestory. Further to the west, making the central point in the group of church and schools, is the steeple, rising to a height of 140 feet. On its lowest stage is the south door; above this, on the west face, a two-light window, then the windows of the ringing loft, and above these bold belfry windows, each with a gabled hood over it. A carved cornice marks the springing of the spire, which has gabled spire lights and band of quatrefoiled and trefoiled openings at intervals. The west end shows a large and elaborate traceried window of four lights, and under it a double doorway of the width of 13 feet. At the north corner is the baptistery, covered with a separate roof, and also distinguished by different windows. Almost all the windows of the church are traceried. The plan consists of a broad nave of five bays with north and south aisles and transepts. At the western end is a large porch, and adjoining it, on the north side is the baptistery, marked off from the north aisle by a small triple arcade. The chancel is of large dimensions, and terminates apsidally at the east. The chancel aisles open by arches into the chancel and transepts, and these arches are filled, to the height of about seven feet, with arcaded wooden screens. The north chancel aisle is fitted up as a vestry, and the south is fitted up for an organ chamber. The arcades between the nave and aisles are of four arches each, of such width that there are considerably fewer pillars than is usual in so large a church. Additional boldness of effect is thus gained, and the obtrusiveness of the pillars is reduced to a



From a Photo by

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

[J. Taylor Hughes.]



From a Drawing by]

ST. ELIZABETH'S MISSION CHURCH.

[Mr. John Macnamara.

minimum. There is a small gallery over the porch at the west end, designed so as not to interfere with any window or arch. The pulpit is of white Caen stone relieved by carving and the insertion of alabaster panels.' It is circular in shape, and a series of moulded arches run all round, the upper part being pierced and open. There is a carved cornice round the top, and the base is inscribed with the sentence "The messengers of the Lord of Hosts." The body of the pulpit is sustained by moulded and carved corbels,

which spring from a dwarf circular column, red with white cap and base. The Rev. F. Wainwright M.A., who was preferred to the living of St. John's on its foundation, still retains it. The highest testimony to the value of his services is to be found not alone in the efficiency of every department of parochial activity, but in the respect of all classes and creeds of men.

St. Elizabeth's was opened in December, 1890. The erection of the church was part of a general scheme of extension which included the building of St. Peter's at Peel Causeway and the enlargement of St. Alban's, a branch of St. George's, at Broadheath. The difficulty of obtaining a site in St. John's parish, precisely in the neighbourhood where the church was most required, was a serious one at the outset. The population of the district was dense, and building-sites were practically unobtainable. By the generosity of Mr. W. J. Crossley, Glenfield, Bowdon, the obstacle was eventually removed, and while the church secured the advantage of a central and convenient site, the public obtained an improvement which conferred obvious benefits. Mr. Crossley, who was one of the Committee primarily interested in the scheme of extension, purchased nine cottages in Pownall Street, five of which he generously placed at the disposal of the Committee. This placed them in possession of a capital site, and the opportunity was effectively utilized by Mr. Macnamara, the architect.

The cottages were removed, and in building on the site sufficient space was left for a public road from Pownall Street into Newtown. Hitherto these two districts had been entirely cut off. The new road provided a means of communication, the necessity for which had long been recognized. The gift of the site by Mr. Crossley, valued at £750, was supplemented by a donation of £1,000 from the family of the late Mr. S. Lord, Oakleigh, Ashton-on-Mersey. Other subscriptions provided for the erection of a church costing close upon £2,000.

Six Decades of Nonconformist Progress.

SIXTY years ago the only religious body outside the Anglican Communion which had a position of any importance in Altrincham was that of the Wesleyans, although the Unitarians, the Congregationalists, and the New Connexion Methodists had obtained some sort of a footing in the town. The Unitarians can claim seniority of establishment in the district, but in Altrincham proper the Wesleyans are the oldest of the Free Church denominations, and their origin was distinguished, for it was due to the direct action of the illustrious Wesley himself. Wesley first visited the town in 1738, and in 1751 he paid his second visit, when, under the shade of a pear tree in Mr. Priestner's garden, on Oldfield Brow, he preached a sermon. He also preached in Church Street, near the site of St. George's Church, and in other parts of the town, and the nucleus of a church was formed. The chapel which has since been converted into the All Saints' Mission Church was built in what is now called Regent's Road, and was opened on the 17th February, 1788, the eminent Methodist minister, the Rev. Thomas Taylor, preaching the sermons. There John Wesley preached on his last visit to Altrincham in 1790, and there the Wesleyans continued to worship until 1865, when the chapel in Bank Street was built. The Bowdon Wesleyans had in the meantime built a chapel off Stamford Road, in which they remained until the opening of the imposing domed church in 1874.

Prior to the erection of the Bank Street Chapel, and before the formation of the Altrincham Circuit, the present chapel at Booth Bank was an important centre of Wesleyanism. The quarterly meetings of the Manchester Circuit were held there, and the delegates were accustomed to dine at the Kilton Hotel. It is related that Wesley visited Booth Bank, and preached at the old meeting house on two occasions.

By the time of the Queen's accession the Altrincham Wesleyans had become a flourishing body. Excellent congregations assembled

weekly in the old chapel, and old Wesleyans remember eloquent sermons that were preached there in those days by such men as Jabez Bunting, Robert Newton, and Dr. Ingham. There was also a splendid Sunday School, comprising over 200 scholars, which, in the absence of a schoolroom, met in two cottages at the bottom of Chapel Street. This Sunday School, having been continued up to the present time, is the oldest in the town, and will next year celebrate its centenary.

The arrival of the railway and the transformation of the district into a popular suburban resort gave a considerable impetus to the progress of the cause, and the circuit is now recognized as one of the first in the Wesleyan Society. Two of the ministers who have served here have reached the chair of the Conference, the present President, Dr. Marshall Randies, having been at Altrincham in 1875-7, and the Rev. Joseph Bush, who was President in 1888, having been here in 1881-3. There are complaints that a percentage of the more prosperous Wesleyans drifts periodically into the Church of England, but that that is not always the tendency of things may be gathered from the fact that the aggressive activity of the Wesleyans of this neighbourhood, thirty years ago, led to the then Vicar of Bowdon, Archdeacon Pollock, charging them with being guilty of the crime of sheep stealing. The older residents here will remember that the Archdeacon's accusation was not allowed to pass unnoticed, Mr. Edward Boyer, who for so long occupied the position of the foremost of local Wesleyan laymen, taking up the challenge with promptness and vigour.

At the Conference of 1838, Altrincham and Sale, which up to that time had formed a part of the Manchester Fourth Circuit, were constituted a circuit, but since then Sale and some other places have been formed into a separate circuit. The present resident ministers are the Rev. D. A. de Mouilpied and the Rev. J. H. Goodman, and besides these there are on the plan nine other ordained ministers residing here or elsewhere, and in addition, twenty-one local preachers living



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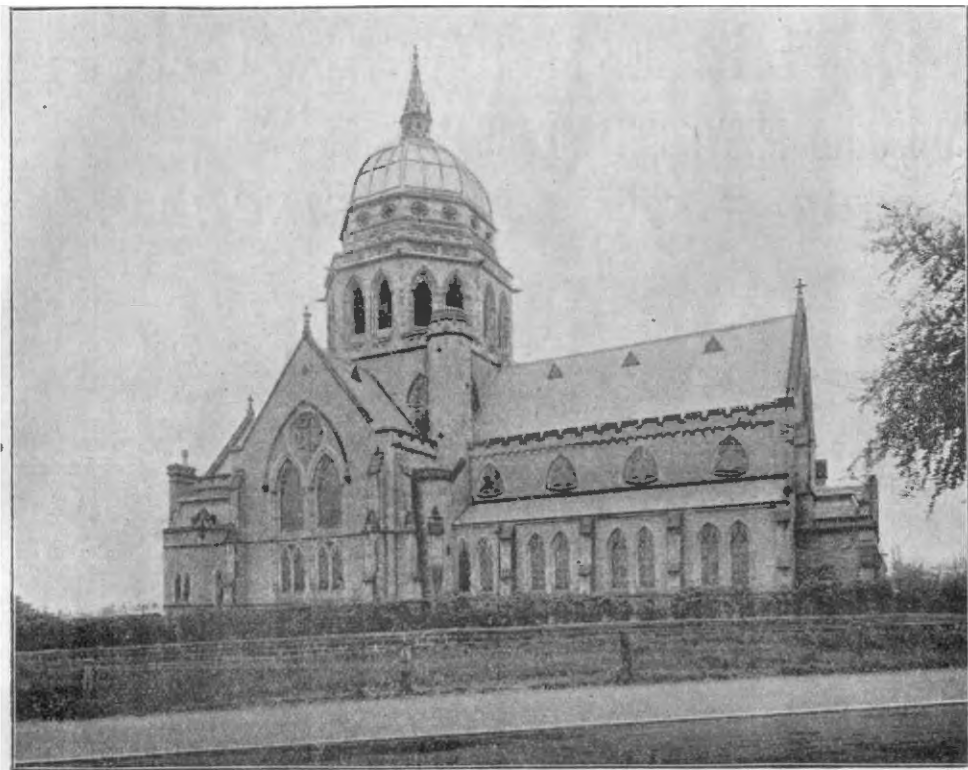
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From a Photo by]

BOWDON WESLEYAN CHAPEL, 1897

(Walker, Altrincham .

in the neighbourhood, and one other who is on trial, two helpers, and eight who live at a distance. There are also thirty-one class leaders in Altrincham, Bowdon, and Timperley, and eight leaders of junior classes. Last year a sum of about £500 was raised for Foreign Missions, and £140 for Home Missions, and exclusive of the maintenance of the ministry, missions, and Connexional purposes, a sum of about £1,200 a year is raised. On May 26th of the present year, the new Wesleyan Chapel erected in Hale Road was opened. The cost of the building was upwards of £2,000, and its completion is distinctly indicative of the activity of the denomination in a rapidly growing district. New chapels are also being built at Higher Baguley and Broadheath, a new schoolroom with vestries, classrooms, &c, is being built at Timperley, and the chapel there is undergoing enlargement. The chapel and lecture hall at Bank Street are now out of debt, and this year the chapel, manse and schools at Bowdon, which have cost altogether nearly £23,000, will be declared out of debt also. "All this," to quote the words of Mr. de Mouilpied, "has not been done without much sacrifice. It is the outcome of hard work and great consecration."

