

From chaos to the charter : a complete history of Royal Leamington Spa, from the earliest times to the charter of incorporation, with chronology of all the principal public events down to date / [T. B. Dudley].

Contributors

Dudley, T. B.

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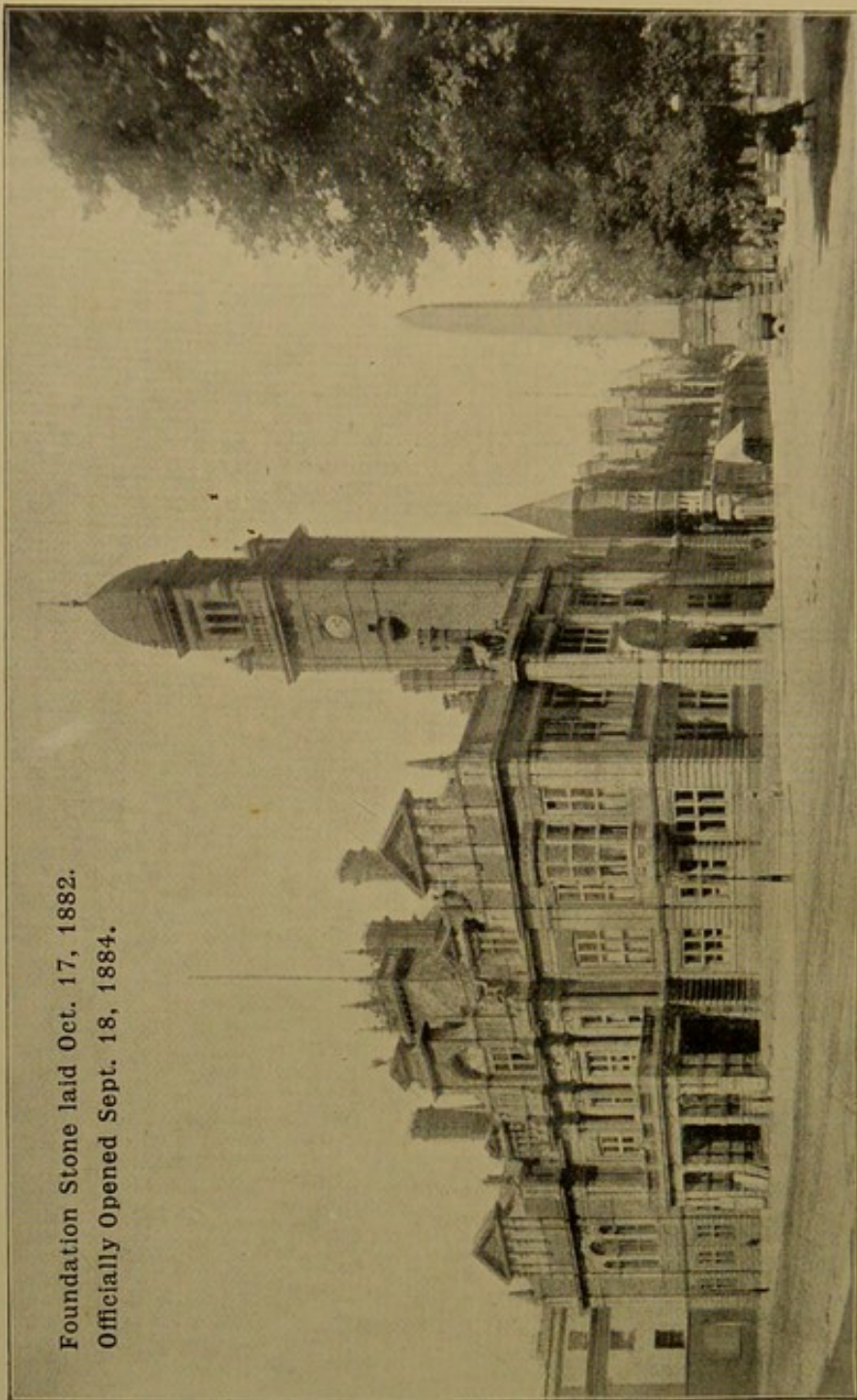
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Foundation Stone laid Oct. 17, 1882.
Officially Opened Sept. 18, 1884.



From a Photo by

[*R. L. Graham, Royal Leamington Spa.*]
TOWN HALL AND BRIGHT OBELISK.

FROM CHAOS TO THE CHARTER.

A COMPLETE HISTORY
OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA,

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES

TO THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION,

WITH CHRONOLOGY OF

ALL THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC EVENTS DOWN TO DATE.

BY

T. B. DUDLEY.

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INTRODUCTION.

DESCRIPTIVE accounts of comparatively small towns have been depreciated by some as devoid of interest and incapable of profitable study ; fitted but for whiling away unoccupied hours, or, at the best, as being suited only for contracted minds, too feeble for the comprehension of narratives on topics of national interest. Were it necessary to mention authorities in demonstration of the worth of local histories, no three names could be cited which would carry greater weight than the Rev. Gilbert White, Professor Freeman and Lord Macaulay. The author of "The Natural History of Selborne," strongly recommends publication of the history of every district, because of the instructive materials which are in this way preserved for the larger accounts of the Counties, and, in his "Old English History," Professor Freeman says : "Every Shire, almost every neighbourhood, has its own contributions to English History. Very few of these could be directly mentioned in a book of this kind, but I hope that the sort of use which I have made of the facts and events special to my own neighbourhood may lead others to deal in the same way with the places and events which more closely concern them. I trust that intelligent readers and teachers will often be able to supplement my references to matters belonging to Somersetshire with references to the same kind belonging to other parts of England." Valuable as these testimonies are, they are surpassed by the more apposite opinion of Lord Macaulay. In his description of Bath he quotes from a local writer, who published a history of the city about sixty years after the Revolution, and of the changes which had taken place within his own recollection. In his younger days, "the gentleman who visited the springs at Bath slept in rooms hardly as good as the garrets which he lived to see occupied by footmen. The floors of the dining-rooms were uncarpeted and were coloured brown with a wash made of soot and small beer,

in order to hide the dirt. Not a wainscot was painted. Not a hearth or a chimney-piece was of marble. A slab of common free-stone, and fire-irons which had cost from three to four shillings were thought sufficient for any fire-place. The best apartments were hung with coarse woollen stuff, and were furnished with rush-bottomed chairs." Upon this unassuming and unadorned passage, dealing with subjects usually considered to be of trifling value, Lord Macaulay makes a remark for which authors of Guides and Local Histories will ever feel thankful. "Readers," he observes, "who take an interest in the progress of civilisation and of the useful arts, will be grateful to the humble topographer who has recorded these facts, and will perhaps wish that historians of far higher pretensions had sometimes spared a few pages from military evolutions and political intrigues, for the purpose of letting us know how the parlours and bed-chambers of our ancestors looked." Encouraged and supported by views so eminent, I shall, in these pages, endeavour to write the history of Royal Leamington Spa, in a manner calculated to realise the advantages named, and at the same time, prove instructive and interesting to all who may give it a careful perusal.

This new edition, designed mainly for the industrial classes, but published in a form which will make it available to all, is a reproduction of the first, with such modifications as are unavoidable through less space being at my disposal and the condensations of several passages from the same cause. But nothing of importance is omitted: all the material points are preserved, and while the first edition will remain the more ample of the two, the second on comparison, will be found in no way deficient in the variety of its contents, nor of less interest, or practical value, for reading and occasional references. A slight alteration has been made in the order and treatment of a few of the chief events, without, however, involving a total departure from the chronological method, the beneficial effects of which are most conspicuous in historical works.

T. B. DUDLEY.

BELGRAVE COTTAGE,
3, CHURCH TERRACE,
LEAMINGTON.

January, 1, 1901.

CHAPTER I.

Leamington in existence in the 7th and 13th centuries—historical divisions—at one time submerged—fossils; shells, and the ichthyosaurus—the Glacial Drift—climatic and physical changes—geological description by Reeve—Leamington in the 7th century—"the Leamingas"—References in Domesday Book—the two mills—the "lords of Leamington"—lists of successive owners—the Quarry Field, etc., etc.

SINCE the date of the primitive village, the record of Leamington has been composed, like the histories of all such towns, of traditions, fables based upon slender facts, facts resting on fables neither few nor slender: Guides written with considerable ability, and sometimes displaying scientific knowledge and scholarly attainments: plans, gossip, registers, official and private memoranda, poetry, etc. By carefully sifting this abundance of heterogenous material, we are able to extend the vista of the town and village back through the mists of many centuries, and by such means secure for the Royal Spa a title in which the ancient and the modern are blended with picturesque and harmonious effect. As far back as the thirteenth century we may trace the names of the inhabitants, and proceeding to times still more remote, find in the seventh, evidence of an organised community living on the site of the present borough. For convenience the history of the Spa may be divided into five periods, each possessing distinctions and attractions peculiar to itself.

The first extends over the countless ages of time, during which Leamington was, as it were, evolved out of nothing. Its testimonies are the stony libraries of the Artesian Wells and the Bore Holes; the rich deposits in the lias beds at Harbury and Newbold; those in the quarries at Milverton and Warwick; in the shells and polished pebbles found along the banks of the Leam, and at considerable depths, in the strata, beneath the surface of the soils. Millions of years ago, Leamington, in common with the whole of the Midlands, was submerged beneath a tempestuous ocean, of

which evidence exists in its stratified rocks, those of the immediate neighbourhood and also the surrounding district. Fossil shells have been found more plentifully in excavating the foundations of buildings in the low-lying parts of the old town than in the new, though some have also been collected in more elevated situations, such as the site of the new Artesian Well at Lillington. Of all the strange and extraordinary species which inhabited the waters in pre-Adamite periods, none approached the ichthyosaurus, an extinct marine animal of the fish-lizard kind, the remains of several of which have been discovered within a few miles of the Spa. The first of these mentioned, measuring fourteen feet four inches, was found some years ago in the lime-pits of Messrs. Greaves, at Wilncote, and may now be inspected in the Museum at Warwick. The second, a very much finer specimen, was met with by the workmen at Messrs. Greaves, Bull, and Lakin's cement quarry, Stockton, while at their work on August 3, 1898. Its length was nineteen feet four inches. After having been officially viewed by the Warwickshire Naturalists' and Archæologists' Field Club, those present including Messrs. W. Andrews, F.G.S., President: S. S. Stanley, Vice-President, and T. W. Whitley, Hon-Secretary, it was generously presented by Mr. Lakin to the British Museum. Having regard to the localities mentioned, and also bearing in mind the numerous remains of saurians and other gigantic lizard-like reptiles in the Museum at Warwick, from Coton End and Guy's Cliff,—places richly stored with these interesting deposits—it is not unreasonable to believe that the ichthyosauri held dominion in the waters on the site of Leamington, in pre-historic times. To those interested in the study of this remote branch of scientific knowledge, too much over-looked and neglected by the public, we may say that Professor Owen, mentions, in his learned work on Palæontology, many specimens of these "vestiges of creation" found at Guy's Cliffe, Coton End, Leamington, Coventry, and Kenilworth, nearly all of which are in the Warwick Museum.

No mental measurement can be made of the ages which elapsed during the rock, stone and soil growth of the town; nor can the most vivid imagination picture the extent and variety of those changes which in that indefinite period were continually taking place. Possibly, at one time, the bed of the river Leam was the

summit of a bleak mountain range, and the land we now call Newbold Hills, lost to view in the dark and cold recesses of a sunless valley. But besides these structural transformations, there was a variation in the climate no less extraordinary. Before the occurrence of the Glacial Drift, the atmospherical conditions of Leamington were almost, if not quite, tropical, and a resident population at that time, with average skill in horticulture, might easily have converted the Parade into a magnificent orange grove, and have gathered rich harvests of perfumes, spices and gums from the slopes of the hills and the sun-tanned face of the north bank of the Leam. After the Drift there came an atmosphere of arctic severity, and England not being separated from the Continent by water, animals whose habitat was in the Polar regions, by instinct followed the cold. The late Rev. P. B. Brodie, an authority in pæleontology, universally recognised, specifies the *elephas primogenias* or mammoth, rhinoceros, cave bears, and others, as among the immigrant species. In a very instructive lecture on "Earthquakes," delivered in February, 1880, to the Clarendon Young Men's Christian Association, the late Mr. John Greet, thus referred to Leamington in the pre-Glacial Drift days:—

"This mid-England, and therefore, of necessity, the bit of territory immensely interesting to ourselves, and euphemistically styled 'Leamington,' was a steaming morass, covered with rank tropical vegetation, whose lofty groves echoed to the tramp of the giant iguanodon, and was the home and the haunt of the dragon and the turtle."

The geological arrangement of the town and district demands consideration in this place, firstly, because it is the earliest subject with which Leamington can claim to be connected, and secondly, in a two-fold sense, it constitutes the foundation for, and of, the existence and prosperity of the Royal Spa. The absence of a particular rock, or its presence in another situation, might have left the course of local events unchanged, and the Spa, a small hamlet, instead of being, as it now is, a popular health resort. Without approaching anything like an academical description we may say generally, that the whole disposition and character of the soils and rocks beneath the town are conducive to the most important purposes of sanitation. On the north bank of the Leam, there is "a rich sandy loam, with an intermixture of gravel, and, as is the case in the old town, a bed of solid rock is usually found some

depth below the surface." The bountiful supplies of water—fresh and saline—are singularly separated by an arrangement which has set the bounds of the former beneath the new, and those of the latter, under the old town. Reeve's* lucid account is subjoined:—

"The town is built upon a light-coloured sandstone series and appears to be the upper portion of the variegated sandstone at the junction of the variegated marl, if it does not actually belong to the latter, but it is extremely difficult to determine the limits of either in consequence of the absence of a peculiar limestone observed in Germany, intervening between the variegated sandstone and variegated marl termed muschekalk. The sandstone is the same as that of Warwick, Guy's Cliff and many other places in the neighbourhood, and is of good building quality. It contains a few organic remains of saurians, of which several well-preserved teeth, fragments of vertebral and other bones, of different species, have recently been discovered.

"The mineral waters of the Spa are mostly derived from this sandstone rock, at the depth of from thirty to forty feet. In sinking wells, gypsum and rock-salt are occasionally met with in small quantities. The hill at Newbold Comyn consists of variegated marl which has been extensively used in making bricks, surmounted by a bed of gravel, with sand, and thin seams of light-coloured clay, containing numerous oolitic remains, gryphæ, belemnites-pentacrinites, etc., etc. The London road passes over the variegated marl until it arrives at Upton Hill, where the western edge of the lias is first seen in that direction: though the nearest point at which the lias is found is at Whitnash, close to the south side of the village, where a narrow tongue of blue clay and rubbly limestone is met with, extending from Chesterton camp along Whitnash field to the village.

"On the north bank of the Leam, in the Newbold Gardens, there is a thick bed of gravel and clay, in which have been found many bones and teeth of rhinoceros, horns and bones of deer, etc. etc., of extinct species, associated with a few fresh-water shells. In the low ground adjoining the Royal Pump Room, in a bed of peat earth, there have been discovered horns and bones of recent species of deer and of other quadrupeds."

The second era marks the time when it was first inhabited. Ethnography and etymology are the sole repositories of the evidence relative to the attenuated village in its original state. By

*A bookseller, stationer, and librarian, whose premises were those now occupied by Burgis and Colbourne, Limited, and then known as "The Library, Upper Parade." Mr. Reeve was remarkable for his literary taste, the large and valuable library he formed, and his extensive stock of costly editions of standard works; He conducted the business from 1837 to 1852, and then sold it to Mr. Knibb of Southampton by whom it was carried on with success for many years. Subsequently it was acquired by Mr. Ingleton, and from him Messrs. Burgis and Colbourne purchased it in 1881, when extensive alterations and additions were made.

the aid of these friendly Guides a time in the gray dawn of our national history can be approximately selected when a small band of immigrants settled upon land near the Parish Church, built a few rudely-constructed mud huts, window-less and without chimneys, and most probably, as suggested, called themselves "The Leamingas,"* namely "The dwellers on the banks or in the meadows of the Leam." Involved, in more or less of obscurity, as the events of this period must ever be, the subject is nevertheless attended by circumstances which have justified a distinguished historian in giving Leamington a place in the early annals of England. Mr. J. R. Green says, in "The Making of England," that it was existing in the form of a quiet township in the gloaming of the seventh century. As the maturity of the oak proclaims a prior existence in the germ-form of the acorn, this "quiet township" at the date named, is an assurance of a still more remote antiquity as the time of the original settlement. Considering the averment of Rous, first of Warwickshire historians, in which Camden, and other recognised antiquarians concur, that Warwick was a British town of importance before the invasion of England by the Romans A. D., 50, the proximity of Leamington to Warwick, and also to Whitnash, a village of undoubted British origin, we see no reason to question the presence of a small community of ancient Britons, dwelling, in the way described, on the south bank of the Leam, in the early morning of our national life; nor cause for hesitation in believing that, in all the vicissitudes through which England has passed in the intervening Niagara of centuries, the occupation

*This statement, made in the first edition, is repeated with reasonable reserve, as a doubt regarding its historical foundation, has been expressed by one whose position in the ranks of antiquarians, gives weight to his objection. Whether the term, "Leamingas" was an appellation ever applied to, or adopted by the aboriginal inhabitants, is a question, the affirmative of which can be determined, only by a reference to documents of the Saxon period, the qualification for which must of necessity be limited to very few persons. In the "Spectator" of August 1868, the writer of an article, entitled, "Northampton and Warwickshire in the Anglo-Saxon Period" says that the "Byrlingas and Stoppingas" are to be found in early Saxon documents" and deduces therefrom a number of Warwickshire names to which this terminal is applied, amongst them being the following:—Bulcingas (Bulkington) Cubingas (Cubbington), Ilmingas (Ilmington), Iccingas (Itchington), Leamingas (Leamington) and Lillingas (Lillington). For "Leamingas," therefore, there is some authority. It must also be mentioned that Kemble has "Rowingas" which Mr. Ryland thinks might have been Rowington.

of this identical site, as a place of residence, has been maintained in unbroken continuity down to the present day. Except such as may be derived from general considerations, we have discovered no evidence of the tribal character of the inhabitants undergoing any change in the seventh century, when the ancient Britons were vanquished and large numbers of them extirpated by the Saxons. The phrase, "quiet township," comports more with a British than a Saxon occupation, and it is not incompatible with reason to suppose that, after the general overthrow of the Britons, the tribe of the Leamingas, accepting what was inevitable, and giving no cause of offence, were permitted to remain unmolested in the home chosen by their forefathers. As for their origin, though it cannot now be determined with precision, the most probable theory is that they were from Warwick, and, with the "native tribe" residing at Whitnash, formed a three-fold community of neighbours and kinsfolk, between whom there were constant communications with business, friendly, and in some cases, family relationships.

Domesday Book, compiled by order of William the Conqueror, in 1086, marks the commencement of the third principal division of the account of Leamington. Henceforth, the historical nebulae increase in number, in clearness, and in interest with each successive reign. The town, hamlet or village, whichever may be the proper appellation, now becomes a reality, instead of a name only. In the Survey of the Conqueror, Leamington appears under the varied name of "Lamintone," and the information given is that it was about two hides in extent, was of the value of £4., and had two mills worth 24s. By modern measures the two hides were equal to 240 acres, and the £4. to £285 4s. These figures, it is only right to explain, are liable to some modifications, the hide of land especially, varying in quantity according to the character of the soil in different localities. One of the mills, it is agreed, stood on the site of the building, known in its day, as Oldham's Mill; the situation of the other is uncertain, though Newbold Comyn and the portion of the river by the Pump Room property, have been mentioned as probable places. Mills were important institutions in the Feudal period of our national history, the owners, who were frequently the Priors, wielding enormous local influence, and having the power to compel parishioners to use their mills. The

monetary values and the two mills, seem to point to the fact that Leamington was a place of some consideration at the date of the Norman Conquest. It does not, however, appear to have been paramount to its neighbours in population, for in the middle of the seventeenth century, Harbury had nearly double the number of houses, and Radford was almost its equal. Such pre-eminence as it had would be derived chiefly from its mills. They represented a trade of considerable importance; heavily laden wains, toiling in slowly from the surrounding villages with corn to be ground, and returning with flour for the family and the cottagers. Besides this industry in bread-stuffs, there was the merchandise of free intercourse with the surrounding districts—the exchange of news and the conversion of Leamington into an emporium of intelligence from all parts of the county.

Though Domesday Book omits to supply us with the names of any resident in Leamington, it marks the period when we become acquainted with Turchill, its owner, who was the last of the line of the valiant Saxon Earls of Warwick, and the first discovered on the page of history of whom we have definite information. It also represented a period, the web and woof of which were thickly interwoven with changes; the situations increasingly dramatic in effect, and the records of substantial facts more abundant. Rolls and registers in profusion, attest the long line of noble owners who grasped the prize of the estate of Leamington, some not being able to retain it, experiencing on that account a bitter mortification which quenched in total eclipse the remembrance of the joy they had when it was their own possession. Nothing more vividly portrays the capricious moods of fortune than the changes in the ownership of Leamington at this time. Within the brief space of a little over one hundred years, it belonged in succession to eleven proprietors: one holding it on two occasions. Throughout this third period of its history, it was in a state of perpetual oscillation between the Court, the Camp, and the Church, the pendulum of events, being moved backwards and forwards by the mandates of monarchs, the wily arts of diplomacy, the smiles of favourites, the successes or failures of military adventures and the mortality of its owners. Its lords comprised Saxon, Norman and French—nobles of proud and ancient lineage. After enduring

much poverty and passing through many vicissitudes, at the close of the eighteenth century it began to scale the gradations of local government, and reached the summit of municipal pomp and authority before the nineteenth was concluded.

We must now leave, for a short time, the general events of the Norman period, and trace in outline, the succession of the "lords of Leamington," the story of whom has its fountain-head in the reign of the Conqueror. Turchill is reported to have inherited Leamington, which was one of forty-eight manors belonging to him, from his father, Oluuinus, or otherwise Aluuinus. William despoiled the Earl of the greater part of his vast possessions, but left him Leamington, which descended to Siward, his son. The King afterwards dispossessed him of the estate and gave it to Henry de Novo, or Newburgh, the first Norman Earl of Warwick. His successor was Roger de Montgomery, a French Knight, from whom it devolved to his eldest son, Hugh, and afterwards to his brother. A civil war ensuing on the death of William Rufus, in which Robert Curthose, the eldest son of the Conqueror and Henry, his younger brother, contended for the prize of the Crown, Robert, Earl of Warwick, fought for the elder brother, who was defeated, and the Earl being taken prisoner, his Leamington estate became forfeit. With this event, the ownerships of Norman, Saxon, and French lords closed and a new era for the village began. The victorious Henry I., surnamed Beauclerc, or scholar, gave the estate to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, who was also Bishop of Chester. He passed it on to Geoffrey de Clinton, famous in history as the founder of the Castle and Priory of Kenilworth, who presented it to Gilbert Nutricius, of Warwick, subject, however, to certain payments, gifts and services. Afterwards, Leamington went back into the possession of Geoffrey, and was inherited by his son, Geoffrey de Clinton, who, in 1166, gave it to the Prior and Canons of the Monastery his father had built and endowed at Kenilworth, about the year 1122 "to the honor of the blessed Virgin Mary, for the redemption of his sins and the good estate of King Henry the First, and his own wife and children." This gift was confirmed by Geoffrey's son Henry, who liberally made considerable additions to it out of his own estate, and obtained from the King immunities and concessions, including

the privilege of Court Leet, assize of bread and beer, authority to try and punish malefactors; freedom from County, Hundred Court, Free Warren, etc., etc. The grants mentioned were certain to have been made by Charter, and there is, therefore, excellent reason for believing that, in the twelfth century, Leamington had Charters of Incorporation, though different in scope and effect, from the one obtained in 1875, being that under which the borough is now governed. Had the Priory records been preserved, some interesting light might have been gleaned from their pages respecting the special privileges conferred upon the village, and the status it had, in consequence of being in possession of such exceptional favours. Dugdale says:—

“The service of half a knight's fee, by which the said Canons held it (though in the grant there be no mention thereof) was by the bishop passed over to the monks of Coventre: for in 20 Hen., 3. the Prior of Coventre, certifying that knight's fees were held of that monastery, makes instance of half a knight's fee in Lemington juxta Warwick, held by the before specified canons: The like was signified in 36 Hen. 3. which canons in 7 Edw. I. had a water mill, 3 yard land, and a 4 part, and the half of another mill, here in demesn, as also ix. servants, holding 3 yard land, and 3 quarters, performing divers servile labours: 8 cottiers holding 8 cottages and 8 acres of land: and xi freeholders, which held 13 yard land and a 4 part with the other half of the water mill: and besides all this a court leet, gallows, assize of bread and beer, by the grant of King Hen. 3, together with the church appropriate, endowed with two yard land; all which was enjoyed by them till the dissolution of the Monasteries.”

Leamington remained in undisturbed possession by the Priors of the Monastic Brotherhood at Kenilworth, for the space of three hundred and seventy-three years, a long tenure of power compared with the brief ownerships previously recorded. On the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, by Henry VIII., Leamington reverted to the Crown, once more entered upon a career of change, and became the sport of fickle fortune. In 1564, it was presented by Queen Elizabeth to the noble and good Ambrose, second son and heir to the late Earl John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, then attainted. At his death in 1589, it gravitated back to the Crown where it remained till 1605, at which date, James I. bestowed it on Sir Fulke Greville, who was fatally stabbed by his servant. He was succeeded by Lord Brooke, the Patriot, killed at Lichfield while fighting for constitutional freedom, and civil and religious liberty. He was of Puritan fame, the friend of Milton; General

of the Parliamentary Militia in the time of the Civil War, and in the heraldry of public worth, acquired the title of the "Puritan Peer," an honoured appellation Milton has obviously endorsed by referring to him in the pages of the "Areopagitica," in terms of affectionate regard and admiration. From the beginning of the eighteenth century, the estate and land of Leamington came into the possession of numerous proprietors. The manorial rights and also a considerable portion of the land, with the original saline spring, were acquired by the Earl of Aylesford, the other principal owners being. Mr. B. B. Greatheed, of Guy's Cliffe; Mr. Matthew Wise, of Shrubland Hall, and Mr. Edward Willes, of Newbold Comyn. With the commencement of the Spa in the beginning of the present century, the proprietors found themselves in possession of a veritable El-Dorado of wealth, sites of building land selling readily for, from £4,500 to £5,000 per acre.

An atmosphere of pleasant philanthropic reminiscence lingers round the sale, in 1701, of the Quarry Field, with a little meadow on the west side and another on the south. Owing to this transaction, Leamington was brought into passing association with a celebrated poet, a distinguished physician and a pioneer in works of practical benevolence. Originally the property belonged to Hercules Beaufoy, of the Manor House, Edmonscote, one of whose sisters was married to Dr. Samuel Garth, author of the well-known poem "The Dispensary," whose signature became necessary to the conveyance, in consequence of his wife's interest in the estate. He was one of the first to provide cheap medical attendance for the indigent poor, and in a liberal sense, a share of the honour of founding Provident Dispensaries, now so popular throughout all England, may be awarded to his memory. His marriage entitles Warwick to claim him as a son-in-law, and as one of the vendors of the Quarry Field and its pretty little meadows, he was directly connected with Leamington in its transition period of just two centuries ago. The once flowery and fragrant site is now covered with valuable properties, including hundreds of handsome villas, one of which still bears the old name of "Quarry Field," and among the principal buildings are the fine Wesley Church, Dale Street; and the Memorial Hall, Augusta Place, formerly St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

CHAPTER II.

Parish Church of All Saints—Origin supposed to have been in the 12th century—interesting particulars by Dugdale—Stubbs on the ancient vestry—description of the village church, its position and accommodation—reference to in 1278—gift of, by Queen Elizabeth in 1596—supposed alterations in 1624 or 1626—a curious memorial stone of last named year—a clock contract in 1678—terrier of Church property in 1693—parish meeting to repair "mounds" round churchyard, 1702—extracts from the old Church Register—etc., etc.

THE origin of All Saints' Parish Church is one of the principal events of the period now under review, and leaving for a time the development of secular affairs, we shall proceed by way of a first instalment, to bring its history down to the beginning of the nineteenth century. The exact time, and date, when it was built, by whom, and under what particular circumstances, are questions for which the most industrious investigations, have returned no satisfactory reply. Concurrent opinion has generally assigned its foundation to the twelfth century—a speculation, the accuracy of which we have no reason to doubt. There were then churches, in almost all parishes, and it is incredible that Leamington, which had been a township from the seventh century, should have lacked in the twelfth that which was a common possession. All doubtful conjecture about its antiquity, disappears in the following century from which time the stepping-stones furnished for the historian are sufficiently close for continuous progress and reliable narration. According to the veracious and ever-helpful Dugdale:—

"The Church (dedicated to All Saints) was originally but a Chappell, and belonging to Wotton (on the other side the River,) being therewith confirmed to the Canons of Kenilworth by Ric. Peche, Bishop of Coventre in H. 22. days, and appropriated to them by G. Muschamp, his successor in K. John's time. In anno 1291. 19, E. I. it was valued at VI marks over and above a Pension of XXs. then issuing out of it to the Abby of Malmesbury (in Wiltshire,) and the Vicaridge at XXs. But in 26. H 8. the same Vicaridge was valued at VII. Xs., the Pension of XXXIII. s. IVd, added by the Canons of Kenilworth computed."

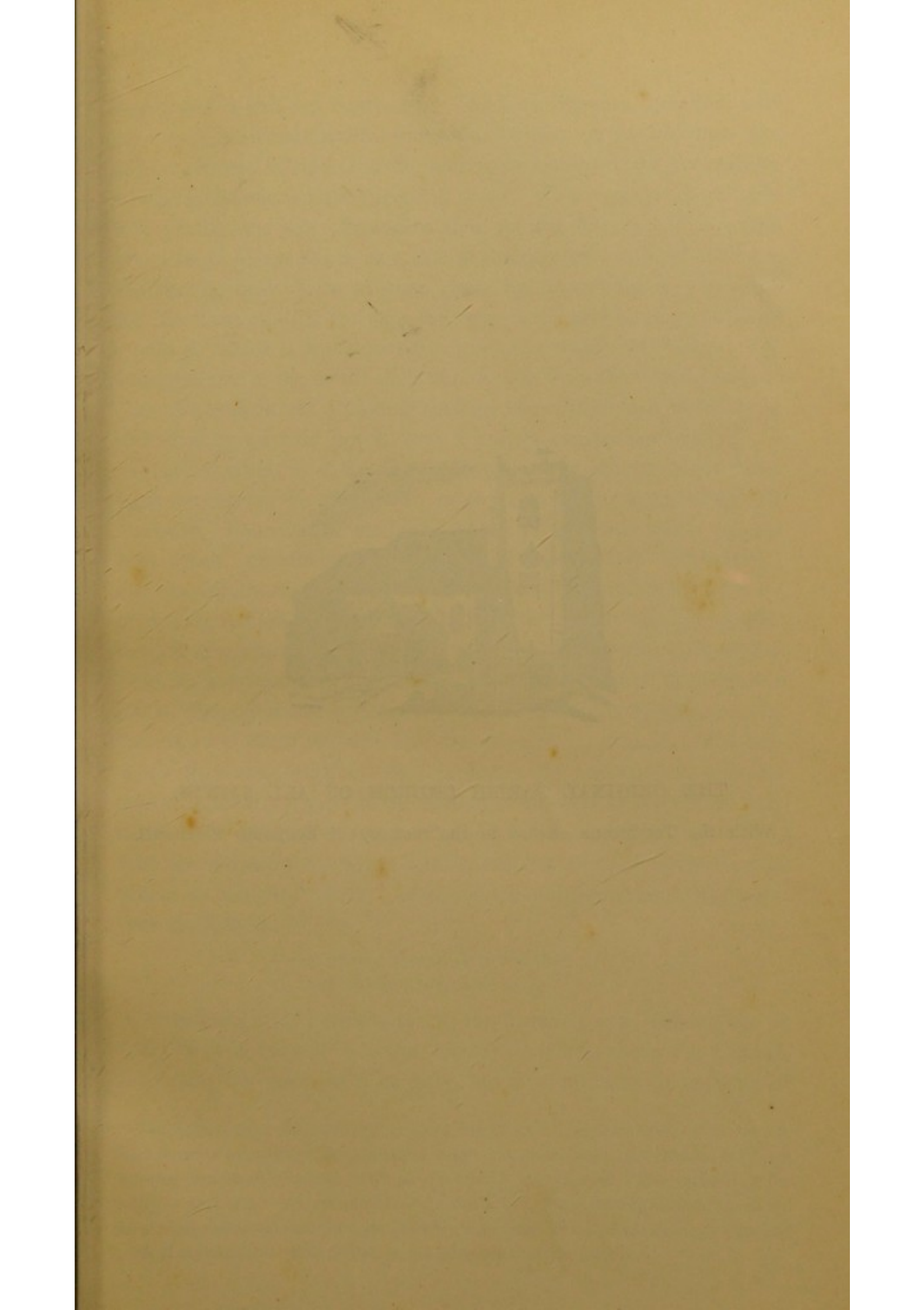
" (The tenths 13s. per ann. were discharged by Act of Parliament in ann. 1706, and the clear yearly value thereof returned to the Governors of Q. Ann's bounty was 26*l* 10, 00.)"

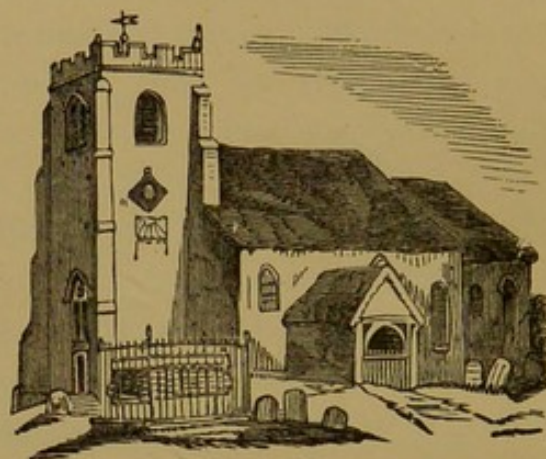
In the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" (Henry VIII., 1534-5) it is referred to as the Church of the Parish of "Lemyngton Priors, in the gift of the Abbot and Convent of Kenilworth," John Corney being Vicar Perpetual, worth in tenths, offerings and emoluments of other kinds, £6 10s., of which xxxiii shillings and iv pence were received of the same Abbey in Pension, but from this there had to be deducted a payment of 13s. 10d., for some purpose unexplained.

These statistics, and such intelligence as they afford, relate chiefly to the ecclesiastical status of the old Church; it is, however, from another point of view we obtain that which is more likely to gratify and also instruct, a modern reader. The relationship in which it stood to the village, by providing in stormy and perilous times, a shelter for popular forms of local self-government, while in a rudimentary stage, is of transcendent importance. In the Feudal age it was the senate as well as the sanctuary of the parish; supremacy, in things secular and ecclesiastical, was its prerogative. But while an ark, wherein a feeble form of popular control rode in safety over a flood of national bigotry, intolerance, and superstition, the vestry added nothing to its intrinsic value, nor subtracted from its worth. None would wish to go back to the drowsy parochialism which ruled Leamington down to 1825; but it must not be forgotten that the vicar who left his study, the squire the contemplation of his rent-roll, the yeoman his farm, and the labourer his plough, for the vestry a hundred years ago, were the prototypes of the present Town Council, and that, in the composition of the humble assembly at the Parish Church may be found the essentials of many of our modern systems of local government.*

The information we possess of the character and arrangements of the original structure, though scant, is specially interesting. It occupied a portion of the present site, the nave exactly filling the space between the Evangelist columns, and the chancel extending

*Stubbs, after remarking in his "Constitutional History," that the vestry was representative of the "Gemot" with which it was once identified, says its importance cannot be exaggerated when we look further on and see in these local gatherings the chief element in the organisation of the borough system of later date.





THE ORIGINAL PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
With the Tombstone erected to the memory of Benjamin Satchwell.

fifteen and a half feet eastward. The Churchgoers, therefore, who now occupy sittings within that area, worship on the identical site of the ancient village Church, where, probably, thirty generations of Leamingtonians have preceded them. There was a central aisle and twenty-one pews, including that for the singers. The pulpit was placed at the south-east side of the chancel; in front of it was the reading desk, with another close by, from whence the clerk led the congregation through the responses, and announced those events to which it was desired to give the widest publicity. The entrance was in the south elevation, a path from the "town street," (now Church Street,) passing through the churchyard to the door, sheltered by a rustic porch with a rudely constructed wicket. A number of cottages of the dab-and-wattle type, among which there were two barns, surrounded it, or to use a poetic figure of speech, "nestled" beneath its shadows. On the west side was a square, low, tower, dignified with the martial adjective, of "embattled," and having buttresses at its north-west and south-west corners, obviously intended for ornament, or relief, rather than to impart needed strength.* In the belfry were four bells, which for all but chiming purposes must have been practically useless, as with such aid as they afforded campanology could never have advanced far towards a state of perfection in the days of the village. The date when they were supplied was probably the seventeenth century, and of that early period in the history of the bell-founder's art, they must have been interesting examples. The treble was inscribed with the following:—"Cvm sono si non-vis venire; Nvnqvam ad preces cvpies ire. 1621," of which the subjoined translation has been published:—

" Come when I sound, or it will shew
To Pray'rs you never wish to go."

After the gift of Leamington to the Monastery at Kenilworth in 1166 by Geoffrey de Clinton, history is silent about the Church for nearly the space of a century, but it re-appears in 1248 in an

* In August 1900, during the progress of the Church Completion works, the south-west buttress foundation of the original tower was discovered, and also the old brick flue and fire-place by means of which the church was warmed. The position of the masonry uncovered—near the south-west Evangelist Column—confirms the description given of the dimensions of the building in the village era, and agrees with a ground plan of the church at that period, in the possession of the author.

Inquisition taken by Edward I. for taxing every man to the extent of a twentieth part of his estate. From this it seems that the Prior owned a considerable portion of the land, and that the nine servants, eight cottiers, and the eleven freeholders, mentioned by Dugdale, were his tenants, paying him rent for the properties they occupied, and rendering him fealty and service at his Courts at Kenilworth. The Commissioners' report stated that the Prior had "the church, which is endowed with two virgates of land, to his own use, but of whom it is held is not known."

The Communion Cup, forming part of the present Service of Plate, belongs to 1532. It bears the English Hall Mark of that year but it did not come into the possession of All Saints until the time of the Rev. John Craig. In the erudite work on "Church Plate," by the Venerable Archdeacon Lee, a particularly minute account is given of this very rare and valuable specimen of art in ecclesiastical matters in the sixteenth century.

In 1539 the Dissolution of the Monasteries took place and the Parish Church, or rather the Priors who were its owners, lost at once the lands and privileges with which it was endowed; at the same time it passed away for ever from that powerful Monastic Corporation who had held it in undisturbed possession for three hundred and seventy-three years, and entered on a new career of individual proprietorships. One of the earliest grants of which any record has been preserved, was made by Queen Elizabeth in 1596, to Willam Borne and Jacob Orange. The Patent, which is dated April 22nd. explains that this bestowal by her Majesty was in consideration of the "good, faithful and acceptable services of her beloved and faithful Councillor, John Puckering, Knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, before then oftentimes done and performed, and upon his petition." The distinguished statesman referred to, purchased the Priory, Warwick, which became his place of residence, and in the long list of the Parliamentary Representatives of the old county borough, the name of his son, Sir Thomas Puckering, occupies a worthy position. The terms of the gift are set forth in the annexed extract, where it will be seen that Leamington is spelt "Lymington." :—

"All that the Rectory of Lymington with its rights, members, and appurtenances, in the county of Warwick, then late in the tenure or occupation of

Hugh Lee or his assigns at the annual rent of £4, and all lands, tenements, glebe lands, tythes and hereditaments whatsoever to the same Rectory belonging or appertaining, or as members part or parcel of the same before that time, held, known and accepted, used or reputed to be with all its rights, members and appurtenances to the late Monastery of Kenilworth, formerly belonging and appertaining and parcel of the possessions of the same formerly being, and the advowson, donation, free disposition and right of patronage of the Vicarage Church of the Parish of Lymington, in the county aforesaid, with all its rights, appurtenances, to the same Rectory belonging or appertaining, and in as ample manner and form as all and singular the premises before granted to their hands or to the Queen's hands, or to the hands of the Queen's father and brother, Henry the 8th and Edward the 6th, late Kings of England, came or were of right held."

The duty of providing for the public the means of ascertaining the time, has been recognised by parish authorities from an early period. Of this the more ornamental than useful sun dial, at one time to be seen on the south side of the tower, was an instance in point. In the seventeenth century, the novelty of a public clock was introduced, we believe, as much to the delight and wonder, as for the convenience of the inhabitants. Probably the majority of the villagers had never seen, or heard a clock before, and for some time it would prove as great an attraction as the church, or even the parson, whatever his popularity. The maker of it was Nicholas Paris, of Warwick, most likely a foreign immigrant who had learned the art of clock-making abroad. He afterwards improved it and subsequently entered into a contract for keeping it in repair, a copy of which we produce for the information of those who are interested in the remuneration paid for skilled labour in Leamington, two hundred and twenty three years ago.

"One bond of the penalty of ten pounds, dated the 11th day of December, 1678, and made by Nicholas Paris to John Lees and Edward Rawbone, and conditioned as followeth :—

"Whereas the above-named Nicholas Paris did heretofore, at the charges of the inhabitants of the above-said parish of Lemington Priors, make for them one Church clock, which he hath lately altered and put in order at their charges :—

"Now the condition of this obligation is such that, if the said Nicholas Paris shall from time to time during his natural life, as often as need shall require, upon every reasonable request to him to be made by the Churchwardens of the said parish for the time being, or by either of them, well and sufficiently repair and put in order the said clock in all things except only

cords and such repairs as the said clock shall at any time need by reason of any hurt to be done to the same by any person or persons, other than the said Nicholas Paris, his servants, or agents, or if the Churchwardens of the said parish of Leamington Priors for the time being, or one of them shall not yearly during the natural life of the said Nicholas Paris, pay unto the said Nicholas the summe of one shilling between the Feast Day of St. Michael the Archangel and the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord yearly, at the now dwelling house of the said Nicholas Paris, in Warwick above-said, for keeping the said clock in repair as aforesaid, then this present obligation shall be void, or else shall remain in full force and virtue."

After fulfilling the terms of his engagement with exemplary fidelity for thirty-eight years, during which long period we may rest assured that the grateful churchwardens cheered and sustained him by the punctuality of their annual payments, the grand old clockmaker died in 1716; but whether from the infirmities of age, the burden of wealth, or the cares of office, does not appear. At a vestry meeting, held on December 20, in that year, it was decided to cancel, and deliver up the bond to his son, Thomas Paris, who, had he known its worth, would have preserved it as a heirloom in his family. Let us hope the contract proved to be a profitable advertisement, and that a large extension of trade was the result.

The first improvements which interrupted the ancient repose of the original church are vaguely reported to have taken place in 1624 or 1626, the Rev. H. Clarke, at the time being vicar. It were vain now to seek for definite particulars of the changes said to have taken place in that far off period. Moncrieff, says, in his "Guide" of 1818, that "it appears to have been either re-built or materially repaired," and mentions as his authority "some dates and names in the interior and on the exterior of the Church." To students of ecclesiology in Leamington the absence from his pages of transcriptions of these dreams in stone, will never cease to be matter for regret. Neither Pratt, who wrote in 1814, nor Bisset, in 1816, nor the Rev. W. Field, whose valuable work appeared in 1815, makes the slightest reference to this interesting alphabet of local Church restoration. Further, John Merridew, who had a strong and healthy digestion for archæological food, published an "Improved edition of Moncrieff" in 1837, one of which improvements was the omission of any allusion to these alleged alterations during the vicariate of the Rev. Henry Clarke.

Although we doubt Moncrieff's report, the possibility of some more than usually interesting church events occurring at the time is not to be denied. The year 1624 was the Jubilee Year of Mr. Clarke's ministry. The generation who welcomed him in 1574, had passed away, and the villagers who, in 1624, celebrated his Jubilee of office, were either children, or unborn, when as a young man he commenced his clerical duties. It is not at all unlikely that an occasion of this kind, surrounded as it was with reminiscences which awakened sympathetic responses in every household, led to some manifestation of pleasure on the part of his parishioners, and the improvement even of the church itself, in minor matters might have been the chosen form of expression of the prevailing sentiment. But there is nothing to support this speculation except the statement of Moncrieff, who, perhaps, was misled by rumour, and against which there is the extreme improbability of the Vicars and Wardens, of any period, having permitted the Vandalistic destruction of such interesting records. Be this as it may, the Rev. Henry Clarke's tenure of office was very remarkable from several points of view. He is the only minister who has occupied the same pulpit in Leamington for more than fifty years, and it was in his time that Parliament passed two general Acts which seriously affected Leamington in common with the rest of the country. By one of these, no poor man, living outside the boundaries, could take up his residence in the village unless two or three householders first signed a bond to hold the parish harmless in the event of his being at any time chargeable to the poor rates: under the other everyone who neglected to attend the church was liable to a heavy fine of twenty pounds a month.

In the Register at the church there are minutes of a number of these bonds from which we select one, by way of illustrating the serious obstacles placed in the way of such of the industrial classes as desired to migrate from one part of the country to another; "One bond of the penalty of £40, dated 13 June, 1646, made by Richard Rawbon and John Olney to Peter Willes and Thomas Cartwright, condicond to save the parish harmless from Robert John Johnson."

A stone, with an obscure inscription, comprises all that has come down to posterity of the church of Mr. Clarke's day. In itself it is a great archæological curiosity, probably the only one of its kind

in the country, and as the record of an early gift or bequest to the Parish Church is exceptionally valuable. Its meaning is that in 1626, H. Clarke at the time being Vicar, R. Yardly gave 6s. 8d. to the Parish Church. This seems a small sum to form a legacy, but it is evident from the publications of "The Midland Record Society," and "The Records of Rowington" by J. W. Ryland, that in the sixteenth century such an amount was frequently bequeathed to charitable and other public purposes. Amongst the Birmingham Wills issued by the Society are four of this character, namely, one of 6s. 8d. "to Byrmyncha Church;" another of a like sum "towards the reparacons of Seynt Kat'yne's Church;" a similar provision "for the reparacon of Church of Hales owen;" and also 6s. 8d. for "por peple." In the Rowington Wills, 6s. 8d. is several times devised for highway purposes, expressed in the quaint phraseology of the period as "mending Fowle wayes." As well for its antiquarian interest as for its old associations, the stone, which, according to the most reliable authority, has been lying in the crypt for more than three quarters of a century, is worthy of a better position.

The next event in the history of the church to which a passing reference becomes necessary, is the Terrier, or account of the property belonging to the Vicarage of All Saints, towards the close of the seventeenth century. We quote the document as it was submitted to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, at his Visitation in 1693.

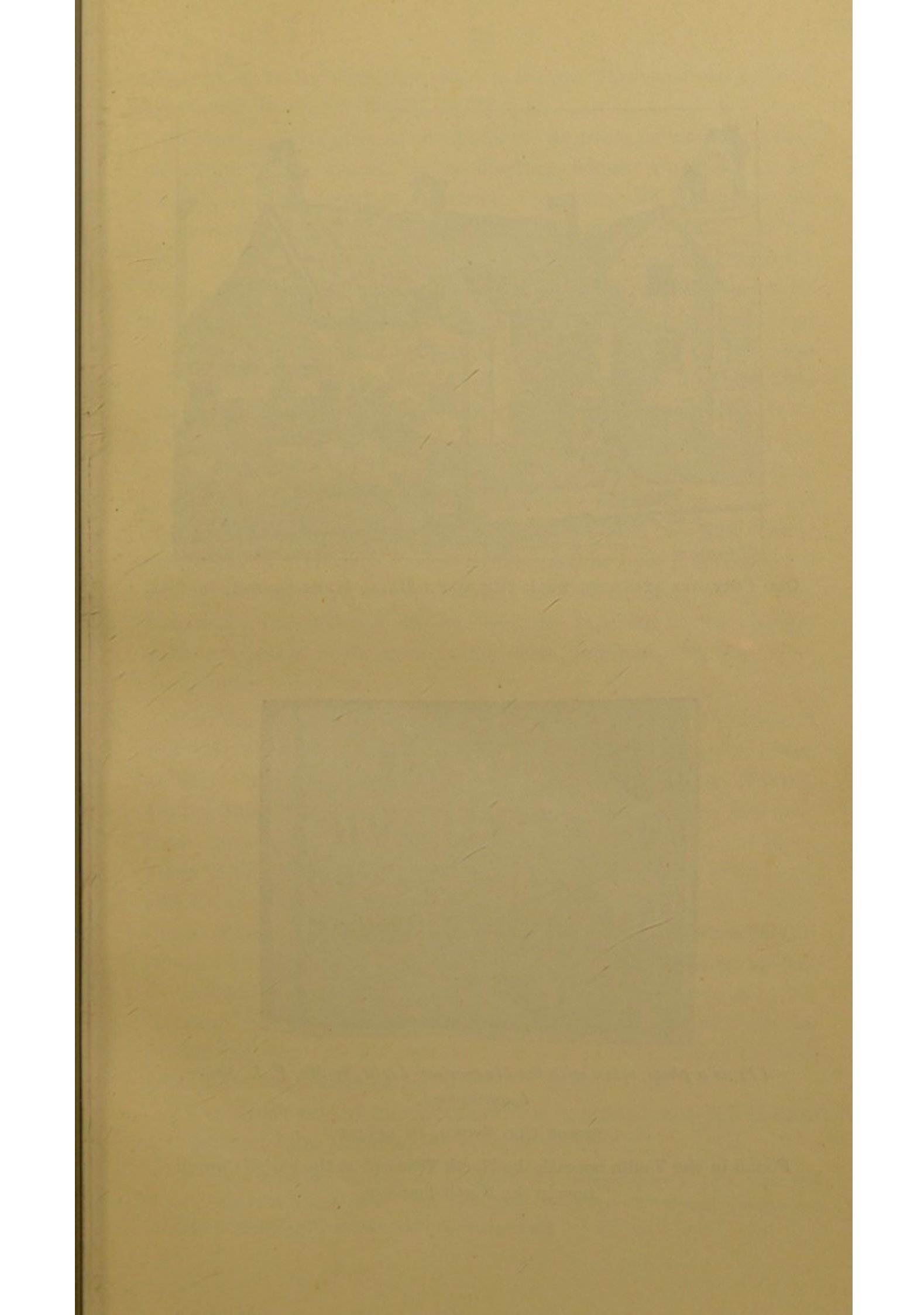
"A true Terrier, or Inventory of all Glebe Lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, or portions of Tithes which belong to the Vicarage of Lemington Priors, in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, as followeth:—Impris: the Dwelling House, Two large Bays and Tyled. Item; One Barn, one Bay of Building. Item; One Croft or little Close; A Garden taken out of it and joyning to the Dwelling House: Item; in one of the Commonable Meadows Eight poles wanting four foot. Item; in another Meadow comonly Sydnam Meadow, what is left at the Upper End, when all the Meadow is measured. Item; reserved from there Majestys as a Debentur at the audit £1 13s. 4d. Item; all privy Tithe which properly belongs to a poor Vicaridge. Item; the Church yard belongs to the Vicaridge.—In Witness whereof We, the Minister and Churchwardens have set to our hands.—Hum. Joans, Vic.; Currey* Willes, George Yardley, Church Wardens.—This Copy agrees with the original Terrier now remaining in the Registry of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Ex-

* "Joans," and "Currey" are probably clerical errors for "Jones" and "Tarry."

THE OLD FASHIONED METHOD OF COOKING AND
DRESSING MEATS



THE OLD PARISH CHURCH, WITH COTTAGES, AND
ORIGINAL WELL-HOUSE.





OLD COTTAGES STANDING NEAR THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, IN 1842.



(From a photo, taken with the Magnesium Light, by Mr. F. L. Spicer, Leamington).

CURIOUS OLD STONE, IN RELIEF,
Found in the Vaults beneath the North Transept at the Parish Church ;
now in the North Transept.

hibited at the Bishop's visitation, held in the year 1693.—Examined 26th of March, 1768, by W. Buckeridge, Deputy Regr."

Following the course of chronology, we must devote some consideration to the special vestry meeting which was held at the church in 1702, to adopt measures "touching the repairs of the "mounds"* of the Churchyard in Lemington Priors." To the report of the proceedings, an abstract of which we quote from the Parish Register, posterity is indebted for much valuable information respecting Leamington just about two centuries ago. For example, we learn who were the occupiers of property and gain a few important particulars of the singular manner in which they proceeded to carry out works of a public nature; lastly, it is from these minutes alone, that we obtain an exact description of the situation of Morcote, or Murcott's barn and the cottages, which in the village era, formed the immediate environment of the old church. The date of the meeting was October, 20, and "after consideracon of the best evidence that could be had, it is concluded and agreed upon by the freeholders and 'inhibtants' of the said parish that the said mounds ought to be repaired at the charges of the occupiers of the houses and lands hereinafter menconed in the manner following,"

"On the east side of the churchyard, beginning at the north end from Mr. Corpson's wall, the lands of Edward Willes, the elder, are liable to repair the first three yards and an half: the Honble. Dame Charlotte Beaufoy, widow, and Edward Willes, the next three yards and an half: Robert Fisher, Newbold Comyn, seven yards: Samuel Clark, four ditto: Francis Cassmore, two: John Lees, and Edward Willes, the younger, ten: Tarry Willes, two: John Corpson, three: Robert Fisher, four: Booth Allestre, the next eight, 'thereof which end at the gate.' The gate to be repaired by the Churchwardens at the cost of the 'wholl' parish: lands of John Corpson, Stephen Nicholls, and Sarah Mallery, two yards of the mound between the said gate and the wall of the house of the said John Lees, heretofore called Morcott's parlour wall.

"The south side of the churchyard is mounded with the houses and pales of John Lees, which he is to repair.

* Previous to the appointment of the Board of Commissioners in 1825, there was no wall round the Churchyard. The enclosure, described as "mounds" consisted of heaps of stones, palings, the walls of cottages, etc.

"On the west side of the churchyard, beginning at the south end of the mound from the pales of John Lees, 'where formerly stood a barn of John Morcott,' R. Lawrence, three yards: ditto, two: Booth Allestree, four: Tarry Willes six: John Corpson, two: Samuel Clark, four: lands of Robert Lawrence, then called Padmore Ground, two: John Corpson, five, ditto three: John Sommers, one: Thomas Savage and others, one yard 'thereof which ends at the gate.' The gate to be repaired by the churchwardens at the charge of the 'wholl' parish: lands of John Corpson to repair the yard next on the north side of the gate, ditto of Richard Bickley, one yard and an half: of Francis Cassmore, ditto: H. Beaufoy, the next eight thereof, which end at a cotage in the occupacon of Mary Pen, widow: cotage, standing close to the churchyard, doth supply the last five yards of the mound on the west side, which five yards, if the cotage did not hinder, ought to be repaired as followeth, viz.; the house, or cotage, of the said Thomas Savage, and others, heretofore called the Mill House, is liable to repair the first yard, and the cotage of Stephen Nicholls the next, that of Robert Lawrence, one, ditto John Corpson, one, that of Francis Cassmore the next yard thereof 'which endeth at the house of Daniel Dawkes.'

"The north side of the churchyard, begining at the west end is mounded by the house and 'hedg' of Daniel Dawkes, so far as his ground goes, which he is to repair and from thence to the barn, stables, stone wall, and gate of John Corpson, do make the rest of the mound on that side, which he is in like maner to repair." The minutes were signed by Edw. Willes, sen., Robert Lawrence, Robert Campion, John Summers, J. Richard Onley, Joseph Satchwell, Edward Rawbone, John Cave, John Corpson, William Duffing.

By these particulars we are placed in a position to determine with some approximation to accuracy the original boundaries of the churchyard, a question respecting which there exists a diversity of opinion. From the north east corner in Priory Terrace it extended along Church Street forty-nine yards, exclusive of the gate,; from the south-east corner in Church Street to the south-west corner in Church Walk, the length is not defined, but

from the last point to the north-west corner, it was, without the gate, fifty. The north side in Priory Terrace, like that on the south is not specified, but there is no doubt that the general form was slightly oblong.

The income of the Parish Church from time immemorial was dependant largely upon charges made on lands and agricultural produce. These were termed, "Vicar's Tythes," and previous to the Award of 1768, by which several hundred acres of commons were enclosed, they were collected on both sides of the river. On the south they were abolished by the Award, Mr. M. Wise, then Lay Impropiator, and the Rev. John Willes, Vicar, being compensated with grants of land out of the open fields so enclosed, the former for the loss of the Greater, and the latter of the Lesser tithes. This adjustment of their claims, did not, however, affect the land on the north bank of the river, where the Vicarial Tithing continued as before. The incidence of this form of taxation, and the methods of valuation are set forth in a report by Mr. John Bird, made in February 1796, after view of the lands in Newbold Comyn. In addition to the intrinsic value of the document as a record of an ancient source of church revenue and a special branch of local rating, it is an interesting reminiscence of the landowners and occupiers of farms and other holdings in Newbold Comyn at the close of the eighteenth century. Mr. Perkins, farming sixty acres under Mr. B. B. Greatheed, was tithed at £5 os. 6d, being at the rate of 4s. per fleece for wool; 1s. each for lambs; for the meadow land, of which there were twelve acres, £2 9s. 6d., and for stock, agistment, etc., 15s., the estimate being at the rate of 3d. per acre. Another farmer named Court, who occupied under the Rev. Edward Willes about one hundred and sixty acres, had to pay as Vicar's tithe, £11 4s. od., apportioned as follow: fleeces, £1 16s. od.; lambs, £2 5s. od.; hay, £5 3s.; calves and agistment, £2. Newbold mansion and gardens with thirty acres of good greensward ground, "judged to be worth not less than 30s. an acre yearly upon the average, tithe at 3s. per acre, £4 10s., od. One Pingle of pasture land belonging to the Rev. W. Willes, but in the holding of William Abbotts, "situate near the bridle road leading towards Warwick," about two acres, 6s. Another farm, owned by the Earl of Aylesford and occupied by Mr. Campion, two hun-

dred and eighty acres in extent, was tithed at £17 15s 9d., made up of the following sums ; fleeces, £3 12s. od., lambs, £4 10s. od.; hay, £6 3s. 9d; stock and agistment, £3 10s. od. Mr, Sinker, of the Dog Inn, High Street, was assessed at 2s. for a close and a garden half an acre ; William Abbotts, 4s. for a close and home-
stead of an acre.

“ Leamington Glebe.—Vicarage House, hovel, garden, etc. ; W. Russell, tenant, (annual value) £2. A close of pasture near the village in the occupation of Mr. Shaw, said to contain about five acres, £12 10s. od. Mr. Thomas Abbotts, one lay (ley ?) close, about three acres, £3 15s. od. ; one meadow about twelve acres, £21, and a piece of pasture about nine and a half acres, £21 7s. 6d. Total amount of glebe, £60 12s. 6d. ; ditto of tithe, £30 2s. 3d.—
£90 14s. 9d.

In 1781, the first structural alteration of which there is evidence entitled to reliance, took place. This was the erection of a gallery, for which a Faculty had been obtained from the Consistory Court at Lichfield, on the north side of the church, containing three pews, one of which was appropriated to the use of the inhabitants of the farmhouse belonging to Mr. Matthew Wise. It stood on the site now occupied by Reynolds' Furniture Repository, and was then in the occupation of Thomas Abbotts, farmer and grazier. The other two were allotted, one to the Rev. Edward Willes, and was used by himself and his family, the other to John Campion, residing at the farmhouse near the Campion Hill, and also holding the tenancy of the Mill, as the successor of Mrs. Satchwell, after she went to reside with “ Ben ” in New Street. His name has been transmitted to posterity in connection with one of the Newbold Hills, from the summit of which, beautiful panoramic views are obtainable over a wide expanse of country rich in tone-colours and variegated landscape, with pastoral aspect of straggling villages, peaceful farmsteads, and distant gray churches, and crowned with a magnificent sweep of a verdure-clad horison, in which is distinguishable the lofty crest of the historic Edge Hills, bathing itself in the fathomless blue of cloud and sky. From a portrait over the fireplace in the newspaper reading room at the present Free Public Library, the venerable face of Mr. Edward Willes looks down on the readers with its accustomed benignant expression.

Nothing further respecting the history of the church is ascertainable until 1799, when the desirability of renovating the interior and improving the accommodation, became increasingly urgent. For an explanation of this unwonted manifestation of public spirit in regard to church affairs reference must be made to the dawning popularity of the Spa, and consequently, the necessity for providing more comfortable seats for fashionable visitors. The Rev. J. Wise was vicar at the time, and the contract, which amounted to the inconsiderable sum of £103 15s. 7d., was given to Edward and William Treadgold, a well-known firm of timber merchants then carrying on business in Church Street. It has been alleged that the improvements effected at this time, were characterised by the same flagrant disregard of the priceless value of ancient art as was exhibited by Malone, who, in 1793, (six years before,) at Stratford-upon-Avon, "improved" the bust of Shakespeare, by effacing with a coating of modern white paint its original tints and colours. "The good old Saxon arch capitals, between the nave and the chancel, were destroyed and renovated with a painted deal wainscoat." The contract for the work, a copy of which we subjoin, did not contemplate any alterations to the fabric, but it is not impossible for such an act of desecration to have occurred. As recently as the year 1815, there was a window, "venerable for its antiquity, which was no mean specimen of the fine pointed style prevalent in the fourteenth and fifteenth century." Where we meet with architectural excellence in one part of a building, we may expect to find it in another, and the window, of which Mr. Field in his "History of Warwick," speaks from personal observation, aids our acceptance of the story of the "good old Saxon arch capitals." The contract with the Treadgolds and the details of their estimate will be of interest to contractors, showing as it does the cost of materials a century ago, and to the general public for the information it affords of the pressure of taxation on industry "in the good old times." Although the estimate was for the small sum mentioned, to give it legal effect, it was necessary that the contract should be written on a sheet of paper bearing impressed stamps of the value of four shillings, and the receipt for payment on another, having a stamped value of one shilling,

"An Estimate for newly re-pewing with Oak the whole Body of the Church

and erecting a new Pulpit and Desk. 6 Square of Oak flooring for the bottom of the Pews at £3 10s, per square, £21 : 328 Feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ Inch Oak Wainscot for front of Pews at 13d, Per Ft. £17 15s, 4d. ; 574 Feet of Square Wainscot for Do. at 9d. Per Ft., £21 10. : 331 of Wale Do, at 8d. Per Ft., £11 0s, 8d : 34 Feet of Plinth at 7d. Per Ft, 19s. 10d. ; 189 Feet of Oak seating at 8d. Per Ft, £6 6s. ; 30 Feet of bearers for Do. at 6d. Per Ft., 15s. : 99 Feet of Oak Desk boards at 7d. Per Ft., £2 17s. 9d. : 30 Feet of Coping for Do. at 1s. Per foot £1 10s, ; Hinges, screws, and nails, £2 15s..

" We whose names are hereunto affixed do solemnly engage and Contract (in the presence of a Meeting held in the Parish Church of Leamington Priors in the County of Warwick) to repew completely with Oak the Body of the afore-said Church and Erect in the same a New Pulpit and Desk agreeable to the above estimate. Witness our hands this 30th day of March, 1799. Contractors' names William Treadgold, Edward Treadgold. Witnesses present when this was signed ; E. Willes, Jno. Wise."

A ground plan of the church at this time, giving the names of the various seat-holders, with a description of the position of their respective pews, has happily been preserved, and from this we propose here to quote the list as an appropriate conclusion to the present chapter, Inside the chancel, on the north side, was the pew of the Wise family, and those in the nave were allotted to the following occupiers. On the south side, commencing next to the chancel—1. The pulpit and Vicar's pew. 2. Reading desk and Clerk's desk. 3 and 4. Edward Willes and servants. 5. P. Treadgold, F. Robbins, B. Satchwell, W. B. Robbins, T. Hiorns, and B. Satchwell. 6 and 7. Wise's servants. (The passage from the south porch into the central aisle was at this point.) 8. W. Kingerlee, E. Treadgold, Lady Aylesford, and John Dawkes. 9 and 10. For the use of the poor, allotted by the parish.

On the north side, commencing opposite the last mentioned two pews. 11. A double pew, with the dividing partition removed, set apart by the parish for the use of the singers. 12. A. Commander, G. Commander, R. Ambler, H. B. Robbins, and Lady Aylesford. 13. W. Bates, T. Hiorns,—Rawbone, Lady Aylesford, T. Fenton. 14 and 15. Mrs. Wise, 16. Lady Aylesford, E. Willes, Lady Aylesford, and T. Aston. 17. E. Warner, R. Ambler, W. Kingerley, E. E. and T. Treadgolds. 18. F. Robbins, W. Abbotts, T. Treadgold, W. Abbotts, — Davis. 19. —Read, B. Satchwell, and W. Lawrence. 20. Mrs. Wise, T. Sinker, and J. Fenton. 21. Lady Aylesford, and E. Willes, two seats each.

CHAPTER III.

Leamington: speculations on the meaning of the word—interesting theories relative to its components, "Leam," "ing," and "ton."—Dugdale's opinion—names in the Enclosure Award of 1768—streets of modern Leamington and the signification of their nomenclature—classification of—proprietary, loyal, complimentary, topographical, and derivative from special local circumstances—etc.

THE nomenclature of a town is an old mint from which have been issued the worn and polished coinages of its ancient and modern history. Ineffaceable marks of dutiful loyalty, impulses of patriotism, traces of political faiths, courtesies to noble families, indications of local topography and glimmerings of patronymic lore are promiscuously intertwined with well-earned expressions of public gratitude, and playful ebullitions of humour, legend, and imagination. What the judiciously compiled index is to the book, the names of the streets, roads, bridges, river and fountains are to Leamington. As marginal notes, they express in condensed form the emotions of past and present generations.

The etymology, or history and meaning, of the title of the town is a theme fertile in speculations of a literary and antiquarian nature; it has also a popular side capable of yielding entertainment, even for those who take no pleasure in the ordinary branches of the intensely interesting science of archæology. From no writer has it received the special attention it deserves, though several have referred to it in a cursory manner, by quoting it as illustrative of some principle of interpretation of obsolete terms, or have assigned to it a meaning in harmony with a particular aspect of locality or language. For the more comprehensive examination of this subject and greater diversity appearing in the following comments, we must acknowledge our obligations to the late Mr. Edward Cookes, a gentleman who always evinced a great interest in the welfare of Leamington, which, as man and boy, he knew for more than three quarters of a century. His researches, presented for publication in this work, invest with new attractions a question

generally considered to be dry, and substitute for its threadbare garments an attire representing the learning of one age, and the rude and superstitious imagery of another.

What then is the meaning of the word Leam-ing-ton? The first syllable is widely diffused through various languages where it is to be met with in the initials of compound words in the forms of "lem," "lim," and "len," and is nearly always associated with rivers, lakes, and streams. In the United Kingdom there are many illustrations of this principle, such as Leamington Priors and also Leamington Hastings, both on or near the banks of the Leam; Lemington, Gloucestershire, near the river Stour; Leneham, Kent, on the Lea, etc., etc. Limerick, on the Shannon, Lem, in Jutland, and Lemburg, the capital of Galicia, Austria, are foreign cases in point, the number of which might easily be increased. Dugdale agrees with this view by interpreting the Leame as signifying a "pool or lake," and in support refers to "those artificial rivers in Cambridgeshire, anciently cut to drayn the Fens," which "bear the name of Leame, as Watersey Leame, New Leame, Morton's Leame, etc."

Other opinions there are to which we must cursorily refer, or our elucidation of this subject would be imperfect in a most important respect. Mr. Ribton Turner looked upon the much-debated syllable "Leam" as having been derived from an old word in the Celtic language which meant the "elm," and assuming this to be correct, Leamington would be the town standing near the river which derives its name from the large number of elm trees growing on its banks. Such a theory receives support from the abundance of elms formerly flourishing in the county. At one time it was common to speak of the elm tree as "the Warwickshire weed." The Rev. George Miller, on the contrary, alleges that the term is from the Anglo Saxon, and originally meaning "mud" and "loam," Leamington is "the loamy town near the muddy Leam." No one can say this idea is opposed to well-known facts—the soil has a large admixture of loam, and the river, if not muddy, is nothing. Drayton, with an expression, more felicitous than poetical, mentions it as

"The high complexioned Leam."

The rich luxuriance of these theories is amplified by derivations

from other sources representing the import of the name of the river to be, "limb of the Avon," which it joins at the Portobello, also "foliage," "crown of a tree," "a broom," "a rod of twigs," "a sound true voice," "a ray of light," "to shine," "gentleness and softness," in which last sense it has been looked upon as denoting "a gentle flowing river."

The second syllable—"ing," sometimes rendered "eng," has been understood by one school of expositors as referring to the descendants of a person, thereby suggesting that the present generation of Leamingtonians, are by their residence the lineage of the aboriginal inhabitants. The other school, the members of which are more numerous, accept "meadow," as the equivalent of "ing," in respect of which it may be pointed out that, originally, Leamington was contained in a meadow, and when in the efflux of time, it exceeded the limits of one, other meadows provided for it the necessary accommodation. Respecting "ton" the last syllable, no ambiguity exists; it is regarded as representative of town, an enclosure of settled habitations, etc. etc. It was a maxim with Camden to be "scepticall" rather than critical in etymology, and the present is a case where the exercise of that prudential virtue is to be commended. Our county historian, Dugdale, was not infallible, but his erudition was sound and always under the guidance and control of opinions, both sensible and moderate. We prefer his derivation, and on a review of the various theories enumerated, regard the meaning of Leamington as: Leam, a pool, lake, or river: ing or eng, a meadow, and ton, an enclosure of any number of settled habitations, or a town, i. e., a town standing in a meadow, on the banks of the river Leam.

The value of the Enclosure Award of 1768, an account of which will be given later on, as a collection of land names in the old times is scarcely inferior to its instructive record of the manner in which the common lands were enclosed. They were proprietary and descriptive and for centuries were being changed as circumstances of tenancy or ownership varied. Courts Home close: the Innidge Field and Meadow—now the Mill Field property—Raven's close: Malian's Hill Field: High Dadley Field: Mathecroft Field: Nabb's Lammas closes: Satchwell's close: Bankcroft, and Rinill's Field, are considered, and not without reason, to have been of the former, while the Gravel Pit Field (believed to have been near the site

of the Warneford Hospital,) Watery Lane—the road by the Eagle Foundry. Church Hadeland Field: Malian's Hill Brickiln; Shell Leys—the site of New Street, Gordon Street, and portions of the land adjoining—and Round close, of the latter. The Ham was the larger of the islands in the river above the Willes bridge, the Sidenham Meadow and Field being the northern part of Sydenham Farm with the land cut off by the canal, extending to the Radford Road. There are various theories as to the origin of the word, which in the Anglo-Saxon is "hām," defined as meaning a home or dwellings. Newbold Comyn, anciently an estate separate from Leamington, comprised four lordships, or manors, and is said by Dugdale to have had its mill which some believe to have been upon this island. In that case the name might be taken as indicating that the island, the meadow and the field were the home of the mill, and the place where the miller and his labourers resided. There are three other suppositions, one that the name may have originated from the contour of the island having an imagined resemblance to a ham, or that it indicates the fact of the land having in some remote age formed a peninsula with one of the sides of the river, in which sense it is still in use in Worcestershire; the third and last view is that of Mr. G. Dyer, who boldly discards all the usually accepted modes of interpretation, and gives to the word the meaning of border-land, or "hem." By the light of this novel, and not improbable, theory, the island and fields belonging to it, would be the border-land or boundary of Leamington, or in other words, the hem of its garment. Ingenious as these speculations are, and feasible as one of them is, it is most consistent with historical evidence to consider the word as the sign of the home of a primitive generation, who, having regard to its derivation as from the Saxon, were probably of that nationality, and were retainers or vassals of Offa, King of the Mercians, when he was in occupation at Offchurch. Sidenham field and meadow, now Sydenham Farm, may be names derived from the island.

A topic, fruitful of entertaining comment is furnished by the names of modern Leamington, which had their origin about the beginning of the nineteenth century. They may be classified as proprietary, loyal, complimentary, topographical, and derivative.

First among the proprietary titles is that of Clemens Street, one of the earliest, and at the time the most important in Leamington.

It bears the name of the Rev. Mr. Clemmens, a Presbyterian minister at Warwick, who, towards the close of the eighteenth century, owned a large quantity of the land in this part of the village. The Rev. William Read, Baptist minister, and also of Warwick, the discoverer of the spring on the south side of High Street, in 1806, was his son-in-law.

Satchwell Place and Abbots Street, are both proprietary, or patronymic, the former having been conferred by Miss. Satchwell, the first, or only Leamington Postmistress, and daughter of Ben. Satchwell, in affectionate remembrance of her father, who owned the property before it came into her possession. Abbots Street derives its name from William Abbots, the practical coadjutor of the enthusiastic Satchwell, and the proprietor of the site as well as that of the second spring, discovered in 1784, and numerous adjacent eligible properties, and Smith Street is named after his son-in-law, William Smith, who, with his wife, succeeded Abbots in the proprietorship of the New Inn, now the Bath Hotel. Dale Street, of doubtful origin, probably belongs to this class. It has been attributed to the beautiful dale which was situated on the north bank of the river, and commencing at the Adelaide Bridge extended in wild and romantic luxuriance westward towards the Avon. The Guidists, and some of the very old inhabitants, speak in rapturous terms of the sylvan charms of this highly favoured spot, with its "babbling brook" hard by, making "sweet music with the enamel'd stones"; its shady bowers and mossy banks, and its weird cave over which legend had cast its apocryphal mantle. Here the monks of the old times are reported to have descended into a subterranean passage, where, "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," they kept "the noiseless tenor of their way," to the distant Priory of Kenilworth. But as James Dale, who died in 1851, at the great age of eighty-one years, was one of the early owners of land in that locality, it is not unlikely that Dale Street took his name, and is included in this list. The wonderful story of the cavern may be dismissed as utterly unworthy serious consideration.

The titular evidences of the loyal feeling of the borough are the Victoria Bridge, Colonnade, Terrace, Road, and Street; Queen and King Streets; Augusta Place; Adelaide Bridge and Road;

Charlotte Street ; Clarence Street and Terrace ; Albany Terrace ; the two Royal Fountains ; York Promenade and Bridge ; Regent Street ; George Street and Place, and Windsor Street. These are all expressive of a sentiment of loyalty, and several of them are connected with Royal visits. To these must be added that of the Royal Parade, a name bestowed on High Street, after George IV., as Prince Regent, passed through the town in 1819. In three instances, names in this classification are immediately related to memorable events in the history of the Royal Family. The plan for improving and completing the Victoria Bridge was adopted in 1838, the Coronation year of Queen Victoria ; the foundation stone of the Prince's Fountain, and the Alexandra Spring, Bath Street, was laid on March 10, 1863, in commemoration of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, now King Edward VII, and Queen Alexandra, and the York Bridge and Promenade were opened to the public on July 6, 1893, the marriage day of the Duke of York and the Princess May.

Titles complimentary, given to places as marks of courtesy and respect to the nobility and others, include Althorpe and Aylesford Streets ; Beauchamp Avenue, Hill, Square, Terrace and Street ; Bedford Street ; Bertie Road and Terrace ; Brunswick and Chandos Streets ; Clarendon Avenue, Crescent, Place, Square, and Street ; Dormer Place ; Eastnor Grove ; Euston Place ; Gordon House, Street, and Passage ; Gloucester Street ; Hamilton Terrace ; Brandon Parade ; Hyde Place ; Lansdowne Circus, Crescent, Road, and Street ; Leicester Street ; Norfolk Street ; Percy Terrace ; Packington Place ; Portland Street, Place, and Road ; Russell Terrace, and Street ; Somers Place ; Tavistock Street ; Villiers Street, and Villiers Street North ; Willes Terrace and Road ; Wise Street, and Terrace, etc.

In the glitter of this star-shower of respectful amenities, one name is conspicuous by its absence—a name possessing stronger claims to public recognition than many included in this long and varied local honours list. The visit of the Honourable Mrs. Leigh in September 1778,—“a truly patroness visitor from Stoneleigh Abbey,” who “expressed great satisfaction at the supernaturality of the water, and the convenience” of the baths—heralded the long, bright, summer of Leamington's prosperity, in which the

"gilded butterflies" of fashion, arrived from every country and every clime in most welcome swarms. For about fifty years Lord Leigh has led or supported each good cause in the town, presiding at the annual meetings of the most important of its institutions, and, with unvarying liberality, contributing to their needs. With the name of Leigh standing first in the list of noble visitors, who, for more than a century have bountifully fed the springs of its prosperity, and the latest amongst those who have almost dedicated themselves to its service, the borough has inadvertently omitted to honour it with one of those garlands which have been profusely bestowed upon strangers.*

Spencer Street is alleged to be a pathetic tribute to the name of a distinguished Congregational Minister, who, in the beginning of the last century, occupied a position analogous to that of Mr. Spurgeon towards its close. The Rev. Thomas Spencer, in 1810, was appointed by the Committee of Hoxton Academy, in which institution he was a student, to preach for several weeks to the congregation in Newington Chapel, Liverpool. His extraordinary talents and amazing popularity led to a call from the church to be its pastor, an invitation he accepted, and entered on the duties of his office at twenty years of age. The congregation rapidly increased, and in three months from the date of his settlement in Liverpool, the foundation stone of Great George Street Chapel was laid. Before the completion of this large building, specially designed for the accommodation of the thousands who thronged to his ministry, Mr. Spencer was drowned while bathing in the Mersey. The intelligence of his lamentable death was a shock, felt throughout the whole of the Free Churches of England, and for many years the distressing event was the topic of a general regret. Dr. Raffles, who succeeded him in the pastorate, wrote his biography with the pen he left on the table in his study when he went to bathe, and seated in the chair he vacated. At the time of the building of Spencer Street Congregational Church, in 1836, the street had no name. As a mark of respect to the Rev. Alfred Pope, the first minister, the choice was left with him by

* This passage has been left as it stood in the first edition, but in justice to the Borough it should be stated that on November 9, 1899, amends were made for the oversight by presenting Lord Leigh with the Freedom of the Royal Spa, and giving his name the premier position on the Roll.

the Town Improvement Commissioners. His selection was that of Spencer Street, which was intended to preserve the memory of the deceased young pastor, whose genius resembled a meteor in its brilliance, its flight, and its brevity, and whose untimely death had produced a melancholy interest, unexampled in the obituaries of eminent divines.

The above account is given on the authority of Mr. Ebenezer Goold, senior, who speaks with confidence on the subject from personal recollections. But it was doubted by the late Mr. E. Cookes, whose opinion that the name of Spencer Street was meant to be a public compliment to Lord Althorp of the Spencer family is not to be too lightly set aside. It appears that the land forming the street originally belonged to Mr. Matthew Wise, who resided at the Manor House, now the Manor House Hotel. Where the street is there was formerly a road leading from the present Bath Street to the Manor farm barns, with a footway from the Manor House to the Parish Church. Mr. Wise removed to Shrubland Hall, and the old Manor House was occupied in 1818, by Mrs. Acklom, widow of Richard Acklom, Esq., of Wiseton Hall, Notts, and sister to Francis, first Earl of Bandon. Her only child, the Viscountess Althorp, was married to Viscount Althorp in 1814, and died in the year when her mother took up her residence at the Manor House. Mrs. Acklom continued to live there until her death in 1840, at the age of seventy-five years, and during the whole of that time her illustrious son-in-law was a frequent and welcome visitor and guest. His conspicuous position in the political world as one of the leaders of the great Whig Party of the time; the colleague of Earl Grey, Lords Russell and Brougham, and other eminent advocates of the Reform Bill of 1832, and also his ministerial rank as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the first Reform Ministry, familiarised, not Leamington alone, but the whole nation with his fame. Under these circumstances, it is thought by some that the title of Spencer Street was selected out of respect and esteem for Lord Althorp, whose family name was Spencer, and who became Marquis of Northampton about the time the Congregational Church was built and opened. Without expressing a definite opinion on the subject, we must content ourselves with this statement of the contradictory theories advanced

in explanation of the name of the street, and leave each reader to adopt the view which meets with his approval.

In the list of topographical names we have the following :—The High Street, so called from its being at some time or other the principal way through a town from one place to another. Its length between the eastern boundary of the parish at Radford and the western at Myton has now three names, the Old Warwick Road and Radford Road being the other two, but its ancient title was the Public Way, when it was nothing more than a narrow road, bounded on each side with common land, in rainy seasons full of mud-ruts, and of little or no service for traffic. During the ownership of the Priors, travellers and all other persons using it were liable to pay a heavy toll to the religious confraternity at Kenilworth, and under an Act passed in the reign of Queen Mary, every peasant in the village was bound to give one week's free labour in each year in road-making and repairing. At the time of the Enclosure Act in 1768, it was referred to as the Turnpike Road, a name probably applied to it for the first time in 1763 by the Legislature then commencing to take cognizance of all main roads in the country. In the beginning of the last century it was known as the London Road, the High Street, and at a later date as the Royal Parade, but the High Street, being generally used became its chief title. The Commissioners, in their Award under the Enclosure Act, ordered it to be widened to the extent of sixty feet.

Warwick Street, Lillington, Rugby, Radford, and Guy's Cliffe Roads, the Kenilworth, Tachbrook, and Warwick Old and New Roads, with the Lillington Lane of the seventeenth century, are also of the topographical class.

Names derived from local circumstances, special or general, are as follow : Bath Street, Place, and Hotel ; mementoes of the street of the Old Well, the second spring discovered by Satchwell and Abbots, and where the first baths, hot and cold, were established. Priory Terrace, Church Walk, Street, and Terrace, are so named on account of their nearness to the Parish Church. Saint Mary's Crescent and Road, bespeak the immediate locality of the Church of Saint Mary. Trinity Street, and Trinity Street East, are deri-

vatives from Holy Trinity, and Saint John's Terrace and Road, from Saint John's Church. Mill Street led to and from the Mill, and Brook Street owes its name to the old Milverton Brook, on the margin of which it is built. Grove Street occupies the site of a former grove, and Binswood Avenue and Place, that of a wood, said to have been of very considerable extent. The Lower Avenue, Avenue Road, and Station (L. and N. W. Ry.) commemorate, perpetually, the splendid horse-shoe avenue of elms, which in former times, graced the approaches to the Manor House. Leam Terrace, Street, Upper and Lower, and Leam Terrace East, indicate their contiguity to the Leam. Springfield Street is the locality of springs of an abundance of fresh water, and the Holly Walk, Street, and Holly Street East, owe their names to the celebrated holly trees, at one period flourishing in the first-named place. Tower Street, received its name from the small tower still seen on one of the houses, once a conspicuous object, but now hidden from view by higher buildings. It is responsible for the tradition that here the Wesleyans, or the Roman Catholics, held their first services. A brief examination, however, of this semi-ecclesiastically looking building will suffice to show that it was not designed to be a place of public worship, and never could have been used for such a purpose. Utility of another character was the intention of Mr. Booth, the owner of numerous properties in the neighbourhood, for the convenience of the tenants of which he built the tower and supplied it with a clock.

Beaconsfield and Northcote Streets belong to the titles of courtesy and compliment, but they are also political, and therefore constitute a separate department in the vocabulary of our local nomenclature.

Guy's Place and Street are legendary, but Guy's Cliffe Road is topographical. Many of the old names have disappeared; some have been changed once and others oftener. The list is too extensive for separate notices here, but before closing this work, we hope to have an opportunity of recurring to the subject, under more favourable circumstances as to space.

CHAPTER IV.

Names of the inhabitants of Leamington in the 13th century and description of the Inquisition of Edward I.—the "serfs," their condition and means of obtaining freedom—the "walled towns" their Cities of Refuge—the "cottars"; Alexander at the Ferrye—the "free tenants;" their tenures; "warthland,"—comments on the state of the labourers; hours of work and wages; not allowed freedom of contract, nor to go beyond the limits of the "hundred" without special leave of the King—suppression of two victuallers in Leamington in the 17th century—Hearth Tax Returns for 1662-3, with names of residents; deplorable state of poverty.

HAVING detailed the events connected with the Parish Church from the thirteenth to the commencement of the nineteenth century, and explained the various meanings of the principal names of the streets, roads and squares, we must return to the date at which our divergence to consider the two subjects just mentioned, began, and proceed to the conclusion of our remarks on this third portion of the history of Leamington, by tracing the current of secular occurrences down to the year 1784, when Satchwell and Abbots discovered the second saline spring, and the new, or fourth era of the Spa, was ushered in. Dealing with times so distant, we must not expect the same fulness of transactions as the page of yesterday would furnish, but if those to which we shall allude are few in number and comparatively destitute of variety, the reader will find ample compensation both in their importance and interest.

In addition to such matters as have been already described, three remain for notice. The first of these is the Inquisition of Edward I. mentioned on page 17. Beyond all question this document, by furnishing the names of the residents in the village, exceeds in value the famous Domesday Book, made two centuries earlier by William the Conqueror. It appears from a return to the King in 1278-9, made by Henry de Notyng(ham), Henry de Seldon, Knights, and John de Arundel, Commissioners appointed

to ascertain the names, condition, and possessions of all persons in the Counties of Warwick and Leicester, that there were then in Leamington twenty-eight residents, constituting three distinct orders, or classes of society, each one of whom was a tenant of the great Prior at Kenilworth, renting from him certain quantities of land, and having various subordinate relationships to him, the lowest level of which was, practically, slavery. Of this class were the serfs, (Dugdale calls them "servants,") the number of whom was nine. Their names and holdings are subjoined :—

" John Riche, half a virgate for 2s. 6d. ; John le Provost, Simon le Provost, Peter, son of the Provost, and Robert the ' Cartere,' held the same amount of land and on similar terms.

" William Prat, half a virgate and six acres for 3s., Robert the Neweman, as much for 2s., Philip Kynge, the fourth part of a virgate for 2s. 6d., and Philip le Bunde, as much for 2s."

Dugdale, who makes no mention of the rentals these serfs had to pay, alludes to the performance of "divers servile labours," as a necessity of their lot. The expression is somewhat misleading for there was nothing degrading nor mean in their compulsory employment. Besides payment of the sums quoted, each serf was under an obligation to give the Prior yearly a number of days of free labour in agriculture, and annually to make him small contributions of corn and poultry. However unsatisfactory, the system that took the serfs from their holdings at the busiest times, and compelled them to render gratuitous service to the Prior, the work was the reverse of servile. It must also be observed that the Prior's power was not exercised with arbitrary authority, for although he was legally entitled to "unlimited service," the actual number of days of free labour, ranged from the minimum of seven for Robert the Neweman, to the maximum of ten for John Riche.* Of land, at the time cheap and very abundant, they all seem to have had plenty. The virgate was an indeterminate quantity, varying according to local circumstances, the nature of the soil and custom. The lowest estimate we have seen makes

* The Prior does not appear to have been harsh, nor exacting, in his treatment of these serfs. Hallam, writing of the time of Edward I., the period now under consideration, says there were certain Lords of generous tempers, who granted indulgences by accepting "stated services" in lieu of the "unlimited service" they could have claimed. Evidently, the Prior at Kenilworth was one of that small class.

it equal to fifteen acres of modern measurement, and the highest, forty. Between these two widely extended extremes there are numerous other conjectures. A moderate estimate of thirty acres will probably represent the average size of the holdings of the nine serfs in Leamington nearly seven hundred years ago.

In fact, the evils from which they suffered most were political and social rather than material. They were fixed to the soil and were transferable as chattels from one owner to another. They could not purchase their freedom, for the money they offered was, legally, that of their lord and master. But there was one "bright, particular, star," which never ceased shining on their path, the rays of which illumined the Golden Gate, ever open to those who pined for liberty. By a charter of William the Conqueror, it was provided that after unmolested residence for a year and a day in a walled town, a villein, or serf, as the case might be, was a freeman and beyond recovery by his former master and owner. Within a hundred years of the time of which we are writing, there was a general exodus of this oppressed race; through the dense forests and across trackless wastes, they made their way to the Cities of Refuge,—the walled towns of Old England—where, with the sympathetic assistance of the populations, they invariably succeeded, by the means stated, in obtaining their manumission. Among other agencies, this was one that helped to extinguish in England, serfdom and villenage as a legal institution.

Above these nine serfs were eight cottars, who then formed the middle class section of the village. Each held under the Prior a cottage and an acre of land on the following conditions;—

"Roger Metheu, William Elys, Robert de Neuham, Thomas, son of Alexander, Alice Bockys, and Henry Page, paid 12-pence yearly, and gave eight days' gratuitous work, chiefly in agriculture, but one was to be applied in helping in the Prior's grange at 'the receipt of carts.' Alexander at the Ferrye, and Simon Jordan, paid 2s. yearly for their cottages and land and rendered the same services. 'All the above give aid to the lord Prior at the Feast of St. Michael at their will.' "

The difference in the quantities of land held by these classes is beyond explanation at this distance of time, but the one acre of the cottars, is remarkably small compared with the half virgate held by each of seven of the serfs, and even the fourth part of the

same measure rented by the others. One of the most interesting names is that of "Alexander at the Ferrye." This reference, to his place of residence, though not absolutely conclusive on the point, looks as if there was no bridge in the thirteenth century and that the river was crossed by means of a ferry-boat.

