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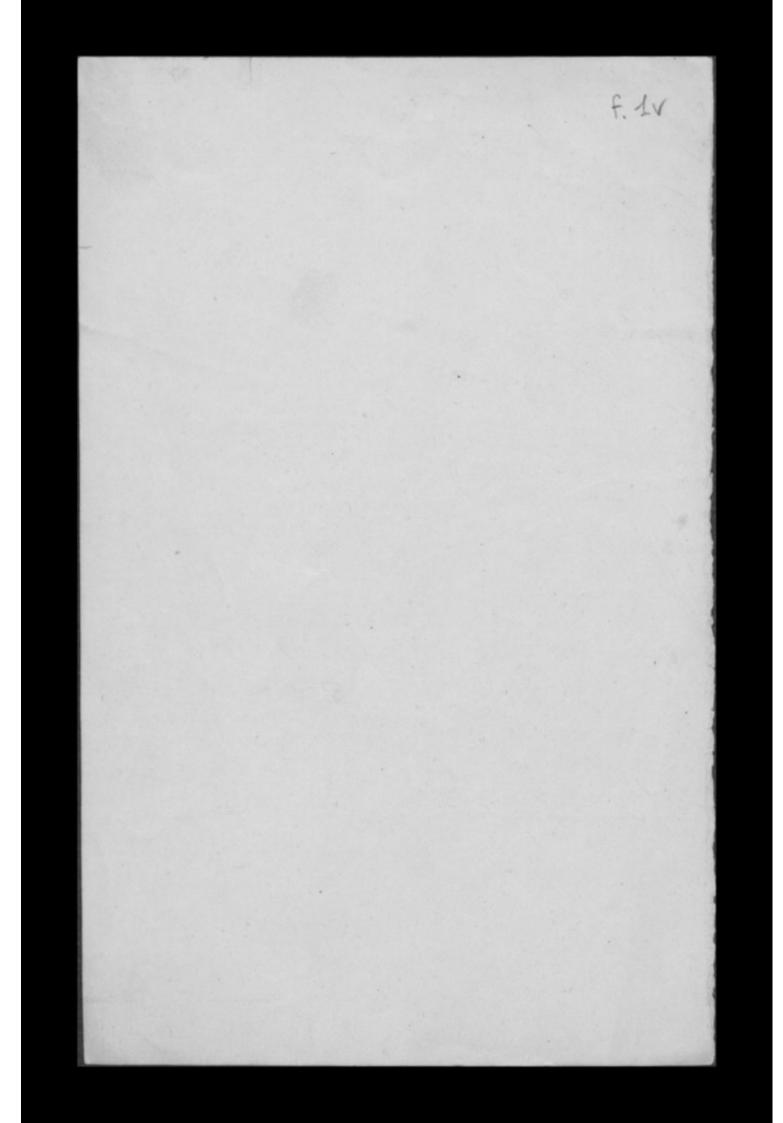
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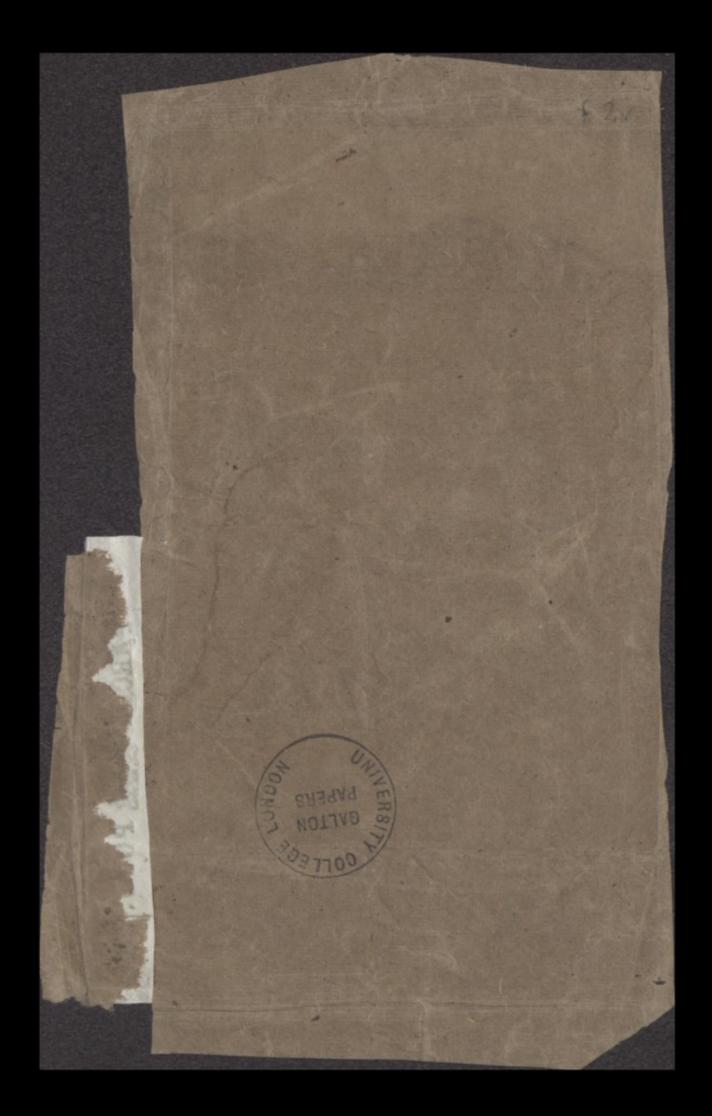


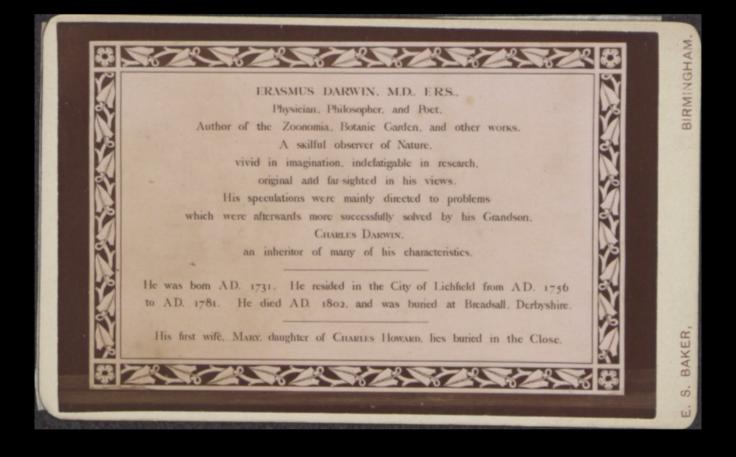
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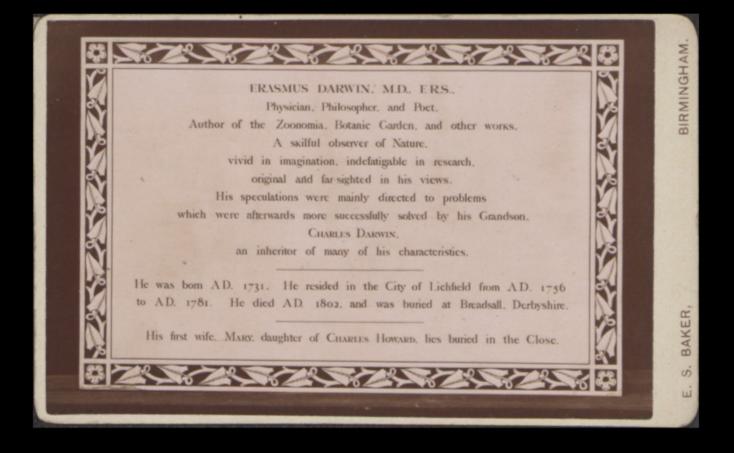


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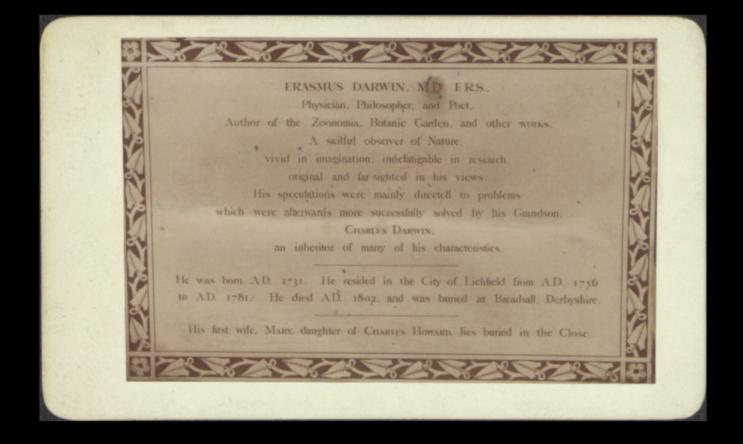




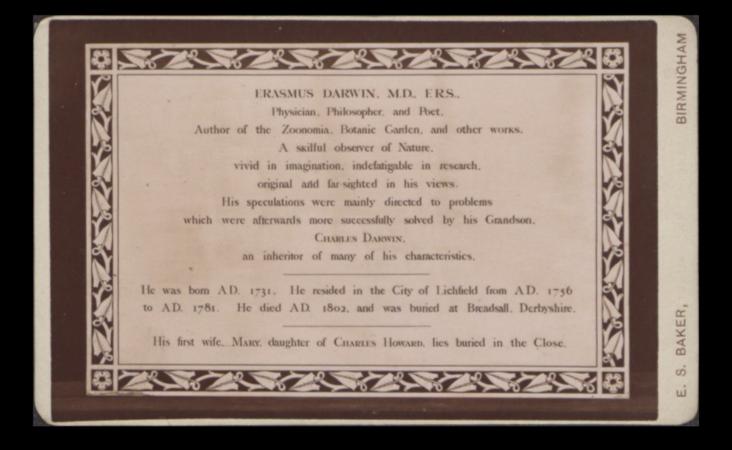




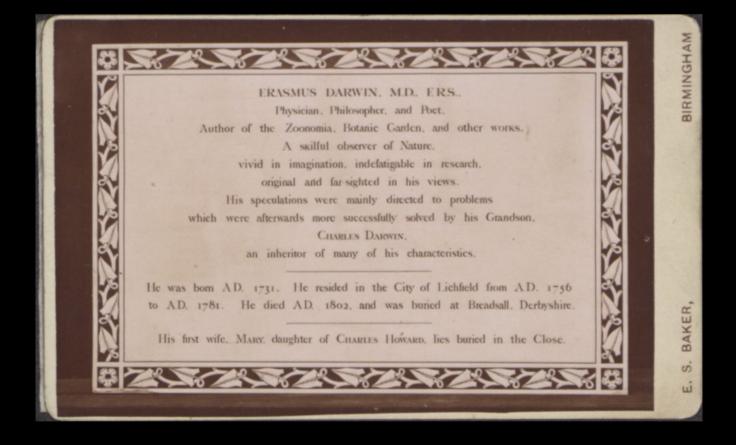




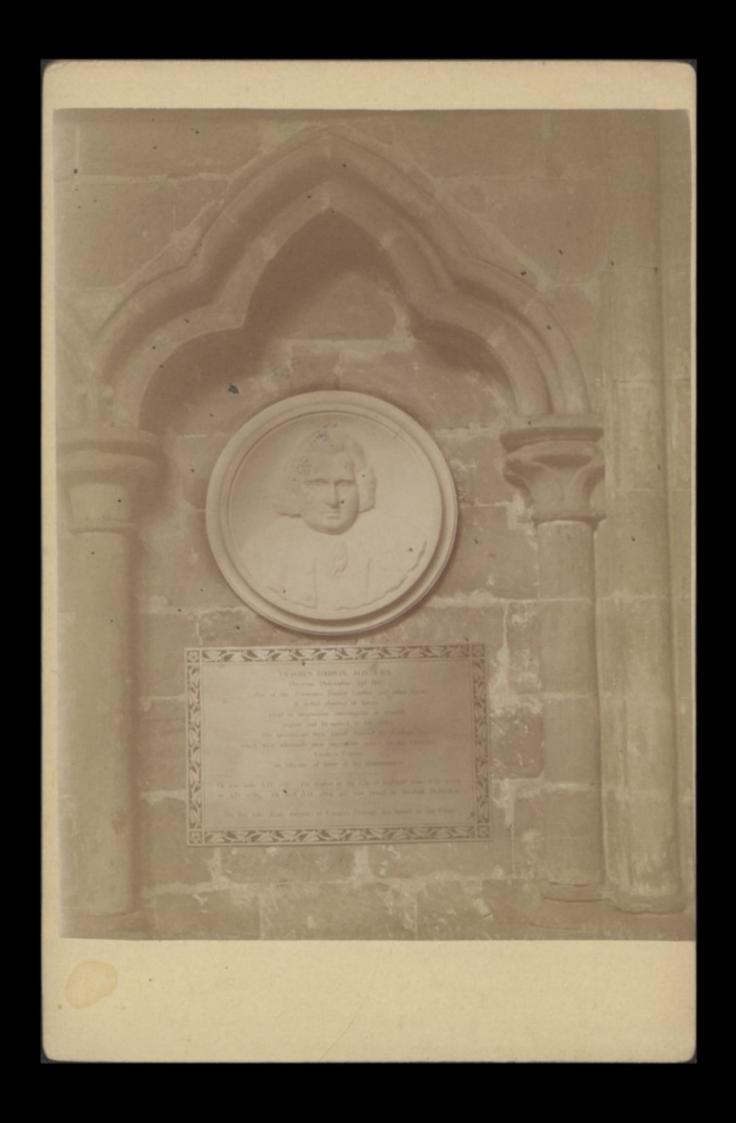
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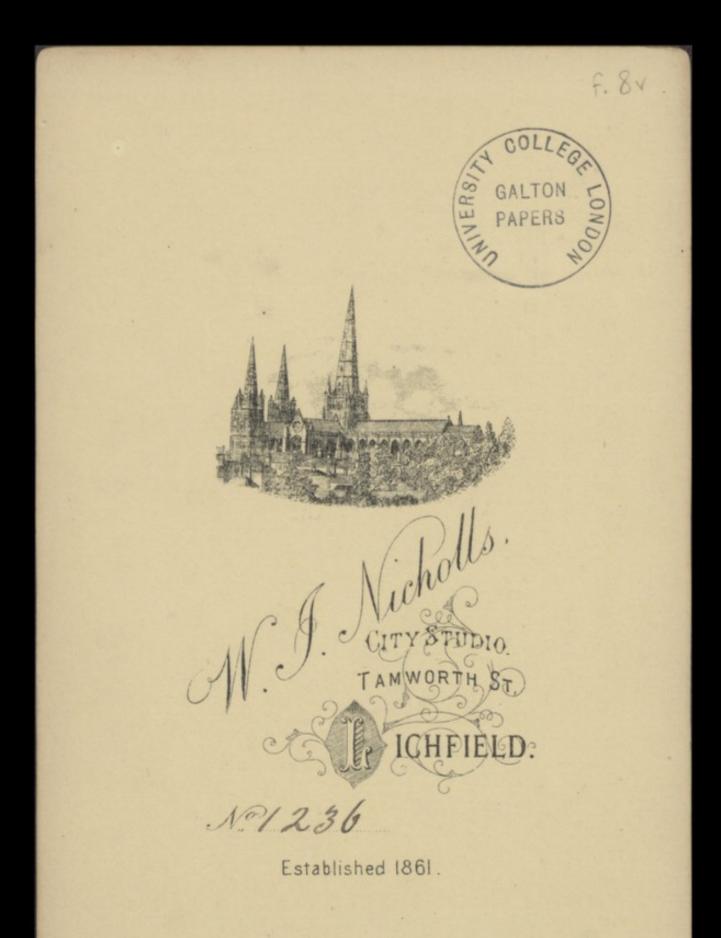