Besides the various Sunday Schools in the circuit, there is an admirable day school belonging to the Society in New Street. According to the reports of the Government Inspectors, this is one of the best Voluntary schools in the town.

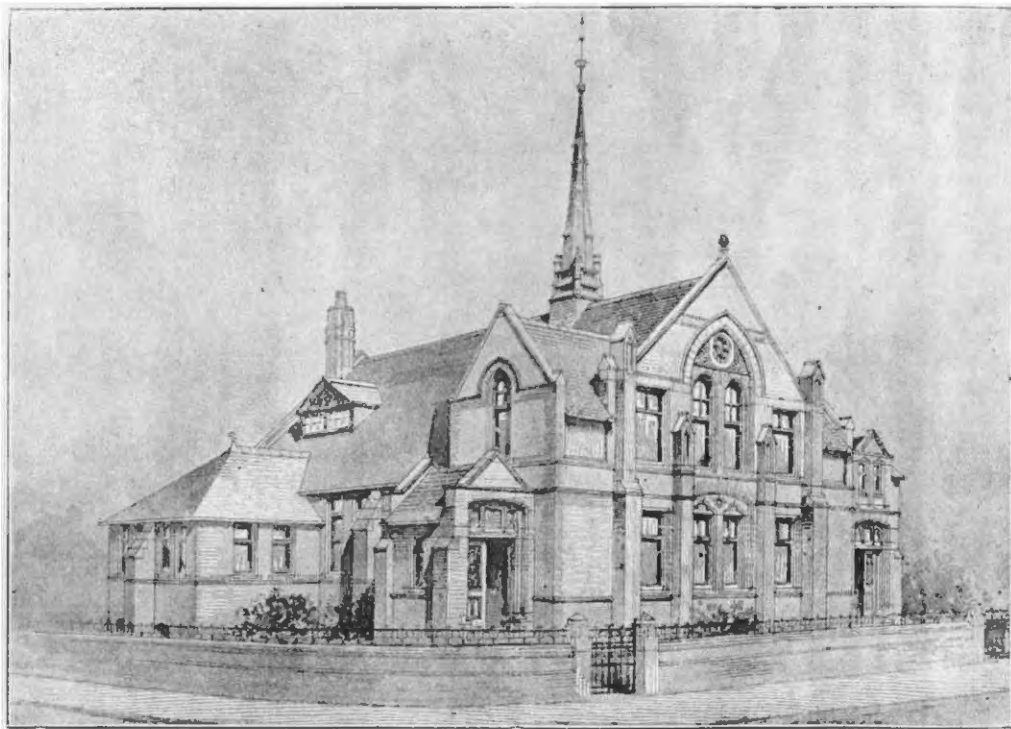
There are 600 members of society in the circuit. As these do not include all the hearers, seatholders or communicants, and form but a small proportion of the total congregations, it will be necessary in order to get an approximation of the latter to multiply the members of the Society by at least five.

The Unitarians are of very old standing in the neighbourhood. The mother chapel at Hale was erected in 1723 for the use of the Presbyterian minister, Mr. Waterhouse, who

had been evicted, from Ringway Church by the Anglican party. Mr. Waterhouse's successors in the ministry of Hale Chapel were the Revs. Hugh Worthington, jun., Isaac Worthington, and Robert Harrop. It is 128 years since Mr. Harrop assumed the pastorate at Hale, yet there is still living at Timperley a retired gamekeeper who knew him well, having been, if the writer is not mistaken, in his service nearly seventy years ago. Mr. Harrop resigned his charge in 1816, but his death did not occur until 1837, when he was at the age of ninety-one years. It was during the pastorate of his successor, the Rev. William Jevons, that the chapel in Shaw's Lane, Altrincham, now in the occupation of the Salvation Army, was built. The present chapel in Dunham Road was opened on Wednesday, December 18th, 1872, the Rev. Charles Beard, of Liverpool, preaching the sermons. The minister then was the Rev. Edward S. Howse, B.A., who was succeeded by the Rev. J. T. Whitehead, B.A. The Rev. J. E. Odgers, B.A., who followed Mr. Whitehead, remained eleven years, and had as his co-pastor during two years of that time the Rev. Frank Freeston. On Mr. Odgers' departure to Oxford in July, 1894, the present minister, the Rev. Arthur W. Fox, M.A., was appointed.

Three stained windows have recently been put in the church, of which the central panels represent Faith and Hope, those on the left, David and Solomon, and those on the right, St. Mark and St. John. A brass tablet has also been placed on the south wall to the memory of the Naylor family, whose connection with the church has existed for 150 years.

The Congregationalists sixty years held a very humble position in Altrincham, their services being carried on in a thatched cottage near the Market Place. But in 1839 they had attained such numbers and means as enabled them to purchase the little chapel at the foot of the Downs which during its existence was memorable for sheltering so many nascent causes. In the following year a regular minister—the Rev. John Earnshaw—was appointed, and a Sunday School was started under the superintendence of Mr. Ibbetson Walker. Mr. Earnshaw remained until 1844 and was followed by the Rev. Flavel



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Stenner, and he, after a short ministry, was succeeded by the Rev. John Wilkinson, who died a few months after assuming the pastorate. In 1848 the present church on the Downs was built, and in that year the congregation removed to it. In April, 1849, the Rev. Henry Christopherson was appointed pastor, in May, 1857, the Rev. H. T. Robjohns, B.A., and in the autumn of 1861 the Rev. A. J. Morris. Subsequently the Rev. Henry Griffiths became pastor and remained eleven years, and in February, 1877, the Rev. Alexander Mackennal, B.A., was appointed. In 1887 Mr. Mackennal was elected to the chair of the Congregational Union, on which occasion the University of Glasgow conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. During the past five years the church has maintained an assistant-pastor, the most recent of whom, the Rev. John Hutchinson, has just left to assume the pastorate of the Congregational Church at St. Ives.

Under Dr. Mackennal, the prosperity which has so long marked this church, and which has made it the most important Congregational centre outside London, has been continued. There are branch churches at the British School, Oxford Road, and at Hey Head, Partington and Broadheath, and a Mission Chapel at Mobberley, all of which the Mother Church almost entirely supports. Large sums are raised annually for various religious purposes, the total amount last year contributed by the parent Church by voluntary contributions, subscriptions and collections being over £3,900. The Sunday School in connection with the Church, which is held at the British Schools, Oxford Road, has long held the premier position among similar institutions in the town. It has between four and five hundred scholars, and its regular staff of officers and teachers numbers over forty.

The British School Mission Church in Oxford Road was established about twenty-five years ago under the ministry of the Rev. J. Adamson, who continued in the office until shortly before his death, which occurred three or four years ago. He was succeeded by the present minister, Mr. W. M. Ainsbury. Many of the members of the Congregational Church which used to meet in the old Wesleyan Chapel under the pastorate of the Rev. Charles Aylard, and which was disbanded several years ago, joined the Church.

The Methodist New Connexion Chapel in George Street was erected about 1821. The New Connexion movement, which has this year reached the centenary of its existence, was the outcome of the attempts that were made after the death of Wesley, in 1791, to introduce a more democratic spirit into the government of the Wesleyan Society, as well as to reform some of its practices. At that time service was not permitted or held in Methodist Chapels during the hours of Divine service at the Established Church, except under certain restrictions and by consent of Conference; at the hands of their own ministers the people were denied the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to receive which they were required to attend the Established Church, except when some Church clergyman, or Mr. Wesley, in his yearly visits, could be present to administer the ordinance, in some of the larger places of worship or chapels. The ministers were unordained, except in a very few instances, and the people were excluded from all share, directly or representatively, in the making of the laws by which they were governed. A small band of reformers made a determined effort to alter this state of things, and found an able and courageous

leader in a young Methodist preacher named Alexander Kilham, who curiously enough was born in the same town of Epworth in Lincolnshire in which Wesley himself first saw the light of day. Kilham's efforts found so little favour at the hands of his brother preachers that they expelled him from the society at the London Conference of 1796, but his sympathizers rallied round him, and at a Conference held at Leeds in 1797, they formed themselves into a separate society, which was then termed "The New Itinerancy," but which subsequently became known as the Methodists of the New Connexion, or the Methodist New Connexion. One of their first acts was to formulate and adopt a constitution containing the principles for which they had contended, including that of lay representation at the Conference, to which the Wesleyan Conference itself gave a tardy recognition in 1876.

The Altrincham New Connexion congregation find themselves this centenary year of their cause with brighter prospects than have sometimes been before them, and they intend to celebrate the year by the introduction of a new organ into the chapel. Under the present minister, the Rev. J. S. Jones, the cause has looked up, and the membership increased. There is connected with the chapel a Sunday school comprising about 100 scholars and 16 teachers.

In the accompanying picture the site of the New Connexion Chapel is indicated. It is a plain and unpretentious structure, but important alterations are contemplated in the near future. The same illustration vividly conveys the changes that have been effected in George Street since the days when it was a narrow winding lane flanked with tiny thatched cottages and paved with cobbles.

The Presbyterians in Altrincham date from the year 1867, when they entered the old chapel on the Downs. Their handsome church in Delamere Road was opened in 1872, Dr. Donald Fraser, of London preaching the sermons. The Rev. W. J. Johnston, B.A., was ordained first minister in January, 1869, and remained several years, being followed by the Rev. R. T. Cunningham, who, after two years' ministry, died suddenly at the Presbytery meeting. The present minister, the Rev. Wilson Cowie, has held the position

since September, 1889. There is in connection with the church a cycling club, a literary society with a membership of over 60, and a Sunday school with an attendance of about 80. In 1891 a Mission Church was opened at the bottom of Police Street, free of debt, and connected with it there is now a Sunday school with an attendance of about 140.

The Baptists did not come upon the scene until 1872, when they found a shelter under the ever-hospitable and catholic roof of the chapel on the Downs. The Rev. H. J. Betts was their first pastor, and he was succeeded by the Rev. W. S. Llewellyn. In 1878 the new chapel in Hale Road was built, and soon afterwards the Rev. Henry Mowbray became the pastor and remained until 1893, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. F. Cowell Lloyd, who has been instrumental in clearing off a considerable portion of the heavy debt which since the opening of the chapel had seriously crippled the energies of the church. There is in connection with the place a capital Sunday school and an active and flourishing Christian Endeavour Society.

The Primitive Methodists began operations here in 1871 in the humble sphere of a loft over a stable in Newtown, but in 1878 they succeeded in erecting



From a Photo by]

[Walker, Altrincham.