The third, or upper class of society in the village at this period were the "eleven free tenants, holding 13 virgates of land, and the fourth part of one virgate of land, and the moiety of a water-mill." Their importance, and influence, are indicated by the extent of the land they held from the Prior. We quote their names and description of their tenancies ;—

" Richard, son of Ralph, and Peter, son of William, half a virgate each for 3s., doing homage and foreign service.

Henry Craft, two virgates, doing homage and foreign service, and suit at the Court of Kenill' twice a year. The same Henry had two virgates of land, of Warthland for which he gave scutage.

Richard Durchel, held half a virgate of the aforesaid Henry, for 5s., doing suit at his Court twice yearly ; Simon Ernys, same for 7s. and like suit.

Thomas Derset, two virgates, and the moiety of a water-mill, doing suit at the Prior's Court at Kenill' twice a year for all demand ; Juliana, daughter of Henry, half a virgate with like suit.

Richard le Freman, one virgate of Thomas de Derset for 4s. 6d., and 11b. of Cummin, doing suit at the Prior's Court twice yearly for all demand.

Aug(ustin) half a virgate of the Prior for 15-pence yearly for all service. Philip, son of Aug(ustin) held as much of the said Aug. for 15-pence, and Aug. yielded therefor to the lord 2s. 6d. John de la Greyne, one virgate from the Prior for 7s. and two appearances for all demand."

From the particulars furnished of these free tenants, the picture of the village in the Feudal age, is advanced as near to perfection as it probably will ever be. The largest holder of land was Henry Craft, who had four virgates, of which he sub-let to two tenants, half a virgate each. He had a Court of his own, where his tenants rendered him suit. Besides these signs of superiority, it will be noticed that he paid no rent, and that two virgates of his holding are described as " Warthland." To this old and now obsolete word, three meanings are given, namely, " the shore, a water-ford, a customary payment for castle-guard, or keeping watch and ward." For several reasons we regard the last as applicable in the present case, and consider Henry Craft as the leading man in

the village, and for keeping watch and ward and maintaining good order, was remunerated with the tenancy, free of charge, of two virgates of land, set apart and dedicated for such a purpose. If this theory be correct, and it is given more in the character of a suggestion than a confident assertion, we have at this period an interesting phase of local government in a centralised form, or of an official, appointed, it may have been, by some authority of a more or less representative character. The "cummin," Richard the Freman provided, was an aromatic plant much used in the preparation of incense, of which the consumption at the Priory, at Kenilworth must have been considerable.

In the first year of the reign of Edward III.—1327-8,—a new "taxation of the twentieth in the county of Warwick," was levied, and in the returns for the "Hundred of Knygthelowe," the sub-joined list is given for "Lemynton Priors":—

"Richard Knappe, Thomas Erneys, Maud le Kyngh, Emma Gobert, Juliana Fremon, John Newmon, Simon Prat, Maud Prat, Richard Broun, John le Carpenter, Henry Austyn, Simon Parkyn, Peter le Warde, Peter le Riche, Roger Croft, John Pottenor."

Our knowledge of the individuality of the village is in no way augmented by this Return, which, if full and complete, represents an extraordinary decrease in the population, and many changes in the names of the residents. The extinction of serfdom, then in progress, and approaching completion, must count for something, but the variation in names, occurring at a period when there was no ebb nor flow in the population is remarkable, even after every allowance for the effects of the wars of the period, to which the working classes were attracted by better pay than they could earn at their own occupations. The list, however, is only of persons liable to pay the tax, and consequently is of slight value.

Among the various events of the fourteenth, and throughout the whole of the fifteenth, and also the sixteenth centuries, there are few facts, of a purely local character to be gleaned, throwing light on the daily life and experience of the village. We have therefore, in order to replenish our slender store of information relative to the state of Leamington at this period, to examine events of a general character which must have affected all parts of the country in an equal degree. Though some improvement

had taken place in the position of the working classes, they were still the subjects of many galling and greivous disabilities. The whole list being far too numerous for quotation, we must content ourselves with a few examples. Under the 12th of Richard II., rightly stigmatised by Hallam as "a very harsh statute," it was enacted that "no servant or labourer could depart, even at the expiration of his service, from the hundred in which he lived without permission under the King's seal; nor might any who had been bred to husbandry till twelve years old exercise any other calling." This denial of the natural right every one had to travel anywhere in search of employment, either as good as that which the village had ceased to provide, or better and more congenial; and the tyrannous prohibition against a change of occupation after a boy had earned a few pence in the fields until he had reached the mature age of twelve, were accentuated by the abolition of the great legacy of freedom of contract in the important matters of work and wages. Threepence a day, said to be equal to about 6d. of our present money, was the sum prescribed by Parliament as pay for the agricultural labourer, whose hours of labour from March to September, were from five o'clock in the morning, till seven in the evening, with an hour for breakfast, one and a half for dinner, with half an hour for "noon-meate," and in the winter, from the "springing of day," till dark, with one hour for dinner. And the labourer was not at liberty to refuse these terms. When unemployed and work was offered on the conditions stated, he might be imprisoned until he complied. We make no allusion to the Sumptuary Laws, further than to say that Parliament must have been in an unusually comical mood when it made it unlawful for these poor people to eat meat more than once a day.

Coming down to the seventeenth century, we find that in the village there were two public houses, and as to the sites on which they stood, no plausible doubt can be entertained. They were, in all probability, the identical buildings in High Street, famous in the days of Satchwell and Abbotts as the Dog and the Bowling Green. The existence of two taverns in Leamington at this date, is favourable to the supposition that the population was not less than in 1663, when, as we shall presently see, there were forty-six dwellings. William Mills and Margaret Walsgrave, the two

victuallers, were scarcely likely to have been induced to engage in the trade to supply the occupants of some four or five two-room thatched cottages. The following Order by the Warwickshire Court of Quarter Sessions, dated 1625, was made in consequence of a representation which had the complexion of public action by a comparatively populous, active, and independent village.

"An Order for the Suppressing of Wm, Mills and Margaret Walsgrave, of Lemington Pryors, Victualers:—

Forasmuch as the Court was this present day informed by a certificate of dyvers of the inhabitants of Lemington Pryors, in this Countie, that William Mills and Margaret Wallsgrave, two victualers, who in the said towne keepe very ill order and rule in their houses, soe that their neighbours are offended and wronged thereby, beysdes, as this Court is informed, the said Margaret selleth also without a lycense, in contempt of this Court, It is, therefore, Ordered that the said William Mills and Margaret Wallsgrave shall be from henceforth absolutely suppressed from offering, or sellinge Ale, beare, or victualls any more, which if they, or eyther of them, contynue, Then the constable there is required to apprehend and attache the bodyes, and them, the said W. Mills and Margrett Wallsgrave, or eyther of them, and them soe attached, to bring, or cause to be brought before some justice of peace of this Countie, there to finde sufficient sureties to forbear selling ale, beare, and victuals as afore-said, which if they, or eyther of them, refuse to doe, then to commit them soe refusing to His Majestie's gaole of this Countie, there to remaine untill they willingly doe and perform the same. Hereof faile not, as the contrarye you will answere at your perill."

Perhaps the most important part of this Order, as indicating the character and status of Leamington in the time of Charles I., is its designation of a "towne." It is not necessary in these pages, to discuss at any length the distinctions between villages, hamlets, parishes, and townships, but bearing in mind the opinion of Blackstone, that the origin of the town was municipal, or civil, rather than ecclesiastical, as was the case with the parish, the conclusion is irresistible that its application at this date indicates a position for Leamington above that of the ordinary country village. The constable to whom the Order of the Court of Quarter Sessions was directed, must not be confounded with the parish constables under the Hanoverian reigns, nor compared with the police constables of the Victorian era. To the functions of both he added somewhat of the precedence and authority of a mayor, and locally, was the great man, to whom all turned for guidance.

The presence of a constable in Leamington in the early part of the seventeenth century does not necessarily imply a numerous population, but it is more consistent with a large than a small place, and was in itself an undoubted sign of the township.

In 1662, we are afforded by the Hearth Tax Returns another view of the village, for such we must still designate Leamington, in conformity with tradition, and also in order to distinguish it from the modern town, which had its commencement in 1825. This odious tax was a badge of slavery imposed by the Parliament of Charles II. and abolished by that of William III. It was a charge of 2s. yearly for every fire-place, hearth, or stove, in a dwelling, farmed out to tax collectors, who enforced it with relentless severity, and sometimes with callous indifference to the commonest claims of humanity. Small as the amount was, often it was not raised without much difficulty, and in extreme cases, only by self-denial of the bare necessities of life. The financial burden, however, was light, compared with the unconstitutional burden. For the recovery of this paltry sum, the collectors, who were known as the "Chimney Men," were armed with powers almost equal to those wielded by a victorious General over a conquered people. They had authority to enter any house, and go through each room at their own will and pleasure; to burst open locked doors, and a plenitude of distraint in cases of non-payment, tantamount to absolute confiscation of private property. This infraction of the constitutional maxim that "an Englishman's house is his castle," and the oppressive character of the tax, were resented by the people with curses loud and deep.* After the Revolution of 1688, the impost was declared by Parliament to be "a badge of slavery upon the whole people," and abolished.

From the Return by the collector of the tax in 1662, we learn that there were then in Leamington about forty-six residences of which by far the greater number were cottages of the humblest

* Lord Macaulay quotes the following from a popular ballad as reflecting the spirit of the time on the subject;—

"The good old dames, whenever they the chimney man espied,
Unto their nooks they haste away, their pots and pipkins hide.
There is not one old dame in ten, and search the nation through,
But if you talk of chimney men will spare a curse or two."

description, the occupiers in many cases being in the depths of misery and poverty. The following is the list:—

HEARTHES LIABLE.—Willes, Widd., 04 hearths, 8s.; Francis Horne, 03, 6s.; William Oulney, 1, 2s.; Valentine Jackson, vicar, 02, 4s.; Nathaniell Oulney, gent. 04, 8s.; Willm. Lees, gent. 04, 8s.; Samuel Clarke, 2, 4s.; John Boddington, 03, 6s.; Thomas Cartwright, 01, 2s.; Wm. Willes, 01, 2s.; Hugh Bates, 01, 2s.; Wm. Cartwright, jun, 01, 2s.; Lawrence Nicholls, 01, 2s.; Robt. Johnson, 01, 2s.; Stephen Summers, 01, 2s.; Micha Sommers, 01, 2s.; Thos. Bratt, 01, 2s.; John Briswold, 01, 2s.; John Onley, 01, 2s.; George Hill, 03, 6s.; Tarrey Willes, 03, 6s.; John Cox, 01, 2s.; William Cartwrightson, 01, 2s.; Anne Bucknall, widd, 02, 4s.; Mary Shreife, widd, 01, 2s.; Richard Sharples, 01, 2s.; Edward Rawbone, 02, 4s.; William Criswold, 01, 2s.; George Collins, 01, 2s.; total, 50.

We have here twenty-nine names, but the list omits those who were excused payment on account of their poverty, the number of whom was probably about seventeen, the same as it was in the following year. Valentine Jackson, is a new vicar not to be met with in Dugdale. The Return for 1663, containing as it does, the complete list of all the householders in Leamington, surpasses in interest the one we have just quoted, in addition to which it is an instructive, but by no means a gratifying, object lesson of the squalor, the wretchedness, and the misery of the humble cottagers of that period. Without further prefatory remark we give the document in its entirety:—

HEARTHES LIABLE.—Edward Wills Gent. 5, Francis Raborne 3, Willm. Onley 1, Laurence Nicholls 1, Willm. Cartwright 1, Widd. Jackson 2, Robert Johnson 1, Stephen Summers 1, Joan Wardvide 1, Willm. Nicholls 1, Thomas Bratt 1, Michael Summers 1, John Griswold 1, John Onley 1, Samuel Clark 2, George Hill 2, Tarry Wills 3, John Cox 1, Willm. Cartwright, son, 1, Anne Bucknill widd. 1, Robert Sheriffe 1, John Boddington 4, Hny. E. Bates 1, Willm. Wills 1, Thomas Cartwright 1, Richard Onley gent. 4, Thomas Lees gent. 4, Willm. Greswold 1, Edward Rawbone 1, total 49.

HEARTHES NOT LIABLE.—William Pendon 1, Richard Smyth 1, George Gumby 1, John Anderton 1, Willm. Stonley 1, Anne Blithe 1, Edward Heath 1, Margaret Woodford 1, Catharine Jarett 1, John Smith 1, Walter Anderton, 1, John Burwell 1, John Smyfield 1, Walter Rose 1, William Bingham 1, John Ries 1, John Swift 1, total 17.

Naturally, our readers will wish to know the reasons why some householders were exempted from the tax. These are the best barometer we have of the poverty of the time. Residents, too impoverished to pay church and poor rates were excused, and also

persons living in houses the "full improved value" of which did not exceed twenty shillings a year; provided, that they were not possessed of ten pounds worth of property, nor rented any land of the value of more than twenty shillings yearly. We may take it, therefore, that, in Leamington, upwards of two centuries ago, nearly one-third of the cottages were let for about fourpence-three-farthings a week, and that the occupiers of these tenements had not property of the value of ten pounds, nor allotments of land worth twenty shillings per annum. Besides the burden of the Hearth Tax, the labourers were almost immovably tethered to the soil by the State prescribing what should be the amount of their wages and their hours of labour. Fourpence a day with food, and 8d. without, were the average earnings of the majority of the men whose names appear in the foregoing lists. Many of them were fathers of families and wheat was £3 10s. the quarter. It would be superfluous here, to dwell upon the straits to which these poor peasants were reduced by the pinching economy which was necessary to raise the 2s. tax, nor need we allude to the very anxious and self-denying care with which the little hoard, when once obtained, was guarded, even against chronic starvation. In later days the gloom of those hunger-bitten days loomed luridly in one of Ben. Satchwell's verses, and modulated with a pathetic cadence the exultancy with which he contemplated the rising star of the golden age of the Spa:—

" If Muster Abbotts had not done,
His baths of laud and praise,
It must have been poor Leamington,
Now, as in former days.

The only thing to be said in favour of the Tax, is that it gives us information of the names, and throws light on the condition of all householders in England in the seventeenth century. In the Return from whence we have culled the foregoing lists, the name of "Trust-in-God-Bolton," appears of a resident in the parish of Baddesly Clinton. Such appellations, curious as they sound in modern ears, were not uncommon in the days of the Protector, who had numerous supporters in Warwickshire. Comparing the statistics relative to Leamington, with those of the neighbouring parishes of Tachbrooke, Whitnash, Cubbington, Lillington, Mil-

verton, Radford, Offchurch, Stoneleigh, and other localities in the vicinity of Leamington, we find some very interesting results touching the relative positions of each of these places in regard to the population, poverty, etc:—

"In Tachbrooke there were 19 hearths liable to pay, and none exempted. Whitnash, with 31 taxable hearths, had no excuses on the ground of poverty. There were 82 hearths at Cubbington, (16 more than in Leamington,) and 15 which were not liable. The number in Lillington was 25, and 15 exemptions, and Milverton and Edmonscote, then joined together in the Return, had 40 liable and 12 not liable; the figures at Radford were 65, with no exemptions, and Offchurch, with 49, enjoyed a similar immunity from these traces of dire poverty. Stoneleigh, to which several surrounding villages were joined, was put down as having 282 hearths, not one of which appears as having been erased from the list as not chargeable. Leek Wootton, to the parish church of which All Saints, Leamington, was then but a chapelry, had 45 liable hearths, being only four below the number of the same description at the Spa."

Our readers will be able to see from the information given, the manner of the distribution of the populations around Leamington in 1662-3, and few will fail to notice that the largest per-centage of distress existed at Lillington.

In connection with the history of Leamington at this period, and as a memorable experience of the inhabitants, whose names we have quoted, reference must be made to Sunday, October, 23, 1642, and the commotion and alarm which the great event of that day must have brought to the village. The armies of King Charles I., and the Parliament, at Edge Hill commenced about three o'clock in the afternoon the first battle of the Civil War. Richard Baxter, the Puritan, then conducting a service at Alcester, a distance, as the crow flies of seventeen miles, says in his diary that, as he was preaching, the people heard the cannon playing and perceived the armies were engaged. At Leamington, which was only ten miles from the battle-field by the same mode of measurement, the sounds would be audible, and among the rustic congregation filing out of the Parish Church in the afternoon of that eventful day; in the cottages, and tap-rooms of the two public-houses, as well as under the Bowling Green elms, on whose tops the autumnal tints were gathering, the topic of anxious conversation would be this nearness of the car of the Juggernaut of War, and the possible issue of the conflict, but most of all whether the tide of battle on the morrow would roll nearer their own doors.

CHAPTER V.

Enclosure of the open fields and commonable lands—description of the Enclosure Act and Award—list of the Promoters and Commissioners—extent of all the lands enclosed, and localities—allotments to Lord Aylesford, Rev. John Willes, as Vicar of Leamington, Mr. Matthew Wise, Mrs. Ann Willes, Messrs. John Lawrence, Richard Lyndon, and Thomas Aston.—history of Barford Charitable lands—historical notes on the enclosure system.

SEVERAL brief statements are to be found in one of the early Guide Books, and in some local newspapers of recent date, respecting an Enclosure Act passed in 1767, and the Award made under its provisions in 1768, both of which affected the distribution and ownership of a large portion of land on the south and west sides of the river. The Act and the Award, having been the first of the long and progressive series of legislative enactments that are inseparably incorporated with the history of the town, it becomes necessary that they should have in these pages not only a place, but a full account of their important provisions. Apart from the historic interest they possess by reason of their priority in the order of time, they are noticeable for having brought to a close the last vestiges of the mediæval system of the public tenure of commonable lands, and for exerting a marked influence upon the tithing system, locally, the parish church, and the fortunes of the Spa. The statute is entitled "An Act for dividing and enclosing the open and common fields, common meadows and commonable lands on the south and west parts of the river Leam, in the manor and parish of Leamington Priors, in the county of Warwick," and in the preamble it is stated that the lands in question were estimated to contain "nine hundred and ninty acres, or thereabouts," and that Lord Aylesford, was the lord of the manor, and Matthew Wise, the owner of the Rectory impropriate and entitled to all the great and impropriate tythes arising within the parish. At the time, the Rev. John Willes was Vicar of All Saints, in respect of which office he possessed about three acres of glebe land on the

site of the present Warneford Hospital property, and was also entitled to the small tythes. These three gentlemen, with Edward Willes, late Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, Ireland, and John Lawrence, Richard Lyndon, Thomas Aston, and John Fairfax, trustees of some charitable lands at Leamington belonging to the parish of Barford, are described as the "owners or proprietors of all the said open and common fields," on which, "they, or their lessees or tenants are entituled to and enjoy common or pasture for their cattle at certain seasons of the year, in, over and upon all the said commonable lands." In consequence, however, of their respective lands "being intermixed and dispersed in small parcels in and over the same fields," they prayed Parliament to pass an Act for enclosing and parcelling out among themselves the aforesaid open fields, commons, grounds, etc. Such were the reasons urged in justification of this important proceeding. The application to Parliament was successful, and in 1767, the Enclosure Act was fully sanctioned, its provisions in the following year being carried into effect by the making of what is known as the Award.

The lands referred to extended from the Allotment Gardens abutting the Radford Road, along the side of the Leam to the Sewage Pumping Station, thence southward as far as Whitnash, eastward to the Radford boundary, and northward to the river. Of course, the whole of this was not commonable, nor open fields and meadows, but there were 867* acres, 1 rood, and 25 perch of such land lying in various parts of the area mentioned, most of it eligibly situated, and as events have proved in recent years, of great value for building purposes. A considerable part of this was situated on the turnpike road passing from Myton through the present High Street to Radford, the country on both sides being open heath, fenceless and free to all.

To make the enclosure, and for putting the Act into execution, the following were appointed Commissioners: Rev. Henry Homer,

* Figures alone, seldom convey to the mind of the ordinary reader, a clear idea of magnitude as applicable to dimensions, or mere bulk; hence it is that astronomers, geographers and others, when desirous of showing the size of a particular object, compare it to something with the measurements of which the public are acquainted. We shall, with obvious advantage, adopt this mode of comparison, by saying that the total of the 867 acres enclosed, was equal to a piece of land 41 times larger than the Victoria Park, and was nearly half as big as Leamington, which contained 1,754 acres.

Birdingbury, otherwise Burbery, clerk; John Tomlinson, Aston; John Watts, Comb Abbey; Robert Campion, Woodcot, and John Basely, Priors Marston. For their guidance certain instructions were laid down in the statute, of which the following were the most important :—

They were to give public notice in the Parish Church, by announcement “immediately after divine service,” of the time and place of their first meeting, and of every subsequent meeting except those held by adjournment. They were also directed, in apportioning the land, to make both public and private roads over the newly enclosed lands, the former of which were “to be and remain, sixty feet broad, at the least between the ditches.” After the allotments of these lands by the Commissioners were made, all public right, title, and privilege as to use of such lands ceased, and any villager allowing his cattle “to go, depasture, or feed on the said commonable lands,” it became lawful to impound such cattle and fine the owner ten shillings for trespass. In addition to the statutory abolition of common rights which accrued from the making of the Award, another mode of extinction by public notice was authorised. The Commissioners were empowered “by a note for that purpose in writing under their hands, to be affixed on any one of the doors of the Parish Church of Lemington Priors, to extinguish all rights of common in and over the said open and common fields, common meadows, commonable lands, and grounds and premises hereby directed to be enclosed, and then and from and after the time so mentioned and expressed in such notice, all such right of common shall cease and the same is hereby declared to be utterly extinguished.” In another provision of the Act it was directed that the allotments to the Rev. John Willes, Vicar, were to be enclosed and fenced round at the expence of the other owners of land in the said open and common fields etc., and the concluding section of the Act, contained a saving clause in favour of Lord Aylesford, the lord of the manor. Nothing specified in its provisions was to “prejudice, lessen, or defeat his right, title, or interest in the seigniories and royalties belonging to the said manor,” and he and his heirs thereafter were to enjoy all rents, services, courts, perquisites, and profits of courts, and all other royalties, rights, and privileges belonging to the manor, (excepting

rights of common, and the soil and inheritance thereof,) in the same manner as though the Enclosure had not been made.

Public notice was given in the Parish Church, on Sunday the 13th day of March, 1768, to the effect that the first meeting of the Commissioners would be held at the house of Simon Hinton, the old Bowling Green House, on the 31st of that month. There is no report of the proceedings extant, and consequently it cannot be ascertained how frequently they assembled, nor what was the precise character of their deliberations. We are also left in a state of ignorance as to whether the meetings were open to the public, or were limited strictly to those who claimed an interest in the matter. All the information that can be obtained is contained in the Award, to which we must now turn for a knowledge of the distribution of the lands in question.

To the Earl of Aylesford were given several pieces of land in the Mill Field, Mill Street, Clapham Terrace, and the Recreation Ground near the canal, etc., the total quantity being 21 acres, 3 roods, 3 perch. These awards were "in full recompence, compensation, and satisfaction for, and in lieu and discharge of all land and grounds and right of common of and belonging to the said Earl of Aylesford in the lands enclosed, and also of a parcel of old inclosed land, called the Ham, which before the execution of the Award, belonged to him, but was allotted to Ann Willes."

The allotments to John Willes, "and his successors, the Vicars of Leamington," amounted to 29 acres, 2 roods, 38 perch, and consisted of 5 acres, 0 roods, 32 perch, situate near the site of the Warneford Hospital, then known as the Gravel Field on account of the gravelly nature of the soil, and also the present Allotment Gardens on the Radford Road, measuring 24 acres, 2 roods, 6 perch, in addition to which he was given the Vicaridge House in Church Street, with some ancient messuages and gardens on the west side, belonging to Mr. Matthew Wise, in exchange for the former Vicaridge House, believed to have stood on the site of the Crown Hotel. In reference to these allotments of land the Award states that they were "in bar and discharge of the Glebe lands and right of common belonging to the Vicaridge, and the vicarial, or small tythes, yearly arising out of the open and common fields, etc., and also of all the vicarial and small tythes, moduses or compositions,

arising and payable in respect of the several messuages, gardens, orchards, and ancient enclosures belonging to the proprietors of the land inclosed, a list of which is given in the schedule annexed to this report.

Mr. Matthew Wise had several allotments, the aggregate total amounting to 472 acres, 2 roods, 36 perch, of which the following particulars are furnished. Land lying between the New River Walk and the Warwick Old Road, the Shrubland estate, the land on which the Eagle Foundry stands and some of the adjacent streets, the meadow beyond the Allotment Gardens, and the Sydenham farm. These were explained to be allotted him "in lieu of, and in full satisfaction and compensation for, and in bar and discharge of all Improprate or Great Tythes, moduses or compositions, yearly arising and renewing out of and from the said open fields," etc.

The Commissioners awarded 194 acres, 1 rood, 34 perches, to Mrs. Ann Willes, widow of Edward Willes, one of the promoters of the Enclosure Act, whose death occurred before the negotiations were sufficiently advanced to admit of its being presented to Parliament. Her allotments comprised the sites of Leam Terrace, New Street, Gordon Street, Russell Terrace, Rushmore farm, and the larger of the two islands in the river Leam, opposite Newbold Comyn, the family residence, but the last named grant did not include the right of "fishery thereunto belonging." It is stated in the Award that these allotments, and some exchanges with the consent of interested parties, not necessary to be explained here, were "in lieu of and in full satisfaction and compensation and discharge of the lands and grounds belonging to Ann Willes, and right of common."

John Lawrence's allotments were 75 acres 3 rood, 16 perch, all of which were contiguous to the Whitnash boundary, and an old inclosure of pasture. These were given in satisfaction of all his rights in the open and common fields.

An allotment of 67 acres, 3 roods, 7 perch, was also made to Richard Lyndon, the locality of which was near the Cemetery and the Windmill, the condition of the grant being a full discharge to all claims on the commonable lands as in the other cases.

A plot of land, 1 acre, 1 rood, 10, perch, in Grove Place, was allotted Thomas Aston, in satisfaction of his claims, and to the trustees of the Barford Charitable lands, the Commissioners gave 8 acres, 1 rood, 5 perch, the situation of which was on the Warwick Old Road near Myton.

In F. White and Co.'s "Warwickshire" for 1850 the origin of the Barford Charitable lands is thus described :—

"John Beale, by Will, 1672, gave £60, which was laid out in the purchase of land at Leamington Priors. By the award of the Leamington Enclosure Act, dated December 22nd, 1768, a parcel of land, containing 8a. 1 r. 5p. (was granted) to the trustees of Charitable lands at Barford. By an indenture of bargain and sale, 26th August, 1807, two closes of the above land, containing 7a. 2r. 27p, of the yearly value of £12 were exchanged for 8a. 3r. 20p. of land of the yearly value of £20 situate in the parish of Kenilworth. A small portion of the Leamington (land) was taken previous to the exchange, for the purpose of the Warwick and Napton Canal, for which the company pay an annual rent of £1 14s. 8d. to the trustees. The land in Kenilworth is now let for the annual rent of £20, which sum and the £1 14s. 8d. are applied towards the maintenance of a free school at Barford."

Until the site and quantity of the land originally purchased are known, no opinion, worth serious consideration, can be expressed either in praise, or in derogation of the bargain the trustees made with the Enclosure Commissioners.

Besides effecting improvements in the two main approaches to the town, south of the river, the Commissioners caused a footpath to be made from the present Radford Road, by the Glasshouse and on to Whitnash, and ordered "that it remain for ever of the breadth of 4 feet in every part, and be continued as a public path or footway." There is excellent reason for believing that from time immemorial, there had been a footway in this locality, and that it was a continuation of the once beautiful rural footpath from the Newbold Hills, down the Holly Walk, across the rich pasture of the Feeding Close in Newbold Terrace, by the historic, and clattering old mill, along Gordon Passage, over Russell Terrace, along the passage between George Street and Forfield Place, and after crossing the Radford Road, proceeded onwards to the village of Whitnash. At the time of the Award, but a few of the names we have employed in describing its course were known, and from the Radford Road to Whitnash, it was probably only a very

narrow, foot-beaten track among the furze and luxuriant grasses of the common land, with no clearly defined line nor proportions, and in some places rendered illegible by rank vegetation, which the intermittent traffic of primitive times was insufficient to obliterate. By their decision the Commissioners formally dedicated it to the public and rendered it more convenient for pedestrians.

The costs of obtaining the Act and making the Award, were thus apportioned among the allottees, namely, John Willes, £11 6s. 6d., the Earl of Aylesford, £14 6s. 2d., Matthew Wise, £322 7s. 0., Ann Willes, £122, John Lawrence, £50 9s. 2d., Richard Lyndon, £44 18s. 8d., Thomas Aston, £1 1s. 0., the Trustees of Barford Charity, £4 18s.

Subjoined is the schedule of messuages, gardens, orchards, and ancient inclosures, discharged by the Award from future payment of all tithes, in consideration of the grants of lands to Matthew Wise, and the Rev. John Willes, in his capacity of Vicar of All Saints. The names and the descriptions of the various properties are of special interest, the one assisting to fill the gap in the list of residents which occurs after 1663, and the other supplying a realistic sketch of the rural character of Leamington a hundred and thirty years ago:—

“The Mill House, and Stable, occupied by Frances Satchwell, widow, and a small part of Court's Home Close, belonging to the Earl of Aylesford, 1 rood, 6 perch. Messuage, buildings, garden, brickyard and close, belonging to and occupied by Frances Satchwell, 1 acre, 1 rood, 1 perch. Messuage, yard, and garden belonging to and occupied by William Webb, 3 perch. Messuage, yard, garden, belonging to and occupied by Thomas Roberts, 8 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, and garden, occupied by Susanna Bradley, and belonging to the Rev. John Willes, Clerk, 13 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, garden, and land, belonging to and occupied by Matthew Wise, 2 acres, 2 roods, 13 perch. A toft, called Satchwell's Close, occupied by Matthew Wise, 1 rood, 26 perch. A yard, barn, rickyard, etc., occupied by Matthew Wise, 1 rood, 23 perch. Messuage called Vicaridge House, with outbuilding, garden, and land thereto belonging, 1 rood, 38 perch. A piece of ground, lately two closes, called Bancroft, in the occupation and belonging to John Lawrence, 1 acre, 3 roods, 1 perch.

Yard, barns therein, garden, piece of ground whereon stood two messuages, which have lately been destroyed by fire, in the occupation of John Lawrence, 1 rood, 32 perch. An orchard adjoining the Watery Lane, in the occupation of John Lawrence, 2 roods, 11 perch. Messuage with outbuildings, garden, yard, rickyard, and close, belonging to and in the occupation of Simon Corbett, 1 acre, 3 roods. A close of ancient inclosed land, lately planted with fruit trees, belonging to and occupied by Matthew Wise, 2 acres, 0 rood, 20 perch. Four messuages, with the outbuildings, yards, and gardens adjoining together, the property of Matthew Wise, and occupied by Mary Rose, Richard Righton, John Ratnate, and John Watts, 1 rood, 26 perch. A barn, and close of land thereunto adjoining, called Nan Willes's Close, belonging to and occupied by Matthew Wise, 1 acre, 3 roods, 16 perch. Two barns, two yards and a close or parcel of ground adjoining thereto, and also to the last-mentioned close, called Nan Willes's Close, in the occupation of Matthew Wise and William Jervis, 1 acre. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, garden, and rickyard adjoining a close called Shell Leys, occupied by William Jervis, 1 acre, 1 rood, 2 perch. Messuage and outbuildings called the Bowling Green House, with the garden, bowling green, and land thereto belonging, occupied by Simon Hinton, 3 roods, 24 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard and garden in the occupation of Thomas Amjon, 12 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, gardens, yards, rickyards, close or parcel of land thereunto adjoining, and belonging with the osier bed adjoining, and occupied by Thomas Abbots, 2 acres, 3 roods, 38 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, garden and land belonging to Thomas Makepeace and in his occupation, 1 rood, 39 perch. Barn, outhouse, yard, garden, belonging to and in the occupation of T. Abbots, 1 acre, 3 roods, 27 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, garden, and close of land belonging to and in the occupation of W. Tredgold, the elder, 1 rood, 37 perch. Two closes called Raven Close and the Ham Meadow, 4 acres, 2 roods, 4 perch. Messuage outbuildings, yard, garden, and rickyard belonging to and in the occupation of Ann Willes, 1 acre, 0 rood, 18 perch. Close of land belonging to the last-mentioned tenement, adjoining Shell Leys, occupied by Ann Willes, 1 acre, 0 rood, 29 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, garden, rickyard and close, being the remainder of Court's Home Close, in the occupation of William Court,

3 acres, 0 rood, 36 perch. A piece or parcel of land called the Ham, allotted in the Award to Ann Willes, 3 roods, 3 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, orchard, garden and rickyard, belonging to John Lawrence and in his occupation, 1 acre, 0 rood, 30 perch. Messuage, outbuildings, yard, garden, orchard and land, belonging to Thomas Aston and occupied by Robert Evans, 3 roods, 1 perch."

The description of these properties gives us a complete picture of Leamington, as it was, nearly a century and half ago, then situated wholly on the south bank of the river, and contained in a space, the extreme limits of which were the old Mill, the Manor House, and High street, from the bottom of the Tachbrooke Road, to George Street. Even within this diminutive area the houses were widely separated from each other in some instances, by the farm-yards, orchards, gardens, rickyards, and barns, which were then numerous within a stone's throw of the Parish Church.

In the dilapidated archives of antique Leamington, there is no treasure more richly archaic than the Act and the Award, which have just been described. Legislatively, they were links in a long chain of events, extending over six centuries of English history, in the revolving years of which the enclosure and appropriation of commonable, or public lands, had been carried on with tireless zeal, and also upon a scale of surpassing magnitude. From their modern aspect emanated iridescent beams of promise, luminously prescient of the approaching advent of the Greater Leamington, which, as a Royal Borough, with gardens of perpetual bloom and beauty, fountains, almost miraculously adapted to the wants of all in search of health, and the chosen home of fashion, culture, and and wealth, would supplant the blowing woodlands and the breezy heaths on the banks of the Leam. The story of these annexations is one of centuries of conflicts in which there were many truces but no peace; intervention by Parliament becoming frequently a necessity, at one time on behalf of lords of manors; at another in defence of the public interests. The barometer of legislation on enclosures of land, from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century, has ranged from partial sanction to large approval, and from limited restriction to perfect prohibition. A brief statement of the principal facts connected with the rise, progress, and decline, of the

Enclosure movement, will not be out of place at this date of the history of Leamington, nor will it be a waste of time, to interrupt for a moment, the narration of local events by explaining in what way one of them was related to that great wave which passed over England in the eighteenth century, and in its impetuous rush swept away from the public possession million of acres of land.

The first enclosures were made under a claim that all open and unenclosed lands, belonged to the owners of the adjoining enclosed lands. This doctrine was vigorously contested, and to compose the strife, Parliament in 1235 legalised enclosures, provided that in each case sufficient land was set apart for the public use, with proper ways to and from the same. In 1642, an enclosure of waste lands in Huntingdonshire, by the Queen, led to public complaints and a Parliamentary enquiry by a Committee, of whom Mr. Hyde, afterwards ennobled as Earl of Clarendon, was chairman, and Oliver Cromwell, then a plain farmer and Member of Parliament, one of the members. Between these two there were frequent altercations, Cromwell taking the side of the poor rustics, "seconding and enlarging upon what they said with great passion" and reproaching the chairman with being partial.

Enclosures by special Acts of Parliament were commenced in the reign of Queen Anne, the first being passed in 1710. It was under this system that the Leamington Enclosure Act and Award were obtained. Encouraged by Parliament, and fostered by the increased value of the land, the Enclosures rose from hundreds to thousands, and commons of vast extent were absorbed all over England. Open and willing as was the ear Parliament lent to these applications, it was soon discovered that the increased productivity of the soil and the higher wages permanently secured to one section of the labouring classes, were not unmixed blessings. In 1775, the attention of Parliament was called to a change for the worse which had taken place in the general condition of the rural population, one of the causes assigned being, "the loss of privileges by enclosed commons." To prevent further deterioration, a new national policy was introduced, Churchwardens and overseers, with the consent of the vestries, were empowered to hire, or purchase, not more than twenty acres of land in a parish, to be rented by the poor on reasonable terms, and this optional

benevolence failing in its object, the principles of restriction, and compensation for the public, were established. The owners of all freehold cottagers, and residents who had been users of waste and commonable lands for twenty years, were to have rights and vested interests which could not be ignored in the event of any future enclosures. While the transfer of such property from the public into private hands was thus becoming more difficult, popular rights were gradually extending. The next step had reference to the question of public recreation grounds, some provision for which was indispensably necessary in all new enclosures of such lands. Out of this idea grew the proposal of free parks for the people, and prohibition in 1866 of the enclosure of commons within the Metropolitan area. But the most beneficent measure of all was reserved for 1893. By the Commons Amendment Act of that year, the whole of the waste lands of England are sequestered against enclosure, except on the hardly possible condition of proof that it is for the public benefit. And such advantage, it is material to note, must be local and special in its effect, not general nor remote, but something resulting from the enclosure, immediately and directly.

In the completion of this cycle of legislation it is interesting to notice that the principle of the public rights in waste lands, has survived every modification of the law, and, like an imperishable seed, has flourished, irrespective of the nature of the soil in which it was sown. But while resisting decay, its development has been essentially affected by modern ideas, and its course directed into new channels. The early legislation aimed at material results, but the inspiring motive of the present-day prohibition is furnished by recreative, health, and æsthetic considerations. For the loss the public have sustained by the wholesale enclosures of commons is not confined to the mere question of ownership. It includes the deprivation of idyllic treasures of priceless value—Claude-like landscapes; groves, carpeted with flowers of many hues, and canopied with foliage, in colour and motion resembling an emerald sea beneath the sunlight of spring, and in autumn glowing with the brilliance of burnished gold; woods, whispering welcomes and ever vibrant with the melodies of birds, to whose matins and vespers, rills and rivulets responded with sweet symphony and tinkling

orchestral accompaniment ; winding rustic lanes, broad-belted with gorse, wild ferns, and grasses, and shaded with centenarian oaks, festooned with miseltoe and ivy ; and undulating heaths, amidst whose balmy odours the poor wandered in quest of health, and the enrapt artist in search of those delicately sun-wrought tints, the faithful transfer of which to canvas has always been one of the proudest aspirations of genius. It is quite as much for the timely conservation of what remains of these incomparably beautiful collections of natural treasures, as for the material improvement of the masses that Parliament has now wisely defined limits, within the bounds of which they are for ever sacred from appropriation.

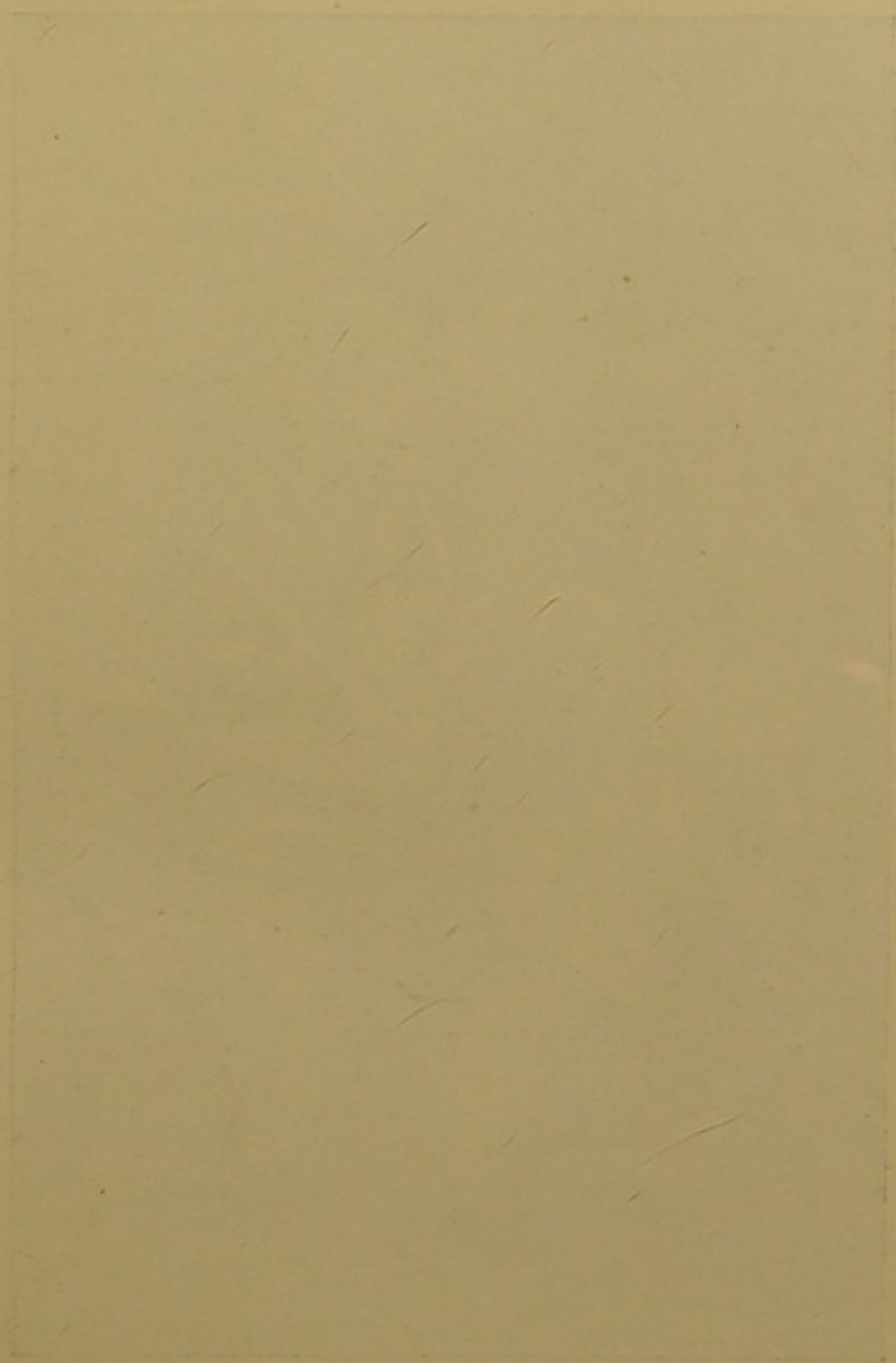
In consequence of the transitional state of things at the time, the distress among the poor usually following these enclosures, could hardly have reached Leamington. The immediate result was an improvement of the labour market, and when the work of road-making, fencing, etc., had been completed, visitors were beginning to arrive and a new era of prosperity was dawning. The enclosure was perfectly legal, and the distribution of the lands, bears the impress of honesty of purpose, but the notice to the public was given when few would hear and understand its import. In these days, three months' notice by advertisement in the newspapers, is compulsory in all such cases. The chief cause of the adverse comments the Award has occasioned, is the disregard shown of the public interests. There was sufficient land to compensate the reasonable claims of all parties without excluding from participation in its benefit the most necessitous classes. A very moderate allowance for the free use of the farmers and the cottagers would have promoted a sense of gratitude, and have prevented discontent. It has been well remarked by "The Leamington Chronicle," that, "although the Award was not obtained from motives altogether unselfish, some credit is due to the landlords of that day who reaped a rich reward from its operation, and their successors, for having willingly assisted in the various schemes of improvement which were carried out when the dawn of Leamington's prosperity set in." All who know anything of the history of the Spa will agree with the propriety of this observation.

CHAPTER VI.

Benjamin Satchwell and William Abbotts—discovery of the second spring—notes on the Satchwell family and their position in the village—Ben's birthplace and his apprenticeship—character sketch—Will. Abbotts, biographical notice of—Satchwell's residence at the Mill, his influence in the village and public work—marriage in 1764, advances money on the property now known as Satchwell Place, which he afterwards purchased, etc.

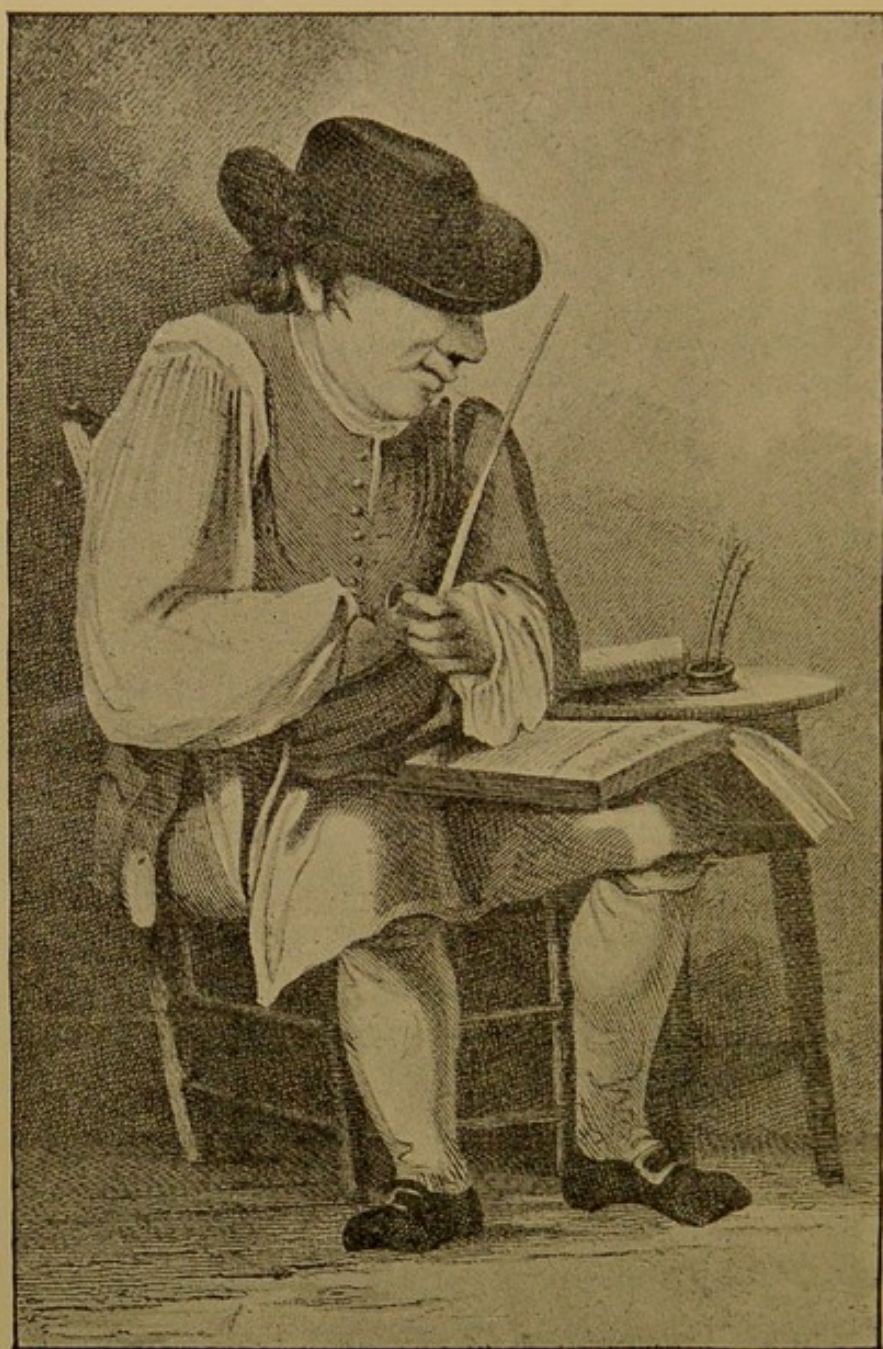
ON the 14th of January, 1784, occurred one of those events that are often the pivots around which the histories of communities revolve. Two men, both in comparatively humble circumstances, emerged from their native obscurity—their “hoddin gray and a’ that,”—advanced to the footlights, and with realistic success, played the leading characters in the fourth Act of the village drama. Impartially has posterity awarded to them the “od’rous chaplets” of the “Founders of the Spa,” but one, with a display of self-abnegation rare in the annals of biography, has generously ascribed to the other, the whole of his own share of the merit. This was Benjamin Satchwell, a shoemaker, whose name from this time, with that of William Abbotts, landlord of the Dog Inn, High Street, becomes prominently associated with the first phase of the development of modern Leamington, as a place of fashionable resort, and, which is more important, one where the children of affliction might obtain relief, or cure, for their manifold sufferings. It was this latter thought he ever kept in view, and to bring about its speedy realisation, he availed himself of every opportunity, and in furtherance of the object, applied such talents and abilities as he possessed.

Of the time when the family of the Satchwells settled in Leamington, and the part of the country whence they came, history is silent. The Hearth Tax Returns for 1662 and 1663, show that they were not here in those years. It is at a vestry meeting held on October 20th, 1702, we make our first acquaintance with the now familiar and popular name. Joseph Satchwell, one of the



Benjamin's Autobiography

BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Benjamin Satchwell,

FACSIMILE OF HIS SIGNATURE.

ten who signed the decisions at which the meeting arrived, was also present at subsequent vestries in 1710 and 1712, on both of which occasions he again appended his name to the minutes. A reference to dates and other circumstances of the period leads to the conclusion that he was Benjamin Satchwell's grandfather, and the first of the family who came to reside in Leamington. From what has been stated it will readily be perceived that the position of the Satchwells in the village was one of consequence. They are said to have filled the office of estate bailiffs, to the successive lords of the manor from the beginning of the seventeenth century, but we are unaware of any proof of their residing in Leamington earlier than 1702, about which time Joseph Satchwell probably came from some other estate of the Aylesford family. Their home was the old Mill. This is additional evidence of the respectable status they possessed, for although mills did not in the eighteenth century confer the same advantages of rank as they did in feudal times, there is good reason for believing that the millers, particularly in the rural districts, continued in the enjoyment of much of their ancient glory and influence. Looking at all these circumstances, it will be seen that, socially, the ancestors of Ben. Satchwell, were not of the humblest order of society. While, in the ordinary rule of precedence they were not many degrees below the Vicars, their station was higher than the churchwardens, who in Arcadia generally stand next the clergyman. In their office of bailiffs, hereditary in the family for about a century, they would be the intermediaries between the tenants, the labourers and the agent, and from their decisions on labour questions there would be no appeal to the estate office, whether at Offchurch or Packington.

Benjamin Satchwell was born at the Mill, (then occupied by his father, William Satchwell,) on January, 3, 1732. The family consisted of five sons,—Joseph, Thomas, William, Benjamin and John, and one daughter, Mary. Benjamin was baptized at the Parish Church on the 16th of the month in which he was born, and the entry in the Register describes him as “ye younger son of William and Frances Satchwell.” Ever since the days of Homer, the nativities of famous men have been prolific of disputes and rival contentions, but Satchwell stands pre-eminent in having

been the subject of controversy in respect to the end as well as the beginning of his days. Stratford-upon-Avon, and Offchurch, as well as Leamington, have been made claimants as his birthplaces, and two deaths are assigned to him, separated by an interval of five years (1810 and 1815). He also belonged to a generation, one of whose years was made up of nine months only.

The materials bequeathed to posterity of his industrious life are rather adapted to an outline than a portrait in detail. The colour of his eyes, and the tones of his voice, his gait, address, the liquor and the food to which he was most partial; the number of hours of sleep he found necessary and his experience of the effects of tobacco, with a hundred other minutiae which biographers collect with avidity and readers greedily consume as sweet morsels, are lost, irrecoverably. But all the essentials have been preserved. Devotion to the prosperity of the village, a desire to be useful among his neighbours; conciliatory and philanthropic in his disposition; filial affection very strongly marked, and a faith in the efficacy of the Spa water, bordering on superstition, were the main elements of his nature. He wrote poetry, of what precise quality it is difficult to say, as sufficient is not extant to justify a general estimate. The character of his song has been compared to that of a bird in a state of freedom, but this praise must be taken on trust, for the public are not likely to ever have an opportunity of forming an opinion, by consulting a fair collection of his writings, of his capacity for versification and illustration; his sensibility to the delights of honeyed cadences; nor of his ability to express in graceful and tuneful numbers, sentiments that come to born poets only.

Before he reached the age of fourteen his father died, and to prepare him for the battle of life, young Ben. was apprenticed to Edward Whitehead, of Offchurch, a shoemaker in a small way of business. The choice seems to have been wisely made, for the master having some literary taste, fostered in the apprentice the latent wish he had to become a scholar. The books accessible to the lad were few, but of those he made best use. Small rewards of money were given him from time to time by his master for the satisfactory progress he was making in his trade and self-tuition. With the funds thus acquired he replenished his small library, and

when unable to make further purchases, borrowed old newspapers and books, which were gladly lent him by the villagers.

In 1773, his indentures of apprenticeship having been completed, he returned to Leamington and went to reside with his mother at the Mill. He was master of a trade, useful though humble; he was tolerably proficient in reading, writing, and arithmetic; his mind was thoroughly furnished with an excellent store of general knowledge which qualified him for the position of the village oracle. That tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune, had now reached him. The village, containing an estimated population of nearly three hundred, was a field ample for his industry and enterprise; and the respect in which the family was held brought him customers in plenty, whose confidence he repaid by a character of workmanship which earned for him the title of an "honest mender of boots and shoes." His learning, his resource, and his manly common sense, constituted him the adviser in general to the villagers,—the unanimously-chosen arbiter in most local quarrels. Often, while the great wheel outside his shop was churning the placid waters of the Leam into billowy surf and foam, "Master Ben," as he was familiarly styled, was holding Court within, listening with presidential dignity to his neighbours' disputes, and amicably pouring oil upon the troubled waters which threatened to embitter the life of the village. Between 1753 and 1764, the date of his marriage, he had saved the very handsome sum of £200, £70 of which he lent to a man named Brooks, on mortgage of the cottage in New Street and the land at the back, afterwards named Satchwell Place, and by subsequently advancing another £50, he became owner of the property in fee simple.

Among his friendships, which were many, one was assimilated to a family relationship in its closeness, durability, and intensity. William Abbots, confused by some of the Guideographers with Thomas Abbots, the farmer who occupied the farmhouse where the Post Office and Reynolds's Furniture Repository are, was landlord of the Dog Inn, a snug little country public on the south side of the turnpike road opposite Church Street. He was born at Long Itchington in 1736, and had the misfortune to lose both his father and mother while he was quite young. An uncle,

who was keeper of the woods at Birdingbury, belonging to Sir Theophilus Biddulph, took him under his care, and at his death left him some landed property in Lillington Lane, whereon the first baths were erected. Shortly after the demise of his uncle he removed from Birdingbury to Leamington, and became the landlord of the Dog.* Between Satchwell and William Abbotts, there was an affinity on one subject which blended their natures and made them more like brothers than neighbours. Friendships based upon reciprocal benefits and worldly considerations are liable to be snapped asunder by the most trivial misunderstandings, and to degenerate into implacable hatreds, but the sharers of a germinating faith rarely become estranged. Satchwell's imagination had been fired in early life with the belief that the village would be superseded by a town, to the importance of which he could prescribe no limits. In his fervid vision, the cottages were already potentially the palaces of the future; the narrow lanes and footpaths, wide streets thronged with visitors from every country; gorgeous shops were taking the place of hedgerows, and mansions, terraces and parades were rising with magical celerity in all directions over the pastoral meads of the village. With his mind imbued with this roseate dream, he was an enthusiast, and in Abbotts found a listener, responsive, appreciative and sympathetic. The ideal of the one immediately became a co-partnership with an unlimited liability of service devolving upon the principals. There were many exciting conversations on the subject in the cosy parlour at the Dog Inn; much prospecting in the fields and lanes for a second spring, and schemes, projected with every feeling of confidence in their success, resolving themselves into airy nothings when submitted to practical tests.

But the speculative, the distant, and, it might be, the impracticable, were not allowed by Satchwell to exclude public work, immediate and realisable. The side-lights of tradition reveal him

* Whether this public house was known in its day as the "Black Dog," is somewhat doubtful, for in an early manuscript, Sinkers, the occupier after Abbotts, is referred to as the landlord of the "Greyhound." The name may have been changed when he succeeded to the business, or, possibly, it was associated with the "Black Dog," at Stretton, where the magisterial, parochial, Inland Revenue, and licensing business of Leamington was transacted, originally.

to us as ceaselessly busy in solving problems which have a fascinating interest for the superior intelligence of the present age. It is with no ordinary feelings of surprise we see him towards the end of the eighteenth century setting in motion the rude machinery of some elementary form of village government, and controlling and regulating its movements; establishing a Friendly Society; reporting for the London and Coventry papers every local event likely to improve the prosperity of the village, chronicling in ecstasies of delight imaginary and real cures effected by the waters, and writing poetry, of which we may reasonably believe there is much that is worse in the world and a great deal that is better. No account has been handed down of the pleasant evenings spent at the Dog Inn, but from what has been transmitted to us of the customs of rural life in the pre-railway days, it is not derogatory to believe that on many a winter's evening Mr. Matthew Wise walked over from the Manor House to smoke a friendly pipe with the village patriot, philosopher, and oracle, and even the squire from Newbold Comyn, on rare occasions, might have been of the company. The year 1784 was an important one in Satchwell's life. His and Abbotts's great dream had been unfulfilled. No second spring had been found, and no baths were as yet possible. But the labour of years was about to be rewarded by a rich harvest of health, wealth, and prosperity. On the 14th of January, the two worthies were engaged in conversation in Lillington Lane (Bath Street), probably talking over their many failures, strengthening each other's faith and hope, and devising new plans for future operations in their search for an additional fount of health. They must have been there frequently before, but now, for the first time, their attention is directed to a strange motion in the water of the ditch by which they were standing. Over one particular spot bubbles were rising in rapid succession and exploding on the surface. Around, the ordinarily lazy stream was industriously glassing itself into an infinite variety of fantastic eddies and miniature vortices. Could it be possible that this was the consummation of a life-long aspiration? A brief examination was sufficient to answer that important enquiry. Tasting, proved the new water to possess every palatal characteristic of the older spring; and an analysis confirmed its therapeutic worth. On

that memorable day, the fortunes of modern Leamington were made; how, will be related in subsequent pages.

After the discovery of this spring, Satchwell was active and hopeful in an unusual degree. A report of his, which appeared in "The Coventry Mercury," for September 11, 1788, comments on the events then transpiring, in a strain of exuberant gratitude.

"We can with pleasure say many persons of distinction have graced our salt baths already this summer. Such numerous genteel visitors, with carriages, etc., daily resort to this place that in a short time it must wear off the aspect of a country village. On Monday last, our said baths were honoured with a truly patroness visitor from Stoneleigh Abbey, the Honourable Mrs. Leigh, who expressed great satisfaction at the supernaturality of the waters and the great convenience."

The list of these "genteel visitors," which he kept in a book, has been lost. So have most of his poetic and prose effusions—his ambitious work, "The Rise and Fall of Troy," a poem he had composed while cobbling boots and shoes; and another of a less imaginative nature, entitled, "Astronomical Characters and their use, with Explanatory Figures," a production which has been described as long, but not unskilful, and one showing how naturally his mind was disposed for study. A collection of materials for the history of the village, made by him in the course of years of research, has also passed away into the abyss of oblivion.

His most important work, in fact the great work of his life, was reserved for 1806, the year following that of the death of his friend Abbotts. There seems to have been quite an artistic design in the order of the principal events of his lowly career, commencing, as they did, with some humble efforts to improve the condition of his neighbours, and culminating in the starting of a movement which, to-day, stands prominent among the noblest charitable institutions of England. The Leamington Spa Charity, founded by him, is admitted in the Warneford Hospital annual report for 1873, to have been the seedling plant which grew into the Dispensary and Infirmary of 1816, and that from this institution came the Hospital of 1832.

CHAPTER VII.

Early distinguished visitors—Satchwell's cottage a fashionable place of resort—His benevolence and influence; family, and personal appearance—"Very prepossessing," "silvery locks falling over his shoulders," "a venerable look, a ruddy and cheerful countenance,"—His last illness, death and funeral—Copy of inscriptions on his tomb, and brief summary of his public work—Additional particulars respecting William Abbots, his baths and the New Inn—Smallpox epidemic in 1791, etc.

BETWEEN the years 1784 and 1810, a visit to the cottage in New Street and a chat with Satchwell was accepted as the best way of spending a happy hour at the Spa. Though a full account of all who patronised Leamington with frequent visits at this period is beyond the reach of the historian, many names are to be collected from the early "Guides" and other publications. The Dukes and Duchesses of Bedford and Gordon; the Earls of Longford and Ludlow; Lord Frederick Montague; Bishop Jebb; Dr. Parr, Vicar of Hatton; Dr. Allen; Dr. Kerr, of Northampton Infirmary; Dr. Winthorpe and Dr. Lambe, both of Warwick; Dr. Yates; Dr. Johnstone, of Birmingham; James Perry, the able editor and proprietor of "The Morning Chronicle"; the Rev. J. Walhouse, and Walter Savage Landor, the poet, were among the number.* And most of these, if not all, there are good reasons for believing, were frequent visitors at the humble cottage in New

* A pleasant chapter on the visitors to Leamington could readily be supplied. The above is a notable list, and of others it may be stated that they represented "India's coral strand," and St. Petersburg, as a substitute for "Greenland's icy mountain." The Duke of Bedford, an enormously wealthy nobleman, was father of the statesman, Lord John Russell, afterwards created Earl Russell, twice Prime Minister, and specially famous for his services from 1819, in promoting the cause of Parliamentary Reform. His Grace visited Leamington in 1808, and resided in a house near Robbins' baths, where Satchwell is said to have waited on him with an original ode celebrating his presence at the Spa. He was one of the pillars of the great Whig cause, and it was reported of him at the time of his decease, that he "never deserted his party, nor the leader of his party, from whim, caprice, nor even for reasons which some other Whigs considered sufficient grounds for desertion." When his death occurred in 1839, he was possessed of a rent-roll of £250,000 per annum. Dr. Parr, vicar of

Street. Sitting in the chimney corner, the great Dr. Parr whiled away many an afternoon, smoking his pipe, and, for the moment, forgetting the elegance of his Latin in the village rhymer's rude imitations of Homer and his vague astral speculations, in which there may have been more astrology than the discoverer of the law of gravitation would have allowed. There also came Mr. Perry, deeply interested in Ben's schemes for making the world acquainted with the health-giving qualities of the Leamington water, and placing at his service the columns of the extensively circulated "Morning Chronicle." With an air of great probability it is believed that Dr. Parr and he were frequently in conference over the embers in the cottage grate, respecting the policy of the paper, and that other visitors were of a much higher social grade: people whose names are in the first line of the English nobility, who rode in splendid equipages, with coroneted panels, drawn by velvety steeds, and attended by powdered servants. Those who wore patches came when those who wore pearls had left. Against Farmer Court's barn across the way were assembled the wearers of rags and tatters; the

Hatton, a profound Greek and Latin scholar, successively held the masterships of the schools at Colchester and Norwich. He wrote numerous works, and in the extensive circle of his acquaintances were the Rev. Robert Hall, Baptist minister, Leicester, and the Rev. William Field, of the Unitarian chapel, Warwick, at whose ordination he was present. Like our own Ben. Satchwell, his portrait shows him "pipe in hand," and his devotion to tobacco was such that he has been described as living in dense clouds of smoke from sun-rise to sun-set. With a craving for the pipe so all-powerful, the necessity of abstaining from its use through two services on Sundays, must have been a mortifying penance. The medical gentlemen mentioned, interested themselves in the important work of determining the curative qualities of the mineral waters, the value of which they promulgated throughout the length and breadth of the land. Dr. Johnstone, belonged to a distinguished family of Birmingham Physicians, who "for 90 years and upwards served the poor of the town and neighbourhood, in deed and in truth, kindly and gratuitously." One of them,—Dr. John Johnstone—was an ancestor of the present vicar of Leamington, the Rev. Cecil Hook. James Perry, whose sister was married to Richard Porson, "the Greek Scholar, immortal," brought his wife to the Spa several times for the benefit of her failing health, on which occasions he became known to Satchwell, and began to take an interest in him and his work. "The Morning Chronicle," from which he derived an estimated income of from £8,000 to £10,000 a year, was the paper in which Charles Dickens laid the foundations of his popularity, with the "Sketches by Boz." Walter Savage Landor, the author of many works, including his "Imaginary Conversations of Literary Men and Statesmen," was a descendant of the Landors of Ipsley Court, Warwickshire. On the principle of rendering honour to whom it is due, the Rev. James Walhouse must be named as conspicuous among Leamington's early friends.

representatives of the infirmities and misfortunes of the village. To them Ben gave willing audience, and, pitying their distresses, of his own bounty bestowed coins that restored food to tables which were often bare and cupboards which were never full. His position as co-executor with Jeremiah Alder and Richard Lythall, to the estate of John Purden, farmer, of Radford Semele, was one of many proofs of the respect in which he was held in the neighbouring parishes; the confidence reposed in his integrity, and his readiness to respond to all who sought his assistance. The estate was administered in 1798, and from papers preserved, the work of distribution appears to have devolved principally upon him. The allocation of the respective shares to the widow and eleven children was made with that minute regard to detail which was the habit of his life, an excess balance of one penny, after payment of all claims, being set down with scrupulous care.* To his incessant labours in the public interest were added the cares of a large family and the support of his aged mother. There were eleven children, and when Abbotts's Well was discovered, the family circle consisted of eleven persons — eight children, the mother and father, and the grandmother, who died and was buried March 24, 1789.

His unaffected simplicity, his earnest desire to please all the visitors, and his intelligence made him a special favourite. He was, says a writer, "very prepossessing. The silver locks that fell over his shoulders imparted a venerable look which his ruddy and cheerful countenance belied, and this happy state of health and innate peace remained with him to the last. Several portraits were taken of him at this time by ladies who were desirous of perpetuating his memory among their friends; one, which was engraved in 1829, was drawn, however, many years previous, when age weighed but slightly upon him, and time had not left those traces upon his countenance which afterwards invested him with such patriarchal grace." The honour of promoting the

* Three autographs of Satchwell are extant. The facsimile under his portrait is from a Valuation for Administration of the above estate in the possession of Mrs. Wilks, 8, Church Terrace; Mr. G. W. Grove, 73, Warwick Street, has a Deed of Conveyance, and Mr. H. Duckett, 98, Plymouth Place, the apprenticeship indentures of his grandfather, both bearing the signature of Benjamin Satchwell.

public convenience by improving the local postal system, and inducing the authorities to establish a branch post office in the village at a very early period of its history, is a flower in the garland with which Time has rewarded his many-sided labours. Leamington was originally part of the Warwick postal district, the deliveries of letters from which were late in the day, and the time allowed for reply by return only about an hour and a half, or two hours. It is not known when he first became officially connected with the service, but his original labours were, it is almost certain, of a voluntary character, and in the humble capacity of collecting letters from visitors, and taking or sending them to Warwick to be posted. His assiduity in minimising the discomfort which the imperfect machinery of the village imposed upon patrons from populous towns leads to this conclusion. This assistance would be greatly esteemed, and his selection for the office of district postmaster followed as a matter of course. The appointments were then at the disposal of Members of Parliament for the Counties and Boroughs, and all that was required to elevate Ben to the position of being representative of the Monarch, as he had long been of the million, was a recommendation from some of his numerous aristocratic friends. His popularity, intelligence, and trustworthiness marked him as the most suitable man for the post.

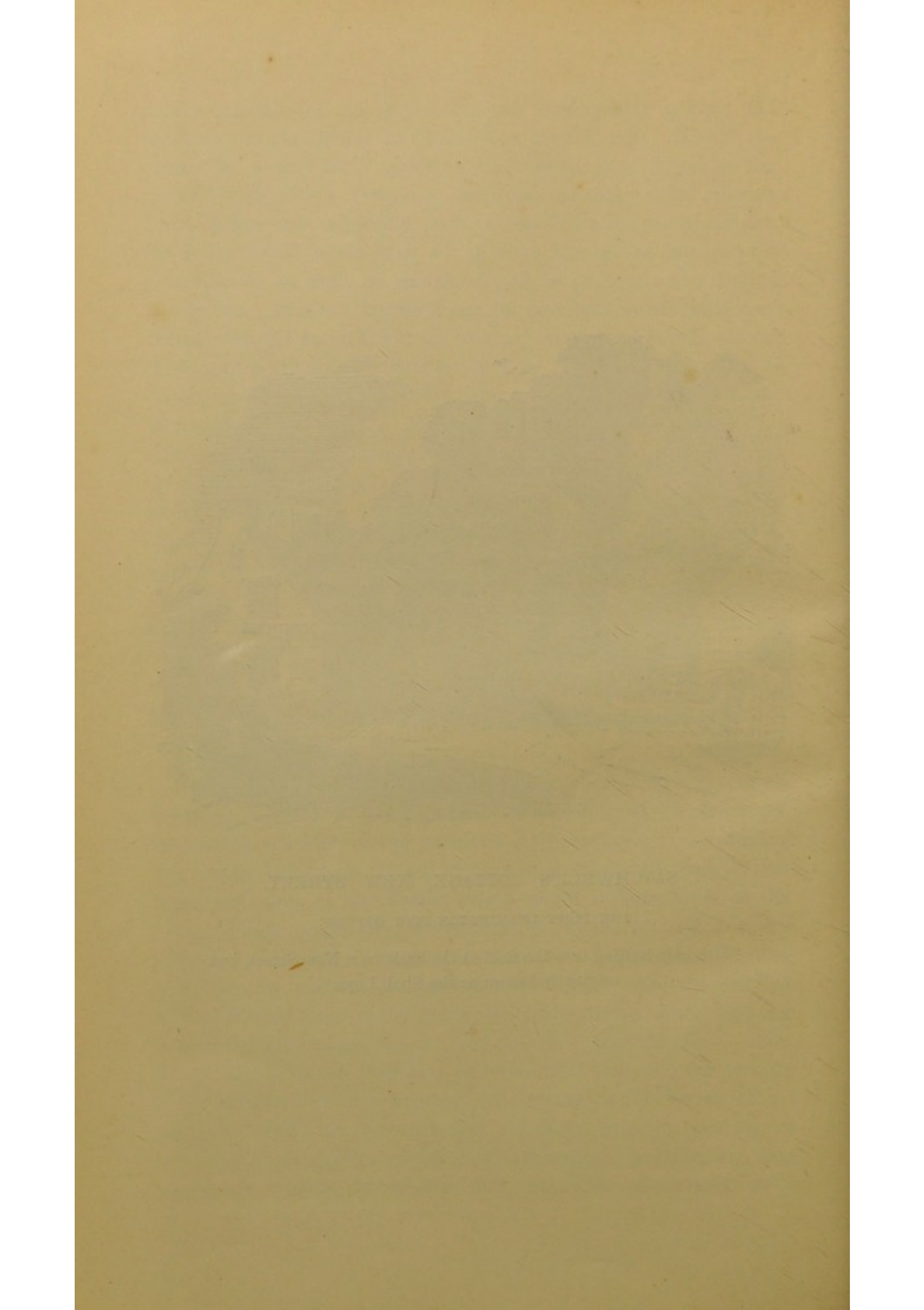
Early in the morning of Saturday, December 1, 1810, Satchwell breathed his last, and there passed away from local life the most interesting resident of the previous half-century. A month or five weeks before his death, he was in good health and spirits. The beginning of his illness was a slight inflammation of the chest, which, gradually increasing in intensity, baffled every remedial measure. The greatest care was bestowed upon him, and frequent medical consultations were held. Around his bed were gathered those many indissoluble friendships which his long and useful life had garnered. On one side was the Rev. James Walhouse, with the skill of a professional nurse, and the tenderness and affection of a brother, ministering to the wants of his afflicted friend; on the other was Dr. Kerr, who, on hearing of his illness, had driven over from Northampton, bringing his vast stores of medical knowledge and his wide experience as a



SATCHWELL'S COTTAGE, NEW STREET.

THE FIRST LEAMINGTON POST OFFICE ;

With gate leading into the field at the back, now New Street, but
originally known as the Shell Leys.



voluntary contribution to the agencies which were being employed for his recovery; at the foot stood Mr. George Birch, the medical attendant, painfully conscious that he was contending with two formidable foes—the ravages of an insidious disease, and the infirmities of age. Covering the table were various delicacies, such as tempt the appetite of the sick chiefly by their novelty, contributed by sympathisers of every class in the village, in the vain hope of recruiting his shattered health. Daily growing weaker, he called to his bedside the members of his family, and having tranquilly arranged his affairs, joined with them and a select circle of personal friends in the Sacrament, and shortly afterwards peacefully went out with the ebbing waters of the old year, and quietly “crossed the bar.” The news of his death produced a darkness in every cottage so gross as to be felt, and in the village a void which made it a strange place, even to those who had known it all their lives as their home.

The “Warwick Advertiser,” in its obituary notices on Dec. 8, 1810, thus referred in appreciative terms to the memory of the deceased:—“On Saturday morning last, deeply regretted by his neighbours and friends, Mr. Benjamin Satchwell, in the 78th year of his age, senior inhabitant of Leamington Priors. He contributed with honest zeal and laudable assiduity to raise the name of the Leamington Waters to their present eminence, and his ‘rustical roundelays,’ and homely but well-meant gratulations will long be held in remembrance by many of the first families in the kingdom, whose arrival at the Spa, he seldom failed to commemorate in some loyal and complimentary effusion.”

He was buried in the churchyard, near to the south porch, with every sign of public respect and grief. A long train of mourners attended the funeral, and mingled with the hot scalding tears of his family were the sobbings of many he had befriended, and heavy sighs of sympathy by those who, above him in social circumstances, valued him as their friend, and treated him as their equal. An expensive altar tomb was erected over his grave by his daughter, Miss Satchwell, in August, 1812, on one side of which was an inscription, expressing in terms of unadorned, but singularly impressive eloquence, the strength of her affection, and on the opposite, a poetic effusion by Mr. Pratt,—author of “The

Gleaner," and the first "Guide," to Leamington,—in which the service and worth of the deceased are commemorated, as will be seen, with perspicuity and propriety:—

THIS
SACRED TRIBUTE OF
A DAUGHTER'S LOVE AND DUTY,
IS RAISED
TO THE MEMORY OF
BENJAMIN SATCHWELL,
OF LEAMINGTON PRIORS,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE DEC. 1, 1810,
IN THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR
OF HIS AGE.

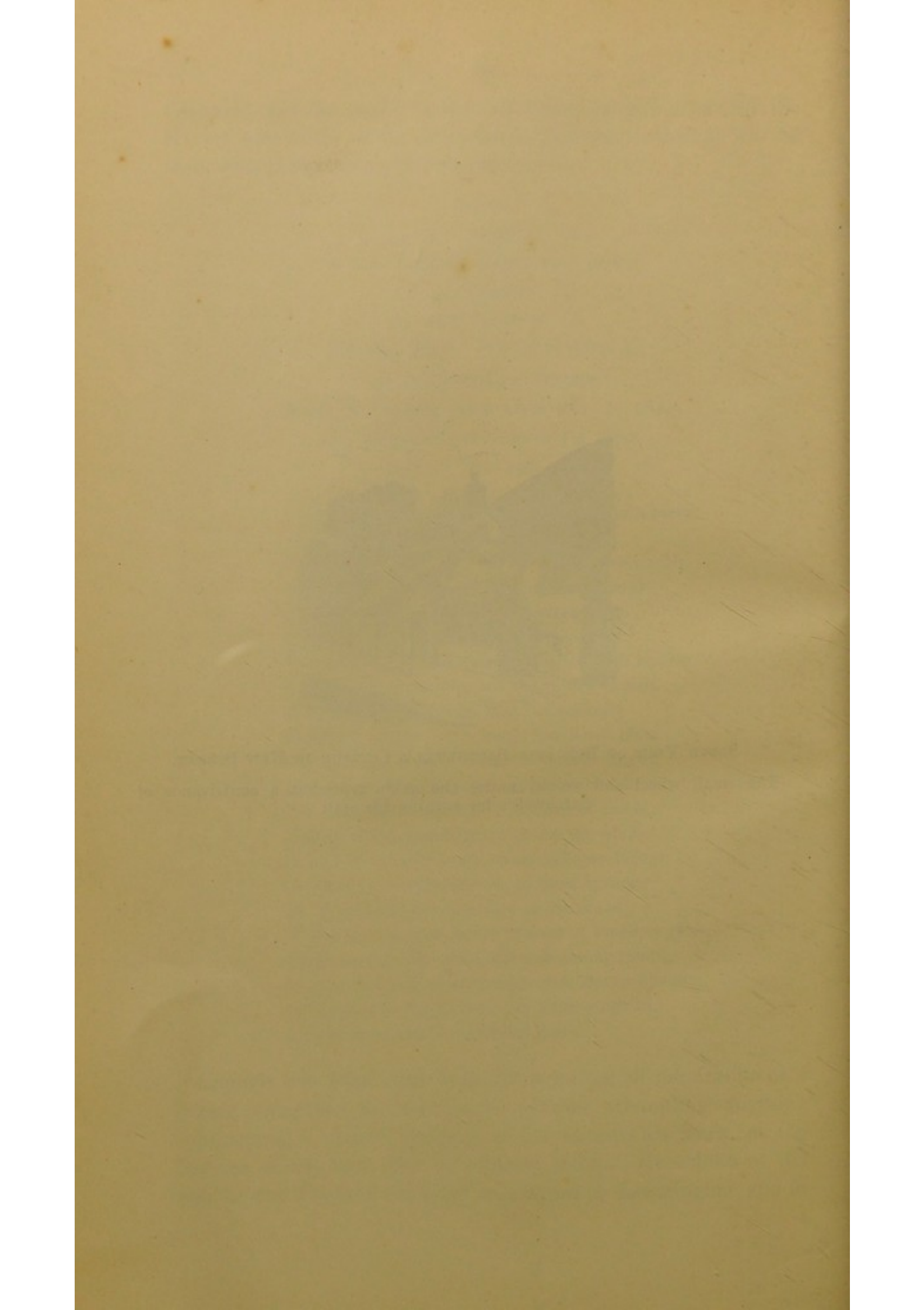
" With kindred dust beneath this stone doth blend,
The Ashes of a Patron and a Friend :
Thy Friend, thy Patron, Leamington whose zeal,
Recording Time and Truth shall long reveal.
Lowly as his, thy birth, unknown to fame,
But thy fair youth his latest age proclaim.
Thy copious fountains sparkling high with health,
Thy growing greatness and thy future wealth,
Thy proudest villas and each cot's recess,
Bid thee the grave of humble Satchwell bless.
His the clear head in Nature's volume taught,
And his the wisdom sage experience bought ;
His the strong powers of Body and of Soul,
And his the honest heart to crown the whole.
Reader, who'er thou art whom sickness brings,
Or more consuming sorrow, to these springs,
Or, if gay pleasure lure thee to the scene,
Where Nature spreads the charms of loveliest green.
Thou, too, shouldst hail the unassuming tomb,
Of him who told where health and beauty bloom,
Of him whose lengthened life improving ran,
A blameless, useful, venerable man."

Enough has been said to excite a feeling of admiration of a lasting character for Satchwell, without attempting anything approaching a minute analysis of his nature, his work, or the motives which kept him in constant action. He stands at the head of the Friendly Societies' movement in Leamington, and in



SOUTH VIEW OF BENJAMIN SATCHWELL'S COTTAGE IN NEW STREET.

The small wheel and weight under the gable represent a contrivance of Satchwell's for turning his spit.



a subordinate capacity he was the first of its journalists. In that small group of men who endowed the village with every energy they possessed, he was a central figure, and his rank is first in the postal service. Posterity, from thoughtlessness, has allowed his tombstone to fall into a discreditable state of decay, and Time has rendered undecipherable the inscription which expressed the veneration and esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries. But we are not without hopes of seeing this oversight remedied by the collection of the few pounds necessary for its restoration, and the tribute, earned by lowly worth, preserved for many generations to come. Should this be realised, we would suggest to those who take the work in hand the propriety of placing on record his valuable services to the cause of the afflicted poor by founding the Leamington Spa Charity.

William Abbotts died in 1805, respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and regarded by Satchwell with brotherly affection. Of him we know much less than of his venerable friend. Nothing has been preserved of his personal appearance; no portrait such as we have of Satchwell. That he was of a practical turn of mind goes without saying; that his baths exercised an influence for good on the fortunes of the village is shown by the praise Satchwell has lavished on his memory. "The Leamington Salts," of which he was the first manufacturer, won the approbation of the leaders of medical opinion, and, for more than half a century, were a testimonial to his enterprise. The memoranda of the visits of Mr. and Mrs. Wrench, from 1800, in complimentary terms say he was a model landlord and bath proprietor. "Grandma was particularly fond of Mr. Abbotts, who treated her with kindly attention and did his best to court her favour. In later years she often spoke of his civilities at the baths." Satchwell was one of the mourners who attended the funeral, and many of the other inhabitants were present in token of the respect in which they held the memory of the deceased. Over his last resting-place in the village Churchyard, a tombstone—the size and character of which contrasted with its humble surroundings—was erected by his daughter, with the following inscription, unlike that of Satchwell, still intact and legible. The verse was suppressed by Moncrieff for the alleged

reason that it had not "sufficient merit to deserve preservation." But the sentiment is excellent, and the lines, if not classical, are neatly arranged:—

BEHOLD

The Tomb of

WILLIAM ABBOTTS,

who died the 1st of March 1805

aged 69.

First Founder of the celebrated
Spa-water Baths at this Place in
1786. He devoted his whole Time
and Fortune to Accommodate
the Public and lived to see
his benevolent Works merit
the Approbation of the
most eminent
Physicians.

In Peace I rest, pray be so kind,
Improve the Work I leave behind
May Invalids (made Whole agree,)
To praise the Lord instead of Me.

The "Warwick Advertiser," of February 15, 1806, distinguished him as the founder of modern Leamington: "A handsome tribute has lately been paid to the memory of the public-spirited person who first drew the attention of the neighbourhood and the public to the sanative qualities of the Lemington waters, by the erection of a well-executed grave-stone in Lemington Churchyard, the workmanship of Messrs. Sprawson and Cakebread, of Harbury." A copy of the inscription follows, in which "spa water" is rendered "spaw water." A further acknowledgment of Abbotts's services to the village, couched in terms expressive of sincere admiration, appeared in "Beck's Directory" for 1840: "This worthy individual, in conjunction with his friend, Benjamin Satchwell, deserves to be particularly recorded in the annals of the town, whose early prosperity was first promoted, and afterwards fostered and extended through a series of upwards of twenty years with the most unremitting vigilance and assiduity, by these two fathers of the village. The character of Abbotts (as well as that of his colleague) appears to have been perfectly free from any taint of selfish or sordid principle in the energetic endeavours he made for the welfare of

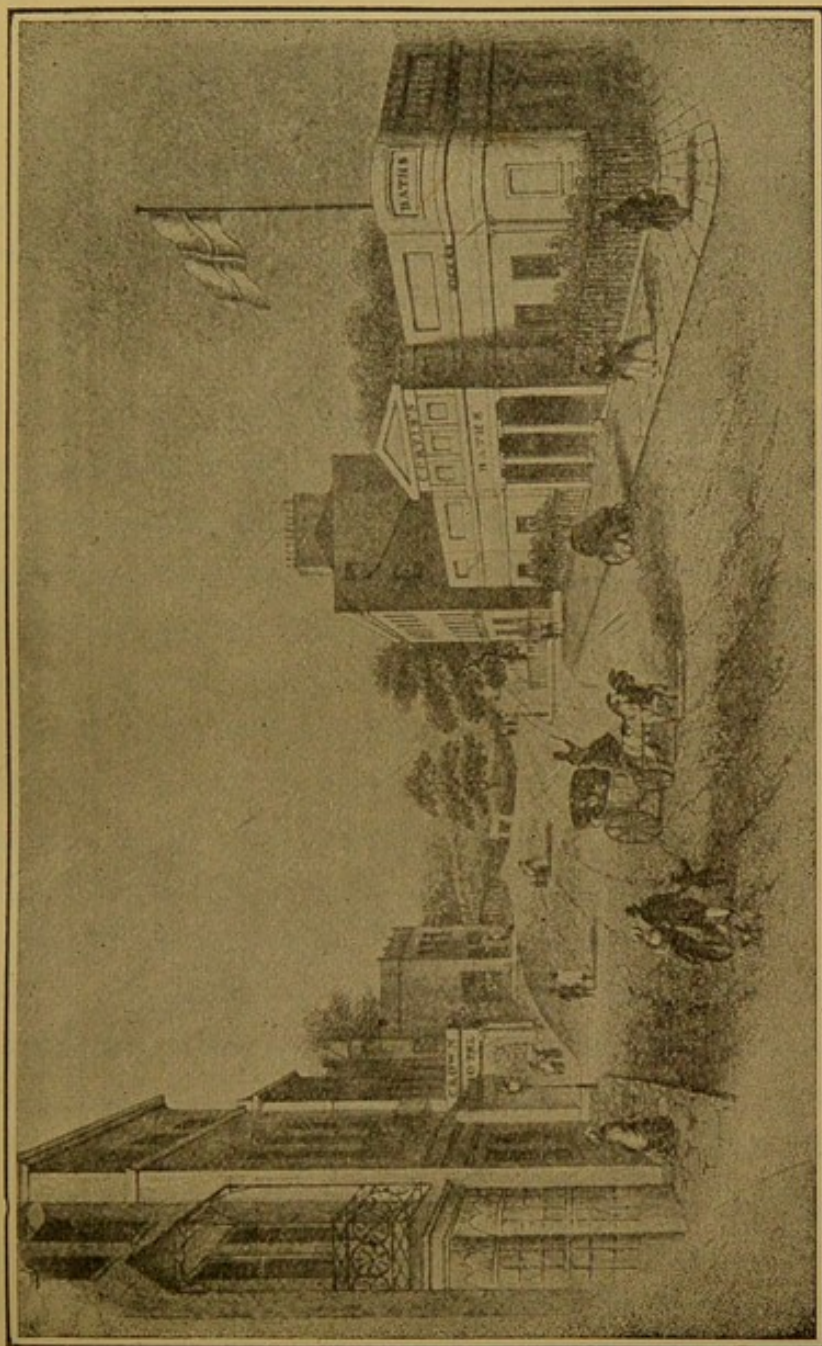
his native place; many opportunities which must have existed for the appropriation of property to no inconsiderable amount, were by him wholly disregarded, and not only so, but a comfortable income, which his industry had amassed for his latter years, was entirely and without reserve devoted to the projects of a sanguine and judicious judgment. Uniting great simplicity of manners with a penetration that was not slow in anticipating the probable result of his enterprise, Abbotts, by a combination of circumstances, became the instrument of effecting a change equally singular and fortunate to the interests of Leamington."

The history of his Baths admits of a brief narration. When established in 1786, the accommodation afforded was small, and "rude in the extreme." There was one reservoir for warm salt water and another for cold. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Abbotts carried on the business until April, 1806, when she transferred both the Inn and the Baths to her son-in-law, William Smith; but from the public notice of the change of proprietorship it appears that she continued to superintend the business at the Baths while Mr. and Mrs. Smith attended to the Inn. The Baths were then improved; enlarged in 1815, and, at the same time, arrangements were made for supplying the indigent poor at a nominal charge. There was a second enlargement in 1836, the old structure being demolished, and a new edifice, more in accordance with the changed condition of the town, erected on the site. The new building and arrangements comprised eight baths for hot or cold bathing, and the same number of shower baths. The first douche bath was supplied, and also a vapour and hot air bath. Mr. J. Goold was in occupation in 1841, at which time they were known as "Goold's Original Baths and Pump Rooms," and were described as "Saline and Sulphurous." He introduced a vapour bath, which is reported to have been the Turkish bath. In 1851, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner were the Managers. Mr. W. Wood, who had previously held the Victoria Baths in the Victoria Colonnade, became the tenant of the "Original Old Spa Baths" in May, 1858. In 1861, they were the property of Messrs. Stock and Co., Birmingham, for whom Messrs. White and Locke, auctioneers, were the local

agents. The last change took place in 1867, when they were purchased by E. Francis and Sons, and added to their establishment. The semi-circular plate-glass window at the corner of Bath Street and Smith Street, encloses the site, on which this, the first, and consequently, the most interesting of the historic baths once stood.