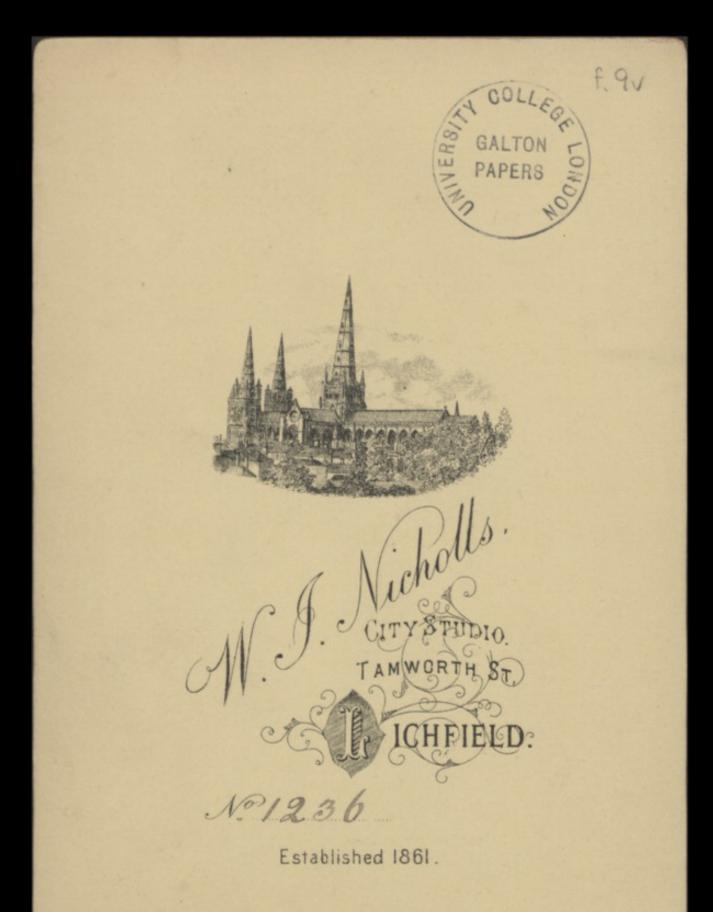




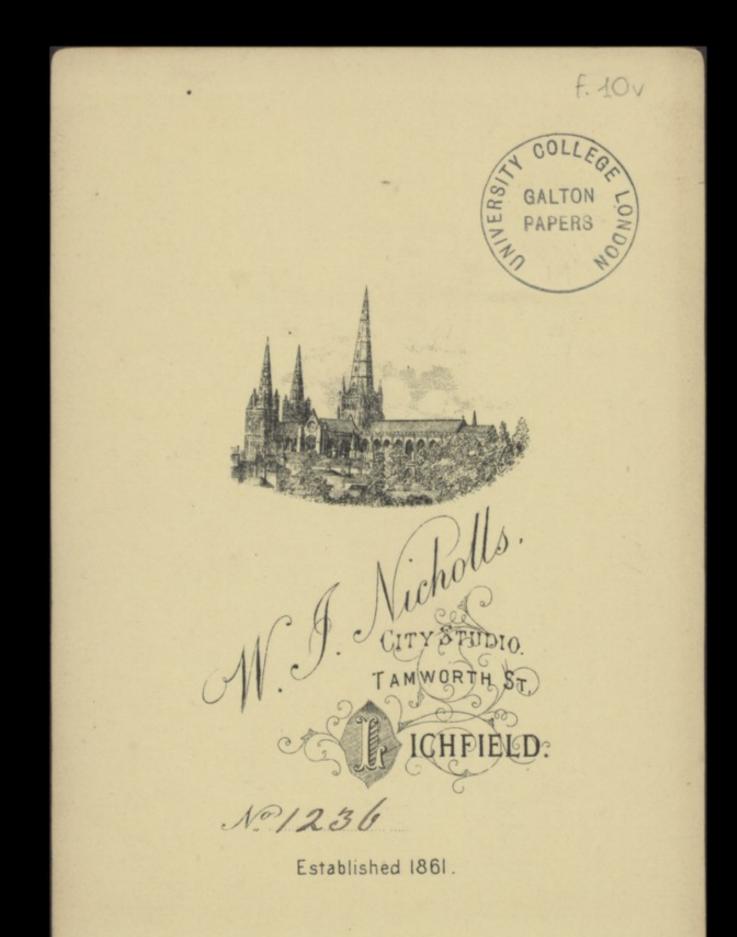


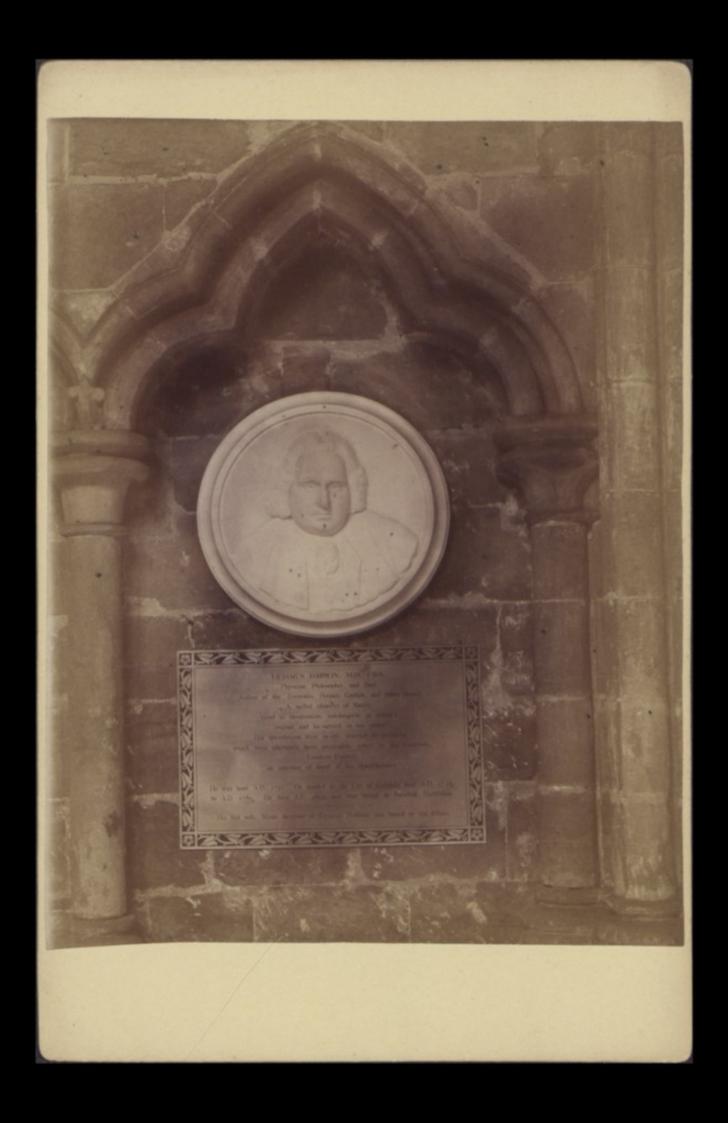


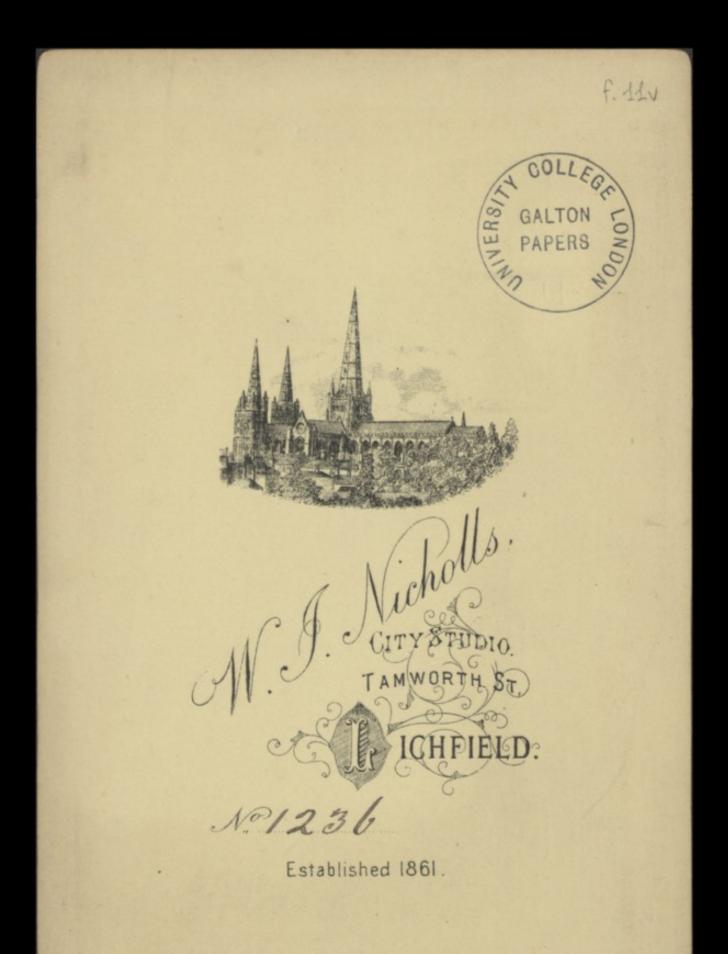




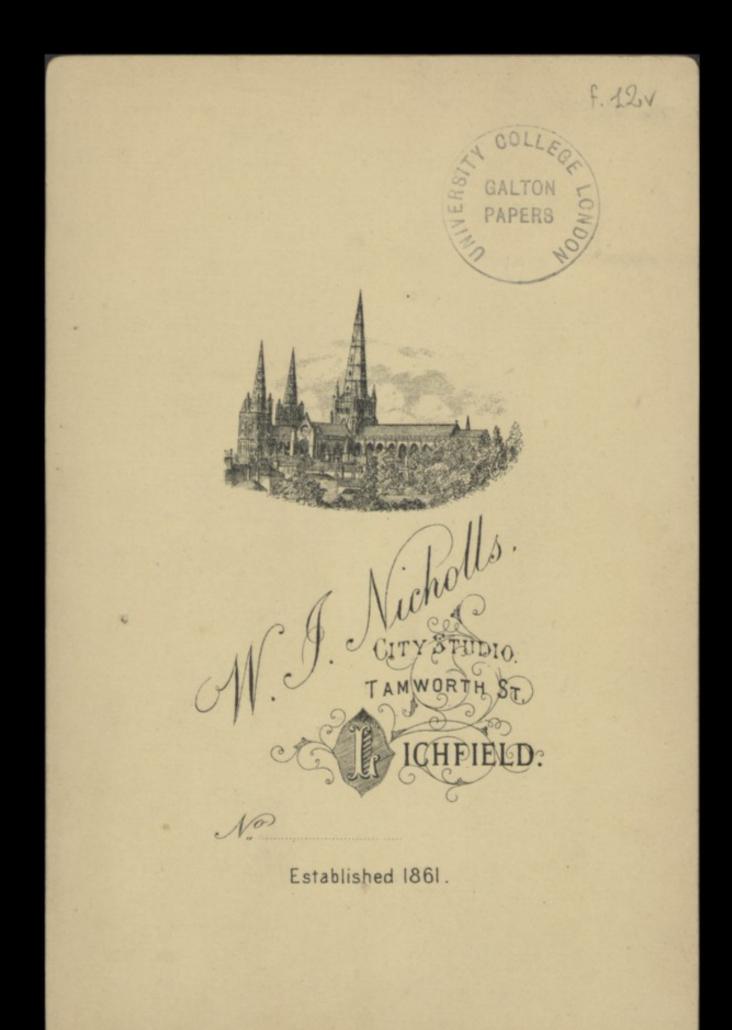








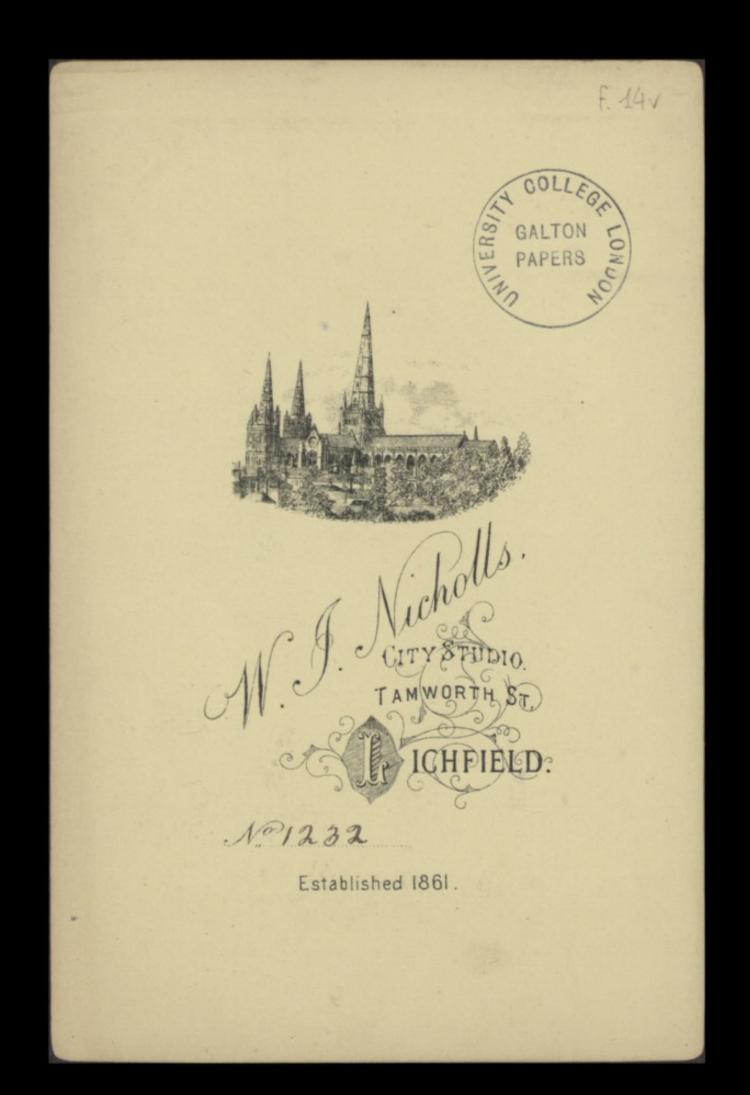


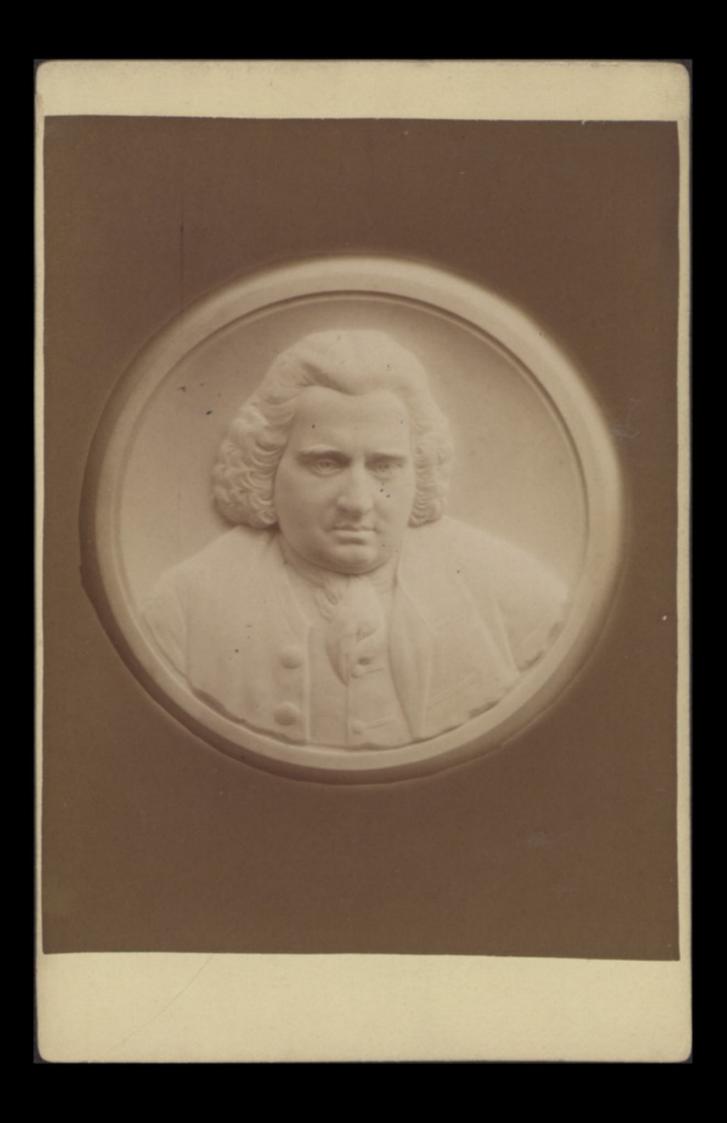


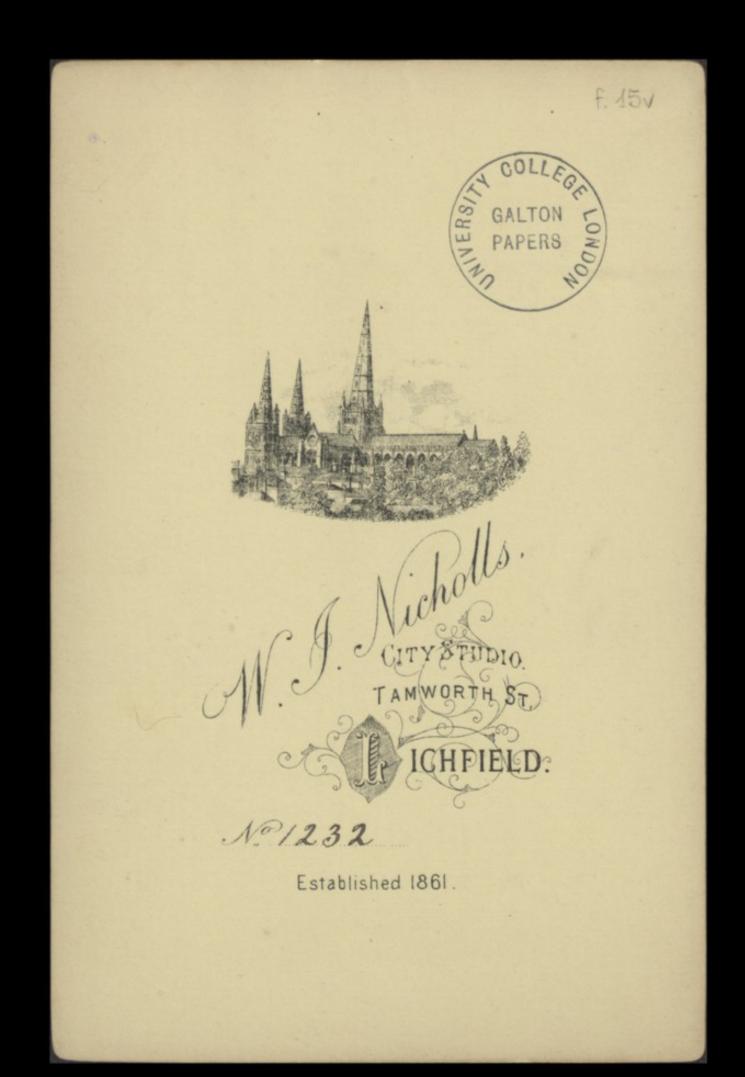


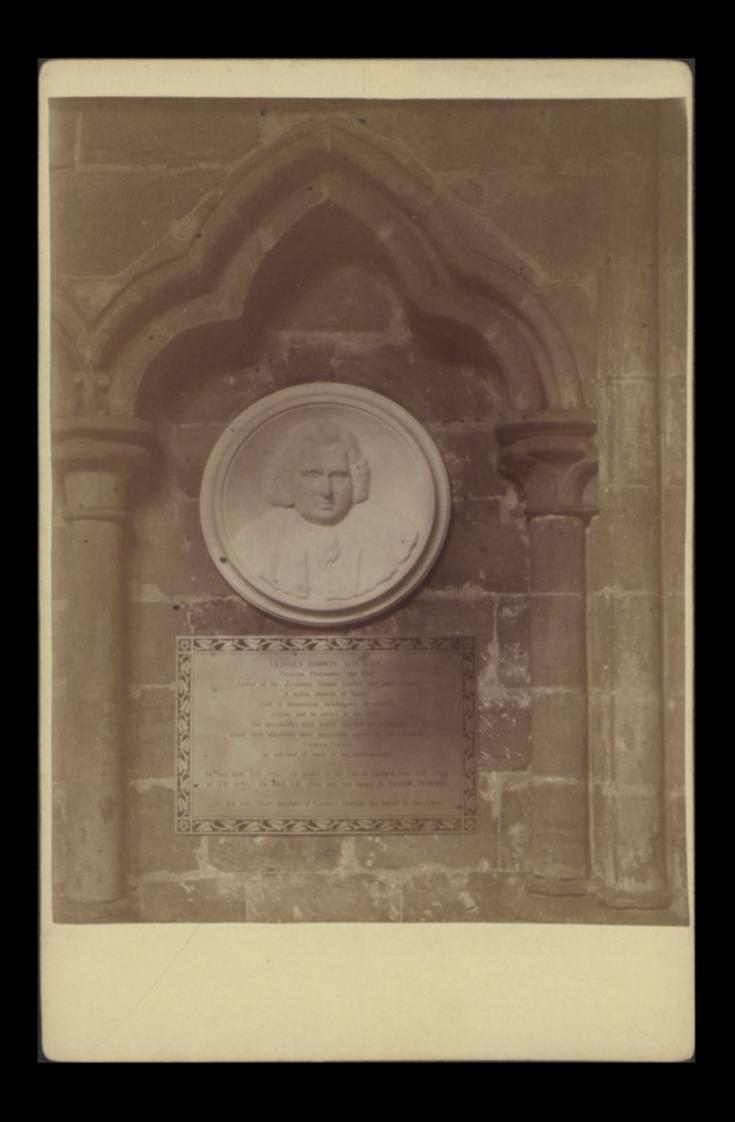


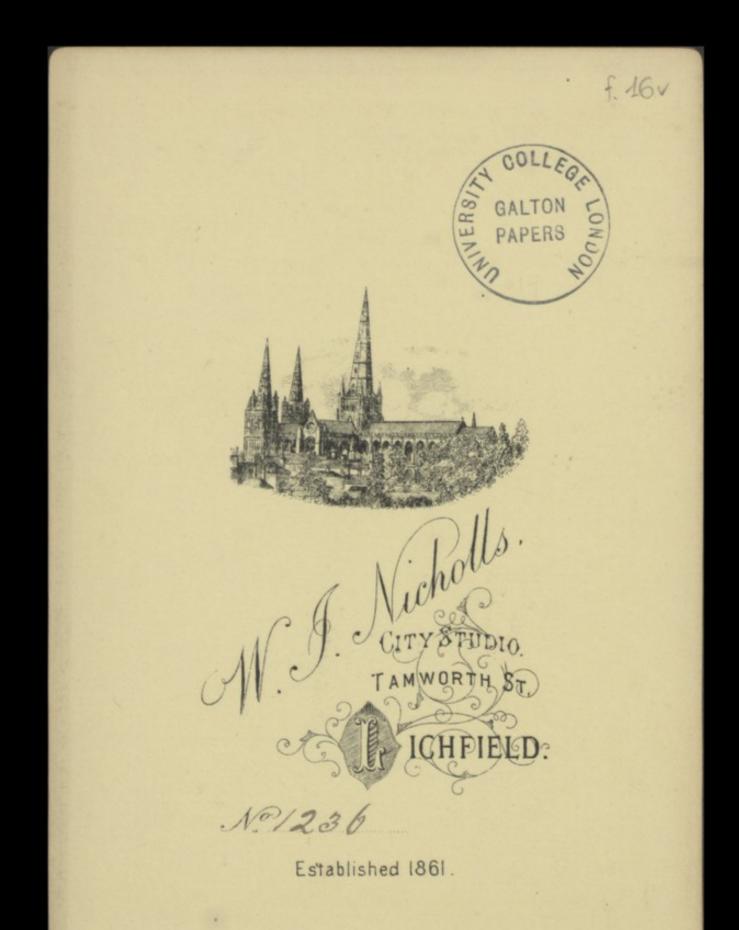


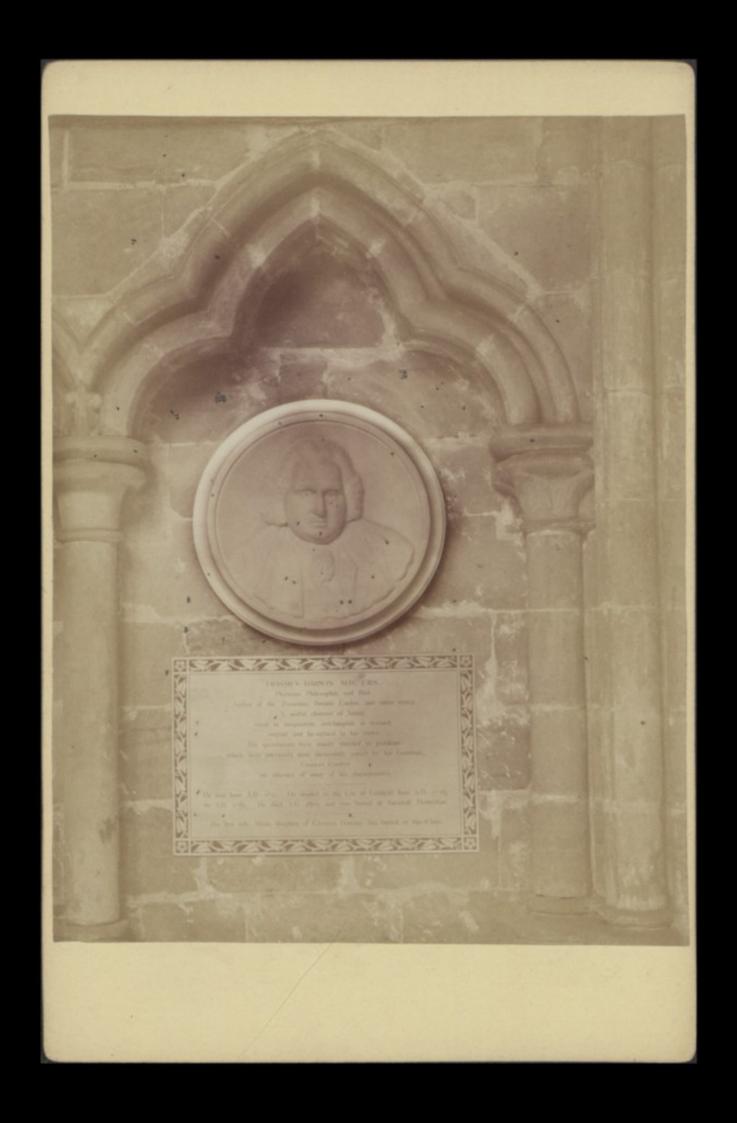


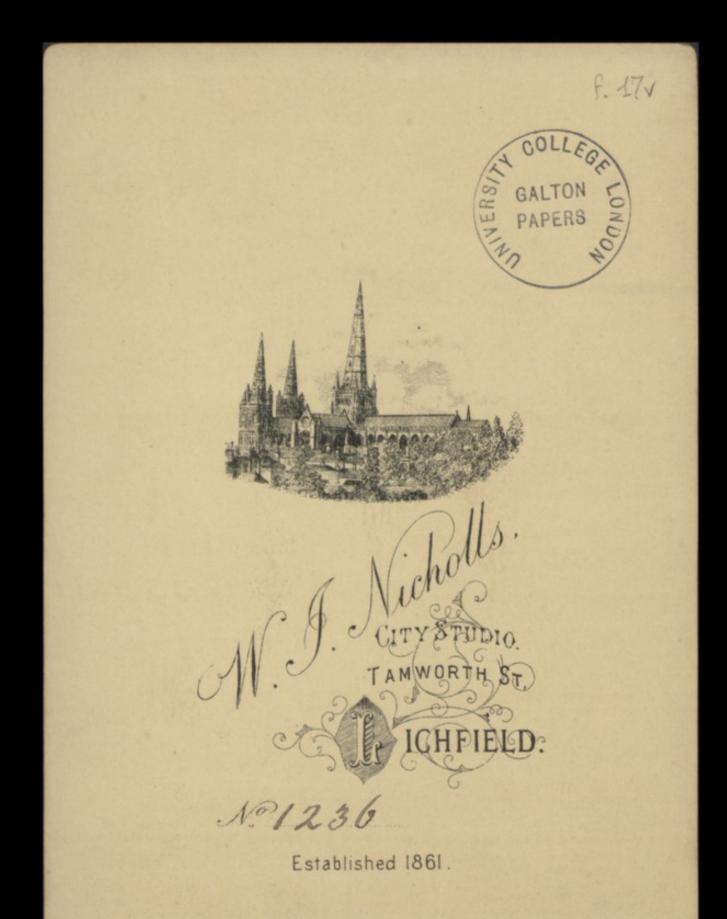






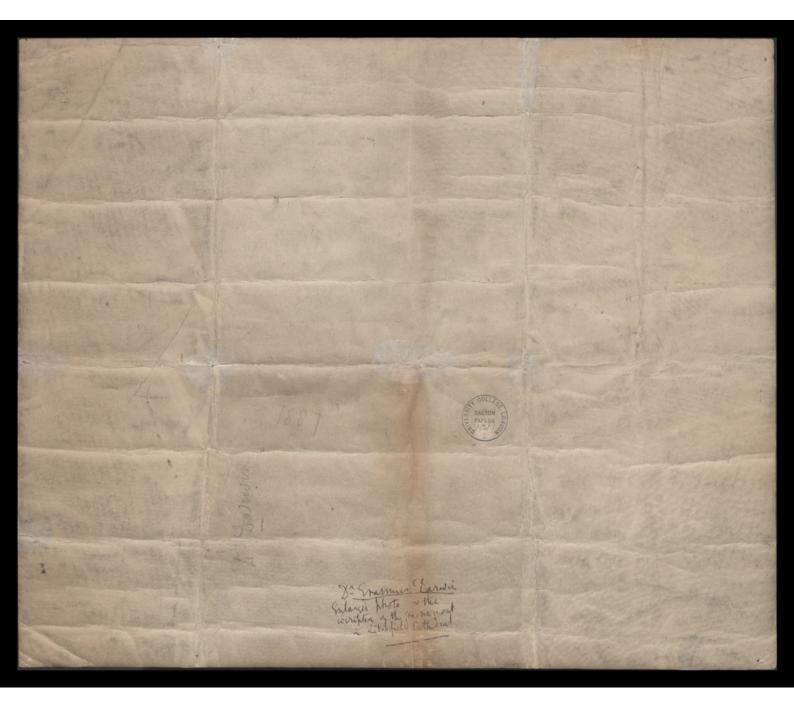






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HANDBOOK

1

FOR THE .

CITY OF LICHFIELD

AND ITS

NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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LICHFIELD : A. C. LOMAX, "THE JOHNSON'S HEAD. 1884.

f. 2v



A CITIZEN OF LICHFIELD IN THE 14TH CENTURY. (From the monumental scutpture in St. Michael's Church.)

HANDBOOK

FOR THE

CITY OF LICHFIELD

AND ITS

NEIGHBOURHOOD:

BY THE LATE

JOHN HEWITT,

Member of the Archwological Institute of Great Britain, Honorary Member of the Royal Artillery Institution, &c.

SECOND EDITION.



LICHFIELD : A. C. LOMAX, "THE JOHNSON'S HEAD." 1884. f. 3r

LICHFIELD: PRINTED BY ALFRED CHARLES LOMAX, "THE JOHNSON'S HEAD." f. 3v

THE CITY OF LICHFIELD.

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THE early history of LICHFIELD is hidden in the mists of time, the derivation of its name being but a subject of guess to ingenious writers of modern days. Weird traditions and incredible miracles form the earliest chapters of its life; ingredients which, if they add nothing to our knowledge, amusingly illustrate the credulity of our ancestors.

A certain St. Amphibalus, about the end of the third century, is said to have preached Christianity to the Romano-Britons of these parts. In the persecution of the Christians by Diocletian the new converts were attacked by the pagan Romans, and massacred in great numbers on the spot where Lichfield now stands.* The so-called City Arms

* Amphibalus being Latin for a cloak, it has been contended that the existence of this saint and friend of St. Alban has arisen from a blundering translation touching St. Alban's mantle. This does not seem conclusive ; it would be hard upon Mr. Coates of our own day to deny him substantiality because he bears the name of one of our garments.

A far more probable derivation of *Lichfield* is offered by Lye, in his Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, where he traces it to the word *Leccian*, "irrigare," "to water." (Chron : Sax. A.D. 716. 731.) This corresponds accurately to the site of Lichfield, which lies in a hollow, and receives the waters which filter down to it through the sand hills around, and feed the reservoirs known by the names of the Minster Pool and the Stowe Pool. To this its marshy situation correspond the names of several of its streets, as Bird (or Bridge) Street, Dam Street, Wade Street, Frog Lane, &c.

2

F. 4v

are pointed out as satisfactorily confirming these facts, where "divers martyrs in divers manners massacred" represent the victims of the vengeful Romans. But a device of the sixteenth century is a poor guarantee for an event of the third.*



From the third century we now jump to the middle of the seventh, when Oswy, the Anglo-Saxon king of Northumberland, comes upon the scene.

Having vanquished and slain the Mercian king Penda, Oswy establishes Christianity in the conquered province, builds a Church, and appoints a Bishop. Dwina, or Diuma, a Scott, was the first Prelate ; to him three others succeeded, leaving us nothing but their names. Then appears our great Lichfield Saint, Ceadda, or Chad. His history has