GEORGE STREET, 1897.

their present chapel in Hale Road. They have a number of ministers under their system of a three or four years' residence, and in addition they enjoyed the advantage of the residence in the town of a superannuated minister, the Rev. Ambrose Kirkland, who lived in Altrincham nine years. A similar benefit has accrued to them through the presence during the last two years of another superannuated minister, the Rev. George Mitchell. The old debt has been now all cleared off, and the cause is in a healthy and flourishing state.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Vincent de Paul, which takes its name from the celebrated French priest in the reign of Louis XIV., who was canonized, was erected in 1857, the priest in charge then being the Rev. William Walton. Before that time services had been held in a chapel improvised out of a cottage in New Street, and previous to that—sometime in the thirties—mass had been celebrated in a house in George Street, near Mr. James Cowsill's present shop. Father Walton was followed by the Rev. H. Alcock, and in 1876 the Rev. James O'Brien, who is still here, succeeded. During the last two years, Father O'Brien has been assisted by Rev. W. E. Jones.

The Salvation Army has carried on religious work in Altrincham for seventeen years. The number of its members is 40, and its leaders consider that it has fully maintained its position of late. During the last ten years they have occupied the old Unitarian Chapel in Shaw's Lane, but land has been recently purchased in the neighbourhood of George Street for the purpose of building barracks. They raise annually an income of about £100, and last year's self-denial fund realized £22.

This notice would be incomplete without mentioning the Newtown Night School, which has been carried on under the management of Mr. H. Barratt for over 30 years. The movement was commenced in 1858 on a non-sectarian basis by the Rev. John Kingsley, and Messrs. John Carlisle, William Armitage, C. W. Grundy, and William Milne. Shortly afterwards Mr. H. Barratt undertook the control, and has ever since carried on the work. There is a penny bank, and three nights a week are devoted to secular instruction. On Sunday evenings two religious services are held, one from 6.30 to 7.15 for children,, and another from 7.30 to 8 o'clock for adults, at which short addresses are given, interspersed with musical pieces. The attendance of the children is about 200 in winter and 140 in summer, and of the adults about 30 regularly attend.

Parliamentary History.

BY the Reform Act of 1832, Cheshire was divided into two parliamentary divisions, North and South. Two members were returned for each division. Altrincham and Sale formed part of the North Cheshire Division, and of course were actively engaged in the contests of those stirring times when the Egertons and Leghs, the Stanleys and the Tollemaches, fought for the representation. The following is a complete return of the elections from 1832 to 1895 :—

1832—E. J. Stanley	L.
W. Tatton Egerton	C.
i Defeating J. R. D. Tollemache. C.	
1835—E. J. Stanley	L.
W. Tatton Egerton	C.
1837—E. J. Stanley	L.
W. Tatton Egerton	C.
1841—W. Tatton Egerton	L. C.
George Cornwall Legh	L. C.
(Defeating Right Hon. E. J. Stanley, L.)	
1847—i W. Tatton Egerton	L. C.
Right Hon. E. J. Stanley	L.
(No contest.)	
1848—(Right Hon. E. J. Stanley raised to peerage,—	
Lord Eddisbury.)	
George Cornwall Legh	L. C.
(Defeating Francis D. P. Astley, L.)	
1852—W. Tatton Egerton	L. C.
George Cornwall Legh	L. C.
1857—(April 4) W. Tatton Egerton	L. C.
George Cornwall Legh	L. C.
1 Mr. Egerton accepted Chiltern Hundreds.)	
1858—(Aug. 7) Wilbraham Egerton	C.
1859—(May 3) George Cornwall Legh	C.
Hon. Wilbraham Egerton	C.
1865—(July 18; George Cornwall Legh	C.
Hon. Wilbraham Egerton	C.

1868—County re-divided, and Altrincham and Sale placed in the Mid-Cheshire Division.

First Election Nov. 21, 1862.

Hon. Wilbraham Egerton (C.)	3071
George Cornwall Legh (C.)	3057
Hon. J. B. Leicester Warren (L.)	2482
(Mr. Leigh accepted the Chiltern Hundred'.)	
1873—(March 10) Col. Egerton Legh (C.)	3508
George W. Latham (L.)	2118
1874—(February 7) Hon. Wilbraham Egerton	C.
Col. Egerton Legh	C.
1876—(July 8) On decease of Col. Egerton Legh	
Piers Egerton Warburton	C.
1880—(April) Hon. Wilbraham Egerton (C.)	3868
Piers Egerton Warburton (C.)	3700
George W. Latham (L.)	3374
V. Armitage (L.)	3'47
1883—(Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, succeeded to Peerage.)	
Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton (C.)	4214
George W. Latham (L.)	3592

By the redistribution of seats in 1885, Altrincham became the head of a Parliamentary Division. The elections since the redistribution have been as follows :—

1885—John Brooks (C.)	4798
Isaac S. Leadam (L.)	4046
1886—(March) death of Mr. John Brooks.	
Sir William C. Brooks, Bart. C.)	4508
I. S. Leadam (L.)	3925
1886—(June) Sir William C. Brook*, Bart, (unopposed).	
1892—(July) Coningsby R. Disraeli C.)	5056
I. S. Leadam 1 L. i	4046
1895—(June) Coningsby R. Disraeli (C.)	5264
Alexander Mere Latham 1 L. 1	3889

Sir William C. Brooks is descended from an old English family of yeomen, whose energy and spirit he inherited in a singular degree. Quoting from a distinctly interesting record, " there dwelt, long before the first George came to England, in the pleasant Lancashire village of the Ribble, a succession of yeomen farmers of the family Brooks. At the beginning of the last century was William Brooks." The records show that money was entrusted to him by his neighbours, great respect being shown for the value of his advice, and for the probity of his character. It is related of him that, being parish clerk of Langho, no books of any previous date could make so fair a show. At the close of the last century, William Brooks, of Whalley, grandson of the parish clerk of Langho, entered upon the business of supplying the raw material of cotton and twist to the dwellers in the various hamlets round Whalley and Blackburn. By them it was carded and spun, and at the appointed day the " cuts " would be fetched and the weavers paid. This was the beginning of the connection with the commercial history of Lancashire which exists to day; and, although much is due to the earnestness of those who have aided its development, the credit is largely due to Mr. William Brooks, grandfather of Sir William C. Brooks, for the establishment of an important banking business on a sound and broad basis. A century has passed away since Mr. William Brooks united his fortunes with those of Mr. Roger Cunliffe, of Blackburn. The two partners established a bank in Blackburn, and eventually extended their business to Manchester, by taking a small office in High-street. Evnntually the bank was transferred to its present handsome home in King Street. The importance of the branch was subsequently enhanced by its becoming the head office, and it is now the parent of prosperous branches in London, Altrincham and Sale. Combined with rare intelligence and business resource, Mr. Samuel Brooks, father of Sir William Brooks, had untiring energy, resolution, and independence of character, and he was largely instrumental in strengthening and building up the business which now enters so prominently into the commercial life of the city. He lived to be the sole proprietor of the bank, and up to the time of his death retained the esteem and respect justly acquired in business circles, by his unflinching integrity and regard for honour.

Sir William C. Brooks was born at Blackburn in 1819, and was educated at Rugby, under Dr. Arnold. A student of St. John's College, Cambridge, he graduated in honours, twelfth senior optime. Sir William applied himself to the study of the law, and was admitted to the Inner Temple, and afterwards went the Northern Circuit. With his natural gift of eloquence and his power to apply himself to business affairs. Sir William must have become a distinguished member of the Bar,



From Photo by

SIR WILLIAM CUNLIFFE BROOKS, BART.

[Mendelssohn.

had he continued to follow his profession. He, however, relinquished the attractions of the law at the earnest solicitation of his father, and applied himself wholly to the affairs of the bank, and soon acquired a knowledge of the business, and devoted the whole of his time to its consolidation and improvement. He assisted materially the growth of the bank, and the highest confidence was manifested by the public in his tact and shrewdness. Sir William and his father were always at their desks by twenty minutes past eight in the morning, and had most of their business letters opened before the arrival of the clerks. They were always the last to leave the office, and it is characteristic of the energy of Sir William, that for a quarter of a century, he walked, or rode on horseback, the five miles between the bank and his residence at Barlow Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. During the whole of this time Sir William's industry was unbounded, and he never shrank from undertaking his full share of work. Mr. Samuel Brooks was the purchaser of considerable areas of land in Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, Baguley, Brooklands, and Hale, and the farmers always found in him a fair and generous landlord. To the whole of this property, as well as to the interest in the bank of Cunliffes, Brooks and Co., Sir William succeeded on the death of his father. In the direction of the bank and the management of his estates Sir William manifests the deepest interest, and his relations with his bank employes and his tenantry are of the happiest description.

In Parliament for over twenty years, Sir William C. Brooks rendered signal service to the county of Cheshire. He first entered Parliament in 1869, as the representative for the East Division of Cheshire. Faithful and diligent in the discharge of his trust, he continued to represent the division up to the year 1888, when the redistribution of seats created several new constituencies. Sir William

was chosen to contest the Macclesfield Division against Mr. William Core Brocklehurst, who it was acknowledged had an almost impregnable position. He was defeated after a severe contest, by 465 vote; and, for a brief interval, his connection with the House of Commons was severed. In March, 1886, Altrincham mourned the loss of Mr. John Brooks, nephew of Sir William, the first member of Parliament for the division. Sir William, though stricken with sorrow by the untimely end of a life so full of hope and promise, consented, at the request of the Conservative Association, to become a candidate for the suffrages of the electorate. On the 26th of March, he was returned by a majority of 583, and the following June, after the dissolution, he was elected without opposition. Sir William has had the honour of holding a seat in five Parliaments. Three times he has been returned victorious at the polls, and he has had the felicity, on two occasions, of being elected without opposition. In 1886, Her Majesty conferred upon him the dignity of a baronetcy. The tribute of honourable regard gave genuine and general satisfaction to the host of friends and admirers of Sir William. No distinction was more deservedly won, and, in the words of an authority of unimpeachable impartiality, it was "universally recognized as a well-merited mark of distinction for a thorough gentleman, a skilful banker, a rare citizen, a good rhetorician, a generous-minded friend, an able politician and most devoted and conscientious Parliamentary representative." Sir William Brooks has been twice married. His first wife was the daughter of the late Mr. Ralph Orrell, of Stockport. She died in 1865.

Sir William married in 1879 the daughter of Colonel Davidson, C.B., of Edinburgh. It is interesting to note that Colonel Davidson was



From Photo /././

LADY BROOKS.