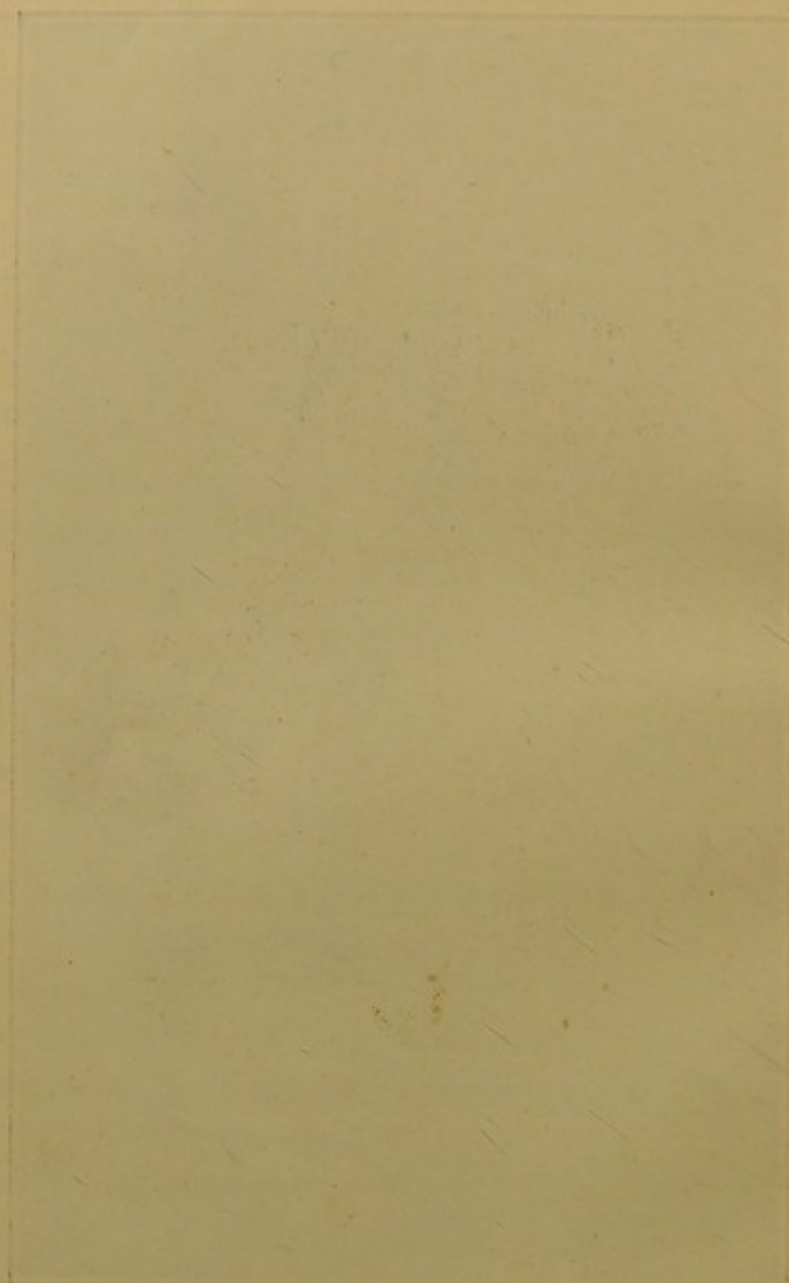
Leamington, in the months of April and May, 1791, was heavily scourged with a visitation of smallpox, the most remarkable circumstances of which were the promptitude displayed by the parish authorities in applying the remedial measure of inoculation, and the strict conformity of the course of the disease to those laws which medical science had prescribed as its natural direction and effect. The introduction of inoculation into England from Turkey, about the year 1721, by Lady Mary Wortley Montague, led to enquiries which showed that the average rate of mortality in cases of smallpox was one death of every five or six persons attacked, but of those who were inoculated not more than one in five or six hundred. There were twenty-nine cases of natural smallpox in the village, resulting in six deaths—precisely the number predicated by the collectors of smallpox statistics. One hundred and twenty-four of the villagers were inoculated, all of whom recovered and were found to be proof against the contagion.

In 1790, the third mineral, or saline water spring, was found on land at the south-west corner of Bath Street, belonging to Mr. Matthew Wise, then residing at the old Manor House. Large baths were erected on the site, the entrance to which was opposite the Crown Hotel. As Curtis's Baths, they were continued to about the year 1847, when the land being required for the railway, it was sold and the buildings were then demolished. It must be mentioned that Mr. Wise in conveying the property to the Railway Company, stipulated for the free use of the water for ever. One of the assistants at these baths during the management of Isaac Curtis, was John Wincote, who afterwards became the presiding genius of the Pump Rooms in its halcyon days.



Curtis's Baths, High Street, erected on the site of Wise's Spring, discovered in 1790.

The Baths were demolished in 1847.



CHAPTER VIII.

The rise of local Congregationalism—Theories respecting places in which the first meetings were held—The Rev. Mr. Moody of Warwick, pioneer of the movement—Revds. William Williams and Joseph Wilcox Percy, his successors in the work—First Nonconformist Place of Worship built—Opening services, list of ministers—Disputes about the use of the Liturgy and secessions—A second congregation formed and new services started—Arrival of the Rev. Alfred Pope, subsequent events.

FROM the date of the discovery of the second spring in 1784, and the erection of the first baths in 1786 by William Abbotts, there were indications of a new effervescence of local life, one being the introduction of Independency. Nonconformity, now represented by several influential congregations and attractive chapels, among which may be mentioned as belonging to the class of the finest in the kingdom, the Wesley Church, Dale Street, and the Congregational Church, Spencer Street, found in the Rev. James Moody, pastor of the old Congregational Church, Brook Street, Warwick, an energetic and successful home missionary. In his history of "Independency in Warwickshire," the Rev. J. Sibree refers to some memoranda in the congregational records of the time respecting the expenses incurred in holding these early services at Leamington, but he does not mention the amounts, nor the nature of the payments. The meetings conducted by Mr. Moody, are variously stated to have been held in a barn, in a cottage, or at a public house, but there is no positive information as to which of these assertions is to be relied on in preference to the others, so far as the commencement of the work is concerned. Later on the events stand out with greater clearness, and without much trouble, we can trace the growth of Nonconformity in Leamington from the cottage movement in Clemens Street, to its final settlements in the Spencer, Dale, Warwick, and Clarendon Streets. Bisset, who came about the year 1812, and who was consequently in touch with many people living at the time of Mr. Moody's visits, clearly points, in the following jaunty quatrain, to a public house as the

place where some meetings were held:—

“ Till the meeting-house fire began to appear,
The good folks called Dissenters were happy;
And thought it no sin to preach at an Inn,
Where on week-days was sold the ‘brown nappy.’ ”

The verse, however, does not refer to Mr. Moody's services, for he says in explanation of the circumstance to which he alludes;—

“ Till the Chapel in Clemens Street was built, A. D. 1816, the Congregation assembled in a room at the Oxford Hotel, now called the Blenheim.”

Mr. Moody died in 1806, and as there was not a house on the east side of Clemens Street in 1812, except the one occupied by Bisset as a Picture Gallery, there could not have been meetings, either at the Oxford or the Blenheim, in his day. If he selected the Dog public house, as the place of meeting, which some are inclined to think was the case, the landlord would be William Abbots, who resided there until 1793, when the New Inn, Bath Street, was ready for occupation. This theory of the first religious meetings of Congregationalism having been held at an Inn, is not improbable, seeing that nowhere else was there likely to be suitable accommodation. Abbots, churchman though he was, with a pew at the Parish Church, would hardly have hesitated to hire a room for the purpose. He is not shown to have been tainted with sectarian bigotry, on the contrary, the information we have of him suggests a mind, tolerant of the opinions of others and a desire to promote their comfort. While the exact dates of Mr. Moody's visits and the names of the buildings in which he held his meetings are in some degree uncertain, it is gratifying to find that his efforts to inaugurate the principles of Independency in the village, did not encounter the spirit of persecution then rampant in the rural districts, and to which the unmitred Bishops of Dissent had to submit with heroic patience. At the time when preacher-baiting was by no means an isolated form of Sunday recreation in the rural districts, and Nonconformist parsons were being pelted out of Long Itchington, no complaint is made of his having been insulted or ill-treated during his ministrations to the village rustics in the later years of the eighteenth century.

Coming forward a few years we find the meetings taking place at the Oxford Hotel, as mentioned by Bisset. This arrangement

must have been made in the time of the Rev. Joseph Wilcox Percy, who was ordained minister at Brook Street Church, Warwick, in 1810. Mr. Moody's successor in the pastorate was the Rev. William Williams, but as he remained at Warwick only two years—1807 to 1809—it was as impossible for him to have conducted services at the Oxford Hotel, afterwards "called the Blenheim," as for Mr. Moody. We mention the circumstance of his filling the office, for the very strong probabilities it affords of his having been the second congregational pastor who preached to the young cause in Leamington. From all the accounts we have seen of the growth of Congregationalism at the Spa, the name of Mr. Williams is omitted, but in our opinion, nothing is more unlikely than that the old Church at Brook Street should have coldly neglected, during his ministry, the fledgling at Leamington, which had been nestling under its wing during that of Mr. Moody. But there is no doubt respecting the third. Mr. Percy, shortly after his ordination, was in regular attendance at meetings held in Leamington, probably in some place in High Street, at first, and subsequently at the Oxford and Blenheim Hotel, Clemens Street, preaching to the score or two of villagers, who formed the nucleus, out of which have arisen three Independent Churches, one of which only, is now (1901) in existence. The original cause is said to have been so poor that there was not a single member of the congregation who could afford to offer the minister from Warwick the hospitality of a cup of tea. In consequence of the room at the Blenheim being required for another purpose, the services were threatened with an interruption, the inconvenience of which was avoided by Mrs. Moody promptly placing her house at the disposal of the friends of the rising cause. The offer was gladly accepted, and until the building of the new chapel in 1816, Mr. Percy regularly preached there on Thursday evenings, and occasionally on Sundays. It was doubtless out of these circumstances and the greater numbers attending the services that the desire arose for making permanent provision for the future. There were several unoccupied plots of land in the street, and immediately over the way, one which seemed to be waiting for the erection thereon of a convenient place of worship. To build there was an inspired wish that the Church and congregation at Warwick fanned into a flame with

words of encouragement and promises of assistance. With the approbation of the local public, Mr. Percy and his friends commenced a subscription, and from London, Bristol, and other towns, such aid was received as placed them in a position to purchase the land and build the first chapel in Leamington. It was opened on July 10, 1816, and the following advertisement notice is curious, as announcing two sermons, and mentioning the Rev. I. J. James, of Birmingham, as engaged to preach only "one part of the day :—(From the "Warwick Advertiser," July 6, 1816.)

LEMINGTON SPA.

On Wednesday next, July 10, 1816,

THE

NEW CHAPEL

will be Opened for divine worship

AT

LEMINGTON near WARWICK,

WHEN

TWO SERMONS

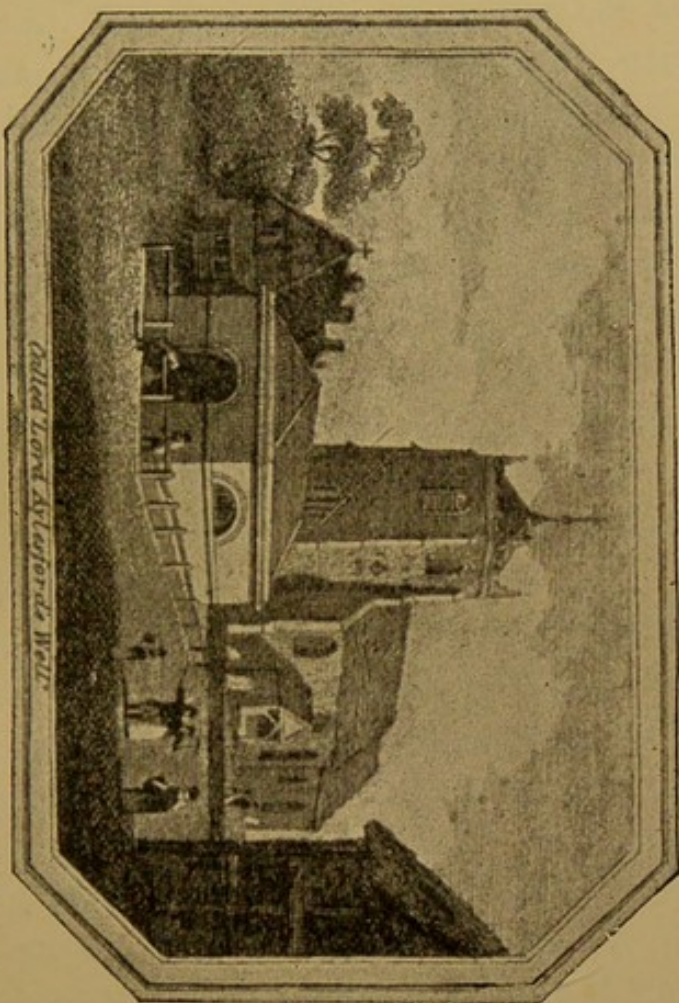
will be preached,

the Morning Service to commence
at Eleven O'clock and the Evening
at Six.

The Rev. I. J. James, of Birmingham, has engaged to Preach one part of the Day.

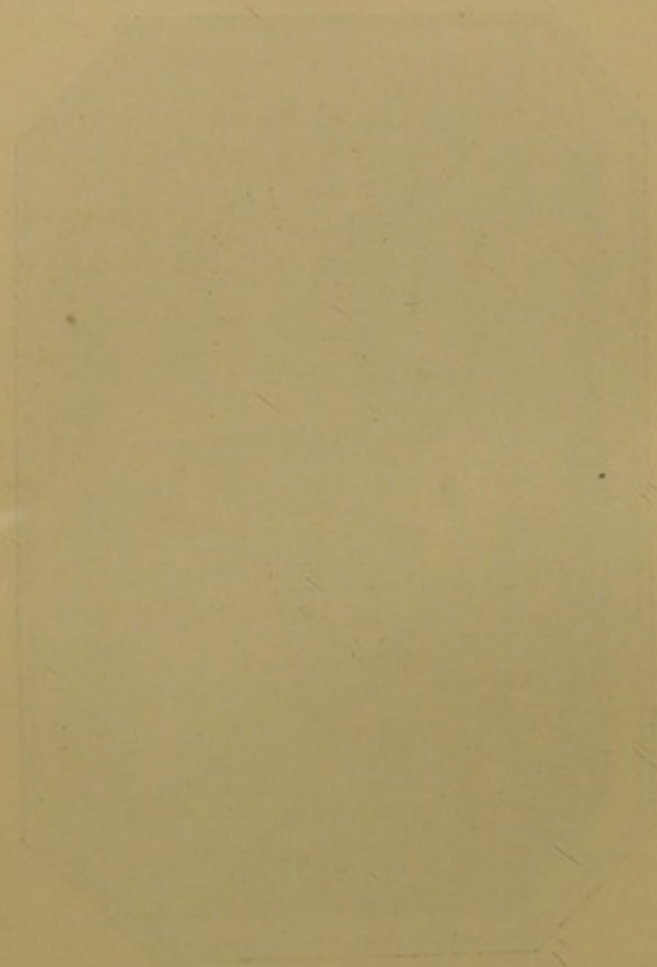
N. B.—A Collection will be made after the Services.

For some reason, the second minister's name was not stated, but Mr. Sibree says it was Mr. Hartley, of Lutterworth. That of the first preacher, John Angell James, it will be noticed is not correctly given. He was the great Divine of Carr's Lane Chapel, Birmingham, and twenty years afterwards preached the first sermon at Spencer Street, where, singularly enough, his successor at Carr's Lane, Dr. Dale, afterwards became a member, and an itinerant preacher in the villages of Mid-Warwickshire. The principles of the Church, as between Conformity and Non-conformity, were of the accommodating kind, the Liturgy of the Establishment being incorporated with the service, and independent self-government, free from all external control, strictly reserved for the congregation. At first it was described as "the



Called Lord Aylesford's Well.

ORIGINAL BUILDING OVER THE OLD WELL, ERECTED BY
LORD AYLESFORD IN 1804.



New Chapel," and afterwards as "the Leamington Chapel," but the official designation which interpreted its comprehensive character was "the Union Chapel." The result of this attempt to unite things that were essentially different was not encouraging to its promoters. The Rev. Arthur Bromiley, of Hoxton College, "a young man of considerable powers of mind, and generally acceptable as a preacher," was chosen pastor in 1817. His secession from the cause, acceptance of holy orders, and admission into the Church of England took place in the early part of the year 1824. The Rev. William Seaton, of Wandsworth, in the same year, succeeded Mr. Bromiley in the pastorate, and, in 1827, also followed him into the National Church. The third minister was the Rev. Charles Bassano, who was ordained in 1827, in 1828 withdrew, and, like his two predecessors in office, went over to the Establishment.* At this time the use of the Liturgy was objected to by a number of the congregation, and on its discontinuance there was a larger secession, which led to the building of Mill Street Chapel. Commenting upon the strangely chequered history of the New Chapel at this period, Mr. Sibree speaks disparagingly of its policy of expediency, and refers to the failure experienced as the inevitable consequence of such a compromise. But he omits any allusion to the more general aspects of the case, and treats within local limitations a subject which at the time was attracting much notice in Church and Dissenting circles. The Rev. Rowland Hill, the witty, wise, and eloquent minister at Surrey Chapel, London, preached his first sermon at Leamington in the Union Chapel, Clemens Street, in August, 1817, at which time he was in the habit of visiting the Spa for the benefit of his health. The adoption of the Liturgy at Clemens Street Chapel was most probably by his advice; otherwise it was the consequence of his example. His position in the religious world was epigrammatically described as "A Churchman amongst Dissenters, and a Dissenter amongst Churchmen." His own account of himself was that he was travelling through life with only one boot on, referring to his having been ordained a Deacon without succeeding in becoming a Priest or Presbyter. On the completion of Surrey Chapel, in 1783, he adopted the

* There was a fourth secession. The Rev. Mr. Powell, who followed the Rev. W. H. Sisterton, at Mill Street, also joined the Church of England.

Liturgical service of the Church of England, but maintained the Dissenting principle of independence for each Church. The fashion, thus set by a popular preacher, spread, though not without provoking the hostility of both the parties it was designed to conciliate. The archers of the Establishment drew their bows and discharged arrows such as this at the innovation: "If Dissenting ministers can conform to the Book of Common Prayer, we should like to know what else there is in the Church of England to which, with equal ease and consistency, they might not conform?" And they pointed triumphantly to the secessions of the first three ministers of Clemens Street Chapel as supplying an answer. The experiment failed, and was not a permanent success at Mill Street, where, in 1829, it was transplanted and renewed under circumstances more favourable to its stability. *

These events bring the history of the chapel affairs down to the year 1828, when a considerable secession of members took place, in consequence of a resolution having been adopted for the discontinuance of the Liturgy, and a new organisation being formed, its meetings were held in the building now occupied by Messrs. Sleath, Ltd. The Rev. Charles Bassano, the pastor at Clemens Street while this controversy was raging, declined to remain in charge of the church, and accompanying his friends assisted in the work of establishing the nucleus of a new cause, with Liturgical services according to their own views. In the following year they erected Mill Street chapel, the historical account of which will be given later on. The vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Bassano was filled by the Rev. Alfred Pope, and from the date of his arrival in Leamington, a more prosperous era commenced for local Congregationalism. The immediate cause of his coming was as singular as any that ever occurred in the history of pastoral appointments. It appears he was a student at Highbury College,

*An old resident has communicated to us the following, received by him from the late Dr. Hitchman: Mr. Hill was afflicted with eczema, for which he found the Leamington waters highly beneficial. He was a patient of the doctor's, and when in Leamington, resided at his house. The morning Mr. Hitchman set out for his marriage, Mr. Hill, who was unable to leave his bed, shook hands with him, wished him all happiness, and, as he was passing through the door, pelted him with some old slippers which he had secreted beneath the clothes for that purpose. The marriage proved to be as happy as the most artistic thrower of matrimonial old slippers could ever wish to see.

and one wintry Saturday, in February, 1828, walked to the Coach Office with a fellow-student who had been selected to preach at Clemens Street Chapel, Leamington, on the following day. On arriving at the office it was discovered that his friend had in his hurry forgotten his overcoat. To travel on the top of a coach for a hundred miles without an extra coat, was not to be thought of in such weather, and although Mr. Pope would gladly have lent his "Dreadnought," the two were of such unequal proportions that even this could not be done. In the emergency Mr. Pope agreed to take the journey instead of his friend; and thus began "with an act of brotherly love his long and kindly career in this town." It was a snowy day and when the heavily-laden coach, with its blowing and steaming team, pulled up at the Bath Hotel, in the evening of Saturday, February 9, 1828, Mr. Pope was welcomed by James Frost, and John Fairfax, two Leamington worthies,* whose special efforts at this critical juncture, probably saved the young cause of Nonconformity from temporary extinction. The natural enquiry on his part, concerning the congregation he would be expected to address on the following day, elicited from one of them the not very encouraging nor satisfactory answer, "We can depend upon five and there may be more." He preached on Sunday, February 10, 1828, for the first time in the old chapel in Clemens Street, to twelve hearers, and continued the services on successive Sundays to steadily increasing attendances until July, when, on the 17th of that month a little church was formed and twelve members received at the hands of the Rev. J. W. Percy, the sacrament, this being its first observance by local Dissenters. About the same time Mr. Pope was offered the charge and pastoral oversight of the now steadily growing church and congregation. He consented to remain for a year, and then finding the work congenial he signified his entire acceptance of the trust.

* James Frost, and John Fairfax, may be regarded as the counterparts of Abbotts and Satchwell, but acting in a different sphere of Leamington life. The first, who was of a bright and genial nature, was a nurseryman, occupying the well-known horticultural grounds at Lillington, and also a house and shop in Regent street, for the sale of his produce. He had three sons,—Lewis became the Assistant Overseer, and at his death in the fifties, Mr. George Rogers succeeded him in that office. Thomas, emigrated to Australia on the out-break of the gold-fever mania some fifty years ago, and is still (1901) living there, hale and hearty. The other son, William, a well-built, fine-looking man, popular in the town and efficient in his profession, was a journalist. After several years' service on "The Leamington

He was ordained on the 28th of April, 1829, Messrs. Jerrard and Sibree, Coventry; Percy, Warwick; and the Rev. Dr. Redford of Worcester, taking part in the service. As this was the first time of a Nonconformist minister's ordination in Leamington, it was a novelty calculated to attract a large attendance, and under the circumstances it is not surprising to read that "several clergymen were present who seemed to regard the proceedings with the most earnest interest." In the same year Mr. Pope married Anna Maria, daughter of Mr. Thomas Crosby, of Westbury, Wiltshire. From 1829 to 1836, the date of the removal to Spencer Street, the history of the church was one of continually augmented progress. Occasionally the pulpit was occupied by preachers whose fame was of a world-wide character,—the Revds. John Angell James, Rowland Hill, William Jay, Henry Foster Burder, and Edward Irving. After the enjoyment of seven years' uninterrupted peace and prosperity, the thriving church was transferred to Spencer Street, where it entered on a new career the particulars of which a future chapter will supply.

Courier," as Reporter, he went to Reading about the year 1864, and afterwards to Winchester, where he died. The death of James Frost, the father, took place in 1835, and was attributed to his having partaken of diseased oysters. He was buried in the churchard at Lillington. John Fairfax was a stationer, bookseller, printer and newspaper proprietor. He was a deacon at the Clemens Street Chapel and Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1828, he assisted in starting "The Leamington Courier," afterwards became proprietor of the "Leamington Chronicle," and in 1838 went out to Australia. Landing at Sydney with his family, and £5, he began the battle of life afresh by becoming librarian to the Australian Library. He next acquired a share in "The Sydney Morning Herald," and ultimately became the sole owner. He rose to a seat in the Legislative Council, from which time he was entitled to the prefix, "Hon." He died some years ago, and was interred in the Necropolis, Rookwood, the attendance of the public being large and including the Lieut-Governor, Sir Alfred Stephen, C. B., K.C.M.G. President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. John Hay; the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and other members of the Ministry.

CHAPTER IX.

Parish Church reopened in 1800—sales of pews in 1815 with list of purchasers and prices paid—particulars of the enlargement in 1816, including measurements and the cost—description of the erection of the extension of 1825—arrangements with the Rev. Robert Downes—large appropriation of pews as private property—prices given in 1828 for proprietary rights in sittings, etc.

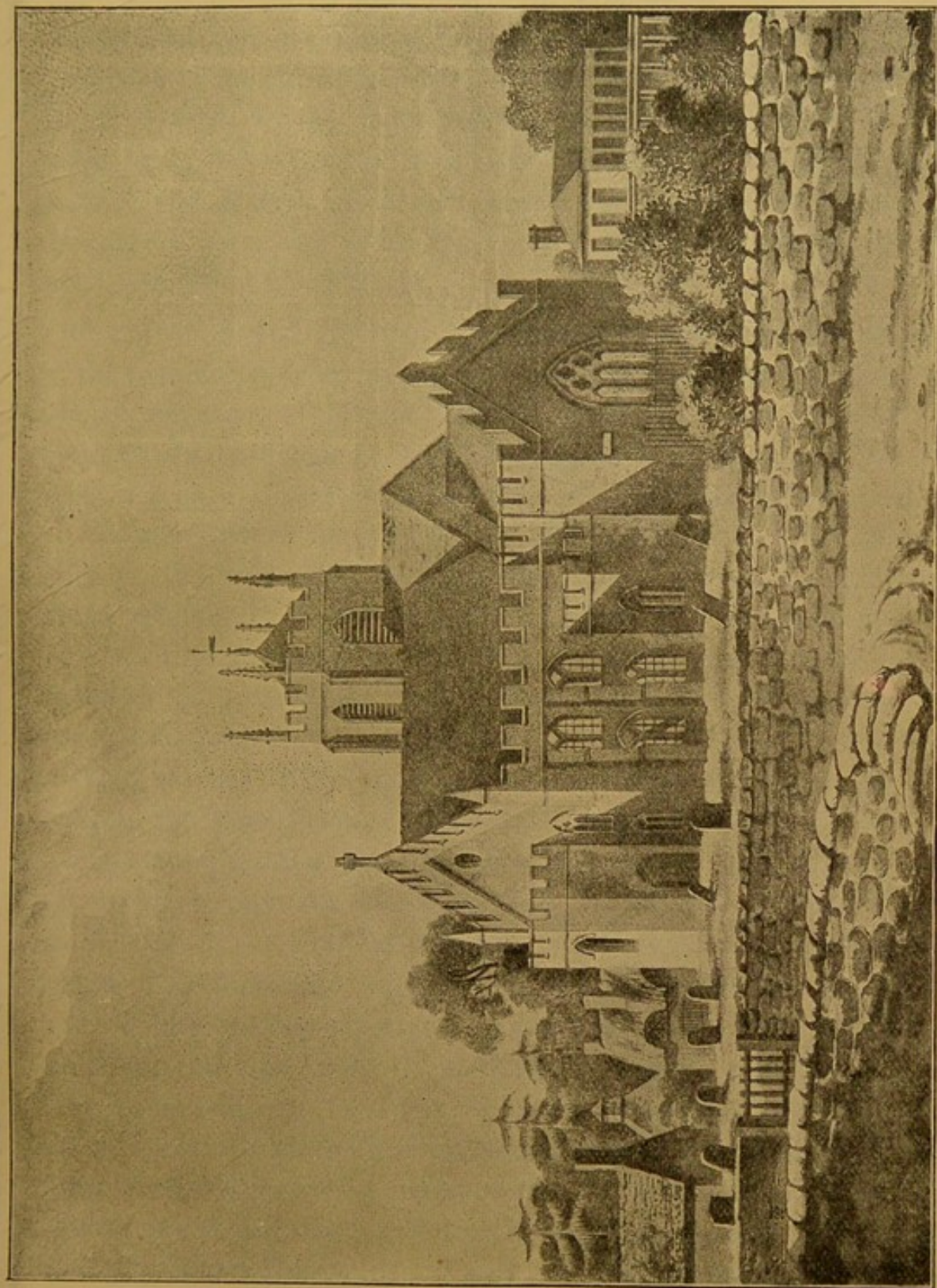
AS stated on page 39, the fourth period marked out as one of the chief divisions in local history, commenced in 1784, the year in which Satchwell and Abbotts discovered the second saline spring. It closed in 1825, the date of the first local Act affecting the government of the town. In those thirty-nine years there is discoverable much of the initial energy which has won fame and fortune for Leamington in modern times. Satchwell and Abbotts appear on the scene as the pioneers of those men, who, a generation later, spread out the new town like a richly painted canvas among the verdant pastures and waving cornfields on the north bank of the Leam. James Bisset, busy as a bee and blithe as a lark, was carolling his humorous ditties into the ears of the modern Leamingas, while the Messrs. H. and F. Marshall, Merridew, Elliston, Hewitt, Enoch and their music-loving confreres, were preparing to provide a home for Melody by industriously organising the first of those associations, the concerts of which have ever been counted among our most cherished recreative possessions. It was a remarkably busy and interesting period, crowded with events, indicative of the growing wants of the time, and a clear appreciation by the leading men of that day, of their character. Reminding the reader that each subject mentioned from the commencement of page 62, belongs to the present division of our story of the rise and progress of Leamington, we shall proceed to describe the remainder, following the order in which they occurred and accompany them with such remarks as may be necessary.

The Parish Church, on the completion of the renovations by Messrs. Treadgold, was reopened for public worship in the early part of 1800. Omitting the erection of the north gallery and its

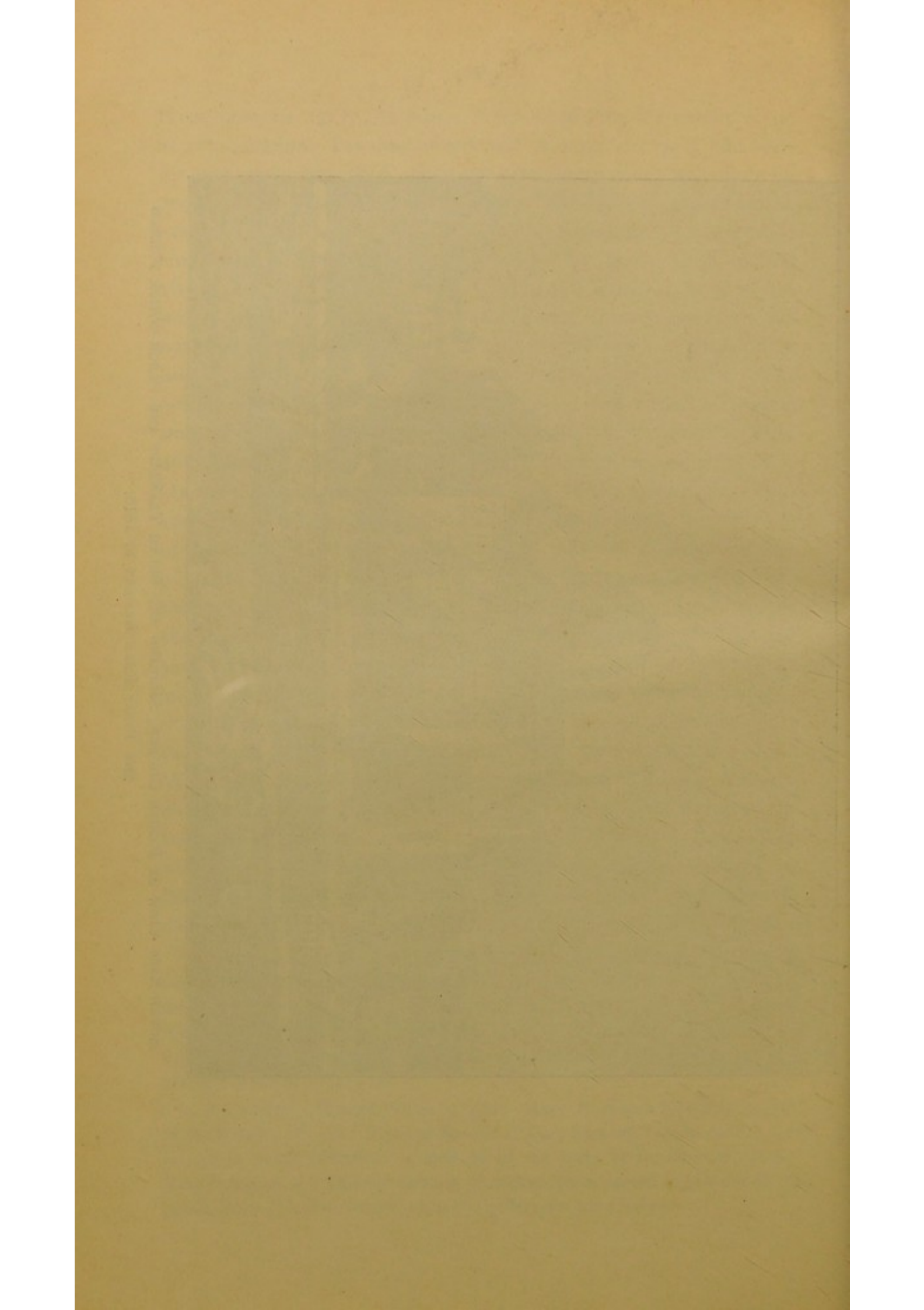
three pews in 1781, the fabric, with regard to the extent of its accommodation, was unchanged, and it remained as it had been for centuries, until 1816, when the first enlargement was made by erecting a transept on the south side. Probably no congregation ever assembled in church or chapel, has presented such a strange compound of types, classes, and varieties of life, as did those who attended All Saints at this period. Lords and ladies, from whose minds the proud feeling of Norman descent was never absent, did not object to share seats and books with cottagers wearing thick boots and smock-frocks. The idea of adding a new wing to the old-fashioned but time-honoured building, was under discussion several years. Owing, however, to the common difficulty of ways and means, the work was not taken in hand in earnest until 1815. On the 20th of December in that year, a vestry meeting was convened for the following purposes: "To consider of the propriety of enlarging the Church and erecting new seats, according to a plan and estimates already made, and of entering into contracts for the completion of the work, and of applying for a faculty to enable the Minister and Churchwardens to do so, and to confirm the seats to the several persons whose names are inserted in such plan as purchasers (pursuant to the notice for that purpose given in the Parish Church two Sundays previous to such meeting)." As the result, an agreement was entered into between the Rev. John Wise, vicar, and Messrs. John Campion, and Thomas Abbotts, churchwardens, on the one part, and Matthew Wise, junior, of the borough of Warwick, the Rev. John Willes, Messrs. Isaac Wilkinson, and William Freeman, of Heathcote, Gloucestershire, for the sale of the following pews at the prices quoted, the money so obtained to be applied to carrying out the new works:—

In the body of the church: Matthew Wise, numbers 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, price £350; Thomas Potterton, 34 and 35, £85; William Alder, 38, £60; Richard Cattell, 39 and 40, £120; William Treadgold, 27, £40; Thomas Walker, 33, £35; William Perkins, 29, £45; William Shaw, 30, £40; John Russell, 31, £35; Elizabeth Smith, 38, £50; Richard Smallbones, 37, £55; Stephen Peasenall, 32, £30.

In the gallery: Edward Willes, 3, £60; Mary Elizabeth Edwards, 5, £60; John Garrard, 27, £50; Richard Brown, 1, £50; Edward Treadgold, 8, 9, and 10, £145; John Wilkinson, 4 (and 36 in the body of the church), £150." John Campion and Thomas Abbotts, churchwardens, agreed to pay out of the parish rates £100 for number 11 in the gallery for the singers.



SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF PARISH CHURCH, SHOWING THE SOUTH TRANSEPT AND PORCH WHICH FORMED
THE FIRST ENLARGEMENT IN 1816.



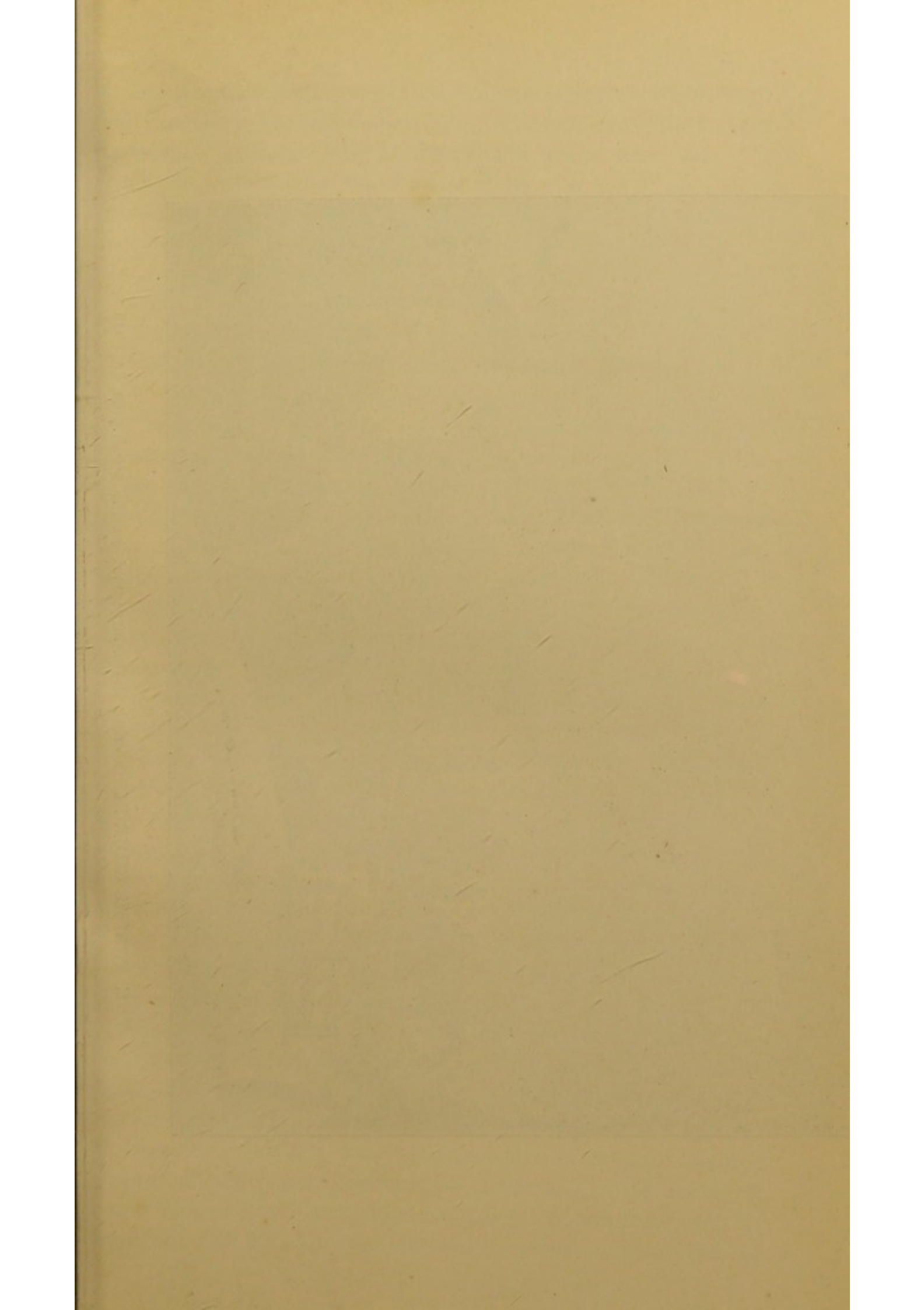
Many versions having appeared respecting the character of this enlargement we cannot do better than quote the particulars from the specifications. These were "to take down the south front wall and extend the church into the churchyard 27 feet 4 inches, exclusive of the turret or porch to form an entrance into the body of the church, hereby enlarging the church 39 feet from east to west, by 27 feet 4 inches from north to south." The prices paid were: John Morris, Warwick, stone mason, £731 7s.; Edward Treadgold, carpentry work, £590; and William Badams, Warwick, plumbing and glazing, £112.

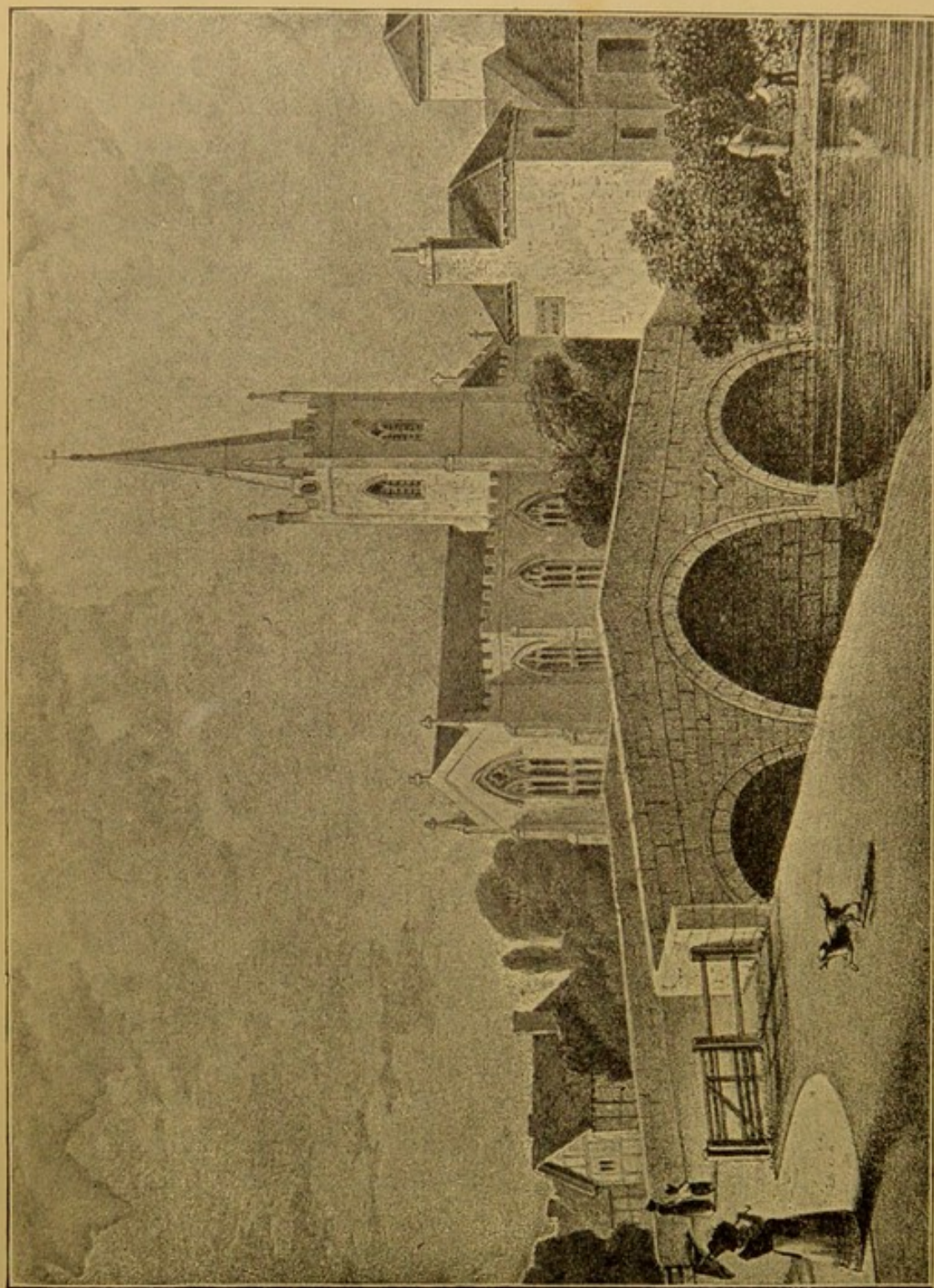
A careful examination of the records for the time and details of the foundation stone laying, and also the reopening services, are almost negative of results. Bisset, however, in his manuscript memoranda, says that he had the honour of laying the stone on April 18, 1816, on which occasion he presented the builder with a silver medallion of his Majesty,—George III.—which was placed with all due solemnity beneath the stone. This new wing provided double the accommodation of seats for the congregation. It is worthy of remark that the illegal practice of selling the pews commenced at this date, under sanction of a Faculty, granted by the Consistorial Court of Lichfield. By a few happy literary and artistic touches, Eginton, Field, and Bisset, have given the old church, the demolition of which had now commenced, a permanence more enduring than that of stone. To the skilful service of the artist, we owe the charming view of the church forming the subject of one of our illustrations. Field, who was a competent judge of architecture and acquainted with the fabric, says, "It had all the humble exterior of a country church, with plastered walls and low tiled roof. It is, however, (1815), neatly fitted up. One of its windows is venerable for its antiquity, and affords no mean specimen of the fine pointed style which prevailed in the fourteenth and following century. At the west end is a good old square tower, furnished with four bells. Against this was once a clock." Bisset, preferring rhyme to prose, as was his custom, thus described its dimensions:—

" The Church then was small, from North to South wall,
Perhaps about Thirty feet wide;
Its length 'twas not great, yet the use of a Seat,
The Verger was sure to provide."

The next, or second addition to the now partially modernised Parish Church, was coincident with the close of the fourth period of the history of the Spa now under consideration, and before proceeding to describe the numerous other events which are crowded into those memorable thirty-nine years of Leamington life,—for memorable they undoubtedly were,—it will be advisable to state what was done in the years 1824-5, with the fabric. In the time intervening between 1816 and 1824, the church was frequently in the hands of the builders for minor alterations and improvements. Like a mass of plastic material, it was continuously being forced into new subordinate forms by the pressure of an ever-increasing influx of visitors.

The decision to add a transept on the north side of the edifice was arrived at in June, 1824, and in the month of December, arrangements were made for holding the services in the Pump Room, for which purpose that building was licensed at a cost of £4 4s. The proposal for the new work appears to have emanated from the Rev. Robert Downes, who in 1823, had followed the Rev. J. Wise, as Vicar of Leamington. He offered to bear the whole expense “on certain conditions,” which we shall presently explain. The land on which are built the existing choir vestry; the clergy vestry; the north porch, and all those parts of the edifice north of the Evangelist Columns, was then partly churchyard, and partly a garden belonging to Mr. Matthew Wise, and in the occupation of Farmer Abbots. This, Mr. Wise gave to the parish for the proposed additions to the church. The contract of Mr. Downes with the vestry was to make an enlargement which “will give accommodation to about 400 Persons, including 260 free and open sittings, the same to be made in manner following, that is to say: To take down the North wall of the said Church and extend the Church into the Church Yard and the said ground belonging to the said Matthew Wise, Esq., 28 feet 6 inches, besides and exclusive of the Buttresses, and to extend the same from East to West, including a staircase to the Gallery and a side entrance: To sink that part of the Church Yard which will be inclosed by the enlargement of the Church to the level required of the Foundation and to remove the soil therefrom and inclose the remains of those who are there interred in Brick Graves.” * * * * “To remove the present Gallery from the North side of the Church and place





THE PARISH CHURCH, showing the enlargement on the north side, in 1825.

it with two additional rows of Pews against the New North Wall and to continue the said Gallery along the West side of the Church to connect with the Gallery already built at the south side: To raise the lower part of the Present Gallery on the West side to the same level as the South and North Gallery; To make an Entrance into the Church from the Tower." In consideration of his carrying out this contract, Mr. Downes was to sell or let "all the pews except those reserved, and retain the proceeds for his own use. He was also to have all contributions he might be able to obtain from the Society for Enlarging Churches, or from any other source. Such was the scheme adopted in June 1824, on the proposition of Mr. Downes. But in the following month, a larger plan was submitted by him. Subject to the approbation of the vestry he intended to extend the works "so as to make 278 additional sittings in pews, and 290 free seats, the said 278 additional sittings to be at his disposal in the same manner mentioned in the order of the previous meeting as to the seats specified and agreed to be made and subject to the exceptions in such order mentioned." The permission he sought was granted, and as the churchyard had been encroached upon by the south transept of 1816, and the space would be further diminished by the additions which Mr. Downes contemplated, the vestry resolved to construct vaults under the new building at a cost of £244 10s., the revenue to be derived from the sale of spaces to belong to the parish, after allowance of the Vicar's fees. In consequence, however, of a difficulty in borrowing the money, Mr. Downes was permitted to defray the expense and have the whole of the emoluments from sales and fees for his own use, without any control by the parish. These arrangements, settled in July 1824, were supplemented in April 1825, with another agreement whereby Mr. Downes engaged to raise the tower, to put a spire on the same, raise the clock, recast the bells and add two new ones, also to supply a new organ, and have the old one as his property. For these purposes he was voted by the Vestry £1,328 to obtain which the church rates were mortgaged for that amount to William Taylor. The outcome of these arrangements was the acquisition of several hundred sittings, all which were offered to the public at £10 10s. each. A large number found purchasers at that price, and from such as were not sold Mr. Downes received the rents. Their value as

high class commercial investments is shown by the fact that within a period of three years the purchase price increased nearly 226 per cent. In 1828 the churchwardens bought forty-one of these from Mr. Downes for about £716, the average being £17 8s. 8d. each sitting, and the same year they sold out by private contract and public auction, the total sum realised for the lot amounting to £1,418 11s. 8d. or £34 per seat.*

The impossibility of the old four bells giving anything like an effective display of campanology, and their consequent inutility, have already been mentioned. In fulfilment of his contract with the vestry, the Vicar had them recast by Mears, of Whitechapel, and two others were added, making altogether a peal of six. This increase of the compass, though small, was a public improvement of no slight value. The original set allowed only a very limited number of changes, and the chiming at its best could have been neither bright nor particularly melodious; but the new one was more musical, and by rendering possible an extensive series of fresh combinations of sounds, it brought the church more into harmony with the progressive spirit of the times and the improved condition of the town. The bells, which were in the key of A, were rung for the first time on Monday, March 27, 1826.

* The arrangements of the vestry for this extension of the fabric, though agreeing with the principle of selling pews adopted in 1816, under sanction of a Faculty, differed from it in several important points. In the former case, the Rev. John Wise then being vicar, the cost of the works, and the amount received from the sales of pews, (dispersed, be it observed, among numerous old members of the congregation) were publicly known, but in the latter, the whole expenses and receipts were the affairs of Mr. Downes, who became the proprietor of 278 sittings. Some of the Guides are very misleading in their statement that the north transept was built at his expense, as will be seen by their omission of the equivalent he received. A grant of £900 was made by the Society for Building and Enlarging Protestant Churches, in addition to which he had £1,328, on mortgage of the Church Rates, 278 sittings, for forty-nine of which he was paid £716, and after receiving the rents of the unsold pews till 1839, he disposed of them to Mr. Craig for £1,000, or £1,100. The vaults, containing room for 180 or 184 bodies must have yielded a considerable sum by sales and fees. Mr. Downes, therefore, did not bear the cost of the improvements of 1825, though it is due to him to say that he found the means for an addition, which financial obstacles had long delayed.

CHAPTER X.

The Old Well enclosed and improved—the Rev. James Walhouse, a local benefactor—the Leamington Spa Charity founded by Satchwell—discovery of two additional springs—commencement of the building of modern Leamington—the new bridge, historical notes on the original structure—beginning of the growth of the new town, stone-laying and bellringing—Pump Room spring found—history of the property to the year 1825—William Murdoch, the inventor of gas lighting employed at the works.

THE first event of a public character following the reopening of the Parish Church in 1800, was the improvement at the Old Well. This was in 1804, and being the commencement of those steps in the material progress of the Spa which have been successively, and successfully maintained to the present time, it has a special interest. Though Lord Aylesford defrayed the cost, and the property belonged to him, with noble generosity, he dedicated it to the village and the modern town which was soon to follow. Abbotts's and Wise's Wells were private speculations in the benefits of which visitors could not participate without payment, the original Well, on the contrary, by his lordship's stipulation that the poor should always have the use of it, was as free as the Public Library, and the Parks and Gardens of the present day. The leader in this movement was the Rev. James Walhouse, a benevolent clergyman, who made his acquaintance with Leamington a few years before the well was enclosed. Charmed with the scenery of the village and neighbourhood, and impressed with the medicinal value of its waters, he selected it for his adopted home. One of the objects he earnestly desired to see accomplished was the erection of a suitable building over the Well, which Pratt says was most disgustingly dirty in 1803. Satchwell and Abbotts co-operated with Mr. Walhouse, and a subscription was proposed to meet the expenses, but Lord Aylesford, being applied to for permission to erect the Well-house, undertook to bear the cost himself. It was the intention of Mr. Walhouse and his friends to have a cold bath for the poor con-

structed below the fount, but the water, owing to Abbots' Baths, not rising to its former level, and having decreased in quantity, this part of the scheme was laid aside. As to the position Mr. Walhouse filled in these proceedings, Dr. Loudon is emphatically explicit, and places in its own proper niche of honour, a name, without which, the list of the benefactors of Leamington could never be considered as complete. In his "Practical Dissertation on the Waters of Leamington," he speaks of Mr. Walhouse as one of the earliest patrons of the Spa, and adds "It is, in fact, to the exertions of this gentleman, with the lord of the manor, that the community is indebted for rescuing the Old Well from oblivion and for the handsome building which surrounds it." Nor is he alone in offering this tribute to the memory of a departed worthy. Sarah Medley sang the merits of Satchwell, Abbots, and Walhouse, as of men worthy of honour in the Pantheon of local benefactors. After alluding to the brilliant galaxies of "rank, wealth, and taste" accustomed to assemble in Satchwell's cottage, and paying a tribute to "Poet Satchwell's much-respected name," she says:

" Abbots and Walhouse, honoured names we join,
And wreaths of praise well-earned for both entwine.
Founders of Leamington ! your generous aid,
In the chang'd scene, how amply now display'd !
Hence where the hovel stood, immur'd in smoke,
Where lay the thorny glebe for years unbroke,
Sudden we view with pleasure and surprise,
Superb hotels and noble structures rise ;
With aspect fair and numerous now they stand,
Meet to receive the Princes of the land."

Mr. Walhouse resided sometimes at the Bowling Green and occasionally at the Dog, but he was invariably in the seat of honour at the table d'hôte at the last-named hostel, presiding over a company of guests, who usually averaged about twenty-four. On these occasions he seldom missed an opportunity of pleading the cause of charity. When the cloth had been removed, and the walnuts and the wine brought in, his custom was to inform visitors of the benevolent projects of Satchwell for the assistance of the poor. These brief but eloquent appeals were followed by collections, the proceeds of which were handed to Satchwell, the founder, treasurer, and secretary of the Leam-

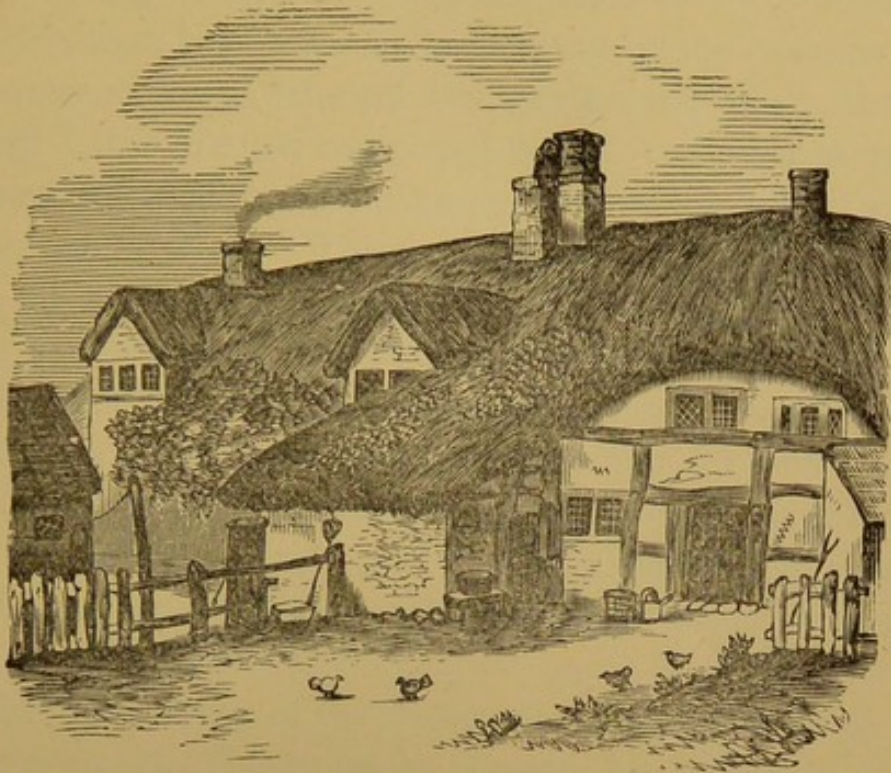
Leamington Spa Charity.* According to report, Miss Satchwell had the honour of laying the foundation stone of the new building, an additional proof of the high regard entertained by the public for the Satchwell family. At the time of these proceedings there was no newspaper, either in Leamington or at Warwick, and consequently posterity is left in ignorance of the details of the ceremony. We cannot, however, suppose that this auspicious event was allowed to pass without some form of general rejoicing, for the Leamingtonians were not accustomed to take their pleasures sadly. The well-house has been improved on several occasions, and was formerly attached to a cottage in Church Walk, where the caretaker resided. Mr. Squires, an old servant of the Aylesford family, occupied this position for many years. His successor was Mr. Hancock, who had to give up possession in 1889, in consequence of the Town Council having obtained a lease of the property for twenty-one years at an annual rental of £15. The statement on the tablet that Satchwell discovered this spring is erroneous, for it was known centuries before he was born and referred to in numerous historical works.

The Leamington Spa Charity was started by Satchwell in 1806—two years after the enclosure of the well. The rules were few, but absence of voluminous details is compensated to the full by their comprehensive spirit, their perspicuity and the benevolent design which illumines every word. The object of the Charity was to provide free baths for poor people from any part of England. Visitors, subscribing, became members of the General Committee, and had the right to vote in the appointment of a Select Committee to manage the Charity. In order to be admitted on the books, candidates had to obtain certificates from a medical man, and a respectable friend or parish officer, as to their illness and circumstances. After approval by the local medical staff, they were entitled to the privileges of the institution for one month, during which time they had a weekly allowance, free baths, and medical attendance. In special cases the physician in charge of an invalid, or the Committee, had power to extend the time of benefit, and to pay the cost of the patient

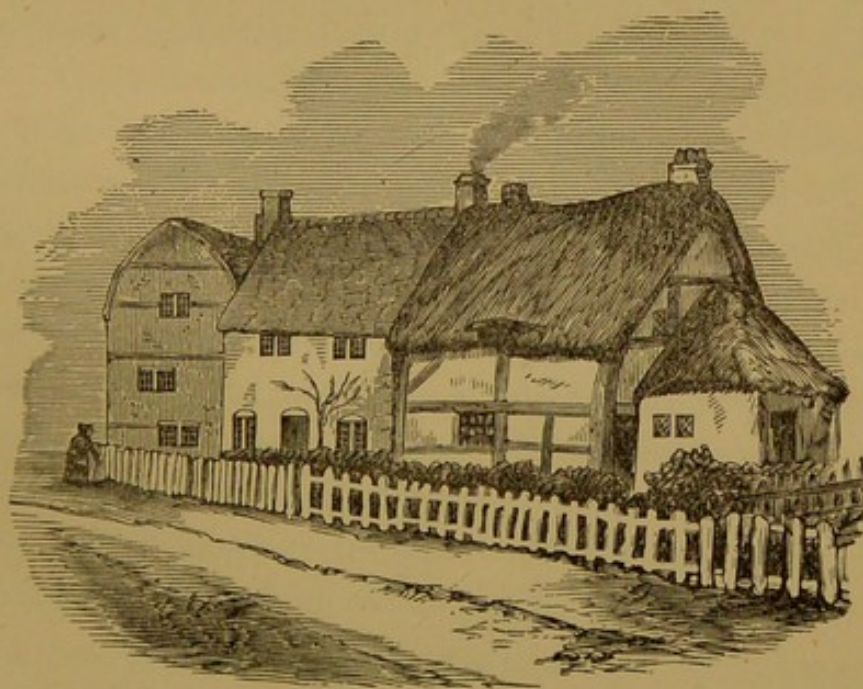
* Mr. Walhouse married Elizabeth Huskisson, sister of the Right Hon. William Huskisson, M.P. He died at his residence, Clemens Street, in August, 1838, aged 76 years, and his widow in Portland Place, October, 1876, at the age of 88 years.

coming to Leamington and returning home. The following gentlemen deserve to be mentioned for their services to this most useful organization :—Medical Establishment : William Lambe, M.D., London ; John Johnstone, M.D., Birmingham ; Sir Christopher Pegge, M.D., Oxford ; William Kerr, M.D., Northampton ; R. Chauner, M.D., Burton. Resident Physician : Amos Middleton, M.D. Surgeons : Mr. George Birch and Mr. Franklin. President : Isaac Wilkinson, Esq. Vice-President : Dr. Middleton. Satchwell continued to discharge the arduous duties of his offices until his death in 1810, after which time his son-in-law, Richard Hopton, succeeded him as treasurer, and his son Thomas as collector. When it is stated that in the course of ten years this Charity gave two thousand free baths to poor invalids, sufficient will have been said to demonstrate its utility, and to explain the feeling of gratitude with which the Warneford Hospital Committee, in 1873, claimed for their own institution, through its descent from this Charity, a date of origin coeval with the rise of modern Leamington. It was Satchwell's custom to carry a book round to visitors for subscriptions, and in further aid of the cause, to bombard the most distinguished with copies of verses in which their praises, and those of Leamington and the waters were so pleasingly united that a refusal was harder to give than a donation. In 1810, the comprehensive character of the Charity was unmistakably evidenced by the many poor invalids, in indigent circumstances, who arrived from distant parts by the coaches, their expenses being defrayed out of the funds of this institution, and after a few weeks' gratuitous use of the baths and waters, to the efficacy of which they left their crutches and sticks as testimonials, returned to their homes with health improved or restored. A rival Leamington Charitable Institution was established in 1815, but the cause of difference between the two organisations was never made quite clear. That they were both merged into the Leamington Dispensary of 1826, the second great historical link in the rise and development of the Warneford Hospital, is thought highly probable.

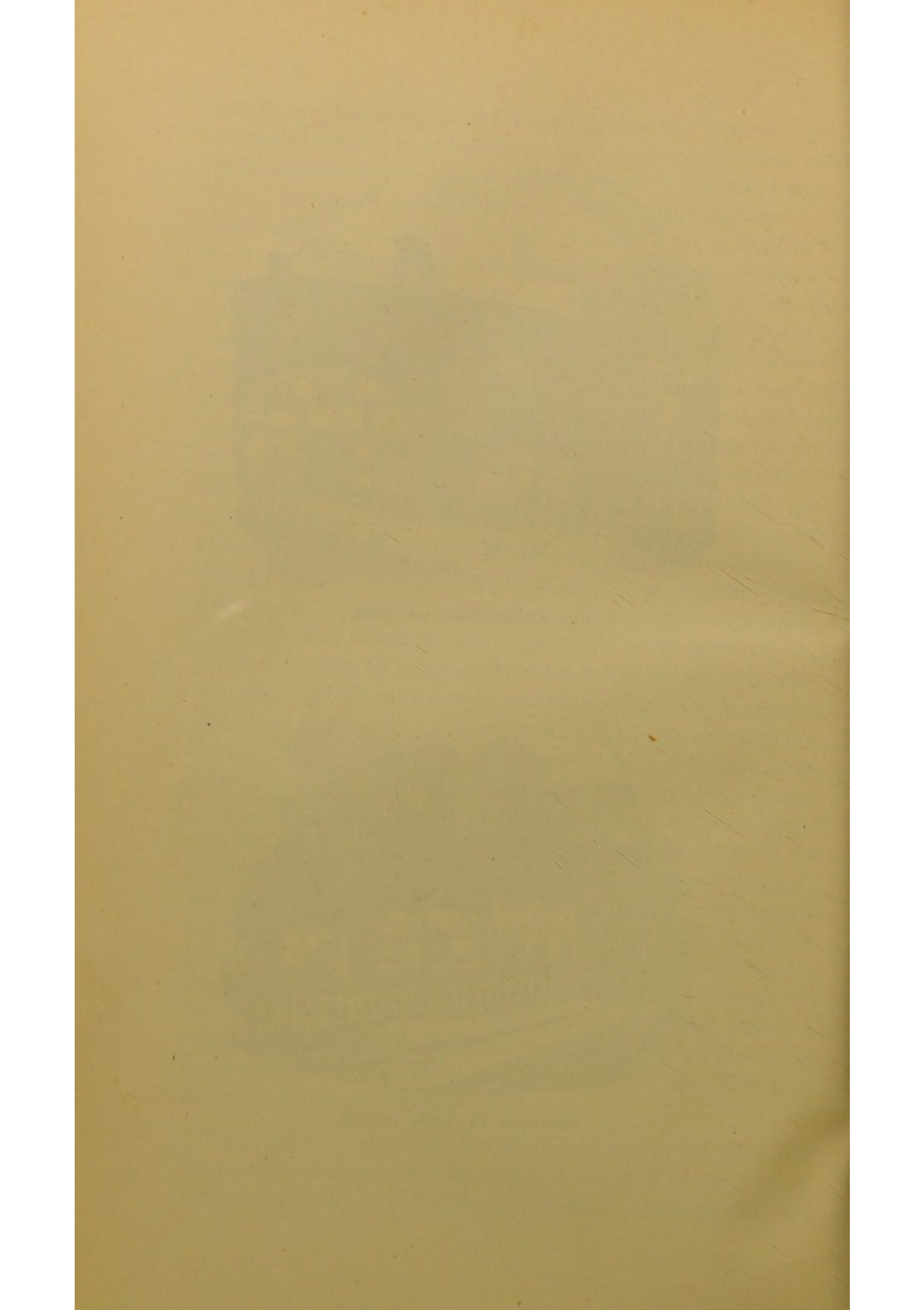
There were two additional springs discovered in 1806, the year of Satchwell's greatest, most fruitful, and enduring work. One of them was on the site of the present Victoria Colonnade, and was



OLD LEAMINGTON COTTAGES.



COTTAGES IN HIGH STREET.



named after F. Robbins, the proprietor. The years 1804, and 1810, have been generally quoted as the dates of the founding of this establishment, but in the advertisement of the opening, Mr. Robbins, after informing "the nobility, gentry, and others, that his hot and cold baths are just completed for the reception of company in a neat and comfortable manner,"* gave July 1806, as the time of the inauguration. The first arrangements comprised one cold bath, six hot ditto, and a child's bath, the material in each case being beautiful marble, and, with the exception of the last, all were furnished with excellent dressing rooms. An engine was provided to pump the water, the motive power for which was a mule, whose daily Sisyphæan journeyings in a circle, delayed many an errand boy on his rounds, and probably accounted for more late arrivals and truancies from school, than all other causes put together. Victoria Terrace, it must be borne in mind, was not then the wide, open space of the present day. Robbins' house and such cottages or other buildings as formed the west side of the road were nearly in the middle of the existing highway. At the back there were beautiful gardens and a copse which fringed the bank of the stream as far as the Adelaide Bridge. Along this was an erratic footpath, forming one of the most delightful walks in the spring, summer, and early autumn seasons, of which the village could boast. We have searched in vain for some reliable information respecting these baths in the years immediately following their commencement; of the patronage bestowed, the duration of the proprietary, or any other circumstances worth preserving in the history of the Spa. The blank extends to 1838, when the original buildings were demolished, and a new structure erected on the site, more commodious, and better adapted to withstand the powerful rivalry of the Pump Rooms. Occurring, as this very important improvement did, at the time Victoria Terrace was being widened, the frontage of the new building was set back to the present boundary, the colonnade alongside the river—one hun-

* Mortimer Collins, a magician in wit, whose "Leamington Mercury," in the fifties was a literary gorse-bush on which he frequently compelled the Local Board to sit, regardless of their comfort, and much against their will, was infectiously merry at the suggestion the early notices conveyed to his mind of the "nobility, gentry, and others," assembling together in "hot and cold baths." Such reunions and receptions, or "At Homes," as they are now called, he considered an interesting trait of fashionable life at the Spa in the days of old.

dred and twelve feet in length—erected, with the boundary wall, stone parapet, etc. The number of baths was increased to nine, four of which were supplied with the douche. The pump room was greatly enlarged and the whole of the interior fitted up with elegance, with artistic taste, and at a considerable outlay. From the extent as well as the elaborate and expensive character of this expansion we infer that Robbins' Baths had no mean share in that great harvest of prosperity, the in-gathering of which began early in the century. At this time the name of the institution was changed to that of the Victoria Baths and Colonnade, and Mr. W. Wood, who was previously in service with the Misses Manners Sutton, Lansdowne Place, daughters of the then late Archbishop of Canterbury of that name, soon afterwards assumed the management. He remained in charge of the establishment until 1858, when he relinquished the appointment and went to the Original Baths, Bath Street. The Victoria Baths were carried on for a short time by Mrs. Wood who had been associated with her husband in his direction of the establishment, but the arrangement terminated before 1860, since which time the baths have been discontinued and the rooms applied to business purposes. It will interest the reader to learn that Robbins' Spring of 1806, is still extensively used. By an agreement with Mrs. Bezant, the owner of the property the water from the well is conveyed through a pipe across the river to the Pump Rooms, the Corporation paying £10 per annum for the supply.

The other spring found in 1806 was in High Street, next to the Crown Hotel. The site was the property of the Rev. W. Read, Baptist Minister, Warwick, to which office he was appointed in 1804. He is reported to have purchased it but the possibility of his having inherited it from his father-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Clemmens, a former owner of land in Clemens Street, is not altogether unworthy attention. Mr. Read sank a well and finding a supply of water of good quality, he constructed six baths of Dutch tiles, for sulphureous and saline bathing. With a commodious and popular institution on the opposite side of the street, such as was Curtis's, handsomely fitted up with every convenience, and possessing the advantage of a wide reputation, it was not to be expected that Read's Baths would prove a success. In 1812 and

1823, they were advertised for sale. The successive owners, or managers, were Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lee, by whose name the baths were called for several years, and also a Mr. York. After passing through further vicissitudes they were closed until 1858, when the late Mr. James Hudson bought the premises and reopened the sulphur spring for drinking purposes only. In 1861 he added a Turkish Bath to the establishment, and as there was no other provision of the kind in Leamington at the time, and Curtis's Baths, directly opposite, had been demolished, the prospects of a remunerative business were greatly improved. The experiment, however, failed and the supply was again discontinued. The well has now been disused for nearly forty years.

Simultaneous with the origin of the two bathing establishments just mentioned was the commencement of the growth of modern Leamington. Although the actual work of building does not appear to have set in vigorously until 1807, or 1808, by the sale of lands, the adoption of schemes, and the preparation of plans, the year 1806 has the strongest claim to have been, in reality, the starting point. We are referring now to the formation of streets and roads, the erection of residences, and the introduction of an important class of shops, as distinguished from the several isolated improvements effected by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1767-8, by Abbots in 1786, by Mr. Matthew Wise in 1790, by the Earl of Aylesford in 1804, and those of others immediately following. The desire to supply comfortable homes for visitors dates from the last decade of the eighteenth century, and the obstacles Satchwell and Abbots encountered in endeavouring to bring about a result so necessary for the prosperity of the place, is an illustration of the difficulties which usually fall to the lot of such as take their rank in the van of progress. Their work was far from being all sunshine. A reluctance by the principal owners to sell land on the south of the river for new buildings, thwarted their efforts and impeded for about thirteen years, the natural growth and expansion of the village—from 1793, the date of the opening of the New Inn by Abbots, till 1806, the time when Robbins discovered the fourth spring and erected his baths as described. An impediment of another kind, which at one time threatened to involve Abbots in a heavy pecuniary loss, accompanied this land

question. At first, the Warwick County Magistrates, sitting at Stretton, refused to licence the New Inn, two public-houses—the Dog and the Bowling Green—in their opinion, being sufficient for the village in its then practically normal state. The control thus exercised by the Justices over the Licencing system more than a hundred years since and the stringency with which the Licencing Laws and applications for new licences were administered and examined, are the chief points of interest in their determination. Abbotts ultimately succeeded in his application, the Magistrates, no doubt, being influenced by the growing lack of accommodation the village provided for visitors. The want of modern houses, commodious and comfortable, was of far greater urgency and importance. Dr. Lambe's treatise on the Leamington Mineral Waters, published in 1794,* is reported to have had a favourable result in Lancashire and have brought cotton lords as visitors in abundance. To them it was a luxury beyond the roseate dreams of romance to leave their factories, their spindles, their bobbins, and their reels, for a holiday on the banks of the Leam : to quaff before breakfast the mineral water fresh from the spring while the buzz and sparkle of the gases were in the glass, and warm new milk in the farmyards from the foaming pail ; to loiter near the old Mill, listening to the noise of the slowly revolving wheel, or from the rustic bridge in the Lillington Lane, to watch the evanescent spume, speeding its course on towards the Avon ; to ramble among the heaths and fields on the north bank disturbing hares in their forms and larks in their nests ; to gather nosegays of wild flowers in the hedge-rows on the site of of the present Warwick Street, and curiously wrought grasses in the Pingle and the pasture lands, now forming the Parade ; to dine wisely and well at the Dog, drink old port from the cask which always stood in the corner at the Bowling Green, and at night sleep in cottages with thatched roofs and latticed windows, partly covered with clematis, the sweet-scented eglantine, roses, and honeysuckles. But to supply the needs of these patrons more and better houses were required. Insufficiency of accommodation caused many to engage rooms at Emscote and Warwick. The one great problem of the time was that of building sites, for although land was plentiful there was none to be had.

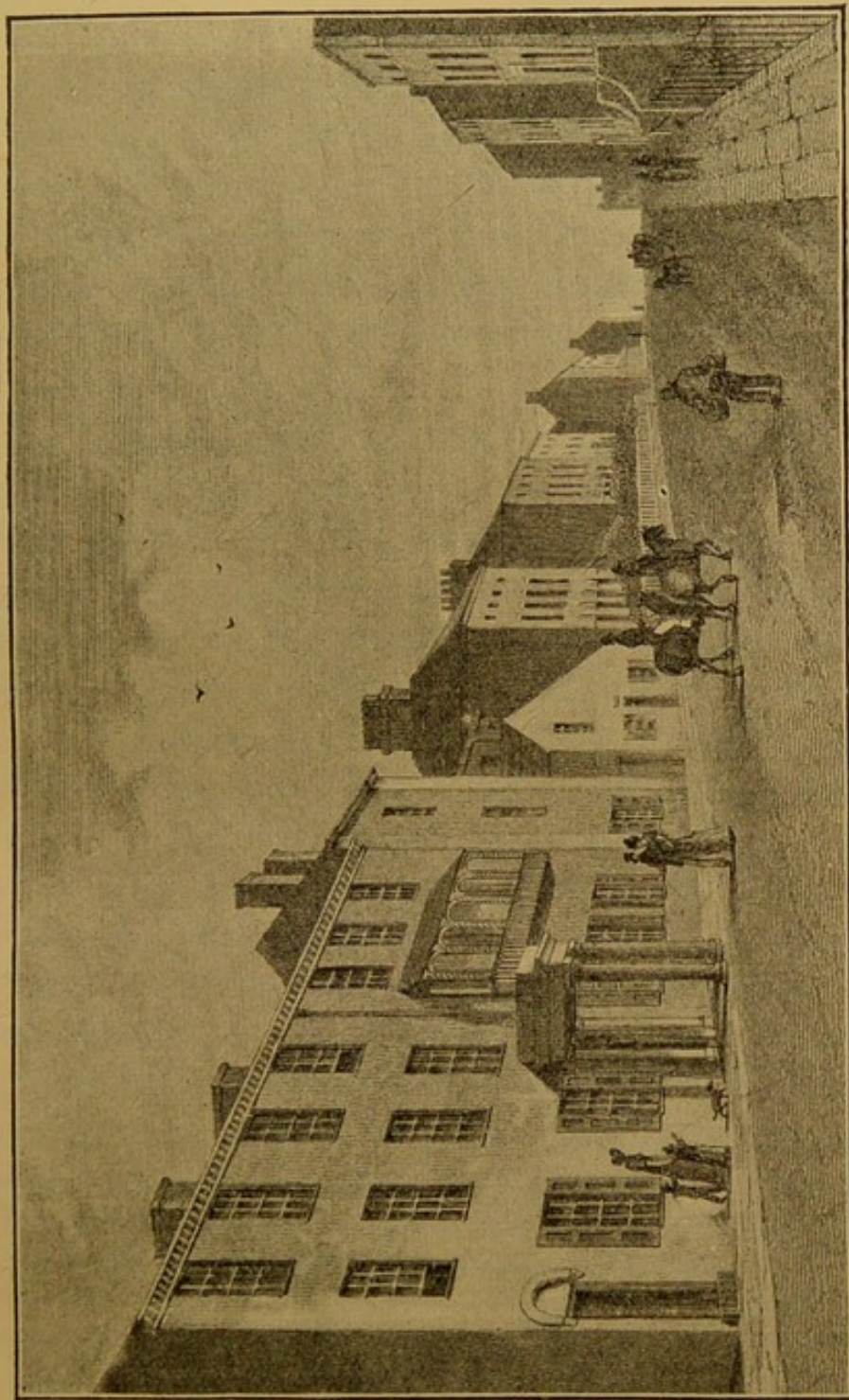
* Middleton and Loudon give 1797 as the date ; Field and others, 1794.

Strong reflections on the conduct of the chief owners in thus refusing to part with their lands, have been frequently made, and a desire to preserve the privacy of their own mansions and dwellings from public intrusion is mentioned as the motive of their opposition. An aversion on their part to the utmost development of which the village was capable, is not, however, satisfactorily established. Prosperity was their interest more than that of any other class, for thousands of visitors meant a demand for building sites which they alone could satisfy. As monopolists they were influenced by, and followed those instincts of self-interest, which have governed men in all ages, and will continue to regulate the principles of barter and exchange to the latest times. With a rising market it was their policy to sell slowly, or not at all; to wait a few years before parting with their estates. They had no objection to make hay, but preferred to do so when the sun was shining brilliantly in the approaching summer of Leamington's prosperity, rather than in the spring-time of its history.

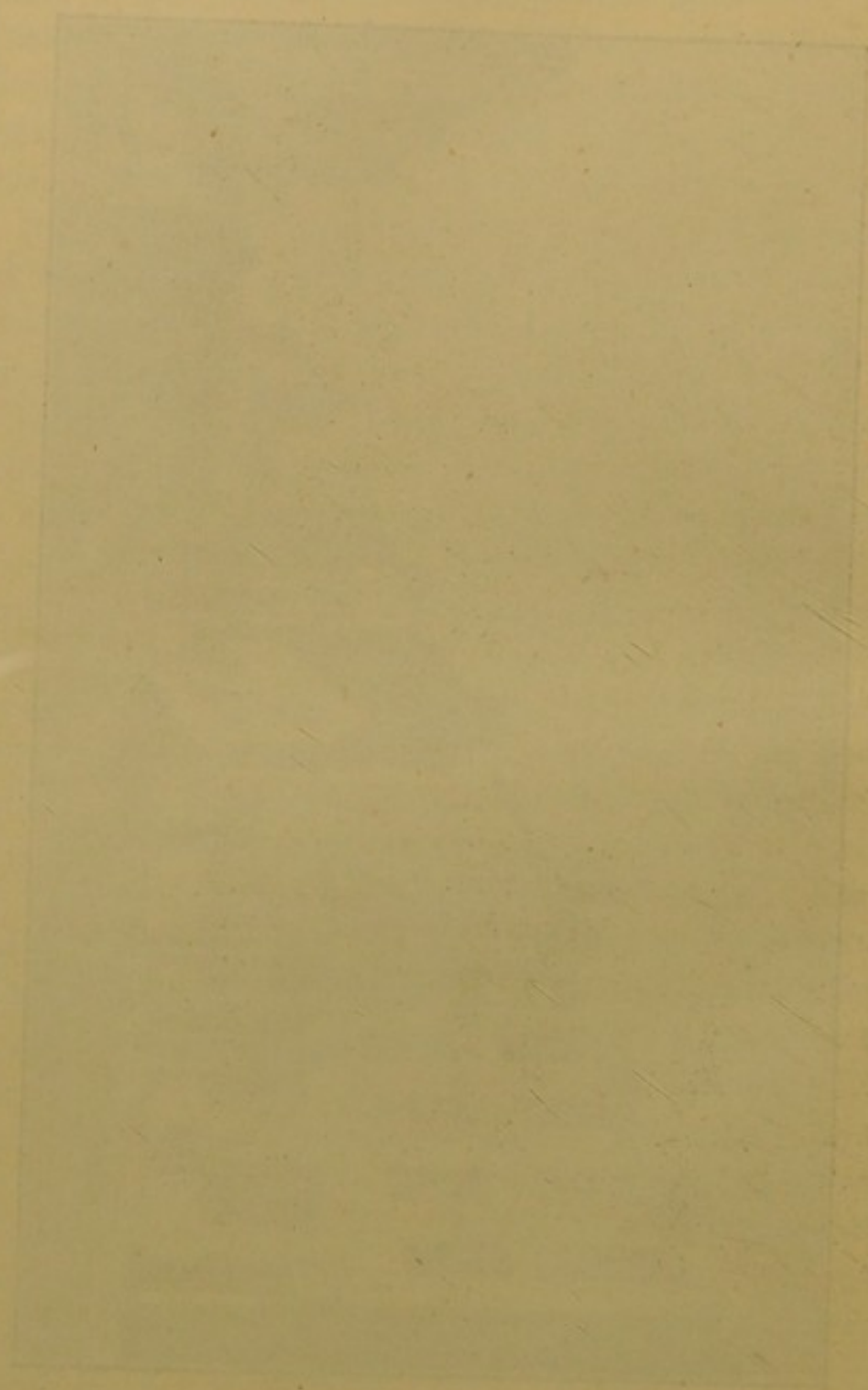
The foregoing remarks naturally lead to a consideration of the order in which the first houses and streets appeared, a subject of interest, though not equal in importance to many other topics in reserve for subsequent pages. Difficult as it frequently is—and sometimes impossible—to reconcile the conflicting data published in the early Guide-books, we regard Satchwell Buildings, as the first houses erected in modern Leamington, and Clemens Street as the first street formed. The former, of which there were four, were built in 1807 by Miss Satchwell, who was assisting her father in the business of the Post Office. By reason of the circumstances just explained a special local interest appertains to these now obscure and unheeded dwellings, for they may fairly be looked upon as a record of unselfishness, public spirit, and a preference of the general welfare over private advantage. Satchwell, and Abbotts, assisted by a number of feverish speculators, had endeavoured to relieve the village from the barrier which the lack of building land had thrown across its path. Several of the cottages were enlarged and others re-furnished; the improvement was only temporary, and offers of large sums for small plots having been repeatedly refused, Satchwell resolved on a further remedy. In 1807, he had reached the seventy-fifth year of his

age, and though the time had not arrived when "the grasshopper was a burden," with his hands then full of public work, and the few years, at the most, to which he could look forward, the building of new houses was more suited for Miss Satchwell. It is known that he gave her the site, and it is by no means unlikely that he lent, or presented the money with which to build. The situation was a delightfully pleasant one, and the views in every way extensive, diversified and charming. They stood alone in the fields. As far as Warwick, the view in front was an expanse of wood and meadow, and included two objects for which many a nobleman would pay a large sum to have in the perspective from his drawing-room windows—Warwick Castle and Church. At the back were the pasture lands of the Shell Leys, the groves of Newbold Comyn, the Felmore fields, the woods crowning the distant heights of Ufton, and the Leam meandering sluggishly round the islands and among the verdant meads. In 1814 Miss Satchwell was married to Richard Hopton, after which the name of Hopton's Boarding Houses became the title of the buildings. Hopton is reported to have also become postmaster in succession to his wife to whom the appointment was given after the death of her father. The Hoptons greatly enlarged and improved the property in 1821, and it was probably at this period the refectory capable of accommodating a large company was erected at the east end of the cottage where the postal business was conducted. The houses were sold by auction in 1822, at the Crown by George Carter, and in 1824, Mrs. Hickin was announced as the occupier of these "extensive and pleasantly situated" premises. Other changes followed, including some repairs of the cottage in 1842, which Hopper says materially deteriorated its character, and the subsequent occupation by Mrs. Meeks, widow of John Meeks, formerly an upholster, in business in Regent Street. The premises were finally purchased by the late Mr. John Blakemore, and demolished in 1871 to make room for the present buildings,

Clemens Street, the first of the modern streets of Leamington, dates from 1808, one year after the Satchwell Buildings. An advertisement in "The Warwick Advertiser" in October, headed "Lemington: New Buildings," for brick makers, pump makers, well sinkers; persons willing to sink cellars and get out founda-



CLEMENS STREET, 1822, showing Blenheim Hotel, on the east side, where the Independents held their services before the first chapel was built in 1816.



tions for a number of houses; and another, of land to be let on building leases, "near the baths, and in the centre of the village," are some of the numerous straws in the wind at that time, which indicated the force and the direction of a rising gale of prosperity. The time of the commencement is clearly defined by another notice that "a new street is laid out and begun upon this land, leading from the village to the canal, and there is great probability of its being completed in the course of another summer or two. Brick-kilns are opening on the said lands, and as the canal from Birmingham to Warwick and London goes through the said premises, building materials are conveyed to the spot with the greatest facility." These brick-kilns were in Court Street and Grove Place.

The first house erected in this street—and it was also the first private house in modern Leamington—was on the west side, at the bottom near the site of the present railway bridges. It stood forward nearly into the middle of the existing highway, and being the corner house had two frontages, one in Clemens Street and the other in High Street, facing Bath Street. The name of the first tenant of the property is uncertain, but in 1821 it was in the occupation of James Bird,* grocer and dealer in wines and spirits, and afterward in that of Henry Butler, butcher, a relative of Philip Butler, who forty years ago had a similar business in High Street, opposite the old Town Hall. A few other buildings in the same locality were erected in comparatively rapid succession. One of these was adjoining it in High Street. Building operations seem to have been carried on at first along the west side of the street, for James Bisset of the Museum, New Street, Birmingham, who

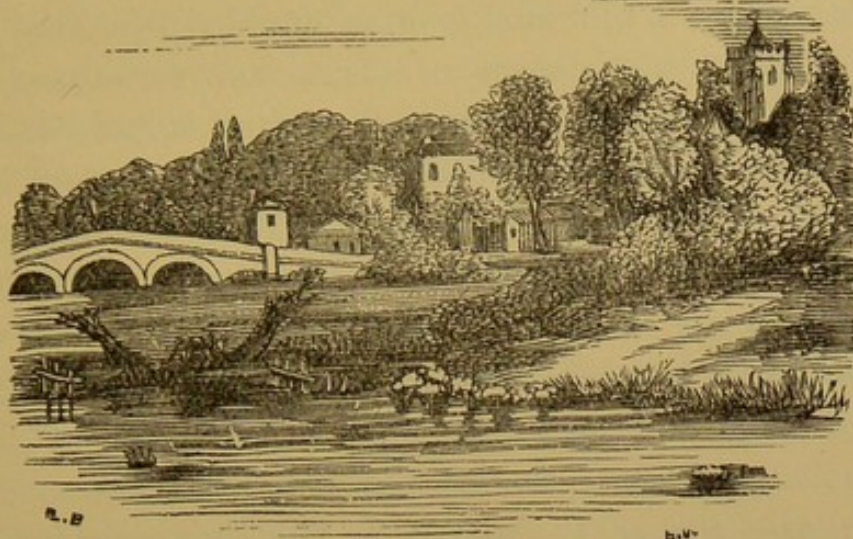
* James Bird was a popular personality in the early history of the Spa, and besides being a co-worker with, was the valued friend of those men whose names have come down to us closely associated with the making of Leamington. He removed his business from Clemens Street to 11, Lower Parade, now numbered 118. This establishment had formerly been the residence of Dr. Jephson, then surgeon, and was the second house in the Parade which had a shop front. While here, he filled the office of auditor to the Town Improvement Commissioners, and in the columns of the early journals his name often appears as the hon. secretary, or receiver of subscriptions for some good cause or other. With the facetious and ever-lively Bisset he was on terms of the closest friendship; in fact they were quite "chummy." He retired from business about 1854 and went to reside at Shottery, and subsequently at Stratford-on-Avon, where he died in April, 1868, aged 78. Mr. R. M. Bird, his nephew, will be remembered as having assisted in the Parade business when a young

settled in Leamington in the year 1812, in Clemens Street, says, "There was not a house beyond my Gallery, which was the only building on the east side of the street." The dates of the chief edifices here are thus given by Hopper: In 1812, there was built a boarding house, afterwards transformed into the Stoneleigh Hotel, at this time (1842) re-forming into small houses. In the year 1813, Booth's Terrace was completed; a year or two afterwards the Satchwell houses, on the west side, and when the chapel, and another house or two, on the same side, had been built in the year 1816, Clemens Street was formed in its chief outlines—the first street resulting from, and connected with, the demand for accommodation.

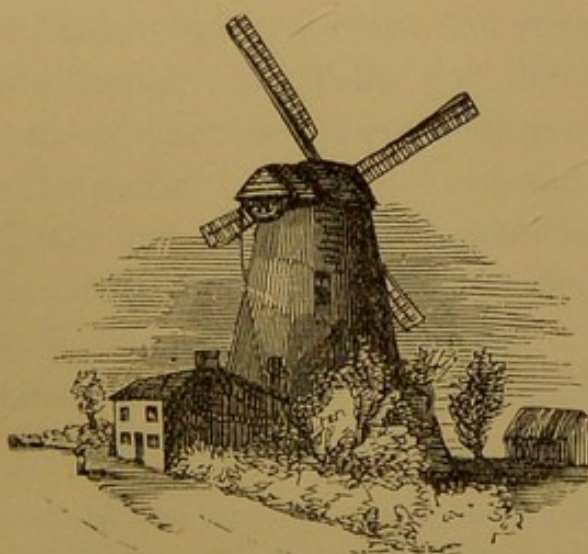
Although Clemens Street had the lead, the distance was not great. There was a general movement in the direction of improvement, and by the time the first private house was finished, High Street and Bath Street were in the hands of the builders, the wave of progress crossing the bridge, and the New Town was rising in the meadows and among the trees on the north side of the river with the speed of a mushroom and the stability of an oak.