• This device was painted on the panels of the carriages used at the opening of the South Staffordshire Railway. An ingenious citizen remarked : "The people in the Black Country know nothing about heraldry ; they will take this for a railway accident."

been made romantic by the monkish legendists ; but their fables need not hinder a respectful belief in the real worth of the man. Chad began his life at Lichfield as a hermit. Stowe was his abode, where, at a spring which flows, and is visited with interest, to this day, he baptized his converts, and himself practised his devotions, standing naked on a stone which lay at the bottom of the well. Even hermits must be fed ; so a snow-white doe came and nourished him with its milk. This doe was further useful; for, being hunted by the sons of the king of Mercia, it led them to the cell of the hermit. On seeking news of their chase, Chad answered them : "I watch not over dumb beasts, but over the souls of men." Further discourse led to the conversion of the princes.* Their devotions, pursued in company with Chad, being at length discovered by king Wulfhere, the monarch fell upon them, slew both his sons with his own hands, and the hermit fled. Remorse having ensued, the king repairs to the holy man, seeking forgiveness.† Chad exhorts him to become a Christian, sustaining the influence of his

3

f. 5r

^{*} The Legend of St. Neot is similar: this saint daily stood up to the neck in a well of cold water "till he had repeated the whole Book of Psalms." While thus engaged a hunted doe flies to him for shelter, the hounds pause, the hunter arrives, is awe-struck at the miracle, and becomes a monk.

[†] It is due to the memory of Wulfhere, that the historian Bede makes no mention of this alleged crime, which rests on no trustworthy authority.

f. 5v

words by the impressive incident of hanging his cloak upon a sunbeam. The king is converted, and Chad goes on prosperously. He is indeed interrupted in his devotions at Stowe by the singing of nightingales; but on an appropriate prayer the nightingales are silenced, and have never since been heard in these parts. Eventually Chad, who had originally been consecrated Bishop of York, became Bishop of Lichfield, and died of fever after a brief episcopate. At his death choirs of angels sang hymns over his cell, many miracles following his demise. The dust from his grave cured all disorders of man or beast.* An escaped lunatic, sleeping by chance on his tomb, straightway recovered his reason. Canonization ensued, a shrine was erected in our Cathedral, miracles continued, devotees flocked, wealth accumulated, Lichfield looked up.†

About 790 the See was, through the influence of Offa, erected into an Archbishopric, but in 803 this dignity was withdrawn. In 974 we have

[†]From Bede and others we learn that Chad was educated in his boyhood by St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne. He then completed his education in Ireland; returning, became Abbot of Læstingham, Yorkshire; in 664 was Bishop of York; in 667 returned to the Abbey of Læstingham; in 669 was made Bishop of Lichfield, where, in 672 he expired.

^{*} Where the Northumbrian king Oswald fell in battle against the pagans, the dust was so much in request as a medicament that " being carried away by degrees, there remained a hole as deep as the height of a man."—Beda, lib. 3, cap. 9.

Bishop Winsius or Wynsy. This prelate is especially interesting to us from the circumstance that his autograph appears in the manuscript copy of the Gospels, called "Textus Sancti Ceaddæ," preserved in the Cathedral Library.*

To the eleventh century probably belongs that apsidal building disclosed in the alterations of the Cathedral in 1861, and planned in Professor Willis's description of the works in No. 69 of the Archæological Journal. In 1075 Bishop Peter removed the See from Lichfield to Chester. His successor transferred it to Coventry. In 1129 Roger de Clinton became Bishop, the seat being restored to Lichfield. He was an active builder both in Close and City. Of the Minster buildings we do not undertake any special account, because our publisher has already a Handbook on that subject.[†] We shall therefore do better in our City sketch, to take a glance at