[Mendelssohn, London.



MR. CONINGSBY DISRAELI, M.P.

made a K.C.B. in 1897, at the age of 86. He is a survivor of the East India Company, and has resided in Edinburgh since the early fifties, where he is regarded as the father of the Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers. In general military circles, however, he is best known as an inventor, his inventions including the elongated bullet with canalures, telescopic sights for sporting guns, and the plan, adopted in the service in 1863, on laying guns and mortars by the collimator. Colonel Davidson wrote his autobiography some seven or eight years ago, under the title of "Memories of a Long Life." Lady Brooks unites to an accomplished mind a gentleness and grace of manner that have bound her to the people of the Altrincham Division with strong chains of affection. The appreciation in which Lady Brooks is held was fully indicated at the end of 1890, when the workingmen of Altrincham presented her ladyship with a portrait of Sir William. The variety of objects to which both Sir William and Lady Brooks afford support is a true testimony of their broad and catholic sympathies. Manchester has many memorials of their kindness of heart. To Ashton-on-Mersey, where Sir William has a large estate, he has proved a benefactor, one of his noblest gifts to the village being a handsome reading-room and library. Sir William's principal residence is at Barlow Hall, Manchester, and under his judicious direction this ancient pile has been carefully preserved. Sir William and Lady Brooks, however, spend some months of the year at their fine home in the forest of Glen Tana, Aboyne. Here they have a magnificent estate, which bears distinguished proof of care and intelligent control. Their London house is in Grosvenor Square, and they have also a handsome villa at Antibes, on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean. Of the issue of his first marriage Sir William has two daughters, one of whom was married to Charles, tenth Marquis of Huntly, and the second to Francis, second son of the Marquis of Exeter.

Mr. Coningsby Ralph Disraeli, who has represented the Altrincham Parliamentary Division since 1892, is the only son of Mr. Ralph Disraeli, who, after serving in that capacity for many years, retired some time since from the position of Deputy-Clerk of the Parliaments, his mother being Katherine, daughter of Mr. Charles Trevor. He is a nephew of the late Lord Beaconsfield, and was born at Chelsea on the 25th February, 1867. Of his two grandfathers one was a direct descendant of the celebrated John Hampden. The eldest son of the other became Prime Minister of England. On the death of Lord Beaconsfield in April, 1881, Mr. Disraeli inherited by testamentary disposition Hughenden Manor and the surrounding estates. By the will it was specified that the estates should be held in trust for his nephew until he had completed his 26th year, and it was not until February, 1893, that Mr. Disraeli entered into formal possession of the historic home of his famous uncle. Mr. Disraeli was educated at Charterhouse and New College, Oxford. After leaving Oxford he became a student at Heidelberg University. Since then he has almost exclusively occupied himself with political work, and he has spoken in the House on a variety of subjects.

Mr. Disraeli married on the 2nd March, 1897, Miss Marian Grace Silva, only daughter of Mr. Edward Silva, Testacombe, Hants, and 14, Cadogan Gardens, S.W. Mrs. Disraeli is a great favourite in "Society" circles in London, and her marriage with Mr. Disraeli was one of the great events of a brilliant season. Accompanied by her husband, Mrs. Disraeli paid her first visit to the constituency on May 29th, 1897. On that occasion Mr. Disraeli was the recipient of a massive silver cup from his constituents in honour of his marriage, and a cordial welcome was given to Mrs. Disraeli on her appearance in the division with which her husband is connected by such close political and personal ties.



MRS. CONINGSBY DISRAELI.

THE ALTRINCHAM AND BOWDON
Guardian

— A N D —

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THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

Jubilee Festivities, Altrincham and Bowdon.

[REPRINTED FROM THE *Altrincham and Bowdon Guardian*, JUNE 26TH, 1897.]

ACCESSION SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1897. THE MAYOR OF ALTRINCHAM AT CHURCH.

Special thanksgiving services were held in all the churches on Sunday, June 20. At the morning service of St. George's at the Literary Institute, the Mayor (Mr. Lindsell) and the burgesses of the Court Leet attended, and the large hall was crowded. Assembling at the Town Hall at ten o'clock, a procession was formed. It was headed by the Mayor, wearing his gold chain, and escorted by the constables (Messrs. J. S. Derbyshire and S. Ernill) carrying the staves of office; and among others present were—Messrs. David Morrison, W. A. Renshaw, J. Foden, J. Dale, J. Hamilton, W. Griffin, J. Siddeley, E. G. Parker (ex-Mayors), J. Gibbon, M. Stone, J. Hammond, C. H. Griffin, T. J. Farrell, A. Huxley, Henry Balshaw, Boucher, J. Baishaw, A. Munro, J. Lewis, S. Arnold, W. S. Mainprice, G. Turton, A. Griffiths, J. Goodall, S. Thompson, A. C. Sparkes, J. W. Byrom, R. B. Johnson, W. Hughes, J. G. Groves, J. Cowsill, W. Graham, S. Burgess, H. Davies, G. Riley, G. Podmore, F. Willcox, A. Wilde, G. F. Smith, G. H. Warrington, G. J. Plimmer, Henry Dean, T. Gilling, J. H. Needham, A. Howard, Bellmare, and J. W. Nicholls. The service opened with the National Anthem, and the prayers, which were said by the Rev. H. D. Nicol, were those ordinarily used on Accession Sunday. The anthem, "Lord of life and light and glory," was effectively sung by the choir, and the hymns included the special composition of the Bishop of Wakefield. "O King of kings." The sermon was preached by the Rev. W. M. B. Lutener, who laid emphasis on the changes in English life during the past sixty years. He said that while the Queen's wisdom as a ruler was a very vague and unreal expression, all people were familiar with the goodness of their Queen as almost a proverb of common life. How much English society had gained by the change from the Court of preceding reigns to the Court of Queen Victoria, what the idea of home life in England had gained by seeing always in the first lady of the land the picture of the true wife and the true mother, what the cause of national righteousness had gained by the constant homage given to the good woman in the wise queen, were things about which the historian could tell them little; but these were just the things which English people had laid hold of most strongly as the characteristic of the reign. These were the kind of things for which thoughtful men and women were giving thanks that day.—The collections were on behalf of the Clergy Sustentation Fund.

ST. JOHN'S, ALTRINCHAM.

The members of St. Elizabeth's Church Lads' Brigade and the A and B Companies of the 3rd Y.B.C.R. attended the morning service at St. John's Church. The volunteers assembled in the Old Market Place, and, preceded by the band, marched to the church. They were in command of Major Mothersill. Captain Brocklehurst was in command of the Church Lads' Brigade, the new band of which made a first appearance. The service was opened by the band playing the National Anthem. The hymns were also accompanied by the band. The Bishop of Wakefield's hymn, "O King of kings," was rendered by the choir. The Vicar, the Rev. F. Wainwright, preached the sermon. He observed that when the Queen ascended the throne it might be described to have been in a tottering condition, and there were people who at the time prophesied that

50 years would see the Royal Family extinct. While republics had many advantages, however, there certainly was not the same amount of enthusiasm manifested as in the case of the country that had a monarchy. The enthusiasm witnessed at the present time had, perhaps, never had any equal in the world's history. The triumph of Victoria's reign had been a triumph of moral principle, and their Queen had found the secret of combining the majesty of the throne with the sympathy of a woman. That had been the cause of the great hold she had over the people of the country. Incidentally, Mr. Wainwright mentioned how very gratified he was with the manner in which the preparations for the Jubilee demonstration had been taken up by the teachers of St. John's Day and Sunday Schools. He did not think that one of them would be absent who could possibly be present on such an eventful occasion. After the service the band of the Church Lads' Brigade played the National Anthem. The Volunteers marched to the Market Place, where they were dismissed after singing the National Anthem and raising three cheers for the Queen. There was a fair muster, and the men were neatly and even smartly dressed.

CATHOLIC THANKSGIVING.

At the evening service held on Sunday in St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Altrincham, and St. Joseph's, Sale, as in all Catholic churches throughout the country, the Te Deum was substituted for the Litany, and sung as a thanksgiving for the long and peaceful reign of the Queen.

BOWDON PARISH CHURCH.

Special services were held at the Bowdon Parish Church. There was a celebration of Holy Communion at eight o'clock. The Ven. Archdeacon Gore, D.D., preached at the Accession service. The choir rendered the National Anthem, "O King of kings," and the Te Deum. The service was attended by the Church Lads' Brigade, the members of which were under the command of Lieutenant Oates. At the children's service in the afternoon special music was introduced, and in the evening, in addition to the Bishop of Wakefield's hymn, the anthem, "Lord, Thou art God" (Stainer), was rendered. The collections throughout the day were in aid of the Clergy Sustentation Fund.

NONCONFORMIST SERVICES.

At all the Nonconformist places of worship in the district special services of commemoration were held. Appropriate sermons were preached, and loyalty found expression by the singing of the National Anthem and a number of special hymns. At each of the Wesleyan places of worship collections were taken on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors' Home.

FORESTERS' DEMONSTRATION AT TIMPERLEY.

The members of the De Tatton Court of Foresters at Timperley and Baguley attended service at the Timperley Parish Church on Sunday afternoon. The assembly took place on Baguley Moor, where a procession was formed, headed by the Altrincham Borough Band. There were 50 members of the court present, including the Rev. S. Wilkinson, vicar, and Messrs. J. H. Keymer and W. Holmes (hon. members), and the following officers:—Messrs. John

Renshaw, C.R.; J. Wilkinson, D.S.C.R.; William Woodall, P.C.R.; Ed. Lamb, J.W.; S. Jones, S.W.; S. Hamnett, S.B.; Thomas Hulme, P.C.R.; R. Lamb, P.C.R.; W. Maddocks, trustee; John Arnold, jun., S.C.R., and Samuel Lamb, C.S., P.D.C.R. The arrival of the Foresters at the church was witnessed by a large number of the villagers, the majority of whom attended the service. The opening hymn commenced "All people that on earth do dwell." The special prayers ordered for the day were recited by the Vicar and congregation, and the choir rendered Psalms xx. and xxi. and the hymns commencing "Fear God; honour the Queen;" "Ruler of Heaven and Lord of Earth," and "To Thee, O King of kings." The Vicar, at the close of a sermon based upon the text "God is love," said that 60 years ago a young girl, comparatively speaking, was appointed to rule over their great empire. During the progress of her beneficent reign wonderful changes had taken place, and he believed that those changes to a very great extent had been in a particular direction, and that was for the improvement and amelioration of the conditions of the working classes of the country. The facilities for education had been widened, philanthropic movements had sprung up and multiplied, and excellent societies like that of the Foresters had found a birth. They were spread throughout the length and breadth of the country, and were all doing good work. When the Queen came to the throne such a service as that could not be held. A variety of reasons prevented it, one being that the Parish Church was not then built. If it existed at all, the order of Foresters in Timperley was then a very small one. Wonderful changes and wonderful improvements had taken place, and he believed a great many of those changes had been brought about by the sympathy and interest their Queen took in every one of them. While some of the courts of previous monarchs could be described as hot-beds of vice, the Queen's court was the purest in the world, and the nation developed and progressed under the influence of her holy and good example.—At the conclusion of the service the congregation, standing, sang the National Anthem to the accompaniment of the band. A collection was taken on behalf of the Foresters. After service the procession was reformed and the members marched to Baguley, where they disbanded.