The sale of the Wind Mill on the Tachbrooke Road, formerly spelt "Teachbrooke," might be passed over without reference, were it not for one or two circumstances of special interest. It appears to have been the first sale of freehold property at Leamington, by auction in the nineteenth century, and the description at the time of the situation of the Mill, and the condition of the cottage, are landmarks which remind us of the progress since made—relatively, with regard to Leamington and Warwick, and socially, in the matter of house-construction. The age of the Mill must have been one of centuries, and its owners in their day

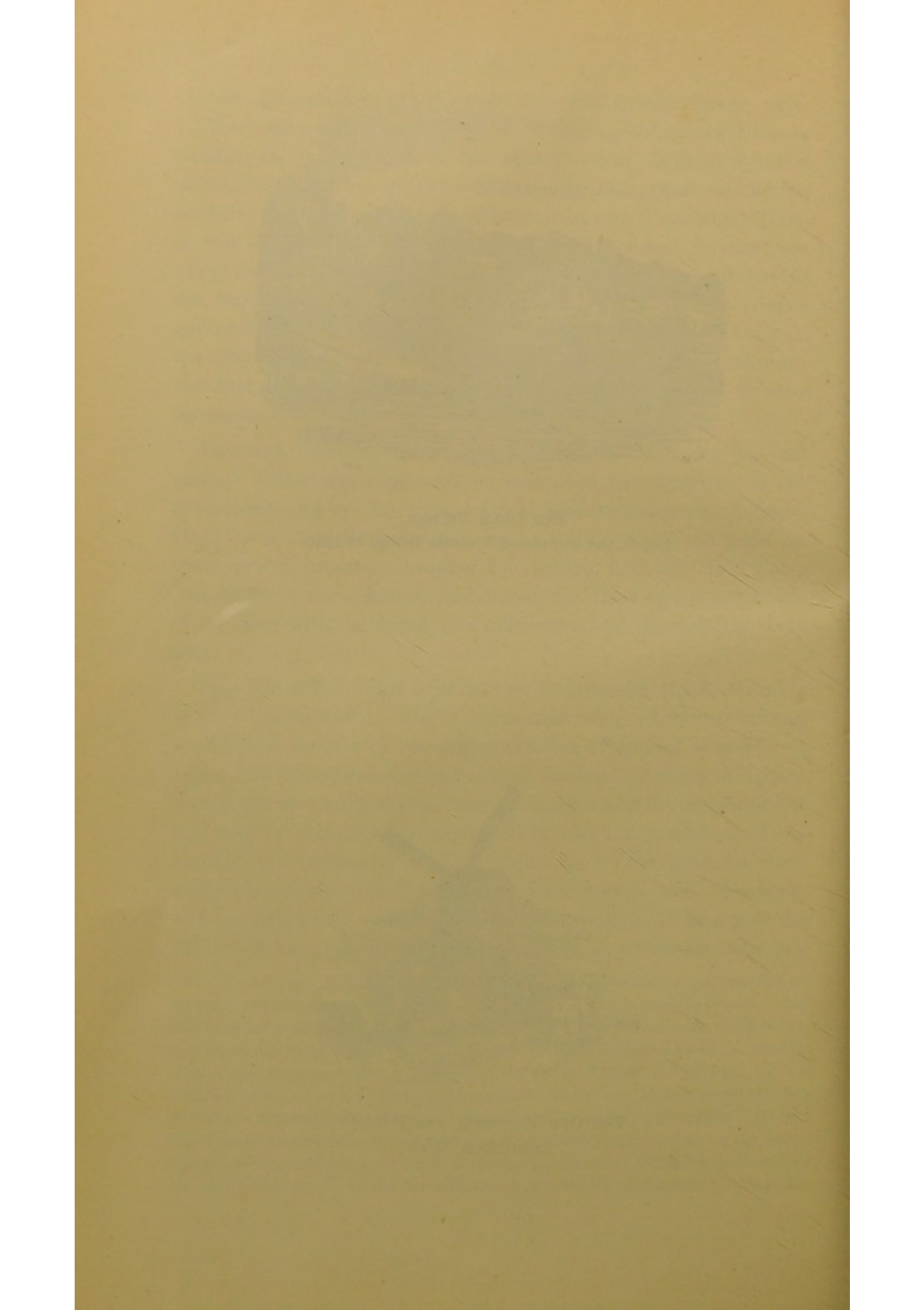
man. He left Leamington in 1843 for Stratford-on-Avon and took an old established wine and spirit business in that town, from which he is now practically retired. Few men have led a more active public life, and none have had proofs, more unequivocal than he, of the value placed on his services. For forty-two years he was a member of the Town Council, and for a long period the Senior Alderman. In 1869, he was elected Mayor, and on his withdrawal from public life in 1897, he was presented with an address, expressing the esteem and appreciation of his fellow townsmen. He was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Stratford-on-Avon Railway Company, and of the Stratford-on-Avon Corn Exchange Company, of which he is chairman. Mr. Bird is also a J. P. for the borough, and a Trustee of Shakespere's Birthplace.



THE LEAM BRIDGE,
Before the completed Victoria Bridge of 1840.



THE OLD WINDMILL AND COTTAGE,
TACHBROOK ROAD.



men wielding extensive personal authority in local affairs. Mr. Bromwich is named in the advertisements as the owner and the occupier, and "Leamington, near Warwick," as the locality; with the Mill were also sold one acre of land and a cottage which the discreet auctioneer was careful to explain was "tiled." A tiled roof in Leamington, rather less than a hundred years ago, was a luxury in cottage architecture of which vendors of property never failed to make the most. It will, no doubt, readily occur to the reader that in the Terrier of Parish Church property presented to the Bishop in 1693, the original vicarage in the Public Road—now High Street—was described as having had "two large bays and tyled."* The Mill, cottage, and garden land were sold by public auction, at the Star and Raven Hotel, Warwick, on the 29th of October, 1806, by J. Loveday. It is not customary now to speak of the situation of Leamington as being near Warwick, though in the olden times that was always the form of address. Such, indeed, has been the progress of the Royal Spa during the past century in population, wealth, the development of municipal, educational, and philanthropic institutions, that it now takes the first position in the Parliamentary style and title of the United Boroughs of Leamington and Warwick.

An important improvement at this period was the construction of the new bridge, commenced in 1808 and completed in 1809. Like the old Romans the early Leamingtonians were sensible of the advantages of good broad level roads and streets, and to their men "of light and leading," is chiefly due the deservedly high reputation which the Royal Spa has ever enjoyed in that respect. Authorities differ respecting the exact form and the material of the original structure and it is doubtful whether any means are available for reconciling their contrary statements. By one we are informed that it was a wooden foot-bridge; by another that it was a low, ancient bridge, consisting of a single arch, spanning a more contracted stream than that which now flows under the

* Tiles, though introduced into England in the 13th century, were not generally used in Leamington until the beginning of the 19th. Thatch was the material chiefly employed for roofs; there were, however, at an earlier date, a few houses covered in with tiles. The last occupied thatched house in the town, was number 15, Church Street, the residence of E. Ivins. The present tiled roof displaced the thatch about the year 1866.

Victoria Bridge. The usual rail fence lined the approaches and in consequence of the narrowness of the way, "the rule of the road was for drivers going towards Lillington to take the bridge in preference to any vehicle advancing in an opposite direction, while the latter crossed by the ford which still existed, descending from the site of the Jephson Gardens Lodge and ascending by the waterway recently filled up alongside the Post Office." But whatever might have been its form and special character all agree in describing it as narrow and more adapted for keeping the two sections of the town separate than for uniting them into one harmonious whole. It was the property of the County and for centuries had been the sport of storms and floods, a great expense to the ratepayers and irritation to the local farmers.* In the old minutes of the Court of County Quarter Sessions it is frequently referred to as the "Lemintone and Leminton Bridge," examples of the orthographical variations the spelling of the name of the town has undergone. At Trinity Quarter Sessions (23 Charles I.) the following Order was made: The Court was informed that there issues (a charge) amounting to the sum of 47s. and costs, imposed upon the inhabitants of the Hundred of Knightloe for not repaying Lemintone Bridge in this countie; that the said sum was levied upon the goods of Richard Hanyood of Dunchurch, and ought to have been upon the inhabitants of the whole Hundred. It was Ordered that a levy be forthwith made on the said Hundred, and that the said R. Hanyood be repaid the said sum together with such reasonable costs and charges as he had expended in this behalf." Several boroughs and towns in the County in 1651, refused to pay their proportions for the repairs of Leminton and Edmonscote Bridges, and were in consequence reported at the Easter Quarter Sessions of that year. Orders to repair the bridge "at the charge of the whole County" were passed at the

* The earliest reference to the original fabric is contained in the Will of William Boddington, of Whitnash, proved June 8, 1626, wherein is the following direction: "My son Edward to pay to the reparacion of Lemington bridge the 10s. given by my father." The County Quarter Sessions' minutes quoted do not commence until 1649, a date the Will forestalls by 23 years. Allowing 20 years as the time which probably elapsed since the death of the father, we have evidence of the bridge being an object of interest to the farmers in the neighbourhood 300 years ago. The residence in the village, in 1278-9, of "Alexander at the Ferrye," (see pages 41-2,) makes its existence in the 13th century, doubtful.

Trinity Quarter Sessions, 1669; Michaelmas, ditto; Easter, 1679; Trinity, ditto; Easter, 1684; Trinity, ditto; Epiphany, 1696; and Trinity, 1709; and at the Epiphany Sessions in the same year, it was Ordered, "That Edward Willes be reimbursed certain monies expended by him for the bridge." Another Order to repair was made at the Easter Sessions, 1718.

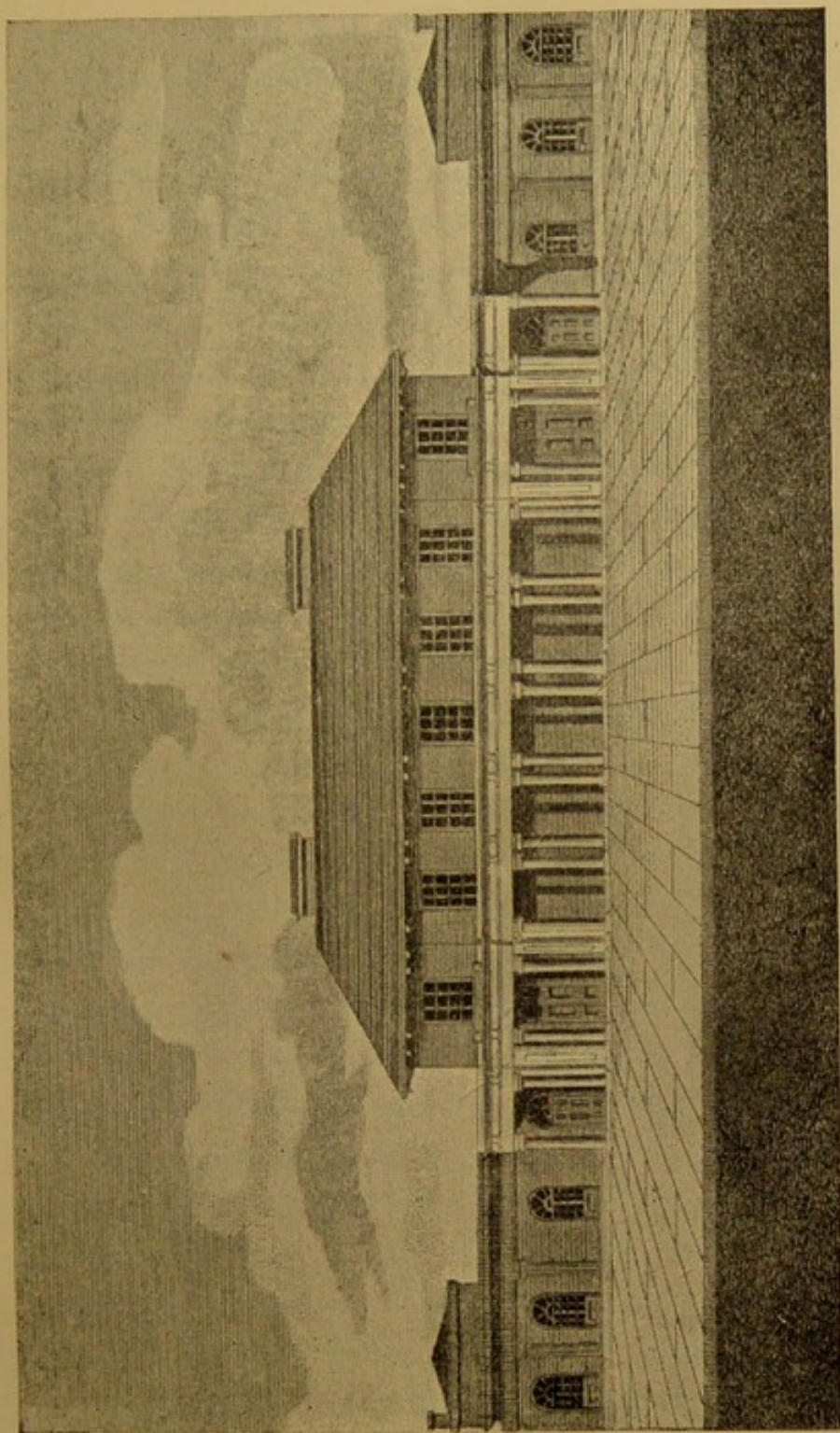
The new bridge in its general form was substantially the present fabric, most "ampably" enlarged by works commenced in 1838 and finished in 1840, and again in 1848, the particulars of both of which we defer till the events of those years are reached. The three arches substituted for the original single span much improved the appearance of the structure and the greater space thus provided for the flow of the Leam tended in some measure to mitigate the floods then prevalent. The material used was stone and the width of the road over it was made sufficient to permit two vehicles to pass at the same time. The prompt response of the County to the application for better accommodation in regard to the traffic was an official recognition of the growing importance of Leamington Spa at that time. Mr. Couchman was the builder.

On Tuesday, September 20, 1808, the planting of the New Town was celebrated by John Tomes, a rich banker at Warwick, the Rev. James Walhouse, and Benjamin Satchwell, publicly laying three stones. It was not, of course, to be expected that an event so promising for the future prosperity of Leamington would be passed over without some ceremony and marks of public rejoicing. Thomas Dawkes, in his brief, but very serviceable notes of the period says "the bells were set ringing on the occasion; the ringers had £1 16 for so doing." In what part of the New Town these stones were laid it is impossible to say with absolute certainty. The Golden Lion, Regent Street, number 92, and from 59 to 71, in the Parade, are claimed as the localities. All that can be said is that the New Town began on one or other of these sites. The first house, and probably the one that gave rise to the ebullition of enthusiasm on the 20th, was commenced on the 8th of the same month, on the site occupied by Melia's. It was erected by Mr. Frost, of Warwick, and Mr. Field mentions "as a memorial of honourable distinction and as a record of an interesting fact," that George Stanly, mason of Warwick, laid the first brick of the

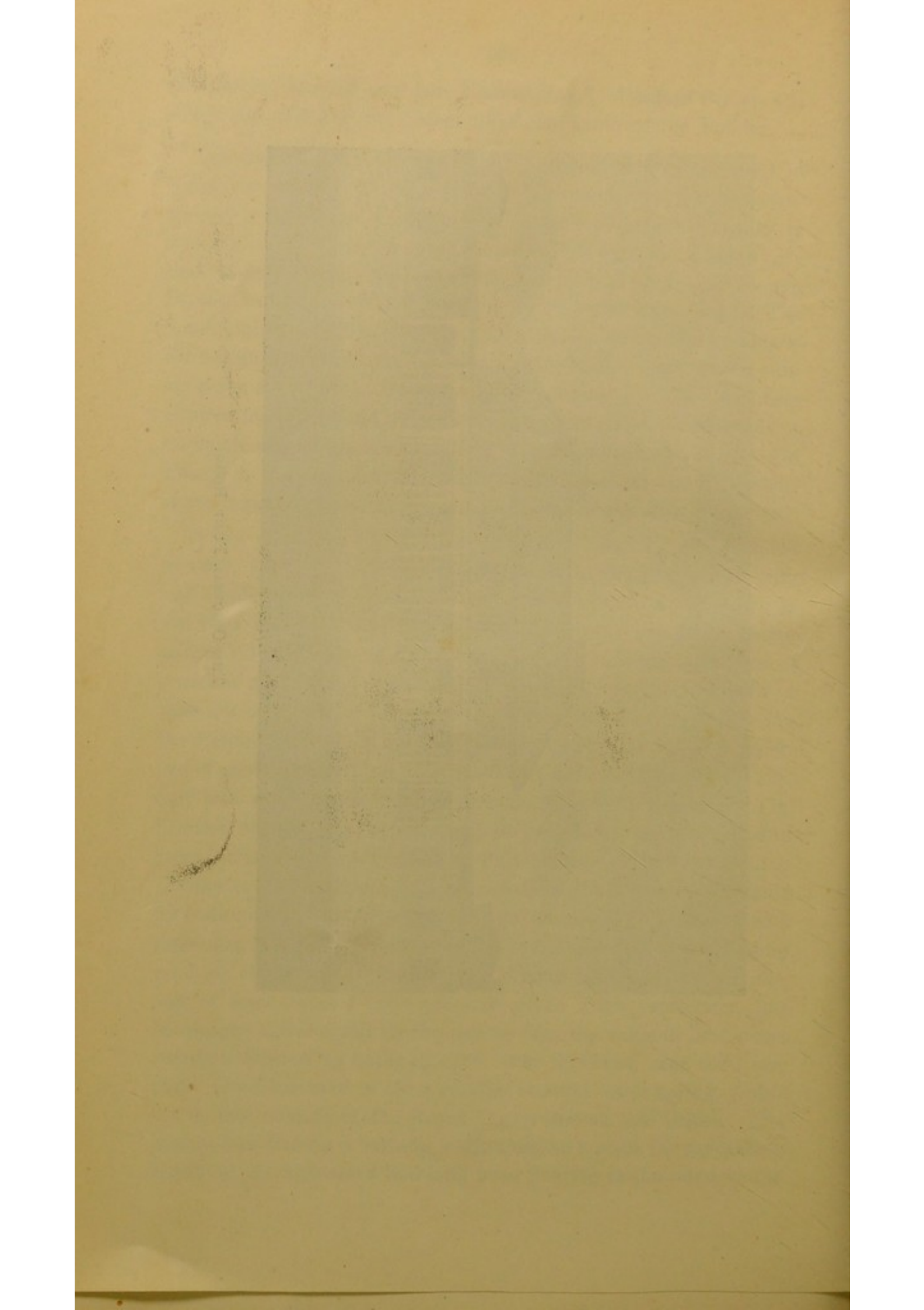
first house, erected at "new Leamington." Bedford Street was originally called Frost Street after the name of the builder.

The start having been thus made, other buildings appeared in quick succession. To one, only, of these properties, is it necessary to make allusion in this place. A block of houses—twenty in number—occupying the space in the Parade from the London City and Midland Bank, to a point, fifty feet from the corner of Regent Street, was built by a syndicate. This must have been "The Leamington Building Society," a Warwick institution, designed for buying land and erecting houses at the Spa. The mode of subscription differed from that of present building societies. Members entered for shares and as money was required calls were made at so much per share, the completed houses being balloted for. On March 8, 1810, at a meeting held at the Black Swan, Warwick, eight houses erected at Leamington were disposed of in this way.

When the peaceful farmsteads north of the river were invaded in 1808, by an enterprising band of speculators, there was only one residence on the whole of the site of what is now known as the New Town, excepting Newbold Comyn, the ancestral domain of the Willes family, and the farm-house. This was a cottage of "wicker and wood," standing on the crest of the hill with a look-out over the verdurous slope down into the valley, where lay the Leamington of the very old times. One of the farms, consisting of sixty-five acres, belonged to Mr. Greatheed, of Guy's Cliffe, and was occupied by Farmer Perkins at a rental of £70. The position of this property is not described, but it is understood to have included a large part of the Parade and the site of the Pump Rooms as well as the adjacent grounds. The farm was offered for sale and realised between £40,000, and £50,000. This was a moderate price compared with the average amounts then being paid for eligible sites; "dirt cheap," contrasted with the £4,000, and in some cases £5,000 per acre, given a few years later, but fabulously extravagant by the side of £60, the value of land when Abbotts erected his baths in 1786. On this land, near the river, there was discovered in 1810, another mineral water spring, which led to the building of the Royal Pump Rooms and Baths. The idea of establishing a bathing institution, on a scale far surpassing anything yet attempted had long been floating in the mind of the



THE ORIGINAL PUMP ROOM.



village, and it was now felt to be a necessary step, demanding immediate attention. The lapse of time between 1810, the year when the water was found, and 1813, that in which building operations were begun, is probably accounted for by the prolonged application of tests respecting the quantity of the supply on which reliance could be placed. That an ambitious project was in hand is evident from Moncrieff's statement that the proposal was "to erect on this spot, baths which should excel all that had been built in England, and rival, if possible, the *Thermæ* of the Ancients." The site was pre-eminently adapted to suit the convenience of the coming New Town, at the time shaping itself in broad and intelligible outline in the formation of the Parade, Warwick Street, and Regent Street. Beyond a brief reference in the manuscript work of Bisset, in the possession of the author, nothing is known of the nature of the ceremony at the foundation-stone laying, and it is only by this means that we are able to supply an item of interest in connection with the earliest phase of one of our most important public institutions. He says:—"When the foundation stone of the new Colonnade was laid at the Royal Pump Room, I gave two superb silver medallions of his Majesty—George III.—to be put under the corner stone of the North Pillar. The Rev. Dr. Rees delivered an impressive and appropriate oration, and Mrs. Opie and a large assembly of the people, stood on the rafters of the Pump Room and sang "God Save the King," in full chorus. The Right Hon. Lord Sandon was one of the party." The event, it is scarcely necessary to point out, was of the greatest importance to the rising Spa, and whoever undertakes to analyse those influences which materially advanced its best interests, will inevitably arrive at false conclusions if mention of the attractive effect of this institution on the public mind, be omitted. By its aid, Leamington was at once placed on a level with the most fashionable health resorts of England. The proprietors, to whom the gratitude of posterity is due for their timely policy of energy and forethought, and liberality, were B. B. Geatheed, John Tomes, and W. H. Tancred, Esqs., and Mr. Parkes, of Warwick. The share of the last named gentleman, had, in 1842, fallen into the hands of Mr. Tomes, and at a subsequent period the sole owner was the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy.

From an article in the "Warwick Advertiser," of July 2, 1814, we learn that the building consisted of two parts, the Pump Room forming the most prominent feature in the centre. It had a noble contrast of native stone, extending upwards of a hundred and six feet in length, and thirty feet in height, and on three sides was surrounded by a spacious colonnade, supported by duplicated pillars of the Doric order. The roof was in the cottage style and was remarkable for its simplicity and elegance. Entrance was had into the splendid apartment of the Pump Room by two doors, one placed at each end; that on the left leading immediately to the pump, which, with an ornamental pedestal and bason of Derbyshire marble, standing in the centre, was enclosed with a neat mahogany balustrade. The room was lofty and of noble proportions, lighted in front by seven windows, the intervals between being filled with Doric pilasters, and the opposite side adorned with a handsome painted window, underneath which, at equal distances were two elegant chimney-pieces of Kilkenny marble. The ornamental part of the ceiling, cornices, and other embellishments of the interior, strictly corresponded with the style of the building without. At the extremities of the colonnade were two wings, set back a distance about the width of the Pump Room, and measuring upwards of thirty feet in length, and twenty in height. These were the principal entrances to the baths of which there were seventeen hot and three cold; well constructed and neatly fitted up—everything that was essential, or that could in any way contribute to the pleasure of the luxurious, or the comfort and convenience of the invalid, was provided with a liberal hand. With no ordinary feelings of satisfaction, it was reported that the benevolent proprietors had directed three baths to be appropriated to charitable purposes. The elegant building was designed and executed under the direction of Mr. C. S. Smith, architect of London, and the cost of it was estimated at little less than £30,000. This large outlay did not cause any increase in the terms for the use of the waters, the arrangements for which were extensive, and included every mode of bathing then in vogue, namely, hot, tepid, vapour, cold, plunging, shower, and hot and cold douche baths.

One circumstance connected with the building of the Pump Room and Baths, deserves special notice, relating as it does to an

illustrious discoverer and public benefactor. Amongst those who were employed in fitting up and completing the property was William Murdock, the inventor, in 1792, of gas lighting. It has been asserted that at this time he introduced into the rooms his system of using gas as an illuminant, but Smiles in his "History of Inventions," says he was engaged in erecting an apparatus of his own designing for heating water for the baths, and that, while so employed, a ponderous cast-iron plate fell on his leg, above the ankle, and severely injured him. He remained a long time in Leamington, and when it was thought safe to remove him, the Birmingham Canal Company kindly placed their excursion boat at his service, and in that he was safely conveyed homeward. At this time he was working with Boulton and Watt, of the Soho Foundry, with whom his name is honourably conjoined for the share he had in bringing to a state of perfection the condensing steam engine—the great lever of commerce, all the world over.

The instinctive philanthropic tendencies of Leamington, developed by the work of Satchwell, and Walhouse, were advanced and invigorated by the extremely generous treatment the poor received from the public-spirited proprietors of this great institution, who in June, 1815, stated that a wing of the building, with hot and cold baths, was set apart "for the benefit of poor persons not able to pay for, but requiring the use of the waters." Every Monday and Thursday morning a room was provided for Dr. Amos Middleton, Messrs. George Birch, and F. Franklin, surgeons, who attended such cases gratuitously on the days named. Bisset mentions that in 1815, a band played each morning for the delectation of those resorting to the spring and baths, and at a later period, Mr. John Hitchman was active in raising funds for the remuneration of several local musicians who provided matutinal music for the crowds of aristocratic patrons, as they quaffed their goblets at the fount before breakfast, and walked briskly round the grounds the regulation number of times.

CHAPTER XI.

The building of the Bedford Hotel and inaugural banquet—the Upper Assembly Rooms, date of erection with historical notes—short account of the Leamington Nursery and Pleasure Grounds, and biographical notices of the occupiers—establishment of the first Public Market—list of householders in 1813—the new Theatre, description of the building, first performance, etc.

HITHERTO, in the advancement of the Spa, there had been no adequate provision of suitable hotel accommodation for visitors of distinction, nor was there a single large building in the place, in every way adapted for fashionable concerts, balls, etc. The need for some arrangement of the kind being made was great, and month by month was becoming greater. In 1809, the coaches brought in 1,500 visitors, exclusive of children and servants, who probably numbered an additional 2,000. There were not at the time more than sixty or seventy cottages and houses in the place. To meet these special social requirements the Bedford Hotel was projected, built, and opened on October 25, 1811, and in the same year the Assembly Rooms rose in Regent Street, on the vacant piece of land already mentioned. The Bedford Hotel stood on the site of the London City and Midland Bank in the Parade, and was erected by John Williams, formerly butler to Mr. Greatheed at Guy's Cliffe. The inaugural dinner, or house-warming, took place on December 4, and the powerful patronage the hotel had already obtained is shown by the number and quality of the guests. There were one hundred and twenty-eight present, representing the leading families in the county. The dinner, we are informed, was one "abounding in excellent wine and every delicacy of the season, dressed in the highest state of cookery." The chronicler of the time says: "Appropriate songs and toasts enlivened the evening, which was prolonged to a late hour with the utmost gaiety and conviviality." In addition to the gentlemen present, many of the most distinguished nobility and gentry of the county, who

were unable to attend in person, took tickets to express their wishes for the prosperity of the undertaking." The Stewards were Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart., M.P.; Lord Middleton; Sir Gray Skipwith, Bart.; Sir James Lake, Bart.; Bertie Greatehead, Esq.; and Eardley Wilmot, Esq. Tickets, including wine, dessert, etc., were one guinea each. The new building had its frontage to the Parade, or Union Street, as it was then called, a central door with two or three steps leading up to it, and along the front of the hotel, there were light, ornamental iron palisades, inside which were shrubs growing beneath the windows. It contained a large dining room, a commodious drawing room, with a very extensive suite of apartments for private parties, and fifty chambers, all conveniently furnished, and some provided with the superfluities of luxury which ever wait on a superabundance of wealth. "It was the particular object of this great establishment," says Mr. Field, "to provide for the accommodation of those who prefer the quiet and sober enjoyment of a family party, to the brilliancy and bustle of a large assembly." No doubt can exist of the realisation of this high purpose under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, and the conclusion is irresistible that the domestic arrangements of the latter, who had been housekeeper at Guy's Cliffe, were free from reproach, while the wines were of the richest, and the cuisine plentifully productive of "dainty dishes, fit to set before a king." The property extended back into Bedford Street, where there was a small bar, originally called the Bedford Tap, and now known as the Bedford Inn, for the accommodation of the link-boys, Sedan chair-men, coachmen, footmen, grooms, stablemen, and other of the hundreds of servants, the wide business connections this famous hotel collected, and opposite were the Mews, capable of receiving numerous horses and carriages.*

Mr. and Mrs. Williams remained in charge of the hotel till 1819, when they removed to the Regent, and of that they had the sole management for many years. They were succeeded at the Bedford,

* The first Livery stables connected with the Bedford, were those now forming part of the Regent Hotel property. They were built in 1810, and occupied by William King, formerly of Bath, under the trade name of King's Mews and Livery Stables. Mr. Williams took them over in 1817, when he was obviously contemplating building the Regent. The Bedford Street Mews, referred to here, were probably not erected until after the Regent Hotel was opened in 1819.

by Mr. Cross, after whom came Mr. Gomm, and successively, Messrs. Wright, Bryan, and Hill, the last named of whom, entered on his tenancy in 1850. Some few years later, the establishment began to exhibit signs of decay, and in 1858, the purchase of the hotel by the Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank brought its career to a close, an event of which the decrease in its patrons had for some time been clearly prophetic. The ideals of efficient management and perfect domesticity, characteristic of the business in its first stage, gave way to a more boisterous type of life in after years, and from being the chosen home of the valetudinarian, and the visitor seeking rest and unexciting relaxation, it became the fashionable rendezvous of the patrons of sport, and the military classes, and the headquarters of the popular Warwickshire Hunt Club. Leamington then being in the hey-day of its prosperity, events rattled along merrily. On one occasion, seventeen hunting gentlemen filed out from the Bedford Mews, and twenty-three from the Regent, for the "meet," nearly every one wearing scarlet: at race times the house was invariably full, and for the convenience of the "bookies," a booth was erected in the garden at the rear. The most notable habitue from 1820 to 1830, was Jack Mytton, the eccentric and extravagant lord of Halston manor, Shropshire, who "went the pace," wasted nearly £500,000 in fifteen years, and died in poverty.* He is credited with the bold feat of having, for a wager, ridden his mare upstairs into the dining room, and then to have jumped her from the balcony into the street. This has been pronounced an impossibility, but it must be borne in mind that the impossible had strong attractions for him, and an adven-

* The tales of Mytton's exploits are legion. He was born September 30, 1796, and before he had reached the age of two years, his father died, leaving him to the care of a fond and over-indulgent mother. When in his teens, he was masterful, and wasteful. While at Westminster School he was allowed £600 a year for personal expenses, and managed to spend £1,200. He was expelled, and afterwards at Harrow, his studies were abruptly closed by the same process. Subsequently he was placed under a private tutor, whose instructions he rewarded with a knock down blow. At both the Universities he was entered without being successful at either, unless his ordering 3 pipes of port wine, (351 gallons,) to be supplied to his room can be construed an academic distinction. At nineteen, he joined the 7th Hussars as a Cornet, but after serving with the Army of Occupation in France, retired and returned home. The Halston estate, of which he became possessed, had a rent-roll of £10,000 a year, and there were other properties worth an additional £800. In 1819 he was a Parliamentary candidate for Shrewsbury, and, as was to be expected, conducted his

ture so perilous, would be to his strange nature, the most welcome and enjoyable form of excitement. At any rate, it was not fraught with greater risk than his winning a bet by driving his tandem half a mile across country, in the dark, and leaping a sunk-fence, three yards wide, a broad deep drain, and two stiff quick-set-fences, with ditches on the further side. This record event in horsemanship took place near Shrewsbury, Mytton clearing everything with no assistance, other than a few lanthorns to light the points for the leaps. Another reported visitor at the Bedford, was Lord Waterford, a practical joker, of whom the late Mr. Edmund Yates, in his charming "Recollections and Experiences," has an amusing story. His lordship was said to have bound himself by an oath to deprive Mr. Muntz, then M.P., for Birmingham, of his fine, and much admired, Hudibrastic beard, by forcibly shaving him; but intelligence reaching the hon. Member, he armed himself with a cudgel, somewhat shorter than a barber's pole, and not quite so thick, the prospective deterrent strokes of which kept the marquis in order, and enabled Mr. Muntz to enjoy his hirsute ornament without applying to the magistrates, or having to tarry at Jericho.

After the erection of the Bank, the Mews property was for sale, and an unsuccessful effort having been made by a section of the Local Board of Health to acquire it for a Public Market, Mr. Marriott of the Coach and Horses, Bedford Street, rented it for stabling. He was followed in the tenancy by Mr. H. Macgregor, an Edinbro' man, who for some time drove the Stratford coach, and afterwards became proprietor of the omnibus service between Leamington and Warwick. It was subsequently purchased by

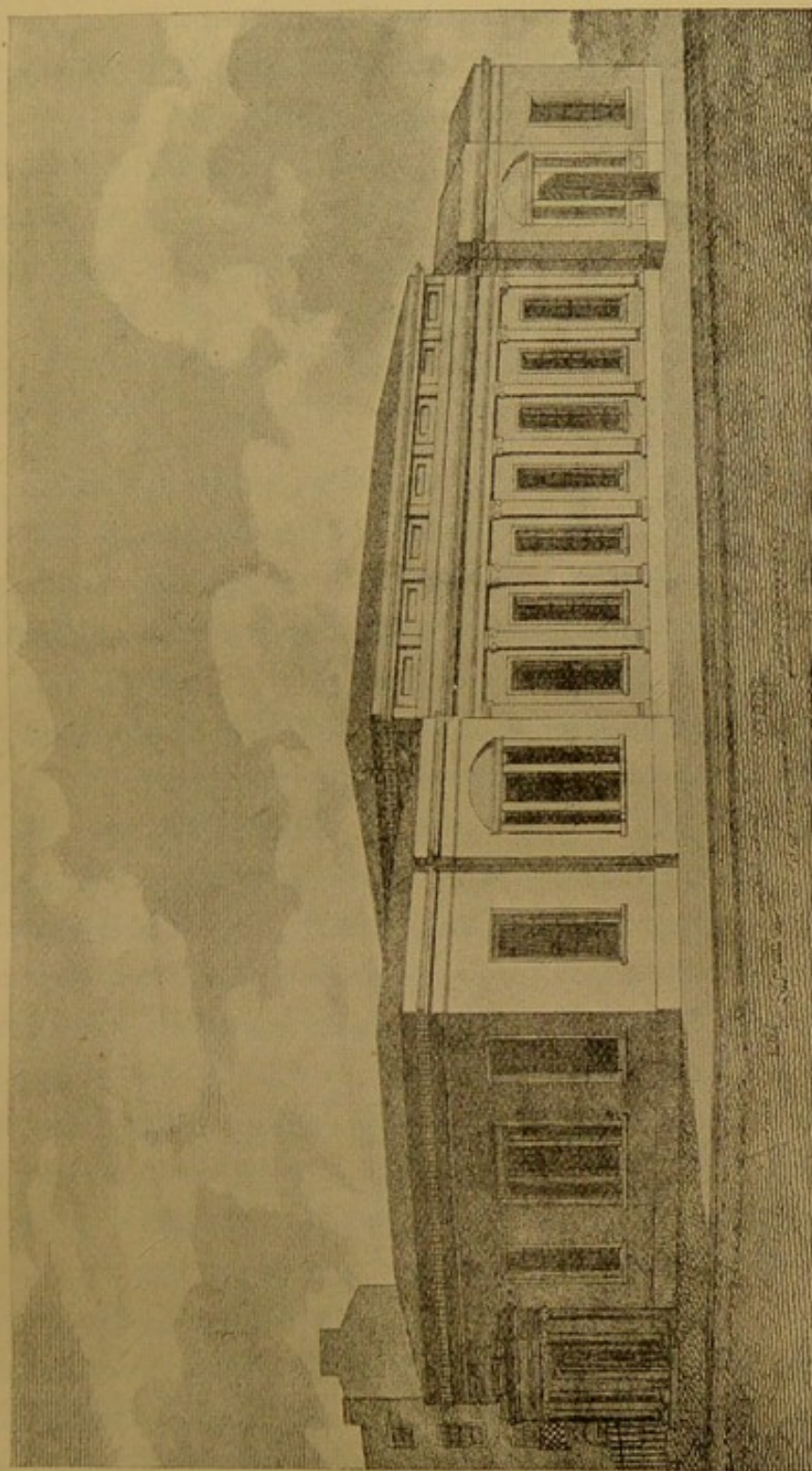
Macanvass on an original plan. "Fighting for one's principles," he interpreted in a strictly literal sense, and when argument failed, he needed no second asking to clear up the point with his fists. He was elected and sat for the borough, but did nothing else than sit. He also served the office of High Sheriff for the counties of Salop and Merionethshire, and was Major in the North Shropshire Yeomanry Cavalry. On attaining his majority, he set up an expensive racing establishment, winning at various meetings as many as 165 stakes, plates, and matches. About the year 1832, his disposable property was sold, and two years afterwards, he was arrested for debt and on the 29th of March, 1834, he died, at the early age of 38, in the King's Bench Prison, London. With all his faults and failings, Shropshire esteemed him, and on the day when his remains were deposited with his ancestors in Halston Church, the tears of thousands are said to have bedewed the road along which the procession slowly moved.

Mr. John Fell, builder and contractor, and finally, was applied to the purposes of bicycle manufacture.

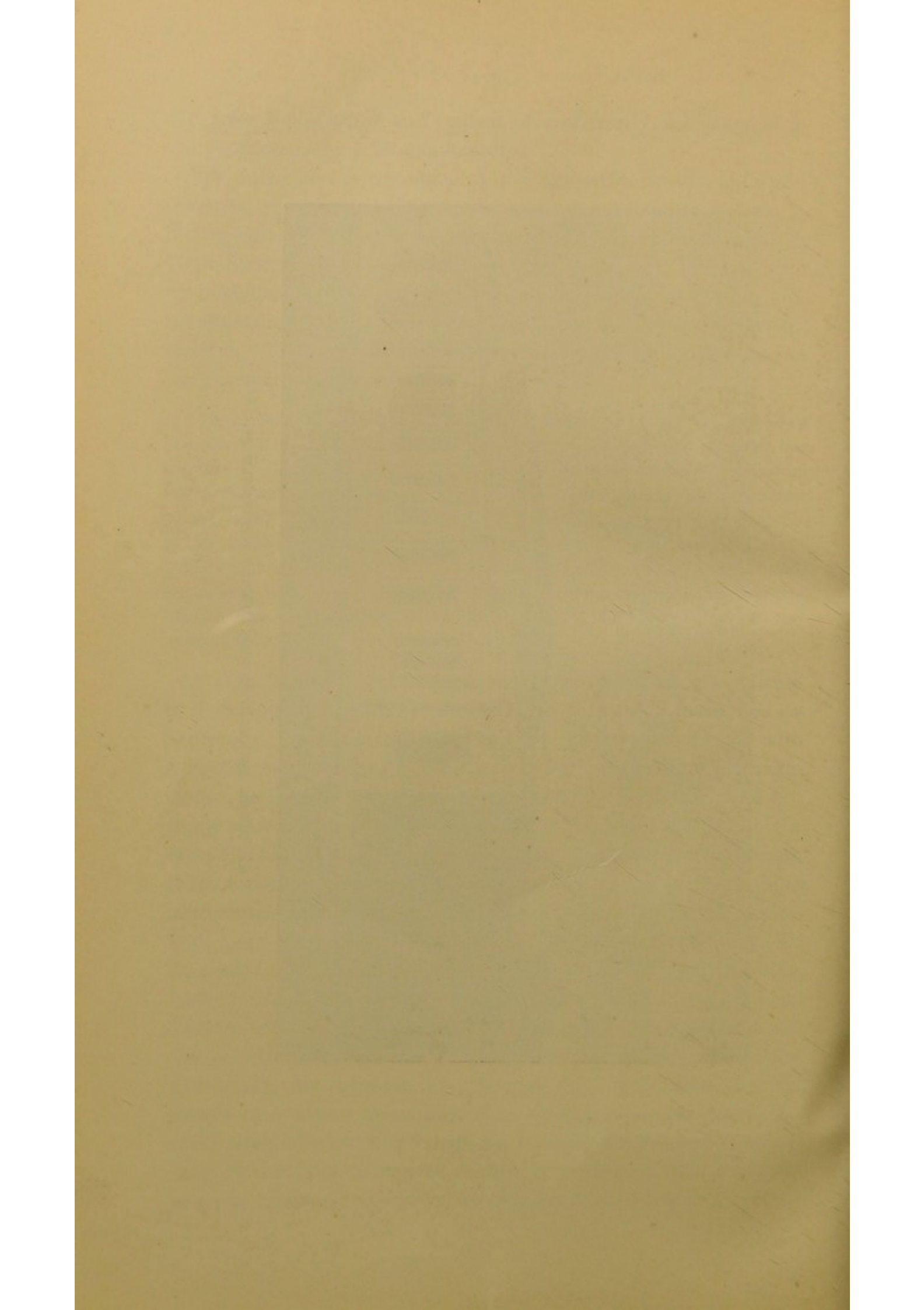
We now come to the story of the Assembly Rooms, known in the later stage of their history as the Upper Assembly Rooms, to distinguish them from the Assembly Rooms at the Music Hall in Bath Street. The origin of this famous building belongs to 1810 by inception, and to 1811 and 1812 by building, completion, and inauguration. In February 1811, we find the following advertisement in "The Warwick Advertiser," inviting plans and giving the measurements of the site:—

"To Architects. Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. A Premium of Twenty Guineas will be paid for the most approved ground plan and elevation for erecting Public Rooms at this much admired watering place. The plot on which the rooms are proposed to be built is a Corner Situation, and contains 50 feet on the East—189 feet on the North (fronting Two principal streets)—50 feet on the West, facing a back street, and 189 on the South—adjoining land already built upon—such Part only of the above Land to be used for the building as may be deemed necessary. Application to be made to the Office of Messrs. Tomes and Heydon, Warwick; plans to be sent before the First Day of March next."

A plan having been adopted, the work, for which a syndicate in the neighbourhood provided the funds, was commenced, and on September, 24, 1812, the new Assembly Rooms were opened with a grand ball, which, for quality, number, perfection of arrangements, and general brilliance, had not been surpassed, and but rarely equalled, in the subsequent festive history of the town. Sir Gray Skipwith, Bart., officiated as steward, and there were present three hundred, principally representatives of influential families in the surrounding county localities, including the Earl of Aylesford, Lord Chetwynd, Lord Clonmell, the Hon. Mr. Verney, Sir Charles, Lady, and the Dowager Lady Mordaunt, Lady Lawley, Lady Peele, Mr. Dugdale, M.P., General Broadhurst, Colonel Crump, Mr. Bertie B. Greatheed and family, Mr. Townsend and family, Mr. Lucy and family, Mr. Dewes and family, Mr. Wise and family, Mr. Sheldon and family, etc. It is rather for the benefit of a future generation that we subjoin some particulars of the site and form of the building, than for the present, in whose memory these circumstances cannot be otherwise than fresh, the property having remained in its original state down to so recent



THE UPPER ASSEMBLY ROOMS, OPENED SEPTEMBER 24, 1812.



a period as 1878. It stood on land facing the Regent Clock, or Coach House, and covered the whole site back into Bedford Street. It had two entrances, one in the Parade, and the other in Regent Street; both are shown in the accompanying illustration. Mr. Field speaks of it as one of the finest works of modern times—in which pure and elegant taste has exerted and displayed its happiest efforts. “The simple grandeur of its exterior appearance, the conveniency and magnificence of its interior arrangements, and the splendour and costliness of all its attending decorations, are certainly unequalled in any similar erection, throughout the kingdom. In size, indeed, the Assembly Rooms of Leamington must yield, in a small degree, to those of Bath and Cheltenham; but in all other respects, the latter are greatly surpassed by the former.”

The Parade entrance was through a small porch, with a plain entablature supported by four Ionic columns. This was generally the one used for public meetings and concerts. The grand, or principal entrance, was in Regent Street, (then called Cross Street), at the end of the building near to Bedford Street. A pair of large folding doors admitted into a capacious and lofty vestibule, on the left of which was the ball room, eighty-two feet in length, thirty-six wide, and twenty-six in height. The ceiling was tastefully done in ornamental plaster work. Three superb chandeliers were suspended from it, of cut glass, and of exquisite workmanship, which, together with those in the adjoining apartments, were said to have cost a thousand guineas. On the Regent Street side were seven handsome windows; of which the furniture, of crimson morine, with black fringe, was extremely rich. On the opposite side were two chimney pieces of highly polished marble, from the quarries of Kilkenny; above which were two large ornamental mirrors. At the upper end was an orchestra, and near to this a door leading to the card room, a large and handsome apartment, beyond which was the reading room, well provided with London and provincial papers, and with some of the best periodical publications. On ball nights this was used as a tea room. Right of the vestibule was the billiard room, fitted with a massive mahogany table by Fernyhough of London, of the value of a hundred guineas. A flight of stairs conducted the patrons to a second billiard room, and opposite the entrance, was the refectory. From 1837 to 1878,

the date of the sale and closing of the Rooms, the billiard tables, under the popular management of Mr. Powis, were most liberally patronised by the nobility and gentry. In the part of the building fronting the Parade, John Hewett, who, at some time in the thirties became co-lessee of the property with George Smith, an extensive wine and spirit merchant, established a Library and News Room, for which a door was placed in the centre of the elevation, with a flight of steps on each side. Mr. Smith, the occupier of the wine vaults, had the honour of being entertained at a banquet at the Regent Hotel, and of being presented with a public testimonial for his services to Leamington. On August 28, 1878, the property was sold by auction at the Regent Hotel, for £5,600, and Mr. Fell commenced the work of transforming it into the present shops.

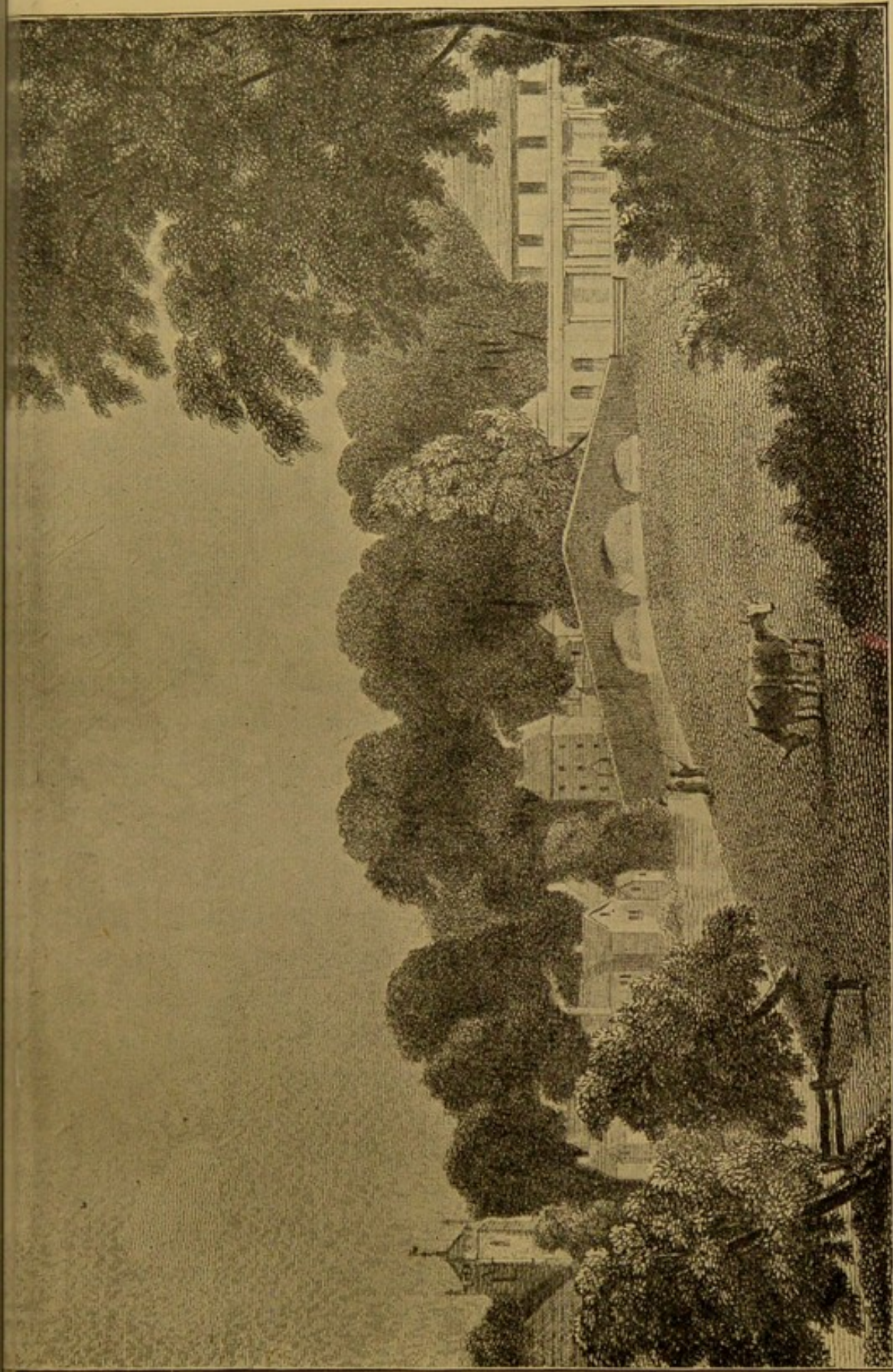
To trace the history of these Rooms, in minuter detail, would be a task, agreeable to the author and entertaining to the reader, but the necessity of reserving space for the many events which await description, limits the pen to a mere catalogue of the chief occurrences. For a long series of years this building was the focus of the fashionable life of Leamington; the centre round which there was a continuous whirl of pleasure. Under the direction of the successive Masters of Ceremonies—James Heaviside, Captain Charles Stevenson, Francis Stenton etc., etc.—balls, card parties, and assemblies, were the concomitants of each recurring season. Besides the devotees of Terpsichore, the goddess with laurelled brow, the multitudinous worshippers of the harmonious Orpheus, with their Priests and Queens of song and minstrelsey, flooded the room with melodies, sweeter far, than those emitted when “Jubal struck the chorded shell.” Within these walls, Leamington heard once, and once only, Angelica Catalani, and Paganini twice; Giulia Grisi, and the incomparable tenor, Braham. There also Clara Novello, one of the musical stars of her day, sang “Let the Bright Seraphim,” Harper playing the characteristic trumpet obbligato accompaniment, and F. Cramer, Lindley, and Dragonetti the effective parts for the violin, violoncello, and contra-bass. Julian Adams, with his then unrivalled band, gave several concerts, and the Philharmonic Society, under the direction of the late Mr. R. Ward, the first performance in Leamington of the ever-glorious “Elijah,” and last, but not least, in 1848, and again in 1856,

Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, sang divinely to crowded audiences composed of the elite of the county, and to a thousand listeners in the street, who, unable to gain admission, or too poor to pay, felt it no hardship to stand for hours in the open air, if they might hear but a single flight, or a few notes of that matchless voice, which had thrilled the world with delight and wonder. Mdle. Beatrice, and Mrs. Rousby, melted audiences to tears; Charles Mathews and Madame Vestris, personified "Laughter holding both his sides," and "Parallax," momentarily puzzled Solons in science, with his clever, but specious, proofs that the earth is flat, and not round as taught in schools and colleges.

The Ranelagh Gardens were laid out in 1811, the year which saw the Bedford Hotel completed and the work of constructing the new Assembly Rooms considerably advanced. They were at first known by the title of "The Leamington Nursery and Pleasure Grounds," and were probably occupied originally by Mr. Mackie. In the early records they are said to have been ten acres in extent, and were planted with an exuberance of choice trees, flowers, and shrubs. An extensive development in the management is alleged to have taken place in 1813, when Mr. Mackie was joined in a partnership by James Brown, who, first as a pupil of Mr. Baldwin, gardener to the Marquis of Hertford at Ragley, and afterwards as gardener to the Rev. H. C. Morewood, of Alfreton Hall, Derbyshire, had attained a high professional rank in the cultivation of exotics and the formation of landscapes. Their successor was John Cullis, a man actively associated with the public work of the town for more than forty years. He came into possession in 1814, and the same year, planted with his own hands, the trees which now form the beautiful Linden Avenue, on the north side of the Pump Room Grounds; one of the most effective bits of scenery in the centre of the town, but capable of improvement along the borders. Under the care of Mr. Cullis, the Ranelagh Gardens reached the zenith of their prosperity, and for years they were the resort of visitors, for whom a band was engaged to discourse popular music. On gala days they were the chief attraction, and in the evenings there were, after 1821, fireworks, balloons, etc. The original idea was to make these gardens a permanent resort for recreation and holiday amusements, and doubtless this would have been fully

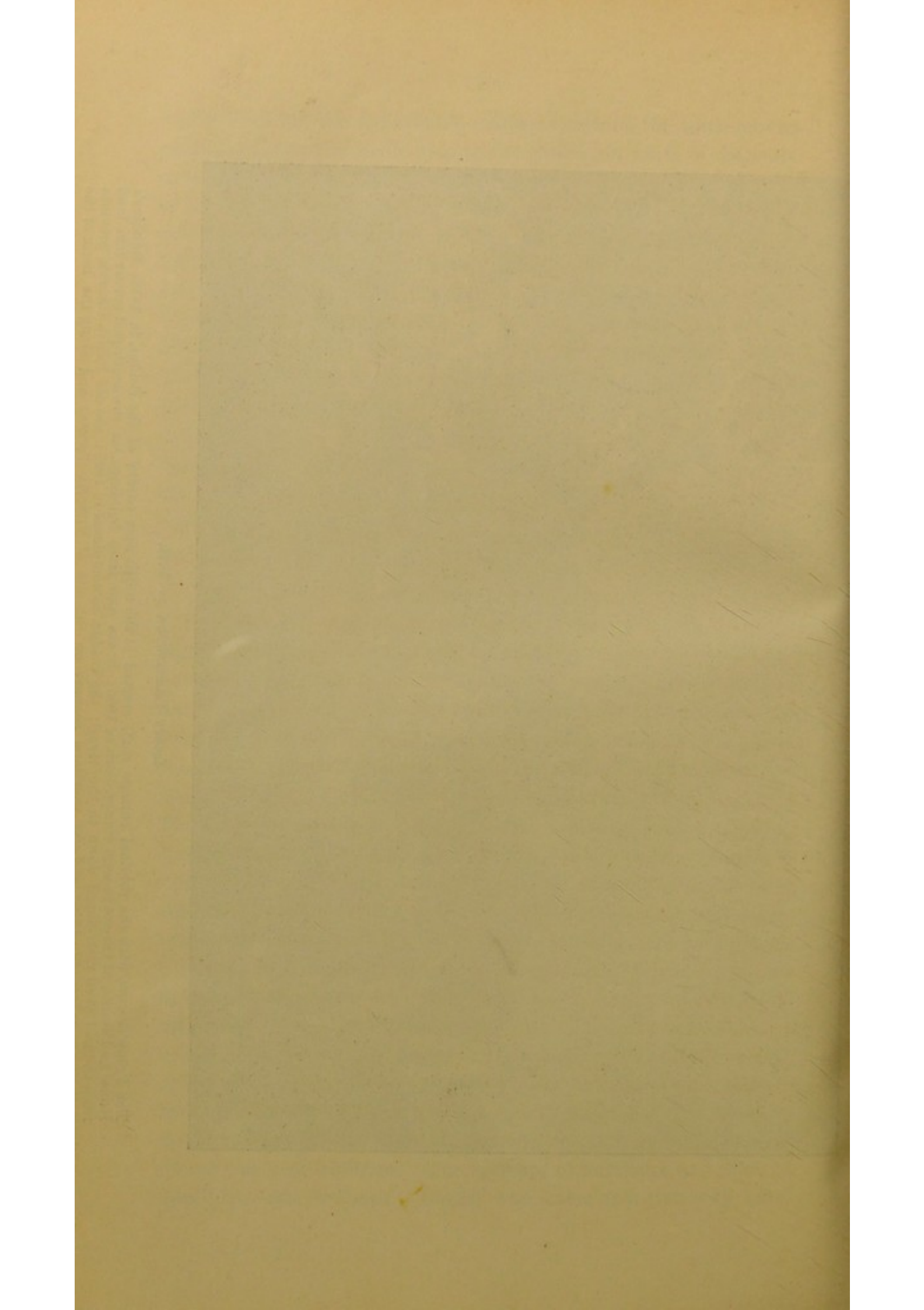
realised but for the remarkable manner in which the town moved northward, and the dedication to the public, in 1846, of the more convenient and superior Jephson Gardens. Mr. Cullis continued in occupation until his death in 1849, after which the property was sold by auction at the Bath Hotel, "with two pews at the Parish Church." William Russell, of Spencer Street, was the auctioneer. Mr. Cullis took a warm and practical interest in the Parish Church and at one time filled the office of warden. He was also largely employed in the laying out of the Jephson Gardens in 1846. Thomas Mander occupied the Ranelagh Gardens in 1858, and his successor was Mr. Parsons, who was afterwards joined in partnership by Mr. John Hugh Hawley, Head-master of the Brunswick School, and a strenuous supporter of the Free Public Library, on the Committee of which he sat for several years, and was at one time its Chairman. Mr. Crump followed, and the next tenant was Mr. Greenfield, whose successor is the present occupier, Mr. R. Greenfield, junior.

The year 1813 opened more brightly for the prospects of Leamington than had any of its predecessors. All was bustle and excitement. The builders were accumulating wealth, the owners of land were piling up their fortunes, and the working classes could not have failed in reaping material advantages from the great demand there was for labour. The service of coaches had been increased and fresh visitors were daily swarming into the town. The Bedford Hotel and the Assembly Rooms, were providing domestic comforts and social delights, which strengthened the health attractions of the waters. Three other institutions were still required—a market, a theatre, and bathing accommodation which would bear comparison with the provision at Bath and Cheltenham. This latter desideratum, as we have seen, was then in course of being supplied, for the Pump Rooms were drawing near completion. The necessity for a public market, however, was a reality which has long ceased to exist. Every article of food, drink, clothing and luxury, is now supplied by the tradespeople and firms at prices, the moderation of which excites surprise, and removes all cause for complaint. But in 1812-13, the state of things was very different. The increase of buildings had been in dwellings—not in shops. Bisset, who came as a visitor in 1811,



LEAFY LEAMINGTON IN 1815.

The Pump Rooms, with the original cottage roof, erected at the north-west corner of the Bridge, in 1813; Robbins's House and Baths, at the south-west corner, built in 1806; house and farm buildings, at the south-east corner (the land from the Old Well then sloped down to the river); the Bridge, as completed in 1809; the old Parish Church, previous to the improvements in 1816; and the woodland scenery on the site of Victoria Terrace and along the bank of the river at the back of Spencer Street Congregational Church.



and permanently settled here as a resident in 1812, says it was not possible at that time to obtain a beef steak or a roll in the village. Warwick was then the general provider for Leamington. It was under these extremely exceptional circumstances, that the decision was arrived at in 1813, to establish a public market, of which the following notice appeared in "The Warwick Advertiser," on the 24th of April:—

"Leamington Market. The public are respectfully informed that a MARKET will be held at Leamington on Wednesday, the Fifth day of May next, and every Wednesday after during the Season, when every accommodation will be provided by the Inhabitants, who beg to solicit the Assistance of the neighbourhood to supply necessaries for the convenience and comfort of the Visitants."

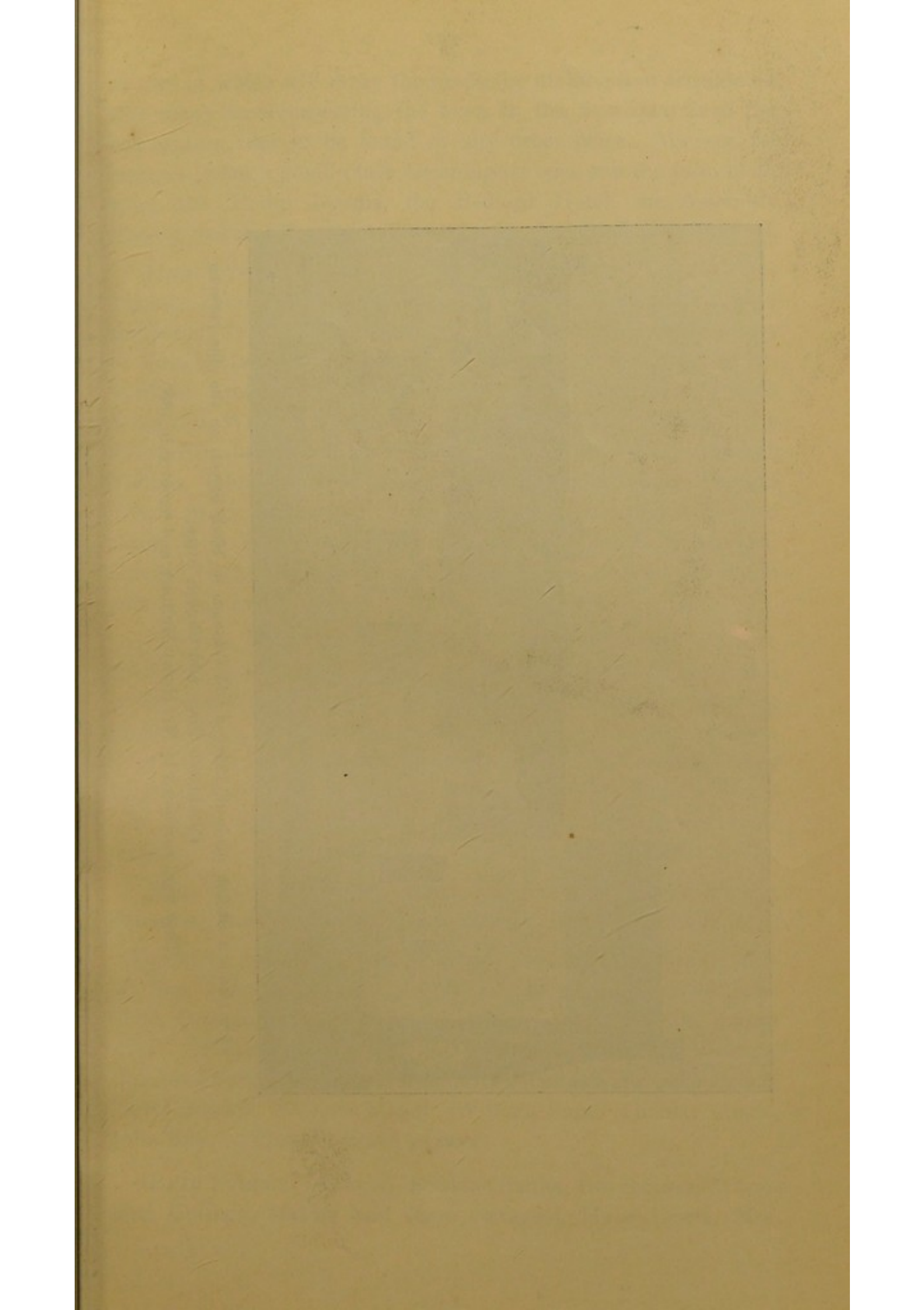
Reporting on May 8, the inauguration, the "Advertiser" said it was held on the large open space of ground in High Street, nearly opposite Sinker's hotel, that proper stalls were provided for those who attended, and that there was a good show of meat, vegetables, eggs, poultry, and other articles usually needed at such places of public sale. This market, though it appears to have been continued for several years—probably until 1825—and no doubt served a useful purpose, was never a very decided success. The second was established in 1824, in the Mews at the rear of the Bath Hotel, by John Russell, the proprietor, and was known in after years as the Prince's Market, and the third, between Russell Street, and Tavistock Street, and Warwick Street, in 1828, with the name of Covent Garden Market. About the year 1840, a number of the local gentry memorialised the Town Commissioners in favour of another experiment being made, and proved, on paper, the large saving which would thus be effected in the purchase of the commodities of life. Nothing came of the agitation, and the subject was not heard of again until after the closing of the Bedford Hotel, when it was proposed to purchase the Mews in Lower Bedford Street for a central market, but the Local Board was divided on the proposal, and the result of a very stormy parish meeting, held outside the old Town Hall, High Street, and attended by about 1,500 persons, many of whom indulged in very plain speaking, was, its defeat. In the early years of the Corporation, the thorny question was again brought forward, and the fourth, and last of the Leamington Public Markets,

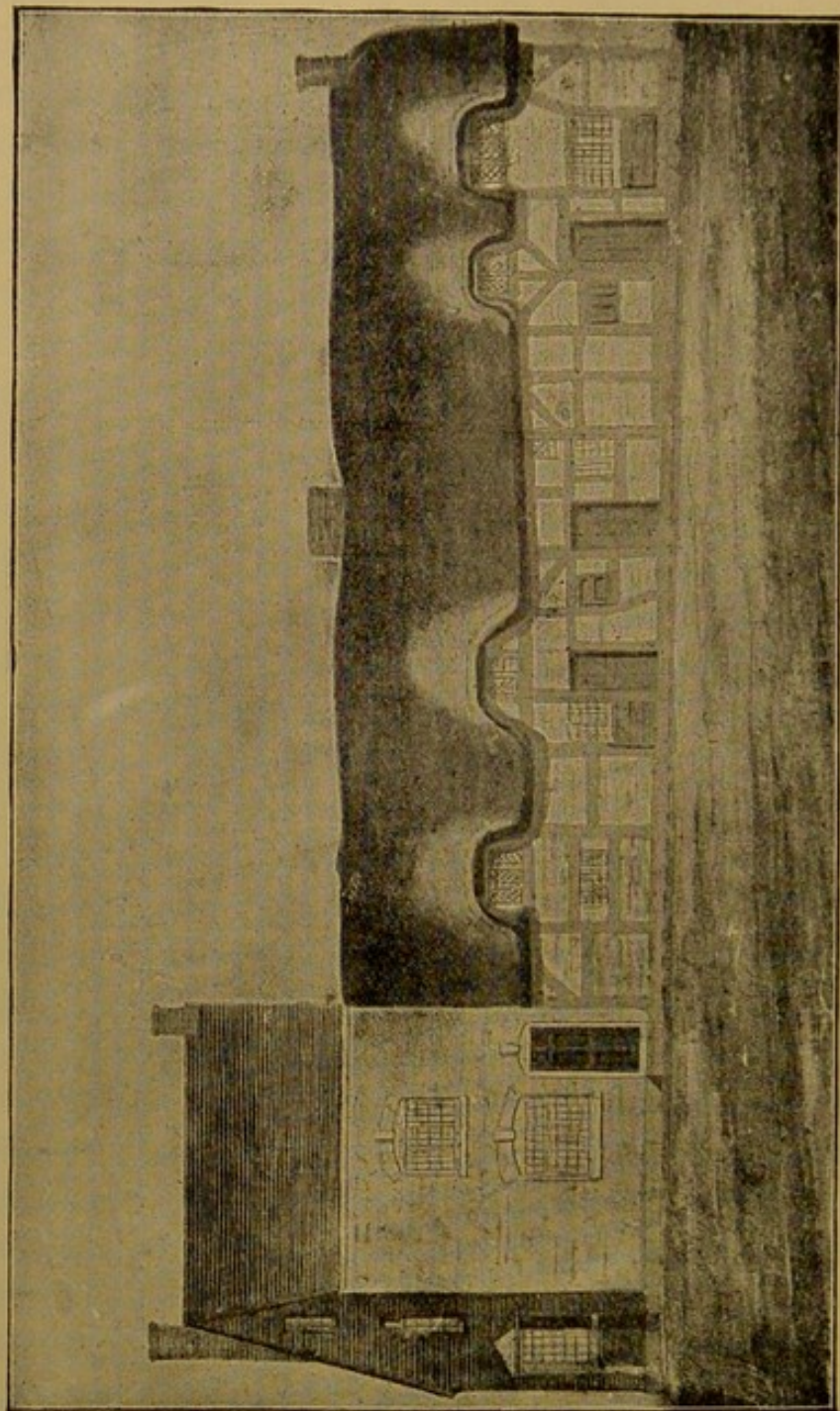
established in the Drill Hall. This also proving a failure, was closed in a short time.

The oldest rate book preserved dates from 1813, the year of the first theatre and market; in its faded leaves is much to interest modern readers. It is a small memorandum book of forty-six pages, such as would now be purchased at any stationer's shop for threepence, and contains a full list of the resident householders of the period, and the names of all the streets, both in the Old and New Towns. This information is contained in two rates, made and levied in 1813, and 1814, the former of which we now proceed to quote, simply observing that, as the earliest complete Directory we have of the ratepayers of modern Leamington, it is not altogether devoid of interest:—

“ Thomas Abbotts, Elizabeth Abbotts, Richard Ambler, Joseph Brookhouse, George Birch, Richard Brown, William Benton, Henry Butler, N. S. Bayley (Baly?), John Campion, Emma Cromblehome, Thomas Court, William Court, Richard Court, George Commander (senior), George Commander (junior), Joseph Dolfin, William Commander, Mrs. Edwards, John Evens, Francis Franklin, Thomas Fisher, David Frost, John Fenton, Edward Hughes, Mrs. Harris, Joseph Hiorns, — Hickling, Ann Kearney, George Kitchen, William Key, William King, Benjamin Keen, Samuel Letts, William Lewis, James Locket, James Leigh, James Mackie, James Miles, John Morris, — Mills, William Moody, William Olorenshaw, Thomas Olorenshaw, Thomas Palmer, John Perkins, William Page, John Paine, William Perry, George Reading, William Reading, Francis Robbins, Richard Reading, Richard Sanders, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Shaw, Thomas Sinker, William Smith, Elizabeth Satchwell, Mary Satchwell, William Savage, Mrs. Surcombe, John Tomes, Edward Treadgold, Thos. Thompson, Thomas Verron, Henry Williams, Richard Walton, Matthew Wise, Rev. Edward Willes, Edward Wareing, Mrs. Willson, George Whitehead, William Webb, John West, John Williams, Walton and Smallbone, Thomas Worrall, Miss Walker, Robert Radford.

The second list, here subjoined, is the fuller and more valuable of the two, specifying the first mapping out of the streets, etc. the





View (from a Sketch made in 1828) of Old Cottages in High Street, on the side between
Packington Place and Church Street.

They were purchased by Mr. Henry Mulliner, and removed in 1860.

perusal of which will repay the reader by making him acquainted with many facts respecting the town in the first quarter of the last century, not to be found in any other place. We see, for instance, what a small place Leamington was, and the form of it, when the Pump Rooms, the Bedford Hotel, the Assembly Rooms, and the Theatre, to be presently described, were erected.

“HIGH STREET.—John Russell, William Large, Wm. Fowler, Thomas Thompson, William Alder, Rev. William Read (house and baths), William Olorenshaw, William Webb, Thomas Palmer, — Fisher, Michael Copps, George Kitchen, George Commander, William Townsend, William Key, Esther Kingerlee, Joseph Kingerlee, William Savage, Mary Bayliss, Richard Ambler, John West, Elizabeth Griffiths, William Steat, William Hobbs, Joseph Tidmas, John Nicholds, Robert Radford, John Paine, Thomas Whale, Mary Thorneycroft, John Green, Richard Pinfold, Edward Gunn, John Hollick, Richard Brown.” Of the thirty-five residents in High Street in this year, twelve are marked off as too poor to pay rates.

“CHURCH STREET.—Mary Shaw (Bowling Green Inn, here described as a “lodging house”), Eli Hiorns, Joseph Hiorns (rated house, wharf and two sites, one occupied by Crump and the other by Freeman), John Knight, John Fenton, Joseph Polton, William Benton, Edward Treadgold, Joseph Wood, John Gardner, Mary Flowers, Ann Griffiths, William Stiles, — Wright, Esq.” Six of these were excused from paying rates on account of their poverty.

“MILL END.—Mary Satchwell, Elizabeth Satchwell, Phœbe Satchwell, James Leigh, William Worrall, and Richard Court.

CLEMENT STREET.—Ann Kearney, Elizabeth Willson, John Hicklin, Thomas Vearnon, Joseph Parsons, George Arnold, John Penn, George Reading, William Holmes, Thomas Olds, James Tilley, William Merry, Thomas Olorenshaw, Thomas Worrall, Stephen Probett, Rev. — Morgan, Mrs. Tinnery, Richard Booth, David Mackie, William Moody, William Page, Thomas Castle, John Key.” Three returned as poor.

“BATH STREET.—Francis Robbins (baths, two houses, Woodbine Cottage, stables and three cottages), Mary Lewis, Mrs.

Holding, Elizabeth Abbotts (house and land), Elizabeth Smith (bath house, stables and land), Thomas Bradshaw, Benjamin Keen, Mary Webb, James Lockett, Joseph Dolfen, John Evens, William Lewis, Frances Cummens, George Commander, Stephen Cuninghame, Mrs. Surcombe, John Walton, Edward Wareing, William Allen, John Cox, Theatre." Five are described as poor, and are, therefore, not charged with the rate.

"GLOUCESTER STREET.—Henry Butler, John Seers, Samuel Letts, William Smith, William Spires, John Wincott, Thomas Dawkes, William Warmsley (Wamsley?), Thomas Lord."

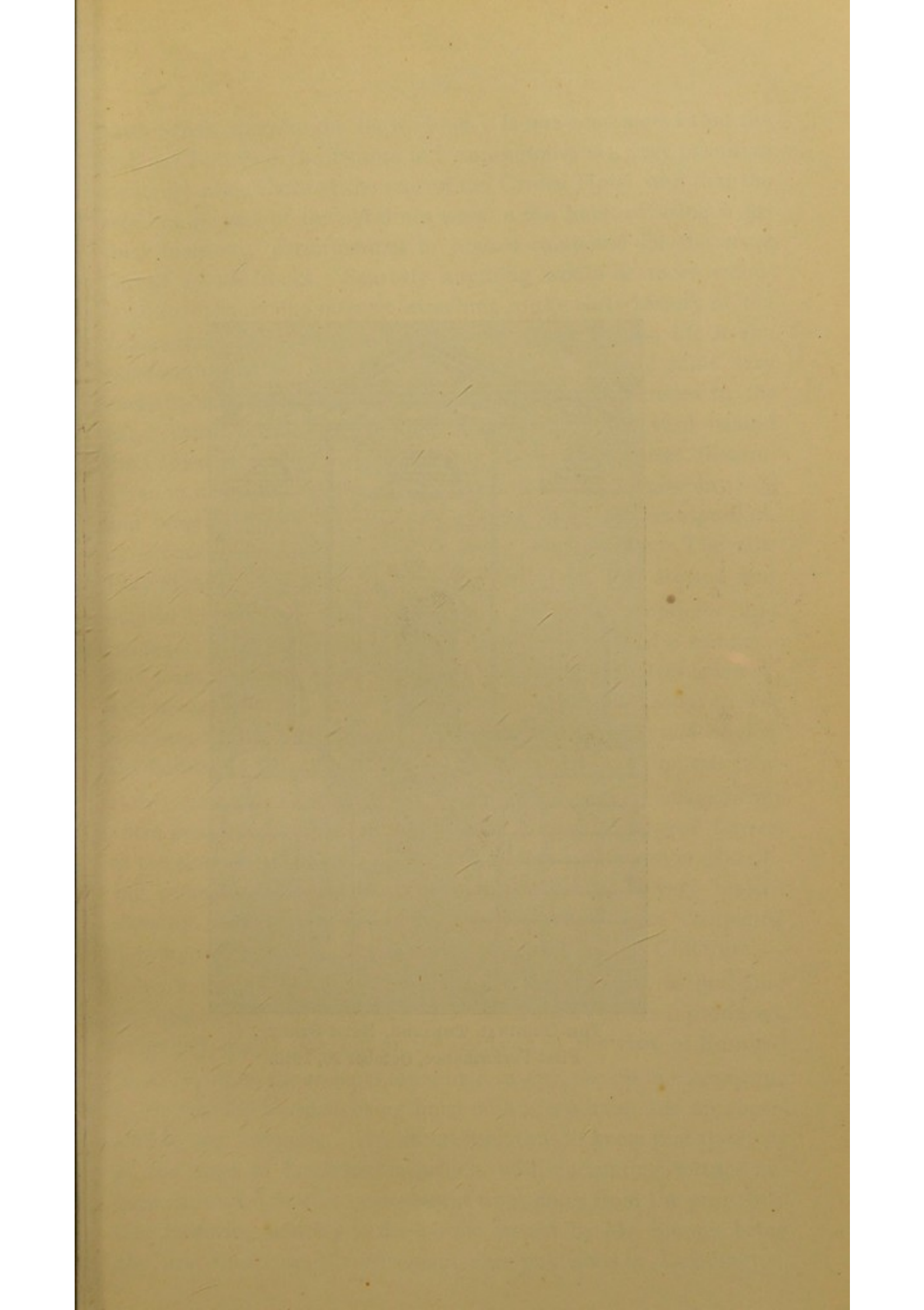
"UNION PARADE.—Isaac Wilkenson, Samuel Perken, John Parks, William Parks, William Orden, Mrs. Gill, Thomas Atkins, Mrs. Wickes, Charles Lawrance, John Clark, John Williams, N. S. Bayley (Baly?), John Morris, Mrs. Harris, Geo. Birch, Emma Cromblehome, John Morris, Francis Franklin, Joseph Brookhouse, Edward Hughes, John Tomes, Richard Sanders, Mrs. Edwards, Doct. Middleton (house and land), Henry Williams, Publick Rooms (Assembly Rooms)."

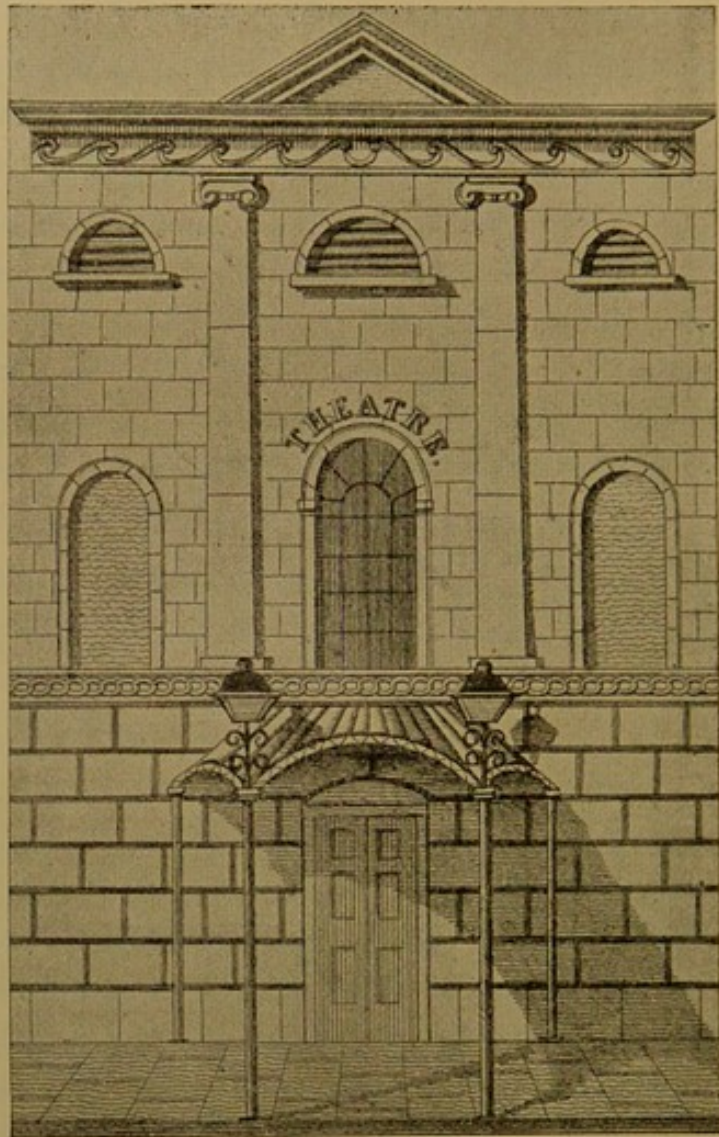
"UPPER UNION STREET.—Daniel Frost, William Smith, Mrs. W. Webb, Miss Walker, John Clemens, John Taylor, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Rackstrow, Rev. Mr. Trotman, Robert Webb, James Bissett, Mr. Rackstrow."

"CROSS STREET.—Richard Doughty, James Leigh, James Miles, William West, Joseph Smith, George Walton, Thomas Smallwood, Stephen Peasnall, Thomas Dunkley, James Billingham, Charles Wood, William Betts, Thomas Taylor, Richard Ballard, James Parsons, Charles Lawrance, Thomas Tew, John Barnwell, Richard Rousam, George Elliott, — Cole, John Saul, Richard Pratt, William King (house, land and stables), William Smith (house and garden land)."

"Bertie Greathead, Esq., for brickyard; Hicklen and Mackie, ditto."

Qualified by the experience gained in past and present successes for further advancement in the provision of public buildings, the attention of the town was next directed to the enlargement of the sphere of its recreations and amusements. This feeling had a prompt and tangible expression in the erection of a theatre in





THE ORIGINAL THEATRE, BATH STREET.
First Performance, October 26, 1813.

Bath Street opposite the Bath Hotel. It has been stated that the original Temple of the Drama in Leamington was a very primitive structure somewhere at the rear of the Crown Hotel, and that the strolling players of the old times were in the habit of using it for their histrionic performances to houses composed for the most part of smock-frocks. Scarcely anything would be more calculated to enhance the interest attaching to the early history of the village than a reliable account of its Sock and Buskin life in the eighteenth century, all the more so as the names of some very eminent actors are mentioned as being probably included in the list. There certainly were theatrical plays in the yard behind the Crown Hotel, before the building of the Bath Street theatre, given in a structure temporarily fitted up for the purpose in 1813, and possibly that to which Bisset alludes in his manuscript work as situate at the back of Read's Baths, High Street. The new Play House, of which we give an illustration, was erected and opened in 1813, by Mr. J. Simms, a theatrical proprietor and manager, widely known in the dramatic world. It had a composition front, with the word "Theatre," above the central window, and an ornamental cover over the door forming a shelter in wet weather, for the occupants of carriages when entering and leaving the building. As will readily be perceived, the exterior was neat rather than elaborate, and though its proportions were insignificant when compared with the present noble Theatre in Regent Grove, at the time of its erection it was an architectural addition of striking prominence and importance. The interior, of very limited capacity, was elegant, and when the decorations were completed—comprising views of Leamington, Warwick, Guy's Cliffe, etc.,—in 1814, it was as bright, cheerful, and comfortable, as probably any other theatre in the provinces. At ordinary prices it produced, when full, about £30, but on the occasion of the visit of Edmund Kean, in 1820, the receipts amounted to £97, the pit in consequence of the demand for seats being lined with green baize and appropriated to box company. It is interesting thus to know that the story of the stage in Leamington, which, with fluctuating fortune has been continued down to the present time, dates from the year 1813. The following address to the public, issued by Mr. Simms, being the first theatrical advertisement ever published in Leamington,

merits presevation in these reminiscences :—

"J. SIMMS most respectfully informs the Nobility and Gentry of Leamington, its Vicinity, and the Public in general, that he has repeatedly promised the enquiring Public, that the New Theatre should be opened during the present season : and that it may be free from Damp (which is chiefly the result of Plastering), he has declined that part of the Finishing, as well as the ornamental Painting and other embellishments, 'till after the close of the present season. He trusts that he shall have some portion of Credit for his exertions, in preparing a more commodious place of Amusement, in so short a Period ; and he begs they will accept of the attempt in providing the rational and interesting Amusement of the Drama, as an earnest of his future Spirit and Liberality ; assuring them that by the beginning of next Season, the Theatre will be completely finished, and in a style of Decoration not inferior to any one out of the Metropolis ; when he flatters himself he shall be honoured with that Support and Patronage a discerning Public are ever ready to confer on those who endeavour to merit their Favors."

On Tuesday, October 26, 1813, the doors were thrown open to the public. Miss Simms gave an Address, by way of a Prologue, written by Bisset, and Dr. Franklin's historical work, "The Earl of Warwick," was played by Messrs. Waylett, (two), Smollett, Povey, Spendal, and Wallis : Mrs. Godwin, Miss Simms, and Mrs. Swendal. After the Act, a ballad, entitled "Lilla of Leamington," specially composed for the occasion by Bisset, was sung by Mr. Povey, a grand transparent scene was given of "Britannia in the Temple of Fame," with song and chorus ; Miss Godwin also contributed a song, and Messrs. Swendal and Smollett some comic ditto, the performance concluding with the then popular Farce, "Fortune's Frolic,"*. During the brief and chequered history of the House, the boards were graced with the presence of the most gifted exponents of the actor's art,—stars of the first magnitude, shining with all that peculiar effulgence which belongs to the possessors of genius ; which no external influence can supply where it is absent, nor obstacle suppress where it exists. The first of these was Robert William Elliston, an accomplished artist in his profession, who at one period was the lessee of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London. It has long been the fashion to represent his association with Leamington as beginning with the year 1816, and resulting from a casual acquaintance he made with the place

*A genuine side-shaker of the old school. Mrs. Siddons, after a visit to Sadler's Wells, in 1802, said ; "How delightfully I laughed at Fortune's Frolic."

when passing through, as a coach passenger, to fulfil some engagement. There are good reasons, however, for believing that his introduction to the Spa took place at an earlier date, and that in the previous year he had made many friends, and obtained a wide local popularity through the agency of the Theatre, for in July, August, September, and October of 1815, he was playing there and had become a great favourite. Another celebrity appearing at the Bath Street House on several occasions, was Joseph Shepperd Munden, one of the old magnets of comedy, a friend of Elliston's who, when the Theatre came under his management at a subsequent date, engaged him to play twelve nights to the Leamington patrons of the drama. An amusing story is related of a dispute between them over their refreshers. The manager had his wine and the actor his supplies of brandy and water in the Green Room. Before leaving the town, Munden sent to the Bath Hotel for his bill—fourteen glasses, as many shillings. On being asked to contribute 3s., towards the account, Elliston refused, as Munden had been at the wine while his back was turned; "but," retorted Munden, screwing his features up to the very point of exaction, "sip-pings, remember sip-pings," alluding to Elliston's occasional visits to his glass while he was playing his part. In 1815, Charles Mathews* was there, and in 1818, Booth, playing "King Richard III." R. W. Elliston and Edmund Kean were on the boards in 1820, Master Betty, "the young Roscius of the age," in 1822, and in 1823, Macready. In 1824, the Theatre was advertised to be sold, and in 1825, was re-opened under the management of Mr. Bennett. Miss Foote in 1827 acted "Rosalind," and "Miss Hardcastle," and in 1828, and 1829, she was there on several occasions. At precisely what time public performances in this building ceased is a matter of uncertainty, but they could not have been continued after 1833, as in that year came "the last scene of all,"—the sale of the property to Mr. Ind, who converted it into liquor vaults.

* He came down from London by the coach with Mr. (afterwards Sir) Walter Scott, and accompanied him on his visit to Kenilworth Castle.

CHAPTER XII.