LICHFIELD IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

At this time the City was completely divided from the Close by pools and marshes, extending from

† We may however venture to give a tabular view of the dates of the architecture as suggested respectively by

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^{*} Good accounts of this codex may be seen in Westwood's *Paleographia Sacra* and in the *Liber Landavensis*. The signature named above stands X "Winsy presul."—It occurs on the first folio. It should however be stated that the predecessor of Winsy in the see was Kinsy or Kynsy. It is possible that the autograph may be that of Kinsy.

f. 6v

Leomansley on the West to Stowe on the East ; the citizens having access to the Cathedral only by a boat over what is now known as the "Minster Pool." The right of way from the middle of Market Street to the "Pool Walk" was maintained till within the last few years. It passed through an entry and garden in the middle of the street, and is accurately laid down in Snape's excellent and trustworthy "Plan of Lichfield, 1781." A path through another garden on the Close side led up to the "New College," from which, by a flight of steps, one reached the Cathedral near the middle of the nave. A portion of land on this Close side is still the property of the City. The road from the North of England made a strange detour. Leaving the present high road a little to the North of Lyncroft, it passed along the lane to the West, down the rocky

Professor Willis and the London Architectural Society.

Willis, 1861.		London Architectural Society, 1873.	
Choir South transept North transept Chapter House Nave West Front Lady Chapel Presbytery	1220 1240 1240 1250 1275 1300	Choir East side of transept West side of transept Chapter House Nave West Front Lady Chapel Presbytery	1185 1205 1220 1235 1260-70 1270-80 1300 et seq. later.

There are two services daily at the Cathedral, morning and evening. Between these services the building is open to all visitors, and a Verger is in attendance. Earlier or later it may be seen by application to the Head Verger, resident at the West entrance of the Close.

way* of the "Cross-in-hand," † up Bakun Street, along Gay Lane, round Stow Pool and up Stow Street. Here it impinged on the Eastern bar-gate of the City, fixed at the bottom of the present Lombard Street, then part of Stow Street. If not entering the town, the traveller would pass along Joyle's Lane, now George Lane, Gresley Row, Castle Ditch and St. John Street "above the bars." This name of Castle Ditch reminds us of the constructions implied by those terms. Of the Castle, nothing but the name has been preserved ; its very existence has been doubted. But the Ditch is more traceable. Bishop Clinton (about 1130) constructed it. It was only needed on the South side, because the pools and marshes of Stowe and Sandford Pool (Stagnum de Sandeford) prevented access on the East and West. From St. John's bar-gate the Ditch ran Eastward to the top of Tamworth Street, and in this portion was a bridge. A garden in Frog Lane (Frogmere Street) is named as extending to the Castle Dike "juxta Pontem" (Harwood, p. 500); then down George Lane to the East bar-gate at the end of Lombard Street, and from that point in a nearly Northern direction to the old pool, which it joined a little to the West of the old tan-yard in

[†] Cross o' th' Hand, a few houses so called from a direction post there placed.—Ogilby's Book of Roads, p. 45. In many places of his maps a similar name is given to a cross road.