ARCHDEACON WOOSNAM ON CHURCH PROGRESS,

At St. Margaret's Church, Altrincham, on Sunday morning, June 20th, the pulpit was occupied by the Ven. Archdeacon Woosnam. Preaching from the text I. Timothy ii. 1, 2, he referred at length to the growth of the British Empire during the last 60 years. One of the principal questions for their consideration was "Had the Church kept stride with all the progress made by a proportionate degree of activity?" New towns and cities had come into existence and new colonies had been acquired and larger demands had been made upon the loyalty and liberality of Churchmen. The answer to the question was to be found in the way in which their demands had been met. In England, the episcopate had been increased by seven new dioceses, and there were now two Archbishops, 34 bishops and 19 suffragans. In foreign parts the increase of the episcopate had been very marked. In 1837 there were, in Asia, only two bishoprics, but in 1897 these had been increased to 21. There were now 17 bishoprics in Africa, but in 1837 there were none. Australia could now boast of 14 bishoprics against one in 1837. In

There was another crowded congregation in the evening. The special hymns included that of the Bishop of Wakefield. The anthem "Praise God in his holiness" (Charles Whitfield) was sung by the choir. Mr. Wilcox took the bass solo and the treble solo was sung by Master Hartley. A cornet accompaniment was played by Mr. Warellington, and the entire performance was marked by much effort. An organ recital was given at the close of the service by Mr. Field. The pieces included Handel's "Occasional Anthem," as performed at the Coronation of the Queen. The "Public Ode" (MacKenzie) was sung by Mr. Shattocks, and the recital concluded with the chorals of "Zadok the Priest." The collections on behalf of the Clergy Sustentation Fund at St. Margaret's, All Saints' and Sinderland amounted to £21 17s. 10d.

the two in North America had grown to 21. The two in New Zealand and the Pacific, where in 1837 there were no bishops, eight had been established on the continent of Europe. Thus in the places mentioned these had increased to 91. The growth of the Church in England was shown by the fact that there were 13 668 incumbents with assistant clergy, and accommodation was found for 6,082,612 worshippers. In their day school, were places for 2,730,939 scholars, and the number of children on the registers was 2,297,659. The number of children in the Sunday schools was three millions with 204,612 teachers. The Archdeacon contrasted the work of the clergy with that of sixty years ago, and said that it was distinguished by much greater activity and efficiency. The Church owed much to the Oxford movement and the Liberal movement, and the influence of these two events was deeply impressed on the life of the Church and the Church Missionary Society. The Church Missionary Society reported that last year there were 7,700 adult converts in 462 stations—a fact which might be taken as a testimony of progress. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel had 776 ordained clergy, of which 132 were natives, and 3,000 licensed lay teachers. The Additional Curates Society had provided 1,000 clergy and the Church Pastoral Aid Society assisted in 660 parishes. While the Anglican

has been consulted. This was evident at an early stage, when in consequence of a difference of opinion as to the precise basis upon which the demonstration should be organized, the ruling of the General Committee was asked for. It will be remembered that the sub-committee decided that the procession of children should be one of the elementary schools, which, it was believed, would include all who were eligible to participate. On the other hand it was felt that this arrangement would have the effect, not in the least intentional, of ignoring the claims to recognition of the different Sunday schools ; and as it was obviously a matter of importance that they should not be overlooked, the subject was brought under the notice of the General Committee for a final judgment. This committee, in a manner which won commendation, settled the difference by eliminating everything that could possibly cause friction, and when it was determined that the demonstration should be organized on the Sunday school basis, a scheme was devised that gave no ground to criticism and restored the harmony of all sides.

the marked enthusiasm of the thorough-
familiar. These, indeed, were the singularly striking
characteristics of a celebration which revealed in a
pre-eminent degree the loyalty and patriotism of
Alfrincham. From that early morning hour filled
the bells of St. Margaret's and Bowdon Churches when
the air with their melody, until the last straggling
band of people stood bare headed in the Market-
place at midnight, and sang "God Save the Queen,"
Alfrincham was wholly and absolutely given up to
festivity. The programme of the Public Holiday
Committee concerned itself exclusively with the
arrangements for the treats to school children, but
outside the broad limits within which these were set
abundant testimonies were forthcoming of the
interest aroused and of the determination that no
feature should be lacking to render Alfrincham's
share in the jubilee rejoicings thoroughly complete
and successful. How splendidly the ceremonies
were favoured by the weather everybody knows.
The morning opened with bright sunshine, and
throughout the day the skies were typical of the
early month. At no time was there the slightest
suspension of rain, and under the hot rays of the
summer sun Alfrincham looked its best and the
people their happiest. Tuesday's programme, which
was carried out accompanied by such ideal conditions,
had its inception at a large public meeting held on
the 10th March under the presidency of Mr.

the hanging out of flags, but at the offices of Messrs. Charrin Institute not much was attempted beyond Charrin with the spirit of loyalty. At St. Margaret's had inscriptions in front of the building were pretentious, but they were neat and tasteful, and the decorations were not quite so ingenuous as the decorations of the Conservative Workmen's Club. At the Novelty Art Company. At Niverville Electric Supply, Limited, and the of the decorative work was carried out by the heraldic devices and flags were exhibited. The whole yellow, while at different points shields with curtains and valances of royal blue and paper. Each window was draped on the outside the dates 1837—1897 in a design made of crinkled building were filled in with large frames bearing peculiarly artistic and striking. The gables of the effect under the electric light at night was source of wonder during the day, their brilliant were made of white roses, and while they were incandescent lamps with cut shades. The letters light, and containing no lower than 50-

The treat to the children—that for old people followed on Thursday—combined a procession and a display of fireworks in Dunham Park in the evening. For the centenary of the result of private effort, no provision was made by the committee for public decoration. The strong interest aroused by the bright and attractive procession was indicated by the children's processions on Tuesday, in honour of the children, the route to be traversed was adorned with flags and banners, and only the fact that the route was to be traversed was advertised in the town ran out, prevented an even more liberal display. The decorators were busy throughout the whole of Monday, but it was not until Tuesday morning that the finishing touches were put to the work. Special efforts had been made by the residents on the route to be taken by the procession, and in a number of instances there were displays of a particularly appropriate and effective character. To impart the proper touch of colour to the bare and ugly Market-square, which was the appointed meeting-place of the children, the members of the two Conservative Clubs recognized that much was expected of them, and they rose to the occasion with such readiness and employed their resources with such discretion that the public were indebted for effects of a conspicuously happy character. The scheme of decoration of the Senior Conservative Club was of a bold and elaborate kind. In front of the building were four gay Venetian masts winded with spirals of evergreens. These were surmounted with electric stars and Union Jacks. The stars were fitted with coloured incandescent lamps, which, at nightfall, had a very striking and pretty effect. Between the masts were suspended festoons of evergreens and electric lamps, covered with paper shades of all tints, so that when they were lighted in the evening they glowed with all grades of colour. The poles really formed a large framework for the reception of the letters "V.R.", each of which was twelve feet square.

J. S. Jones, Mr. W. T. Siddall (superintendent,) Mr. Walter K. Meldrum (secretary), Mr. J. Pimlott (organist), and Messrs. C. Pierpoint, F. Meldrum, T. Taylor, A. Preston, R. H. Meldrum, and J. Ogden. Next in order was St. Vincent's School, conspicuous by the display of its handsome green banner. The Revs. Father O'Brien and Father Jones were at the head of the children, who were in charge of the Misses Maher, Moran (two), Keogh, Hart, Tunstead, Litherland (three), McDermott (two), and Vaughan. The children attending St. Margaret's and All Saints' Sunday School were present to the number of over 400. The clergy were the Yen. Archdeacon Woosnam (vicar), Revs. E. J. Trevitt and L. S. Stanhope, and among the officials and teachers were—Messrs. T. Johnson and D. Litherland, and Misses Harding, Percival, Jane Norris, Travers (two), Boulton, Connie Norris, Williams (two), Poole (two), Saxon (two), Myrtle, and Brooks. In charge of the scholars from the Rigby Memorial School, Broadheath, were Mr. William Rigby, Mr. E. Mills, Miss Rigby, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Child, and the pupil teachers of the day school. The children from St. John's and St. Elizabeth's Schools came next in order. The clergy present—were the Rev. F. Wainwright (vicar), W. S. Collier and A. P. Birch, and the scholars were in the charge of Mr. Macnamara, Mr. Sumner, Mr. Wood, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Wainwright, Miss Wainwright, Miss Stringer, Miss Boyd, Miss Hatton, Miss Cooper, Miss Parker, Miss Laing, Mrs. Pugh, Miss Murphy, Miss Hudson, Miss Mead, Miss Kenyon, and Miss Lomas. The scholars from St. Elizabeth's were under the direction of Mr. Stanley, Mr. Jones, and the Misses Jackson and Waterhouse. At the head of the Presbyterian School were the Rev. Wilson Cowie, Messrs. Reid, McKenzie, Patterson, F. T. Bell, John and David Bell, and among those who had charge of the children were Mrs. Guest, Misses Terras, Camming, Richardson, Stewart, and C. Macdonald. The Baptist School children were under the superintendence of the Rev. F. Cowell Lloyd, Messrs. H. Stannard, Thomas Ryder, Thomas C. Boughey, James Jackson, William Crossley, Frank Pearson, Frederick Southwell, and the Misses Simmonds, Overbury, Leigh, Boughey, Moores, Bowland, and Burwood. The Revs. G. Mitchell and William Evans were at the head of the scholars from the Primitive Methodist Sunday School. The children were directed by Mr. B. Fletcher and Mr. F. Kean (superintendents), Mr. Hill (secretary), Mr. Leah, Mr. R. Biddulph, Mr. H. Lawton, Mr. Manley, Mr. Bancroft, jun., Miss Housby, Miss M. Mitchell, Miss Robins, Miss Lawton, Miss Catterill, Miss Calcott, and Miss Brewer. The scholars from the Sunday school connected with the Church of Christ, Lloyd-street, were in charge of Mr. C. Greig, (superintendent), Mr. John Sumner (secretary). Mr. William Pollitt, Mr. Royle, Mr. Turner, Mr. Hulme, Messrs. A. and J. Royle, jun., Mrs. R. Gatley, Mrs. Greig, Mrs. Sumner, Mrs. Pollitt, and Miss Ainsworth. The inmates from the Girls' Homes at Peel Causeway, who numbered upwards of 50, were in charge of the matrons and other officials of the institutions. The following is a list of the Sunday schools, indicating the number of scholars, officials, and teachers :—