The rise of local Wesleyan Methodism—"Maistre and Mistress Scott, his good wyf," the originators of the movement—early meetings in a lofte—services by Mr. Milliner—erection of Portland Street Chapel in the Quarry Field—general history of the cause to 1824.—Building of the Regent Hotel; description of the rooms, etc.—list of proprietors, and history of the establishment.—

UNTIL the year 1817, Methodism had not raised its voice in Leamington, nor were there, even then, any intelligible signs of its being heard with power and effect in the immediate future. One church, and one chapel, were considered sufficient to meet every want of the parishioners, and if latitude in matters of faith, and an accommodating disposition be the criteria, the popular judgment was no doubt correct. But the population was in a changeful, fusing condition, and every coach brought in new elements which modified, strengthened, or gave a fresh variety to the cloudland of local thought. Some of the visitors, when pleasure had been gratified and health renewed, filtered away to their homes and their friends: others were permanently deposited in the village to share and influence its fortunes. There were, no doubt, a few Wesleyan Methodists in Leamington from the beginning of the century, but they seem to have met in a class at Warwick, conducted by "goode Mistress Prichard," in "a rounge over a carpenter's shop in ye strete yclept Gerarde Strete, ye haunte of thys peculyar peple." In 1810, this room was hired as a meeting house, and thither the "oon or tuo," Methodists at Leamington "didde habituallie resorte," until 1817, when they established a place of worship for themselves in a loft in Barnacle's Yard, Satchwell Street. The originators of this localisation of the movement were Mr. Scott, a barber and hair-dresser, and his wife. In a short time the young cause was removed into Brunswick Street, and cradled in the small building now numbered 4, but described as then being situated "hard bye ye spot where ye water waye doth

crosse." Properties in Leamington at the time commanded high rents, and when we read that James Bisset was then receiving £50 a year from Mr. Rider, the artist, for the occupation of the east wing of the adjoining property, known as Belle Vue Cottage, the sum of "30 Poundes bye ye yere," charged to "ye hondfulle of peple," who assembled for worship in this room, though difficult for the "9 personnes" who constituted the original church to raise, was not an extravagant amount. The first minister was "ye goode Maistre Milliner, of sainted memorie, atte ye famous Citie of Coventry, who didde comme to preache on ye daye of ye Lorde." He was by trade a shoemaker, and on the plan of the Coventry Circuit of Wesleyan Methodism employed his Sundays in holding services in appointed villages and towns, sometimes walking distances amounting to forty miles and preaching two or three sermons. The late Mr. John Greet,* of Church Terrace, who was acquainted with him, says he was a tall, thin man, and that it was no uncommon thing for him to walk from Coventry to Stratford-on-Avon, and after conducting a service there, set out for Leamington, putting up in the spring and summer months, for dinner at some way-side hedge, beneath the branches of which he satisfied the cravings of hunger with the humble fare he carried in his pocket; and in the winter he ate as he trudged along, stopping only for the proverbial cup of cold water obtainable at the cottages. After preaching to the "9 personnes," and a few friends who assembled in the building in Brunswick Street, he began the homeward journey to Coventry, and it is on record that on more than one occasion he had to ease

* There were two John Greets in Leamington, and, owing to several coincidences besides the correspondence of names, a certain degree of confusion always attended their public work. One resided in the Lower Parade, was superintendent of the Wesleyan Sunday Schools, Windsor Street; the other lived in Church Terrace and superintended the Baptist Sunday Schools, Clarendon Street. They were both of the same trade—plumbers and decorators—and while the former gave much of his time and attention to the Volunteer Fire Brigade, of which he was one of the chief officers, the latter was zealous in promoting the work of the School Board, on the first elected body of which he was a member. He was much given to study and literary pursuits, and devoted to books of which he had a fine collection. In 1864 he published a volume of poems of sterling merit, and in 1888-9 a set of papers in the "Baptist Magazine," entitled "Sunset Thoughts," exquisitely beautiful as pictures of rural life and scenery. It is to his writings we are indebted for the extracts in this work with which the name of John Greet is associated.

his feet by taking off his shoes and stockings, and puncturing the blisters with a thorn from the adjacent hedge. As one of the pioneers of Wesleyan Methodism in Leamington the name of William Milliner ought to be remembered with respect, if not veneration, for no one worked harder, or suffered more personal inconvenience, in the interests of the cause than he, when the foundations of the present wealthy, numerous and influential Leamington Circuit of Wesleyanism were being laid. Of the style of his pulpit addresses some information has been preserved. They were prepared beforehand by careful study, in such brief moments as his trade left at his disposal, and probably, while following his daily occupation the subjects he had chosen were frequently in his thoughts. Having a retentive memory, he could reproduce the results of his quiet musings without the aid of any notes, and preserve the order of the arrangements. Mr. Greet, whose sources of information on this subject appear to have been special, says his sermons were not of the "hot-pressed nap and natty style, nor were they stilted, but they were clear, practical exhortations, pregnant with evangelical truth, and delivered with a volubility and fervour of expression that forcibly appealed to the hearts and consciences of his hearers. While not primarily designed to gratify the taste or excite the fancy, they were not destitute of the charms of imagery; they were instinct with a charm of diction, and a play of imagination which showed him to have been no stranger to the realm of poesy. His logic was not based on the formal rules of the schools; it was fused and set ablaze by the deep convictions and impassioned earnestness of the man, whose high aim was, according to the measure of his ability, 'to declare the whole counsel of God.' So versatile and capable was he that his services in the Society were requisitioned alike for general and special occasions; whether in class, at watch-night meetings, or other functions, he was ready with an address, which was invariably listened to with marked interest and pleasure, while as years waxed and waned, his venerable figure, his affable manner, and natural Christian graces, made him a tower of strength among his own people."

William Milliner continued his self-denying services to the young cause in Brunswick Street for several years, and evidently

with success, for "In ye yere of Grace 1824, ye Lorde's work havynge prosperede, it was felt bye manie personnes thatte a Chapelle schulde bee buylded, and after moche thoughte and discourse, a pyece of lande was boughte for ye summe of 103 poundes in Quarry Field, now knowne bye ye newe fangled name of Portland Strete. Here ye fyrste Chapelle was buylded for ye total summe of 800 poundes, and in ye Magazine for ye yere 1825 it is dyscrybed as a 'commodityouse and elegante buyldynge.' This Chapelle was opened bye ye Reverende Maistre Joseph Entwistle, ye yonger. But ye Trustees didde soone fynde yemselves in ye bad case by reason of ye heavie debte whyche was upon ye Chapelle. It is even recorded toe ye lastynge dysgrace of ye cause, yat somme of ye sayde Trustees were imprysoned, and others didde leave ye town to save ye Constable from ye same trouble on theyre accounte. Ye hystorian doth not vouche for ye truthe of ye foregoynge, but thynkes it maye be a legende invented bye somme evyl dysposed personne."

The Portland Street Chapel to which the Wesleyans removed from Brunswick Street formed a portion of the building now known as the Wesleyan Training and Educational Schools, but it was at first a very plain and unpretentious structure, standing back a considerable distance from the line of the street, and its length was only about one-third of the present school rooms. The site is described in the Deed of Conveyance as "part of a close called Quarry Field, bounded on the west by an intended street"—the present Portland Street, which was not then laid out. The trustees were William Scott, a hairdresser from London, who had settled in Satchwell Street, and to whom, with his wife, belongs the honour of having started the Wesleyan movement in Leamington; and Francis Taylor, carpenter, William Gilchrist, yeoman, Samuel Turner, carpenter, John Bradley, baker, and Eli Abbot, carpenter, all of Leamington, and Dennis Barnes, of Warwick, yeoman. About the time of the opening of the chapel there was a mortgage debt of £600 for which the trustees, each one of whom was a working-man, in humble circumstances, were responsible, and as the interest was not forthcoming at the proper time, a writ was issued against each for payment of the principal and all arrears owing. The prospects of the cause which so far had

been bright and encouraging, were now overcast with clouds of dark and threatening aspect, and sorrowful stories are told of the distress occasioned by these legal proceedings; of the arrest and imprisonment of some of them for the debt, and the flight from the neighbourhood, or concealment, of others to avoid their pursuers. It was a sad and strange experience, such as no other religious body in Leamington has ever had, and it is earnestly to be hoped never will have. But help came at last, for when the cause was within an inch of shipwreck, the Rev. Robert Melson, at the time superintendent of the Coventry Circuit, and father of Dr. Melson, of Birmingham, borrowed the amount of the principal and paid off the importunate creditor. By a supreme effort, the interest was raised, and the cause of depression being thus removed, the church began to recover slowly, but surely, from the incubus of debt which had repressed its energies, obscured its hopes, and had shaken the faith of many who had joined in the work of building the chapel, with burning zeal and confident expectations of a speedy success.

The builder was "Oon Maistre Toone," to quote once again from a quaint and facetious report of the early history of the cause, in other words, John Toone, who settled here about the year 1809. He was a native of Stoneleigh, and by trade a builder. Connected with the rise and progress of the town for the space of sixty-six years, and a prominent man in public affairs, a brief notice of his life forms a part of this work. His first place of business was in the New Town, and his workshop and timber yard, on land in Warwick Street, lying between Satchwell Street and Park Street. The present houses and shops were not then built. As he was a Wesleyan Methodist, he probably was one of the "hondfulle," who met for worship in the "upper room," in Satchwell Street, and afterwards in Brunswick Street. In 1829 he erected the Mill Street Chapel, and subsequently the Chapel in Guy Street where the Baptists first assembled, and in 1840, the present Leamington Brewery. In 1834 he was residing in the house, number 17, in the Parade—that in which the Wesleyans then held a meeting and decided to enlarge the Portland Street Chapel at a cost of £600. He also occupied a builder's shop in Regent Street, now number 101. He was one of the early Parish Constables, and his sense of the dignity of the office was marked by the care with

which he preserved his truncheon through life, and also one of the Improvement Commissioners, for which the qualification was property, not the elective franchise. This gave him the right to vote for "The Twenty-One," without entitling him to share their deliberations. His personality was distinguished for its originality, and in the later years of his life for its venerable characteristics. Tall and erect, his round face a picture of health and happiness, wearing a low crowned hat, and spectacles, through which he beamed contentedly on his generation, and a beard of snowy whiteness, which "descending, swept his aged breast"; such was the patriarchal appearance of old John Toone in the hardy winter of his time. He died March 13, 1875, at the age of eighty-seven.

Soon after the time when the Wesleyans began their meetings in Satchwell Street, a new spring was discovered in Clemens Street, on the west side, and about fifty yards from High Street. The date of the discovery was 1816, but the opening ceremony is said to have taken place in 1817. The new baths erected were named after the proprietor, "Smart's Marble Baths," and Clemens Street being at the time the most frequented part of Leamington they were favourably situated for public patronage. The illustration given shows the front elevation and the styles, or modes of conveyance, at the Spa in the early days of its history. In 1829 the establishment was popularly known as the Imperial Fount, and in 1843, Merridew refers to it under the new title of Fairweather's Fumigating Baths, respecting which he observes that they were conducted "on the principle of Mahomed's Shampooing system at Brighton, and that they had from many eminent medical men the highest recommendations as to their efficacy in chronic diseases." Evidently some kind of Turkish Bath is here referred to. They were closed about fifty years ago, and a printing office started on the premises by a Mr. Brierly. Owing to contamination from an old drain the well has recently been filled up by order of the Town Council so as to prevent the possibility of the water from this spring being used in the future. The Clemens Street mineral water, which was the last source of supply for public purposes, brought the total number of the wells to seven, and it is worthy of remark that they were all situated within a few hundred yards of each other. Another spring of saline water was discovered on

the south side of Charlotte Street in 1821, making eight altogether, but it was never developed and beyond its being mentioned in a sale of land by auction nothing is known of its history. To save our readers the trouble of frequent references to previous pages, we here briefly recapitulate the names of the original seven wells, following the order in which they were discovered, and add the other principal appellations by which they have been known.

1. The Old Well, facing Spencer Street, sometimes called Lord Aylesford's and the Camden Well, because of its antiquity being established by that historian having mentioned it in his work of 1586, but as Rous, the Warwickshire antiquarian alluded to it in his "Rows Rol," published about the year 1480, it should, for the same reason, have the alternative title of the Rous Well. The late Rev. William Field, preferring permanent names derived from situation or some other obvious distinction, to the transitory titles of persons, called this the Public Well.

2. Abbotts's Well, Bath Street, discovered 1784, and named by Field the Center Well on account of its position being near the centre of the village.

3. Wise's Well, High Street, 1790, described as the Road Well from its proximity to the high road.

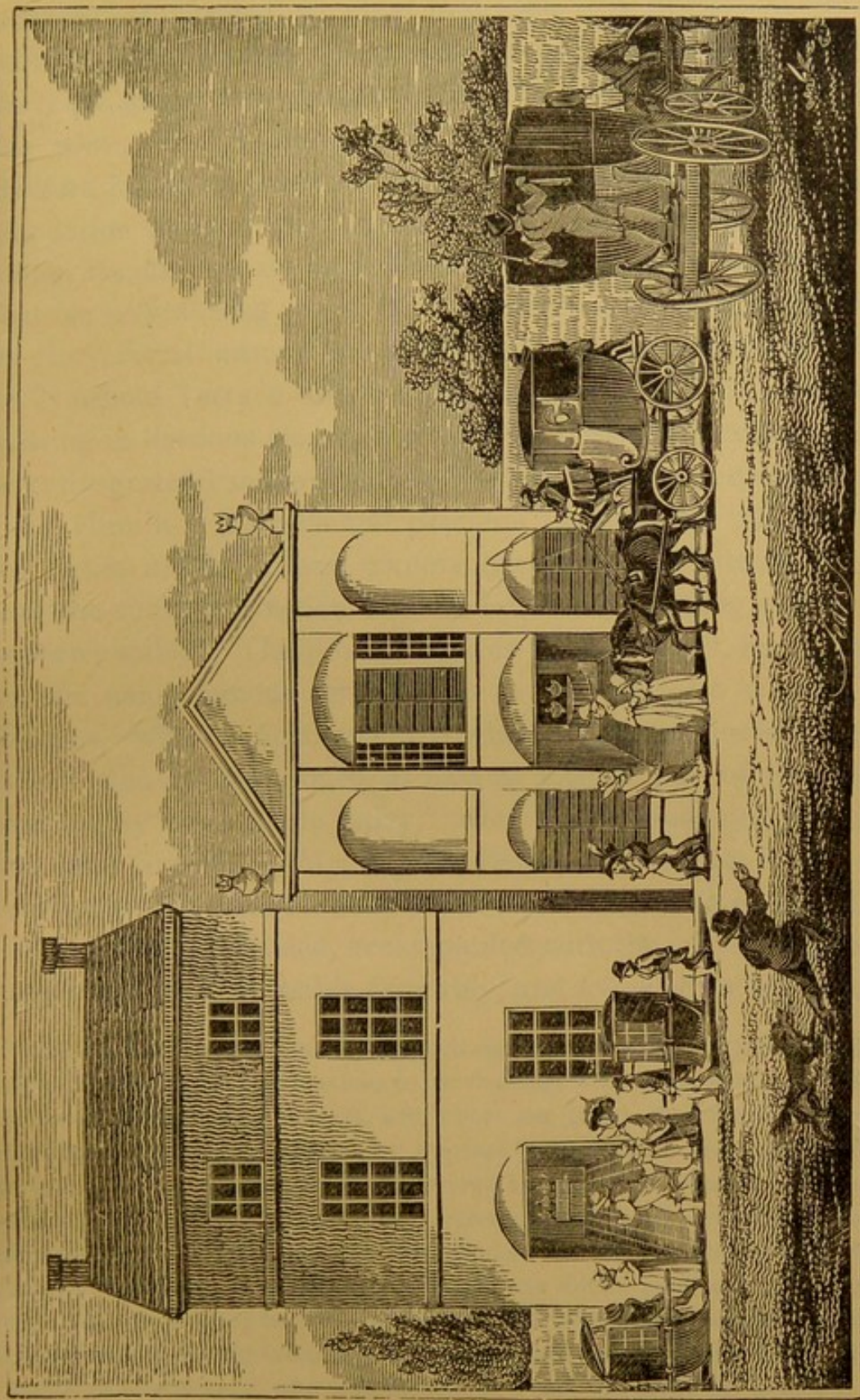
4. Robbins's Well, 1806, christened the Bridge Well as it was close to the bridge.

5. Read's Well, High Street, 1806, named the South Well, its situation being on the south side of the street.

6. The Pump Room Well, 1810, named by Mr. Field the North Well, for the reason that it stood on the north bank of the river.

7. Smarts' Well, Clemens Street, 1816. This spring was not known at the time of the publication of Mr. Field's book, and therefore no geographical appellation was applied to it by him.*

* Loudon gives the number of springs as 11, the waters of which were supplied at the 7 establishments named. In his total he counts the Clemens Street well as 2. —sulphureous and saline—and similarly adds to the others. The two qualities of water in Clemens Street were obtained from the same well, and the yields of the rest were also probably duplicated. A spring at the north-east corner of the bridge, known as Bisset's Spring was not analysed nor used.



(From an old Engraving).

SMART'S MARBLE BATHS, CLEMENS STREET, 1816.

Showing Sedan Chairs, equipages, and fashions of the period. Situated on the west side near the railway bridges.

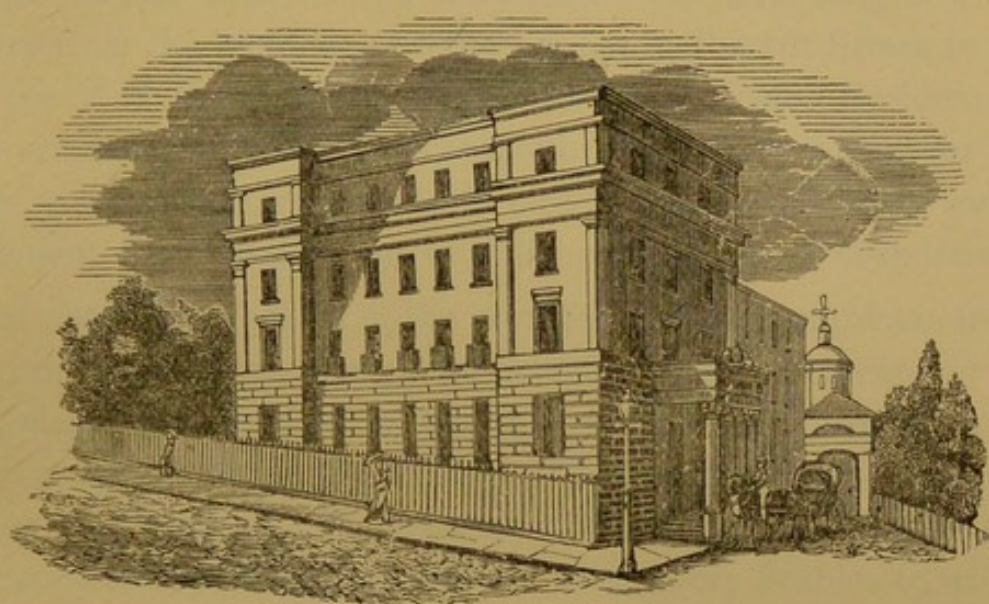


Two years after the discovery of the last-named spring, a new developement of the resources of the town took place, the wide-reaching influence of which at that time, it is impossible now to estimate fully, though it can still be appreciated as evidence of the confidence then entertained touching the future prosperity of the town. On Saturday July 18, 1818, a procession from the Bedford Hotel, crossed the Parade, and proceeded at once to lay the foundation stone of the Regent Hotel. An observer of the ceremony, standing on the opposite side of the street, would have seen that for several long years, the new building would stand alone in its glory, for all around was field, garden, and beautiful woodland. In Newbold Terrace and the Jephson Gardens, kine were either feasting in luscious clover, browsing on the closely-cropped grass, or in the grateful shade of stately trees were reflectively chewing the cud; Hamilton Terrace and Brandon Parade were but dreams in the fertile minds of land owners, agents and architects. It was near the summer solstice, and the larks were singing merrily "at heaven's gate." The procession was not numerous, but it included one name famous for all time in the dramatic world,—Mrs. Siddons,* who was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Siddons; the others, who are mentioned as having formed part of this "select and highly respectable party," were Lady Rossmore, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Greatheed, Mr. Wynne Belasyse, and Mrs. Wade. On arriving at the site, the foundation stone with a silver medal, was laid by Miss Greatheed, accompanied with the acclamations of a numerous and fashionable assembly, and followed by the National

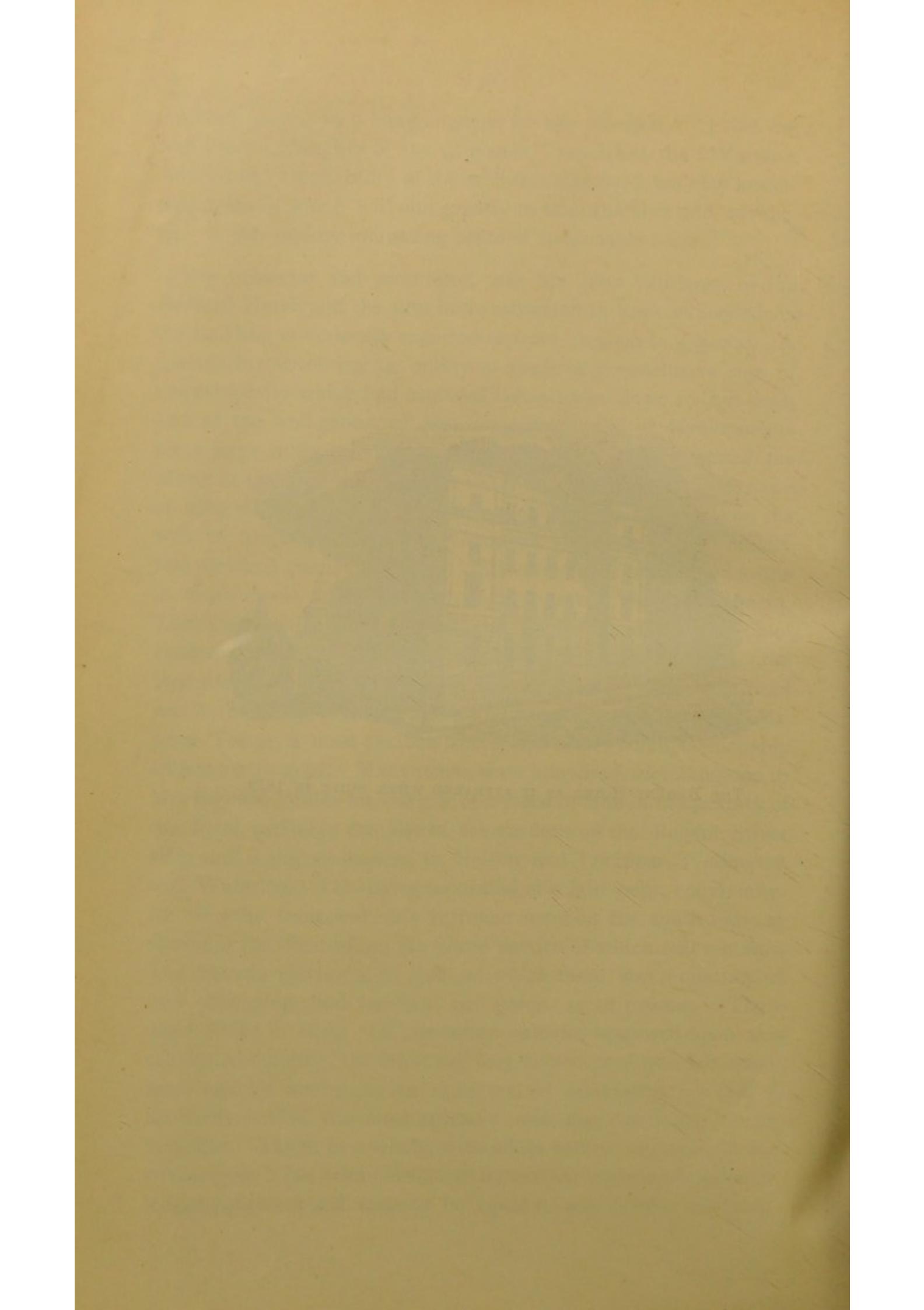
* Mrs. Siddons, the celebrated tragic actress, was lady's maid to Mrs. Greatheed of Guy's Cliffe, for some time previous to her marriage with young Siddons, an actor in the company of strolling players, with whom her father, Roger Kemble, travelled about the country. The father was opposed to the match and having forbidden her ever marrying an actor, the first interview between them after the ceremony, was regarded with much anxiety. The explosion of paternal indignation, however, never took place, for when they met Mrs. Siddons denied disobedience to her father's injunctions, and explained that her husband was not an actor and never would be one. She was a great favourite at Guy's Cliffe, where she frequently visited the Greatheeds and accompanied them to balls and parties in Leamington. A writer in "Bentley's Miscellany," who was present at a ball she attended, probably at the Assembly Rooms, speaks of the deference shown her—how she was conducted to the top and placed in her natural sphere with the aristocracy, and how as she walked down the ball-room, reminiscences were awakened of her splendid impersonation of Catherine of Arragon.

Anthem, played by a band engaged for the occasion. "From the well-known liberality of the projector," remarked the 'Warwick Advertiser,' "and ability of the architect employed, we may anticipate a fabric which will add greatly to the ornament and advantage of this rapidly increasing place of fashionable resort."

The projector and proprietor, was Mr. John Williams, of the Bedford Hotel, and the sum he is estimated to have expended on the building is variously reported at from £25,000 to £50,000. A speculation involving an outlay so great is a conclusive sign of the prosperity which had attended Leamington down to that time, and of the well-grounded assurance it afforded of developments on a large scale proving remunerative. As already stated, the Mews at the rear were built in 1810, and then went by the name of King's Livery Stables. The inauguration of the Hotel on the 19th of August, 1819, was a grand and imposing affair. Nearly two hundred gentlemen dined—as Leamington knew how to dine in those days—for the good of themselves and the establishment. The Lords Glenberrie, Hood, and Dunsmore; the Lord Chief Justice Abbott, Sir Thomas Shepherd, Sir John Silvester, (the Recorder of London) were among the guests. Mr. Greatheed was in the chair; turtle, venison, and wines were on the table; Mr. John Tomes, a most zealous friend, was at his home, fashionably afflicted with gout. Many toasts were honoured, including one to Mr. Edward Willes for the gift of a piece of land in the vicinity of the hotel, probably the site of the gardens on the Regent Street side, and a mighty bumper to Nelson and Trafalgar, Wellington and Waterloo. The party separated at a late hour, convivially. At first, the front and only entrance were on the south side, as shown in the illustration, the grand portico of which still remains. The Parade elevation, in front of which there was a continuous iron palisading, had no door, nor porch, as at present. These were added in 1849. Of the many eulogies bestowed upon this celebrated building, the following may be accepted as a fair specimen, and by no means an exaggerated description. "This is decidedly one of the most splendid and spacious hotels in the kingdom. Taken as a whole, with all its various appendages and advantages, it has been considered by tourists and men of acknowledged judgment and taste to be equal to any of the most first-



THE REGENT HOTEL AS IT APPEARED WHEN BUILT IN 1819.



rate establishments in Europe." On the ground floor there are two large coffee rooms, a public dining room fifty-eight feet in length, and a drawing room measuring thirty feet square. These have windows looking out on the neatly-kept garden on the north side of the building, and an excellent view of the Parade is obtained from the drawing room through the front window. By means of folding doors these two rooms can be thrown into one, and thus ample accommodation is provided for dining upwards of three hundred guests with ease. From the south entrance a corridor of lofty and wide proportions intersects the whole length of the hotel, a distance of one hundred and sixty feet. The total length of the property from the boundary of the garden in Regent Street to the south porch, is about four hundred and fifty feet. Besides the rooms enumerated, there is a complete set of offices etc., for the waiters and servants, conveniently situated and adapted for every requirement incidental to an establishment of such proportions.

From near to the centre of the corridor the great staircase leads to the first floor where there is an extensive suite of private apartments, elegantly furnished, which have occasionally been occupied by thirty families at the same time. The number of bed-chambers is about one hundred. At the rear of the hotel are the kitchens, and beyond these the capacious Mews and Livery Stables to which we have already referred.

The first proprietor, John Williams, had been in occupation of the Bedford from its commencement. He manifested a warm, and practical interest in the welfare of Leamington and it is to him alone that the public owe the preservation of the Holly Walk. His signal service in this respect will be found recorded in the following inscription on the obelisk near to the Russian Cannon ; "This avenue was preserved by the proprietor, Edward Willes, Esq., of Newbold Comyn, at the request of John and Sarah Williams, who by their spirit and industry, their character and conduct, raised and established the Regent Hotel." In the list of Mr. Williams' successors are the names of Messrs. Alexander, Breach and Jeffrey, Woodhouse, Smith, Wallis, Bishop, and at one time the buildings and premises belonged to a Company of shareholders. After passing through the hands of a few others, they were purchased by Mr. Passman, the present proprietor. During

the occupancy of Messrs. Breach and Jeffery, the corridor and staircase were practically a picture gallery of rare excellence, the walls being adorned with thirty valuable paintings among which were a Reynolds, and a Lawrence. In 1849, a striking addition was effected by the erection of the noble portico in the Parade, with four massive stone pillars of the Doric order, and balustrade. Above were placed the Prince of Wales' Feathers and motto "Ich Dien," artistically executed in stone. At the same time a new entrance was made through a pair of mahogany folding doors into a central hall, communicating with the corridor opposite the staircase. When opened in August, 1819, it was named after the proprietor, Williams's Hotel, but in the following month the Prince Regent, afterwards Geo. IV., while on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Warwick, rode through the principal streets of Leamington and subsequently gave permission for the hotel to be called The Regent, a title it has retained to the present day. The hotel has always been famous for the variety, extent, and perfection of its arrangements, the splendour of its public dinners, and the high rank of its patrons, who comprise royalties,—including her late Majesty, Queen Victoria,—distinguished people in the political, religious, literary, scientific, and artistic world. Reserving for the ensuing chapter the best list of royal personages we have been able to find, nearly every one of whom stayed at the Regent, we shall conclude this with some names of lesser note, but still of wide celebrity; the Baron and Baroness Rothschild, Lord Abinger, Duke and Duchess of Argyll, and the Marquis of Lorne, Lord Henry Bentinck, W. Harrison Ainsworth, Earl of Cardigan, Lord Chief Justice and Lady Wilde, the Rev. Robert Montgomery, the hon. Robert Cecil,* Longfellow, Jenny Lind, Alboni, Thalberg, Balfe, the Lord Chief Justice Sir J. Jervis, the Right hon. Sir Robert Peel, and the Duke of Wellington.

* The present Marquis of Salisbury, Prime Minister, 1902.

CHAPTER XIII.

Royal visits—George IV when Prince Regent—Prince and Princess of Denmark—Princess Augusta—Duke and Duchess of Gloucester—Queen Victoria when Princess and her mother, the Duchess of Kent—Dowager Queen Adelaide—Prince Napoleon, afterwards Napoleon III.—Empress Eugenie—Queen Victoria and Prince Albert—Duke and Duchess of Teck—Princess Christian—Duke and Duchess of York, now Prince and Princess of Wales—King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales—etc.

OUR Royal visitors began to arrive in 1819, the year of the inauguration of Williams's hotel and continued to appear at greater or lesser intervening spaces of time, until 1900, when the Princess Christian opened the Victoria Wing of the Warneford Hospital. The first to come was George IV., then the Prince Regent. On September 10, 1819, while visiting at Warwick Castle, he rode to Leamington in an open carriage, accompanied by the Countess of Warwick, and the Marchioness of Conyngham, and driving through the principal streets took a view of the different public buildings. "He was received," says Moncrieff's Guide, "opposite Copps's Royal Hotel, by the whole population and visitants of the two towns (the old and the new) who hailed his presence with loud cheers, which he most gracefully acknowledged by repeated bows, the band playing 'God Save the King,' the colours flying and everyone on the tip-toe of hilarity. After visiting the libraries, Pump and Assembly Rooms, and expressing the highest gratification, intimating at the same time his gracious intention of making a stay here at some future period, the Royal visitor returned to dine at Warwick Castle, leaving his permission for Williams's New Hotel to be named after him 'The Regent.' In the evening the towns were brilliantly illuminated. Cullis gave a grand fete at the Ranelagh Gardens. The patriotic Mr. Bisset's Pegasus was put in requisition and an additional verse to the National Anthem produced on the occasion." At a public meeting held on the following day in the Royal Pump Rooms, Mr. George Brooks

presiding, the subjoined address was adopted :—

“To His Royal Highness, George, Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The humble, loyal, and dutiful Address of the inhabitants of, and visitors at, Leamington Spa, in the county of Warwick, May it please your Royal Highness.

We, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitants of, and visitors at, Leamington Spa, in the county of Warwick, highly flattered by your Royal Highness's arrival in this county and in our immediate vicinity, and impressed with the most lively affection and gratitude by your Royal Highness's condescension in honouring this watering-place with your Royal presence, humbly offer this our loyal and dutiful Address, expressive of our sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments, of your Royal Highness for this distinguished mark of Royal favour. At the same time, we gladly embrace this opportunity of assuring your Royal Highness of our unfeigned, devoted, and inviolable attachment to your Royal Highness's illustrious person and family.—Signed on behalf of the inhabitants, George Brooks, Chairman: on behalf of the visitors, Charles Stevenson, M.C.

This was taken to Warwick Castle on Monday the 13th by Capt. Stevenson and given to Sir Benj. Bloomfield for presentation. The same evening the announcement was made that the Prince had sanctioned the new hotel being called the “Regent” in commemoration of his visit, and for his Arms to be placed on the front. In honour of the event a general illumination of the town took place in the evening. The reply to the Address, received on Tuesday the 14th, said it had been most graciously received by his Royal Highness with good wishes for the prosperity of the rising watering-place of Leamington. The Prince terminated his stay at Warwick Castle on Wednesday, September 15, and on his return journey to London rode along High Street, past Copps's Hotel, where a large crowd of the inhabitants assembled, and cheered him heartily. Thus began and closed the first of the visits of Royalty to Leamington Spa.

Three other Royal visits, occurring in 1822, must next be described. At about four o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, July 7, the Prince and Princess of Denmark arrived at Copps's Hotel, dined, inspected Elliston's Assembly Rooms, the Pump Rooms and Baths, and between six and seven left for the Warwick Arms Hotel, Warwick, where they remained for several days. Their stay at our Spa, though brief, was of sufficient duration to give

them a place among its early royal patrons, while in the historical chain of local events, it borrows and reflects a fresh interest on the fountains in Bath Street, which a later generation, in a spirit of loyalty and welcome, erected in honour of the marriage of H.R.H., the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII., and H.R.H., the Princess of Wales, "Denmark's daughter from over the sea," now Queen Alexandra.

On the 30th of the same month, Leamington was honoured with the presence of another Royal visitor who resided here for some time, used the saline baths, and drank of the waters. This was the Princess Augusta, the second daughter of George III., and sister to the Prince Regent of 1819, but then George IV. She arrived in the town precisely at eight o'clock in the evening of July 30, 1822, attended by a numerous suite, and proceeded to No. 9, Upper Union Parade, which was afterwards given the title of Augusta House. As was befitting an event so auspicious, the Princess was received with warm demonstrations of loyalty and welcome. A triumphal arch was erected in High Street, opposite Copps's Hotel; the streets were lined with spectators, and a large number of the leading inhabitants in their carriages met Her Royal Highness on her entry into the town, and a cavalcade of the local gentry escorted her to her residence, amid continuous cheers from the assembled spectators. Arrived at her temporary home, the Princess was received by Mr. Francis Stenton, Master of the ceremonies at the Upper Assembly Rooms, and Mr. H. Bevan, who held a similar office at the Assembly Rooms, Bath Street, a band, indispensable at such a time, filling the Parade with the strains of the National Anthem. The evening was spent in a general illumination of the town, the inhabitants competing with a spirited liberality for the honour of producing the most brilliant transparencies. The next morning Mr. Matthew Wise, (High Sheriff), the Masters of the Ceremonies, and a deputation of the inhabitants had the honour of waiting on the Princess, and on the day following, a loyal Address was presented to her from the inhabitants. On both occasions the deputations had a most gracious reception, and to the latter Her Royal Highness replied in the following terms:—

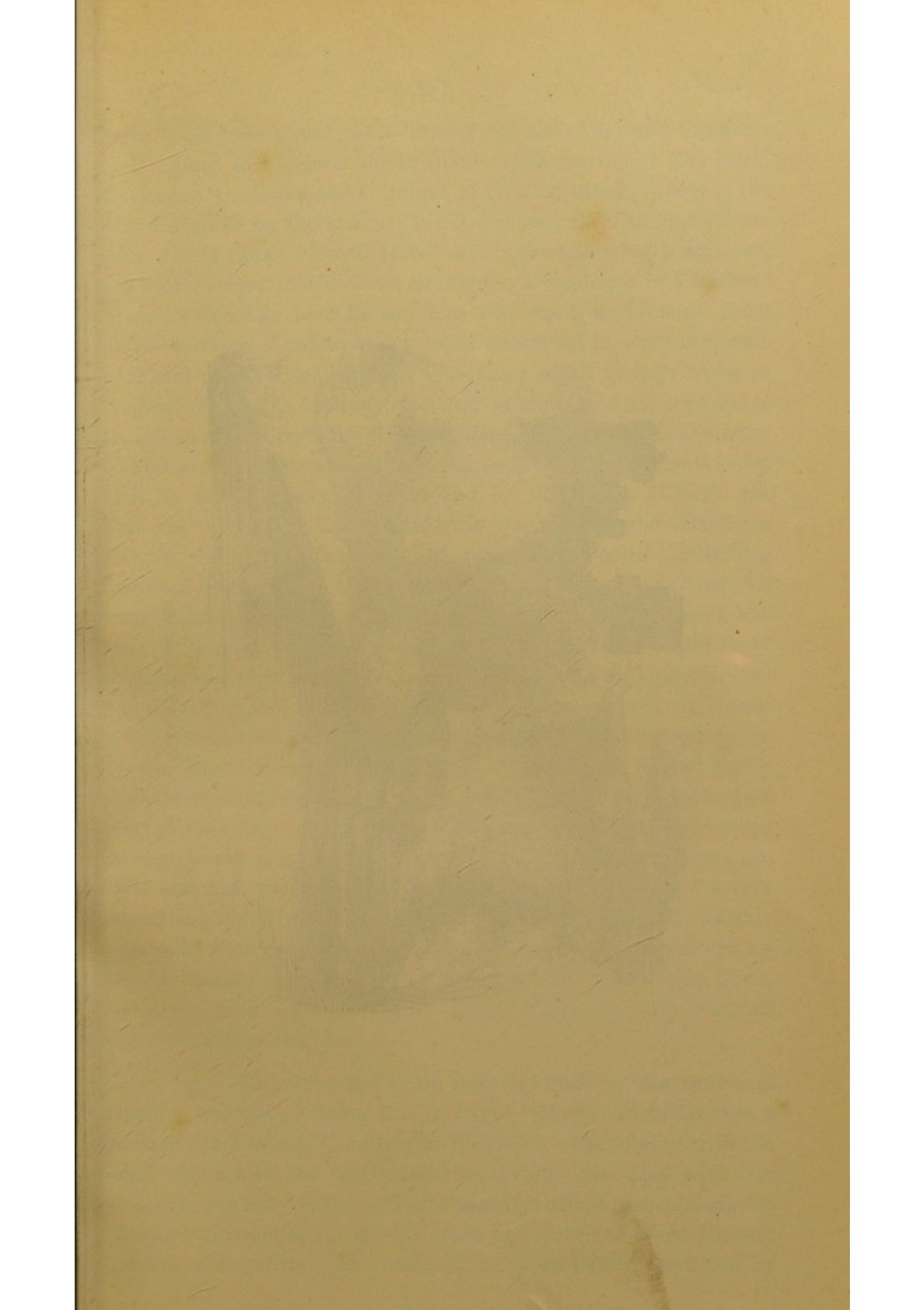
"I feel deeply obliged to the gentlemen of the Committee, and to every in-

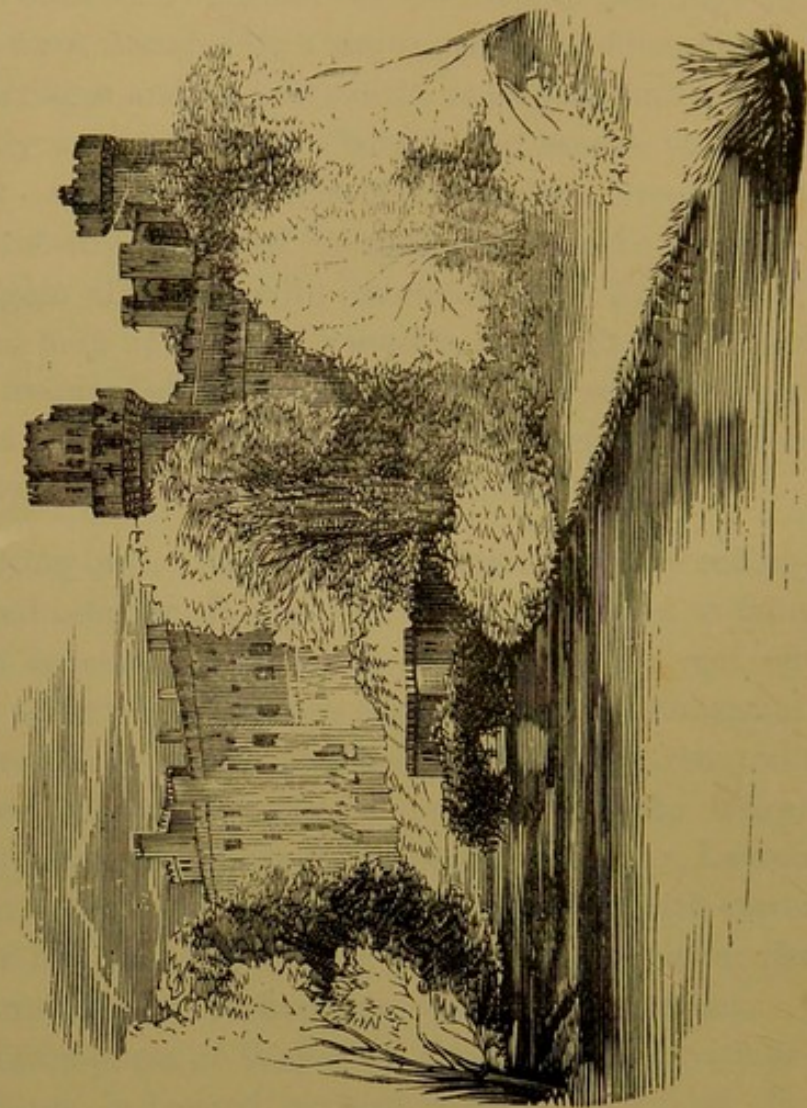
habitant of the town of Leamington, for their attention and the kind interest they take in my welfare, and I can assure them that I shall lose no time in acquainting the King with their expressions of loyalty to his Majesty and to all the branches of the Royal Family."

Further patronage of a similarly distinguished quality came a few days after. On Friday, August 2, 1822, their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, arrived in the town in the afternoon and had the heartiest of greetings accorded them. They were attended by a large concourse of inhabitants and visitors in carriages and on horseback, or on foot, and were cheered most joyfully as they passed through the streets to a house in Cross Street—now the Old Bank House, Regent Street—which had been sumptuously furnished for their use. In the evening Leamington was again all ablaze with illuminations. Their Royal Highnesses resided here upwards of a month, and with the Princess Augusta they frequented the Pump Rooms almost daily for drinking the waters and taking the baths, the benefits of which they freely acknowledged before leaving the town.*

Passing on to 1830, we have a royal visit, exceeding in local and national interest all that had taken place, and so far as Leamington is concerned, the event surrounds that year with a special halo. The tide of patrons from the commencement of the century had been one continuous flow, free from any recurrent ebbings—a wave without subsidence, crested with the sparkling hues of ever-increasing degrees of prosperity. In 1827, Leamington might almost have been described as swarming with coronets, and no sooner had the bells rung in one illustrious visitor than they had to commence a reverberating welcome for another. On April 5, the Marchioness of Wellesley, acting on the advice of the leading physicians in Ireland, arrived at the Regent from the Vice-Regal lodge, to take a course of the mineral waters, and on the 17th of the same month, the Duke of Wellington, "the greatest Captain of the age," reached that establishment on a visit to his noble sister-in-law. The Duke and Duchess of St. Albans were among the

* The congregation at the Parish Church at this time was the most distinguished, in rank, Leamington has ever seen. Their Royal Highnesses were here five weeks and attended Church on four Sundays. On no other occasion has a Leamington clergyman had the honour of preaching to two daughters and a son-in-law of one of our Sovereigns.





WARWICK CASTLE.

arrivals on June 3, and the following day the Earl and Countess of Bradford also joined the brilliant circle staying at the hotel. In August, the Duke and Dutchess of Grafton hired a house in the Union Parade for the season; his Excellency the Dutch Ambassador was at Copps's Royal Hotel, and in the following November, the Marchioness of Bute was occupying a residence in Charlotte Street, which has been known ever since as Bute House. Such marks as these of public favour were continued through the years 1828 and 1829. But the most illustrious of all visitors came in August, 1830. On Monday, the 2nd of that month, a party of travellers set out from the King's Palace, Kensington, on a journey to Malvern. There were four carriages in all, the occupants being H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, and her daughter, H.R.H. the Princess Victoria; Lady Catherine Jenkinson, the Baroness Lehzen, Sir John Conway, and a numerous suite. Reaching Stratford-on-Avon on the following day, a detour was made for Leamington, the fame of whose waters, we may rest assured, had been a familiar topic in Court circles since Dr. Weatherhead presented George IV., in 1820, with a copy of his Analysis. At about half-past six o'clock in the evening they arrived in Leamington, and proceeded through a dense mass of delighted spectators to the Regent Hotel. Three expensive triumphal arches, richly ornamented with evergreens and surmounted by the Crown, were erected near the hotel, which was most effectively illuminated during the evening. The welcome by the inhabitants was a right loyal one, and that the Princess, who was described as "a very interesting child between eleven and twelve years of age," warmly appreciated the devotion of her future subjects, was evidenced by her appearance several times at the windows with smiles, bows, and other signs of gratification. The next day the party resumed their journey to Malvern.

In 1839 Leamington was again sunning itself in the smiles of Royalty, the visitor being the Dowager Queen Adelaide, then a guest of the Earl and Countess of Warwick. Complying with the loyal request of the inhabitants to favour the Spa with her presence, she left Warwick Castle shortly before two o'clock on Monday, November 4, with her suite and a retinue of the County nobility and gentry. She rode in an open barouche, drawn by

four horses, preceded by two outriders, and with her were the Countesses of Warwick and Denbigh, and Lady Clinton. On reaching Myton Toll-gate they were met by a local Committee, with wands, white gloves and rosettes, and some hundreds of residents on horseback, in carriages, and on foot. These accompanied her Majesty into the town, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. "The appearance of Bath Street was astonishingly splendid," and on entering it "every carriage became stationary for a few moments, that its inmates might enjoy the sudden effect of the brilliant spectacle." At the Royal Pump Room a halt was made, and her Majesty alighting was conducted by the Earl of Warwick into the building, where Major Hopkins, K.H., Drs. Luard and Jephson, were introduced. After a short stay she resumed her progress up the town, as far the Clarendon Hotel. Pleased as she had been with all she had seen, "the most interesting spectacle of the day was presented to her view in the assemblage of all the school children of every denomination arranged under their respective banners on a platform," in front of the Episcopal Chapel. "A more gratifying sight, as the Queen Dowager herself acknowledged to the Rev. Mr. Craig, who was introduced, by special command to her Majesty, could not have been afforded. The tender voices of more than fifteen hundred of these juvenile loyalists uniting in acclamations of welcome, and then in a hymn, produced an effect beyond description. Her Majesty with tears, pronounced the scene to be both exhilarating and affecting." She subsequently returned to Warwick, with the happiest memories of Leamington Spa.

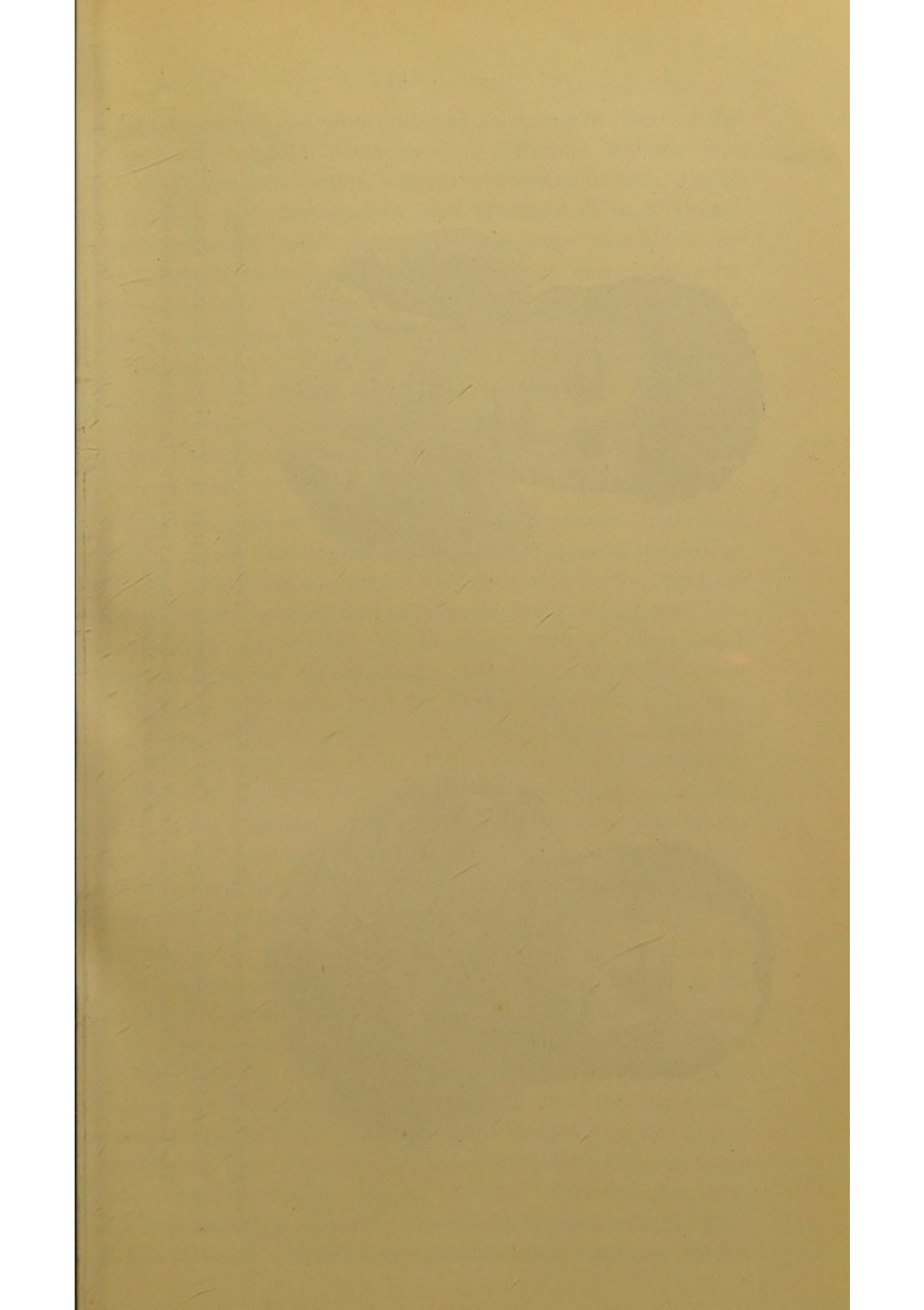
At the same time Leamington was the home of Prince Louis Napoleon, who afterwards was elected President of the French Republic, and later on, when his star was in the ascendant, donned the Imperial Purple, and as Emperor of France, attracted the attention of the world. He resided in Clarendon Square, and being a lover of the chase he was often in the field with the North Warwickshire Hounds. On November 25, 1838, with his suite, he was present at the morning service at St. Peter's Catholic Church, George Street, and on the following Wednesday evening John Hampden, of Clarence Terrace, a descendant of the great Hampden, who was killed at Chalgrove in the Civil War, gave

a dinner at his residence in honour of the Prince to which many of the principal nobility and gentry in the town and neighbourhood were invited. He was also present at a grand banquet at the Regent Hotel, and briefly responded to one of the toasts. While staying here, the Prince established many friendships, and with the inhabitants, generally, he was popular. In the dark days of Sedan, when his throne crumbled beneath him, there were a few in Leamington who remembered him in the hour of his exile in our midst, and recognising in the fallen monarch, a former steadfast friend, sympathised with him in his deep and direful distresses.*

On June 16th, 1858, Queen Victoria paid her second and last visit to Leamington, accompanied by her Royal Consort, Prince Albert. The previous day Her Majesty opened Aston Hall, Birmingham, after which she and the Prince returned to Stoneleigh where they were the guests of Lord and Lady Leigh from the 14th to the 16th. A call at Leamington formed no part of the original programme, but an application having been made by the Local Board of Health, through Lord Leigh, to the Queen, she graciously complied with the wishes of the inhabitants to ride through the town on her visit to the Earl and Countess of Warwick. As soon as this was known preparations were commenced for giving her Majesty a thoroughly loyal reception, and for decorating the Spa in a manner expressive of the honour and pleasure experienced by all classes on an occasion so full of personal and historic interest. The day was observed as a general holiday, a treat on a large scale was given the school children, stands were erected at several points for spectators, there was a grand concert in the evening in the Jephson Gardens, at which the Prince Consort's famous band of the Grenadier Guards appeared in their State uniform, the whole concluding with an

* The Prince had for his intimate friend in Leamington, Count Oborski, a Polish Refugee, who resided in Russell Street. The Count had been heavily hit by the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," in his native country, and in France, the land of his adoption. He fought in several battles under the First Napoleon, rose to the rank of Colonel in the French Army, and was rewarded with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. After the fall of the Empire he came to Leamington, and passed the remainder of his life in the obscurity of very humble lodgings. He died in 1840, it is to be feared in poverty, and was buried in the old Cemetery, in New Street. A number of distinguished military men, and influential residents, including John Hampden,—residing in Clarence Terrace—attended his funeral as mourners.

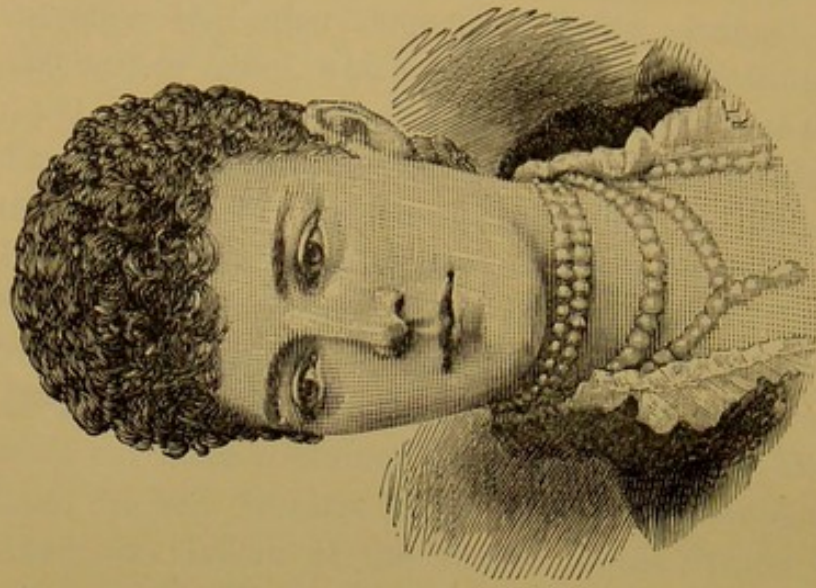
unusually brilliant display of fireworks, and an ascent in the balloon, "The Queen," by Mr. Coxwell, which struck the spire of the Parish Church, but, without causing injury. Her Majesty left Stoneleigh Abbey between one and two o'clock in an open carriage, the other occupants being Prince Albert and the Duchess of Athol, who was the Lady-in-Waiting. Preceding the royal carriage were two outriders and a troop of the Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry, acting as a guard of honour, under Captain the hon. E. C. Leigh. Lord Leigh, in his uniform of Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, rode on the right of the Queen by her carriage, and being then in the dawn of his early manhood, his fine figure and noble bearing were displayed to great advantage in this memorable progress of the great Queen. The other carriages contained Lady Leigh and the Duchess of Sutherland, the hon. Horatia Stopford, Maid of Honour, the Marquis of Abercorn, Groom of the Stable to the Prince Consort, Colonel the hon. Sir Charles Phipps, Privy Purse, Owen Pell, Esq., of Quarry Fields, High Sheriff, the hon. General Bouverie, Equerry to the Queen, Colonel Seymour, Equerry to the Prince Consort, Earl Delawarr, Lord Chamberlain, and Mr. Secretary Walpole. In the Kenilworth Road was an arch, garlanded with flowers and enriched with words of loyal welcome. At this point were assembled a vast crowd of spectators, the representatives of the Local Board of Health and the Committee who had carried out the arrangements, viz, Messrs. Joseph Stanley, Chairman of the Board, W. Ballard, J. Gilbert, R. Russell, P. Locke, W. Lloyd, H. Mulliner, T. Muddeman, J. Bowen, Rev. A. J. Roxburgh, W. Tollemache, and the Rev. Dr. Bickmore. They were mounted on horseback, and wore white rosettes. When her Majesty had passed under the arch, they led the procession, walking two abreast. In front of Christ Church there were upwards of 2,300 school children seated on a platform, and when her Majesty appeared in sight they at once commenced singing the National Anthem. To hear this the speed of the procession was slackened, and as the royal carriage moved slowly past, her Majesty showed signs of being highly pleased. The Parade was one mass of flags, banners, streamers, flowers and garlands. On the south side of the Regent Hotel was a platform erected by Mr. Lyas Bishop, the then proprietor of that establishment, for





From photo by W. & D. Downey, Ebury Street, London, S.W.

KING EDWARD VII. AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA AS PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES IN THE VICTORIA JUBILEE YEAR OF 1887.



From photo by Walery, Conduit Street, London, W.

The Foundation Stone of the Fountains under the Bridge in Bath Street was laid by Dr. Jephson in commemoration of their Marriage on March 10th, 1868.

hundred poor people, who thus had an excellent view of the pageant as it proceeded down the Lower Parade, without payment, crushing or obstruction. Similar consideration for the aged and indigent was manifested by Mrs. Matthew Wise, of Shrubland Hall, through whose generosity a still larger number of the class indicated were accommodated with the best position for seeing the Queen. The streets were crowded, and on the balconies and at the upper windows of all the houses along the line of route were spectators who waved handkerchiefs and joined in the roar of applause in the streets below. In the Warwick Old Road, the official representatives of the town returned. A storm, the fury of which caused much alarm, broke out in the evening and raged for several hours.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck, mother of the present Princess of Wales, visited Leamington on August 6, 1879, accompanied by the Duke. The town was attractively decorated for the occasion, and the Duchess, proceeding to the Royal Pump Room, was presented by the Mayor—Ald. W. Harding—with an illuminated address on behalf of the burgesses. The Prince of Wales—now King Edward VII—rode down the Parade with Prince George, —now Prince of Wales—on his return from the Royal Agricultural Show at Warwick in June 1892. There was no public demonstration, in compliance with request, but a mounted police escort met H.R.H. at the boundary of the parish in the Warwick New Road, and conducted him through the streets, the sides of which were lined with thousands of spectators. He was warmly cheered as he drove along and frequently bowed his acknowledgements.

The last of our Royal visitors to be noticed with some descriptive comments, is H.R.H. Princess Christian, well-known in all parts of the Empire for her labours of love on behalf of the sick and the afflicted, and her great missionary enterprise in the interest of public hospitals. In January 1900, she opened the Victoria Wing of the Warneford Hospital, built to meet the increasing necessities of that useful institution, and designed, by the happy coincidence of time, as a Jubilee Memorial of the beneficent reign of her illustrious mother, Queen Victoria. The Princess, who had a loyal and most enthusiastic welcome, lunched with the Earl and Countess of Warwick and a distinguished company, at the

Castle in the morning, afterwards visited the Countess' Cripples' Home at Emscote, and arriving in Leamington shortly after three o'clock, drove to the Town Hall, where the Mayor, (Mr. J. M. Molesworth), having been introduced by Lord Leigh, presented her with a loyal address on behalf of "the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough," signed by himself, and the Town Clerk,—Mr. H. C. Passman—officially. In reply, the Princess briefly expressed her thanks. His Worship then introduced the Mayoress (Mrs. Molesworth), to H.R.H. and their son, Master Murray Molesworth, presented her with a beautiful bouquet of choice flowers. Accompanied by Lord Leigh, and an official and fashionable party to the Warneford Hospital, she unlocked the door and declared the Victoria Wing open. Afterwards she gave the name of "Victoria," to the large lower ward, and at the urgent request of the Committee, bestowed her own, "Helena," on another.

At a later date the Princess of Wales arrived at the Avenue Railway Station, on a visit to Lady Eva Dugdale, at Snitterfield. Numerous foreign royalties, have, at different periods, honoured Leamington with their presence, but as their visits do not appear to have elicited any special demonstration, the enumeration of their names will be sufficient for present purposes:—

H.R.H. Prince George of Cambridge, the Empress Eugenie, the King of Saxony, H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Hesse-Darmstadt, H.I.H. the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, the Prince de Joinville, the Princess de Salerne, the Duke and Duchess de Aumale, the Prince and Princess Schwartzberg, the Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, the Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar, Prince Waldemar of Prussia, Mehemet Ali, the Grand Duke of Saxe, Prince Clary of Austria, Prince Paul Esterhazy, Prince and Princess Galitzine, Prince Frederick of Mecklenburg, Duke of Leuchtenberg, Prince of Tour and Texas, Prince Gagarin, Prince Demidoff, Prince and Princess Lichtenstein, Prince and Princess Volonsky, and Princess Dolgerouchi. Doubtless several additions may be made to this list, which, however, is sufficiently extensive to give Leamington an additional right to the title of "Royal."

CHAPTER XIV.

James Bisset—his parentage and interesting family relationships—settles in Birmingham—establishes a museum; author, medallist, poet, and discoverer—removes to Leamington with his museum—his picture galleries, etc.—the Parthenon, Bath Street, built by W. R. Elliston—description and history of—commencement of the Roman Catholic Mission in Leamington—the Apollo Rooms, Clemens Street—the original Chapel in George Street,—description of and inaugural services—St. Peter's former Place—account of, lists of Priests, etc.

RETURNING to the year 1819, from which we digressed to trace the list of Royal visits, the general onward course of the events of that time is resumed. The same year as that in which the Prince Regent came, James Bisset commenced the erection in High Street, of his popular Picture Gallery, and the importance of the occasion, as well as the good-will he enjoyed of the most influential residents are indicated by the attendance of the courtly Captain Stevenson, Master of the Ceremonies, to lay the foundation stone. Bisset's life is so interwoven into the fabric of the history of the town from 1812 to 1832, that an outline of it here becomes necessary.

He was a native of Perth, near which his father, who was a merchant, had an estate. By his mother's side he was related to the Wilsons, a Scottish family of distinction in the intellectual world. Professor Wilson of St. Andrew's University was her brother, and by the marriage of one of his cousins Bisset could claim kinship with Francis Jeffrey, afterwards Lord Jeffrey, the celebrated Advocate at the Scotch Bar, and one of the brightest ornaments of the Bench; a co-founder with Swift, Brougham, and other eminent men of the Edinburgh Review, the Editorship of which he held for twenty-five years. His father's family, of whom there is nothing particular to relate, were devoted to commerce. As a boy, Bisset was vivacious, fond of pranks, at school given over-much to scribbling nonsense on his slate and adorning the backs of his companions with chalk-drawings of houses and trees.

In November 1776, his age being sixteen, he left his paternal home for Birmingham where one of his brothers was in business, proceeding from the port of Newburgh to Wapping by water, and and from London to the Midland Metropolis by coach. As an illustration of the difficulty of travel in those distant times it may be mentioned that the journey from Perth to Birmingham, by the route stated, occupied no less than nine days by land and water. Leaving London on November, 28, Bisset arrived in Birmingham in the evening of the 29th, "after a journey of two days and one whole night."

At Birmingham he commenced his career as apprentice to the japanning business, and, having a strong predilection for drawing, he was employed in painting devices of flowers, fruit, landscapes, and general fancy work on waiters and snuff-boxes. In this congenial occupation, he passed several years, cultivating his taste for colour, his hand for form, and his eye for proportion. It was his daily allotted task, to decorate in the manner named, two gross of snuff-boxes, or six dozen small waiters, but when trade was brisk, he frequently painted three gross of boxes in a day, and on special occasions, under the pressure of a plethora of orders, he finished upwards of twenty gross a week, working twelve hours a day, painting roses, anemonies, and various coloured flowers, putting three colours on each flower and three tints on each leaf.

Laudably ambitious of rising to a position higher than that of a journeyman, he applied himself to the subject of painting on glass and succeeded in perfecting a new system, which became a lucrative source of income, so lucrative in fact that he was able to earn at any time, with ease, a guinea per hour, in "the pleasing pursuit of my profession." He married Miss Dorothy Norton, of Elliot's Hall, and commenced house-keeping in Caroline Street, "in the most northerly house in Birmingham, all the rest between there and Hockley being garden ground and ley fields." Here he stayed for a few years, subsequently removing to a larger house in the same street, where "I began to make collections of curiosities, both natural and artificial, which people came with great avidity to gaze at, and then it was that I laid the foundations of a Museum." This was enlarged from time to time, one room being added to another until at length it was removed into New Street,

where it remained, attracting thousands of visitors yearly, until 1813, when Bisset settling in Leamington broke up his celebrated establishment and said "adieu to the Toy-shop of Europe."

During his long residence of thirty-six years in Birmingham, he wrote and published several works, the most important of which was A Grand Copperplate Directory of the town. This entailed an expenditure of £525, with a loss of £200 as the reward of his artistic taste, his public spirit and services. Applying his ingenious mind to the production of buttons, in the manufacture of which the town was famous, he succeeded with one that had an extensive sale at a guinea each.* His abilities as a medallist won for him distinguished patronage, including that of Geo. III., the Royal Family, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Patriotic Societies in the Kingdom. He executed numerous medallions with artistic skill and taste, one, dated 1805, being to the memory of Lord Nelson, who, when he visited Birmingham, "was highly delighted with the numerous Curiosities in my Cabinet, and taking a Bumper of wine, he drank, 'Health and happiness to the Inhabitants, and Success to the Town and Trade of Birmingham.' The sentiment was received by the People with loud and cheerful acclamations of applause." Being naturally of a vivacious disposition, and possessing special qualifications for raising the social temperature to fever-heat, Bisset's company was much sought for by convivial parties. His evenings were mostly spent at various taverns—Poet Freeth's, Joe. Warden's, the Hen and Chickens, the Fountain, and Shakespeare, etc.—where he sang songs of his own composing, written at the rate of ten or twelve monthly, and in addition, he was one of a select set who met weekly at the old Vauxhall, in the list of the names of which appear those of John and Joseph Ryland, and William Bache, M.D. The object of this Club was a friendly rubber at whist; tea and coffee were the beverages drunk, and though brandy and rum were always on the table they were frequently untouched.

* They were rather larger than an old five shilling piece, and made of glass, on which Bisset did some "elegant paintings," with pearl devices in the centre on different coloured foils. They were set in steel and were fashionable as coat buttons. Boulton of Soho patronised him in this branch of his profession. Bisset says that he wore these buttons himself on his wedding coat, that they cost £16. 16s., and were "of my own making."

Considering that Bisset probably spent more time in hotels and taverns than any other man in Birmingham in his day, not excepting even the habitual drunkard, the reader will be surprised to learn that he was a total abstainer and never drank any intoxicating liquor. His strength of resolution was also finely exhibited in his refusal to play at cards, etc., for money, but most of all in his heroic decision, on reflection that he was neglecting one of the best of wives in roaring himself almost hoarse at the tavern until a late hour, to spend his evenings at his own fire-side:—

“ There blest with every social tie,
No mortal was more bless'd than I.”

In 1811, he visited Leamington for the first time and stayed at Fisher's Balcony Boarding House, High Street.* He was accompanied by Mrs. Bisset and his eldest daughter, both of whom were in an unsatisfactory state of health. He had never before heard of the Spa. Liking the place and finding the waters “amazingly efficacious,” the “small village, then scarcely known, about two miles from Warwick,” was adopted as their future home. In the spring of 1812 he returned to Leamington and opened a Picture Gallery and Select News Room in a building on the east side of Clemens Street, which was built for an Assembly Room, and he also leased one of the houses in Union Street, (the Parade), where he established a Museum. The premises he hired in Clemens Street were on the site of the present Great Western Inn, and as the Apollo Rooms in after years they served a useful purpose in the development of the town. The early meetings of the Magistrates were held there, the Parish Committee governed the town from the same centre; they are also interesting as the birth-place of the Roman Catholic Mission in 1822, and of the first movement for obtaining a local Act.

From what has already appeared in previous pages our readers will have seen that Bisset was not a man likely to content himself with the position of being an observer only, of the panorama of New Leamington then unfolding itself before his eyes. Idleness, and even still more so, indifference, were alien to his active and

* Fisher's Boarding House stood on the site of the Garibaldi Vaults, High Street. A view of the front, showing the balcony, from which it derived the name of the Balcony Boarding House, appears in the illustration of “Copps's Hotel, High Street, before ‘The Royal,’ was erected on the site in 1826-7.”

sympathetic nature. Accordingly, we find him at once taking his share of public work. In 1814, the year following his settlement in the town, he published a Guide, the amusing rhymes of which tickled the public ear and secured a large sale. Two years after he had the honour of being selected to lay the foundation stone of the first enlargement of the Leamington Parish Church, and in many other ways contributed, in a special manner by his pen, to extend a knowledge of the virtues of the saline waters and the attractions of the town.

Belle Vue Cottage, situated at the north-west corner of Brunswick Street, was built by him in 1817, and two years after the Picture Gallery in High Street, mentioned at the commencement of this chapter. It was the edifice now used by the Primitive Methodists, and known as the Ebenezer Chapel. The exhibits were numerous and comprised upwards of a hundred cases of Foreign and British birds, a large collection of European, Asiatic, African, and American, together with a miscellaneous collection of Ancient and Modern curiosities, in fact the whole of the contents of the Birmingham Museum, except the best paintings, for which he erected the room in Ranelagh Terrace, now numbered 80, and then forming part of his property in that locality.

From this time on to 1832, the year of his death, his life was an uninterrupted series of triumphs in prosperity and popularity. His mind was uniformly buoyant, and to quote his own words, neither crosses nor losses disturbed his serenity. His last appearance in connection with the town business was in the movement started in 1820 for obtaining the first local Act of Parliament. He was one of the signatories to the memorial for convening a meeting of the owners of property to consider the subject, and in 1824 he was present at the meeting in the Apollo Rooms, when it was decided to promote such a measure. The death of Mrs. Bisset, in 1825, was a severe blow, the effects of which lasted several years. Shortly before his death in 1832, he addressed the following lines to Mr. William Watkin respecting his funeral arrangements, the sprightliness of which proved his spirits had regained their former elasticity, and that while contemplating his own dissolution, he could not deny himself the luxury of indulging once again in that chatty, playful, effervescent style, which had delighted, and

still affords pleasure to thousands of his readers:—

" Good neighbour Watkin, I expect,
This order you will not neglect,
Perhaps it is the last I'll give,
To you while on this earth I live.
As you're a neighbour and a friend,
My children probably will send,
For you to measure me at length,
For I'm fast losing health and strength :
To make my coffin, but I pray,
As 'twill be merely for my clay,
Make it quite plain ; not too extensive,
And not by any means expensive,
No decoration, prithee, use,
Of rich-gilt nails, or brass-toppp'd screws,
Of oak, or deal, found near the spot in
'Twill do for flesh and bones to rot in,
For if on earth I'd any merit,
God will to heaven have ta'en my spirit. '*

Thus died on August 17, 1832, aged seventy-two years, "the lively Bisset," like the fabled swan, singing his own requiem and expiring to the music of his ever-cheerful muse. He was buried in the same grave as his wife, near the south porch of the Parish Church, on the east side of which is a monumental urn, erected to his memory by numerous friends.

The foundation stone of the Parthenon, Bath Street, fifty years afterwards known as the Music Hall, and now as the Assembly Rooms, was laid about 1818. It was built by R. W. Elliston, of Drury Lane Theatre, London, at a cost of £25,000 from designs by Mr. Samuel Beazley, a Metropolitan architect, celebrated for the success with which he had applied his professional gifts to similar edifices, especially when required to be adapted to the pur-

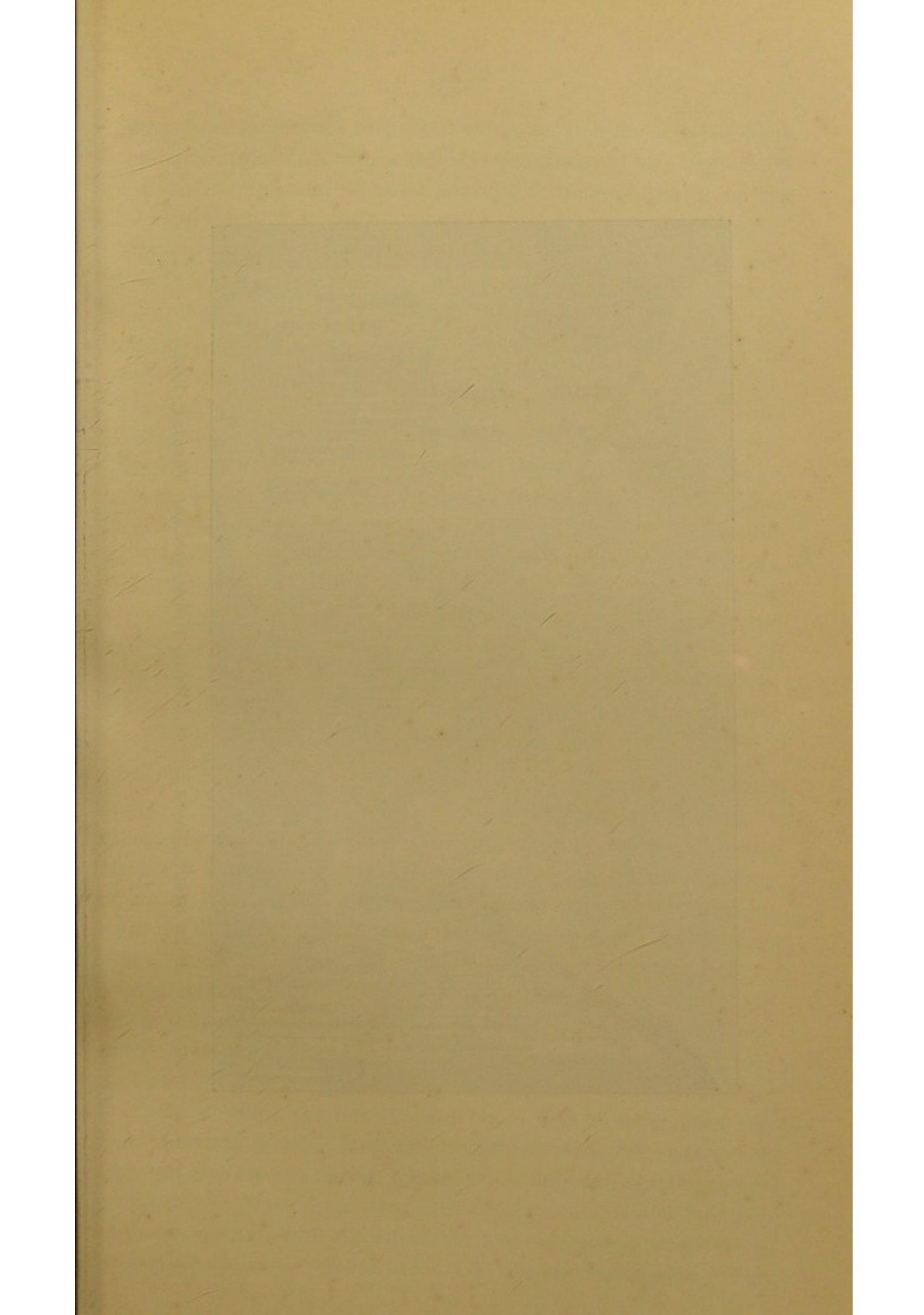
* The "good neighbour Watkin" referred to was the late William Watkin, one of the early Leamington builders, and for many years a member of the Board of Improvement Commissioners, also father of the late Mr. John Watkin, a prominent and popular member of the Local Board of Health, who, it will be remembered, had to discharge the important trust of conducting the arrangements for the election of the first Town Council under the Charter of 1875, in which his name appears as "our trusty and well-beloved." The removal of the old wood palings, and hedge, in front of the Pump Room Gardens and the widening of the pavement from Dormer Place corner to the Pump Room, was a local improvement, effected chiefly, if not wholly, through his energy and perseverance.

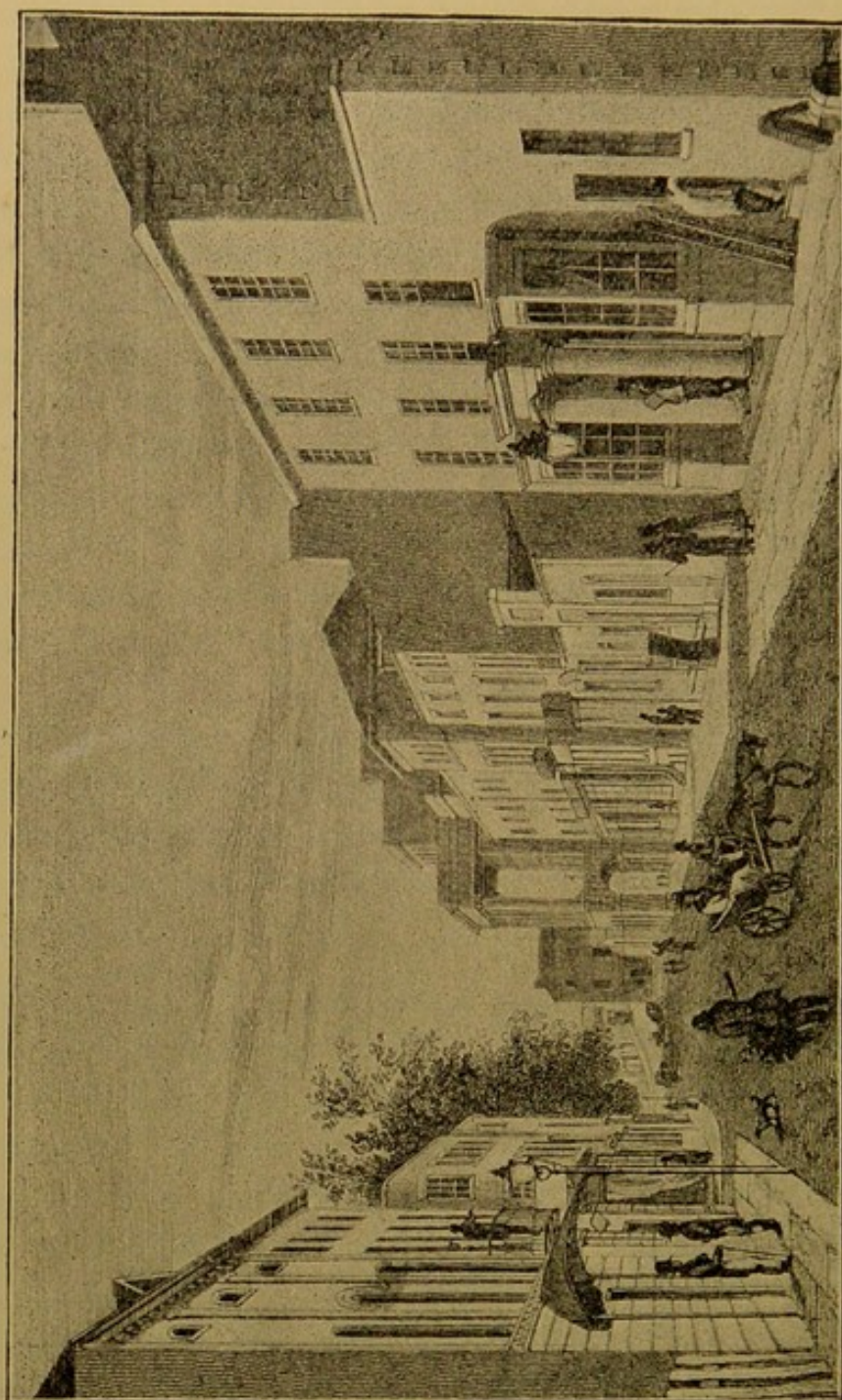
poses of the drama. Whatever may have been the degrees of merit in his other performances, here beyond question, his talents were displayed to eminent advantage. The front, while adding greatly to the appearance of Bath Street, was in itself an architectural work of art, eminently adapted to impart that air of dignity and importance such a thoroughfare, admittedly, ought to possess. The pile consisted of a central building, flanked on each side with a commodious residence. From the central part of the elevation, an arcade, noble in its every proportion, was brought out the whole width of the pavement, and carried up nearly to the top of the edifice, where it was crowned by a massive, but not too heavy, entablature. At the first floor, the arched arcade, through which pedestrians passed and repassed, was covered in with a large balcony, commanding extensive views of the traffic in the streets below, and from this, the fine Ionic columns that now grace the front of Spencer Street Congregational Church, towered above in support of the entablature. In the centre of the elevation on the ground floor was a wide door leading to an extensive suite of rooms, conveniently arranged and suitably furnished for Assembly and Card parties, and numerous departments for printing and book binding, library, fancy repository, etc. Presiding over the fortunes of this Mammoth concern, this Babel of businesses, was the great Mr. Elliston himself; the idol of Drury Lane audiences, the friend and the favourite of Royalty, thought it no disgrace to become a tradesman, to turn away from the deafening applause that went up from the pit and poured down from the gallery, and sell pens, ink, envelopes, paper, and books. In his Bath Street shop, he was a high priest of deportment. Charles Lamb, who made his acquaintance over the counter saw him "serving in person two damsels fair, who had come into the shop ostensibly to enquire for some new publication, but in reality to have a sight of the illustrious shopman, hoping some conference. With what an air did he reach down the volume, dispassionately giving his opinion of the work in question, and launching out into a dissertation on its comparative merits with those of certain publications of a similar stamp, its rivals! his enchanted customers fairly hanging on his lips subdued to their authoritative sentence."

What R. W. Elliston did, he was accustomed to do well, and

the Assembly Room, to which there are two entrances—one on the south and the other on the north side of the arcade—was, and is, a monument to the skill of the architect and to his own liberality. It is sixty-two feet long, thirty feet six inches wide, and thirty feet high. Originally, it is reported to have been designed for Mrs. Elliston, a popular and accomplished instructress in deportment, calisthenics, and the poetry of motion generally, as exemplified in an easy and graceful carriage, polished and refined manners, and a light, airy, floating, figure, when gliding through the intricacies of the ball-room. It was then, and remained for years the most popular public room in Leamington; until the Public Hall was built in 1853, it scarcely had a rival, and since that edifice was closed in 1898, it has regained much of its early favour. Around the walls, immediately beneath the commencement of the ceiling, the classical subject of the Panathenaic procession, is delineated in a style, imitative of mezzo-relievo, copied from the Temple of Minerva. Near the floor, in niches in each corner of the room, are statues of Melpomene, Thalia, Terpsichore, and Euterpe, the muses presiding over tragedy, comedy, dancing and music, well-executed by Hopper. When lighted with the five ormolu chandeliers, each of which had thirty-eight burners, the room was charmingly adapted for evening parties for which purpose it was frequently called into requisition.

The history of the Parthenon contains many features of an interesting character, in which is reflected much of the sunshine, and many of the shadows of local life—religious, social, musical, and literary. It was the birth-place of the first musical society, formed in 1826, and a haven of rest a few years later for the outcasts from Clemens Street Chapel. In 1848, those who split off from Spencer Street Congregational Church, found rest here for the soles of their feet, while gaining strength to build the Holly Walk Church, and following another split, occurring at the Free Methodist Church, in the sixties, the Rev. Mr. Coop, and his friends, selected it as the rallying point for their scattered forces. For fourteen years, Unitarian Services were conducted here on Sunday evenings by the late Rev. J. W. Lake, Minister at the Unitarian Church, High Street, Warwick, and in the front room, off the landing, the Christadelphians, after lodging in various





BATH STREET, BATH HOTEL, BATHS, PARTHENON AND THEATRE, 1822.

other quarters, pitched their tent. It was also the scene of what almost mounted to a riot, when Mr. Murphy paid his memorable visit to the Spa, and we must not omit to mention that from the balcony, the Riôt Act was once read,

Music has an extensive chapter in the folio volume of its history. The first concerts of The Leamington and Warwick Philharmonic Society, founded in 1826,—the first musical society formed in the town, were heard within its walls. At some time, probably in the thirties, a fine organ, built by Hill of London, at a cost of £600, was supplied, and the property had the new name of The Music Hall given it, a title retained until a few years back, when it was named afresh, The Assembly Rooms. Among celebrated people who have been heard in this building the following may be taken as a representative, though necessarily an incomplete, list; Jullien and his world-wide celebrated band, Bottesini, the Brousil Family, Sir Charles Hallé (when Mr.), Mdle. Norman Nereuda (now Lady Hallé,) Mrs. Rousby, Dr. Mark and his Little Men, Wodin, H. Russell, (Special Correspondent of the "Times" in the Crimea), Father Ignatius, O.S.B., Sims Reeves, J.L. Toole, General Tom Thumb, and Grisi, the prima donna of her day, who declared this room to be the best for ease and sound that she knew.

In 1822, the Roman Catholic Mission, now located in Dormer Place, made its first appearance at the Spa, and arranged for a temporary place of worship in which services could be held of a character in harmony with the views and feelings of the members of that faith. A considerable number had come to Leamington, some of them families of great distinction, and not finding any provision for the observance of their religious duties, they left, or remaining, complained loudly of the serious inconveniences to which they were subjected. To remedy this state of things, one of the large rooms at the Apollo, Clemens Street, was hired, fitted up suitably to their requirements, and regular weekly services instituted, at which the Rev. B. Crosbie is said to have been the first officiating priest. Here they remained until 1828, when they removed into George Street, where, principally through the signal generosity of Major, and Mrs. Bishopp, a commodious building had been erected, with a comfortable and convenient Presbytery, both of which were then ready for their use and occupation. The

new church, dedicated to St. Peter, was the work of John Russell, who was warmly commended by Moncrieff for the consummate judgment he had displayed in selecting as his model for the front elevation, the portico of that celebrated work of antiquity, the Ionic Temple on the banks of Illisus, near the city of Athens, and built in honour of the mother of Christ. Merridew, however, who was not inferior to Moncrieff as an authority on ancient architecture, was of opinion that it was "after the order" of the famous portico, and not an imitation. It is composed of a pediment supported by four Greek Ionic columns, in a niche between the two inner ones was a finely-executed composition statue of St. Peter, with keys in hand, after the antique, by Clarke of Birmingham. On the summit of the elevation there was, originally, a large gilded cross of most elaborate workmanship. a plainer one being fitted on the east end of the roof. The sanctuary, a very beautiful work of art in the early Italian style, was from designs by Pugin, and the altar, which was of a peculiar kind of stone, was a valuable gift by Sir E. Mostyn, bart. The superstructure, or tabernacle, was in every way worthy the blaze of artistic and costly material by which it was surrounded. It was made of the purest marble, and was supplied by Joseph Fletcher, for many years in business as a lapidary in the Lower Parade, and always active and useful in the public affairs of the town. The inaugurative, or opening services, took place on Thursday, October 2, 1828, when High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. Walsh, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Midland District, who preached standing before the altar, holding a golden crook, wearing his mitre, and robes of purple and gold. The service was chanted by a choir, assisted by a small orchestra. The first organist was Signor Migliorucci, one of the early local musicians of whose abilities nothing is stated. Father Crosbie, while the chapel was being built, thus publicly acknowledged the healthful spirit of toleration prevailing in Leamington. "Those prejudices against the professors of the ancient faith, which unfortunately exist in many towns, are not known here." The dissemination of this intelligence in Catholic circles, far and wide, must be counted as one among the attractions which have drawn wealthy members of that body to Leamington, besides which, the principle of welcoming all irrespective of religious or political dis-

tinctions, has been equally conducive to the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the borough.

On Tuesday, January 19, 1841, the Church was solemnly dedicated, under the Invocation of St. Peter, in the presence of a large congregation. The services were of a highly ornate and impressive character. In the morning there was Pontifical High Mass, and a sermon by the Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman, President of St. Mary's College, Oscott, and afterwards Cardinal Wiseman. In the evening there were Vespers and a sermon by the Rev. W. Tandy, D.D. A new organ by Bevington, of London, was built for the occasion, and a choice selection of sacred music by Handel, Mozart, Mazzinghi, etc., was sung by an efficient choir. There were collections which yielded £220 towards removing the debt incurred in making extensive improvements and alterations. The Catholics continued their services in George Street until 1864, in August of which year they removed to the present edifice in Dormer Place. Before this took place several changes occurred in their clergy list. The Rev. Father Crosbie had as his successors, the Rev. Dr. Weedall, and the Revs. Fathers Macdonald, Fairfax, and Jeffries. The last named came in 1852, and subsequently was promoted to the dignity of a canon. Signor Aspa became the second organist, and held the appointment for nearly forty years.

In 1862, plans were prepared for enlarging the building, but the Local Board of Health refusing to pass them, the site in Dormer Place, (then a garden), on which the present church, and also the presbytery stand, was purchased. The foundation stone of the new edifice was laid on May 1, 1862, by Bishop Ullathorne, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, who was the officiating Priest again at the opening service on August 18, 1864. On both occasions, the attendances were very large. Dr. Manning, Protopotary Apostolic and Provost of Westminster, and afterwards Cardinal, preached the inaugural sermon. The architecture of St. Peter's represents the transition from the Basilica to the Lombard style, immediately preceding the Gothic; simplicity, combined with majestic strength, are its characteristics. Mr. W. Gascoyne was the builder, and Mr. H. Cluton, New Burlington Street, London, the architect. The greater portion of the cost, which amounted to £83,000 was defrayed by Miss France, who also bequeathed funds

for the tower, erected in 1878. Canon Jeffries died on January 3, 1880, greatly beloved by his people and respected by the inhabitants, and was succeeded by Canon Knight (subsequently Bishop of Shrewsbury) who was followed in 1883, by Canon Longman. A calamitous fire in December of that year, destroyed the Church, which was rebuilt at a cost of £6,000, by Mr. G. F. Smith, from designs by Mr. G. H. Cox, of 26, Temple Street, Birmingham. The opening services took place on November 11, 1884, when the attendance of the Roman Catholic Priesthood and laity was numerous. The sermon was preached by Bishop Knight of Shrewsbury. At the luncheon, afterwards served at the Regent Hotel, the contributions of between £400, and £500, to the funds, by Protestant sympathisers, were acknowledged, and described as a fine example of a generous, charitable, spirit. Canon Longman resigned through failing health, in 1892, and died a few months after, aged seventy-five. The Rev. Father Nary was the next Priest, after whom came Canon Souter, who retiring on account of old age, the Rev. Canon Greaney was appointed to the office, with Fathers Yeo and Emery, as assistant clergymen. During a portion of Canon Jeffries's years of office, he had as his colleagues, the Rev. Fathers Pannier, and Verney Cave Browne Cave, the latter, a member of the Kenilworth family of that name, being a convert from the Church of England, and in 1855, Father Bittlestone, a former curate at the Parish Church, officiated as "locum tenens," for Canon Jeffries in George Street.