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^{*} This portion is clearly laid down in the map in Ogilby's Roads, 1675.

f. 7v

Stowe Street (now a timber-yard). This is plainly seen in Snape's Map, already mentioned, with the ancient right of way between the houses.* Our City, however, was but a poor place at this time, the streets unpaved and miry, and the houses of "post and pane," with roofs of straw or ling. But it already had a Market, granted in 1161 by the King to Bishop Durdent,[†] who, in the shape of tolls, of course took the lion's share of the benefits.

LICHFIELD IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY,

was a greatly improved place; for the munificent Treasurer, Walter de Langton, was Bishop, and it might fairly be named Langton's Lichfield. The citizens had access to the Cathedral and to the North road by two stone bridges or causeways, one at the West by Bridge Street (now Bird Street), one at the East at Dome Street (now Dam Street). Handsome gateways gave entrance to the Close ; the walls and corner towers were strengthened. The towers and the gateways are plainly shown in Speed's Map, and a portion of one of the towers still remains at the South-East angle of the Close. The miry ways of the City soon disappeared, well-paved streets taking their place. The Cathedral was hastening towards completion, the Lady Choir being a creation of

* This passage may still be traced ; a street lamp over the entrance indicates the spot.

† Bishop Walter Durdent died in 1161.

Langton's. A new Shrine for the remains of St. Chad was consecrated, at a cost, it is said, of £2,000; which, if the amount is correct, would represent a sum of £30,000 of our day. At the North-East corner of the Close the Prelate built a splendid Palace, the details of which may be seen in Jewitt's "Reliquary," from a drawing in the Bodleian Library.* In this century the gaiety of Lichfield was greatly augmented by the King's holding a grand tournament here : the jousters were the King (Edward III.) with seventeen Knights, and the Earl of Lancaster with thirteen Knights. Curious particulars of this hastilude are given in the 31st volume of the Archæologia. In 1397 Richard II. kept his Christmas at Lichfield, when 2000 oxen and 200 tuns of wine were consumed. The scene of these festivities was probably the new Palace built by Langton. In 1398 Richard was present at the installation of Bishop Burghill, entertaining the dignitaries there assembled with a sumptuous feast. A year later the King was brought a prisoner to this City, and lodged in "the Castle." Whether this Castle was in the Close or some part of the City has not been satisfactorily determined ; but, from the tower where he was

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^{*} The present Bishop's Palace, built in 1687 by Bishop Wood, occupies part of this site. It has never till lately been the permanent residence of our Prelates. Gilbert Walmsley, the early patron of Johnson, lived here : after him, Dr. Seward and his daughter, the once-renowned Anna; and still later, Sir Charles Oakley.

F. 8v

confined, the Prince endeavoured to escape by means of a window overlooking a garden. Being observed, he was re-taken and carried on to London.

LICHFIELD IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

The fifteenth century was not very prolific of events for Lichfield; but on the collision between Richmond and Richard III. this neighbourhood was all astir. Lord Stanley first passes with his forces through the City, feigning to fly before the Earl. Richmond then enters ; and while his soldiers take their rest, it is supposed that he himself confers with Stanley at Elford, a seat of the Stanleys four miles to the East. Richard is now at Nottingham. Both hosts move forward : they meet at Bosworth : Stanley stands aloof : the battle joins : the Stanley Eagle flies over to the Earl's Standard : "the King is dead-long live the King." Henry VII. afterwards became a member of the Guild of this City, with his Queen and Prince Arthur. This "Guild of Saint Mary" was instituted by Richard II. in 1387, governing the City till the 2nd year of Edward VI., when a Charter of Incorporation was granted, delegating the ruling power to two Bailiffs and twenty-four Burgesses. This deed of 1548 grants to the Corporation the use of a common Seal, probably the original of that engraved on page 4.

Henry VIII. brings a great clatter about our ears. The house of the Grey Friars, founded about

1229, is demolished, and its materials sold (see "Letters on the Suppression of Monasteries"); the Nunnery at Fairwell broken up (time for it : see Harwood, 284); the See of Chester was carved out of the Lichfield Diocese, manors were alienated, chantries suppressed, dignities terminated, jewels abstracted, relics destroyed, the rich shrine of Saint Chad turned from its sacred influences to the temporal benefit of the newly-organised Cathedral. Among the changes of this period, the Manor of Longdon with the beautiful domain of Beaudesert was taken from the Bishop and handed over to Sir William Paget. Sadder still were the doings in Queen Mary's time. Robert Glover, a "heretic," after confinement in the "Church prison," was condemned in the Bishop's Court and burnt at the stake at Coventry. With him was executed one Bongey, for arguing in the Cities of Coventry and Lichfield that "a Priest had no power to absolve a sinner from his sins." James I. a little later did not much improve matters. In 1611, Edward Wightman of Burton was by the Bishop's Court found guilty of heresy, and burnt in our very Market-Place.

James departed; Charles brings new tribulation to our City. But we no longer burn one another: we only shoot. Half the inhabitants range themselves on the side of the King, the other half are Parliamentarians: brother is pitted against brother: father against son: the crack of muskets is heard

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F. 9v

in our streets, the boom of cannon on our hills. The device of our City escutcheon of "divers martyrs in divers manners massacred" is sadly realised. The horrors of Civil War invade our homes. The Close is garrisoned by the Royalists (1643) under the command of the Earl of Chesterfield, and is presently besieged by the Roundheads under Lord Brooke. Wishing to observe the effect of his cannonading, Lord Brooke placed himself within the porch of a house in Dam street, where, it is said, being observed from the Minster battlements by one "deaf and dumb Dyott," the latter shot the General through the head, and killed him. This event occurring on Saint Chad's day (March 2nd), the Cavalier party naturally referred it to the interposition of our Lichfield Saint. The spot where Lord Brooke fell is marked by a tablet, with an inscription, on the wall of a house in Dam street on the east side. Sir John Gell succeeded to the command. A notable device of this Captain was to place the wives, parents, and other relatives of the Royalists before the assailing troops so as to receive the fire of the garrison. This was not successful : neither was an attempt to burn the West Gate of the Close ; nor an attack on the North side, where, in Gaia Lane, a combat ensued in which the Royalists were triumphant. Ammunition and food, however, being nearly exhausted, the garrison was compelled to surrender. In April (1643) Prince Rupert arrived and beleaguered the Parliamentarians, planting his

batteries on the high ground on the North of the Close, called Gaia Fields. A successful mine having established a breach, a storming party was sent forward : though the fortress was not gained, the Republicans were so much harassed that they soon gave up the contest ; and once more the King's flag * floated on the Minster battlements. The conduct of the Roundheads while in possession is said to have been most impious. They destroyed the monuments, broke the effigies of Bishops and Knights, stole the sepulchral brasses, demolished the painted windows, burnt the Church records and the Organ, defaced the Statues, tore the Vestments, hunted cats through the Church for their daily pastime, travestied the Holy Sacrament of Baptism by carrying a calf wrapped in linen to the font, sprinkling it with water, and bestowing upon it some ribald name. The Communion plate and other valuables were carried off by Russell, the Parliamentary Governor. After the Battle of Naseby, the King passed through Lichfield, lodging for the night at the house of the Governor in the Close. The Citizens presented an Address on the occasion, when the principal of them had the privilege of kissing the King's hand. Charles was here again in August, 1645, and again in October of the same year. Early in 1646 the Close was besieged anew, and in July, the King's affairs being hopeless, capitulated ; the citizens having "liberty to carry all their goods to their own own houses."

13

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f. 10v

The neighbouring streets of the Town suffered greatly in the course of these troubles. From Ogilby (Book of Roads, page 44) we learn that "two cawsey-Bridges joyn the main Town to the Close and Bacon-Street, accounted the chief street in the Town till burnt in the late Troubles, in which this City appear'd so Eminently Loyal." These two disastrous years, 1645-6, were further fatal to the citizens by a visitation of the plague, by which upwards of 800 persons perished. This terrible scourge had already visited our City three times in the sixteenth century, when more than 1100 died. The Civil Wars had left their mark on the exterior as well as the interior of the Cathedral : the Central Spire was battered down, the roof beaten in, the West Spires were much injured, the sculptures shattered by the cannon shot, and the window tracery broken in all directions. On the arrival of Bishop Hacket in 1661, the building was a frightful ruin. However, this good Prelate bestirred himself to repair these accumulated disasters, and with such happy effect, that "in eight years he restored the beauty of the Cathedral, to the admiration of all the country" (Life, by Dr. Plume). The Presbytery and Lady Chapel were united by throwing down the Altar-Screen, the Aisles were walled up, and new stalls were erected. In 1856 began those restorations under Sir Gilbert Scott, which have renewed for our Cathedral its old mediæval aspect. The West Front having suffered greatly from the beating of western storms on the

soft Red-Sandstone of which it is composed, Dean Woodhouse in 1820 had the whole of it cased with Roman cement. This covering having resisted the weather fairly well for about fifty years, it was resolved to replace it with stone in 1876. This good work was begun in 1877, under the influence of Dean Bickersteth; and it is now (1883), nearly completed, at a cost of about 32,000*l*.



Of modern incidents we may note that James II. in 1687 passed through Lichfield, touching for the King's Evil; touching likewise the sum of £107 10s. as a present from the Corporation. In 1690 William III. slept here on his way to the army in Ireland. In 1745 the Duke of Cumberland arrived with his forces "thus far into the bowels of the land,"to meet the invasion of bonnie Prince Charlie, the Royal troops being quartered in the City and neighbourhood. The Prince's followers, however,

15

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being pretty well exhausted by the time they had reached Derby, a panic ensued, and the Blue Bonnets hastened back with what speed they might. In 1798 a corps of militia was formed by the citizens, armed, clothed and serving at their own expense. In 1803 "the Lichfield Volunteer Infantry" was enrolled. In 1815, after the battle of Waterloo, the cavalry hero, The Marquis of Anglesey, was received with hearty acclamation by our City, a splendid Sword of Honour being presented as a testimony of public regard. In 1832 Her present Majesty, then Princess Victoria, visited Lichfield; and in 1843, being now Queen, she again came hither, accompanied by Prince Albert. She was at this time on a visit to the late Sir Robert Peel at his neighbouring mansion of Drayton.

THE STREETS AND BUILDINGS

of Lichfield are of the quiet and unpretending order of those found in ordinary Cathedral Cities. No cotton lords nor iron kings have here raised palaces to rival those of Shahs and Emperors. Of the streets themselves, i is curious to note that they have almost all changed their names in the course of no great number of years.

Market Street	was anciently	Sadler Street and Robe Street.
Bird Street	"	Bridge Street.
Bore Street	"	Bord Street and

Dam Street	was anciently	Dome Street.	
Saint John Street	"	Lichfield Street and Culstrubbe Street.	
Lombard Street	33	Stowe Street "within the Bars."	
Church Street Beacon Street Bread Market Stree	" "	Greenhill Street. Bakun Street. Women's Cheaping. { Conduit Street, Cook } Row, & Wool Cheaping.	
Butcher Row	"		
George Lane Frog Lane	"	Joyles Lane. Frogmere Street.	
Baker's Lane	"	Baxeter Lane and Backcester Lane. Grey Marger Lane. Aldershaw Lane, Saint John's Lane, and Schoolhouse Lane.	
Shaw Lane	"		
Birmingham Road	"		
Gresley Row	"	Castle Ditch.	

The chief noticeable buildings (exclusive of the Cathedral) are the Churches of Stowe, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. John, Christ Church, Holy Cross, the Friary, the Guildhall, the Hospitals (Almshouses) in Saint John Street and Beacon Street, the Public Schools, the Museum, the School of Art, Doctor Johnson's birthplace, and St. James's Hall.

Stowe or Saint Chad's Church is at the East of the City, built on the spot where Saint Chad had his Oratory (See page 5). No part of the present building appears earlier than A.D. 1300. But the lancet windows in the chancel, the buttresses set at right angles, and the mouldings of the cusped southdoor indicate a somewhat earlier time. The tower is later (about 1350). A Chantry was founded here in the 14th century by Bishop Northburg : another is

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f. 12v

HANDBOOK OF THE

named as the "Cantaria Richardi de Walton." On the North side of the Tower may be seen some remains of a building of two stories, and in the Salt Library at Stafford is a drawing, copied from Gough's Collections in the Bodleian Library, in which these remains are yet more conspicuous. The building is there named "St. Chad's Cell," and seems to have consisted of two stories, the marks of the stairs and the "putlog-holes" of the upper chamber being very obvious, as well as the entrance through the buttress on the North side of the Tower. It will scarcely be believed that Dr. Stukeley in 1756 considered this to be the actual Cell of St. Chad of 800 years earlier ! "I have long ago," he writes, "taken drawings of St. Chad's habitation by the neighbouring Church of Lichfield, where Ovin heard the angels at St. Chad's obit. There is his well, and a little monastery. The habitation joins on the north-east angle of that Church." (See Harwood's History of Lichfield, page 504.)

A North Aisle has lately been added. Close to the Church on the North-West is St. Chad's Well, already noticed; and, hard by, Stowe Pool (anciently Stowe Mere) the crystal-clear water of which is the great domestic boon of our neighbour towns of Walsall, Wednesbury, Bilston, Tipton, Burton and others. The supply is conveyed by pipes following the course of the railway. A hundred yards to the North-West of the Church is a Chalybeate spring, much in request in Stuart days, being strongly

recommended by Sir John Floyer, physician to Charles II. Here he delighted to assemble the youth of the town, amusing them with rustic games, and adjudging prizes to the most adroit. This gentleman also constructed a cold Bath at the Abnalls, a pleasant spot on the North-West of Lichfield. Midway between Stowe Church and the Cathedral stood the great Willow, called "Johnson's Willow," because the Doctor always visited it with admiration in his various excursions to Lichfield. This tree, blown down in 1829, is now represented by a goodly salix planted on the same spot.* At the adjoining cottage, the father of Johnson established a small parchment manufactory, which obtained but little success : it is still called the Parchment House.