Children.		Officials and
St. George's (Jubilee).....	330	^SS^*
(Oakfield-road).....	256	20
(Broadheath).....	140	12
Unitarians.....	104	10
Wesleyan (New-street).....	250	40
(Borough-road).....	186	24
(Broadheath).....	170	22
(Bowdon).....	72	26
(Hale-road).....	130	25
Congregational (The Downs)...	320	30
(Market-street)...	72	11
Newtown Night School	30	25
New Connexion.....	85	24
St. Vincent's.....	260	15
St. Margaret's.....	425	36
Rigby Memorial.....	200	20
St. John's (Central).....	290	16
St. Elizabeth's.....	244	16
Presbyterian.....	100	22
Baptist.....	120	15
Primitive Methodist.....	87	24
Church of Christ.....	76	11
Girls' Homes (Peel Causeway)...	50	8

It is estimated that altogether 4,167 children took part in the procession, as in some cases more than the numbers estimated turned up. All the teachers wore special medals given by Mr. Lindsell, while the children wore the commemorative medals given by the committee.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

To the rear of the Wesleyan scholars came the various friendly societies, Foresters, Oddfellows', Rechabites, and Sons of Temperance. The Rechabites led the way. They wore the handsome regalia of the order, and the beautifully designed symbols they carried attracted much attention and admiration. The symbols represented the sun, moon and stars, a bee hive, cross keys, tent, dove, sword, lamb, jewelled crown on cushion, wheat sheaf, Bible on cushion, serpent, an eye, &c. Among the principal officers who walked were Bros. R. Campbell, H.S., W. Potts, D.S., J. Wensley, C.R.I., E. Jones, P.D.C.R., S.W.D., A. Brooks, D.T., G. Hodden, Guardian, C. Green, secretary, T. Lowe, C.R., J.E. Metzger, D.R., J. Royle, T., W. T. Redhouse, secretary, W. McIsaac, levite, S. Llewellyn, steward, A. Ferguson, guardian, and R. Smith, P. Secretary, G.E. The Oddfellows and Foresters were not represented by a very large number of members. Together they are about 1,000 strong, and there were not half that number present. One of the chief officers stated that this was due to the fact that many members were closely identified with different Sunday schools in the neighbourhood, and naturally preferred to walk with the scholars upon such an occasion. The principal officers representing the Oddfellows were Bros. John Cliffe, Prov. C.S., lodge secretary; Peter Williamson. P.P.G.M., trustee; John Gibbon, P.G.; Thomas Wilkinson, P.G.; Alfred Howard, P.P.G.M., and treasurer; S. H. Dewsbury, P.G.M. (Gordon Lodge); William Lingard, V.G.; William Blackshaw, trustee; and Bro. Ackerley, trustee (Gordon Lodge). Among the chief representatives of the Foresters (Altrincham and Bowdon United) were Bros. E. G. Fairhurst D.T., John Robinson, D.S., T. H. Wilkinson, D.S.C.R., A. Kemmery, D.D.C.R., James Pownall, sen., P.D.C.R., Thomas Smallwood, P.D.C.R., Joseph Dean, P.C.R., James Pownall, jun., P.C.R., Arthur Hallam, P.C.R. and C.S., Richard Lamb, P.C.R., James Hampson, P.C.R., John Perrin, P.C.R., Joseph Parkinson, P.C.R., William Whitehead, P.C.R., Arthur Hazelhurst, P.C.R., and William Stevens, P.C.R. (Newark). There were 90 members present. They were marshalled by Bros. James Pownall and Thomas Smallwood. There was not a large muster of the Sons of Temperance, for the reason previously referred to. The order was represented by Bros. W. Davies, G.W.P., J. Birch, P.G.W.P.F.S., John Gatley, G.Cd.; Henry Gibbon, P.W.P.; J. Jackson, P.W.P.; F. B. Houlden, P.W.P.; J. Bagnall, P.W.P.; R. Bradbury, P.W.P.; T. Thorpe, P.W.P.; J. Pickton, P.W.P.; A. Dawes, treasurer; T. Combes, J.S.; E. W. Foden, O.S., W. Astall, A.C.; F. Morton, Cd.; J. De Rome, P.W.A.; and James Gorton, P.W.A.

When all had assembled, and this was effected without the slightest confusion or disorganization, the children faced the Club. Mr. John Goodall, in the capacity of choir-master, ascended a small platform erected to the right of the club gates, and upon a signal from him the Borough Band played the first chord of the National Anthem, and the whole assemblage, numbering between five and six thousand, joined in singing "God save the Queen," the band accompanying. The effect was thrilling. The air was taken up with commendable precision, and the full volume of sound, admirably modulated and true to time, was most effective. Equally satisfactory was the singing of "Strike loud notes of triumph." Upon the conclusion of the hymn, the band of the 3rd V.B. Cheshire Regiment heralded the departure, and the procession began to move.

The route taken was through Market-street, Church-street, Woodlands-road, Barrington-road, Stamford-street, Station-road, George-street, Railway-street, Ashley-road, St. John's-road, Delamer-road, The Downs, Railway-street, Regent-road, to the starting point. Following the band of the 3rd V.B. C.R. were the two fire engines of the District Council. They were manned by Superintendent Youlton, and Firemen Harley, Wright, Barnett, Moreton, Broome, Twist, Warmisham, Shaw, Priestman, T. Harley, and Drinkwater, and Drivers

Dalton and Hollins. Then came the Mayor, Mr Lindsell, wearing the official gold chain, and accompanied by Mr. Isaac Watts, J.P., chairman of the District Council. The following members of the Council came next in order :- Messrs. George Bowen, J.P., E. Yarwood, R. Gatley, A. Barker, J. Palmer, J. Drinkwater, M. Pearson, S. Thompson, J. Bowland, E. Smith, A. C. Spirkes, and J. Stokoe (clerk). The members of the Free Library Committee present were:—Messrs. H. G. Syers, H. J. Leech, J. T. Hughes, J. W. Byrom, and A. Griffiths; while others who joined this part of the procession were Messrs. J. Percival, T. H. Caine, Henry Meadows, J. Gott, and George Turton (assistant overseer).

The burgesses and friends of the Court Leet followed. At the head were the constables, Messrs. H. Brundrett, a representative of one of the oldest families in Altrincham, and S. Ernill, who bore the brass-headed staves of office. Then came the ex-Mayors—Messrs. David Morrison, W. Griffin, J.P., J. Siddeley, E. G. Parker, J. Foden, J. Hamilton, J. Dale, and W. A. Renshaw. The burgesses and others included Messrs. S. Thompson, W. Graham, S. Burgess, H. Dean, T. Nicholson, S. Arnold, J. Steen, A. Huxley, J. Gibbon, C. Ashley, J. W. Byrom, M. Stone, W. R. Dykes, G. J. Plimmer, J. H. Needham, G. F. Smith, W. Forster, W. Moody, E. Griffiths, C. Okell, T. Robinson, F. Willcox, A. Wilde, H. Davies, G. H. Riley, R. Fowden, J. S. Derbyshire, J. Lewis, H. Holt, J. Cowsill, John Balshaw, A. Griffiths, W. Allwood, E. Griffiths, H. Balshaw, A. Munro, Boucher, A. Howard, Jos. Faulkner, J. Livingstone, and R. Whitehead, town crier. The procession was also joined by Mr. J. Sapsford, of Broadheath, formerly of the 14th King's Hussars. Mr. Sapsford, who served 25 years in the army, spent 14 years in India. He went through the Indian Mutiny and, in the procession, he wore four Indian medals—for the Punjaub, the second Punjaub, Persia, and a good conduct medal. A position was also assigned to Mr. Robert Burgess and Mr. Henry Astall, two old residents, who, as scholars, walked side by side in the procession in Altrincham in honour of the Queen's Coronation, in 1838. Mr. Astall not only wore the medal he received on that occasion, but had in his possession the medal he received in 1832, when, as a boy of five years, he took part in the local festivities arranged in honour of the coronation of William IV. Both gentlemen were heartily congratulated on their appearance in the procession, and they related with singular clearness the leading events connected with the 1837 celebration. The schools in the order as above described followed the Court Leet. The children walked four abreast, and the line was one long glittering stream of colour. The youngsters marched well, but there was not sufficient music to lighten the walk over the long route. The Altrincham Borough Band, conducted by Mr. Litherland, was placed at the head of St. Vincent's Schools, while the band of the *Warrington Guardian* works, directed by Mr. T. Barnes, had the distinction of leading the Friendly Societies. These and the band of the 3rd V.B.C.R., under Band master Matthews, and the bugles of the Lads' Brigade, were the only bands engaged. In order to give some idea of the length of the procession, it may be stated that when the head reached the bottom of Shaw's-lane, the last ranks of the Friendly Societies were only leaving the base of operations. The time occupied by the procession in passing a given point, including an unaccountable stoppage of five minutes, was exactly half an hour. The marshals were greatly assisted in their work by Superintendent Britton and a staff of police. The route was deeply lined with spectators, and at various parts of the town the popularity of the Mayor, and the prominent part he has taken in organizing the demonstration, were recognized by hearty plaudits. On returning to the Market place, the children sang Dr. Martin's hymn "God of Supreme Dominion." Then followed a magnificent rendering of the National Anthem with band accompaniments. The enormous crowd entered into the singing of the great anthem with almost reverential feeling, and notwithstanding the blazing sun the loyalty of the spectators was expressed by an almost general removal of hats. As the last notes of the National Anthem died away an interesting incident took place. A number of children representing the whole of the schools in the district stepped forward and approaching the Mayor, who occupied a position near

the entrance to the Conservative Club, asked his acceptance of a tribute of regard from the children who had taken part in the demonstration. One of the children prefaced the little ceremony by reading the following brief address:—"Diamond Jubilee. The children of Altrincham have pleasure in presenting to the Major, F. R. B. Lindsell, Esq., a gold Jubilee medal, to be attached to the official chain, as a memento of the auspicious event celebrating the sixty years' glorious and beneficent reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria. June 22nd, 1897." The gold medal accompanying the address, was inscribed with words recording the circumstances under which it was presented, and as it was presented and pinned on Mr. Lindsell's coat by one of the girls, loud and enthusiastic cheers announced the pleasure with which the kindly and gracious act of the children was received. The address was adorned with photographs of the Queen. One represented her Majesty as she appeared at the coronation in 1837, and the other at the present time. In the corners of the frame were portraits of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Duke and Duchess of York.