Having traced the rise of those institutions which belong to the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the way is open for greater events to be met with in the subsequent development of the town—the fifth period of the history of Leamington, as we have chosen to name it, dating from, but including, the year 1825. To proceed at once, however, would prevent mention being made of numerous incidents, unconnected with any other subject, yet too interesting for silence and neglect. These miscellanies will form the subject matter of a few varied and isolated paragraphs, but not on that account unimportant, or uninteresting.

A house that played an important part in the village economy, was the Bowling Green, situated in High Street, near the south west corner of Church Street. Unfortunately, no definite details

are preserved of its form and arrangements, but it may be taken for granted that it was an ordinary country way-side public-house, having at its back, in lieu of the customary orchard, a bowling green reaching as far as the present Regent Place, and, if tradition is reliable, a kitchen garden from that point to Gloucester Street, the sides being enclosed with a thick, high hedge, with tall spreading elms growing at intervals along its course, the branches of which in summer sheltered the rural lanes—Bath Street and Church Street—from the burning rays of the sun. All we know of it with certainty is that it had a low roof, that the Assembly Room in which the fashionable visitors were accustomed to meet and make merry, was about fifteen feet wide, and that generally it was “small and comfortable.”

In the Award of 1768 it is referred to as the “Bowling Green House,” and Simon Hinton was then the landlord. The Commissioners, as proxies of the Imperial Parliament, assembled there, parcelled out the commonable lands on the south bank of the river, and their divisions constitute the title deeds of nearly one half of the land in Leamington. The first concert in the history of the town took place in its Assembly Room, in August, 1810, the artistes being Master and Miss Smith, two clever juvenile performers on the pianoforte and violin, and it was also the scene of all the early balls, at which the companies were aristocratic and extremely select. On one of these occasions

“Gordon's gay Grace gave éclat to the Place,
As the *Dance* she led off with old Parr,”

and on June 4th, 1811, when the élite of the village were met to celebrate the birthday of King George III., the river overflowed, and the ballroom floor, which was the first wooden floor laid down in Leamington, was suddenly covered with a liquid resembling peas-soup in colour, the result being that the company had to beat a precipitate retreat up the stairs to the second floor, an occurrence probably unequalled in the history of such festivities, and one calculated to make a lasting impression on the minds of all present. In 1814, the delusive peace with Buonaparte was celebrated by a tea and dance on the green, from which, in 1824, an ascent was made in The Coronation Balloon used at the Coronation of George IV.

Besides its application to these purposes of legislation, music, and dancing, the old Inn was the last place in Leamington connected with the ancient English diversions of out-of-door stage plays and morris dancing, and if not the first at which a local Friendly Society assembled for business and feasting, it, at least, shared that honour with the Dog Inn over the way. One of its principal attractions was the commodious Green, which, kept in admirable order, was a favourite resort for the farmers and gentry. "In Whitsuntide week," says Moncrieff, "they held a grand feast and festival, when all the members walked in solemn procession to the church, where an appropriate sermon was preached on the occasion, after which the day was finished in the exhibition of various rural sports on a stage erected in the green, at the south-east corner of the inn, when the Tolletts, Strutts, and Douces, that chanced in the midwhile of their antiquarian and Shakespearian researches to visit the natal shire of their favourite bard, were frequently gratified by the appearances and performances of troops of Morisco, or Morris dancers, those most fascinating remembrancers of our old English sports. These merry wights, with their bells, sticks and handkerchiefs, were wont to contend for the silken prize of pink or blue, which it was the enviable province of the fair and virtuous May-day Queen of the village to award; we know not if they had, as in the olden time, their *Dramatis Personæ* of Fool, Friar, Hobby-horse and Maid Marian, and however rude and imperfect their exhibitions to the researcher into the amusements of the days gone by, they could not but have proved highly interesting."

It was demolished in 1825, when the present Guernsey Temperance Hotel, Church Street, was built by Joseph Parsons, on "part of the Town Close," licensed, and named the Bowling Green Commercial Inn. Among those who afterwards occupied the premises were Charles Liebenrood, son of George Christopher Liebenrood, at that time proprietor of the "Leamington Spa Courier," and Mrs. Meeks, previously in business as a second-hand furniture dealer in Ben Satchwell's cottage, New Street. She opened it as a Temperance Hotel, a character it still retains, and in 1873 was succeeded by Councillor Charles Purser.

CHAPTER XV.

A remarkable cure—the Duke and Duchess of Bedford—early visitors—W. C. Macready—a gale of prosperity—Wise Street—the poor and the waters—the Leamington Building Society—an early “musicianer”—musical phenomena—the Duchess of Gordon; her testimony to the Leamington mineral waters—Hill Street, the original name of Satchwell Street—raffling for the half-share of a house—occupiers of land in 1813—fall of a fire ball in Clemens Street; destruction of property—celebrating the restoration of peace—the Crown Hotel—visit of Charles Mathews, etc.

ONE of the patrons has left an interesting description of the village from 1800 to 1820, the dates of his first and last visit; an important testimony to the value of the water, and an illustration of the manner in which the opinions of Dr. Kerr were influencing the public mind in favour of the newly-established Spa. He was an old man, named Wrench, who had made a competence in London as a harness maker. His wife was afflicted with erysipelas in the nose, and biliousness, for which she visited Bath, but without obtaining relief from drinking the waters. The mineral wells of Tunbridge were next tried, with results equally disappointing, no improvement in the health of the invalid having accrued from their use, Being told that a great physician at Northampton (Dr. Kerr) had written a book showing the Leamington waters to be a sovereign and infallible remedy for cutaneous eruptions and visceral diseases, he resolved to bring his wife to Leamington and test their efficacy. His description of the state of things when he first arrived in the village applies to the year 1800. The cottages were scattered irregularly in High Street, the Warwick Road, and near the church. The river was crossed by a wooden foot-bridge. “On the rising ground over the river, where now stands the new town, but one erection was visible, amid all the golden corn-fields and wild heaths, and that a hut ‘composed of half wicker and wood.’ In the distance, amid

the woods on the uplands, and as far as the eye could reach, the Leam—little, narrow, fleet, and sluggish—ran noiselessly along through the meadows, almost hidden by overhanging brambles, weeds and rushes. Where the Victoria Bridge now stands he saw a ford beside the railed bridge. Then a rivulet ran through the meadows where the High Street is, to supply a fishpond near the church; and another stream ran thence through Bath Street to the Leam. He put up at the Bowling Green Inn, that he might be near Abbotts' Bath (opened in 1786 by the advice of Dr. Kerr), but the accommodation for a day's stay was so poor that he was half inclined to try old Sinker's house in the High Street, where the 'Royal' afterwards stood. The charges for dinner were more than the economical old gentleman liked to pay, but then Mr. Boniface said he could not compete with the houses in the county town, as he had to pay for the butcher's meat and groceries being sent from thence. 'Humph,' thought my ancient, with an eye to business, 'if there's summit in the waters to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, here's an opening for a general huckster.' And he was a good mind to build a shop at once, but he didn't." The re-establishment of his wife's health is thankfully recorded in his diary. They had to pay a shilling a pint for the saline water, which was taken out of a dirty stone basin in the ground. In a fortnight, Janet's health was improving, the redness was disappearing gradually, and her appetite much stronger, and after a month's course of drinking the waters she was much better in health—indeed, as well as she could expect at her age. "Wherever I go," said old Mr. Wrench, "I will sound the praises of the new Baths." The quantity Mrs. Wrench drank was one quart daily.

A flutter of delight in the village was caused in 1808 by the visit of a family, whose association with early Leamington is historic. Their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, out of respect for whom one of the principal streets was named a few years afterwards, and the palatial Bedford Hotel, built in 1811 on the site of the London and Midland Bank, 126, Parade, derived its title, arrived with a large attendance of servants. This seems to have been their first patronage of the Spa, and from the following paragraphs, which appeared in the *Warwick Advertiser*,

in May and August, its prosperity was evidently satisfactory at that period, and promising of a bright future :—

"The Duke and Duchess of Bedford intend to visit Leamington Spa in a short time, where lodgings are engaged for their accommodation. The well-known salubrity of the waters; the commodiousness of the baths, and the late charming weather, have already induced many of the admirers of rural retirement and elegant society to repair to this delightful spot."

"This Spa could never boast a more numerous or a more fashionable company—His Grace, the Duke of Bedford and his amiable Duchess, with a princely retinue, arrived at the Baths on Tuesday evening, where three of their children and their attendants have been for more than a week past. The frankness and affability of these noble personages is not less conspicuous upon this rural spot than it is in the brilliant circles in which they generally move. His Grace, we understand, highly approves of the water."

To the following earliest collected and published list of visitors who were in the village at the same time, a certain degree of curious interest belongs, though the names do not represent anything like the total number for the season :—

"The Right Rev. the Bishop of Limerick, and Lady; Major Warburton; Rev. Archdeacon Warburton and Miss Warburton; Gore Townsend, Esq.; Lady E. Townsend and the Misses Townsend; R. Dyott, Esq., and Mrs. Dyott; M. R. Boulton, Esq.; Captain Adderley, R.N., and Mr. Adderley; Captain Corsley and Mrs. Corsley; Rev. Mr. Pickering; Rev. Mr. Pearson; Mrs. and Misses Pearson; Ed. Watts, Esq.; Mrs. and Miss Watts; Rev. M. Portington; Rev. Mr. Latton; Rev. Mr. Knapp and Mrs. Knapp; Mr. Pickard; Mr. Wheelwright; Miss Jordan; Mr. J. Hodgson; Mr. J. G. Gamble; Mr. Rolls; Mrs. Hallway; Mrs. Floyd; Mrs. and Miss Dearman; Miss Board; Mr. Tooke; Mrs. Perry; R. Clark, Esq., and Miss Clark; Mrs. and Miss Umbers; Rev. Mr. Cotton; Mr. Cotton, jun.; Miss Fox; Mrs. Hollis." These names are the return for May 14th, 1808. The Rev. James Walhouse and Dr. Lambe are in the list for May 28th; Dr. Kerr and Lord Egremont in that for June.

A youth, for whom Fame had in store a chaplet of immortality; who, after winning the golden sceptre of empire on the stage, was to spend the calm sunset of his life in promoting the cause of education amongst the agricultural labourers, visited the village early in the century. William Charles Macready, the great tragedian, in his "Reminiscences," thus refers to the occasion :—

"Birmingham was the most important of the towns of which my father held the theatres, and there we soon arrived. The summer months were

passed there, diversified by a short stay at Leamington, then a small village, consisting only of a few thatched houses—not one tiled or slated—the Bowling Green Inn being the only one where very moderate accommodation could be secured. There was in process of erection an hotel of more pretension, which, I fancy, was to be the Dog or Greyhound, but which had some months of work to fit it for the reception of guests. We had the parlour and bedrooms of a huckster's shop, the best accommodation in the place; and used each morning to walk down to the springs across the churchyard with our little mugs in our hands for our daily draught of the Leamington waters."

There are good and sufficient reasons for believing those writers to be in error who mention 1808 as the time when the Macreadys were in Leamington; one is, the description does not agree with the state of things in that year; the other, that in his chronologically arranged "Reminiscences," the Spa holiday is reported as having taken place before the death of Mrs. Macready, his mother, at Sheffield, on December 3rd, 1803. The time of the visit is a subject for intelligent conjecture, but it must have been much earlier than 1808, at which period there were several houses in Leamington with tiled and slated roofs.

An advertisement in October, headed "Leamington: New Buildings," for brick makers, pump makers, well sinkers; persons willing to sink cellars and get out foundations for a number of houses; and another, of land to be let on building leases, "near the baths, and in the centre of the village," are some of the straws which indicate the direction and force of the gale of prosperity which had arisen.

A valuable piece of land on the south side of High Street, about two acres in extent, opposite Mr. Wise's garden and baths, was brought into the market in December, 1809. The description corresponds with the site of Wise Street, the building of which probably commenced about this time.

A rapid survey of the chief events of 1810 is all for which we can find space. The total number of visitors in the previous year was reported to have been no less than 1,500, exclusive of servants, children, and other members of families, who probably numbered an additional 2,000. There were not at the time more than sixty or seventy cottages and houses in the village, a large

proportion of the occupants of which, in the old town, were so poor that the Overseers exempted them from paying rates. Every coach that arrived was laden with visitors, many of whom, we are informed, were poor invalids who had sought the benefit of the waters in distressed circumstances, having been liberally relieved from a fund established for such a laudable purpose. They returned to their homes restored to health, and sincerely grateful for the assistance they had obtained from that beneficent institution—the Leamington Spa Charity.

“The Leamington Building Society” appears to have been a Warwick Institution, designed for purchasing land for houses, and assisting in the development of early Leamington. No precise information can be gleaned of the details of its work, the only source of information being its public notices, which, though meagre, bear this construction. The mode of subscription differed from that of any existing building societies. Members entered their names for one or more shares, and, as money was required, a call of so much per cent. was made by order of the Committee. When a house, or several houses were built, they were disposed of by ballot among the members. On March 8, 1810, a meeting was held at the Black Swan, Warwick, and eight houses erected at Leamington were distributed among the members by ballot. Mention is made in several of the “Guides” of a row of twenty houses having been built by a syndicate in Union Street, below the Assembly Rooms. This Society was most probably the syndicate referred to, and the houses balloted on the date mentioned, a part of the row. On the same day five shares in the society were sold by auction.

One of the early “musicianers,” Mr. Owen Owen, settled in Leamington, in July, as a teacher of “that delightful and most fashionable instrument,” the pedal harp. Particulars were obtainable at Mr. Olorenshaw’s Library, High Street. Mr. Owen specially desired correspondents to pre-pay their letters, a not unreasonable request, seeing the cost was 7d., 8d., and 9d. each.

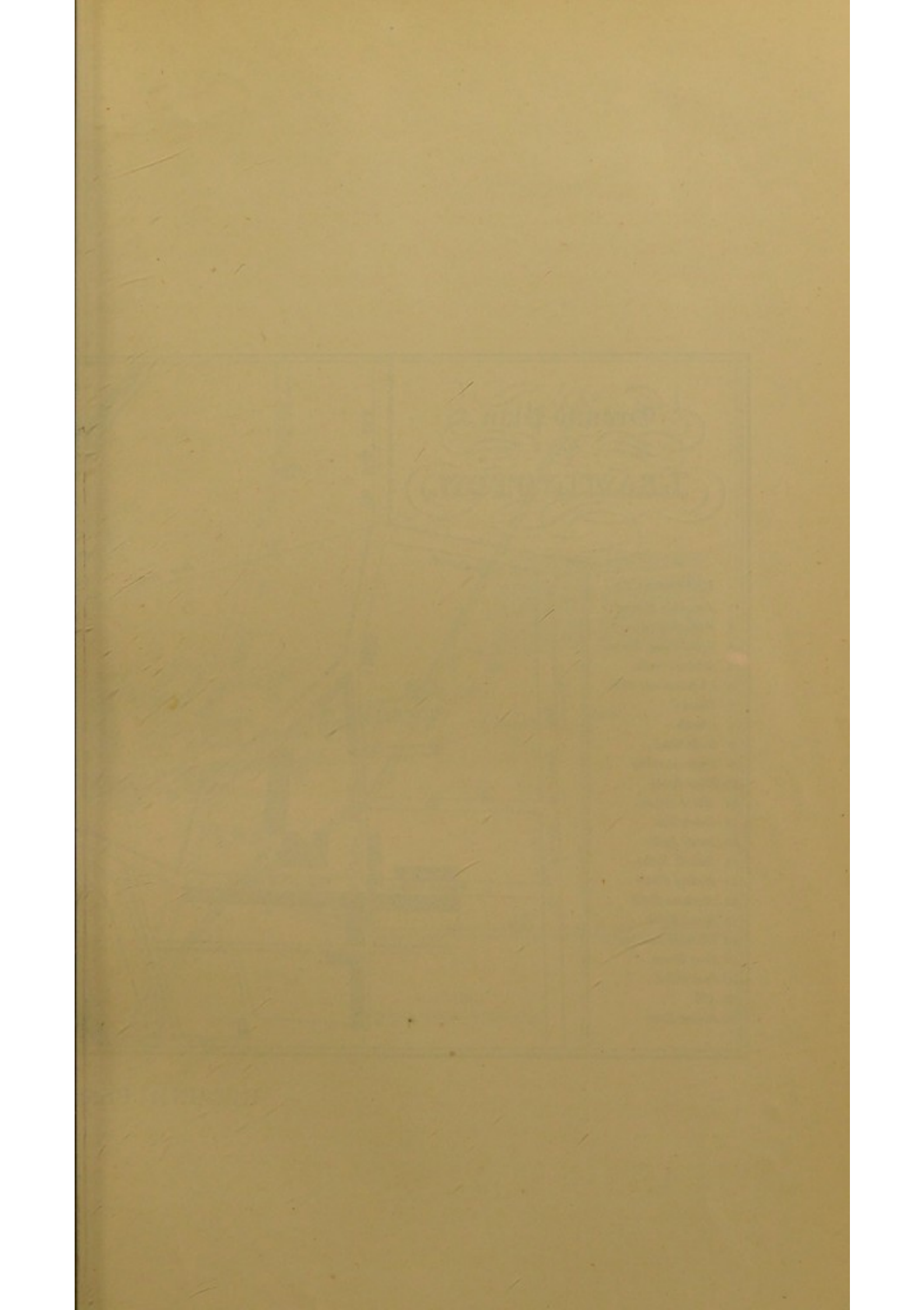
The list of visitors in July contained a hundred and sixty names; in August they were to be counted by several hundreds,

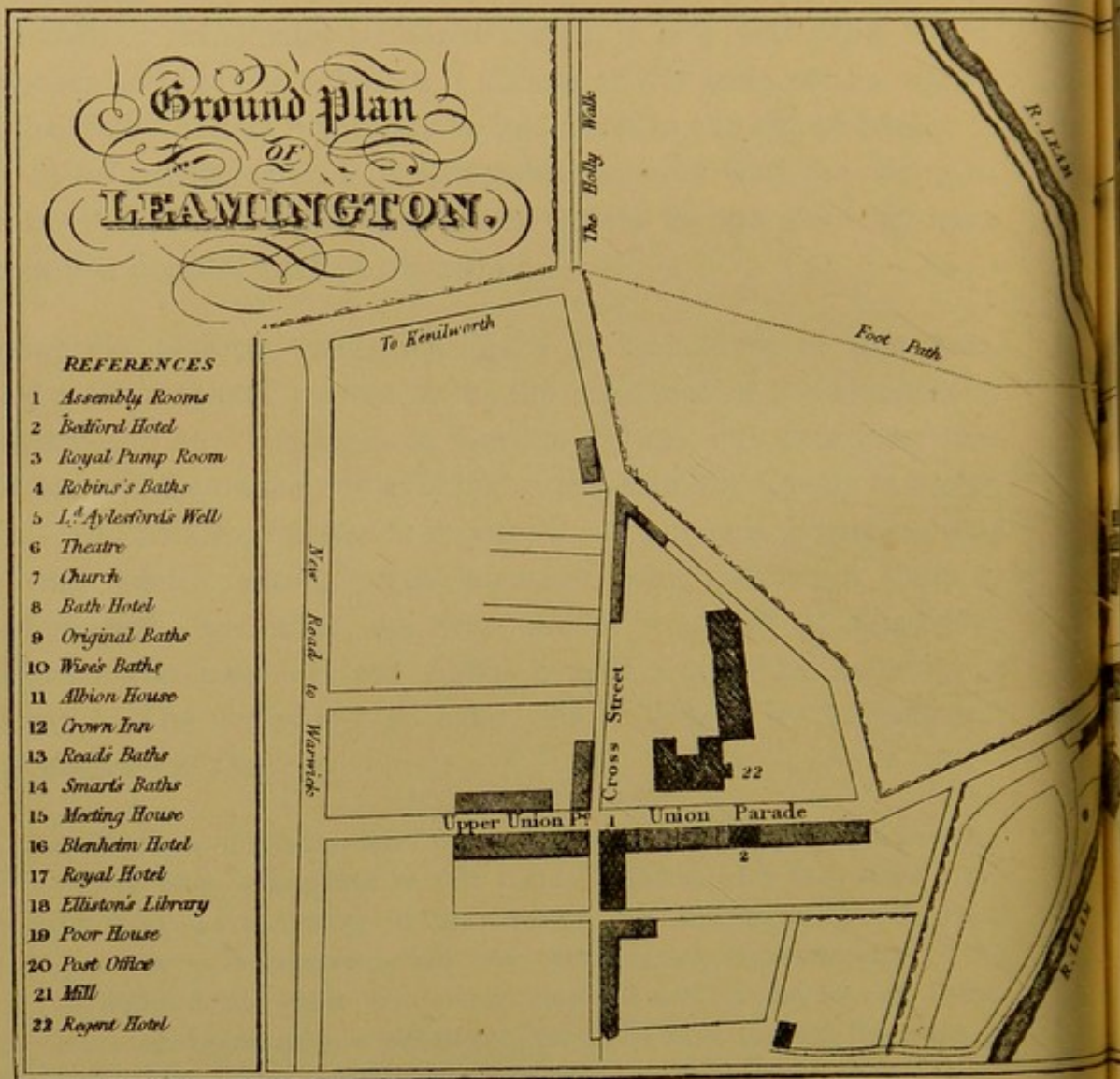
those old patrons, the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, being again amongst the number.

On August 4 and 6, appeared at the Bowling Green Assembly Room, Master and Miss Smith, "the celebrated musical phenomena," the latter being also described as the "first female violin performer in Europe." No report exists of the concert, but, as this was the first occasion on which the inhabitants assembled to listen to artistically rendered music, it is a noticeable event. Another point is the evidence it affords of the fame of the village at the time—artists beginning to include it in the list of places to be visited; and, lastly, it is interesting to note that the violin to hear which the concert was given should in our own day have become a popular part of education.

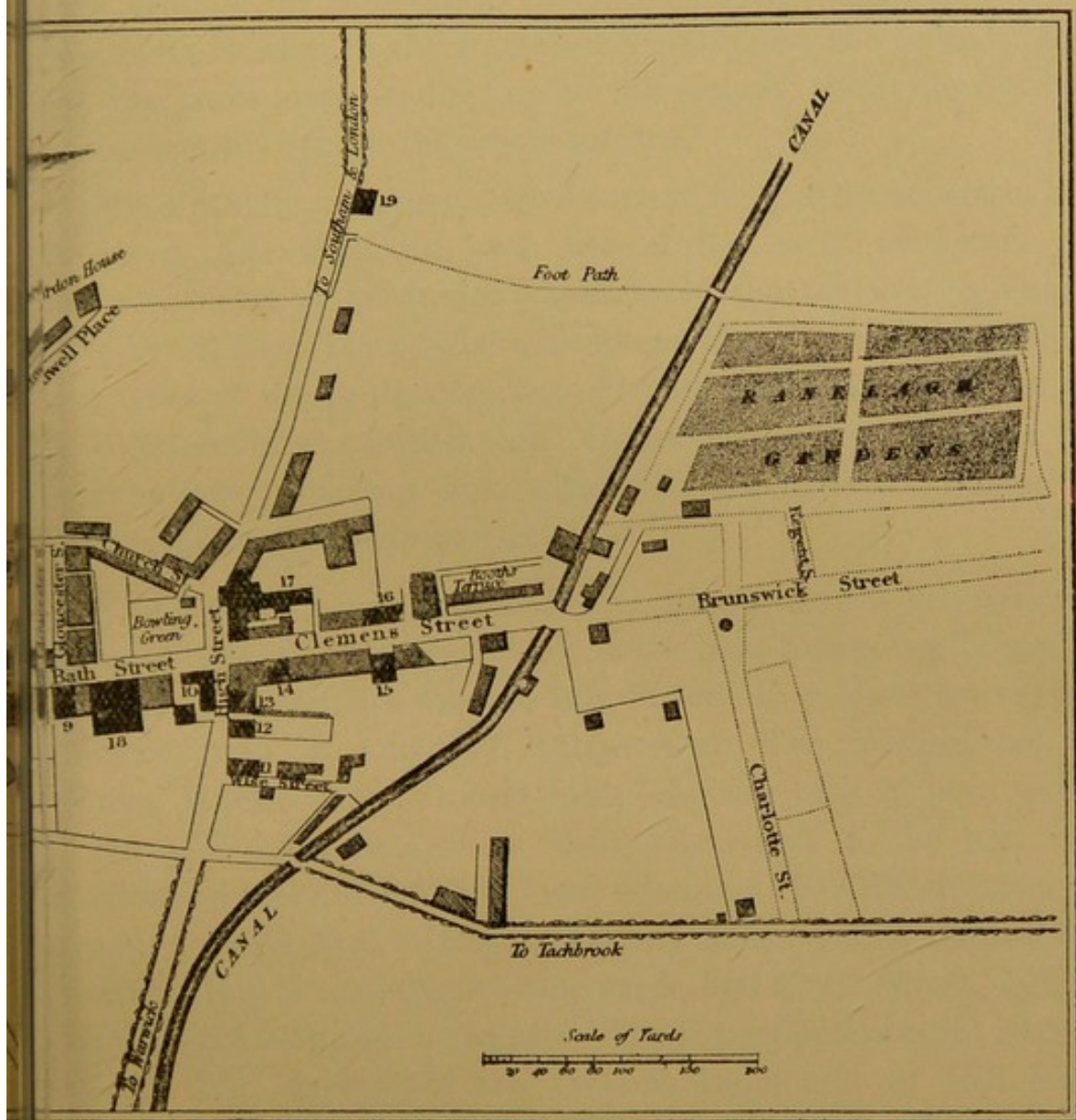
Another historic visit took place in November of this year. There are frequent references to the residence of the Duchess of Gordon and her daughters at Gordon House, but excepting that she led off the dance one evening at the Bowling Green Inn with Dr. Parr, nothing further is reported. It appears, however, that it was health rather than pleasure which brought her to Leamington, and that she was one of a crowd of illustrious patients who have derived signal benefit from the Leamington waters. The following is from the "Warwick Advertiser," November 17, 1810:—

"The Duchess of Gordon left Leamington on Wednesday, the 7th instant, for London, after expressing herself highly satisfied with the waters, and declaring that she had received more benefit from the use of them than she could possibly have expected, even from the flattering representation of the Duke of Bedford, by whose recommendation she was induced to visit them. Her Grace left Leamington a month ago, for a few days, to fetch the Duke of Manchester's daughter, who came down with her and returned in perfect health. The reports we may expect to have made in the fashionable world from so high and distinguished a character in fashionable life as the Duchess of Gordon, and the influence her Grace has acquired among all ranks, not less by her affability and goodness than by her high station and family connections, will, we have no doubt, another season fill this wonderfully improving place, beyond anything we have yet witnessed, and we hope speedily to see Leamington crowded with such gay and splendid parties as will set it upon a level with any watering place in the kingdom."

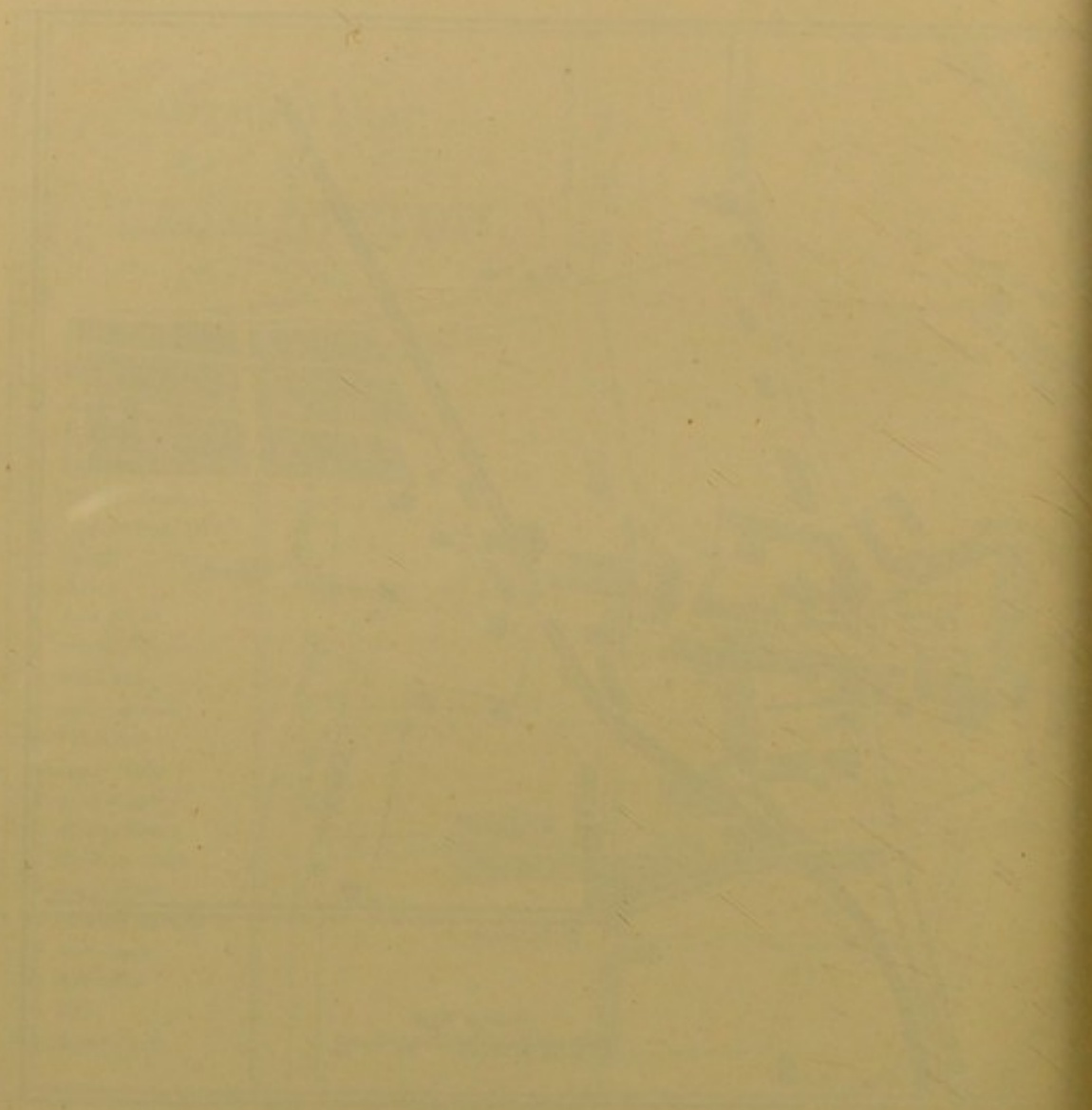




GROUND PLAN OF



ON IN 1818.



Numerous anecdotes of the wit, vivacity, and condescension of the Duchess, current in the last generation, have evaporated from local memory. One alone remains, and this may be quoted as a useful lesson to people who, arriving late at divine worship, thoughtlessly disturb congregations. In this predicament her Grace found herself on a certain Sunday at the Parish Church—every pew full and the service considerably advanced. Respecting the example in punctuality of the villagers and visitors, and declining to disturb the humblest worshipper, she seated herself on the lower steps leading up to the singers' gallery, where she remained throughout the whole service.

Mr. Franklin, a surgeon, whose name frequently occurs in after years as Dr. Franklin, was one of the early residents. An advertisement of his in 1811 announced that he was residing at number 8, New Town, where he intended practising the different branches of the profession, and "trusts that strict attention will entitle him to the Support and Patronage of those Friends who may please to favour him with their confidence. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully prepared."

The Golden Lion, Regent Street, which has the reputation of having been the first house built in the New Town, was offered for sale by auction at the George Inn, Warwick, on June 29, 1812, by Messrs. J. and R. Loveday, Auctioneers. The landlord was Mr. James Miles. Two "newly built" houses near it, occupied by Tew and Lawrence, were also advertised to be sold. In addition, a piece of building land, adjoining the Golden Lion, and fronting Cross Street (Regent Street) fifteen yards, and another, fronting Hill Street, twenty-four yards, and Cross Street, eighteen yards, were included in the sale. These particulars point to Miles as the first landlord of the Golden Lion, and to Hill Street as having been the original name of Satchwell Street.

Raffling was then a legal mode of disposing of articles, and announcements were regularly made in the papers of the prices paid per ticket and the prizes given. But household property, seldom, if ever, passed from one owner to another through the ballot box, except in the case of members of Building Societies.

On June 13, 1812, it was announced that a moiety, or half-part, of that substantial new-built dwelling house, number 26, Union Street, would be raffled for at the Bedford Hotel. The price of the tickets, of which there were one hundred, was £5 5s. each.

There were twenty-two occupiers of land, whose names and assessments are subjoined:—John Campion, £352; Thomas Abbotts, £204, and Vicarage, £32; William Court, £193; Thomas Court, £170; George Whitehead, £162; Matthew Wise, including mansion, £137; Edward Willes, do., do., £76; Richard Reading, £45; — Walton, £22; Elizabeth Smith, £14; Thomas Sinker, £13; Joseph Hiron, £12; William King, £11; Elizabeth Abbotts, £10; James Mackie, £10; Walton and Smallbone, £6; Mary Shaw, £5; William Olorenshaw, £5; Thomas Palmer, £3; William Benton, £3; and Edward Treadgold, £3.

On April 3, 1813, a levy of 3s. in the pound was made by George Whitehead, "overseer of the poor of Leamington and Newbold Comyn." Thomas Abbotts and John Campion, who at the time were filling the office of churchwardens, signed it, and Messrs. C. G. Wade and George Boswell, two Justices of the Peace, saw and allowed it on the 10th. It produced £316 8s. 6d., nearly as much as a rate of 4s. 4d. realised ten years earlier. There were eighty-one ratepayers, whose names will be found on page 122. They constitute the first complete Directory we have of modern Leamington. No streets are mentioned in this rate.

A storm of unusual severity, attended with considerable damage to property, visited the town on Thursday, July 28, 1814. The description of it says that "a fire ball, accompanied with a tremendous peal of thunder and lightning, but providentially succeeded by a violent torrent of rain, fell into the picture gallery belonging to Mr. Bissett (Clemens-street), and in its progress forced the rafters from the roof into the centre of the room, leaving an aperture in the ceiling of upwards of 100 feet square. The doors of the room were knocked down with considerable violence; several panes of glass were broken, and the interior arrangements were thrown into the utmost confusion. A few paintings were rent and peeled from the canvas, but the more valuable part has fortunately escaped injury."

On August 10, in the same year, the first Summer Ball of the Master of the Ceremonies (Mr. J. Heavisides) took place at the Upper Assembly Rooms, and proved a great social success. It was attended by six hundred persons, and dancing was kept up till four o'clock in the morning.

The celebration of the restoration of peace in 1814, when Buonaparte was subdued by the allied armies, took place in August. A subscription list was started by the principal inhabitants, and in lieu of giving the poor a dinner, the sum was distributed in sums ranging from 5s. to 15s. per cottage, and 2s. 6d. to each labourer in agriculture. Desirous of sharing their joy with each other, the poor extemporised a fête of their own, had a tea-drinking at the Bowling Green Hotel, "where happiness, hilarity, and concord seemed to be the order of the day. Some of the gentry in the village distributed cakes to the attendant children with a liberal hand, and a fiddle played country dances to the younger females, who tripped it gaily on the enamelled green." When the company were in the height of their merriment, Mr. Simms appeared and invited them into the theatre, a kindness of which they readily availed themselves.

The "burthen" of taxation weighed heavily upon the shoulders of the inhabitants in 1815, and on the 30th of January a public meeting was held at Mrs. Smith's, the Bath Hotel, to consider the best means of obtaining relief. No report exists of the result, and the event is chiefly remarkable as showing that at this date the name of the New Inn had given way to that of the Bath Hotel, and also that taxes were as unpopular in 1815 as in 1902.

In March 1815, the Crown Hotel was established by Mr. Joseph Stanley, on premises "late in the occupation of Mr. Probett," but "now converted into and called the Crown Inn." The "house warming," the universal custom of the time when new public-houses were opened, or changed hands, took place on April 26.

The same year, Charles Mathews, the popular comedian, appeared on the boards at the Bath Street Theatre. In a letter to a friend he complained that the arrangements were horrid, and said the band consisted of one wretched country fiddler who, after

a vain attempt to scratch a note or two, was not heard the whole evening, except between the two acts, when he amused the audience by rasping away at a country dance. The receipts produced £27, a sum which amazed Mr. Mathews, and probably afforded him no small amount of gratification.

The ascent by Green, the aeronaut, from the Bowling Green on Tuesday, May 18, 1824, exceeded in the number of spectators it attracted, and the enthusiasm it created, all previous local demonstrations. The balloon was the one used in the festivities with which the Coronation of George IV. was celebrated. The words "Coronation Balloon" were inscribed upon it in large letters, and the embellishments with which the car was decorated greatly enhanced its appearance. It was brought to Leamington and exhibited at Elliston's room to thousands of visitors from May 10, to the day of the ascent, when the town was full of excitement, and from an early hour, with sightseers from all parts of the surrounding neighbourhood. By mid-day the windows, roofs and balconies of the surrounding houses in the immediate vicinity of the Bowling Green, together with the main streets were crowded to excess, the total number of spectators being estimated at from fourteen to fifteen thousand. The aerial machine was inflated under the direction of Mr. Roberts, "Superintendent of the Leamington Gas Works,"* and shortly after four o'clock it rose from the Green, a band playing "God Save the King," and the people applauding. It sailed due east until passing Southam when it took a south-easterly direction, and after having been travelling in the air for thirty-two minutes, it descended at Milton, a parish about three miles from Northampton. Mr. Green returned to Leamington the next morning with his balloon at nine o'clock.

* There were small gas works in Leamington previous to the present establishment in the Tachbrook Road.

CHAPTER XVI.

Growth of local government—the Parish Committee, how constituted ; their functions and work—the Paving and Improvement Commissioners, qualifications, policy and methods of public business—some active and assiduous old Leamingtonians—establishment of the Local Board of Health, and under what circumstances—the plural vote and its results—list of the first members elected ; the financial position of the town—review of the Board's work—the Free Public Library, its history—the drainage, sewage and water questions, etc.

WE have now arrived at the year 1825, a time which marks the commencement of the fifth period in the history of Leamington, and generally speaking, its rise in the strictly modern sense. It was the eventide of the village era, whose ancient shadows were being dispersed for ever by the brightness of the morning of the town. Imagination fails to picture the energy, the enterprising spirit of speculation by the builders, the general industry and the constant changes of that time. Wherever the eye rested, progress was seen ; wherever the ear listened, the music of the trowel was heard. Shrubland Hall, "near Leamington" was shaping itself in the sequestered solitude of its own grove. The Bowling Green Inn was being demolished to make room for the valuable properties now standing on its site. On the Green the sturdy strokes of the woodman were heard, felling with his axe those noble elms which had been the pride of the village for centuries. The rooks, croaking bitter anathemas at the devastation of their hereditary homesteads, directed their sluggish flight across the river and founded new colonies in the Pingle and the Holly Walk. Regent Place was being formed out of the Green to connect Bath Street with Church Street and the Old Town Close, and to prepare for the future Russell Terrace. In a few months £120,000 changed hands in the sale and purchase of building plots, and at an auction sale at Copps's Hotel, 9,680 square yards of land in Brunswick Street found eager buyers.

The Quarry Field, "containing excellent stone for building," was in the market, one plot of which was purchased by the Wesleyans for their chapel in Portland Street, and another later on by Dr. Jephson for his residence, Beech Lawn. The foundations for fifteen villas were laid at the back of the Episcopal Chapel, and plans were ready for double the number on the east and west sides of the building. The Parish Church was enlarged; Christ Church and the Wesleyan Chapel built.

But that which specially marks the year as its own, more than aught else, was the establishment of a new system of local government. On June 10, 1825, the Act 6, George IV., c. 133, for "paving, or flagging, lighting, cleansing, watching, and improving the town of Leamington Priors," received the Royal Assent. By this the town obtained a firm footing on the lowest rung of the municipal ladder, the top of which was reached exactly fifty years afterwards, when by the Charter of Incorporation the prize of a Royal Borough, with an endless succession of Mayors, Aldermen, and Councillors, was gained.

Altogether, Leamington has had four forms of local government—the Parish Committee, the Paving and Improvement Commissioners, the Local Board of Health, and the present Corporation. In order of time the Parish Committee stands first. It was the old, constitutional form of parochial government under which the affairs of the village had been controlled probably for centuries. The Committee were the outcome of the Vestry, at the annual meetings of which it was customary to appoint a number of parishioners to serve as a governing body for the ensuing twelve months, and a Rating Committee, whose duty it was to assist the Churchwardens and the Overseers, in the preparation of the valuation lists. For the management of the parish business, the former held meetings once a month, always, in deference to the source from whence they derived their authority, assembling in the first instance in the vestry at the Parish Church, and then adjourning to the Apollo Rooms in Clemens Street. Their duties were comprehensive, and the social status and importance which membership conferred were valued as much as those of an Aldermanship or a Councillorship of to-day. All the secular

affairs of the town were in their care, including the supervision of the first Poor House, which was situated near the site now occupied by the Warneford Hospital. The earliest records we have of their transactions are dated 1823. From these we learn that George Carter, who afterwards became the first resident auctioneer, was the Assistant Overseer and collector of Land and Assessed Taxes, the amount of which for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1823, was £1,444 1s. 4½d. The popular Dr. Jephson, who rose to be one of the most famous members of the medical profession, was, in the following year, Parish Surgeon, in conjunction with his partner, Mr. Chambers, at a salary of £10 10s. per annum. The Committee continued to exercise some of their former power long after the establishment of the Improvement Commissioners, but the general effect of the Act of 1825, which we shall presently explain, was to make them more parochial and less municipal. Such privileges as they were allowed to retain were preserved with zealous care, and barricaded against the encroachments of innovation by a lofty and dignified demeanour, an uncompromising attitude, and a phraseology, magniloquently tumid. When a material alteration in Upper Union Street was made without the consent of the Surveyor, the Committee "could not refrain from expressing their reprobation of so improper an usurpation of the duties of the constituted authorities." Gloriously "parochial" as was Mr. Bumble, he could not have said more. Under their régime the first increase of the police force was made, four additional assistant constables having been appointed in December, 1824, at a remuneration of 10s. a week each. They rented a seat in the Parish Church to Mr. H. T. Elliston, at 6d. a year, in recognition of his services as organist, and directed the agreement "to be deposited with the Churchwardens in the parish chest;" purchased a strait waistcoat "for the use of the parish," supplied the town with stocks, and resolved that no public meeting should be convened by notice in the Parish Church without their sanction. Very important people were those old Parish Committee-men.

Their powers, compared with those of the present Town Council, were feeble; but the variety of the subjects, with which they had to deal was extensive, and, considering the time, the

burden of responsibility heavy. Besides keeping the young streets, and old beautiful rural lanes of the period, in a tolerably good state of repair, they had to administer the Poor Laws ; as a Watch Committee superintend the police force, introduce some elementary principles of sanitation, and take care that proper deference was shown to all distinguished people who honoured Leamington with their presence. While smiling at the pompous language in which they rebuked those who trespassed on their authority, it must not be forgotten that they were careful of the public purse, and that among their unrealised projects were the provision of land for the poor, and the introduction into the workhouse of an industrial occupation which would have lightened the rates and have proved a boon to the paupers.

With the revenue they had it was impossible to do much. There were several rates in force—one for the Church, a second for the poor, a third for the highways, and a fourth described as a "Composition on the Turnpike and Bye-roads." The total amount they were estimated to produce was small, and this was further reduced by an irregular and feeble system of collection. A few wealthy people were allowed to pay at intervals of several years ; many of the poor were excused on the ground of their poverty. Between these two classes there was a third who paid something on account, but do not appear to have cleared off the balance. The public work consisted in the employment of a few labourers, who were remunerated at the rate of 1s. 6d. a day, to potter about the roads spreading gravel purchased from Mr. Wise and Mrs. Shaw, and, here and there, putting down some bricks bought from Mr. Mackie.

The decline of the Parish Committee as an institution for the management of local affairs began in 1818, when a public meeting was held at the original Copps's Hotel "to consider the question of applying to Parliament for an Act for paving, watching, cleaning and improving the town," and a year afterwards (November 2, 1819) the subject was further discussed at a "Parish Meeting" in the Assembly Rooms, and again at Bisset's Room, Clemens Street, on September 27, 1820, when Mr. Matthew Wise was in the chair. It was unanimously resolved

"That a Paving and Lighting Act, under proper conditions and restrictions, would be highly beneficial to Leamington," and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to consider and report :—"B. B. Greatheed, John Tomes, Matthew Wise, Edward Willes, John Russell, R. W. Elliston, R. Hooton, W. G. Elliston, J. Campion, W. Hunter, B. Smart, Mr. Booth, T. Wilkinson, M. Copps, R. Hopton, Joseph Stanley, Mr. Thompson, James Bisset, J. Brookhouse, Mr. Dean, Mr. Finlow, Mr. Kinsnell, J. Edwards, John Russell (Bath Hotel), John Williams (Regent Hotel)."

Probably, as a result of their deliberations, the following notice appeared on the 20th of October following. It is the first requisition for a public meeting in the history of the town, and, although it is addressed to nobody, it has very considerable value as furnishing the names of the men who, with the Committee, were the fathers of our modern system of local government in Leamington :—

We, the undersigned, Proprietors of Houses and Land in Leamington, do request that a Public Meeting of Proprietors and Occupiers of Land and Houses be held on Monday, the Thirtieth Day of October Instant, at the Vestry of the Parish Church of Leamington, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, for the purpose of considering and determining on the expediency of obtaining an Act of Parliament for Paving, Lighting, and otherwise Improving the Town.—Matthew Wise, John Russell, Thomas Finlow, E. Willes, John Tomes, R. Sanders, Thomas Tidmas, John Hickling, for Self and Satchell, Joseph Baly, William Perkins, Nath. S. Baly, Edward Taylor, John Mott Farman, Joseph Brookhouse, John Williams, R. Hooton, John Campion, Thomas Thompson, John Russell (Bath Hotel), John Denn, M. Copps, Richard Hopton, Benjamin Smart, Thomas Heydon, Charles Lamb, Stephen Peasnell, George Elliott, Robert Webb, William Smith, R. W. Elliston, W. G. Elliston, James Bisset.

This strong desire for an improved system of government was delayed for several years by irresolution and timidity, and an indefinite postponement seemed imminent until a local improvement in the new town demonstrated the inability of the Vestry to hold the reins of authority any longer. From the junction of the Union Parade with Warwick Street, the road proceeded to Milverton along a lane, and commencing near the top of Dale Street there was a steep descent to the Milverton brook, and on the other side an ascent equally difficult and dangerous. In

making this passage, vehicles were jostled and damaged, and teams drawing heavily-laden carts and wagons were distressed and exhausted. It was proposed in 1821 to widen the lane to fifty-four feet, raise the roadway, and build a bridge over the brook. To carry such a work into effect a sum of £1,000 at the very least was required, and if the whole of the rates had been appropriated for two or three years there would still have been a deficit. By a combination of generous contrivances the difficulty was overcome. Mr. Willes gave the land for widening the lane; he and Mr. Greatheed built the bridge at their joint expense. A sum of £350 was still required, to meet which it was decided to ask the farmers to do the haulage, estimated to cost £150, free of charge, and to raise the remaining £200 by public subscription.

After much conference it was agreed to apply to Parliament for a local Act, and on the 10th of June, 1825, the new statute came into force. This, the foundation stone on which historically rests the whole superstructure of our modern system of local government was principally supplementary to the ancient authority vested in the Parish Committee; it was also the commencement of a process of evolution, in the course of which all that was valuable in the old had been absorbed into newer forms, and the effete and useless rejected. By its provisions a property electorate was created, altogether different from that of the Parish Committee, and additional public work prescribed as being necessary in the interests of the Spa. Every resident, rated at not less than £60 per annum, became one of the Paving Commissioners and was qualified to take part in the government of the town, without submitting himself to the suffrages of the residents. At first, it appears, that the whole of the Commissioners assembled for the transaction of business, but in after years a Committee of Twenty-one were elected at the annual meeting of the whole body, and only those so chosen had the right of legislation for the year following. Each Commissioner had a vote at such elections and could offer himself as a candidate.

The first meeting was held in the Petty Sessions Room, at the Apollo, Clemens Street, on June 28, 1825, and adjourned to July 11, when the following were elected on the first staff of town officials:

Treasurer, William Russell ; Clerk, W. F. Patterson ; Assistant ditto, E. W. Percy ; Assessor and Collector, George Carter ; Surveyor and Scavenger, John Russell, of the Bath Hotel. The effects of the change which had been made in the method of governing the town were soon visible in the improved state of the streets. In August the Commissioners advertised for contracts for lighting with "gas or oil" the town for one year ; in September they raised their first loan on mortgage of the rates, the amount of which was £1,500, and in November they invited tenders for the beginning of the work of paving footpaths and crossings.

On the 18th of August, 1852, after a not inglorious career of twenty-seven years, their offices were abolished, and the Local Board of Health established. Praise and blame have been liberally bestowed on the Commissioners for their work, but it is due to them to say that steady and continuous improvement marked the whole course of their career, and, having regard to their means, they served the town well. During their ascendancy there were no annual elections, such as the town afterwards enjoyed under the Board of Health, and now possesses under the Corporation, and as a consequence there was more general dissatisfaction. It was not their fault, but their misfortune, that they were an exclusive oligarchy, representing only themselves and possessing no authority to speak and act for their neighbours.* The dictum of the meeting held in Bisset's Room in 1820, that restrictions and safeguards were necessary, was embodied in the statute and hedged them in on every side. Another thing to be noticed is that the atmosphere of local thought at the time was unfavourable for the growth of heroic measures. Not only Dr. Jephson, but nine-tenths of those who took an active interest in town affairs, believed that the welfare of Leamington depended in a large measure on quiet, and the absence of all excitement, especially of a political character. Notwithstanding some very obvious defects in their constitution, and many difficulties in their

* All the books and other official records of this period having been lost, or destroyed, the number of the Commissioners cannot now be ascertained. The only reliable information on the subject is the statement of Mr. A. S. Field before the Railway Parliamentary Committee in 1847, that there were about 200 of them. As the population in that year was something like 14,000, it will readily be seen how small was their title to be regarded as a representative body.

path, their work was not wasted. We owe to them the Victoria and Adelaide Bridges, the wide space in Victoria Terrace, the commencement of the work of cleansing the river, an elementary application of the principles of sanitary science, the establishment of a local police force, a vigorous though not a successful effort to provide a satisfactory water supply, and an excellent bargain, by which they received £2,500 from the Great Western and £2,250 from the London and North-Western Railway Companies, for property sold and compensation, when those lines were carried through Leamington. Though it is but a small reward for labours so prolonged, and service so valuable, we may name the following as appearing from the reports to have been the most active and assiduous in their exertions to benefit the town at that period: Messrs. A. S. Field, J. Hitchman, Owen White, W. Watkin, John Haddon, E. Woodhouse, Joseph Stanley, J. B. Jeffery, R. Whitehouse, Henry Hackforth, John Bowen, S. U. Jones, John Cullis, D'Arcy Boulton, J. M. Cottle, J. Meredith and G. Smith.

On the same day that the government of the Improvement Commissioners ceased to exist the Local Board of Health was established. Acting on a memorial from the inhabitants, the General Board of Health, now the Local Government Board, having caused inquiries to be made into the sanitary condition and general circumstances of the town, by Messrs. G. T. Clark and W. Ranger, two of their superintendent inspectors, issued a Provisional Order on June 15, 1852, directing that the Public Health Act, 1848 (11 & 12 Vict., c. 63) should be applied to Leamington, and a new governing body elected, consisting of fifteen members. By the Public Health Supplemental Act (15 & 16 Vict., c. 69), dated June 30, following, the Provisional Order was confirmed, and August 18 appointed for the first election, Mr. William Carpenter, the Chairman of the outgoing Commissioners, being authorised to conduct the proceedings, and, in the event of his being unable to do so, Mr. John Bowen was to officiate in his stead. Before describing the circumstances attending the constitution of the first Local Board, we must notice the principal changes introduced at this time into our system of local government. The justifiable aspiration of many of the inhabitants

in 1842, for such a reduction in the qualification of candidates as would make a larger number of the ratepayers eligible for election, was now met by lowering it to £30 rateability to the relief of the poor, or the possession of £1,000 in real or personal estate; but, as was proved afterwards by a prolonged experience, it was a great mistake to withhold from candidates the right of being present when the votes were examined and cast up by the returning officers. Many of the bitter controversies in after years had their roots fed and nourished by the practice which then obtained of closing the doors against those who were most deeply interested in the results, and if the presiding Aldermen of the present Corporation were to adopt a similar course, instantly a demand would be raised in every ward for the admission of the candidates or their representatives. The voting of the new régime was restored to the original vestry standard of household suffrage, under circumstances, however, which imparted to the gift only a nominal value. By an ingeniously-constructed sliding scale a vote was allowed to occupiers and owners for every £50 rateable value of their properties, so that the total did not exceed twelve votes for the same property. Under this system, the villa residents, nearly every one of whom had several votes, were possessed of the ruling power to the exclusion of the holders of single votes, notwithstanding the latter were vastly in the majority.* The scale was complicated, inconsistent with itself, and absurd, even from the point of view that a property qualification was necessary. Another change effected at this time was the enlargement of the western boundary of the parish from the Milverton brook back to the Avon at Portobello. For sewerage purposes only, all the land in the parish of Milverton, bounded on the north by the Warwick and Rugby Road, on the west by the river Avon, and on the south by the Leam, became the Leamington main sewerage district, for which an additional member was elected. Power was also given the Board of Health, with the consent of the trustees of the Warwick and Northampton

* Analyses were made in 1857, and again in 1872, the result being the same on each occasion. In the first-named year 1,500 ratepayers had single votes, while 430 had as many as 1,300. At the election in 1872, it was shown that every defeated candidate had polled more ratepayers, but fewer votes, than those who had been elected.

Turnpike Trust, to contract for the removal of the Myton Turnpike Gate, the tollage of which, at that period, greatly restricted the free use of the Old Warwick Road to the inhabitants of Leamington and Warwick for vehicular traffic, and excepting to pedestrians, was a tax on the enjoyment of some charming sylvan scenery, and a limitation of the finest view obtainable of the world-famed historic Warwick Castle. Under this provision the Gate was abolished by the Local Board in 1853.

The first election of members of the newly-constituted Local Board of Health took place on the date named, Mr. W. Carpenter discharging the duties assigned to him in the Provisional Order, and Mr. A. S. Field assisting as his legal adviser. Mr. Carpenter, who had been a member of the old Board of Commissioners for several years, and was its last chairman, in his official capacity had the honour of representing Leamington at the grand banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London, in the Mansion House, on March 21, 1850, to a distinguished party of friends and promoters of the great Exhibition held in 1851; on which occasion H.R.H. Prince Albert, the Chief Officers of State, the leading members of both Houses of Parliament, the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition, the principal members of the Corporation, the Masters of the City Companies, several large contributors to the Exhibition Fund, numerous other gentlemen of eminence, and nearly all the Mayors or chief Municipal officers of the corporate towns of the United Kingdom, were present. It appears that this was the first occasion of Leamington being invited to participate in a national movement of supreme importance, and it is worthy of remembrance to the credit of the Commissioners that the close of their career of unpretentious, but useful public service, should thus have been ushered in by co-operation with the Court, the State, and the Municipalities of the Empire, in an endeavour to extend the blessings of peace and commerce throughout the world.

The novelty of the election attracted a large number of candidates, but if the percentage of voting papers not returned, or returned not filled up, be a fair indication of the general feeling of the town, there was more enthusiasm among those who desired seats at the Board than was shown by those in whose power it

was to confer such a distinction.* Fifty-eight candidates went to the poll, with the result that the following were returned as

THE FIRST LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

W. Carpenter, 1071 votes ; J. Haddon, 991 ; J. Bowen, 876 ; E. Vandeleur, 780 ; T. B. Jeffery, 665 ; R. Whitehouse, 660 ; R. Russell, 620 ; J. Prichard, 619 ; S. U. Jones, 607 ; Dr. Jephson, 604 ; Owen White, 524 ; John Stanley, 513 ; Joseph Stanley, 492 ; J. Page, 486 ; T. G. Dundas, 462 ; Member for the Main Sewerage District, John White.

Mr. Carpenter was elected Chairman of the Board, who took over from the Commissioners a mortgage debt of £17,000, and assets estimated to be worth £12,000, in addition to about £1,200 in cash, still remaining of the railway money. At one of the early meetings the question of an official seal was considered, when a suggestion was made to the effect that it consist of the motto, "*Fama valetudo contingat abunde*," with a design in which the efficacy of the Leamington water should be personified by an artistic representation of the Goddess of Health, standing near the fountain and dispensing the life-giving and health-restoring cup to a decrepid sick recipient, with Canova's celebrated statue of Benevolence behind. Strange to say, the Board could discover neither poetry nor utility in this original and beautiful idea, and after much waste of time in unnecessary deliberations adopted a plain inscription informing the world that Leamington had a Local Board of Health.

It could hardly have been otherwise than that the new governing body should have had a course of smooth sailing for a few years, as in the immediate duties they had to discharge there was nothing to tax heavily the powers of men of ordinary business capacity, nor were there any reasons why a special opposition among the ratepayers should have to be encountered in the near future. Troubles, however, began to arrive in 1855, when the first Ratepayers' Association was formed, with the assistance of Messrs. R. A. Wallington and T. Muddeman, two active and prominent members of the Local Board ; and in 1864, when the second organization of the same kind, far more active and persistent in its

* There were 1,642 voting papers distributed, of which 312 were not returned, 315 were sent back blank, and 82 were spoilt. The actual number of papers correctly filled up was only 933.

attacks than the first, took the field; and increased in battalion order until 1868, at which time the Court of Chancery sequestered the whole of the town property, the result being, as Mr. Muddeman graphically phrased it, that "we were all frightened out of our wits." It is nothing more than what is due to say that in respect of many of these difficulties, the Local Board deserved and received the sympathy of the ratepayers; but one, for which there was no justification, was manufactured by themselves and maintained for years, in spite of the knowledge that it was a fruitful source of discontent. The practice of casting up the votes in secret, and refusing to permit candidates to be present, caused much heart-burning among those who had been unsuccessful as to the equality of the scrutiny to which the papers of friends and opponents had been subjected. Mr. W. Gascoyne added greatly to his popularity by abolishing the custom when he was elected Chairman.

It would be a serious error to suppose that because the Local Board was frequently in some difficulty or another, coming out of litigation or going into it, harassing others or being harassed by them, that therefore the public work of the town was neglected or badly done. At the demise of the Board, in 1875, Alderman S. T. Wackrill referred to it as "Illustrious," and the compliment was in every way deserved. In the short space of twenty-three years (1852 to 1875), the period of this form of government, there were several important advances made in the interest of Leamington, most of them costly, and some exceedingly complicated.

The first of these was the establishment of the Free Public Library, an institution now flourishing, and containing an extensive and valuable collection of books, much appreciated by the public, and certain in the future to be the subject of further developments and increased usefulness. On December 15, 1856, the Local Board, in compliance with a memorial signed by one hundred and twelve ratepayers, convened a public meeting at the Town Hall. The late Mr. T. Muddeman presided, and the Rev. Mr. Craig, vicar, after a speech sparkling with characteristic humour, proposed the adoption of the Free Libraries' Act, 1855, and Mr. A. Campbell having seconded the resolution, it was adopted by

ninety-four votes to twenty.* The original home of the Library was the Board Room at the Old Town Hall, and the committee to whose fostering care the young institution was entrusted were:—Messrs. Owen White (chairman), J. Davis, T. Muddeman, H. Bright, T. Page, H. Hackforth, J. Bowen, Joseph Stanley, T. Lane, and R. A. Wallington. The supply of books was necessarily small (estimated at from five hundred to a thousand volumes), and the accommodation far from being adequate. In 1858, it was removed to the premises at the south-west corner of Church Walk, formerly occupied by the Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank, and in the following year the borrowing of books commenced. The volumes for lending were stored in one small room on the ground floor, that on the first floor overhead being used for reading purposes. A second removal took place in 1873, when the ground floor of the Music Hall, Bath Street, was leased, and the institution was moved to that building. While occupying these premises, a beginning was made with a Reference Library, a Ladies' Reading Room was established, some gifts were received to form the nucleus of a museum, and a collection started of books for a juvenile department. The lease expiring in 1875, the Library was transferred to Denby Villa, Regent Grove, and in 1885 to the Town Hall, where, at the present time, it is accommodated with several rooms. Plans for a new building for the Library and a Technical School, to be erected on the site of Perkins's Garden, have been passed by the Council, and ere long the institution will have a home worthy of its work. The Lending and Reference Libraries contain over twenty thousand volumes, mostly standard books, and comprehending an endless variety of subjects. To Dr. T. W. Thursfield, who has filled the office of chairman for seventeen years, and who has been unceasing in his efforts to improve the institution, warm and lasting thanks are owing. Mr. D. B. Grant,

* * Before the proceedings closed, a vote of thanks to Mr. Richard Eve, for the valuable services he had rendered the Committee, appointed to promote the Adoption of the Free Libraries' Act, was carried nem. con. He was an articled clerk in Mr. Field's office, took great interest in public affairs, and was hon. secretary to the first Ratepayers' Association. While resident here, he was initiated into membership of the Guy's Lodge of Freemasons (No. 395, Leamington), a position he retained until his death in July, 1900, at the age of sixty-nine years, in addition to which he at one period was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge.

the Librarian for the past thirty-eight years, in the discharge of his duties has won the esteem of the Committee and all the frequenters of the Library.*

This forward movement into the domain of knowledge and mental recreation was immediately followed by another in which the public health and convenience were deeply concerned. From 1856 to 1859, the then officially beardless Board of Health were engaged in negotiations having for their object the improvement of the drainage and the prevention of floods, to which at that time Leamington was peculiarly liable. In the last-named year, Mr. A. S. Field, legal adviser to the Board, and Messrs. A. Alexander and Joseph Stanley, after encountering many difficulties, arranged terms with the landowners having interests in the land adjacent to the river, and at a cost of £20,000 the Leam from the Victoria Bridge to its confluence with the Avon was widened, straightened, and cleansed, an enlarged and sufficient drainage system being at the same time introduced. As indispensable parts of this work, the Board paid to Lord Warwick £2,676 for the right to remove the old mill and weir near the Manor House, Edmondscote, and to Mr. Matthew Wise, £2,075 for the land now forming the beautiful New River Walk and the site of the Pumping Station. In the sixties, the Board, in common with many other local authorities, were confronted with the great sewage problem. There were two methods then before the country of dealing with sewage—precipitation and irrigation. They chose the former, but the result was not satisfactory, and in consequence of the effluent water from the works fouling the Avon, the late Mr. Thomas Heath applied to Chancery for an injunction. Mr. Hitch-

* There are several names indissolubly associated with the Library by long or special service. In the early years of its history, the Rev. J. Hamilton Davies and Mr. J. Hugh Hawley were successful in raising the general standard of its merit by gradually introducing works greatly in advance of the original selections. The Reference Library, with its thousands of literary treasures, a priceless boon to Leamington, is principally the fruit of many years' unremitting toil by Alderman Dr. Thursfield. Alderman S. Flavel, as the hon. treasurer to the first School of Art, carried on in connection with the Free Library, materially assisted in preparing the way for the Technical Education movement of the present time, and the establishment of a separate department for musical works, a most valuable addition to the attractions of the Institution, was brought about entirely by the exertions of Councillor Overell.

man's sage advice, "the sewage to the land and the rainfall to the river," was unheeded, and in 1868 the Court of Chancery sequestrated the town property in consequence of the contumacy of the Board in regard to prohibitory orders issued; inhibited Mr. Summerfield, of Lloyd's bank, the treasurer, from paying any of the Board's cheques, and left the Board stranded high and dry, deprived of every shred of authority. At this juncture, Mr. H. C. Passman succeeded in the clerkship Mr. R. A. Wallington, who had resigned, and his first principal duty was to obtain a relaxation of the Sequestration Order. In this he was successful, and the new policy of irrigation having superseded the former scheme of deodorisation, satisfactory arrangements were concluded with Lord Warwick for the pumping of the sewage on to a farm of his at Heathcote. The application of the sewage to the land in this form relieved the town of all further litigation, and though the cost of the buildings, machinery, mains, etc., amounted to about £16,000, the advantages gained were quite equal to the outlay. However sadly the Board blundered over the sewage question in its first stages—and the most indulgent of its friends will not deny the failure—the members retrieved their credit in the purchase of the Pump Room property in 1868 for £15,000, and in the sanction they ultimately extended to Mr. Bright's valuable scheme for obtaining an artesian supply of fresh water. It was customary to speak of them in the heat of party strife as "the wooden-headed Board," but at this distance of time we are able to survey the whole of their work, and remembering the brevity of their tenure of office, their measures in number and importance compare favourably with those of their predecessors, the Commissioners, and their successors, the Corporation.

The fresh water question, just mentioned, was one of the most important events in the modern history of the town, and though the Local Board did not in the first instance take kindly to the artesian scheme of Mr. Bright, from time to time he succeeded, by indomitable perseverance, in obtaining majorities which led to the establishment of the present excellent works. Nothing had been done since 1832 by way of improving the quality of the supply; Mr. Oldham's works at the old Mill had been enlarged, and in substitution for the small iron tank on the roof of the

pumping house, capacious reservoirs on the Newbold Hills had been constructed. But the water was still taken from the river, passed through filtering beds in the Mill field, pumped up to the reservoirs, and from thence supplied to the town by gravitation. In, or about the year 1870, Dr. Frankland, one of the medical officers of the Local Government Board, made an analysis of the water, and published a report which practically amounted to a declaration that it was unfit for use. A statement so serious, and emanating from such a distinguished authority, was certain to inflict irreparable injury on the fortunes of the town, unless an effectual remedy was at once applied. Palliative measures, in the shape of extra filtration, were suggested in opposition to Mr. Bright's more practical plan of obtaining a supply from the strata beneath the town, the yield of which he was confident would prove to be sufficient for every need. The struggle at the Board for the adoption of this proposal was long and bitter. It was ridiculed as visionary and dangerous, to which were added objections insulting to ordinary intelligence. The liability of so disturbing the rocks as that the fresh water would find its way into the salt wells, with ruinous consequences to the Spa, was seriously urged by some, whose education should have preserved them from such delusions, and too readily accepted by many who never could have given the subject a moment's intelligent consideration. Not without great difficulty and much importunity, did Mr. Bright obtain a small grant of £100, for an experiment which was to decide whether the future of the town should be one of progress or decadence. But confronted as he was, more in the early than the later stages of the movement, by an opposition, irritating and obstructive rather than powerful, happily, at no time was he left wholly without support. From the first he had the loyal assistance of Mr. S. T. Wackrill, to the value of whose daily visits to the works during the long and anxious time they were in course of construction, careful observation, and checking of evils which, without his supervision, might have proved serious, he has paid a generous public acknowledgement. Constantly at his side also were Mr. Bishop, of the Regent Hotel, and Mr. Bradshaw, one of the early builders of Leamington, both enjoying the confidence of the ratepayers, and always giving him the encouragement of their

voices and the benefit of their votes, "and last but not least," to use Mr. Bright's own phrase, he had the co-operation of Mr. Harding, who was generally understood to have been sent to the Board to thwart the scheme, but like the prophet of old, bestowed his blessing on that which he had been commissioned to curse. It may be further mentioned that two out of the three newspapers then publishing in Leamington recognised in Mr. Bright's policy the only sensible and rational solution of the difficulty, and as was shown by the stubbornly contested election of 1872, when various forces were united to eject him from office, he had the approval of a substantial majority of the ratepayers, who placed him second on the list of the six successful candidates. The obstacles against which he had to contend were placed in his path by a minority of the Board, and it would be a reflection on the intelligence of Leamington to suppose that they represented the general feeling of the town as to the merits of his policy. They were sufficiently numerous to raise a clamour, to delay, and annoy, but for anything like a reversal of his desirable scheme, they were impotent.

In December, 1872, the first step for procuring fresh water from the strata beneath the town was taken by entering into a contract with Messrs. Docwra for a borehole near the pumping station at the end of the New River Walk. Owing to the presence, in small quantities, of saline water, the experiment proved a failure; but on a second search being made on the site of the existing works, his perseverance was rewarded by the discovery of a bountiful supply of wholesome water. Several years were spent in testing the quality and quantity of the yield, and both proving satisfactory, in 1877, Mr. Bright, who at the time was Mayor, the town having been incorporated, had the satisfaction of laying the foundation stone of the new works, on which appears the following inscription:—"This stone was laid by Henry Bright, Esq., Mayor, September 11th, 1877." The ceremony was accompanied with the customary signs of public rejoicing, and what was considered at the time to be specially appropriate to the occasion, and an encouraging augury of the success of the new water scheme—drenching showers of rain. Mr. Bright entertained a large number of the members of the Town Council, officials, and personal friends at luncheon on the conclusion of the proceedings.

The water was officially turned on by Mr. W. Harding, Mayor, on March 11, 1879, when there was another public demonstration, and a luncheon at the Regent Hotel. Of the Well it is sufficient to say that it has realised every expectation, for in the many years which have elapsed since Leamington first slaked its thirst at this spring, there has been no suspicion of contamination, and no poverty in the supply; in fact, so very successful has it proved to be that the Council have had no hesitation in providing for the growing needs of an increasing population, by constructing a second artesian well in the neighbouring parish of Lillington. The beautiful granite obelisk at the Parade end of the Holly Walk has an inscription which prominently expresses the public gratitude for a work of supreme importance to the health, comfort and prosperity of the Spa:—"Erected by public subscription to record the services of Alderman Henry Bright, to whose untiring exertions this town is chiefly indebted for its supply of pure water, 1880." Mr. Bright, by his unwearied exertions, his intelligence, and his undaunted courage, has placed his name in the first rank of the benefactors of Leamington. The contest in which he played the leading and principal part was obstinate, but his triumph over every kind of opposition was perfect and complete, and he has the proud satisfaction of knowing that the present and future generations will never pass a day without enjoying the benefit of his splendid and disinterested work.

To the geologist, the subjoined details of the several strata met with in the formation of the Well and the borehole will prove of special interest, affording as they do, ocular demonstration of arrangements which otherwise could never have been known:—

The total depth of the well is 112ft. 6 in., composed in the following order:—
 Made ground, 5ft.; red marl, 11ft.; grey sandstone, 1ft.; red marl, 4ft.; blue bind, 4ft. 6in.; brown sandstone, 1ft.; blue bind, 2ft. 6in.; red rock marl, 3ft.; grey sandstone, 3ft. 6in.; marl and stone mixed, 6in.; red marl, 1ft.; white sandstone, 1ft. 6in.; soft white sandstone, 2ft. 6in.; hard blue bind, 3in.; white sandstone, 5ft.; blue bind, 3in.; white sandstone, 2ft. 6in.; blue bind, 3 in.; white sandstone, 2ft. 6in.; blue bind, 3in.; white sandstone, 6ft.; blue bind, 3in.; brown sandstone, 5ft.; ditto, rather softer, 5ft.; red marl, 6in.; bluish sandstone, 1ft. 6in.; blue bind, 3in.; brown sandstone, 12ft.; streaky hard blue bind, 3in.; rag sandstone, 4ft.; white sandstone, 4ft.;

brown ditto, 2ft. ; raggy ditto, 1ft. ; grey rag sandstone, 3ft. ; white sandstone, 8ft. ; ditto, rather darker, 2ft. ; and grey ditto, 2ft.

The borehole, from the bottom of the well, descends to a depth of 100ft., through the following series of strata, specimens of which were carefully taken at the time for Alderman S. T. Wackrill, and with the foregoing, collected from the Well, are now in his possession :

White sandstone, 4ft. ; hard ditto, 8ft. ; white ditto, 4ft. ; hard white sandstone, 3ft. ; soft red marl, 1ft. ; hard marl with layers of sandstone, 7ft. ; very hard reddish stone, 10ft. ; ditto, yellow stone, 11ft. ; red marl, 1ft. 6in. ; hard sandstone, 6ft. ; ditto red marl, 2ft. 6in. ; reddish sandstone, 9ft. ; red marl, 6in. ; very hard stone, 5ft. ; red marl, 6in. ; sandstone, 3ft. ; soft red marl, 4ft. ; red sandstone, 10ft. 6in. ; red marl, 4in. ; and sandstone, 9ft. 2in.

The water is obtained from the Keuper sandstone, on which the north part, or new town, of Leamington stands. It extends over an area of about five square miles, and provides an inexhaustible supply, the available yield, according to present arrangements, being estimated at not less than a million gallons per diem. Professor Tidy and other eminent authorities have pronounced it a wholesome water, and generally of excellent quality. The contractors for the wells and boreholes were Messrs. King & Co., of Hull : and for the machinery, Messrs. Powis & Co., of Milwall. The total cost of the works was over £30,000. The smaller well recently constructed at Lillington has proved a success, both as regards the quality of the water and the amount of the supply.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Charter of Incorporation, how and when obtained—public meetings, memorials for and against, official enquiry by Major Donelly, R.E.—election of first Town Council, first Mayor and list of Mayors to 1902—the new Town Hall—establishment of the Borough Bench and appointments of Magistrates—the Winter Garden scheme—agitation and abolition of the Pump Room Gardens' "Penny Tax"—preservation of a famous rural footpath—the York promenade—acquisition of the Jephson Gardens, etc.

THE desirability of applying to the Queen in Council for a Charter of Incorporation was a subject which had occupied the attention of the town for many years, and while the water question had been sluggishly passing through its several phases, the project was brought forward for the third time. As far back as 1855, a period only three years after the establishment of the Local Board, incorporation was in the air, and in 1858, a petition to the Privy Council was prepared, with the approval of upwards of forty of the most influential inhabitants, including Drs. Jephson and Jeaffreson, and Messrs. H. Bright, J. Glover, Joseph Stanley, J. Haddon, and T. Muddeman. Public opinion, however, seems to have been in an unsettled state, for Dr. Jephson withdrew his signature, and Mr. Muddeman, who had been a warm supporter of the movement, advised that no further steps be taken, as the majority of the ratepayers were opposed to the scheme. In October, 1872, the subject, which had never been wholly absent from the public mind, was revived, and at the request of a number of progressive ratepayers, the late Mr. David Johnson readily obtained fifty-six signatures to a requisition, asking the Local Board to convene a town's meeting for the discussion of the proposal. Of those who, on this and the former occasion, thus played their part so well on the civic Runnymede of our local history, the following are (1902) still living, namely—Aldermen S. T. Wackrill, H. Bright, Dr. T. W. Thursfield, and Messrs.

J. Glover, H. Horncastle, Peter Spicer, F. White, J. Hawkes, W. Andrew, G. Smith and T. Welch. The memorial was presented, and on the motion of Mr. H. Bright, seconded by Mr. Lyas Bishop, the Chairman, Mr. Philip Locke, was requested to convene the meeting. In due course this was held in the old Town Hall, the Rev. Mr. Craig (vicar) presiding, and after an animated discussion, it was decided to appoint a committee to enquire into the whole subject and report. At the first meeting of the committee Mr. Wackrill was elected chairman, Mr. W. Overell legal adviser, and Mr. J. Tom Burgess secretary. A meeting of the ratepayers was held in the Public Hall in the month of December following, and the committee made public the results of their labours. After an extensive and careful investigation, they reported in favour of a Charter being obtained, and the majority approving of the conclusions at which they had arrived, steps were taken to give practical effect to the decision. The prospect of success, owing to the opposition of Milverton and Lillington, was by no means assured, and the effect of the certainty of the committee having to pay heavy costs, amounting to several hundred pounds in case of failure, was seen in a decrease in the attendance of members, and temporary lack of enthusiasm in the project. What the ultimate result would have been, had not Mr. Wackrill generously taken upon himself the whole cost in the event of the Charter not being granted, it is impossible to say, but the probabilities are that Leamington to-day would still have been under the management of the Local Board, and have been lacking in all the dignity and prestige which belong to a Corporation.

The outcome of the memorial to the Privy Council and two counter petitions from Milverton and Lillington, was an official enquiry, held by Major Donnelly, R.E., at the Public Hall, in October, 1874, at which Mr. Motteram and Mr. Gaches (instructed by Mr. W. Overell) were counsel for the incorporation promoters, and Mr. J. Stratford Dugdale (instructed by Mr. A. S. Field) for the opposing parishes. The proceedings lasted three days, a large number of witnesses being called for and against the proposal. With regard to the question of opinion, the strength of the opposition to the Charter was as two to one, but on matters of

fact the supremacy was decidedly on the side of the promoters. Frequent remarks by the Commissioner proved that the community of interest existing between the three parishes was clearly recognised by him.

In February, 1875, the Privy Council decided to grant the Charter for Leamington without including Milverton and Lillington. The Charter itself, the object of so many agitations during the previous twenty years, created Leamington a borough, and gave it all the powers, authorities, immunities, and privileges enjoyed by the Municipal Corporations of England and Wales. It directed that the Corporation should consist of a Mayor, six Aldermen, and eighteen Councillors. The first Burgess List was to be prepared by Mr. William Overell and Mr. Albert Overell, revised by Mr. Louis Gaches, or Mr. H. Eardley Wilmot, Barrister-at-Law, and the Returning Officers appointed for the first election were Mr. John Watkin or Mr. Samuel Thomas Wackrill. In the case of any two of these gentlemen, each of whom is described as "our trusty and well-beloved," being unable to discharge the duties assigned to them, the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the time being was empowered to appoint someone in their place. Power was given the Corporation to purchase "lands, tenements, hereditaments, and all other possessions whatsoever to the value of three thousand pounds by the year." The first revision of the Burgess List was made by Mr. Gaches at the Town Hall early in June, and on July 2, the following, out of sixty-one candidates, were elected

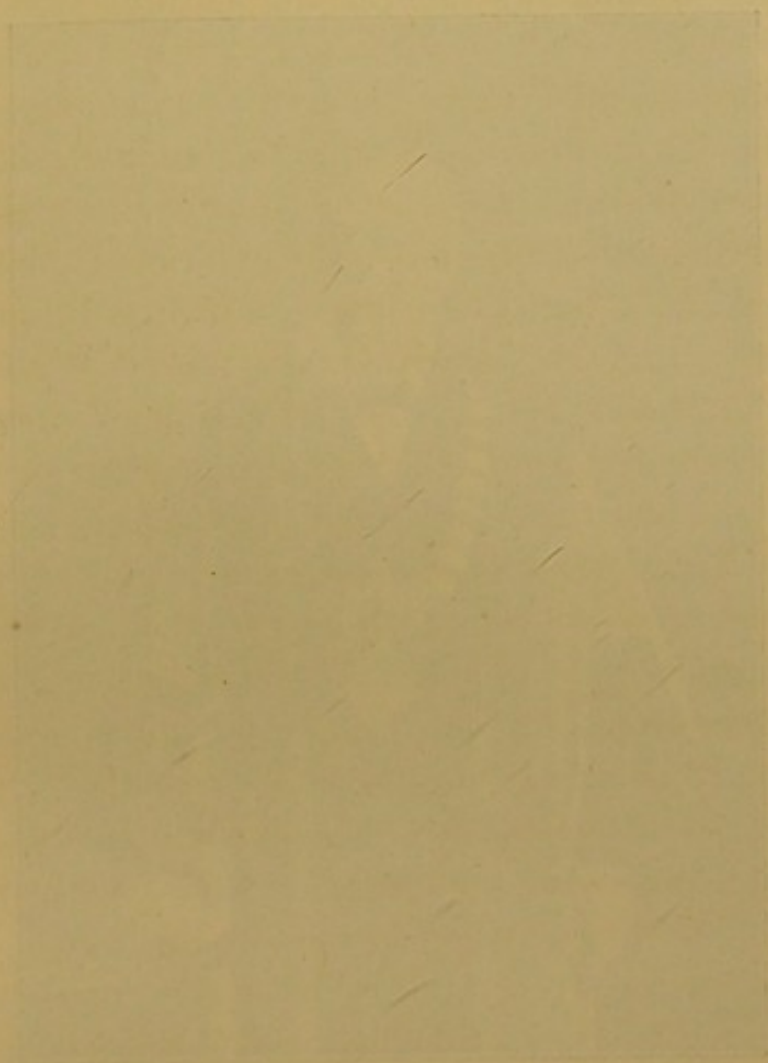
THE FIRST TOWN COUNCIL FOR LEAMINGTON.

South-East Ward.—J. Bloor, 419; B. Bradshaw, 369; W. Harding, 283; J. Staite, 259; J. Watson, 246; J. E. M. Vincent, 217. (17 candidates.)

West Ward.—S. T. Wackrill, 406; W. Gascoyne, 378; Lyas Bishop, 314; G. Wamsley, 297; J. Bowen, 278; T. Muddeman, 269. (25 candidates.)

North-East Ward.—H. Bright, 344; J. Devis, 316; G. Eyres, 305; W. Colley, 300; H. Davis, 269; J. Lewis, 256. (19 candidates.)

At the first meeting of the newly constituted Corporation, held in the old Town Hall, on July 12, Messrs. Wackrill, Bright, Bradshaw, Gascoyne, Bloor and Devis, were elected Aldermen, and the vacancies thus created were filled by the return of the following at an election held on the 24th:—North-East Ward: W. Brown, 360; T. de Carle Jackson, 318. West Ward: P. Locke, 376; W. Overell, 327. South-East Ward: R. L. Francis, 367; S. Flavel, jun., 356.



THE
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AND
ZOOLOGY
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
1871



From a photo. by Bullock Bros.,]

[Parade, Leamington Spa.

ALDERMAN S. T. WACKRILL, J.P.,

First Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, and Father of the Corporation.

Elected 1875—1875-6, 1885-6, 1886-7.

The chief event of the meeting of the Corporation on the 12th was the choice of Mayor, and it was in this selection that the interest of the public was most deeply concerned. Alderman S. T. Wackrill was unanimously elected, and as subsequent events proved, no better appointment could have been made. His known business aptitude, his arduous exertions to introduce the form of government now established, his popularity and wide-spread influence, were so many guarantees that the duties would be discharged vigorously and efficiently. These anticipations were so abundantly realised that, at the first annual meeting on the 9th November following, the Council readily and unanimously re-elected him to office, every speaker bearing testimony to his industry, intelligence, and impartiality. His hospitality was dispensed on a scale of magnificence in every way worthy the event and the festive annals of the Spa. In October, over a hundred of the leading burgesses were his guests at a sumptuous banquet at the Regent Hotel, and while thus "feasting the rich," he "ne'er forgot the poor," for in March, 1876, several thousands of the inhabitants were generously entertained in the Public Hall at most enjoyable concerts, organised by the late Mr. Richard Ward and the members of the Philharmonic Society; and Mr. H. A. Heden, who had specially engaged for the purpose a high-class band. Refreshments, of which there was no stint, were provided.

LIST OF MAYORS.

The Mayors, and the order of their elections since the Incorporation of the town, are:—Alderman Samuel Thomas Wackrill; 1875, ditto; 1875-6: Alderman Henry Bright; 1876-7: Alderman William Harding; 1877-8, ditto; 1878-9: Alderman Thomas Muddeman; 1879-80: Alderman H. Bright; 1880-1, ditto; 1881-2: Alderman W. Harding; 1882-3: Alderman Sidney Flavel; 1883-4, ditto; 1884-5: Alderman S. T. Wackrill; 1885-6, ditto; 1886-7: Councillor John Fell; 1887-8: Alderman S. Flavel; 1888-9: Councillor J. Fell; 1889-90: Alderman Joseph Hinks; 1890-1: Councillor John Doherty Barbour; 1891-2: Alderman J. Hinks; 1892-3: Alderman S. Flavel; 1893-4: Alderman Thomas William Thursfield; 1894-5, ditto; 1895-6, ditto; 1896-7: Councillor Gordon Lyon Bland; 1897-8, ditto; 1898-9: Councillor James Murray Molesworth; 1899-1900: Alderman Wm. Davis; 1900-1, ditto; 1901-2.

A short statement of the work of the Council forms a necessary part of the present portion of this history. The desirability of providing a new Town Hall having been considered and

reconsidered for more than twenty years, now assumed greater importance and urgency in consequence of the municipal dignity which had been obtained. In 1857, an effort was made to supply the want by two projects, neither of which was acceptable to the ratepayers. One was the purchase of the Public Hall in Windsor Street, and the other the acquisition of the premises in Lower Bedford Street, originally belonging to the Bedford Hotel, and in recent years used as the Leamington Bicycle Works. Both these schemes were rejected, and the proposal remained in abeyance until 1875, when it was revived by Alderman Wackrill, moving, at the annual meeting of the Council, the appointment of a committee to consider the question of a site. The resolution was carried, and for several years what was known as the "Battle of the Sites" kept the town in constant agitation. One party was strongly in favour of the Pump Room Gardens, for which plans were prepared; the other, and the more powerful of the two, selecting the land near the Regent Hotel, on which the Hall now stands. It was erected by Mr. John Fell, to whom Leamington owes much for the vigour of its modern forward policy; for several of its principal public buildings; for the leading position it holds in regard to healthy athletic recreation and technical education. The late Mr. John Cundall, A.R.I.B.A., furnished the plans and design, to the artistic effect and success of which the structure itself bears sufficient testimony. The elevation, a hundred and fifty feet in length, and rising in the centre to a height of seventy, is very fine. On the ground floor are offices for the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor, and rooms for the Lending and Reference Libraries. A wide and noble staircase leads to the corridor in the upper story, at the south end of which is a lofty and well-proportioned Council Chamber, and adjoining it is the Mayor's Parlour, comfortably and elegantly furnished. In the Council Chamber are two beautiful stained glass windows, one—the gift of Alderman Flavel during his first Mayoralty—being filled in with Shakesperean subjects, the other containing the names of several of the Mayors and their mottoes. At the north end is the Assembly Room, capable of seating between seven and eight hundred people. The offices of Mr. C. E. Wildman, Borough Treasurer and Assistant Overseer, are on this floor, and in the room above

temporary provision is made for the School of Art. The tower at the south end rises to a height of one hundred and thirty feet, and is furnished with a valuable public clock, the gift of Alderman H. Bright. Its special merits are—(1) a gravity escapement which secures equal action whether the weight be heavy or light; (2) a pendulum absolutely compensated, whereby accurate time is obtained in all varieties of temperature; and (3) an electrical arrangement for instantaneously registering, on the dials in the offices throughout the building, the time recorded by the parent clock. The foundation-stone was laid by Alderman Bright, at the time Mayor, on October 17, 1882, in commemoration of which it is inscribed: "This stone was laid by Alderman Henry Bright, J.P., Mayor of Leamington, October 17, 1882;" and the event is further preserved in terms expressed on a beautiful silver trowel presented to him by the Corporation, and on a parchment, containing also a list of the members of the Town Council at the time, deposited in a sealed bottle with a number of coins of the realm, and placed in its cavity. On the conclusion of the ceremony, Mr. Bright entertained a large company at luncheon at the Regent Hotel. The official inauguration took place on September 18, 1884, and was performed by Mr. Councillor Sidney Flavel, then filling his first year of office as Mayor, to whom was given a valuable gold key, artistically engraved with the subjoined historic statement: "Presented to Sidney Flavel, Esq., junior, Mayor, on the occasion of his opening the New Town Hall, 1884." Mr. Flavel gave a luncheon in the Town Hall at the conclusion of the proceedings, and in the evening a fancy dress ball at which upwards of six hundred invited guests were present. For the land, buildings, fittings, and furniture, the total expenditure was upwards of £20,000.

In 1876, the year following the decision to proceed with the building of the new Town Hall, the Council had under consideration the advisability of applying for a separate Commission of the Peace for the borough. The feeling was general that the status conferred by the Charter included the right of this additional honour, and at a meeting on January 11, a motion authorising Mr. H. C. Passman, the Town Clerk, to make such application was proposed by Alderman Gascoyne, seconded by Councillor

Sidney Flavel, junior, and carried by eighteen votes to three. The request was granted, and the same year the local jurisdiction of the County Justices, which had been in force from a time "whereof the memory of man goeth not to the contrary," ceased. On August 10, Borough Justices were appointed, and the new Petty Sessional Court sat for the first time on October 18, 1876, at the old Town Hall in High Street. Mr. Passman was appointed Clerk to the Bench, and subsequently the sub-clerkship was given by him to Mr. A. Turner. Several additions have since been made to the original appointments, particulars of which are furnished in the subjoined roll of

THE BOROUGH MAGISTRATES.

1876: Samuel Thomas Wackrill (Mayor), William Willes, Matthew Lyon, Thomas Henry Thorne, John Ford, Thomas Muddeman, Joseph Glover, Richard Jones, William Harding, John Bowen, Sidney Flavel, jun., Charles William Marriott, Lieut.-Col. James Ashton, John Johnson Bradshaw, and Major Joseph Ernest Edlmann. 1881: Henry Bright, Colonel William Blackburne, Thomas William Thursfield, M.D., Samuel Harwood, William Marjoribanks, John Massie, and Richard Spraggett. 1887: Colonel John Machen, Surgeon-Major George Allen Hutton, Michael Grazebrook and John Fell. 1890: Joseph Wood, Frederick Harry Haynes, M.D., and Frederic Augustus Muntz. 1891: William Chadwick Grimsdick and Joseph Hinks. 1894: Charles Richard Burgis, Frederick William Francis, and George Norris. 1897: John Bennett, Thomas Salmon Harvey, Thomas Latham, and Robert Eardley-Wilmot, M.B.