Saint Mary's Church in the centre of the City has presented three different aspects. The first Church was a Gothic building with a tall spire, as we see it figured in Harwood's Lichfield, page 288. The date of foundation has not been ascertained. Leland tells us it was a "right beautiful piece of work." The Gothic Church was pulled down in 1716, and a Grecian building erected in its stead. Of this there is a good view in Shaw's Staffordshire. Being of stuccoed brick-work only, it gradually fell into ruin, and the third Church then arose ; first the tower and spire, then the body of the building ; all in good

* This "goodly salix" was rent in pieces by a violent storm in 1881.

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f. 13r

F 13V

stone-work and of Decorated architecture. The tower was built by Mr. Street in 1855, as a memorial of the late Vicar, the Rev. H. G. Lonsdale, the remainder by Mr. Fowler, a native of Lichfield, in 1870, as a memorial of the late Bishop Lonsdale. The North door has been much commended by high authorities in architecture : the tower is cramped in its ground-plan, owing to the narrowness of the street on the West. A curious entry in the Churchwardens' accounts of St. Mary, under 1629, is given by Harwood (History of Lichfield, page 465): "Item, paid for Egges,—vs., for three load of lime, iijs., to make mortar for poynting the steeple." "For two strike of Maulte for the said mortar,—viijs."

Saint Michael's Church is on the hill to the East of the City, approached by a fine avenue of elms. The first Church was probably built towards the close of the thirteenth century. A curious relic of the early structure still remains to us, the effigy of

A CITIZEN OF LICHFIELD IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

This figure (see frontispiece) had been walled up, but was disclosed in the course of repairs made in 1846. It represents William de Walton, shewing him clad in the long gown, hanging sleeves and hood of Edward III. time. A cast of this figure is in the City Museum. An inserted window of Perpendicular style formerly occupied the East end of the

Church : it was of large size and of good design : this and the whole Chancel have been replaced by architecture of the Early English period. The tower and spire are of poor design; but their fine situation on the summit of a hill give them great value in the Lichfield landscape. The Churchyard is of unusual proportions, nearly seven acres.

West of the Church is an open space where formerly was held the View of Arms, the object of which was to ascertain whether the citizens enrolled in the National Militia had their weapons and appointments in good order. The need of this Court of Array having ceased, the ceremonial has been annually kept up in a civic holiday combining a pageant and a fair. Whit-Monday is the gala day; and of late years the throng of visitors by railway to "Greenhill Bower" has been immense. The "Bower" is decorated with flags and flowers, where the guests are regaled with wine and edibles (provided by subscription of the citizens), and to which are brought the "posies." from the "dozeners" competing for prizes. These posies, once probably images of saints, are now emblems of trades. The day is opened by a procession of Knights in armour, musqueteers, morrice dancers, &c., to which the leading "Wombwell" of the day usually contributes various elephants and dromedaries, lovely Euphrosynes and a lively band of music. Till latterly the festival closed with the "christening of the posies" in the Market Place, when a speech

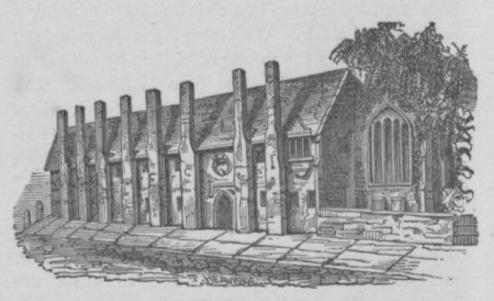
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F 14V.

was made by the Town Clerk, St. Mary's bells rang an exciting peal, and the citizens retired peaceably to their homes. This has been discontinued, but in every other respect the festival flourishes abundantly.

The CHURCH of St. JOHN, attached to the Hospital of that name, is on the south side of the City. The Priory of St. John the Baptist appears to have been founded early in the 13th century. In the 15th century Bishop Smith caused "reformation to be made" here, and the rules now in force are of his time. The building represented in our wood-cut is the Hospital built by Bishop Smith in 1495 : the



St. John's Church and Hospital.

outside chimneys are curious. The Institution lodges, feeds and clothes thirteen old men. The Church itself has been almost entirely rebuilt of late

years, and from being a dismal chapel frequented only by a few old pensioners and school boys, is now one of the best-frequented Churches of the City. It owes its new life chiefly to the exertions of the late Rev. Chancellor Law, who was for many years Master of the Hospital. Of the late Chancellor's munificence our City contains many costly examples.

CHRIST CHURCH is a modern building on the West side of the City. It was erected in 1845 by Mrs.



Christ Church.

Hinckley, the daughter of Dean Woodhouse. The architect was our late fellow-townsman, Mr. Johnson.

The ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH of the Holy Cross is in St. John Street. The tower is a reproduction of that of Glastonbury Abbey. Over the altar is a

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f. 15r

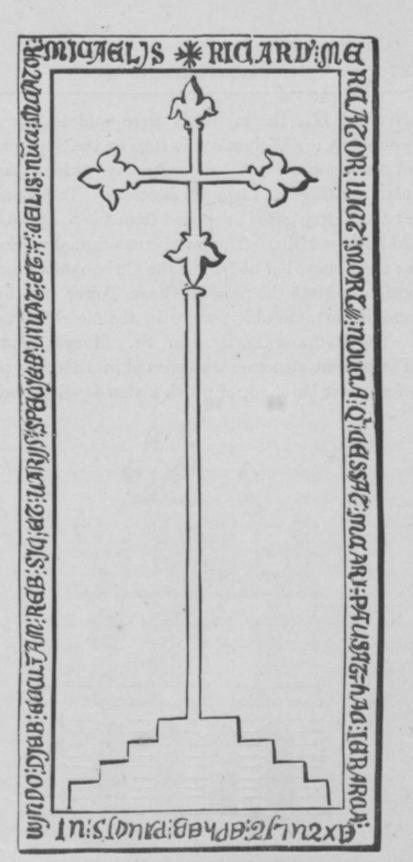
F. 15V

good picture by De Bruyn, presented by the old Earl of Shrewsbury. Dr. Kirk served this Church for upwards of half a century. On his first coming to Lichfield, the few Roman Catholics of the neighbourhood assembled in a small chapel in the farm-house at Pipe Hall near this City. Eventually Dr. Kirk obtained the present site, and in the Priest's house there he died in 1851, at the goodly age of ninety-two.

The FRIARY, West of the City Clock-tower, is one of the earliest Franciscan buildings in England. The Order crossed over the channel about 1224; the Lichfield establishment is of about 1229. The Convent was always small, and of that smallness but little now remains. The most noteworthy relic is the incised monumental slab, now fixed upright against the east wall, recording the merits of "Ricardus Mercator"*. It is well known that the Franciscans inculcated the belief that any who, even at the last moment, joined their brotherhood, if only in time to be invested with their cowl, would secure prompt admission into heaven. Richard the Marchante was probably one of these fortunate applicants. On the suppression of the Friary under

* We give an engraving of this monument overleaf. The inscription *in extenso* is as follows :---

Ricardus Mercator, victus morte novercâ, Qui cessat mercari, pausat in hac ierarcâ : Extulit ephebus, paucis vivendo diebus, Ecclesiam rebus sic et variis speciebus : Vivat et in cælis nunc Mercator Michaelis.



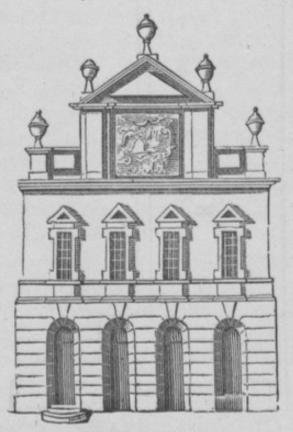
Ancient Monument at the Friary.

f. 16r

F. 16v

Henry VIII. the materials were sold to any who would buy : in Wright's "Letters on the Suppression of Monasteries" will be found many curious particulars relating to these transactions. The Conduit at the Friary gate is supplied from the neighbouring Aldershaw Hills. The water was originally granted to the Friars, but at length the Citizens obtained its use. In 1863 the present Clock Tower was built, and is an agreeable feature in the neighbourhood.

The GUILDHALL is near St. Mary's Church. The present structure was erected in 1846, in place of an older building, of which a view is given below.



The Guild Hall.

The Hall itself is a large room, in which not only public business is transacted, but concerts, balls and other festivities are occasionally held. At the back is the City Gaol. The Guild was established by "noble King Richard II. of that name, in the year of our Lord 1387." (See the Instrument in Harwood's History, page 319.) Priests of the Fraternity officiated in St. Mary's Church, lodging together in a building on the West side of the Church, called "the Priests' Hall." Under Edward VI. the old Guild was dissolved, and a Charter granted to a new body of Bailiffs and Burgesses. These, popularly known as the " Corporation," held sway till 1835, when they were replaced by the present Town Council, the chief officer of which is styled Mayor. The jurisdiction of the City is supplemented by that of the County of Lichfield, its chief officer being a Sheriff, who like the Mayor, is annually appointed. The Circuit of the County of Lichfield extends about sixteen miles. The boundaries are "ridden" by the Sheriffs and their attendants every year on the 8th of September. An old Mace of the City was preserved in Dr. Wright's Museum in the Close, and is now in the possession of the publisher of this Handbook : it is of iron, and only fourteen inches long. The Arms of the City are given by Dr. Plot in his History of Staffordshire : they will be found among the trophy-work at the left-hand corner of the map. They are thus blazoned : "Or, on a cross quarter pierced ermine, be-

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f. 17r

F. 17V

tween five chevronells gules." The so-called City Arms representing Christian Martyrs are simply the device of the City Seal. This device was that of the



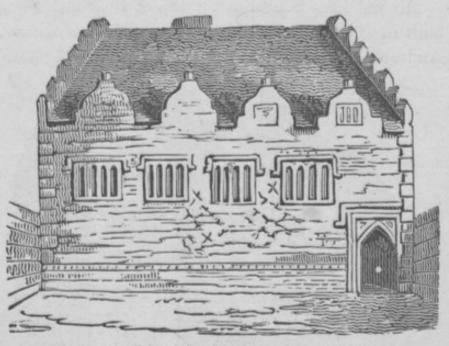
Ancient City Mace.

Seal in 1545, as we learn from a MS. in the Bodleian Library. (Browne Willis, MS. xlviii. fol. 448.)

The Hospital of St. John the Baptist has already been noticed, and a view of it given (page 22). The other Hospital is in Beacon street. It was founded in 1424 by Bishop Heyworth for fifteen women, old and poor; but the present building, quaint and ancient as it looks, is not quite so early. This was built for the most part in 1504 by Canon Milley, who extended the premises and augmented the endowments.

Schools in Lichfield are numerous, not less than ten being at this moment in full activity. The chief of them is the Free School in St. John street, said to have been founded by Edward VI. Dr. Harwood mentions that Archdeacon Walker, dying in 1567, left land for the benefit of "six poor scholars of the Grammar School of Edward VI. in this City to buy them Bibles, and brooms to sweep the School."

(History, page 211.) The School-house here figured was erected in 1692. It was replaced by the present building in 1850. In the old school many eminent



Grammar School in the time of Dr. Johnson.

men received the rudiments of their education: Joseph Addison,* who was son of Lancelot Addison, Dean of Lichfield, Elias Ashmole the antiquary, Bishops Smalridge and Newton, Lord Chief Justice Willes, Lord Chief Baron Parker, Lord Chief Justice Wilmot, Sir Richard Lloyd, Baron of the Exchequer, Doctor James, the eminent physician, Doctor Johnson, David Garrick, Salt, the Abyssinian traveller,

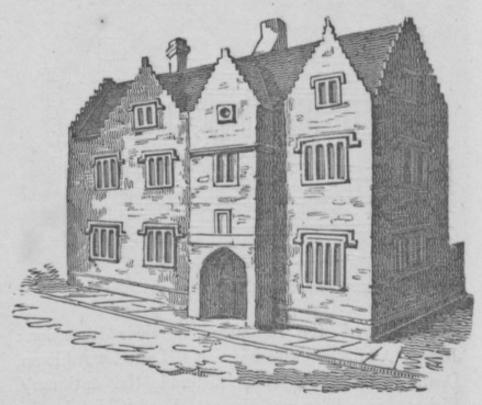
* Young Addison was captain of a barring-out at this school, an account of which event is given by Johnson in his Life of the poet.

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f. 18r

Professor Westwood and others. Doctor Harwood, the historian of Lichfield, was for several years Head Master of this School.

Minors' Free School at the top of Boar street was built in 1660 by a citizen named Thomas Minors. Andrew Newton, who founded the "Widows'



Minors' Free School.

Building" in the Close, left a handsome bequest for the augmentation of the Master's salary. It was closed in 1877, its emoluments being transferred to the Free-school in St. John street.

Of later educational establishments, the most important is the Theological College in the Close,

established in 1857 for Students preparing for the Ministry of the Church. The building is on the South side of the Cathedral.