In accepting the present, the MAYOR said :—Ladies and gentlemen and schoolchildren of the Altrincham District,—The hearts of all of us this afternoon are almost too full to speak ; and it is with difficulty I can find words to express my thanks for the kind gifts which have been made to me as representative of the burgesses of Altrincham. (Cheers) I can assure you that I shall hand the medal down to be placed amongst the interesting memorials of the past, which are still in their possession, and, on behalf of the Court Leet, I thank you for the gift which will have peculiar value. We have truly had Queen's weather, and to this, and for the united and harmonious way in which men of all parties and denominations have worked together, we owe the success which has attended our proceedings up to now. (Cheers.) The manner in which all Altrincham has come forward to make not only to-day, but our services last Sunday successful, has enabled us with one heart and mind to thank God and honour the Queen. (Cheers.)

As the children marched off to the different schools for tea they broke into cheers for the Queen. There was no stint of food at the schools, and the youngsters after their hard afternoon in the broiling sun were soon able to satisfy the requirements of sharpened appetites.

TELEGRAM TO THE QUEEN.

Shortly after two o'clock the following telegram was despatched to the Queen :—"The Chairman of the Altrincham Urban District Council, on behalf of the Council and the inhabitants of Altrincham, begs most respectfully to tender to her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria their dutiful and heartfelt congratulations upon the completion of 60 years of her beneficent reign, and their earnest hope that she may be spared for many years to reign over her loving subjects. — WATTS, Altrincham."

Fully eight thousand people gathered on Bowdon Plain in Dunham Park in the evening, when musical performances by the Altrincham Borough and the Warrington Guardian Works Bands were given. The sports for the children were an endless source of interest, and the great open space at all times presented an aspect of the greatest animation. At half-past nine a rocket pierced the gathering gloom as the signal for the commencement of the display of fireworks. This department was in the efficient hands of Mr. Ramsbottom, Manchester, and the spectacle of blazing wheels, fountains of fire, and soaring rockets was admirably arranged. Among the set pieces were the letters in coloured lights "V.R.," and the figures 1837-1897. As the fiery outlines appeared against the dark background of trees, the crowd burst into singing "God save the Queen." The display, which had lasted for more than half-an-hour, concluded with this impressive ceremony. Soon the park was left to the silence and the night mists ; but many of those who had previously thronged its avenues sped to the high ground of Bowdon Church and St. Margaret's, to catch the glare of beacon fires on distant hills.

Between the hours of seven and nine o'clock the Volunteer Band gave a musical programme in the new Market-place. At eleven o'clock there was an interesting display in the Market-place, arranged by Mr. A. Fairley, of the Altrincham Electric Supply, Limited. In the centre of the Market-place was

suspended from two lofty poles a large sheet, upon which, by means of an oxyhydrogen lantern, a number of capital pictures were thrown from the windows of the Conservative Club. The pictures comprised every variety, but they were specially intended to illustrate notable events in the Queen's reign. Some hundreds of people viewed the proceedings, and expressed the highest appreciation of the efforts made by Mr. Fairley for their delectation. As a finale the words of "God save the Queen" were thrown upon the sheet. Immediately the throng took up the note of the anthem, and to the accompaniment of the Borough Band, the impressive notes were again rolled forth. This was at half-past eleven, but it was long after midnight before the last loyal citizen had left the square.

TREAT TO AGED PEOPLE.

The dinner to aged people, which formed one of the special features of the commemoration in Altrincham and Bowdon, was given at the Literary Institute on Thursday June 24th. Upwards of 440 invitations were issued, and there were no fewer than 380 acceptances. To the sixty whose infirmities precluded them from attending, a present was made in the shape of a pound of tea. The arrangements connected with the preparation of the dinner were delegated by the General Committee to an executive consisting of the *rev.* Archdeacon Gore, D.D., *Rev.* Archdeacon Woosnam, the *Revs.* F. Wainwright, W. M. B. Lutener, Dr. Mackennal, Wilson Cowie, Father O'Brien, J. R. Brunskill, E. J. Trevitt, Sidney Jones, F. Cowell Lloyd, H. D. Nicol, W. E. Jones, C. H. Coe. Harold Collier, H. A. Portbury, L. S. Stanhope, S. Nicholls, G. Mitchell, J. H. Goodman, D. A. de Moulpied, and A. W. Fox. This committee, it will be seen, comprised the clergy and ministers of all the religious denominations in the district, and the earnest manner in which they co-operated furnished an undeniable guarantee of success. The *Rev.* J. R. Brunskill undertook the whole of the secretarial duties, and to their efficient discharge by him the gathering was largely indebted for much of its interest and pleasure. The task of catering was entrusted to Mr. S. W. Scott, Railway-street, and under his direction the tables were generously supplied with roast and boiled beef, roast mutton, steak and kidney pies, vegetables, and puddings. There was, indeed, no stint of good cheer, and the aged guests had good reason for the satisfaction that there was no attempt to conceal. Although the hour fixed for the feast was not until 6.30, some of the guests had taken their places at the tables half an hour before that time. But they were none too soon for the large number of assistants provided by the members of the committee, who received the aged folk with smiles of welcome and conducted them to their seats. By agreement each member of the committee engaged the aid of three assistants, so that there was no lack of help, and in every possible form the comfort and convenience of the visitors were studied. Flowers for the decoration of the tables were supplied by Mrs. Woosnam, Mrs. Galloway and Mrs. Worrall, and their tasteful arrangement was undertaken by the Misses Clegg. The attractive decoration was a source of much admiration. Without exception, the members of the committee were present and personally took a share of the duty of ministering to the wants of the large company. The Mayor, Mr. Lindsell, was also present and exhibited unceasing interest in the enjoyment of the party, who warmly recognized the ungrudging efforts made on their behalf. After dinner Archdeacon Woosnam paid a high tribute to the services of the Mayor in the effort to cast a ray of sunshine on the path of the aged. His words were supported by Dr. Mackennal, who led the audience in three ringing cheers for the Mayor. One speech only was permitted. That privilege was granted to the Mayor, who, with commendable discretion did not abuse it. He warmly eulogized the work of the committee of which Archdeacon Woosnam had been a chairman of untiring energy, and said the public generally were indebted to them for the work they had done. Alluding to the Jubilee, Mr. Lindsell said that the joy and gratitude evinced came from the great heart of the people. Not only the rich but those who had gained no individual advantage or personal advancement joined in the expression of loyalty towards the throne. The National Anthem was sung at the

close of the Mayor's brief speech, and then a varied entertainment of song and story came to speed the last hour. A piano had been kindly lent by Messrs. Wroe and Co., and at this Mr. Forster presided. The members of that gentleman's band also gave their services and played several selections. Some highly interesting dramatic recitals were given by Mr. J. H. Atkinson, and songs were contributed by Mrs. Murray, Miss Broadbenf., Mr. Grounds, Mr. Harry Holt, and Mr. H. Meadows.

BOWDON.

ST. PETERS CHURCH.

On Sunday the authorized Accession Service was used, the Bishop of Wakefield's hymn being sung as a processional and other special hymns at each of the services. Sermons appropriate to the occasion were preached, in the morning from I. Kings iii. 9, and in the evening from Romans xiii. 1, by the curate-in-charge, who also addressed the children in the afternoon. At the close of the services the National Anthem was well rendered, the congregation joining in a most impressive manner. On Tuesday, funds provided by the Altrincham and Bowdon Commemoration Committee were devoted to a children's treat in the Drill Hall, kindly lent by the Volunteer officers. An effective medal was also provided for each child, while the helpers received beautiful badges, the gift of the Mayor of Altrincham. About 120 of those attending the children's service partook of an excellent tea, to which Mr. Guest kindly added a supply of sweets and the Misses Caton-Thompson a chocolate medallion of the Queen Mr. Megson, with his usual readiness to give pleasure* had a pianoforte brought into the hall, and enlivened the proceedings by his spirited play of national airs, in which he was kindly assisted by the effective violin playing of Miss Muriel Hall and Miss Schwabe. The prettily decorated tables were presided over by Mr. Brunskill, Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. James Mottram, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Megson, the Misses Caton-Thompson, Miss Pointon, and the Misses Hall, while others rendered help in various ways. The National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close, when each child received a bun and an orange to serve as refreshment in Dunham Park, whither they proceeded to hear the music and witness the fireworks, &c.