During the twenty-seven years which have elapsed since the town was incorporated, the work of the Council has been carried forward with remarkable energy; but in two instances have its aspirations failed in realisation. These were—the proposal in 1876 to provide a Winter Garden, a scheme advocated by Dr. W. B. Richardson in 1865, in the "Medical Times and Gazette," as the one thing wanted to complete the arrangements of Leamington; and the effort made in 1879 to obtain for Leamington, Milverton, and Lillington independent Parliamentary representation. It is superfluous to say that in neither of these cases could the Council be blamed for the negative results of much hard and earnest labour on their part.

The opening of the Pump Room Gardens to the public free of payment for admission, is distinctly an honour standing to the

credit of the new form of government established by the Charter. After the purchase of the property by the Local Board of Health, in 1868, a demand to that effect became a popular cry, and soon found expression in a numerously-signed memorial to the Board, forwarded by Mr. W. Colley, one of the originators of the movement. In 1871, the subject was introduced into the election, and in 1873, Mr. Bright proposed, Mr. G. Eyres seconded, and Mr. B. Bradshaw supported, a motion for granting the burgesses the untaxed enjoyment of their own property. The resolution was rejected by eight votes to three, and a demonstration by the working classes followed against the obnoxious restrictions in force; Messrs. H. Taylor, H. Duckett, T. Wager, and other prominent Trades Unionist leaders, proceeding from the Mill down the river in a boat, from which addresses, forbidden in the ground, were delivered to an applauding crowd of listeners who lined the bank. Had it not been for the Charter, it is doubtful if these gardens would have been free to the burgesses even at this day, for so far as regards an absence of active sympathy with popular measures, the Local Board of Health were very slightly in advance of the old Board of Commissioners, from whom they inherited many old-fashion notions and some prejudices. With the Charter there came an entire change of view in this particular; the majority of the members were men more immediately in touch with advanced public feeling and sentiment, and therefore it was that when Alderman Wackrill in 1877 submitted a proposition for abolishing the "odious penny tax" and making the gardens free, his motion was welcomed by the whole Council, and adopted without a dissentient vote.

But the victory thus won was not finally assured until 1889, at which time the Pump Room Committee instructed the Surveyor to enclose with unclimbable iron hurdles that portion of the gardens extending from the main east walk to a line drawn across the grass plot from north to south, twenty yards west of the kiosk, and recommended that the Town Improvement Association should be empowered to charge a penny a head for admission into such enclosure during the band performances; children, unless under proper control, to be excluded at all times from the portion of the ground so enclosed. It was explained by

Mr. Passman, the Town Clerk, that such a regulation would be illegal, as the motion of Alderman Wackrill adopted in 1877 had not been rescinded; and after Alderman Wackrill and Councillor Fell had expressed their opposition to the proposed change, Alderman Bright moved and Councillor Waring seconded the elimination of the Clause from the Committee's report. In spite of the Clerk's opinion, the Council adopted the retrogressive report by eight votes to four; but it was not a largely attended meeting, and of those present there were four who abstained from voting. At the July meeting of the Council, Alderman Wackrill's motion of 1877 was rescinded, on the proposal of Alderman Dr. Eardley-Wilmot, seconded by Councillor A. Johnson. In the meantime the opposition to the "penny tax" among the burgesses had broken out afresh, and was, what it had never been before, defiant. Mr. C. Purser (now Councillor Purser) successfully insisted on his right to the free use of the gardens when the band was playing, and the late Mr. George Wamsley also rendered good service outside the Council. A public indignation meeting was held in the new Town Hall on the 19th, at which a resolution, moved by Mr. Purser and seconded by Mr. Rayner, protesting against the re-imposition of any charge for admission, was enthusiastically adopted, and in a few days the Pump Room Committee, assailed from without, and feebly supported within the Council, capitulated, and consented to terms satisfactory to all. By the new arrangement the free use of the grounds was preserved, a charge of one penny for the use of the chairs being substituted for the payment of the same sum for admission; and it was agreed that the band should have the privilege of making collections. Such were the final terms of settlement of a contest which had been carried on for twenty-one years with alternations of successes and defeats, and with which, in the thirteen years that have since elapsed, neither the public nor the Council have shown any signs of dissatisfaction.

While thus conceding the right of the burgesses to the enjoyment of their own property without taxation other than that imposed by the rates, the Council have not been indolent in the discharge of the kindred duty devolving on them of maintaining intact for public uses the beautiful rural walks outside the

borough. In 1878 the Urban Sanitary authority of Lillington and the Surveyors of Highways for Cubbington endeavoured to close the footpath leading from the Red House farm, past that aviary of wild birds, the Rungles, into the turnpike between Cubbington and Offchurch. This path, famous from time immemorial for its charming woodland and pastoral scenery, and the opportunities it affords for the study of bird life and the collection of wild plants and flowers, being wholly within the two parishes named, the approval by both of the projected stoppage rendered an opposition by private individuals doubtful of success. On the attention of the Council being called to the matter by the late Councillor J. S. Salmon, Alderman Bright moved and Alderman Devis seconded that Mr. Passman take immediate steps "in the interests of the inhabitants of Leamington" to oppose the contemplated application to the Court of County Quarter Sessions for the necessary order. The proposition was unanimously adopted, and, being informed of this decision, Lillington and Cubbington took no further steps, although the usual notices had been issued. It is, therefore, to the Leamington Town Council the public are indebted for the preservation from enclosure of a walk with which Nathaniel Hawthorne must have been familiar, and which he probably had in his mind when he wrote in "Our Old Home" that the English scenery round Leamington was such as Tennyson had immortalised in his idylls and eclogues.

Our references to the remaining work of the Council, and to those other public improvements, in the introduction of which it has either rendered assistance or granted permission, must necessarily be very brief. In 1879, an ineffectual effort was made to obtain a Parliamentary seat for Leamington, Milverton, and Lillington, and in 1881, the Tramway was established. The proposal to extend the boundaries was brought forward in 1882, and though, in 1883, it was defeated for the second time, it was carried by a Local Act in 1890, from which date, Leamington and the urban parts of Milverton and Lillington became one authority for Municipal purposes. The foundation stone of the new Joint Hospital at Heathcote for Contagious Diseases was placed in its position under circumstances and at a time described

in the inscription it bears: "This stone was laid by Alderman S. T. Wackrill, Mayor of Leamington, and Chairman of the Warwick Joint Hospital Board, November 7th, 1887," and it was officially opened by him on May 29, 1889. The installation of the Electric Light took place in 1887. A great improvement in the Adelaide Road was effected in 1891, by removing the old bridge and substituting the present ornamental structure, the inauguration of which is thus described on the memorial stone:—"This bridge, having been rebuilt, was opened by the Mayor, Councillor J. Hinks, J.P., August 13th, 1891, W. de Normanville, Engineer," and in commemoration of the marriage of H.R.H. the Duke of York and H.R.H. Princess May, two years afterwards, the many beautiful walks in Leamington were increased by the addition of the York Promenade, and the Pump Room Gardens improved by the building of the York Bridge, on the memorial stone of which is the following inscription: "This bridge and Promenade were opened by Alderman J. Hinks, J.P., Mayor, July 6th, 1893. W. de Normanville, Engineer." Under the Leamington Corporation Act, 1896, an ineffectual effort was made in 1899, on the motion of Alderman Wackrill, for acquiring the Gas Works. The statute under which this decisive step was taken was introduced by Alderman Dr. T. W. Thursfield, in 1895, and passed in the following year. By its provisions the Council obtained enlarged sanitary powers and authority to grant subsidies out of the rates for providing free music for the public; an object urgently needed in the interest of the town, and now that it is obtained, much valued by visitors and residents. Since the passing of the Act the Spa has been rendered more attractive by free concerts almost daily either in the Pump Rooms or the adjoining Gardens, given by an excellent band provided by Mr. C. S. Birch, Musical Director. While the Bill was under the consideration of the Corporation, a suggestion by Mr. Councillor J. Heath Stubbs, Chairman of the Parks' and Gardens' Committee, affected the Jephson Gardens and led to their becoming the property of the town. His proposal that the acquisition of the Gardens should be one of the objects of the Bill, was accepted, and a guarantee being given by the insertion of a clause that the name of Jephson shall never be changed, all

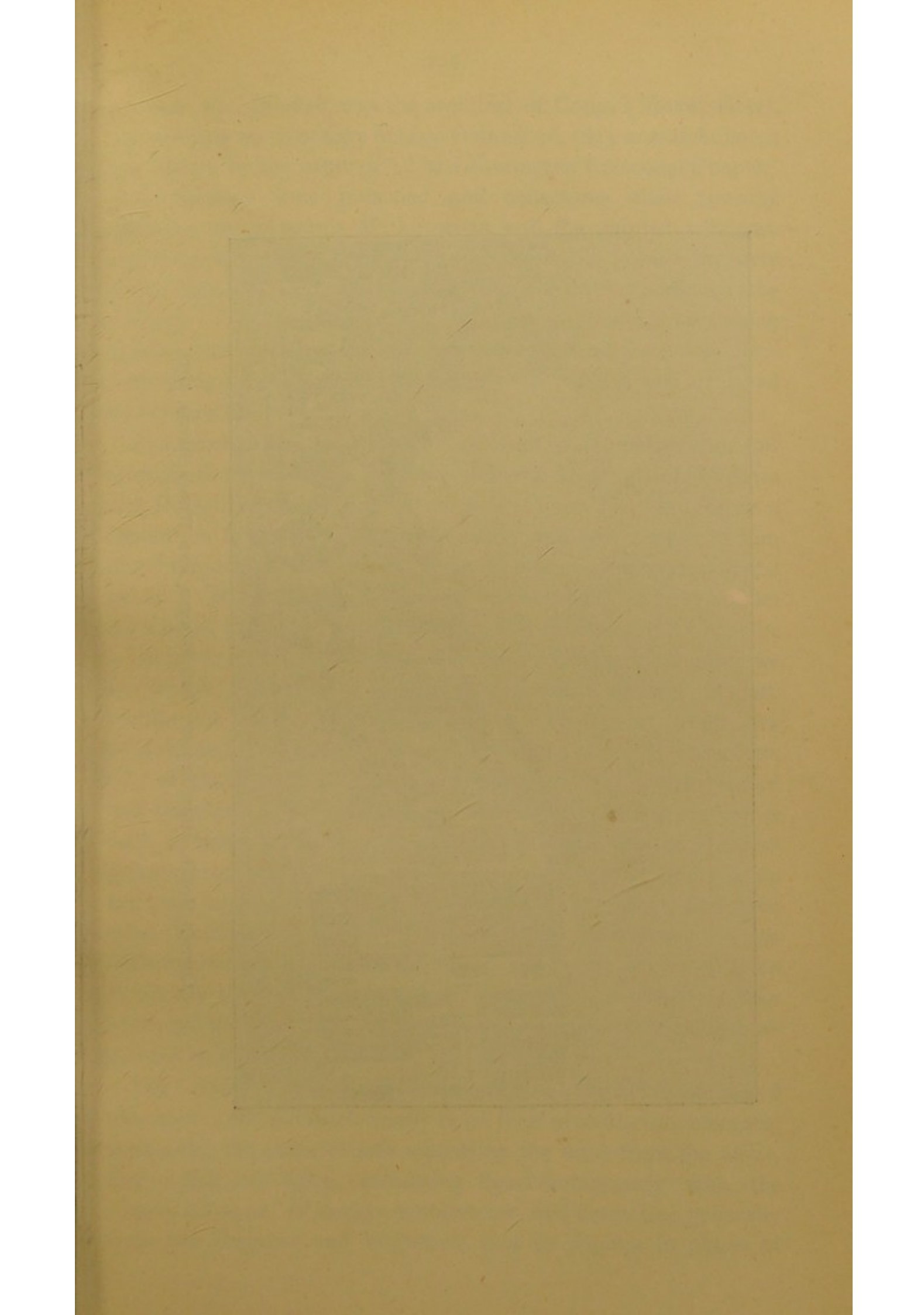
opposition on the part of the Trustees was withdrawn, and a boon of inestimable value was secured in the free enjoyment of which the poor share equally with the rich. In 1897, the Victoria Park, consisting of twenty-one acres, was purchased for a sum of £7,600, and £3,000 were spent in laying out the ground for ornamental purposes. This great step forward in the work of beautifying the town and increasing its attractions and pleasures, was mainly brought about by the energy and persistent advocacy of Alderman Dr. Thursfield, who, as Mayor, officially opened the Park on the Diamond Jubilee Day of the Queen's reign in the presence of many thousands of residents. Further provisions for the inhabitants of a similar nature were made in 1898, by the acquisition of the Eagle Recreation Grounds, five acres in extent, at an expenditure of £1,300, with an additional £500 for improvements, and the buying of the Mill property, of eight acres and a half, in 1899, for £4,085, the desirability of acquiring the last named estate having been first urged on the attention of the Corporation by Councillor J. Fell. Including the thirteen acres contained in the Jephson Gardens, the Council have, within the past few years, obtained nearly fifty acres of free pleasure grounds for the public. To these assets of municipal enterprise must be added the decision to erect extensive buildings for the Public Library and the Technical and Art Schools, at an outlay of £17,700, including cost of site; the increase of the rateable value of the borough from £129,918 in 1890, to £173,395 in 1899; the decrease of the death rate from 18·3 in 1888, to 15·4 in 1899, and the zymotic mortality in the same period from 1·6 to 0·2; and also the commencement of a Freeman's Roll, on which appear the names of Lord Leigh and Alderman S. T. Wackrill, the latter of whom selected the borough motto, "*Sola bona quæ honesta*" ("Those things alone are good which are honourable"), and gave to the town the costly mayoral chain and official robes. Viewing the whole of these events, none can say the Corporation has proved a failure, nor that its policy and services have been feeble, or fruitless in yielding a new harvest of material, physical, and recreative advantages for the borough.

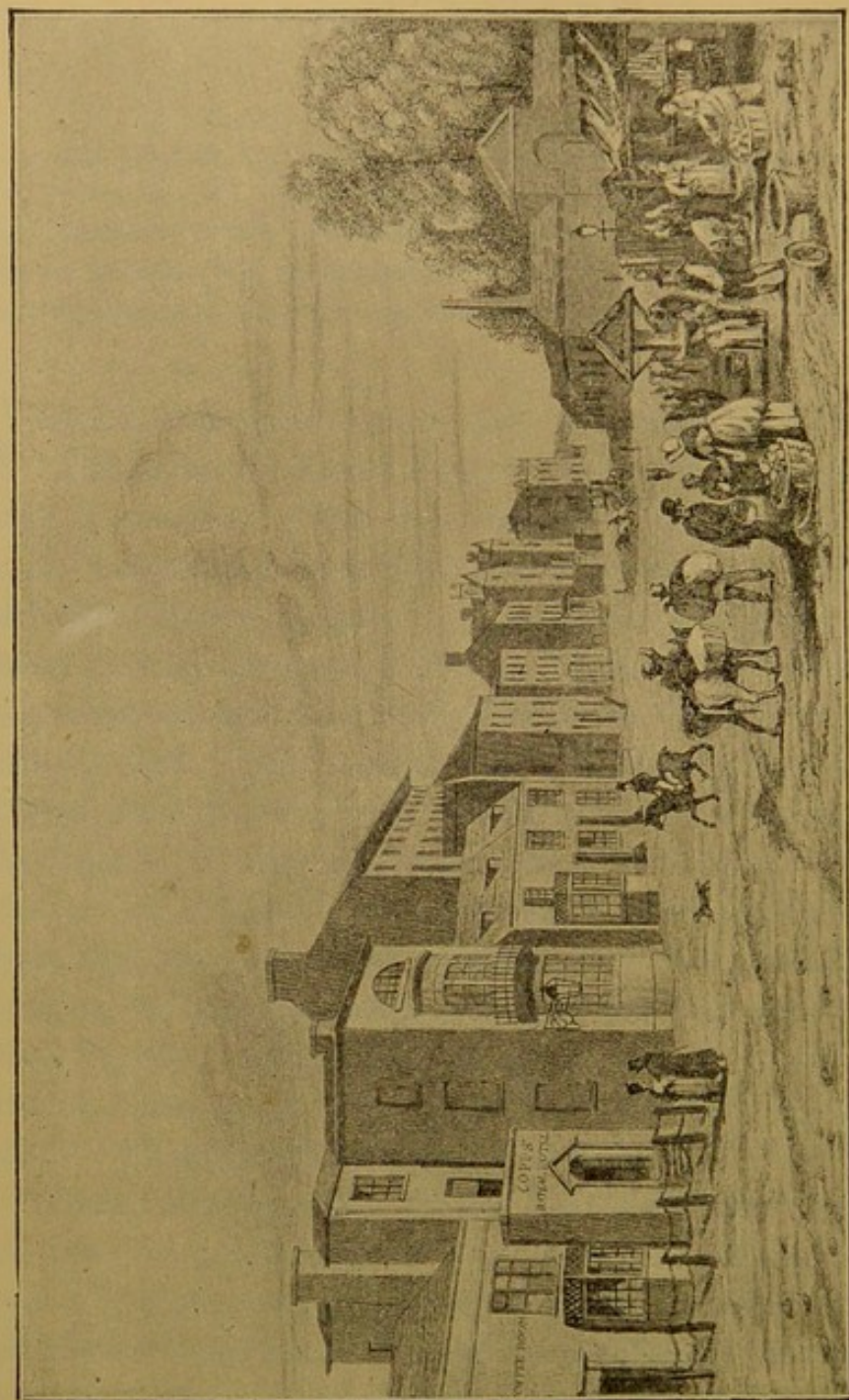
CHAPTER XVIII.

Origin and building of Christ Church—description of its architecture—generosity of Mr. Willes and Mr. Greathead—opposition to sale of tickets for admission to services—action by Parish Committee—list of Incumbents and biographical notices—an ejected Minister and Congregation—purchase by Mr. T. B. Dale—names of trustees—restricted by Trust Deed to Evangelical purposes.

N EARLY a year before the resolution was formed for enlarging All Saints a second time, the decision to build a church in the New Town was adopted. On August 6, 1823, a special Vestry was held at the Parish Church—Mr. John Campion presiding—for the purpose of considering the question of the existing church accommodation in Leamington. Unanimously, it was resolved that this being totally inadequate, a new chapel should be built. Mr. Willes, who was present, and at the time was High Sheriff of the county, then proposed to build “a chapel of the Church of England under license to be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese.” His generosity was accepted with warm thanks, and Mr. Greathead supplemented the munificent gift by presenting the land necessary to extend the road from the “top of Union Parade” (the point where it formed a junction with Warwick Street) “to the site fixed upon for the erection of the chapel.” Thanks, equally sincere as those which had been voted Mr. Willes, were returned by the Vestry for the local improvement thus to be effected in the principal thoroughfare of the town.* The site was happily chosen, the position being on the south side of Beauchamp Square, the front commanding a view of the whole length of the Parade, and the Church itself standing out prominently from all the surrounding buildings. It was completed in 1825, from designs furnished by Mr. Robinson, of

* The land, 200 yards in length and 60 feet wide, forms the part of the Parade between Warwick Street and the Church. The houses on the east side were originally named “Lansdowne Place,” and those on the west “York Terrace.”





COPPS'S HOTEL, HIGH STREET, THE MARKET, AND WISE'S BATHS, 1822.

London, who, in 1826, was the architect of Copps's Royal Hotel. The opening services were held on October 16, 1825, at which time it was known by the name of "The Leamington Episcopal Chapel." Two sermons were preached and collections made towards defraying the expenses of the organ and the painted windows. The Church, erected by Mr. Willes, became the private property of the Rev. Mr. Downes, who, with his curate, conducted the services. The novelty of charging for admission, for which tickets were sold, was introduced and continued until the Rev. John Craig succeeded Mr. Downes in 1839, when it was abolished by his direction.

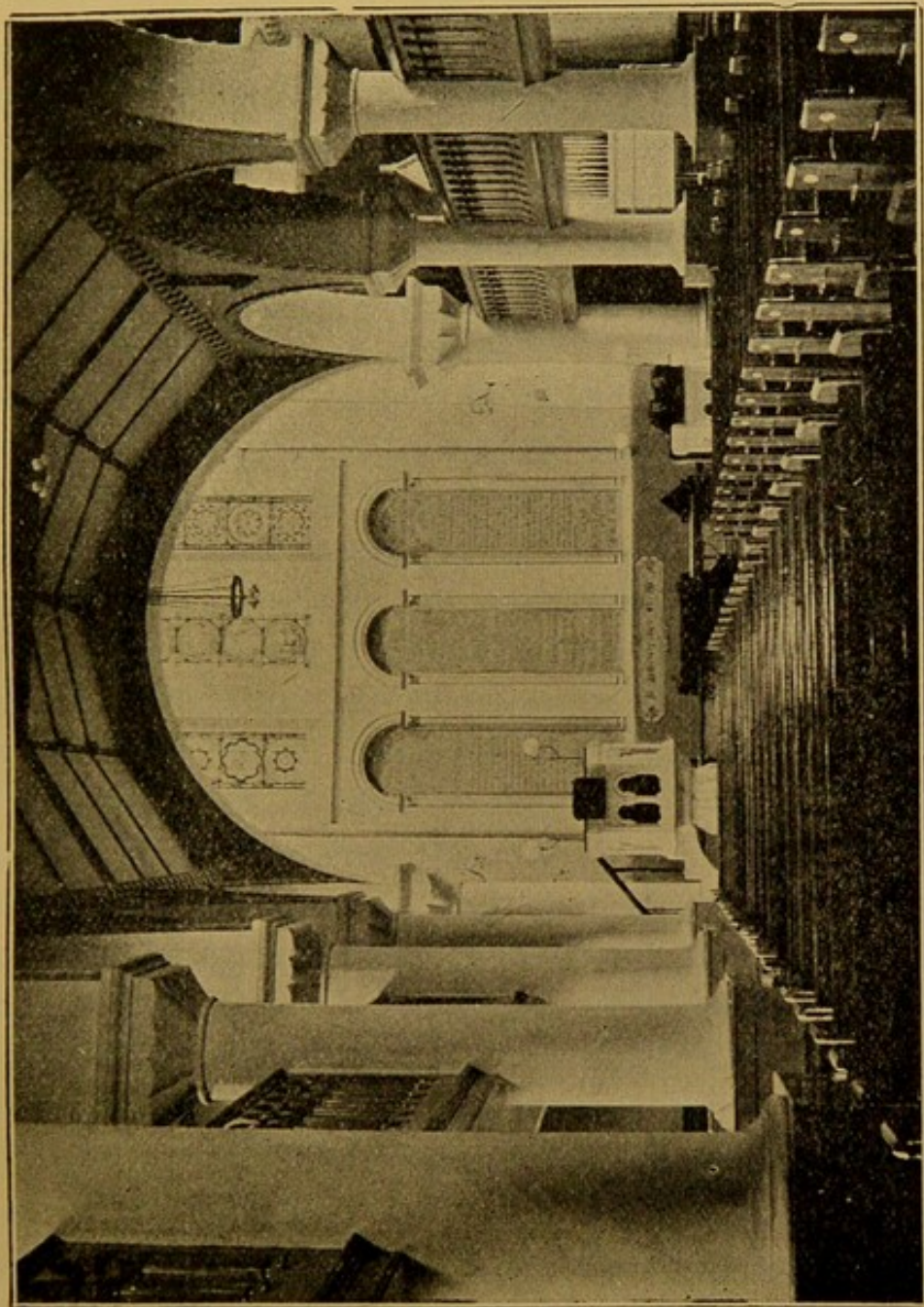
The practice had long been the subject of animadversion, and as early as 1831, Messrs. Robbins, Stanley, Smart, Bird, Oldham and Russell, of Wise Street, had waited upon Mr. Downes, as a deputation from the Parish Committee, and represented to him that "the mode of receiving contributions is objectionable to the public." His answer was "that he had no objection to sell or let the Chapel to the Parish, the Patron first declining, to whom he is bound to offer it in the first instance." The original tariff we are unable to give, but in 1837, the reduced charges to each service for casual attendants were:—"Tickets to admit five persons, 2s.; four ditto, 1s. 6d.; three ditto, 1s.; single admission, 6d.; servants, 3d." In Merridew's Guide for 1837, it is explained that the object of the proprietor in levying this trifling impost, is "not so much emolument to himself as to protect the right of private property in the chapel, and to protect the congregation from the interruption of persons standing in the aisles, and from other inconveniences to which they would be exposed by the indiscriminate admission of the public. Servants are not allowed to occupy the free seats, which are reserved for the resident poor of the parish only; and the pew openers have orders to remove all persons so intruding."

The style of the architecture of the Church has raised objections; the pillars (formerly twice their present circumference) supporting the galleries and separating the nave from the aisles, obstructing the light, contrasting disadvantageously with the "reedy columns" of modern architecture, and detracting generally from the elegance and brightness now so popular in places of

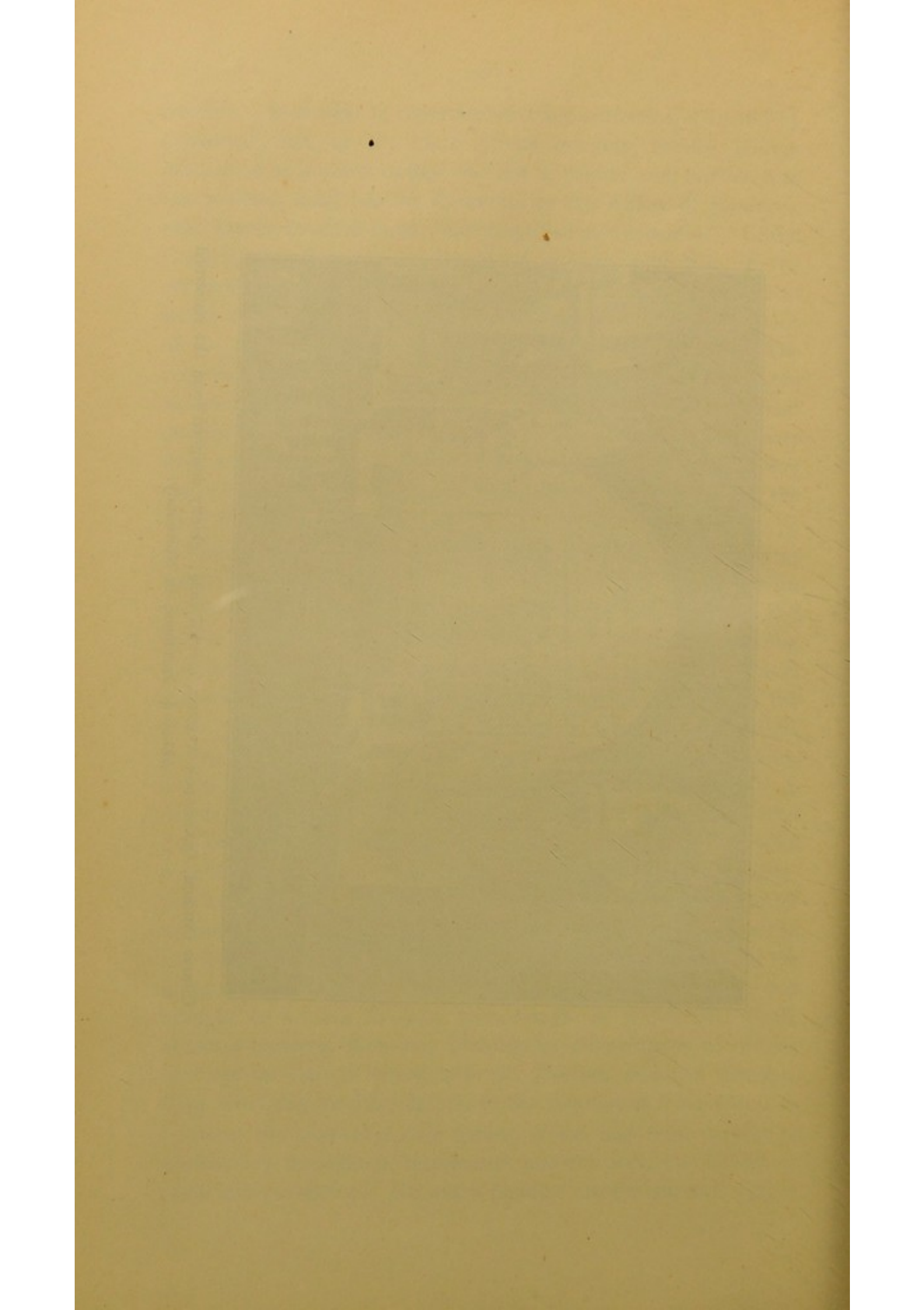
worship. In answer to these depreciatory criticisms, it should be explained that, at the time of its erection, locally, church decoration as it exists to-day, was not in vogue; and, further, that the building itself has for its authority the Abbey of Jumièges, near Rouen, founded in 661, and described as "splendid." Christ Church, therefore, is not devoid of interest, especially to the archaeologist, who may find within its walls traces of ecclesiastical architecture in existence some six centuries before the foundations of the original Parish Church of All Saints were laid. The columns, against which so much was said by the early guide writers, it is important to explain, were essentials in the original designs. The first alteration was in 1832, when the galleries were erected to provide additional accommodation, and in 1874 the columns were reduced to one half of their former size by the Rev. Dr. Nicholson.

From 1825 to 1839, when he was succeeded in the vicariate at All Saints by the Rev. John Craig, the Rev. Robert Downes, with the assistance of his curates, conducted the services. In the last named year Mr. Craig became the lessee of the property during the life of Mr. Downes, at a rental of £720 per annum, and one of the earliest of his clerical representatives at the chapel was the Rev. J. Lincoln Galton, who some years after read a public protest in Cubbington Church against the doctrine that Princes, either in themselves or by their counsellors, had authority to decide in controversies of faith. Mr. Craig and Mr. Downes, who had exchanged the livings of Fetcham and Leamington, quarrelled over the arrangements, and in the course of a long and recriminatory correspondence the former questioned the right of the latter to charge rent, and intimated his intention to refuse payment in the future, but beyond this nothing further was heard of the matter. The dispute, so far as the public were concerned, was brought to a close by legal proceedings, in which Mr. Craig obtained damages from Mr. Downes for dilapidations to the old vicarage in Church Street, and Mr. Downes obtained damages from Mr. Craig for dilapidations to the vicarage at Fetcham.

About the year 1856, his tenure, which had been fruitful of controversy throughout, terminated, and the Rev. Dr. Bickmore came into possession. He was a popular clergyman, and during



CHRIST CHURCH, CLARENDON AVENUE, erected 1825; chiefly designed from the renowned Abbey de Jumieges, in Normandy.



his ministration the congregation increased and the influence and position of the church were raised to a degree they had not previously attained. He resigned in 1870, after filling the incumbency fourteen years, and it is worth mentioning that the text from which he preached his valedictory sermon on Sunday, December 18, of that year, was taken from the first verse of the second chapter to Galatians: "Then fourteen years after." The esteem in which he was held was shown by the presentation of £180, promptly raised, and his portrait, with a general expression of regret at his leaving the parish. The course and purpose of his ministry are best described in his own words: "I have tried," he said, when receiving the gifts, "to avoid every extreme, both of doctrine and ritual." He was followed by Dr. Bedford Hall, previously Afternoon Lecturer for Archdeacon Musgrave, at the Parish Church, Halifax, who commenced his duties on Sunday, December 25, 1870. In August of the following year, after a slight indisposition of several weeks' duration, his illness assumed a serious character on the 12th, and terminated in his death the next day. Brief as was his residence in Leamington, he had won the esteem of his congregation and was rapidly gaining popularity generally in the town. After this the appointment was vacant until the early part of 1872, when it was given to the Rev. F. Haden Cope, of Wimslow, who, however, retained it only two years. A constant disagreement between himself and Mrs. Philadelphia Downes, widow of the Rev. Robert Downes, and owner of the property, respecting the rent he had to pay, led to his giving notice in 1873 to relinquish the tenancy. The dispute was patched up by a new arrangement, but in September Mr. Cope received six months' notice to quit, which took effect in March, 1874.

The next incumbent was the Rev. J. A. Nicholson, LL.D., the holder of a chaplaincy in Sweden. He commenced his duties in 1874, after effecting some extensive alterations in the interior of the edifice, including a reduction of the size of the columns by stripping them of an outer casing, the removal of the organ from the south gallery to its present position, and the renovation of the chancel by the erection of choir stalls. An advanced ritual was now introduced, in explanation of which Dr. Nicholson remarked:

“Without casting the slightest reproach or stricture upon the worthy priests who have preceded me, I may say that, æsthetically and devotionally, the services of one generation do not suit another, and circumstances, I suppose, in times past, have kept the services in Christ Church in a particular stage.” A large and fashionable congregation was speedily collected, and everything indicated a long and happy occupation. In 1880, however, Mrs. Downes, in accordance with a notice previously given, refused to renew the lease, and Dr. Nicholson with his congregation were practically ejected from the building. The text, “Arise, let us go hence” (St. John, fourteenth chapter and thirty-first verse), from which he preached his last sermon in the church, was as singularly appropriate to the occasion as that of Dr. Bickmore’s, and aptly described the extraordinary and unprecedented situation in which he and his congregation had been placed. It afterwards transpired that the property had been sold to the late Mr. Thomas Bellamy Dale, an ex-Mayor of the borough of Warwick, who conveyed it to trustees for the purpose of being used for ever for Evangelical purposes. By him, the incumbency was given to the Rev. Dr. Edward Wilkinson, Rector of Snargate and Snave, Kent, who settled in Leamington in September, 1881, and continued to minister to a small congregation until 1896, when, through serious illness, he resigned, and the church was closed. He preached in a black gown, the use of which was at one time extensive in Leamington pulpits, and held the tenets of Calvinism; but, though courageous in his promulgation of the distinctive Geneva theology, and indefatigable in his exertions, it cannot be said that his connection with the church was prosperous. The trustees, in July, 1897, offered the appointment to the Rev. J. G. Gregory, who for nineteen years had been incumbent of Emmanuel Church, Brighton, and accepting the same, he took possession in September. Further improvements were carried out by the late Mr. William Dawkes, and, as will be seen from our illustration, the result has been to bring the church into line with those of more modern date, and, in the way of brightness and comfort, to meet every reasonable desire. Mr. Gregory, who belongs to the Evangelical school, reopened the church in 1898. Mr. Dale, the purchaser of the property for £6,350 from Mrs.

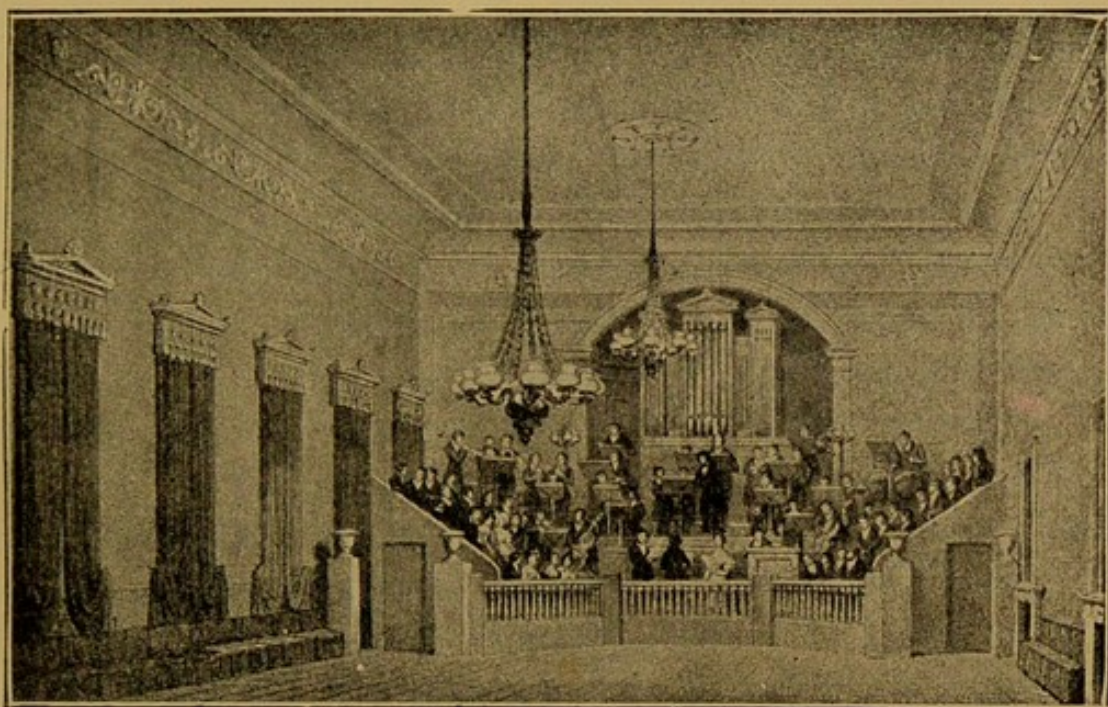
Downes, resided at Coten End, Warwick, with the public life and work of which he was closely associated for many years. He was senior partner in the firm of Nelson, Dale & Co., and besides filling other offices of usefulness, occupied the position of Alderman on the Town Council and for two years in succession that of Chief Magistrate. The Dale Temperance Hotel, Old Square, originally known as the Dale Coffee Tavern, derived its name from him, and maintains the memory of his practical sympathy with that movement. As a Churchman of the Calvinistic type, his mind was deeply imbued with those principles relating to public worship, for the defence of which the Church Association was organised, and of that body he was a loyal, conscientious, and liberal supporter. His acquisition of Christ Church, owing to the excitement of the time, led to a serious misunderstanding as to his motive, and it was more than suggested that by means of his wealth he had caused the ejection of a popular clergyman, from whose doctrine and ritual he dissented. A reference to dates conclusively disproves this charge, for he did not buy the property until five years after Dr. Nicholson had received notice that his lease would not be renewed, and even then, the transaction was subsequent to an advertisement in "The Guardian" offering for sale a place of worship, the description of which applied to Christ Church in every particular. A few years before his death in 1890, he retired from the business of Nelson, Dale & Co., and applied himself specially to religious and philanthropic work. In him, the public institutions and the principal societies, with whose objects he agreed, found a generous supporter, and to the poor his benefactions are said to have been on a most extensive scale. The trustees to whom he assigned the property were the Rev. A. E. Aldridge, Worton, Devizes; Mr. James Juship, Bristol; the Rev. J. Ormiston, Clifton, Bristol, and Mr. Alfred Penfold, Devizes; and the purpose to secure the Church for ever for Evangelical Worship.

CHAPTER XIX.

Music—Leamington and Warwick Philharmonic Society—first Choral Society—early town band—Glee Society—Jephson Gardens' Concerts—memorable visit of Jullien—Mr. F. Marshall—Philharmonic Society—Mr. R. Ward—the second Choral Society; Signor Aspa—South Warwickshire Harmonic Society—Concordia Choir—Musical Society—Choral Union—the third Choral Society—Orchestral Society—Musical Union—the second Harmonic Society—Charity Madrigal Society and Augmented Choir, each accompanied with brief descriptive notes.

THE formation of the first Leamington Musical Society, an event which cannot be viewed with indifference in these days of high-class vocal and instrumental concerts, belongs to 1826, but there had been musical performances at a much earlier date, and as far back as 1777, the time when Ben. Satchwell established his friendly society, a band played the members to and from the Parish Church, when they had their annual feasts on Whit-Mondays. In 1810, Master and Miss Smith, styled "the celebrated musical phenomena," gave a violin and pianoforte recital in the Assembly Room at the Bowling Green Inn; in 1819, Messrs. Marshall were teaching music "on Mr. Logier's new system," and in the same year one of them directed a grand concert at the Upper Assembly Rooms; Mr. H. T. Elliston, a famous organist, was appointed to that position at the Parish Church in 1820; Madame Catalani in 1821 sang the "favourite variations of Rode's Violin Concerto" at a concert, and Braham, the greatest of English tenors, in 1822 repeated his visit of 1818. Miss Stephens was at Messrs. Elliston's concerts in 1824 and 1825, and in the last named year Madame Caradori and T. Harper, unrivalled as a performer on the slide trumpet, took part in a brilliant concert in September.

At the time the Society was formed there was a considerable amount of local musical talent in the town, both professional and amateur. From the former were drawn the supplies of music for the Bath Street theatre, and those fashionable balls and



MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN THE UPPER ASSEMBLY ROOMS, October 15 and 16, 1833.*

* The Festival was by the Choral Society, of which Mr. F. Marshall was the conductor. There were two performances, one being of a miscellaneous character, at which Miss Clara Novello sang "Let the bright Seraphim," with trumpet obbligato accompaniment by T. Harper; F. Cramer led the band, among whom were Lindley (violoncellist), and Dragonetti (contrabassist). The second concert was the "Messiah," considered, we are pleased to read, "a great card" in those days.



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parties, then of far more frequent occurrence than now. The first meeting, attended by representatives of both these classes, took place at Elliston's Rooms, Bath Street, on October 12, 1826, the result being a resolution to form "The Leamington and Warwick Philharmonic Society." From the minute book, scrupulously kept by the late Mr. E. Enoch, afterwards Postmaster, we are able to glean the particulars of its objects and methods, and at the same time to preserve the names of many of our early musicians. The first list of members, each one of whom signed his name in the minute book, comprised the following:—H. T. Elliston, John Marshall, John Hewett, James Satchell, Thomas Wells, John Elston, W. G. Perry, Charles Elston, E. Enoch, G. Wells, W. L. Meyrick, W. H. Lewis, C. Marshall, William Clemens, F. Marshall, S. Flavell, John Merridew, H. Marshall, S. Whitehead, J. J. Gilman, J. Rees.

The strength and composition of the band, and the glee element observable in the programmes, are the principal subjects which will interest musicians now, and in future time, when considering the circumstances under which the earliest musical Association was founded in 1826. The former are thus described on the minutes:—Violins, Messrs. J. M. Marshall (leader), W. Meyrick, and — Wilkins; violas, W. Lucas and T. Elston; violoncello, W. H. Lewis; contra-bass, H. T. Elliston; pianoforte, W. G. Perry (conductor); flutes, J. Hewett and E. Enoch; oboe and clarinetto, C. Elston and W. Clemens; horns, G. Wells and — Hosiaux; trumpet, T. Wells; trombone, S. Whitehead; tympani, J. Satchell; vocalists, Miss Bernard; Messrs. S. Flavell and C. Marshall. Glees made a considerable part of the programmes of the Society. They were forms of musical expression adapted to the times, and in the rural villages of England fostered a love of music under circumstances where choruses and even part songs were impossible for lack of sufficient number of voices. With reference to the first concert of the Society, it should be stated that the audience numbered about sixty persons, "the greater part of whom were honorary members," each contributing to the funds £1 1s. per annum. The Countess of Warwick was the Lady Patroness. Miss Bernard, of the Royal Academy, encouraged the Society by

giving her services free of all charge, and Mr. Joseph Stanley, of the Crown Hotel, showed his interest in the success of these early musical efforts, by hospitably entertaining her at his establishment, during her stay in Leamington, without cost to the Society or herself. Other items of interest in the history of the Society are: An original arrangement of "God Save the King," by Mr. Satchell, which the Committee considered "highly creditable to his musical talent, but not sufficiently simplified"; the presentation to M. Francois Cramer, the eminent violinist, of an honorary member's ticket, "as a trifling mark of their (the Committee's) estimation of his talents," his courteous acceptance of the same, and announcement that he should feel happy in "lending the Society his assistance at any time his professional engagements might bring him to this part of the country"; the very large library of symphonies, overtures, etc., the Society accumulated; the nomination of "Master Mander," in 1829 as a member, and the numerous items in the financial statements of charges for "candles and oil," gas not then having been introduced into the concert rooms.

With the founders, business meant business, even though associated with recreation, and there was consequently no room within the Society for members who looked on rehearsals as arrangements with which they were at liberty to play fast and loose — to attend as late-comers or half-timers. Talk about discipline, why our modern musical societies would crumble to dust in six months under the Spartan rules of the first Philharmonic. A fine of 1s. was imposed on every member absent from rehearsals at seven o'clock, the time for commencement; 1s. 6d. at the end of the "first Act"; 2s. 6d. if not present during the evening; 1s. for tuning during the performance of a piece; and 5s. for not returning in time for practice any part of music borrowed.

The first concert was given in Elliston's Rooms, Bath Street, on January 25, 1827, the band, led by Mr. J. Marshall, consisting of three violins, two violas, two flutes, oboe, clarinet, two horns, trumpet, trombone, violoncello, contra-bass, tympani, and piano-forte, at which Mr. W. G. Perry, conductor, presided. It will readily be admitted, all things considered, that such an orchestra

at the time was exceedingly creditable to the musical taste and capacity of the town. The programme announced two overtures, (Beethoven and Mozart) and two symphonies (Mozart and Haydn) by the band, a violin solo (Spagnoletti) by Mr. J. Marshall, and vocal selections by Miss Bernard, Mr. Flavell, and others, all of which appear to have been satisfactorily rendered, and the concert to have been an eminent success. Altogether the society gave about fourteen concerts, one of which (on December 11th, 1827) was at the Court House, Warwick, and as the attendance was the smallest ever present at a concert in the United Boroughs, we quote it in the hope of preventing despondency in these days when our concert rooms are not more than half full. The audience, we are informed, "was exactly as numerous as the members composing the orchestra," of whom there were twenty. The society never made a return visit, and the committee at their next meeting vented their indignation by liberally distributing votes of censure on those who left their places in the orchestra during the concert, and "particularly those who annoyed the members during the performance of a piece by conversing in the room."

After the dissolution of the Philharmonic, F. Marshall's Choral Society, founded in 1828, was the sole occupant of the field, and its public concerts appear to have commenced about the time those of the old society were discontinued. Probably an amalgamation took place. There were regular practices in the Parish Church, and occasionally, performances of sacred music in the Episcopal Chapel, with organ and full band accompaniments. At one of these (June 10th, 1830), the strength of the latter was, four violins, two violas, two 'cellos, two contrabasses, two flutes, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, one trombone and double-drums. While the Choral Society were then pleasing the public with their sacred and secular concerts, a town band was formed. The leaders of the movement were Charles Elston, for many years bandmaster of the Warwickshire Militia; his nephew, George Elston Ball, who had been musically educated by G. Tatton, bandmaster of the Royal Horse Guards; and J. Cox, landlord of the Guards Inn, High Street, and also a military bandmaster. Their promenade concerts were successes,

and as will easily be assumed from their experience, worthy of being recognised as the precursors of those grander performances we are now privileged to hear. Between 1840 and 1850 there was a remarkable growth of musical agencies and a manifestation of cultivated taste beyond all local precedent. Its range extended from the Parish Church choir to the orchestra in the Jephson Gardens, and its influence was felt in every department of harmony—vocal and instrumental. The Rev. John Craig commenced this new departure by encouraging Elliston to introduce the best music, by establishing a school for the choir boys in Grove Place and engaging from time to time competent teachers to train them in their duties. The cost of this work in twelve years was £1,711 11s. 5d., the whole of which he defrayed out of his own private purse. Mrs. Merridew, an accomplished singer, and her husband, the late Mr. N. Merridew, organised a series of high-class concerts on which was lavishly bestowed the cream of fashionable patronage. These increased the attractions of the Spa and brought before Leamington audiences the most popular artists of the day. A Glee Society, established by Henry Marshall, revived an old form of musical art which had been declining since the discontinuance of the Philharmonic, and a prominent member of this society was the late Mr. John Beck, whose voice, a light tenor, was of such flexibility and range as enabled him to sing "Every Valley" with a distinctness of vocalisation and expression that won applause in the crowded concert rooms.

Adhering steadfastly to the central idea of making the Jephson Gardens the loadstone for Leamington's prosperity, the Committee at an early stage of their career began to consider the question of providing open-air concerts for the visitors and residents. The intention was to establish concerts excelling all which had as yet been heard in the town, and to make the gardens as celebrated for music as they were becoming for trees and flowers. The arrangements for the first band were made in June, 1848, under the guidance of "Mr. Godfrey, the Queen's Bandmaster." It was a London band consisting of thirteen performers, including Mr. Irwin, the conductor. To meet the expenses the town was canvassed and something like £200 raised

as a band fund. The concerts, which were splendid, were continued for nine weeks at a total cost of £235 9s. In the following year a local band was engaged (probably Elston's), supported by contributions from the proprietors of the Pump Rooms, private subscriptions, and donations from a Town Improvement Committee, then holding meetings at the Regent Hotel. In the summer of 1850, the celebrated Cologne band came to England specially to fulfil an engagement of fifteen weeks in the Jephson Gardens, made with them, on behalf of the Committee, by Mr. A. Berens, of London. The fame of the band having preceded its arrival, expectation was raised to a high pitch, and without disappointment. Finer playing has seldom been heard, and its visit remains one of the pleasantest memories of musical Leamington. The expenses were defrayed in the same way as the cost of the first band, Mr. Henry Bright (now Alderman) and the late Alderman John Bowen being the deputation from the Town Improvement Association to confer and arrange with the Jephson Gardens' Committee. Soon after the Jephson Gardens became public property in 1846 arrangements were also made for concerts and fêtes at intervals in the summer and early autumn months, and on these occasions the principal military bands occupied the orchestra, and occasionally there were the additional attractions of distinguished artists like Garcia, Wieniawski, and Picco, the blind Sardinian minstrel. By far the most celebrated and grandest of these concerts was the one given by Jullien in 1857, when his double band from the Royal Surrey Gardens, including thirteen famous solo players, appeared, and gave what might fairly be termed, the record concert of the Jephson Gardens.

Only one other subject remains to be noticed in connection with this part of the history of local musical performances. Patrick Byrne, a blind Irish harper, was a brilliant player, who visited Copps's Hotel regularly. Seated in the grand hall, he discoursed the sweetest music to the delight of the fashionable companies always staying at that establishment, and at the same time provided a treat gratuitously for passers by, many of whom lingered long in admiring crowds round the doors in High Street, charmed with those rich and beautiful harmonies which swelled

from his instrument under the influence of his genius and taste. The orbless old musician was a general favourite, and an object of sympathetic interest, especially when taking his daily constitutional up and down the Parade without assistance. On one occasion he had the honour of appearing before the Queen and Royal Family at Windsor Castle, and was frequently at Beech Lawn, the welcome guest of Dr. Jephson, who in after life was himself deprived of sight. After the demolition of Copps's Royal Hotel, he transferred his services to the Manor House Hotel, which had been opened by Isaac Curtis, formerly the proprietor of Wise's Baths in High Street.

The supply of music from 1850 has been varied and abundant, occasionally ebbing and flowing in quality, but on the whole showing constant improvement. "The Royal Leamington Glee Club," revived in that year, under the conductorship of Mr. H. Marshall, gave delightful concerts, at which the principal vocalists were Mrs. N. Merridew and Misses Hewitt; Messrs. N. Merridew, John Beck, H. Mayle, D. Hughes, Curtis, Page, and Taylor. Their rehearsals were held at the Crown Hotel, where, in 1865, the assets of the Society, consisting of "a very fine piano and an excellent selection of music," were lying unused. Contemporaneous with the "Glee Club" was "The Leamington Choral Society," of which Mr. F. Marshall was the conductor. This was probably the Association started by him in 1828. Mr. Marshall, who had a very successful musical career in Leamington and the Midlands, died at Olney in 1857, aged sixty-seven. He was a pupil of Dr. Crotch, and, as a composer, a vocalist, and an instrumentalist, did credit to his master. The commencement of "The Leamington Philharmonic Society," in May, 1854, by Mr. Richard Ward, then organist at St. Luke's, was an interesting and signal departure in our local musical history, the importance of which was clearly recognised by the Rev. J. Montague, Mr. John Hitchman, Mr. H. Marshall, and the "Courier." In their opinion Mr. Ward was succeeding in the "bold and hazardous experiment" of cultivating a taste for good music among the industrial classes, or "million," as they were called, and in providing them with opportunities for study and practice, of which they had not previously had the advantage.

Greater praise than this, no musician can desire nor merit. The Philharmonic lasted thirty-six years, holding its own against a succession of powerful rivals, with the wrecks of many of which its path was strewn ; giving to large and gratified audiences on an average two concerts yearly, and securing for itself, among many other honours, the distinction of having on April 22, 1873, performed "Elijah" for the first time in Leamington. Mr. Ward died May 18, 1890, aged sixty years ; and a memorial slab placed on his grave by those who had been connected with him in the work of the Society, and others, rightly commemorates his very valuable services.

The commencement of a new "Leamington Choral Society" was announced in October, 1854, by Signor R. Aspa, a well-known local musician of cultivated taste and high professional qualifications. This Society, of which Mr. T. B. Gleadah, of the Music Warehouse, Victoria Terrace (now Bezant's), was secretary, gave pleasing concerts for a few years, and was then dissolved. Its conductor, Mr. Aspa, now (1902) the *doyen* of Musical Leamington, comes of a talented family, and is nephew to Signor Mario Aspa, better known in Italy as the "Maestro Aspa," whose works comprise no less than eleven operas. A pupil of Moscheles, the celebrated pianist and composer, he has earned and occupies an excellent position as a successful teacher, and has been warmly commended by the "Musical Times" for the beauty and originality of his numerous compositions. In 1867 he published a useful work entitled "Exercises for the Cultivation of the Voice," and in 1868, "A Collection of French Romances, Italian Ariettes, and English Ballads," respecting which the Press notices were complimentary. Mr. Aspa, it should be stated, is the author of the article on "Leamington," published in the last (the ninth) edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." At the concerts of this Society, Miss Johnstone, daughter of Major Johnstone, won general applause by her fine singing of oratorio and ballad music. She married Mr. J. W. Elliott, the gifted composer of "Hybrias the Cretan," and other favourite songs ; organist, in succession at the Baptist Church, Warwick Street, and Christ Church, and now holding a similar appointment at St. Mark's, St. John's Wood, London. In 1857 an open-air concert was given in the Pump

Room Gardens by Mr. John Cox, Mr. R. Ward conducting the first, and Mr. T. E. Cooke, of Warwick, the second part. The band, with a chorus of fully four hundred voices, rendered the Old Hundredth Psalm and Luther's Hymn, the latter with the impressive trumpet obbligato accompaniment.

"The South Warwickshire Harmonic Society," started in 1869, raised unfulfilled expectations of permanence, and was more remarkable for the smartness of the minutes of the hon. secretary than for its concerts, excellent as undoubtedly they were. It was an aristocratic affair, with a phenomenally brief career and a list of performances all too few. Signor Aspa was the conductor, and the Rev. Marmaduke E. Browne, hon. secretary. As to the reasons which led to the early disruption of an organisation surrounded by circumstances so favourable to longevity, nothing distinctly is stated, but in June, 1870, several of the principal officers resigned, the rehearsals were discontinued, and the borrowed music called in. Revision of the rules and a reconstruction of the Association followed, one of the changes being to dispense with the services of Associate members "who refuse to perform unless paid for every rehearsal as well as the concerts, and to engage in their places the members of the Birmingham Amateur Harmonic Society, who were better singers, and would attend on payment of their expenses and refreshment." Its last concert was given in January, 1871.

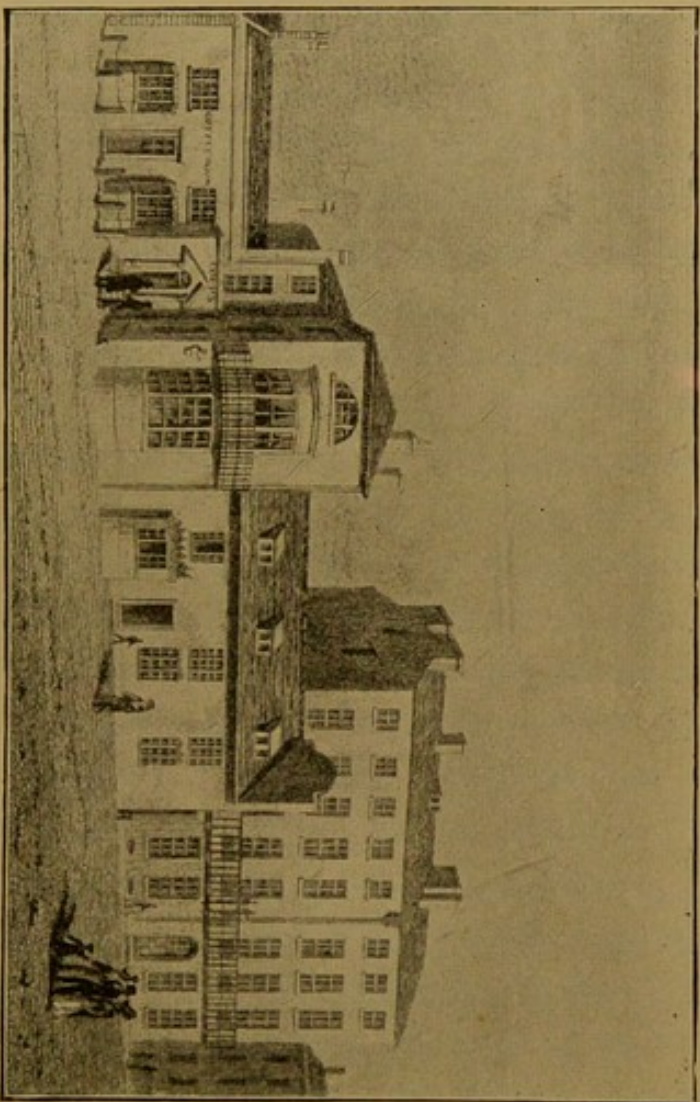
"The Concordia Choir," established in 1870 by Miss Rachael Gray, for several years gave attractive concerts under the direction of its energetic and gifted foundress—the only lady who has wielded the bâton at a series of public musical performances in Leamington. She was organist at Christ Church, and, as principal soprano, frequently assisted at important local concerts. The Society was broken up on her removal to Shrewsbury. The next organisation was of spontaneous origin. On November 5, 1879, there was an unusually fine performance of the "Messiah" at the Parish Church, by a band and chorus of over two hundred performers, comprising the best amateurs and professionals in the town and neighbourhood. In many quarters it was considered to be a favourable opportunity for establishing a new

Association, and "The Leamington Musical Society" was the result. Mr. Frank Spinney, the organist at the Parish Church, was chosen conductor, and, until his health failed, he carried on the work most satisfactorily. His lamented death closed the Society, which at one time had the promise of a long career of usefulness. In 1879 Mr. A. E. Gibbs, organist at St. Paul's, started "The St. Paul's Choral Union," the first concert of which was given in the Holly Walk Schoolroom in January, 1880. From this comparatively small beginning the Society grew in numbers and influence, and for more than twelve years provided annual concerts at the Winter and Town Halls, remarkable for good chorus singing and orchestral developments. To this period also belong "The Leamington Choral Society," most successfully conducted by Mr. Piercy Watson, and the "Orchestral Society," very ably directed by Mr. Walter Warren, the former devoted largely to opera and cantata music, and the latter to instrumental works of the best masters.

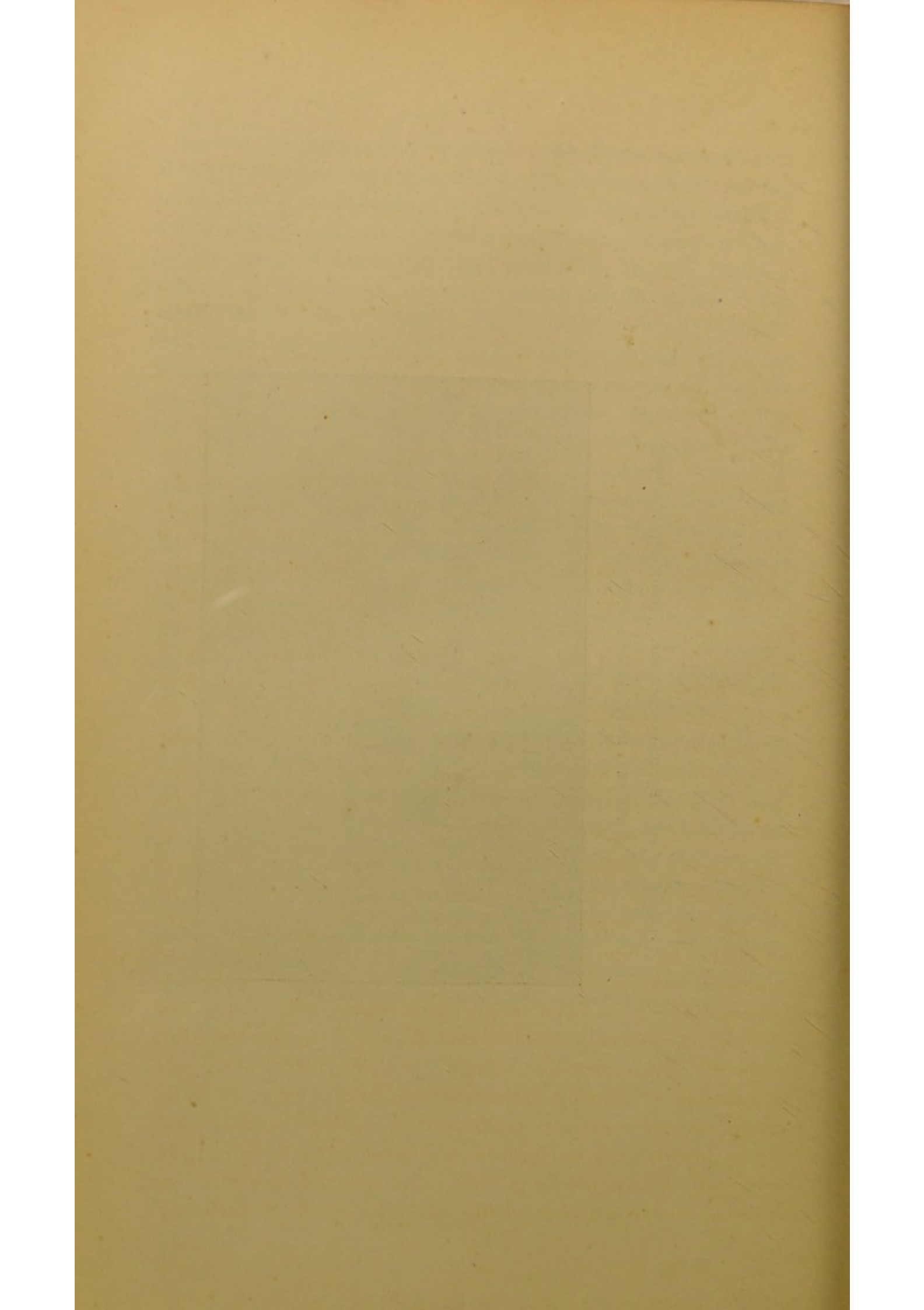
After the demise of Mr. R. Ward, in 1890, the Philharmonic was amalgamated with the St. Paul's Choral Union, Mr. Gibbs continuing in the leadership; and at the same time a new Association was formed under the title of "The Leamington Musical Union," of which Mr. H. A. Heden, organist at Spencer Street Congregational Church, was elected the conductor. Between these two organisations there was a healthy rivalry, which fortunately proved conducive to the interests of music, the concerts of each, for choral and orchestral effects combined, being greatly in advance of the most successful efforts of all previous musical associations in Leamington. Both conductors, by the power they displayed in the training of their singers, the excellence of their selections, and their extensive developments and application of orchestral resources, justified the confidence reposed in them, and produced a series of concerts which are, and will remain for many years to come, the high water-mark of chorus performances with band accompaniments. In 1897 the two organisations were amalgamated as "The Leamington Harmonic Society," the services of Mr. Heden and Mr. Gibbs (now Mus. Bac.) being properly retained for management and direction in alternate years.

To the foregoing must be added "the Leamington Charity Madrigal Society," started in 1898 by Mr. Roberts-West, organist at St. Alban's, the concerts of which form an agreeable contrast to the modern schools; and "The Parish Church Augmented Choir for the study of Church Music," conducted by Mr. Bellamy, organist at the Parish Church, commenced in 1900; "The Mandoline Society" and "The Ladies' Choral Union," established and trained by Mr. G. T. Summerton, organist at the Midland Counties' Home, whose concerts, though, as yet, but few, have been rewarded with much public applause; "The Mechanics' Band," conducted by Mr. J. Pinfold, and "The Royal Spa Brass Band," by Mr. A. Titcombe. This list, extensive as it is, would still be materially defective, if we failed to mention the high-class concerts organised by the late Mr. and Mrs. N. Merridew; also the very successful catering of Bezant and Son; and in recent years, the Jephson Gardens Concerts of the latter, and those of Mr. Birch, both of which have merited high praise. For fifty years Leamington has been full of music, native and imported, and of the large harvest of honours which has been gathered, a fair share belongs to our own musicians.

It would be a fascinating occupation to trace the concert life of Leamington in its relation to that constellation of great singers and players, including the magnificent bands introduced of late years by Mr. C. S. Birch, who, from time to time, have honoured the Spa with their presence. But such a task is more adapted for a volume than a few brief notes such as would alone be possible in this place. Suffice it therefore to say that almost every voice that has charmed the world in song, and every instrument which genius has inspired with melodic life, have been heard in our concert rooms by enraptured audiences.



COPP'S HOTEL, HIGH STREET,
Before "The Royal" was erected on the site in 1826-7.



CHAPTER XX.

Copps's Royal Hotel, situation of—its connection with the Dog Inn—Abbotts, Sinker and Copps—laying foundation stone of the new hotel—full and interesting description of this famous building; its architecture, accommodation, decorations, etc.—the house-warming dinner—great sale by auction of the property and effects, etc., etc.

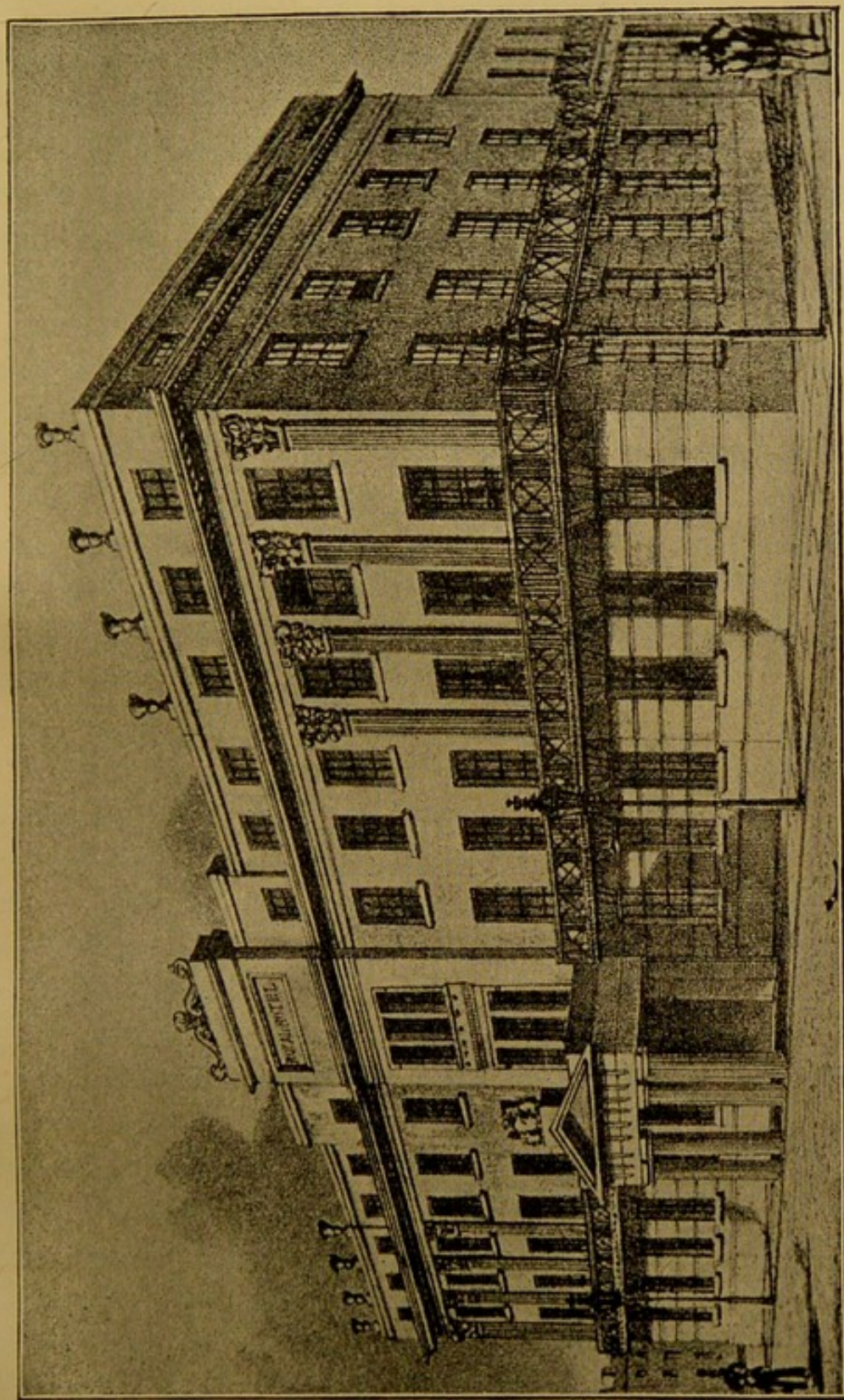
IN the amplitude of its accommodation, the grandeur of its front elevation, the perfection of its appointments, and the sumptuous wealth of art which distinguished each detail of its architecture and furniture, Copps's Royal Hotel of 1826-7 surpassed every building of the kind which had been erected in Leamington. The Regent Hotel, the Upper Assembly Rooms, the Pump Rooms, and the Parthenon in Bath Street, compared but poorly by its side, and each and all were dwarfed by its majestic proportions. Every visitor admired it, and some even went so far as to declare that it was the finest hotel in the kingdom. As the result of the enterprise of one man, and of his confidence in the future greatness of the town, founded on an experience of some twelve years, it was one of the most remarkable events in the early history of Leamington.

Michael Copps, the spirited proprietor, came from Cheltenham to Leamington in 1814, and as landlord of the Dog Inn succeeded Thomas Sinker, who in 1793 had followed William Abbotts in the occupation of that property. The Inn, though it had been improved, first by Abbotts, and afterwards by Sinker, appears to have retained to the last some of its original characteristics, and so long as it was allowed to stand, was a most interesting landmark of the primitive village. Sinker's management was inaugurated by a change of the name to that of a Select Boarding House, and the more aristocratic character of the guests, as well as the prosperity of the business, are indicated by his advertising some years afterwards for a head waiter; mentioning that one who had served in the capacity of a butler would be preferred;

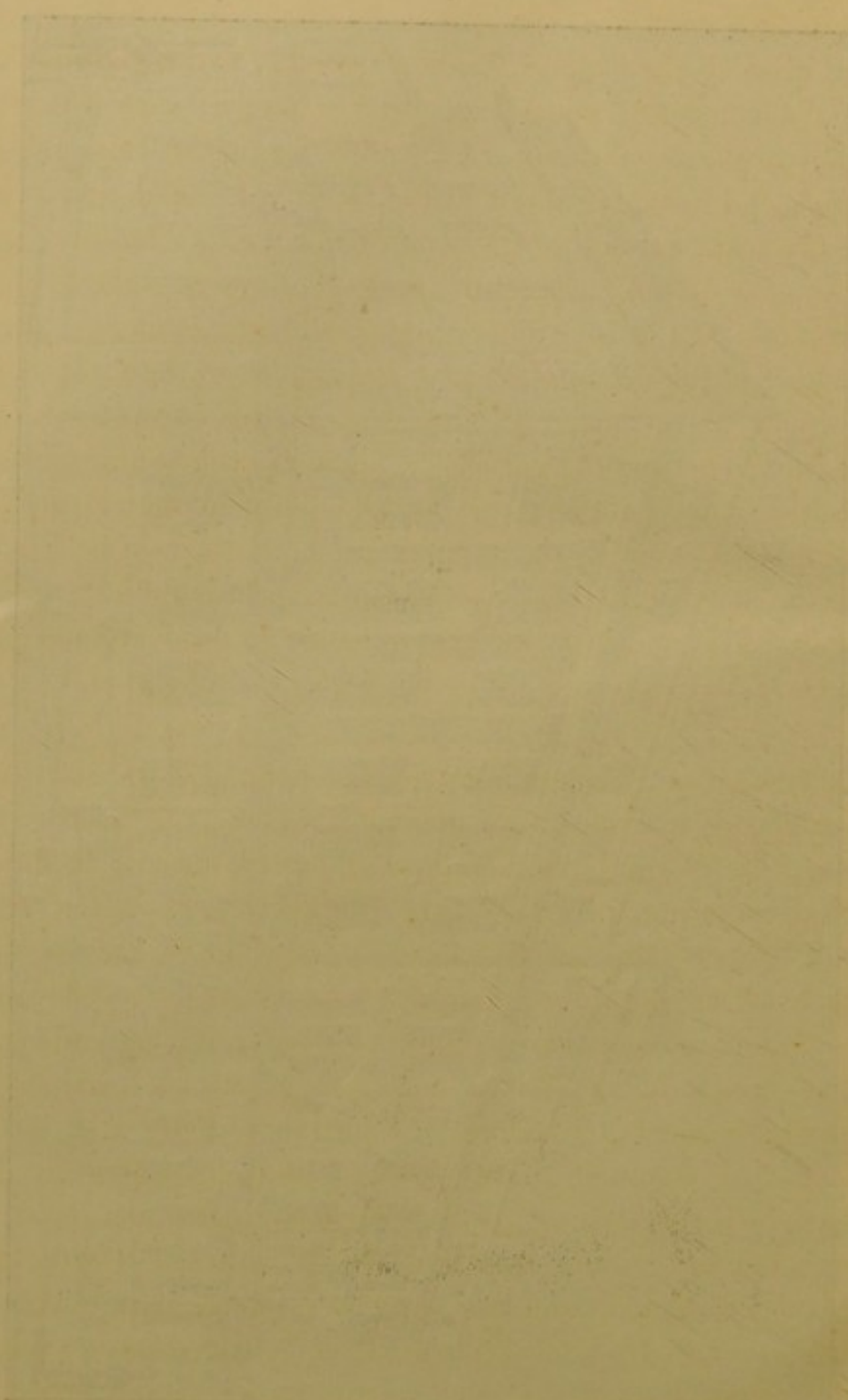
that he must be "disposed to keep everything in the neatest order," and "as the wine will be entrusted to his care" possess "an unexceptionable character from his last place."

The property occupied a site on the south side of High Street, and after Copps had purchased Fisher's Balcony Boarding House, so called from the balcony in front, and added it to his establishment, extended from the north-east corner of Clemens Street nearly to Court Street. In 1815 he filled up the duck pond in the street, and in 1826 embarked in the erection of this celebrated building. The foundation stone was laid on November 13, by his daughter, Miss Maria Copps, a large number of the residents and visitors being present to witness the interesting ceremony. Miss Copps was "supported by several of her young female friends, and many other persons of the highest respectability in the town and neighbourhood." In the hollow of the stone were deposited numerous souvenirs of the period—silver coins of the reign; a medallion of George IV., struck in honour of his accession to the throne; a "Jubilean" medal, containing on the obverse side a representation of the head of the late Princess Charlotte; and several others of excellence and local interest, presented to Mr. and Mrs. Copps by Bisset, expressly for the purpose. The following description from the "Warwick Advertiser," of June 23, 1827, worthily specifies the particulars of this, the most remarkable hotel in Leamington within the past century, which the railways in after years dissolved like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a rack behind:—

"Among the most important additions which have been made to this class of Buildings since last season, that of the Royal Hotel decidedly holds the most distinguished place. The front of this spacious edifice displays a most elegant specimen of Grecian architecture; and has been allowed by some of the best judges of the day to be unsurpassed by any similar building in the kingdom. It measures 111 feet in length, and with the old portion of the Hotel remaining, presents to the High Street a line of frontage upwards of 155 feet in extent. It comprises a centre and two wings; the whole being faced with Roman cement, in imitation of stone. Projecting ten feet from the former is a noble portico, supported by four fluted pillars of the Doric order of architecture;



Copps's ROYAL HOTEL, High Street; foundation stone laid November 13, 1826; inaugural dinner, June 21, 1827.



the pediment of which is surmounted by the Royal Arms, beautifully executed in stone. To the height of the principal story, the building is rusticated, and an highly ornamented balcony runs on a level with the second floor, from one extremity of the front to the other. Each wing is, or rather is intended to be, embellished (for one is not yet completed) with four fluted pilasters of the Corinthian order, which, springing from the level of the second floor, terminate at the top of the third, and support an entablature extending the whole length of the building. The enrichments of the entablature, and the flowers, foliage, etc., in the capitals of the pilasters are executed in a manner at once expressive of the delicate richness so peculiar to the Order, and of the ability of the artist employed. On the parapet above the attics, are to be placed over each wing, four ornamental vases, and the tablet now occupying the highest point in the centre of the building, and in which the name of the Hotel is inscribed, is to be surmounted by an highly enriched scroll.—The architect to whom Leamington is indebted for this splendid addition to her public edifices, is Mr. Robinson, of Brook Street, London.

* * * * *

“The interior is exceedingly handsome, and the disposition of the principal apartments so judiciously contrived as to conceal that portion of the building appropriated to servants. The *coup d'œil*, on entering the house from the portico, is extremely fine. The Entrance Hall, 44 feet long by 14 wide, is decorated with sideboards, supported by Grecian ornaments in bronze, china perfume jars, antique vases, figures in plaster of Paris, and several bronze lamps of the tripod form, mounted on pedestals and elegantly worked. Fronting the entrance doors is a beautiful Window of coloured glass, 10 feet by 5, executed by James Freeth, of Birmingham. In the centre compartment, on a chaste fawn-coloured mosaic ground, are the Royal Arms richly emblazoned, and around the window is an elegant border, of a purple ground with gold scroll-work, embellished with medallions representing views of Warwick Castle, Stowe, Kenilworth Castle, Stoneleigh Abbey, Guy's Cliffe, Coombe Abbey, and other distinguished edifices. At night a lamp is usually placed behind this “storied window, richly dight,” which produces a very

beautiful effect. The staircase is also lighted by two interior lights, placed in niches. Close to this window runs a geometrical staircase, comprising 21 steps, nearly 6 feet in width, and very easy of ascent; the handrails are composed of fine mahogany, and the balusters are of bronze, beautifully wrought and of exquisite pattern.

"On the right of the Hall is the Public Dining Room, an apartment of noble dimensions, being upwards of 50 feet long by 24 wide, and capable of accommodating 150 persons with ease. The ceiling is supported by four handsome Ionic pillars, and as many pilasters of the same order of architecture embellish the walls. It is lighted by six windows, three of which command a view of the street, and the remainder at the opposite end, look into the garden, where

Various trees compose a chequered scene,
Glowing in gay diversities of green.

Above this apartment is another of the same dimensions. This, we understand is the Public Drawing Room. On the same floor are a number of Private Sitting Rooms, each of ample dimensions and lighted by two windows. The walls which are all battened and covered with canvas, consequently entirely free from damp, are enriched with paper hangings of French manufacture, which in vivid beauty of colouring, approach nearer to oil painting than anything we have yet seen. The classical, allegorical and mythological subjects which are depicted on them cannot fail to be highly gratifying to the eye of taste. Among others we particularly noticed were various Passages from the History of Marc Anthony and Cleopatra, the Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne, Telemachus and Calypso, The Seasons, Luna and Aurora, Meleager and Atalanta, and a representation of the Grecian Games, Votive Sacrifices and ancient Nuptial and Funereal Rites. The bedrooms are all tastefully fitted up and comprise every necessary appendage. In this department we understand no less than 100 beds can be provided with ease. Some idea may be formed of the ample dimensions of this Hotel when we state that on the second floor there are no less than thirty good sized bedrooms and a matted gallery, nearly 100 feet in length, which is terminated with a beautiful window of stained glass."

The house-warming dinner on June 21, 1827, was, like the hotel, on a scale of magnificence. Two hundred and fifty patrons filled the large drawing room and the public dining room. Mr. John Tomes was in the principal chair, and the menu included "turtle, turbot, and venison; an abundance of delightful dessert, and an excellent quality of wines." The feast was one of the jolliest of the time, and when the party broke up, after several hours of good fellowship, all danger of an inundation of wine in Michael Copps's cellars had been removed.

With the first two forms of our system of local government, Michael Copps was associated as a member, but neither on the Parish Committee nor at the meeting of the Paving Commissioners, where he had a coveted seat within the circle of "The Twenty-one," was he prominent as an orator, or as the originator of any important public project. He rather seems to have been one of that class of public men who hold with the proverb that while "speech is silvern, silence is golden," and to have acted in conformity with that precept. His participation in the efforts to obtain the Local Act of 1825, the first meeting of which movement was held at his house in 1818, and his attendance at the meetings of the Commissioners so late as 1839, mark a creditable period of protracted public service. In 1836, the fortunes of the Royal began to decline, owing principally to the general preference of visitors for the Regent, with its superior environment, and in 1840 it was closed. The following year saw the effects dispersed at a twenty-nine days' sale, conducted by Messrs. White and Son, who in 1834 founded the business now carried on by Mr. J. A. Locke, and in 1842 Mr. Copps died. The hotel, which had remained empty since the sale, was demolished in 1847 to make room for the railways.

CHAPTER XXI.

General Hospital and Dispensary of 1826—adoption of the Provident system of contributions—movement for building the Warneford Hospital—foundation stone laying in 1832—the Rev. Dr. Warneford, his gifts and services—the Leamington Charitable Bathing Institution and Mr. Hitchman—growth of the Warneford; description of successive enlargements—legacies and donations of £500 and upwards—list to date of physicians, surgeons, and other officials—Dr. Amos Middleton, &c. &c.

ANOTHER important event in 1826 was the establishment of the General Hospital and Dispensary in Regent Street, which grew out of the Leamington Charitable Institution founded by Benjamin Satchwell twenty years before, and was the connecting link between that earlier manifestation of a regard for the afflicted and necessitous poor, and the Warneford Hospital of later times. Leamington has always been noted for its philanthropy, and it is satisfactory to find that at the time when the village had fairly developed into the town, Satchwell's humble endeavours were expanded into a form more adapted to the increased demands of the poor. The objects of the Dispensary were to give advice and medicine gratis to those who were not in a position to pay for them, and medical attendance at their homes when they were too ill to apply at the Dispensary. There was also a hospital or infirmary on a small scale for the treatment of in-patients. The Institution had the benefit of the most distinguished patronage, including that of H.R.H. the Princess Augusta, and H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester. With this movement the Warneford Hospital originated, the minutes of which date from 1826, though the name of Warneford was not given to it till 1832.

It has often been the fortune, or misfortune, of great movements to encounter, at some time or other, dissensions and divisions within the ranks of their supporters. The Institution, started by Satchwell in 1806, was no exception to the rule, though it was the

last and most unlikely of all soils in which the weeds of discontent might have been expected to flourish. A rival "Leamington Charitable Institution" was started in April, 1815, supported by Drs. Lambe, Johnstone, Pegge, Kerr, Pennington, Chauner, and Middleton; Surgeons Birch and Franklin; the Rev. Edward Trotman, then Curate at the Parish Church, being its Chaplain. An appeal to the public for support was issued, but it contained no allegation against the older Charity, nor any statement of the cause of the difference. A counter-appeal, signed by Sir G. Skipwith, Bart., and ten others, was published in May, apprising the public that "the original institution still exists," and that Mr. George Birch having relinquished his "situation" as surgeon, Mr. John Wilmshurst was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Wilmshurst was a retired Army surgeon, residing at Warwick, and was medical attendant at the time to the Earl of Warwick and his family; he also held the appointment of surgeon to the Warwick Militia, was Mayor of the Borough twice, and was presented by the inhabitants with a handsome and costly service of plate, in recognition of his public work, and in token of the esteem in which he was universally held. His grandson, Mr. J. J. Willington Wilmshurst, is Clerk to the Kenilworth Sanitary Authority, and in May, 1897, was elected Coroner for Central Warwickshire.

At the annual meeting of the Hospital and Dispensary, held on May 7, 1827, the surgeons retired from office, as they were giving up business and leaving Leamington, and Mr. William Middleton, son of Dr. Amos Middleton, father of the medical faculty in Leamington, was appointed to succeed Mr. Chambers; Messrs. Jones and Cottle were elected in the place of Mr. Franklin, and Messrs D'Arcy Bolton and Pritchard as successors to Dr. Jephson. In 1828 the ladies organised a bazaar, and a splendid gala and ball in aid of the funds of the Institution, the total receipts of which amounted to £904 2s. 6d., leaving, after payment of all expenses, a profit of £669 11s. 3d.

The erection of the Warneford Hospital in 1832 was a much-needed novel departure in the cause of local charity. The habitation of the old Hospital and Dispensary had long proved

unsuited for the beneficial work there carried on for the benefit of the poor. How to provide funds was also a source of constant anxiety. The annual average income was £150; the expenditure ranged from £300 to £400. Such relief from pecuniary pressure as was obtained from time to time by bazaars and large donations proving only temporary, the adoption of a new scheme was discussed at a meeting of the Governors, on May 12, 1829. On the proposition of Dr. Loudon, it was decided to introduce the provident system of contributions, originated by Mr. Smith, of Southam, and advocated by him with success throughout the Midland Counties. The substantial change made, related to the recipients who previously participated in the benefits of the Charity gratuitously. By the new arrangements a payment of a weekly sum, equal to 6s. 6d. a year, constituted membership, with the right to choose any resident medical man to attend them in sickness. After defraying all expenses the balance was divided among the practitioners according to the number of cases each had attended. Besides the adoption of this system, there was also a movement in progress for building a more commodious Hospital, the origin of which took place in 1828. In addition to being too small, the premises in Regent Street were inconveniently situated and lacked provision for future enlargements. The Building Committee, appointed in 1828, were joined in 1830 by the Rev. Dr. Warneford, Rector of Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire; a Prince of Philanthropists, who in the course of his life dispensed about £200,000 of his wealth in support of various charities, and to whose liberality are largely owing the splendid proportions and the character of the present building in the Radford Road. There were three sites under consideration—one immediately adjoining the old Town Hall in High Street, another in the Kenilworth Road, the third being that on which the present Hospital stands. An acre of ground was purchased from the Earl of Aylesford, at a cost of £600, and the foundation stone was laid on April 10, 1832, by the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy, the President of the Dispensary. The ceremony was performed with Masonic Honours, the members of the Guy's Lodge, and numerous others of the brethren from various Lodges in the Warwickshire Province, being present

in their attractive official plumage. Bisset, an artistic and skilful medallist, presented two medals, which, with three gold, eight silver, and three copper coins, were placed in a box and deposited in the stone, the inscription being as follows:—"This, the first stone of the Leamington Hospital, was laid by the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy, April 10, 1832." Towards the cost Dr. Warneford and his sister were munificent donors, and as a record of their generosity the new building was named "The Warneford Hospital."* While the works were being carried on George Christopher Liebenrood was the secretary. He was the first schoolmaster at the National School, established at the Parsonage House, Church Street, in 1822, and afterwards was the proprietor of the *Leamington Courier*. In 1833 we find Dr. Warneford staying at the Stoneleigh Hotel, frequently visiting the works in the Radford Road, and aiding the Committee with his constant supervision and advice. Early in 1834 the central block was finished, and two out of the six wards were opened for the reception of patients. The beginning thus made stimulated local effort to remove a debt of £1,000 then remaining on the building, and in September a bazaar was held, from which a profit of £400 was realised. Amongst those who interested themselves in bringing about this exceedingly satisfactory result were the Misses Manners-Sutton, daughters of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and sisters of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The reduction of the debt, and the prospect of its extinction at an early date, produced a general feeling that some further recognition should be made of Dr. Warneford's liberality and service to the institution. He was accordingly entertained at two complimentary dinners, one given at the Regent Hotel by the nobility and gentry, of whom there were between seventy and eighty present, and the other by the tradesmen, at the Bedford, about the same number being in attendance. The Leamington Charitable Bathing Institution was allied to the old Infirmary, but was independent in its origin and management. In 1835 it was wisely

* Dr. Warneford gave £2,050, and Miss Warneford, his sister, £500 towards the building fund; various other donations by him to the same object amounted to an additional sum of £1,000. In his Will he bequeathed £10,000 in trust for the benefit of the Hospital.

amalgamated with the Hospital, and Mr. John Hitchman, the principal medical officer, was added to the Hospital Staff under the title of "surgeon-elect." Mainly through the exertions of Dr. Jephson, two additional wards were furnished for the reception of patients in 1838, after which no material change ensued for nearly twenty years.