The CITY MUSEUM, which consists of a collection of miscellaneous curiosities, a Library and a Newsroom, is situated on the West side of the City, near the entrance to the Cathedral Close. Lichfield has been long celebrated for its collectors of Museums. The Ashmolean Museum at Oxford was formed by Elias Ashmole, a native of this place : in the eighteenth century Mr. Green amassed his great collection : Dr. Wright at a later date made a similar gathering : Mr. Lewis Buckeridge also acquired many choice rarities : the last three collections all came to the hammer, and thus were dissipated a vast number of memorials which can never be regained or adequately replaced. What could be done, however, has been done, and by the efforts of many good citizens a fair gathering has been made. Every kind of object is exhibited, from an Athenian temple to a lady's needle-case. The building was opened in 1859. The Rev. Chancellor Law, Dr. Rowley and Mr. Lomax, contributed many objects of interest; but the chief agent in the good work was the late Captain J. P. Dyott, who was indefatigable in his endeavours to promote its success. It is open to all comers; the Museum from 10 till 4, the Reading-room from 9 till 9. The Library was formed by donations from Mr. Law, Dr. Rowley and others, and specially by a bequest from Mr. Goodwin, H.M. Consul at

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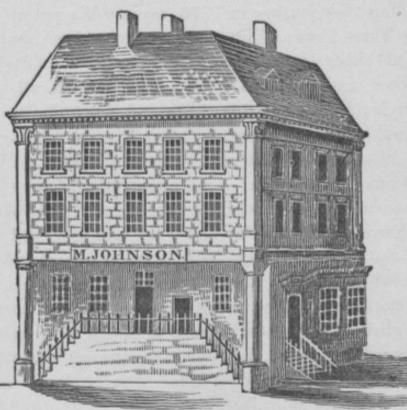
Palermo, who was a native of Lichfield. Of the Museum a good account will be found in the "Art Journal" for December, 1872, by Mr Llewellyn Jewitt. The grounds in front of the Museum have been reclaimed from the ozier-bed lately occupying this spot—more anciently a part of "Sandford Pool." The fountain in the centre is a gift from the Rev. Chancellor Law.

A handsome building designed for the purpose of a "SCIENCE AND ART SCHOOL" has recently been erected in Dam Street, near the Minster Pool, chiefly through the exertions of Mr. Robinson, late manager of the National Provincial Bank, in this City. To an upper room in this building has been transferred the Permanent Library, formerly in Market Street.

A CLUB, of which the present Dean of Lichfield (Dr. Bickersteth) is the President, was established at Christmas 1878, with Reading Room and other accommodations usually afforded by establishments of a similar nature. This Club now numbers about 100 gentlemen, and is much appreciated. It is situated in Bird Street, near the George Hotel.

A goodly mansion at the North West corner of the Market Place is the House where Dr. Johnson was born. This picture of the building in 1760 shews the residence and shop of Michael Johnson,

the father of the Doctor.* It is still essentially the same structure. Two doors to the South is the Inn,



The House in which Dr. Johnson was born.

* Michael Johnson the bookseller was somewhat comprehensive in his dealings : he dispensed, not only choice editions of Homer and Virgil, but Last Dying Speeches and Quack Medicines. A curious tract, kindly communicated by Mr. Duignan of Rushall Hall, contains "the Last Words" of one Richard Cromwel, hanged at Lichfield for murder in 1691. Having been "Chyrurgion in the late D. of Monmouth's Army," this man bequeaths, in addition to the usual exhortations to intending criminals, divers receipts for bodily ailments ; the sheet concluded with this

" ADVERTISEMENT.

"All these Ingredients mention'd, are to be had at the Apothecaries, except the Queen of Hungaries Water, which is Sold by Mich. Johnson Bookseller in Leichfield."

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"The Three Crowns," where Dr. Johnson usually "put up" when visiting Lichfield. Boswell, describing their journey in 1776, says : "We put up at the Three Crowns, not one of the great Inns, but a good old-fashioned one. We had a comfortable supper and got into high spirits. I felt all my Toryism glowing in this old capital of Staffordshire. I could have offered incense genio loci, and indulged in libations of that ale which Boniface in the 'Beaux Stratagem' recommended with such eloquent jollity. I saw here oat-ale and oat-cakes. Johnson expatiated in praise of Lichfield and its inhabitants, who, he said, were the most sober, decent people in England, were the genteelest in proportion to their wealth, and spoke the purest English. Very little business appeared to be going forward. I found, however, two strange manufactures for so inland a place,-sail cloths and streamers for ships."

In front of Johnson's house is a statue to our eminent citizen, erected by Chancellor Law in 1838. On the panels of the pedestal are basreliefs, representing—(1) Johnson, an infirm boy, carried to school by his school-fellows; (2) borne on his father's shoulders and listening to the preaching of Dr Sacheverel; (3) doing penance in Uttoxeter Market for an early disobedience to his father, who had desired him to attend this Market, where old Michael Johnson was in the habit of opening a book-stall every week.

In the days of bull-baiting the Market place was the spot where the sport was held. In Newte's Tour in England and Scotland in 1785, we read that "at Lichfield there is a great iron ring fixed by a staple in a stone in the centre of the Market place, which formerly served as a necessary instrument in the savage diversion of bullbaiting." To this our traveller adds, "When Dr. Johnson happened in his walks (for he paid an annual visit to Lichfield) to pass by this spot, he would frequently, in the midst of those reveries in which he seemed to be involved, step aside, and stooping down, lay hold of the ring and pull it about, as if he had been trying whether he was able to extricate it from the stone in which it was fixed." Another remarkable particular concerning Dr. Johnson which has not been mentioned, is that he made it a point in those annual visits to the place of his nativity, to call on every person in that City with whom he had the least acquaintance ; but that the instant he knocked at the door, he would, without giving time for opening it, pass on to another, where he would do the same thing ; so that it frequently happened that two or three servants would be running after the Doctor, requesting that he would return to their masters' or mistresses' houses, who waited to receive him." (page 15.)

On the East side of the Lichfield Market Place was the Market Hall erected by Dean Denton about

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F. 21r

F. 21V

1525. Others succeeded it, and in 1849 the present one, which is extensive and commodious.

ST. JAMES'S HALL is in Bore Street. Arranged something on the plan of St. James's Hall in London, it has received a similar name. The old Theatre, built on this spot in 1790, had become so frail that the citizens could not witness their own "Beaux Stratagem" without the risk of having the gallery and upper-boxes clattering about their heads. The present structure is planned for use as a theatre, concert-room, or for public meetings. It was opened in 1873, and in 1874 was employed for an Exhibition of Fine Arts, Manufactures, &c., to which the citizens largely contributed.

Of the Inns of Lichfield the principal are the Swan, the George, the Old Crown, and the Three Crowns. At the George lived the "Boniface" of the "Beaux Stratagem," by Farquhar.

The Post Office is in Bore street. The London mails are despatched at 9-10 and 11-10 a.m., 1-40 and 9-15 p.m.; those for the North at 9-20 a.m., 2-50 and 9-15 p.m.

There are two Joint Stock BANKS, both of the highest character, the National Provincial Branch Bank in Bird Street, and Lloyds Banking Company in the Market Square.

The central situation of Lichfield has always been its chief advantage. In Roman times the Watling

Street and Ickenild Street crossed here.* In Coaching days the thoroughfare from London to Liverpool, and that from the Manufacturing districts of Staffordshire to Derbyshire and the East, passed through our Streets. When Railways arose, our vitality was threatened by the "Birmingham line," but our mediterranean position soon asserted itself, and now the Watling Street and the Ickenild Way are renewed in the Iron roads of the "Trent Valley" and the "South Staffordshire." The Station of the former line is a mile to the East of the City, of the latter in the City itself (by Saint John Street).

Other commodities are enjoyed by our citizens. Coal is procured close at hand; the hills to the East yield the finest brick-clay; those to the West the purest water; in all directions the New Red Sandstone of the district crops up, affording good building stone; † the metal-workers and potters of the neighbourhood give us their best wares; the country immediately around produces the finest crops of corn, herbage and vegetables; while the salubrity of the air is proved by the well-known longevity of the inhabitants. Let us not forget to add that being

[†]Christ Church is entirely built of this stone, quarried at the Abnalls, on the North side of the rocky lane, where the excavation may be plainly seen.

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f. 22r

^{*}The Roman station of Etocetum was at Wall near this City. It has been proposed to explore this site, from which it is believed by many antiquaries that an abundance of relics might be recovered, equal to those accumulated at Shrewsbury from the diggings of Uriconium.

f. 22V

distant from any river of magnitude, we escape those terrible floods which so frequently visit our neighbours.

Many natives of Lichfield have become eminent for Science and Literature. Among them we may name :---

Robert Whytingdon, a distinguished grammarian and author, and "Proto-vates Angliæ," as he styled himself: he was in great favour with Cardinal Wolsey.

William de Lichfield, a learned and diligent divine : his diligence is fully attested by the number of sermons he left behind him, 3,083.

The father of the great Camden was born here.

Elias Ashmole, the founder of the Ashmolean Museum, was also a native of Lichfield.

Gregory King of the Herald's College.

Doctor Wettenhall, Bishop of Kilmore.

Doctor Smalridge, Bishop of Bristol in 1714.

Doctor Newton, Bishop of Bristol in 1761.

Rowley the Mathematician.

Doctor Samuel Johnson.

The Population of Lichfield in Edward the Third's time was 1,024; in 1696, 3,000; in 1811, 5,000; in 1871, 7,376; and in 1881, 8,360.

Members of Parliament were first sent from our City in 1305. From the time of Edward III. till the 6th of Edward VI. the privilege was withheld. By the Act of 1865 one member only was accorded to us. Colonel T. J. Levett is the present representative.

The walks around Lichfield are very agreeable. The most attractive is Borrowcop on the South; a sudden hill, which presents a complete panorama of the most pleasing English landscape.* Aldershaw, Pipe Hill and Maple Hayes afford beautiful views of the City. Near the latter is the Abnalls, where Dr. Erasmus Darwin formed his Botanic Garden : it is now a wild spot, but very picturesque ; many of the old trees remaining, and occasionally a few Darwinian snow-drops and daffodils peeping through the turf and bravely fighting the battle of life.[†]

Lichfield Races were once very famous. ‡ Their glory has diminished of late years, though the privilege of a Queen's Plate still maintains some vitality in the institution. There are two meetings in the year, one in the Spring, the other in the Autumn.

Fox-hunting still flourishes here, and the honoured name of Meynell is yet preserved in the title of the pack bequeathed by the late squire Hugo. The kennels are at Sudbury. The South Staffordsbire Hounds are a subscription pack, the kennels at Moat

[†] The late Mr. Charles Darwin, the energetic exponent of the evolutionary theory of Lamarck, was a grandson of Erasmus Darwin.

[‡]See page 44.

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f. 23r

^{*}The etymology of "Borrowcop Hill" has been much disputed. Borrow appears to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *burgh*, *byrig*, city; cop is a summit, as Stile Cop, Mow Cop, &c. in this neighbourhood. Hill is merely redundant: we don't say Stile Cop Hill.

F. 23V

Bank, two miles South West of the City. The Atherstone do not now take the country close to Lichfield on the South and South East but they may still be reached at Clifton, Seckington, and Shuttington Bridge.

For those who prefer pastimes of a more quiet order, there is an excellent Bowling Green on the West side of the City.

OBJECTS OF INTEREST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LICHFIELD.

BEAUDESERT, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey and former abode of the Bishops of Lichfield, is about five miles North West of Lichfield. The park stands high, has extensive prospects and many fine old forest trees. The herds of deer wandering over its undulating surface add much to its picturesqueness. It was Edward I. who gave this domain to the Bishops of Lichfield; Henry VIII. took it from them, and bestowed it on Sir William Paget in 1547. The title of *Lord* Paget was conferred by Edward VI. The portrait of this nobleman by Holbein is still preserved at Beaudesert. There are other good

pictures here, well worth an inspection. The old Hall with its gateway is figured in Plot's Staffordshire. There is a curious coloured print, now very scarce, showing a design by Repton for improving the grounds; where a succession of cascades leap down from the front of the house into the glen below, and then expand into a lake, with bridges, terraces and other landscape-gardening embellishments.

Three quarters of a mile South West from the Hall is the curious ancient work called Castle Ring. It is attributed to the Britons. The circuit is still very plainly traceable, the ditches and banks in many places being fully preserved. The view towards the West is very extensive, including the Wrekin and hills beyond.

A mile and a half North West from Beaudesert Hall is another high hill, Stile Cop, one of the loftiest points of Staffordshire, commanding very fine prospects.

LONGDON CHURCH, three and a half miles to the North of Lichfield, stands high and has an extensive view. The building offers examples of four different periods of architecture : the body of the Church is Norman of the 12th century, the Chancel arch and South door much enriched, the North door plainer; the Chancel is 14th century work, with a good East window; the Tower is of the Perpendicular period; the Stoniwell Chapel about 1550. The remains of a hagioscope will be seen at the South West corner

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f. 24r

f. 24v

of the Chancel. There is a little old painted glass in the Chancel, and throughout the Church many good modern memorial windows to the Pagets, Wyleys, Majendies, &c. In the Stoniwell Chapel is an incised slab to the memory of Bishop Stoniwell, with arms and mitre. This Prelate takes his name from the neighbouring hamlet of Stoniwell : he was a Benedictine, became Abbot of Pershore, and at length a Bishop. Dying at an advanced age, he was buried in 1553 in this Chapel at Longdon, which he had built.

ARMITAGE, anciently "the Hermitage of Hondesacre," is situated on the bank of the Trent, five miles North West of Lichfield. The Church is built on a rock overhanging the river; not so closely, however, as to have prevented a canal and a railroad from insinuating themselves between. By the twelfth century the Hermitage had been replaced by a goodly Church, which existed till about thirty years ago; when a restoration took place, reproducing in modern handiwork the chevrons and billets of the Norman masons. The original Norman font remains, one of the most curious relics of this remote time. The sculptures consist of seven groups of two figures each, male and female. Each pair of figures stands under a round arch, divided from the neighbouring group by a twisted column with cushion capitals. Depth of the font 1 foot, diameter, 2 feet ; proportions for total immersion. It has been figured in the Archæological Journal, vol. 28, p. 155. In the churchyard

is the reproduction of a Norman cross of the 12th century. The original lies in the North East corner of the churchyard. It is in very fair preservation; and one cannot but lament that this curious sculptured relic was not retained, instead of substituting the present garish rifacimento. The art, indeed, is rude enough; but the misty gaze of eyes looking down upon us through an atmosphere of seven hundred years impresses us with reverence, while the glare of similar eyes smoothed and polished in all the newness of Caen stone is apt to cause a very different feeling. It would be a good work to raise the poor old Cross from its ignominious position and restore it to its place of honour by the churchyard path.