The demonstration of children at Bowdon, though modest and unpretentious in character, very becomingly expressed the patriotic sentiments of the inhabitants. The various residences and public buildings in the neighbourhood were decked out in bright colours, and several of the road scenes were charmingly effective. The children of the Sunday and day schools, together with others of similar ages being children of ratepayers, and who chose to join the procession, assembled at the Parish Schools after dinner, and from there, preceded by the Ven. Archdeacon Gore, D.D. (vicar), and the *Revs.* H. A. Portbury and W. N. Martin, marched to the churchyard, where all joined in the singing of "From all that dwell below the skies," "O King of kings," and the National Anthem. The vicar also recited one or two of the collects specially composed for Accession Day. The procession was then re-formed, and the children proceeded to the Vicarage. There were about 500 children present, and as they marched along the avenue, with banners and flags flying in the breeze, the sight presented was a remarkably pretty one. On arrival at the Vicarage the children congregated on the lawn, and were briefly addressed by Archdeacon Gore. He expressed the sense of delight it afforded him and Mrs. Gore to have the children there upon that occasion, and called upon them to give three hearty cheers for the Queen, whom they were met together to honour. This having been vigorously responded to, cheers were given for those who had organized the entertainment, and also, on the proposition of Mr. Evason, for Archdeacon and Mrs. Gore. The procession was again marshalled, and the children proceeded to, a field in Green Walk lent by the Polo Club and Agricultural Society. The youngsters were under the direction of Mr. Evason, Mr. and Mrs. Oldham, Miss Edwards, Miss Gore, Miss Ethel Gore, Miss Miller, Miss Turner, Miss Jones, and others. A variety of amusements were arranged for the children in the field. A programme of sports included such interesting events as wheelbarrow races/three-

legged races, flat races, and egg and spoon races. Among the members of the Urban District Council on the field were Messrs. Sidebotham, Gillett, Senior, R. A. Warburton and J. Hall. Mr. Gaddum, the chairman, was away in London. The children enjoyed themselves to the full, and had boxes of sweets distributed among them by Mrs. Gore. Several balloons were sent up by Dr. Sidebotham, and a novelty was provided in the shape of bombs, which ascended to a great height, and bursting sent forth miniature balloons and produced other novel and startling effects. At the close of the afternoon the children marched back to the schools, and were provided with tea. Each child was also presented with a medal. Tea over, the juveniles dispersed to their homes, and during the evening numbers of them were to be seen enjoying themselves among the crowds in Dunham Park.

HALE AND RINGWAY.

The inhabitants of the East Ward of Hale, including the parish of Ringway, co-operated, and celebrated the Jubilee at Hale Barns. Monday, June 21, was the children's day. They assembled in Mr. Warburton's field at two o'clock in the afternoon, to the number of about 200, and spent a couple of hours in joining in the various amusements. Canon Hignett and the Rev. J. C. Hirst were present, and the children were under the superintendence of the teachers. Tea was provided in the Unitarian School and the Church School, and afterwards the children went back to the field and enjoyed themselves until dusk. On Tuesday a treat upon similar lines was provided for the adult inhabitants. An admirable programme of sports had been organized, and the afternoon and evening passed away very pleasantly. The following list of results will prove interesting to those who had the pleasure of witnessing the events :—100 yards race for women (single): 1, G. Hollingworth; 2, Eva Parker; 3, Ellen Whalley. 100 yards race for women (married): 1, Mrs. Broome; 2, Mrs. Wyse; 3, Mrs. Winstanley. High jump for young men: 1, C. Hignett; 2, R. Winstanley. Half mile race: 1, A. Burgess; 2, W. Barker. Egg and spoon race (women): 1, A. Cleesley; 2, M. Pierson; 3, Mrs. J. Yates. Egg and spoon race (men): 1, Thomas Bates; 2, W. Pimlott. Long jump (stand): 1, Richard Winstanley; 2, A. Burgess; 3, C. Gatley (distance, eight feet three). Three-legged race: 1, James Gatley and James Pickston. Putting the shot: 1, James Gillan; 2, W. Pimlott. 100 yards race for men over 40: 1, W. Hollingworth; 2, W. Taylor. Potato gathering (women): 1, W. Whalley; 2, Annie Yates; 3, E. Hurst. Wheelbarrow race: 1, Frank Butler; 2, J. Gatley. Tug of war (married v. single men), married men won by two to none. Tug of war (married v. single women), married women won easily. Hand-in-hand race (man and woman to run hand in hand, women to take the prize): 1, Eva Barker; 2, Ellen Hignett; 3, M. Whalley. Sack race (80 yards): 1, J. Bracegirdle; 2, Frank Butler. Egg and spoon race for married women over 30: 1, Mrs. Sam Yarwood; 2, Mrs. Peter Gatley; 3, Mrs. G. Hollingworth. The judges were Messrs. A. Hilton, S. Hinchcliffe and A. H. Wolff, and Mr. H. Barker was the handicapper and starter. Over £20 worth of prizes were distributed. During an interval in the programme the inhabitants were provided with tea, the whole arrangements being satisfactorily carried out by the following committee :—Messrs. Edward Boutflower, H. Barker, H. Clarke, H. Gaddum, S. Hinchcliffe, Sam Jackson, A. Price, John Pearson, Riley, H. Sowier, H. R. Hignett, Robert Wolff, A. H. Wolff, and James Yates. At the conclusion of the day's proceedings the Rev. Canon Hignett said the occasion had been a unique one. Differences of opinion, theological and political, had been placed

in the background, and they had all met together as loyal subjects of the Queen to celebrate her long and glorious reign. They were not likely to meet together again for a similar purpose—(laughter)—and they had done right by making the most of the opportunity presented to them. He hoped all had derived enjoyment from the day's proceedings, and he proposed a vote of thanks to the committee and helpers. This was carried, and before dispersing the National Anthem was sung. It may be mentioned that Mr. Thomas Moore, of Cheadle, sent a portrait in oils of the late John Clarke, who for 46 years was master of the Unitarian Jay School, as a Jubilee gift to the Sunday school. The Rev. J. C. Hirst accepted the gift on behalf of the teachers.

TIMPERLEY.

At Timperley Parish Church on Sunday special thanksgiving services were held. The Vicar, the Rev. S. Wilkinson, preached. The members of the Church Lads' Brigade paraded and attended morning service. The special hymns included the Bishop of Wakefield's "O King of kings." At St. Andrew's Mission Church there was a special celebration in the evening. The service opened with the singing as the processional hymn of the Old Hundredth. The anthem was "Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel." The quartette was taken by Mrs. Murray, Miss Wood, Miss Pullen, and Mr. Evans. The sermon was preached by the Rev. E. H. Weir, and after the Benediction the National Anthem was sung by the congregation. Mr. Nield presided at the organ.

In honour of the Diamond Jubilee a very successful village fete was held at Timperley on Tuesday. At two o'clock the large number of children attending the day and Sunday schools (Timperley and St. Andrew's; met in the village opposite to the infant school, and the National Anthem was sung. Afterwards a procession was formed, headed by the Newton Heath Brass Band and the members of the Church Lads' Brigade, under the command of Captain Bell, and the children marched to a field lent by Mr. Austen, Manor Farm. During the afternoon an excellent tea was provided for the children and many of their friends and relations, the arrangements being made by a numerous band of ladies and gentlemen of the parish, who had given up their holiday for the entertainment of the children. After tea sports were provided, and at the close the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Fisher. The starters were the Misses W. Leach and E. Fitton and the Rev. E. H. Weir, and the judges were Mr. Fisher (churchwarden) and Mr. Kershaw. The sports were organized by Captain Bell, Lieutenant Austen, of the C.L.B. The evening's proceedings were brought to a close by a display of fireworks. Hearty cheers were given for those who had provided the entertainment, and special mention was made of Mr. Austen and Mr. Amos Rogerson, who had provided guily decorated luries for the use of the children.

A treat to the old people in the parish of Timperley, the outcome of a suggestion made by the Vicar at a meeting about a month ago, took place on Thursday evening June 24th, in the Infants' School, Stockport road. About 150 old folks put in an appearance. Several who were too infirm to walk from their homes were conveyed in open cabs. An excellent dinner was provided by Mr. C. Skipper, of Altrincham, and the old people seemed to heartily enjoy the good things set before them. Among those who helped at the tables, or rendered assistance in other ways were the Vicar (the Rev. S. Wilkinson; the Rev. E. H. Weir, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Keymer, Mr. Wm. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Fitton, Miss Zill, Miss Bell, Miss Hettie Bell, Miss Wood, Miss Webb, Mrs. Millington and Miss Chapman. After dinner the

Vicar addressed a few kindly words to the aged guests, and subsequently an enjoyable miscellaneous entertainment was provided. The expenses of the treat were defrayed by a number of parishioners and friends.

DUNHAM MASSEY.

The celebrations at Dunham Massey were arranged upon a comprehensive scale, and a full and interesting programme was presented in every detail with great success. The scholars of each school assembled in their own schoolrooms, where they were provided with medals. In charge of the superintendents and teachers, the children then proceeded to the Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Dunham Woodhouses, where a procession was formed. The order was as follows :—Cavalry, band, Primitive Methodists, St. Mark's, Lower Houses, Sinderland School Chapel, Sinderland Green Wesleyans, Shepherds and Foresters. The route taken was by Station Road and the Back Lane to St. Mark's Church, at which point the procession was joined by the members of the Parish Council and the committee, together with the younger children from St. Mark's and Lower Houses. The route was then continued through Dunham Town to the Smithy Gate and into the park to the sun dial in front of the hall. The children there sang the National Anthem to the accompaniment of the band. Tea was then served to the children. The Foresters were entertained at Little Heath School. Before tea Jubilee handkerchiefs and mugs were distributed among the children. Afterwards the teachers and helpers had tea. In the evening, by permission of Colonel Piers Egerton Warburton, a military tournament was held and sports were arranged for the children. As a preliminary the youngsters scrambled for nuts and sweets, and during an interval oranges were distributed. The tournament given by members of the Arley troop was very successful. Among the competitors were Troop-Major Yarwood and Privates H. Astall, A. Beckett, R. Yarwood, G. Whitelegg and E. Clark. There was not time to finish the large number of events provided for competition among the children. The prizes were distributed by Mr. James Gibb, chairman of the Parish Council, who was assisted by Messrs. A. M. Higham and G. P. Noden. Mr. G. Worthington discharged the duties of secretary most efficiently. Everything passed off most successfully, and the children spent a most enjoyable day.

The old folks living in Dunham Massey were entertained to dinner at the Little Heath School on Wednesday evening. There were 103 present. Mr. Meadowcroft, of the Axe and Cleaver Inn, catered. After dinner, Mr. James Gibb, chairman of the Parish Council, presided, and the usual loyal and other toasts were duly honoured. An entertainment was subsequently provided by Messrs. Horace Barber, W. Johnson, and George Newton. The old people spent a most enjoyable evening.

BAGULEY.

The celebrations at Baguley were taken part in by about 300 children. The scholars from the Congregational and Church schools assembled at St. John's Schools, and, forming into procession, marched to the church, where a service was conducted by Canon Bethell Jones. At the close the National Anthem was sung, and the procession being re-formed, the childrer walked to a field lent by Mr. Barker, and there enjoyed the programme of sports and amusements that had been arranged for their entertainment. Mr. W. G. Osbaldeston (superintendent) and the teachers were in charge of the children from the Congregational School, and Canon Jones was accompanied by the Rev. W. Owen and a staff of teachers. Tea was provided for the children, who spent a very pleasant afternoon and evening.

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