The HANDSACRE (Hondesacre) named above is a small village about a mile to the East. The old half-timbered Hall with its moat still exists, a picturesque pile, but of course much altered from its ancient state. It is now a farm-house. Robert de Hondesacre held the manor in the time of William I. under the Bishop of Chester : hence, suggests Shaw, the county historian, "this Robert was probably a native Saxon, left undisturbed by the Conqueror on these sacred Church lands." A highly dramatic incident occured in the 15th century. De Handsacre set out with his retainers to fight on the side of Hotspur : his neighbour over the river, De Malvoisin, had sallied forth in the opposite interest. They met on their road to Shrewsbury—flew at each other—

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f. 25r

F. 25v

Handsacre is slain—his men scattered—Malvoisin goes on to Shrewsbury field,—is himself killed—conterminal disputes arise about the estates, but are happily settled by the heir of Handsacre marrying the heiress of Malvoisin ; the lady's fortune being handed over to her husband "as a recompense (says the chronicle) for the death of his father."

MAVEYSIN RIDWARE, the seat of the Malvoisins named above, lies on the opposite bank of the Trent. This family came in with William the Conqueror. The Church contains two knightly monuments of the Lords of Malvoisin in the 13th century. They are life-sized stone sculptures, habited in chain-mail hood haubery and chausses; having long heater shields slung over the shoulders. One is crosslegged, and of course by the villagers announced as "a Crusader." Various descendants are commemorated by incised slabs in the same chantry :---on altar-tomb, Robert de Mawveysyn, 1403 ; on floor-slabs, Hugo Davenport, 1473; John Cawarden, 1477; John Cardun, 1485; David Cardun, 1555; and, on altar-tomb, Thomas Cawarden and lady, 1592. Besides these genuine memorials, there are ten effigial slabs set up by a modern member of the family. Stothard, when in quest of subjects for his great work on "Monumental Effigies," writes : " Leaving Lichfield after breakfast, I walked seven miles to Maveysin Ridware, where I might have been nicely bit if I had not been well skilled in monumental costume." (Life, page 144.) This, however, could not have occurred, for

the figures are so utterly vile that they would not deceive a school-boy. Of the true monuments, there are plates in Shaw's Staffordshire, vol. 1, pl. 9 seq.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE, two and a half miles North East from Maveysin, is on the river Blythe. The old Manor-house, of the time of Elizabeth, is curious from its tall watch-tower, the gateway with its flanking towers, and the enriched garden front. In the house (now a farm-house) is preserved a very curious example of the Branks, or bridle for scolds, which was no doubt used for punishments in the jurisdiction of the old Manor. It is figured in the Archæological Journal, vol. 13, page 267. The Church has some good old painted glass and carved oak stalls : in the Church-yard is the shaft of an ancient cross. A view of the hall is given in Shaw's Staffordshire.

A mile North West of Hamstall Ridware was Blythbury Priory, a convent of nuns in the 14th century. A curious picture of life in this neighbourhood at that time is contained in a document preserved in the Tower of London.

Sir Robert de Rideware with others proceeded to the Priory of Blythbury, where Rideware represented to the Prioress that they were retainers of the King, sore travailed, and prayed house-room for his company. This having been refused, they broke open the barns of the Priory, helped themselves to the hay and oats, and stayed all night against the wish of the Prioress. They had previously robbed the servants of two "merchants of Lichfield" in

45

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F. 26v

Cannock Wood (le boys del Canoke) and carried them off to the Priory of Lapley; but one of these men having escaped, traced them to Blythbury and gave information of their whereabouts to the King's bailiff-errant at Lichfield. The bailiff thereupon, taking with him some of the townsfolk of Lichfield, proceeded to Blythbury and summoned the malefactors to surrender to the King's peace, which they would not do, but attacked the bailiff and his people, wounding several of them. Being at length routed, they were hotly pursued by the bailiff, who caught and decapitated four of their number. This victory achieved, that officer took the stolen chattels into his custody and rode with his company towards Lichfield; but in the interim Robert de Rideware, having rallied his band, and being reinforced by Sir Walter de Rideware and others, came up with the bailiff between Blythbury and Little Ridware (petit Rideware), and recovered his plunder by a sudden onslaught. The Lichfield merchants add that they and many of the Lichfield folk are so menaced by the said robbers and their maintainers that they dare not venture out of the town. Into all which matters they pray the Earl of Arundel to cause enquiry to be made at his first session at Lichfield, the felony having been committed within the franchise of the Bishop of Chester. This document, of the 15th of Edward III., 1342, is given in extenso in the Archaeological Journal, vol. 4, page 69.

KING'S BROMLEY, a small village four and a half miles North of Lichfield, is celebrated as having been the residence of the famous Lady Gadiva and her husband, Earl Leofrice of Mercia. The latter died here in 1057. Other Earls of Mercia lived at Bromley : in Norman times the village came to the Crown : hence the name, King's Bromley. (See Dugdale's Warwickshire, page 86, Shaw's Staffordshire, i. 143, and Harwood's Erdeswick, page 234.)

WHITTINGTON village occupies a high ground to the South East of Lichfield. Its attraction is the old mansion on the East side of the village, now called the Hall : the Hall proper, however, adjoined it on the West : nothing of that remains but the pillars of the gateway, inscribed Z. B., 1673. The initials are those of the former owner, Zachariah Babington. The present old house is extremely picturesque-a small Haddon. When seen with a good light gilding its gables, porch, mullioned windows and mantling ivy, it may challenge comparison with any remains of the same character in the country. The period seems to be early Tudor. The Church, which is poor, has been much improved within the last few years. Standing on an eminence, its spire forms a pleasing feature in the landscape. A portion of the tower is all that remains of the old Church.

West of the village is Whittington Heath, where the Races are held, and where have recently been erected the Government Barracks. This spot was the scene of some curious eccentricities of the

47

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F. 271

Jacobites and their opponents in the days of the "Young Pretender." Smollett tells us, in his History of England : "In the neighbourhood of Lichfield the sportsmen of the party appeared in the Highland taste of variegated drapery; and their zeal descending to a very extraordinary exhibition of practical ridicule, they hunted with hounds clothed in plaid, a fox dressed in a red uniform. Even the females at their Assembly, and the gentlemen at the Races, affected to wear the chequered stuff by which the Prince Pretender and his followers had been distinguished. Divers noblemen on the Course were insulted as apostates, and one personage of high rank is said to have undergone a very disagreeable flagellation." This was the Duke of Bedford in 1748.* In the print illustrating the doggerel poem on this event, called the "Whittington Defeat" the tartan dresses of the Stuart partisans are shown. The races themselves were held at two different periods, an interval of a fortnight elapsing between the Whig races and the Tory Races. The company dined in tents pitched in a small field opposite to the Swan Inn. At the head of the Stuart table appeared a woman of the name of Jenny Cameron, who entertained the company by playing on the violin.

ELFORD, five miles to the East of Lichfield, lies on the river Tame. The Church contains a valuable series of monuments, illustrating mediæval Knightly

* See Gent. Mag., 1748, page 374.

and Civil costume. The military figures range from the 14th to the 16th century ; but it is remarkable, that the 14th century armour is found on the effigy bearing the name of Sir John Stanley, who died in 1474. Whether this figure has been removed from an earlier monument, or whether the Knight affected an ancestral costume, or whether the sculptor (of the neighbouring town of Burton, the abode of "marblers" from an early time) formed the statue from a favourite model, we do not venture to say ; but certain it is that the dress is exactly that of a warrior of the 14th century. The body has a hauberk of mail, covered by a sleeveless surcoat, girt at the hips by a richly-harnessed belt; arms and legs in plate; a camailed bassinet on the head; and, as pillow, the Knightly helm with the well-known crest of the Eagle and Child. The material is alabaster, derived, no doubt, from the neighbouring quarries of Needwood Forest. The details both of this and the monument next to be noticed, are extremely delicate and beautiful in design.

Sir Thomas Arderne and lady in alabaster. This Knightly costume is of the beginning of the 15th century, the Collar of SS., the badge of Henry IV. overlying the camail. The altar-tomb on which the effigies lie, is surrounded by weepers, of which nine are in civil costume, exhibiting very curious specimens of the "weeds of peace" of that time. This Knightly figure has been rather unfortunately treated by its modern exponents. Richardson the sculptor, in

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restoring the monument, has turned the "Ave Maria" on the bassinet into "Jesu Maria," and a guide book to the Church tells us (in the face of the well-known Collar of SS. of Henry IV.) that its date is that of Richard II. (page 35.) Sir William Smythe, 1516, shares his altar-tomb with two wives, one of them the heiress of Elford : he has full armour of plate, with very large tuilles; Collar of SS. with cross pendant. Around the tomb, which is of alabaster, figures of monks in niches. In the Chancel is the semi-effigy of William Staunton, who married a Stanley, date about 1475. He is in civil costume ; wears a Collar of SS.; hound at feet; at head ministering angels, the head-dress of one of them like Lady Crosby's, 1475 (Stothard, plate 133). Somewhat similar semi-effigies exist in Lichfield Cathedral. The Elford example is figured in Boutell's "Semieffigies," page 146. There are other monuments here, and much that is interesting besides; to describe which would require more space than we have at command.

HASELOUR, about a mile to the East, has an interesting old half-timbered mansion and Church. There is a view of both in Shaw's Staffordshire (i. 388).

CROXALL Church, two miles North, is situated on high ground, with an extensive view to the West. It contains a fine monument by Chantry. The still higher ground to the East is called "Dryden's Walk,"

having been the favourite promenade of the poet whose name it bears.

Croxall Hall is said to have been one of the prison abodes of the Queen of Scots; but this seems very doubtful. The Queen was probably Henrietta Maria, who in 1643 visited Croxall. "1643. July 4. The Queene to Ashby de la Zouch. 7. The Queene went to Croxall. 8. to Walsall." (Hamper's Life of Dugdale, page 52.) The Queen of Scots, on her way from Chartley to Fotheringhay, passed through Abbot's Bromley and Burton. (Harwood's Erdeswick, 270).

Two miles North West of Croxall, is ALREWAS, having a large Church with Norman remains. A mile further is Wychnor Hall, celebrated for its tenure of the "flitch of bacon." A full account of this matter will be found in all our county histories.

Though there is little to see, the antiquarian may desire to visit the site of the Roman station at WALL (Etocetum), two miles to the South West where the Watling Street and the Ickenild Street cross each other; "Castle Old Fort," an entrenched camp near Upper Stonnall, five miles to the South West, and Offlow,* a tumulus near Swinfen, two and a half miles South, which gives name to the Hundred. In Sutton Park the Ickenild Street is very finely preserved, running over Streetley Hill (see Ordnance

51

f. 29r

^{*} This low is supposed to mark the place of interment of an Anglo-Saxon chief—Offa's low.

map, where it will be observed following the county division line). The road is about 60 feet wide, and is formed of the drift gravel of the locality, with a ditch on each side : it is considered one of the best examples to be found in the country, of a Roman street in its original condition.

GEOLOGIC NOTES.

Though the neighbourhood of Lichfield presents no granite mountains or lofty hills of Silurian age, yet there is much hereabout to interest the geologist. Our range is chiefly from the Carboniferous period to the Keuper sandstone, and our hills, though pleasantly undulating, do not attain any great altitude. The immediate neighbourhood of the city is on the New Red Sandstone and Marl (marked f 5 on the Government geological maps) bounded on the North and the North East by a great mass of Red Marl (f 6), running from Cleathill by the Beans Farm, Pones Mill, and Trent Valley Station to near Whittington. This formation (f 5), the Lower Keuper Sandstone or Waterstones, consists generally of beds of white, red and brown sandstones, with thin bands of red and mottled marl interstratified. The sandstones often show ripple-marks and much false

bedding; and from this circumstance and the footmarks and other remains found in them, some of these strata were clearly accumulated by the shore. (Warwickshire Coal Field, p. 37). The Upper New Red Marl (f 6) is the deposit of a salt lake (Ramsey's Physical Geology of Great Britain, p. 26). The Conglomerate (f 2) comes in on the South near the Bowling Green, following the course of the Canal to Whittington Marsh, and thence Eastward to Tamhorn. South of Knowle Hill and Femley Pits there is a downcast, throwing the Keuper Marls and sandstones against the Bunter Conglomerate; and then, before you reach Offlow and Swinfen, the Lichfield formation (f 5) reappears. A similar fault occurs under Hopwas Wood to the South East, running from the river near the railroad-crossing to Hints village; i.e. a down-throw of the Marl to the Conglomerate level. These Conglomerate beds are finely displayed at Femley Pits, a mile South of the They consist of pebbles of quartz, carboncity. iferous limestone, chert, millstone-grit and other rocks, all much rounded and water-worn ; also decomposing agates in various stages of transition. The entire thickness of the Conglomerate is about 450 feet. The high ground of Barr Beacon, Aldridge and Sutton Park is of the same formation. The Coal measures come up to workable levels on the West at Brownhills, Chase Town and other places on Cannock Heath : again at Brereton on the North road; and, more distant, at Wilnecote (the

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F. 300

Warwickshire coal-field) and near Burton (the Leicestershire coal-field.) To those who take interest in these carboniferous deposits we would recommend the perusal of Jukes's South Staffordshire Coal-field, Howel's Warwickshire field, and Hull's Leicestershire field ; all forming part of the "Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain." The mines, which we now call "Pits," were named " Delphs" a century ago. Thus, in Hutton's History of Birmingham we are told that "in 1767 an Act was obtained to open a Cut between Birmingham and the Coal Delphs about Wednesbury." (p. 266). To understand with precision the notes given above, it might be well to consult the coloured maps of the Government Geological Survey, where the deposits and their curious faults South of Lichfield are beautifully laid down. The Lichfield portion (North East quarter of Sheet 62) may be procured separately.

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