In tracing the remaining history of the "Warneford," a host of names deserve honourable mention, some for the splendour of their gifts, others for years of devoted, energetic and self-denying service. An extensive survey of disheartening difficulties overcome, and of serious obstacles removed, would also be necessary. The direct benefits to the poor in more than one hundred parishes in South Warwickshire, and the indirect advantages accruing to the wealthy classes, from the opportunities the institution affords for studying in its wards every type of disease and method of treatment, are subjects which could not be overlooked. Inviting as the consideration of these questions is, under existing circumstances they must give place, for want of space, to the dry, but not valueless, statistics of growth from 1838, when the two wards, as already mentioned, were added. In 1856 the two upper wards of the original building were furnished and opened, and in 1857 the Committee erected the east wing, containing a spacious receiving room for out-patients, and consulting rooms for the physicians and surgeons. A Sanitorium was added in 1862, and in 1866 the Chapel was completed with funds provided by the bequest of Mr. T. Oldham, of Southam. A further enlargement took place in 1868, when the west wing was erected, and the children's ward fitted up for occupation. Although the Warneford Hospital had been known from 1832 as a bathing institution, it was not till 1872 that the saline waters were introduced within its walls. This improvement the Governors were enabled to make in consequence of the late Mr. Matthew Wise having, when he sold the land at the south-west corner of Bath-Street to the railway companies, reserved the free use of the saline spring for the inhabitants, and especially for the benefit of the Hospital. Without specifying details of each and every addition, all of which are described in the annual reports, we may mention the following as the chief events during the past quarter of a century :—In 1877

trained nurses were first employed; new wards for children were opened in 1880 by Lady Leigh, in honour of whom they are named; the Jubilee year of the Warneford was celebrated in 1882 by a special service and a luncheon, the venerable Archdeacon Holbeche preaching at the former, and Earl Percy presiding over the latter; two acres of land on the east side of the Hospital were purchased in 1889; in 1891 Lord Leigh laid, according to Masonic ceremonial, the first stone of the new east wing, which was opened in 1892 by Mr. A. W. Peel (afterwards Viscount Peel), M.P., Speaker; in 1898 Lord Leigh, in laying the foundation stone, inaugurated the building of the Victoria Wing, designed to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's reign, and in January, 1900, H.R.H. the Princess Christian, well known throughout the Empire for her labours of love on behalf of the sick and afflicted, consented to perform the opening ceremony. The Princess, who had a loyal and most enthusiastic welcome, lunched with the Earl and Countess of Warwick and a distinguished company, at the Castle in the morning, afterwards visited Lady Warwick's Cripples' Home at Emscote, and, arriving in Leamington shortly after three o'clock drove to the Town Hall, where the Mayor (Mr. J. M. Molesworth), having been introduced by Lord Leigh, presented her with a loyal address on behalf of "The Mayor, Aldermen, and burgesses of the Borough," signed by himself officially and the Town Clerk (Mr. Henry Consett Passman). In reply, the Princess briefly expressed her thanks. His Worship introduced the Mayoress (Mrs. Molesworth) to her Royal Highness, and their son, Master Murray Molesworth, handed her a beautiful bouquet of choice flowers. She was accompanied by Lord Leigh and a fashionable and representative party to the Warneford Hospital, where she unlocked the door and declared the Victoria Wing open. Afterwards she gave the name of "Victoria" to the large lower ward, and, at the request of the Committee, bestowed her own, "Helena," on another. Publication in these pages of the following legacies and donations of £500 and upwards to the Hospital will, it is hoped, induce many others to make a similar bestowal of a portion of their wealth; and the list given of the officials from the time of the founding of the institution will assist in preserving from oblivion many names deserving the gratitude of posterity.

Legacies : Rev. Dr. Warneford, £10,000 in trust ; J. Williams, £550 ; W. Taylor, £500 ; Miss France, £500 ; J. Oldham (Southam), £1,115 ; S. W. Lewis, £500 ; E. Allenby, £500 (less duty) ; Miss Phœbe Fellows, £500 ; Mrs. M. Gibson, £500 ; Miss E. Osmond, £500 ; Mrs. Litler, £500 ; J. Jury, £1,000 (less duty) ; Captain Thursby, R.N., £500 (ditto) ; Miss Ryland, £1,000 ; J. C. Harter, £500 ; J. Timms, £5,721 ; Miss Landor, £500 ; Miss M. Phillips, £1,500 (less duty) ; Mrs. F. R. Wallington, £1,000 ; Mrs. S. Hitchman, £2,000 ; Colonel Machen, £1,000 (less duty) ; Mrs. Colonel Machen, £500 (ditto) ; Miss Mellor, £5,956 ; Mrs. F. A. Bennett, £550 (less duty and expenses) ; R. Hopkins, £500 ; Mrs. H. Hamilton, £3,000 (conditional, known as "Hamilton Faulconer Trust Fund") ; Colonel W. Blackburne, £1,000 (less duty) ; Miss Mozley, £500 ; J. Fessey, £693 (legacy and share of residue).

Donations : Rev. Dr. Warneford, £2,050 (to Building Fund) ; ditto, £1,000 (various gifts) ; Miss Warneford, £500 (ditto) ; Mrs. Arnold, £510 (ditto) ; H. Jephson, M.D., £1,270 ; Mrs. Cumberland, £700 (in memory of the late Colonel Cumberland) ; Rev. J. A. Beaumont, £800 (for the erection and furnishing of the "Herbert Beaumont Cottage Hospital") ; Mrs. Grenfell and the Misses Low, £600 (in memory of Bruce Grenfell) ; a lady, per Dr. Thursfield, £500 (for land) ; Mrs. Grenfell, Mrs. H. Graham and Misses Low, £700 (in memory of Andrew Low) ; C. A. Smith-Ryland, £700 (in memory of Miss Ryland) ; Miss Mozley, £1,200 (endowment for a bed to be used exclusively for cancer cases) ; Mrs. Thursfield, £500 (in memory of her father, the late Mr. Matthew Heath), the entire cost of furnishing the Victoria Wing.

Special : 1895, Public Subscription, initiated by Dr. T. W. Thursfield, Mayor, £403 (to repair damages caused by the gale on March 24, 1895) ; 1898, Public Jubilee Subscription, started by Dr. Thursfield, Mayor and Corporation, £2,695 (for the completion of the Hospital).

Physicians : Dr. Amos Middleton, 1826—1847 ; Dr. Davie, 1828 ; Dr. Staunton, 1828—1835 ; Dr. Luard, 1835—1842 ; Dr. Homer, 1842—1882 ; Dr. Jeaffreson, 1847—1867 ; Dr. Carter, 1864—1884 ; Dr. Slack, 1867—1873 ; Dr. Haynes, 1873 ; Dr. Thursfield, 1882 ; Dr. Otho F. Wyer, 1884.

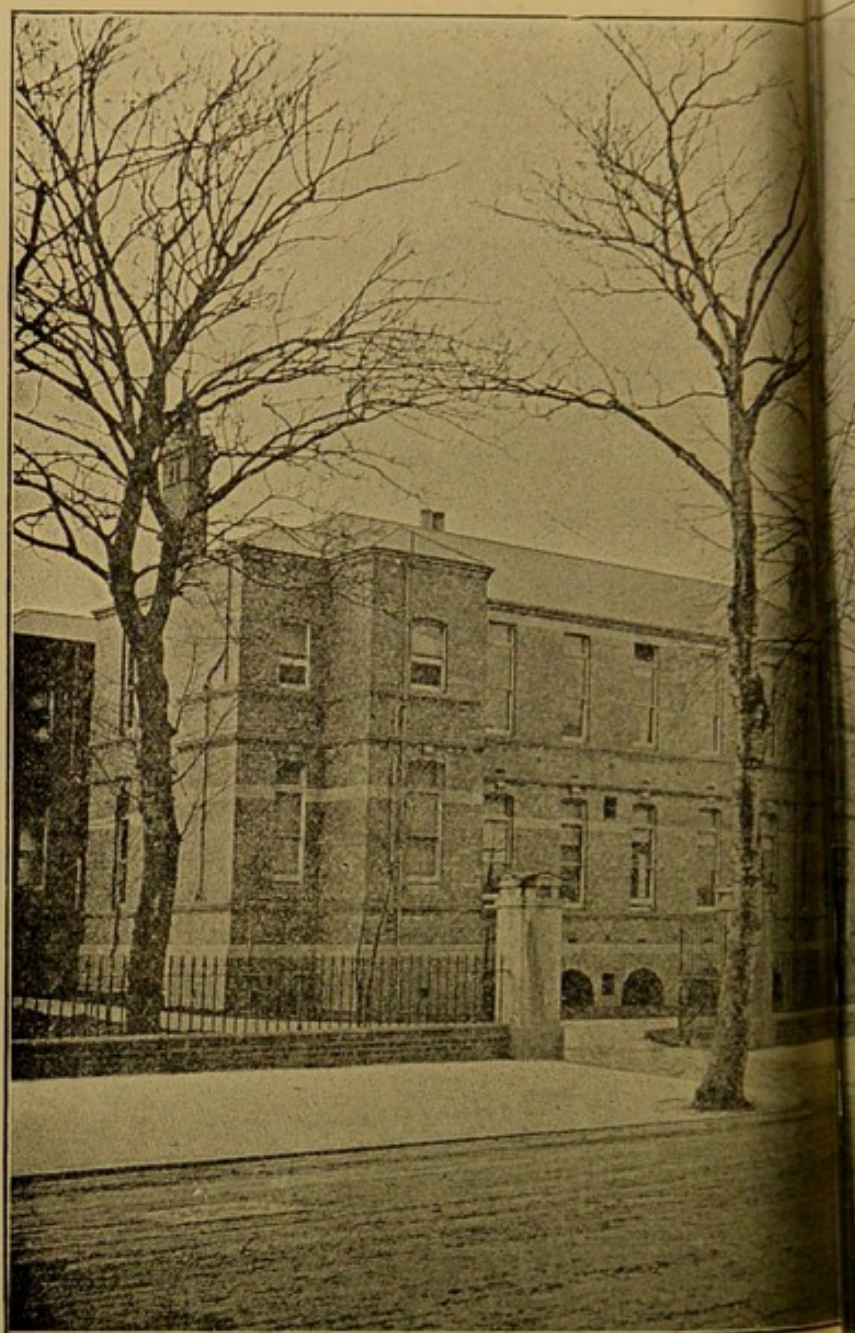
Surgeons : Mr. Franklin, 1827 ; Dr. Jephson, 1827 ; Mr. Chambers, 1827 ; Mr. R. Jones, 1827—1875 ; Dr. Cottle, 1827—1849 ; Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, 1827—1836 ; Mr. Pritchard, 1827—1855 ; Mr. William Middleton, 1827—1856 ; Mr. Hitchman, 1832—1867 ; Mr. Male, 1856—1871 ; Mr. J. R. Jeaffreson, 1867 ; Dr. Marriott, 1871—1891 ; Mr. Morris, 1875—1896.

Consulting Surgeons : Charles Marriott, M.D., 1891 ; Joseph Morris, 1896.

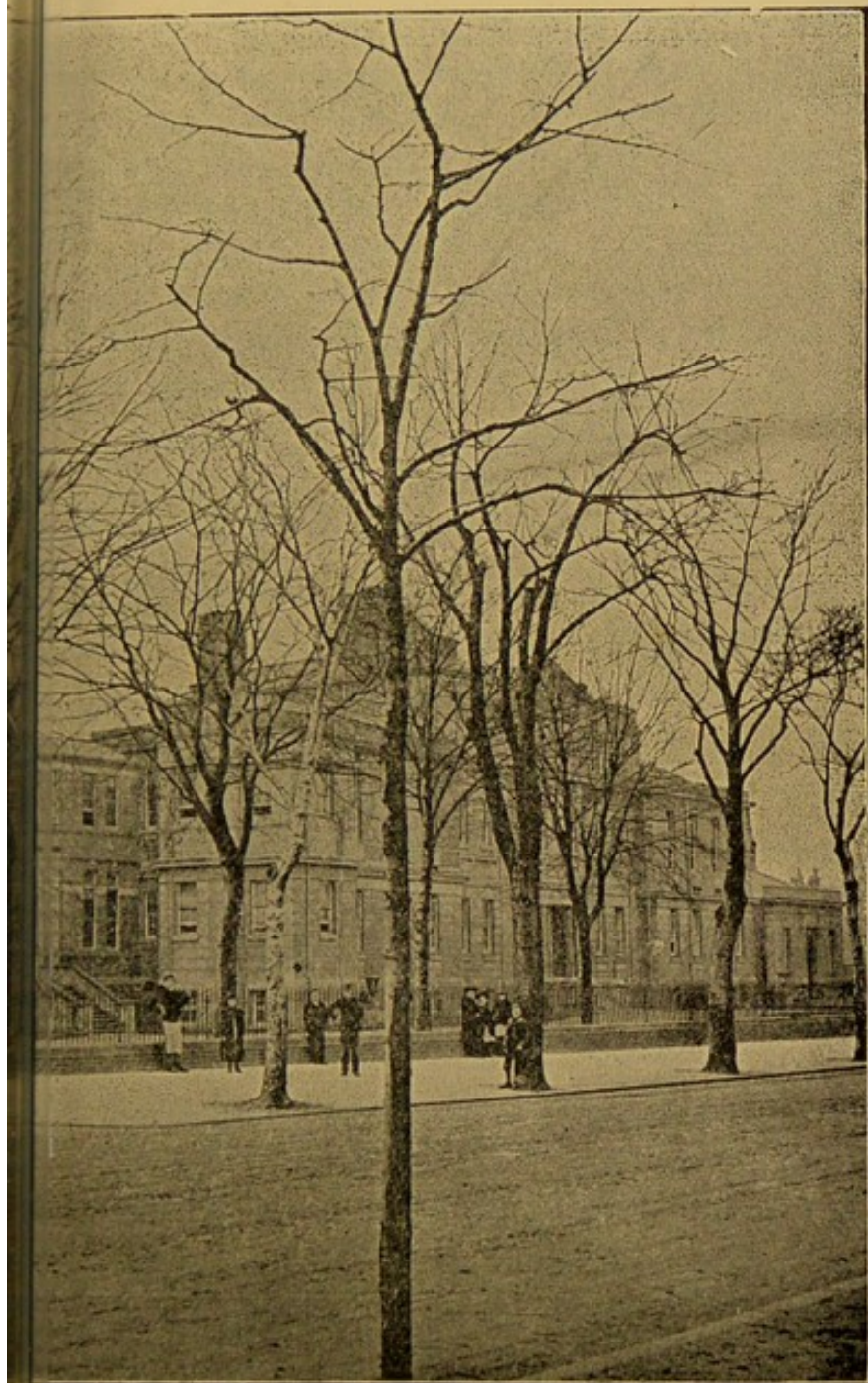
Dentist : Mr. A. Jepson, 1874.

Apothecaries : Mr. Treslove, 1826—1829 ; Mr. Gossage, 1829—1831 ; Mr. Horwood, 1831—1833.



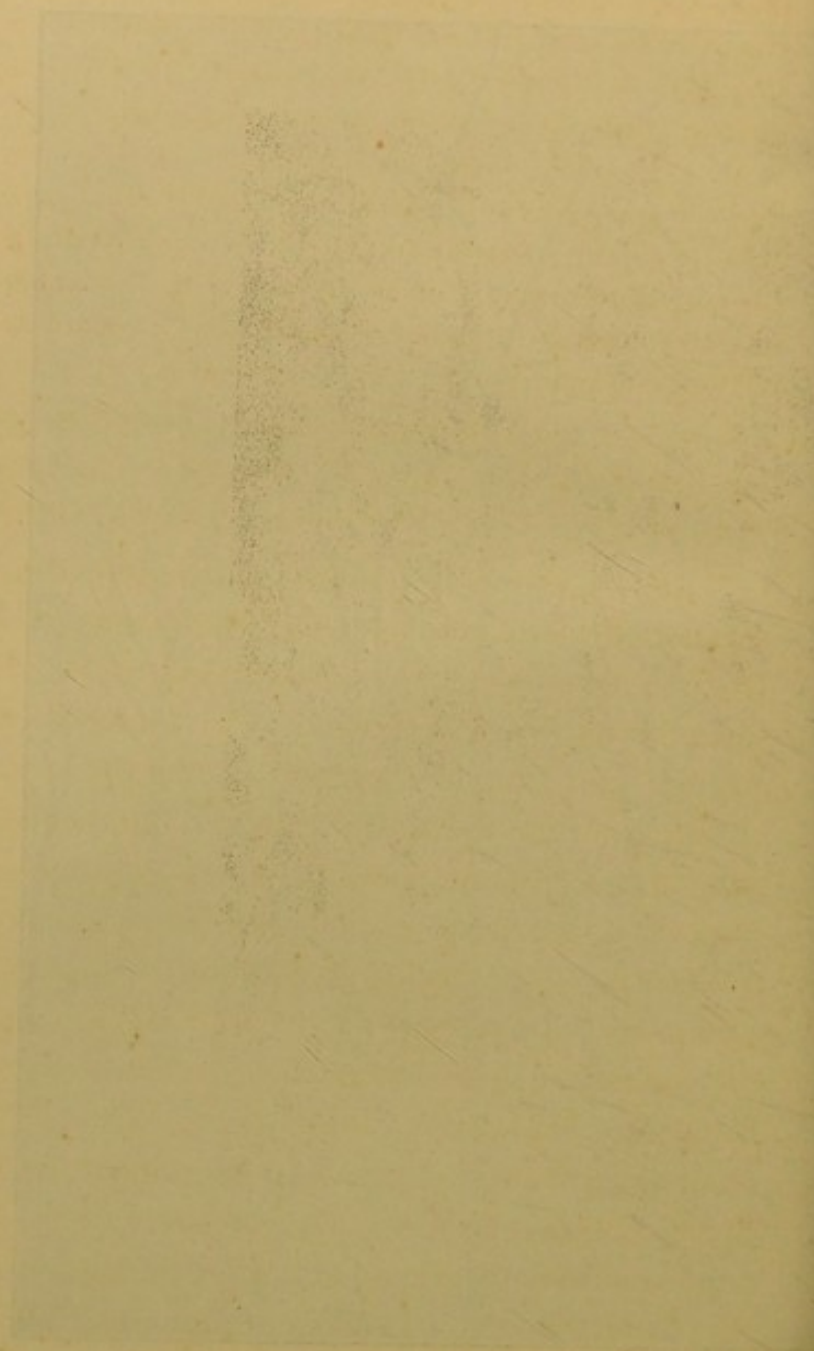


From a Photo by Martin Billing, Son & Co]
THE WARNEFORD HOSPITAL



[*Livery Street, Birmingham.*

ESTABLISHED 1832.



Resident Dispensers : Mr. Jenkins, 1833—1834 ; Mr. Alcock, 1834—1837 ; Mr. W. J. White, 1883—1884 ; Miss E. M. Swain, 1884 ; Miss Gertrude Mannox, 1895—1899 ; Miss Jessie A. Sutton, 1899.

House Surgeons : — Hulbert, 1837—1841 ; J. E. Male, 1841—1852 ; H. J. Franks, M.D., 1852—1854 ; T. Furneaux Jordan, 1854—1856 ; T. T. Gardner, 1856—1858 ; Otho F. Wyer, 1858—1862 ; T. S. Swinson, 1862—1863 ; Joseph Morris, 1863—1869 ; F. H. Haynes, M.D., 1869—1872 ; B. B. Floyer, 1872—1874 ; G. W. Crowe, M.D., 1874—1876 ; T. Lloyd Brown, 1876—1878 ; A. Lawson Heale, 1878—1880 ; A. Stewart Brown, 1880—1882 ; Bernard Rice, M.D., 1882—1889 ; Philip Hicks, M.B., B.A., 1889—1891 ; George Dickinson, 1891—1892 ; Andrew R. Mackinnon, M.B.C.M., 1892—1893 ; E. J. P. Olive, M.B. (Cantab), 1893—1894 ; H. N. Crowley Atkinson, 1894—1895 ; F. W. Garrad, M.B., 1895 ; Arthur Trethewy, B.A. (Cantab), 1896—1898 ; W. G. Silvester, 1898 ; C. Dudley Bishop, 1900 ; Leonard A. Moore, 1901 ; Dr. H. Ashley Gaitskell, 1902.

Secretaries : Captain Donald Harrow, 1832 ; T. R. Blayney, 1849 ; W. de la tour Blackwell, 1851—1874 ; W. Maycock, 1874—1890 ; J. Warren, 1891—1899 ; Richard J. Coles, 1900—1902 ; G. T. Poole, 1902.

With the following remarks on the foregoing we must conclude our notice of the Hospital. Dr. Warneford's generous legacy of £10,000 depends on the management of the institution having the approbation of the trustees ; a material deviation from the original plan might have the lamentable result of diverting the fund to another charitable object. The bequest of £5,721 by the late Mr. J. Timms, a tailor and clothier in business on the Parade, is the largest sum ever bequeathed to the Hospital by a tradesman. Dr. Amos Middleton, whose portrait hangs in the Committee Room with that of Dr. Warneford, was the father of the medical profession at the Spa, and a grandson of Sir John Lambert Middleton, of Belsay Castle, Northumberland, in memory of which relationship he named his residence in Bedford Street, Belsay House. The property, long since removed, stood a considerable distance back from the street, on the north side of the Tennis Court. The last tenant was the late Mr. C. E. Large, solicitor. Dr. Middleton retired from the Hospital in 1844, when the picture referred to was subscribed for and presented by a large number of grateful and admiring friends. He died on April 25, 1847, aged sixty-eight, but in none of the obituary notices is any mention made of the place of his burial. William Gossage was the successor of Nelson & Co., chemists, Bath Street, and the

author of several patents of great public utility. In 1855 he established the present famous soap works at Widnes, reported to be the largest in the world. Captain Donald Harrow was a member of the old Parish Committee, and his name appears on the first list of voters after the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832.

The absence from the list of surgeons of the name of Mr. Egerton Allcock Jennings, one of the most promising medical practitioners in Leamington from 1827 to 1834, will no doubt be noticed by readers who have frequently seen his connection with the institution mentioned in print. Probably the explanation is that the Warneford has been inadvertently substituted for the Leamington Charitable Bathing Institution, in the management of which he was associated with Dr. Hitchman. The present position of the Hospital cannot be otherwise than gratifying to all its supporters. Few towns, if any, possess a building so noble, with arrangements perfect throughout, and dispensing benefits over so wide an area. It is satisfactory to find, and we refer to it as evidence of its popularity with the working classes, that from 1878 to 1901 the Hospital Saturday Collections have produced over £5,600, while those of the Hospital Sunday, from 1851 to 1901, amount to about £14,100.

This necessarily brief historical sketch leaves unnoticed numerous particulars the statement of which would tend to the advantage of the institution, but if it serve to awaken or excite a stronger feeling of existing interest in its welfare, the object of the author will be attained. To those who seek fuller information, the perusal of any one of the annual reports is strongly recommended. The Hospital, in which there are eight large wards providing accommodation for one hundred persons, receives patients from 112 parishes in South Warwickshire, including, besides Leamington, Warwick, Southam and Kenilworth. The medical staff, whose services, with the exception of the House Surgeon, are gratuitous, numbers six Physicians and Surgeons and a Dentist; upwards of 15,000 prescriptions are annually dispensed, and as an incentive to increased public liberality it may be stated that though the yearly expenditure is at least £4,500, little more than £1,000 are derived from endowment.

CHAPTER XXII.

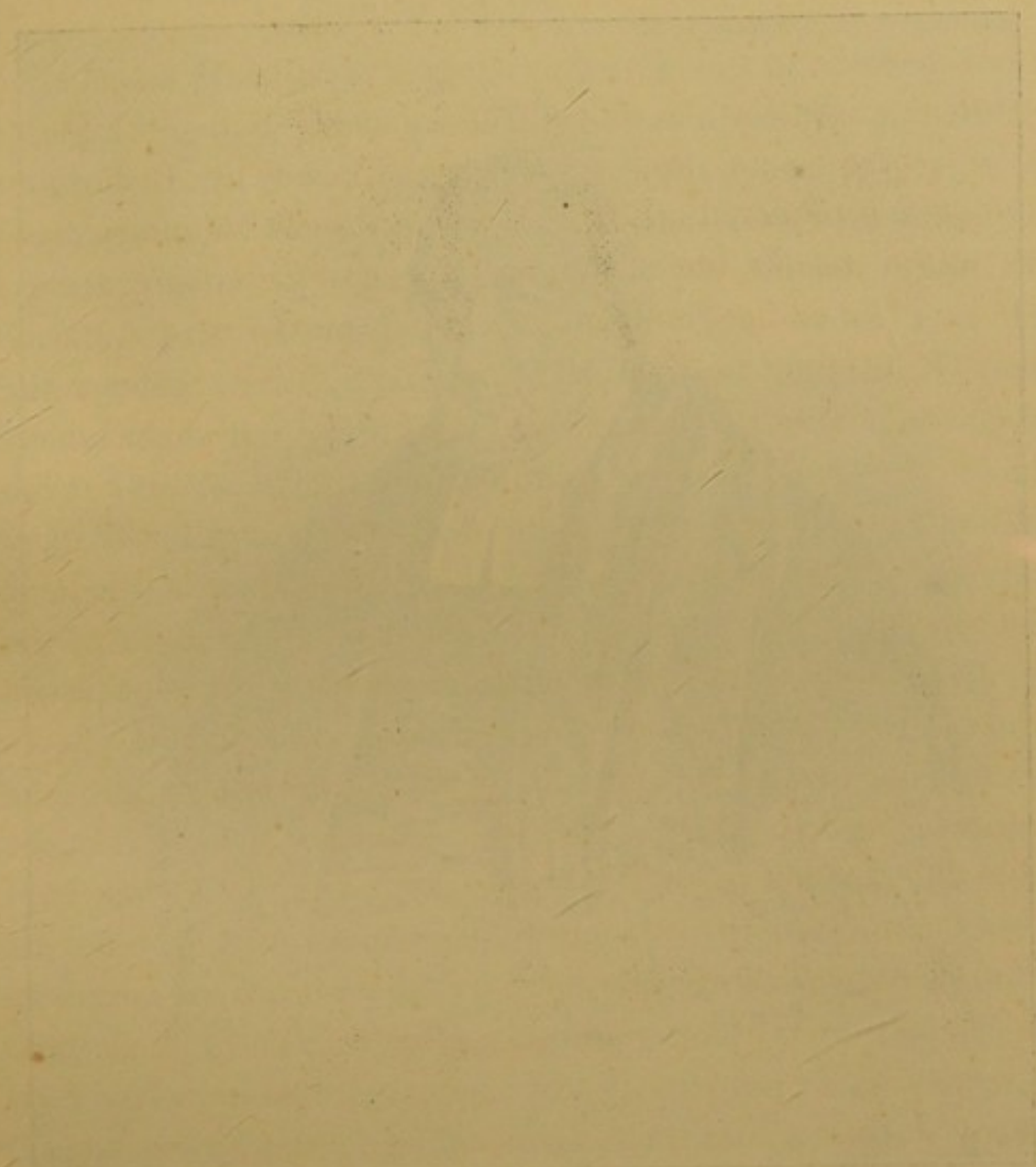
Mill Street Chapel—erection of in 1829—its architecture, arrangements and accommodation—purchased by the Rev. Rowland Hill—list of ministers, etc.—Building of Spencer Street Chapel, and inaugural services in 1836—the Rev. Alfred Pope; his ministry, style of preaching, and death—an aristocratic congregation—interesting visit of John Fairfax, one of the founders of the cause—successive improvements and Pastors, etc.

ON page 86 we concluded the first phase of the origin and early manifestation of Congregationalism in Leamington, and promised to return to the subject on a future occasion and supply the particulars of its after expansion and work. From the chronological point of view, the present is a fitting opportunity for the fulfilment of that pledge. The result of the dissension at Clemens Street Chapel touching the use of the Liturgy, was, as has already been explained, the formation of two distinct denominational branches out of the original stock, one of which—the Liturgical party—built, and provided for themselves a home, in Mill Street Chapel; the other remained at Clemens Street until 1836 and then migrated to Spencer Street. There, at a cost of about £3,000, they erected a new place of worship, which has since been frequently enlarged, and so beautified as to be in the present day almost incomparable. To the contrasted fortunes of these causes, united in tradition and doctrine, but separated irreconcilably by a difference respecting a solitary non-essential, the attention of the reader is now directed.

The commencement of the building of Mill Street Chapel took place in April, 1829; in the month of August following it was opened for divine service. John Toone was the contractor, and that he should have been in a position to complete such a structure in the brief space of five months is much to his credit.

The design, which was greatly admired and declared to be unique, was prepared by Mr. Nicklin, an architect residing in Brunswick Street, and occupying a good position in his profession. The order of architecture was the Gothic. Accommodation in comfortable high-back pews was provided for about 350 persons—probably a much larger congregation than could have been seated in the Clemens Street Chapel of 1816. There were two side aisles; at the east end a large window of stained glass, and at the west a gallery for the singers and Sunday School children, where, in later years, an organ was supplied by Bishop, of London, which rendered acceptable service to the voluntary choir in their unpretentious, but not ineffective, efforts at congregational psalmody. The edifice, now applied to the purposes of a Parish Room and forming part of the property of All Saints, has, exteriorly, undergone no change in the sixty-three years which have elapsed since it was built. It was then described as “an elegant structure,” and though it would scarcely be now alluded to in terms so complimentary, when it is remembered that in 1829 the architecture of local churches and chapels was wholly in the direction of plainness and absence of ornament, such praise need not be ascribed to bias nor yet to ignorance. The funds were subscribed by the friends of the Rev. Charles Bassano, the secessionist minister from Clemens Street, and it is not unreasonable to believe that the donation of the Rev. Rowland Hill was the most substantial among the sums received, for their action in this respect appears to have had his warm approval. He was a Liturgist to the core of his nature; designated them “liberal-minded Dissenters;” acknowledged the value of their support of his views, and on their appealing to him for assistance, he promptly responded. In 1831 Mr. Hill purchased the property, completed the building, and furnished the Minister’s house, at a total cost exceeding £2,000, and to prevent his views being misunderstood at any future time, he caused a tablet to be placed under the gallery with this inscription:—

“I, Rowland Hill, clerk, having purchased this Chapel for the express purpose of introducing the Liturgical Service of the Church of England (after the said Service was excluded from Clemens Street Chapel) do hereby declare it to be my Will that the said Service shall be



The Rev. Howard Jones, of a
the Early History and Development of the State of Oregon



THE REV. ROWLAND HILL, M.A.
An Early Visitor, and Founder of Mill Street Chapel.

adopted and continued herein, without any material alteration, so long as it forms a part of the Service of that Church—as now by law established.”

ROWLAND HILL, *Proprietor.*

November 2, 1831.

Witnesses { EDWARD BATES, *Minister.*
JOHN HITCHMAN, *Surgeon.*
CHARLES GORING.

After the Mill Street Church property was purchased, the Rev. Edward Bates, of Cheshunt College, was appointed minister. He resigned in 1841, and the buildings having been given to Lady Huntingdon's Connexion, the Rev. Alfred New, who subsequently became Editor of the "Harbinger," the official organ of the Society, was chosen his successor. He wrote two highly commended works, namely, "The Coronet and the Crown, or Memorials of the Right Hon. Selina, Countess of Huntingdon;" and "The Voice of the Bible to the Age," respecting which the Rev. Alfred Pope remarked that it was an honour to Leamington to have had two such books produced by one of its ministers. He left in 1858 for Wigan, the vacancy thus caused being filled by the Rev. W. H. Sisterson, whose ministry for the ensuing twenty years represented a period of uninterrupted success. A courteous, hard-working pastor, he was one of the first to assist in the establishment of the Public Hall Sunday Afternoon Services. In 1878 he accepted the pastorate of Christ Church, Exeter, and his removal from Leamington caused general regret. After brief ministries by the Rev. J. T. Powell, who seceded and entered Holy Orders; the Rev. W. H. Hannah, and the Rev. T. Mace Humphreys, the property was sold by auction on March 31, 1887, at the Crown Hotel, by Mr. Josiah Southorn (Cokes & Southorn), the vendors being the Society called Hackney College, who had obtained the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. It was afterwards occupied by the Presbyterians, and in 1897 the Rev. Cecil Hook, Vicar, purchased it for the Parish Room.

Affairs at Clemens Street Chapel having been remarkably prosperous since the choice of Mr. Pope as minister in 1829, in 1835 it was found necessary to build a larger and more central place of worship. The choice of a site lay between a plot of land in Dormer Place, then a fashionable resort and known as the

Promenade, and the present situation in Spencer Street, at the time un-made and un-named, and extending from Bath Street only as far as the Lower Avenue, where a rustic gate thrown across the way stopped all further progress in the direction of what is now the Avenue Road. All the land beyond was pasture, the principal part being the Avenue Field, so called on account of the beautiful avenue of elms, which left the Old Warwick Road and proceeded along where the bridge now crosses the two lines of railways, and passing round in front of the old Manor House, returned along the Lower Avenue to the Warwick Road, opposite the bottom of Tachbrook Road. The view from the Manor House was over an expanse of mead adorned with vestment of perpetual green and unbroken by any other obstruction than those of trees which flourished in the locality in great abundance. On July 21, 1836, Spencer Street Congregational Chapel, one of the most popular and influential centres of Independency in the Midlands, was opened by two services, at which the Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham, and the Rev. James Parsons, of York, were the preachers.

“The South front consisted of a portico of four Ionic columns, placed on a platform of two steps, each column standing on a deep plinth. The cornice was continued along the wings, which were each lighted by one long circular-headed window, the whole being surmounted by a balustrade concealing the roof. The flank elevation comprised the entrances to the staircases, and the six windows on the side were simply divided by pilasters. A central vestibule afforded access, on either side, to the body of the Chapel, or to the staircases which are conveniently placed in the wings. The body of the Chapel was lofty, exceedingly well-proportioned, and contained, on the ground floor, side aisles and a central body of pewing, capable of accommodating 600 persons. A gallery, supported by light enriched columns, ran round the East, South and West sides of the Chapel, which contained seats for 470 persons, and above this on the South side a children's gallery was admirably contrived to hold 200 children, all in the full view of the minister. The pulpit, of an octagonal form, was enriched at the angles with columns, and centrally placed at the North end of the Chapel, having behind it three slender circular-headed

windows filled with stained glass. The design comprised a running oak leaf as a border, with rosettes down the centre of each window. The Chapel was lighted by twelve windows, separated by pilasters surmounted by a cornice having a large single-leafed enrichment next the ceiling. This was divided into thirty panels, formed by flat sinkings, and enriched with twelve rosettes. The interior of the Chapel had an exceedingly chaste and elegant appearance. There was a commodious vestry room with schoolmistress's room below, and under the Chapel a capacious school. There were also catacombs for burial." Mr. Russell, himself a member of the congregation, was the architect.

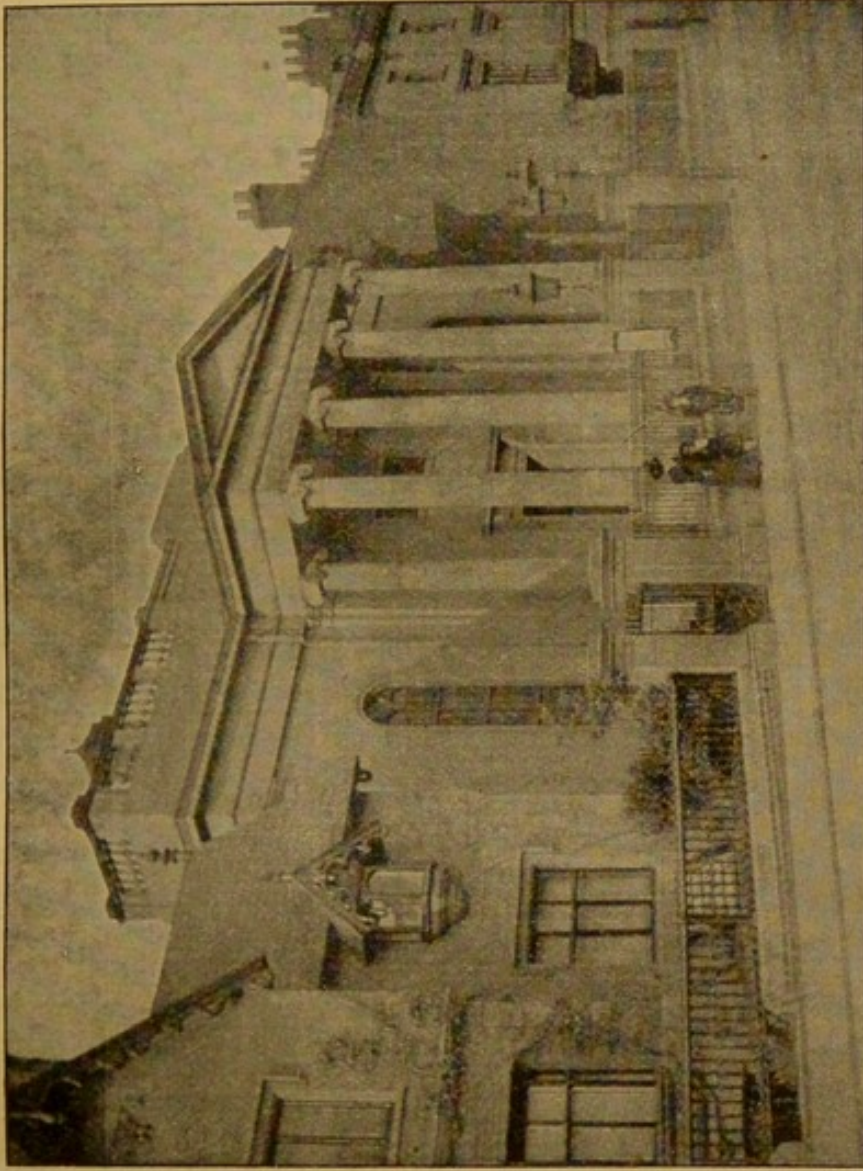
The collections at the opening amounted to £170, and on the following Sunday the inaugural services were continued, the Rev. James Parsons preaching in the morning and evening, and the Rev. J. W. Percy, of Warwick, in the afternoon. On each occasion the congregation filled all parts of the Chapel, and in the evening it was estimated there were fifteen hundred persons present, while several hundreds crowded the doors unable to find even standing room. The total collections in the two days reached the sum of £301.

Mr. Pope continued in the pastorate until 1846, at which time a change being necessary for the health of his family, he resigned and accepted the charge of the Independent Church at Torquay. The climate there proving unsuited to him, at the earnest request of his former congregation, he returned to Leamington after twelve months' absence and resumed his ministerial labours in connection with Spencer Street Church. There he remained without further interruption until 1863, when he had a paralytic seizure, from which he never recovered. The sad event occurred immediately after a public meeting held on January 10 to celebrate the extinction of a debt of £3,300, and it was attributed to the great excitement and joy he experienced on that occasion. The seizure left him a helpless invalid, and after submissively enduring fourteen years' suffering he died on the 26th of December, 1877, at his residence, Rochester Road, Camden Town, London, aged seventy years. At his interment in South Norwood Cemetery, the Church was represented by Mr. John Hordern, the

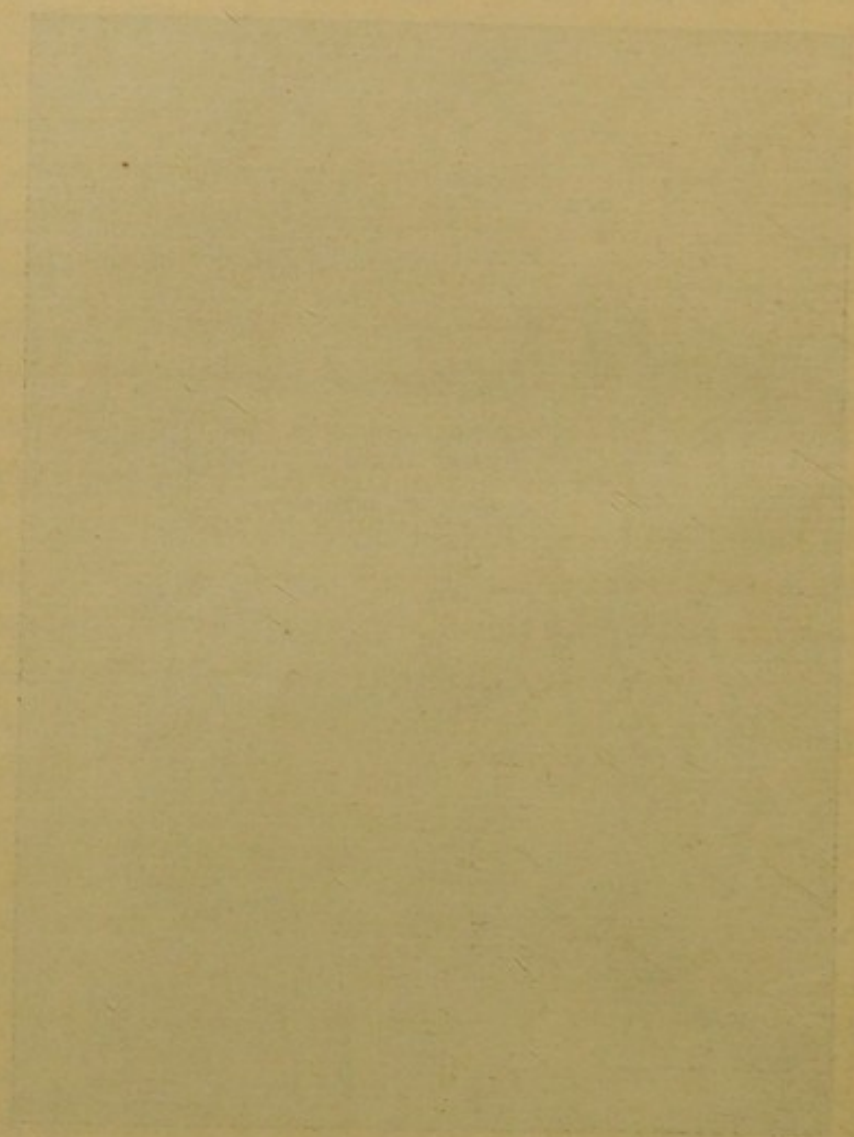
senior deacon, and Mr. Ebenezer Goold, one of the old members. The sudden deprivation of Mr. Pope's services in 1863 was a great blow to the congregation, whose affectionate regard for him was marked by the grant of a superannuation allowance sufficient to provide for every comfort he could desire or need. His mind was clear and unclouded throughout his long illness, and letters received from him occasionally by the deacons proved that Royal Leamington and the Church at Spencer Street were ineffaceable, pleasant memories. Mr. Pope was the first in the order of time, and not the last in that of merit, of five preachers whose names are prominent in the histories of the Leamington Churches in the early and middle parts of the last century, and whose ministries were attended by crowded and fashionable congregations. He was not what is called a learned preacher, as was the Rev. John Craig, nor profound, like the Rev. Dr. Winslow; in the subject matter of his discourses he rather approached the practical and easily comprehended style of the Rev. J. H. Smith and the Rev. Dr. Marsh, at the same time retaining a peculiar charm of manner which distinguished him from both. His reading, which was as near perfection as can be imagined, won praise from Sheridan Knowles, who was one of his converts, and it was probably due to Mr. Pope's influence that the distinguished actor and dramatist forsook the stage and devoted the last fifteen years of his life to theology and the pulpit.* During the time he was at Spencer Street (1836-1863) the congregation was unusually aristocratic, and included Earl Buchan, Sir James and Lady Carnegie,† Lord James and Lady Murray, the Ladies Campbell (2), Lady Cartwright, Mr. Agnew, and many others. About the year 1861 the dwarf wall, iron palisades, and gates in front of the portico were erected by Mr. B. Bradshaw, and the school immediately at the rear of the building by Mr. E. Goold. The successor of Mr. Pope was the Rev. J. Morrell Blackie, LL.B., and B.A. of New College, whose ordination took place on September 26, 1865, when the Rev. Dr.

* James Sheridan Knowles joined the Baptists, and became a popular and influential minister of that denomination.

† Lady Agnes Murray Carnegie, widow of Sir David Carnegie, Bart., died in June, 1860, at Dynevor House, Newbold Terrace, aged 96 years.



SPENCER STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
(Exterior.)



Halley (Principal of New College), Professor Newth, the Revs. T. Binney and J. W. Percy, Mr. John Fairfax, of Sydney, New South Wales, and several others participated in the proceedings and gave brief addresses. Mr. Fairfax, it will be remembered, was co-founder of the cause with Mr. Frost, both of whom met Mr. Pope on his arrival from London by the stage coach at the Bath Hotel on Saturday evening, February 9, 1828. His appearance on the platform gave a special interest to the meeting, and his recital of the story of the early struggles of the Church, in which he had himself borne a principal part, had a freshness it had never before possessed. The chief improvements in Mr. Blackie's time were the erection of a new school in 1866, by Mr. T. H. Jones, the memorial stone of which was laid on June 11, by Mr. R. Baker, of Walpole Villa, and the decoration and renovation of the interior by Mr. E. Goold at an expenditure of about £500. The pulpit was set back several feet, and a daïs in front constructed. The decorations were most artistic, the walls being coloured with sage green, the columns lavender, and the ceiling bearing elegant designs copied from the apartments in the British Museum. Mr. Blackie resigned in 1873 and went to Everton Crescent Church, Liverpool, subsequently removing to Sudbury, and finally to Cheltenham, where he died. The Rev. W. J. Woods, also of New College, was the next minister. He settled in Leamington in 1874, and in 1878 declined an invitation from the congregation at Wycliffe Chapel, Hull, to become their minister, but in 1881 he removed to Manchester, where he succeeded the Rev. Paxton Hood. Afterwards he accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Clapham, and eventually was elected Secretary to the Congregational Union, an important appointment he still holds (1902). The Rev. A. Holden Byles, of Headingley, Leeds, followed Mr. Woods in May, 1882. He was an ardent Liberal politician, and applied himself with great energy to the advancement of those principles which he regarded as essential to the welfare and prosperity of the country. His frequent appearance at the meetings of his party, and his uncompromising speeches, were much resented by those opposed to him. He resigned in 1889 and went to the Tabernacle, Hanley. In 1890 the Rev. J. Sellicks, of Newton

Abbott, Devonshire, accepted the invitation of the church to fill the vacancy, and settled in Leamington the same year. Throughout the whole course of his ministry the relations between himself and the congregation have been of the happiest; the progress of the Church within the same period almost phenomenal, and its liberality beyond precedent, the total sum raised within nine years for various purposes amounting to something like £13,000. A new lecture room was built in 1891, on which occasion Mr. Fairfax, proprietor of the "Sydney Morning Herald," and son of the John Fairfax just mentioned, being on a visit to England, attended and laid the foundation stone. At the same time the interior of the Church was thoroughly renovated, artistically decorated, and the organ removed from the south gallery to its present position behind the pulpit. The whole of this work was carried out by Mr. John Fell, and for comfort, light, ventilation, elegance, and harmonious combination of colour, Spencer Street Church is not surpassed by any in the Midland counties. Mr. Sellicks takes his fair share of public work, and though not obtrusive in politics, occasionally discusses them with that moderation of sentiment and language which always commands respect and produces more lasting impressions than ultra views clothed in extravagant phraseology. He has been a member of the School Board for several years, during three of which he was its Chairman. In 1897 he had a pressing invitation to accept the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Johannesburg, South Africa, which, to the satisfaction of his Church and the Leamington public, he declined. Anonymous donations, amounting in the aggregate to the liberal sum of £1,250, have been given to the cause during his ministry. Among the old members of the various religious bodies in Leamington, Mr. Ebenezer Goold, sen., occupies a position, probably unique. As a boy attending the Sunday School, he was present at the opening services sixty-six years ago, and his church membership is one of sixty-two years' standing. The modern system of assigning parishes to Free Churches for special work applies to Spencer Street Congregational Church,

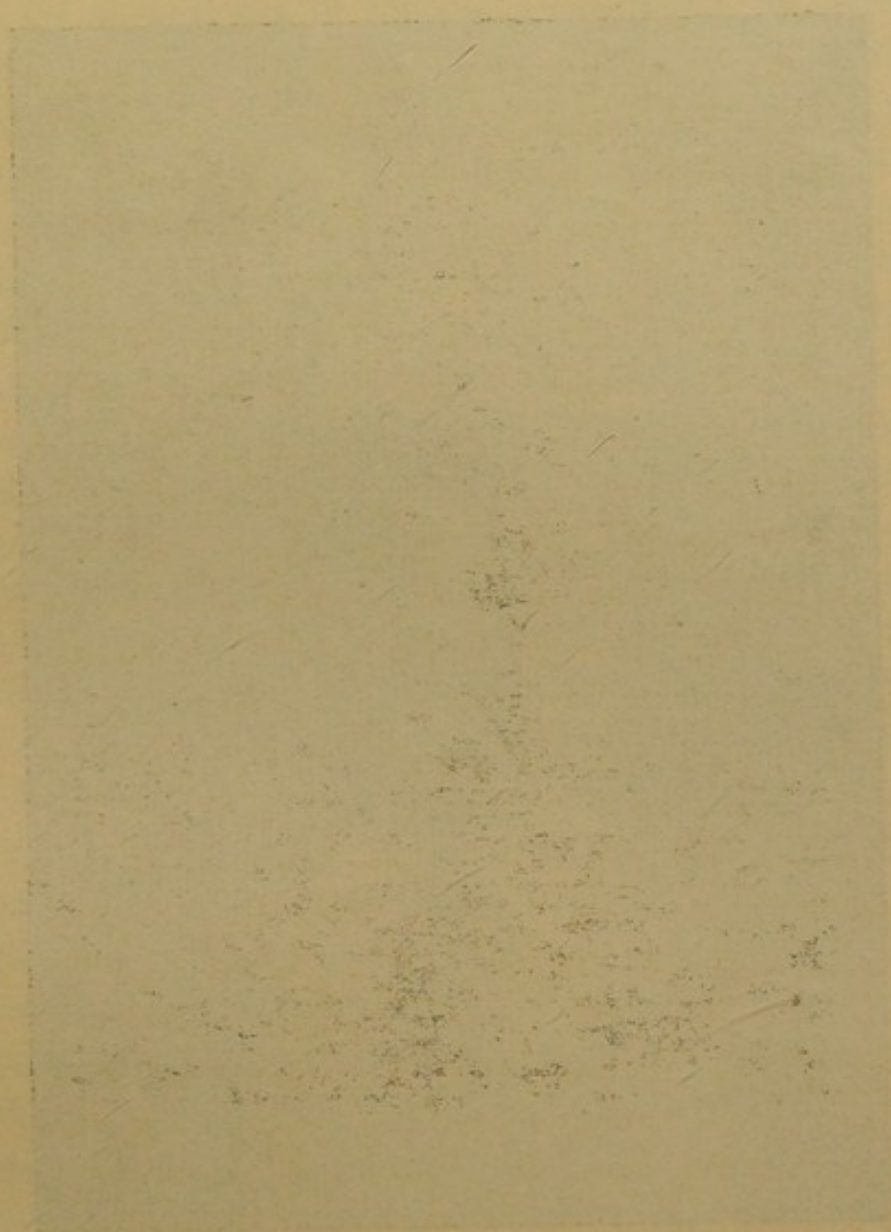
CHAPTER XXIII.

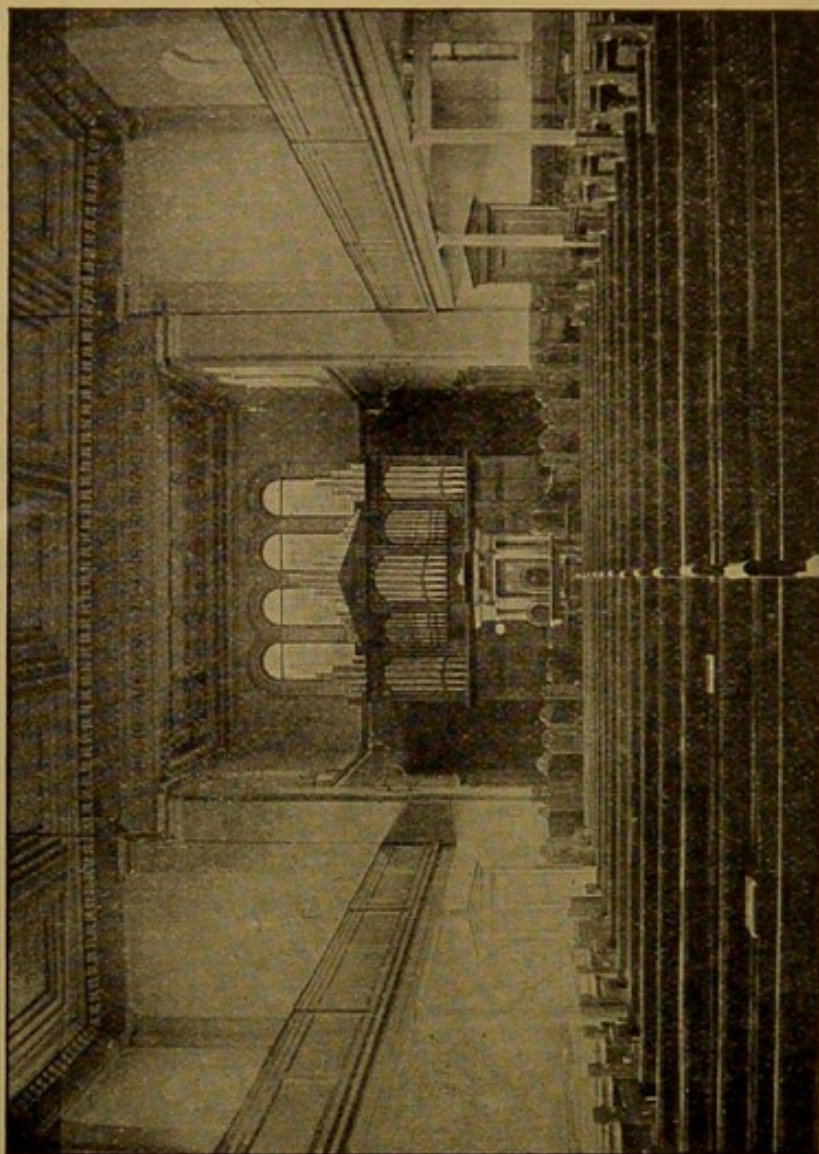
Historical sketch of the Baptists—early services in Grove Place and Guy Street—erection of the Warwick Street Church—administration of the rite of baptism by immersion—notes on the Rev. George Cole, the first pastor, and his successors in the ministry—the old Town Hall, High Street; date and circumstances under which it was built—the second Poor-house—removal of the National School from Kenilworth Street—Mr. Robert Baker, etc.

ABOUT the time of the memorable visit of Princess Victoria in 1830, the Baptists appeared as an organization, and assumed what, though small, was a prominent and dignified position. We first meet with them in 1828, but it was not until 1829 or 1830 that they had regular stated services of their own and assembled for worship in a chapel. This was in Grove Place—not Grove Street, as erroneously stated in one of the "Guides." From the room in Grove Place, which is now connected with St. John's Church, they removed to the chapel in Brunswick Street, vacated by the Wesleyans in 1825, and in 1830, requiring larger accommodation, they migrated to Guy Street, in the New Town, where John Toone had built for them a new chapel. It was at this period that the Rev. George Cole settled among them and was elected their first pastor. Originally, he was a Wesleyan, but, changing his views respecting infant and adult baptism, he joined the Baptists, and was ordained to the ministry at King's Lynn, from whence he came to Leamington. He was never at college, and probably was no "Latiner," but he was a fluent, acceptable, and successful preacher, and a great force in moulding those circumstances which led to the building of the Church in Warwick Street. His efforts in this direction, it is interesting to learn, were ably supported by the Rev. James Phillipo Mursell, Baptist minister at Leicester, and father of the Rev. Arthur Mursell, the popular lecturer and preacher. The elder Mr. Mursell was one of the original trustees of the church,

and always manifested a warm interest in its prosperity. Though services had been held in Grove Place, Brunswick Street, and Guy Street, two years elapsed before a church, consisting of pastor, officers, and members was formed. At a meeting held on November 28, 1830, steps were taken for the regular constitution of a society in accordance with the principles of the denomination. Two years afterwards (October 14, 1832) the ordinance of adult baptism by immersion was administered for the first time in Leamington. The service was held at half-past seven in the morning; the Rev. George Cole was the officiating minister, and of the six candidates thus admitted to Church membership one was Mr. Richard Greet, father of the late Mr. John Greet, of 7, Church Terrace. Towards the close of the year a movement was commenced for erecting a more commodious place of worship, and ultimately the site of the present chapel was selected. It was a kitchen garden, owned and occupied by Squire Hooton, a member of the Parish Committee, and was bounded by a wall extending along Warwick Street to the corner where the Metropolitan Bank stands, and a considerable distance down the Parade and Satchwell Street. The new edifice was built from designs furnished by W. Thomas, an architect with an extensive business, who planned Lansdowne Circus, notable for its healthy situation, its restful seclusion, and its sylvan aspect; of which Nathaniel Hawthorne, himself once a resident there, happily remarks in "Our Old Home," "There is a small nest of a place . . . Lansdowne Circus . . . one of the cosiest nooks in England, or in the world." He also designed Lansdowne Crescent, whose bold and graceful sweep may be seen from the top of the Parade, and among other of the principal buildings of the new town most of the villas on the south side of Brandon Parade, in the architecture of which are combined something of the grandeur and strength of the Grecian and Tudor Gothic styles. The new chapel, erected by John Toone, was opened in 1833. Of the character of the structure we have found no description beyond the statement that the style was elegant and Gothic.

The second minister was the Rev. D. J. East, of Stepney College, who was ordained to the pastorate on August 16, 1837. He resigned in 1839, owing to the depression caused by the great





SPENCER STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
(Interior.)

failure of Ransford's Bank, in the Lower Parade, a financial catastrophe not surpassed by the smash of the Greenway's Bank in 1887, and went to Waltham Abbey. Speaking of that event, in a letter to Mr. Hambly, one of the deacons in 1898, he says the effect was to bring the town almost into a bankrupt condition. In 1841 we find him writing from Arlington, Gloucester, to the "Nonconformist," urging on Dissenters the importance of compiling for general use in schools, a catechism, in which the fundamental principles of Nonconformity should be clearly set forth, and pointing out the permanent good which would inevitably result from such a system. No Leamington minister has ever found a wider field of usefulness, or gained greater distinction than Mr. East in our colonies. He was chosen by the Baptist Missionary Society, in 1851, President of the Calabar College in Jamaica, and in the following year he was successful in establishing a Normal Institution for the training of teachers, and a High School for all classes of the community. In 1864 the institution was removed to East Queen Street, Kingston, and a Normal School Tutor and an English Mathematical and Classical Tutor were added to the staff. While under his direction fifty native preachers and one hundred schoolmasters were trained and qualified for their duties, and a large number of young men educated for respectable positions in the colony. He was a member of the Reformatory and Lunatic Asylum Boards, the Government Female Training College, and of two Royal Commissions on vagrancy and education, and on the completion of the fiftieth year of his ministry, all classes and creeds in Jamaica celebrated his jubilee with presents and addresses, Sir Henry W. Norman, Governor, himself expressing his warm appreciation of Mr. East's untiring services in furthering education, raising the people of Jamaica to a higher standard, and promoting good government. Mr. East, who is now (1902) in his eighty-fourth year, is residing at Watford, and in memory of his life's labours and triumphs in the cause of humanity he has named his home "Calabar Cottage."

His successor in 1839 was the Rev. Octavius Winslow, then described as "late of New York," afterwards Doctor of Divinity, and greatly celebrated as a preacher and a voluminous author.

Commencing his ministerial labours on the second Sunday in June, he conferred special lustre on the Church and the Spa for the space of eighteen years by his erudition, eloquence and zeal. He was a lineal descendant of the Pilgrim Fathers, who, on September 6, 1620, sailed from Plymouth Sound in the *Mayflower*, and in the New World formed a colony where civil and religious liberty, at the time unattainable in England, were firmly established. One of his ancestors was Edward Winslow, a pioneer in that famous pilgrimage, and one of the early Governors of Plymouth Colony; so named in affectionate remembrance of the port of embarkation in the Old Country, dear to the hearts of Englishmen as the place where Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher, in 1588, fell upon the Spanish Armada and defeated it, and near to Torbay, where a century later William of Orange landed. Dr. Winslow's grandfather, when the American War of Independence broke out, was resident at Boston and possessed of very considerable property, all of which was confiscated in consequence of his loyalty and attachment to England. His father was a captain in the British Army, and his mother was the daughter of Dr. Forbes, who was related to Lord Forbes, of Aberdeenshire. Captain Winslow died in the summer of life, leaving Mrs. Winslow a widow with ten young children. Dr. Octavius Winslow was intended for the medical profession, but, after some studies in that direction, he selected a ministerial career, and passed in divinity at Stepney College. His mother emigrated to New York, at the University of which he took his M.A. degree, but it was not until 1851 that the honorary degree of D.D. was conferred on him by the *Senatus Academicus* of Columbia College (Episcopal), New York. This was in acknowledgement of his contribution to theological literature, and was a distinction very rarely granted to ministers outside the pale of the Episcopal Church. Before coming to Leamington he married, in New York, the only daughter of Colonel Ring, of the United States Army. He left for Bath in 1857, and in 1870 seceding from the Baptists, was ordained a priest in the Church of England by the Bishop of Chichester. As a writer and preacher he had few equals, the prosperity of the church in Warwick Street was great, and when he resigned a void was

created in the pulpit and on the platform difficult to fill. The Rev. W. A. Salter, of Amersham, followed, and preached his first sermon on May 30, 1858, but remained in the pastorate only about two years, in consequence of some misunderstanding which led to his resignation. The Rev. David Payn, who had in 1844, in consequence of his acceptance of the views of the Plymouth Brethren, resigned the pastorate at the Baptist Church, Bridgnorth, and was for a short time a member of the Society of the Brethren, accepted an invitation to the ministry at Warwick Street in 1860, and remained there until 1868, when failing health compelled him to relinquish the office. He continued to reside in Leamington until his death in 1888, his age being eighty years. Between the time of his resignation and his decease, he occasionally held services in one of the small rooms at the Public Hall, which were attended by a number of warm personal friends and admirers. Mr. Payn was Calvinistic, and a Pre-Millenarian, and according to Dr. Trestrail, who knew him intimately in his early ministerial career, "he was a devout good man, of more than average ability; a very acceptable preacher, and a choice companion and a friend." The Rev. W. B. Bliss, from Hemel Hempstead, succeeded Mr. Payn in 1869, and left in 1872 for Belgrave, Leicester, and from 1873 till 1891, the pastorate was filled by the Rev. S. T. Williams, who came to Leamington from Middleton-in-Teesdale, and on leaving went to Whitchurch, Salop. The present pastor, the Rev. A. Phillips, was a student at the late C. H. Spurgeon's Pastors' College, and on the cordial invitation of the Church accepted the pastorate in 1892. Under his ministry the cause has attained a position, surpassed only by that it filled socially when the Rev. Dr. Winslow occupied the pulpit. In 1893 a considerable increase in the congregation and Church membership necessitated the carrying into effect of an important building scheme. The work comprised the reconstruction of the pulpit, enlargement of the baptistery, removal of the organ from the north gallery to the rear of the pulpit, conversion of the schoolroom into class-rooms and vestry, a re-arrangement of the seats, whereby accommodation was provided for an additional hundred persons, and the erection of a new Sunday School, with vestry, on the site of the old burial ground. The

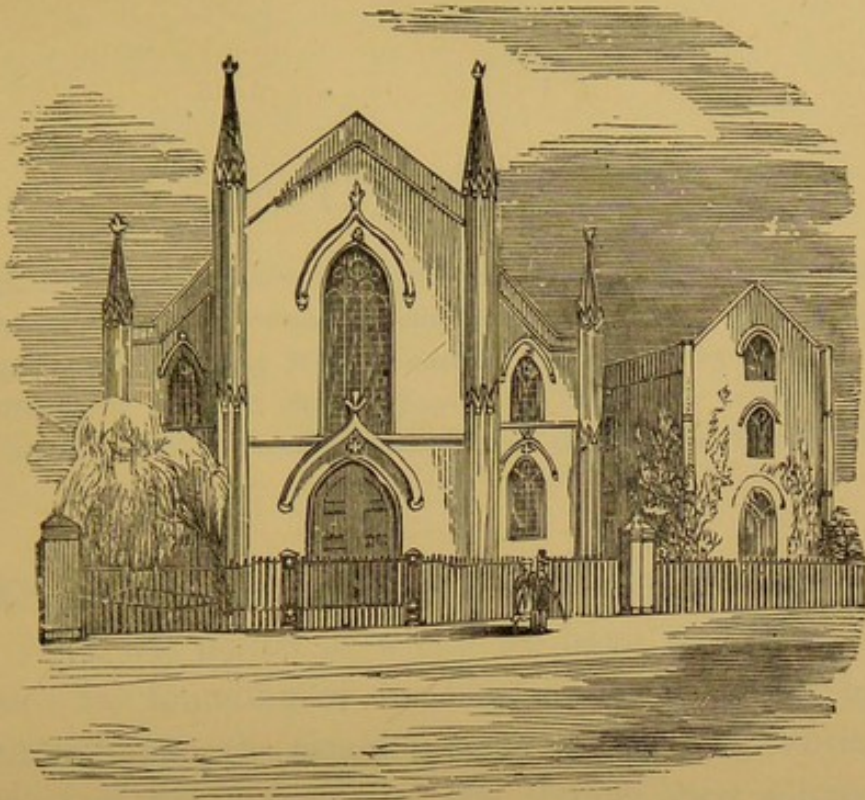
work was commenced in April, 1894, by Messrs. Smallwood and Co., of Stratford-on-Avon, whose contract price was £1,200; on May 31, the memorial stone, inscribed as follows, was placed in front of the building: "Baptist Sunday School, erected 1894. 'Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.' This stone was laid by Councillor J. Bennett." The re-opening services were held on August 30, the preachers being the Rev. W. Hackney, of Birmingham, and Mr. Dawbarn. To the liberality of the members, congregation and friends, and to the good taste of the architects, Messrs. Ingall and Son, Birmingham, the present state of the edifice is a most gratifying testimonial. The Rev. A. Phillips is locally esteemed, and his having filled the office of President of the West Midland Baptist Association demonstrates the respect in which he is held by the denomination. Under the Union of Evangelical Free Churches, Warwick Street has allotted to it a large parish in which a Parish Committee specially attends to the work of visitation, etc. In the "Church Manual," Mr. T. Kennard, the Hon. Secretary, points out that the total membership is greater than ever it has been before, and that the honour conferred on the Rev. Mr. Phillips, by electing him President of the denominational Association, is unprecedented in the history of the Church. The new arrangement of parishes for Nonconformists, it should be explained, is not of legal origin, and consequently is unaffected either in the way of recognition or prohibition by the existing ecclesiastical and parish laws. It is part of a system recently developed by the Federation of the Free Churches by which districts surrounding places of worship are marked on the map as parishes, for special work, without excluding any portion of the borough from such services as the ministers and members of either of these churches may feel disposed to render.

Though at a disadvantage in the accommodation it provided and the style of architecture adopted, when compared with the many other public buildings which preceded and followed its erection, the old Town Hall has a history permeated with the varied traditions and successive developments of early Leamington, and marking, as it does, the time of transfer of the seat of local government from the Apollo Rooms, Clemens Street, to High

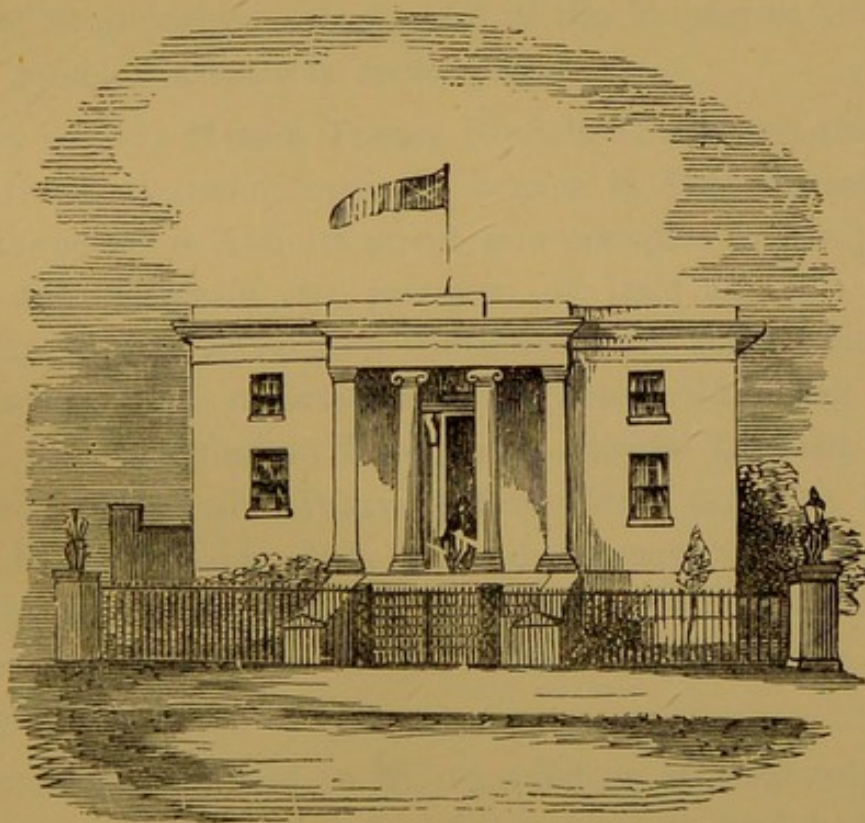
Street, in the ordinary sequence of events, it merits notice. Granting that the date may be considered by some persons as being chiefly of chronological value, when we reflect that this was the first edifice erected by the Paving or Improvement Commissioners, who were constituted in 1825, and also that it has been the Parliament House of every administrative body that has exercised control and authority in Leamington since that time, its claim will appear by no means unreasonable. In the village era all the magisterial, licensing and Inland Revenue business was transacted at the Black Dog public house, Stretton-on-Fosse, but parochial affairs were under the management of the Parish Committee, who, like their successors the Improvement Commissioners, held their meetings at the Apollo Rooms—a property then standing on the site of the present Great Western Railway Inn. On the application of the inhabitants, Petty Sessions were granted in 1823, and in November of that year the Justices sat for the first time at Leamington, the room being the one which was rented to the Parish Committee. The increase in the population, and the necessity which had arisen for a new poor-house, led the Commissioners to take steps in 1830 for the erection of that, and a Town Hall, and pending the accomplishment of their objects they, with the Parish Committee and the Justices, removed their meetings to Gloucester Cottage, the situation of which was at the south-east corner of the walk through the churchyard. The Town Hall was built in 1831 at a cost of £2,000, and the poor-house near it in Court Street, by Edward Treadgold, at an expenditure of £650. About the year 1839 the poor-house was closed, provision having been made for the maintenance of the paupers at Warwick Union Workhouse, and as the National School, in Kenilworth Street, was cramped for want of better accommodation, the Rev. John Craig, vicar, obtained it for school purposes, free of rent or any other cost excepting that of a lease. The School was thereupon removed from Kenilworth Street, and the late Mr. Robert Baker, of Church Street, a most amiable, popular and useful public man, appointed master. Under his careful training it entered on a new career of efficiency. In 1857 he was presented with a valuable clock and a collection of books by the members of the Warwick and Leamington Church

Schoolmasters' Association, for his services as Secretary to that body, and in 1859, on his retirement from the office of National Schoolmaster in Leamington, with a handsome silver teapot, suitably inscribed, and a purse of gold in recognition of his sixteen years' valuable services in that capacity.

The old Town Hall, occupied by the Police and the Inspector of Nuisances, and utilised as a polling station at municipal and parliamentary elections, has undergone no structural alterations since it was completed and opened in June, 1831. Whilst almost everything else bears the impress of new ideas and modern aspirations, it remains (1902) as the builders left it seventy-one years ago. But notwithstanding its non-compliance with the fleeting fashions of the hour and incapacity for adapting itself to the steadily growing needs of two generations of Leamingtonians, as the focus of many interesting associations belonging to the expansive and progressive work of the town in the fifty-three years intervening between 1831 and 1884, it has more than a passing interest. The initial movement for establishing a local corps of Rifle Volunteers took place within its walls, and the Free Library, in its budding days, found a home beneath its roof. The vestries, frequently turbulent and occasionally highly diverting, were held here, as were the Petty Sessions, continuously until 1884, at which time they were transferred to the Municipal Buildings in the Parade, and to the careful deliberations of the Commissioners, the Local Board of Health, and the Corporation in its large room, the borough owes much, and many of those attractions which have made it famous among English watering places.



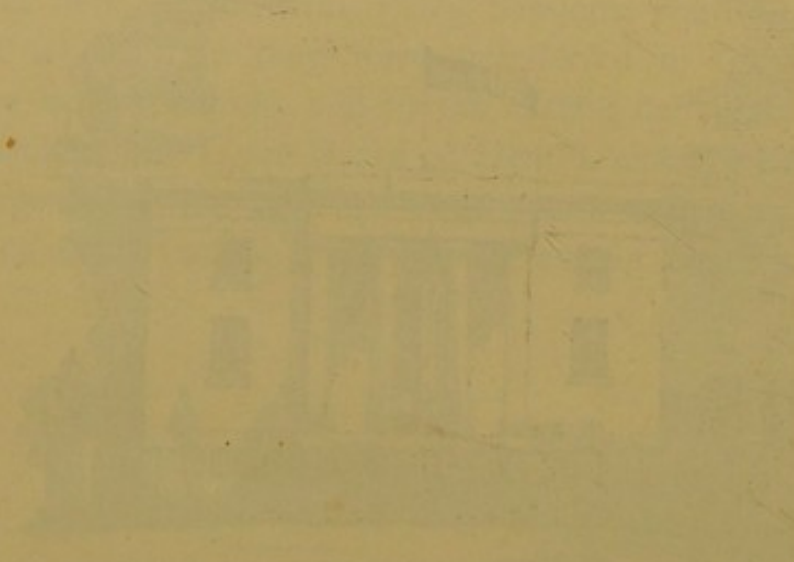
MILL STREET CHAPEL, OPENED AUGUST 27, 1829.



OLD TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, ERECTED 1831.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



THE HOUSE OF THE HOLY TRINITY

CHAPTER XXIV.

The Banking system—conclusion of notice of local Wesleyan Methodism—successive enlargements of Portland Street Chapel—formation of Leamington Circuit in 1837—the Rev. J. Gay Wilson—memorial stone laying of Dale Street Church—last service in Portland Street Chapel and Dedicatory services at Dale Street—new Chapel in Court Street—building and opening of Trinity Church, Radford Road.

EVENTS are crowded somewhat thickly in the years 1834 and 1835, the period at which we have now arrived. It was the time of the founding of our local banking system by the opening of three banks, the establishment of the Gas Works, the commencement of the building of the Pepper Box Chapel on Milverton Hill, and, as the attentive reader will recollect, that of the erection of Spencer Street Congregational Church; as well as the date of an important enlargement of the Wesleyan Chapel in Portland Street, presently to be described.

As early as 1823 Messrs. Tomes, Russell, Tomes and Russell, of the Old Bank, Warwick, opened a branch in Bath Street, in the house at the corner of Abbots Street, now occupied by Mr. J. Price, chemist, and formerly the premises of Judd and Co. The business appears to have been continued until some time in the thirties, when it is reported to have been sold either to the Warwick and Leamington Bank, now Lloyds' Limited, or the Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank, now the London City and Midland Bank. It is impossible to say positively which, but as the former mention in their prospectus that they had concluded negotiations for the purchase, it probably was merged in their establishment.

The first bank entitled to be regarded as of local origin was established in 1834 under influential patronage, and had for its name "The Warwick and Leamington Bank." Its nominal capital was £250,000 in 11,000 shares of £25 each. At a meeting

of the subscribers and members of the Provisional Committee held on June 5, Dr. Jephson presiding, it was decided to commence banking operations on July 1. Messrs. John Russell and William Thompson were appointed joint managers. The premises in which this new institution opened its doors and began business were those at the corner of Regent Street and the Parade, now belonging to Lloyds', by whom the "Warwick and Leamington Bank" was purchased in 1866. It is from this germ that Lloyds' branch here derives its title of "The Old Bank." Mr. H. Summerfield entered on the management in 1843 and remained in office till March, 1869, when he died at the age of fifty-nine years. He was succeeded by Mr. Childe, who retired in 1883, and died at Bridgenorth in 1887. Altogether he was connected with business at Warwick and Leamington about half-a-century, and at his death the high compliment was paid him of having been throughout his life the personification of kindness and courtesy. He was followed in the office by Mr. Seymour, at whose death Mr. A. C. Pickering, the present manager, was appointed.

The second was started in March, 1835, with a nominal capital of £200,000 in £10,000 shares of £20. It was called "The Leamington Bank," and Mr. Ransford was its manager. Business was commenced on May 12, in the building in the Lower Parade now occupied by Horncastle and Son, ironmongers. It failed a year or so afterwards, and involved the town in deep distress, the most numerous class of sufferers being the servants in the families of the gentry, who having patronised it extensively lost the whole of their savings.

The Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank was also commenced in 1835, and began business in the house at the north-west corner of Church Walk, where the Free Library was housed in the sixties. Mr. John Russell, the first manager, was succeeded in 1843 by Mr. T. H. Thorne, a native of Banbury, who had held appointments in the "Banbury Old Bank," and a bank at Stourbridge previous to coming to Leamington. In 1857 the proprietors purchased the Bedford Hotel and on the site, Mr. W. Gascoyne, whose death at Beckenham was recently

reported, erected the present commodious banking premises facing the Municipal Buildings. Mr. Thorne retired from the post of manager in 1887, but remained on the Directorate until 1889, when the business was sold to the Birmingham and Midland Bank, Limited. He died in August, 1890, his age being seventy-eight years. Mr. Sanders succeeded him as manager in 1887, after whom Mr. R. J. Henn was appointed, and on his promotion to a more important position in the Head Office of the Company the vacancy was filled by the present manager, Mr. Lawford. It is now the London City and Midland Bank.

The Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), Limited, 33, Parade, is the successor of a branch started in January, 1863, by Greenway, Smith and Greenway's Bank, Warwick. After the failure of the Greenways in September, 1887, their business was purchased by the present firm. Mr. G. C. Lake has filled the office of manager since the inauguration of the Bank in 1863. The Midland Counties District Bank, 55, Parade, was opened in 1898. Mr. Anton William is the manager.

From what has been stated in previous pages, the history of Wesleyan Methodism in Leamington from 1817 to 1835 is a subject with which our readers are well acquainted. We resume now the story of the progress of the cause from the last-named year when "ye Chapelle was agayn made bigger atte ye backe, atte ye totalle outlaye of 811 Poundes," and bring the events down to date. One circumstance connected with this enlargement must be mentioned as a relic of an ancient custom by which artisans and even labourers who could not subscribe money could give of their labour, and so reduce the expense of building. Thus we find Messrs. Mace, Jesson, Coulson, Hunt, and other operatives "prepared the galleries and made the whole of the pewing for the same" in their overtime without charging for their labour. The total value of their services, at the ordinary standard rate of workmen's wages, was £50. Samuel Turner, another working man, made the staircase and railing for the galleries, and fixed the same. The equivalent in money for his time, labour, and skill was £10. John Manning, one of the earliest temperance reformers in Leamington, practically contributed £5 to the building fund by

making and fixing the front doors free of charge. Sometimes a member gave the materials and the workmanship for a portion of a new church, as John Toone, the builder of the original structure, did in this case. The materials for the roof, the glass for the windows, and the workmanship, were gifts from him of the value of £80. The amount collected at the reopening services was £111 10s. Previous to 1837, the year when the Leamington Circuit was formed, the Portland Street cause belonged to the Coventry Circuit, established in 1791, of which the Rev. John Gay Wilson was one of its ministers. That he resided in Leamington in 1832 is clear from the published list of inhabitants for that year, but in any case his frequent presence in the pulpit at Portland Street is beyond all doubt. He is now stationed at Redhill, Surrey, and, after a ministry extending over sixty-seven years, his position on the roll of Wesleyan preachers connected with the great British Conference is that of being the oldest but one. It is not, therefore, without feelings of pleasure that the Wesleyans associate with the early years of their first Circuit the name of one who has attained such an enviable distinction in length of days and service. There was a second enlargement in the years 1845-6-7, in aid of which Dr. Jephson gave £21. The entire cost of the work, the principal part of which was carried out by Mr. J. Goold, was £811 8s. 1d.; and as the Rev. W. H. Clarkson, the Superintendent, had exerted himself successfully in furthering the object in view, the Enlargement Committee and Trustees placed on the minutes a resolution expressing their warm appreciation of his untiring labours, and the great advantages and benefits he had thereby conferred on the Society and the congregation. An important movement, having for its object the erection of a new place of worship, more commodious and better adapted to the altered circumstances of the town, was started in 1866. For this purpose negotiations were opened, and continued for some time, for the purchase of three very eligible properties on a desirable site, in Portland Street, but owing to some insuperable difficulty the scheme, as regards that situation, had to be abandoned. Proceeding with their enquiries the Committee ultimately selected the one in Dale Street, on which the present edifice stands.

Cavendish Cottage, a detached villa occupying the site, was purchased for the sum of £1,500, and, after the ground had been cleared, building operations were commenced. The project was an ambitious one, and, considering the whole circumstances of the case, such as might well have dismayed a congregation less resolute and hopeful, for, in addition to the expense of the new church, a debt of £1,000 on the Portland Street property had to be paid off. In aid of this the Connexional Chapel Fund Committee lent £300, free of interest, for the repayment of which Messrs. Kelin England, Richard Hodkisson, Thomas Jenner Stratton, Richard Fletcher, Joseph Hankinson and William Winterburn were sureties, and from the same source a grant of £100 was received. Mr. R. Hodkisson, whose death occurred in June, 1902, was the senior continuous member of the Wesleyan body; he had been one of the hardest workers in the cause, and was much weather-beaten in its service. His connection with the Society extended over the Jubilee period of fifty-nine years, and he had filled every office open to a layman, including those of Superintendent of the Sunday Schools, and for eight years was Circuit Steward, the last named being the highest attainable.

On Wednesday, May 19, 1869, the two memorial stones of the new building were laid by Messrs. Isaac Jenks, of Wolverhampton, and Thomas Davis, of West Bromwich. The event, memorable as it was in itself, was increased in interest and importance by the annual meeting, then held for the first time in Leamington, of the Birmingham and Shrewsbury Wesleyan District, at which there was an attendance of about a hundred and twenty ministers and friends, most of whom were present at the ceremony. A short service was held, in which the Rev. B. B. Waddy, Superintendent of the Circuit, the Rev. E. Polkinghorne, second minister, took part, and the Rev. W. Hurt, of Wolverhampton, delivered an eloquent address on the principles of Methodism. A sum of £199 16s. 9d. was collected, £25 8s. 7d. of which was contributed by the school children. At the last service held in the Portland Street building, on Sunday evening, June 5, 1870, the Rev. E. Workman, who had followed Mr. Waddy in the Superintendency, made some interesting references to the history of the cause, mentioning, among other things, that the original

structure was only about one-third the length of the place as they knew it, and that the front elevation stood back some distance from the street. The dedicatory services commenced on June 9, the Rev. Dr. Jobson, President of the Conference, preaching in the afternoon, and the Rev. Dr. Waddy, of Bristol, in the evening. They were continued on three successive Sundays, the preachers being the Rev. T. Llewellyn, Chairman of the Birmingham and Shrewsbury District, the Revs. W. Davenport and B. B. Waddy, and the Rev. F. J. Sharr, of Manchester, and on Monday, the 19th, when the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. R. Roberts, of London. The total sum collected was £420 3s. 6d. The late Mr. W. Green was the contractor, and the cost of carrying out the whole scheme, inclusive of £1,124 9s. 10d. required for adapting the Portland Street property to its present purposes, was £8,770 6s. 8d. Towards this the donations, of which we give a few examples, were numerous and unusually liberal:—Mrs. Holy, £1,300, and £500 towards removal of the debt on the Superintendent's house; Miss Harvey, £1,200, and £300 for debt on the same property; Mr. G. Hyde, £1,020; Mr. J. Brown, £500; Misses Holy, £500, and Miss Holy an additional £200, and £400 for the organ; Miss Collins, £205; Miss Gardner £200; Mrs. Cole's estate, £200; Mr. T. Mason, £200; Mr. W. Miles, £160; and Mr. F. Hurlston, £110. The following year (1871) brought a further improvement, but it was in Court Street, in the old town, where for a considerable time a preaching station had been established. By the generosity of Miss Harvey, who gave £1,000 for the purpose, a new building was erected, adapted for services on Sundays and for use on week-days as a school. The cost of the gothic cottage residence adjoining (£300) was defrayed by Miss Holy. Messrs. T. Mason and T. Mills were the builders. In addition to this remarkable manifestation of the growth of Wesleyan Methodism locally, five years afterwards Trinity Church, a commodious and elegant building, was erected in the Radford Road. At first the locality chosen was Brunswick Street, the charm of the early associations of the cause rendering it desirable to have a site near the humble structure to which the Society was transplanted from the loft in Satchwell Street, probably in 1819. The cost of the new place of

worship, including land, minister's furnished residence, and boundary wall, amounting to £4,568, was defrayed by Mrs. Holy, who also gave £432 in addition to make the munificent gift the good, round, and even sum of £5,000. A memorial stone placed in the vestibule thus records the commencement of the work:—"This stone was laid, for Mrs. Holy, by James Wood, Esq., LL.B., B.A., July 3, 1876." On September 20, 1877, the opening services were held, and the inaugural sermon was preached by the Rev. W. B. Pope, D.D., President of the Conference, and Theological Tutor at Didsbury College. Another sign of the prosperity of the Society was the purchase of additional land and extension of the Court Street School premises about the same time, at an expenditure of £903 16s., contributed by Miss Harvey, Miss Holy and Mr. J. Wood. The Portland Street Wesleyan Training Schools, for thirty-eight years admirably conducted by Alderman T. S. Harvey, J.P., the Head-master, occupy a high position among the educational institutions of the borough, and to their efficiency the annual reports of H.M. Inspectors, the grants, and the successes of the scholars bear conclusive testimony.

Amongst the many ministers who have occupied the pulpits at Portland Street and Dale Street, the Rev. F. J. Sharr and the Rev. J. Pearson, may be named as most remarkable preachers. Mr. Sharr was pre-eminently silver-tongued, his discourses being richly tapestried with choice thoughts, beautifully expressed in a rich, copious, and splendid diction. As an artist in word pictures he has never been surpassed in Leamington. While Mr. Sharr soared in the blue sky, Mr. Pearson searched in deep mines, where he found treasures which frequently supplied matter for half a dozen profound sermons on a single and simple subject. The Wesleyans, for the concentration and better organization of their work, have a parish under conditions similar to those of the Free Churches at Spencer Street and Warwick Street.

A few years since, additional accommodation was obtained at Dale Street, and the interior of the edifice greatly improved in appearance by the erection of choir stalls near the pulpit, and the removal of the organ from the east gallery to the same position. Messrs. Bowen & Son, builders, were the contractors.

CHAPTER XXV.

Our local gas system—original works erected by T. Roberts, Warwick—interesting old gas standards—the Warwick Gas Company—first lighting with gas in the Parade and at the Parish Church.—The Leamington Gas Company; history of from 1834 to 1902.—The Milverton Episcopal, or "Pepper Box" Chapel—date and description of building.—The Rev. J. H. Smith.—St. Mark's.—munificence of Lady Wheler and family—consecration services—list of vicars.

THE Leamington Priors Gas Company, formed in 1834, commenced their supply of gas to the public in that year. Their capital was £20,000, and nine hundred and twenty shares were allotted. Previously there had been two other Gas Companies competing for the support and patronage of the town, one at Warwick, having a service of pipes for Leamington laid along the Old Warwick Road; the other, a small establishment on the site of the present works, erected by Mr. Roberts, of the Warwick Foundry, probably not later than 1820, for a gas standard of his, bearing that date, still remains in George Street, and two of 1822 are in Church Street.* These works were leased to a Mr. Askin, and the sub-manager was Mr. Fisher,† who lived in a cottage on the premises, and whose multifarious duties comprised the keeping of the books and the collection of accounts as well as the manufacture of the gas. There is a tradition that Michael Copps erected at an earlier period in the yard at the rear of the Royal Hotel, works which would now be considered only as toys for the manufacture of gas, and so anticipated Mr. Roberts by several years in the introduction of the new light into Leamington.

To what extent the original works provided gas cannot now be gleaned from any source. An advertisement in March, 1822, stated that there were ten shares of £100 each, "being one equal

* The inscriptions, as will be seen from the following copies, are very curious:—"T.R., Warwick Foundry, J820"; "T.R., Warwick Foundry, J822."

† Mr. W. Fisher, Willes Road, now in his 82nd year, and active and healthy as thousands at 50, is his son, and resided with him at the works.

moiety of that flourishing concern, the Leamington Gas Works," for sale, from which it is clear the total value of the establishment was £2,000. In the month of December following, the Warwick Gas Company announced their intention of laying mains to Leamington, and in January, 1823, that they had reserved eighty shares of £50 each for residents at the Spa. In October of the same year they lighted the Parade, then called Union Row, with eighteen lamps, the charge for which the occupiers of houses in that locality had to pay, but the gas for inflating the "Coronation" balloon, which ascended from the Bowling Green in 1824, came from the Leamington Gas Works, and the process of filling was personally conducted by Mr. Roberts. Gas was introduced into the Parish Church in August, 1830, when nineteen lamps were supplied, and the congregation enjoyed for the first time the comfort, even the luxury, of a light incomparably superior to the glimmering wick and oil of former days.

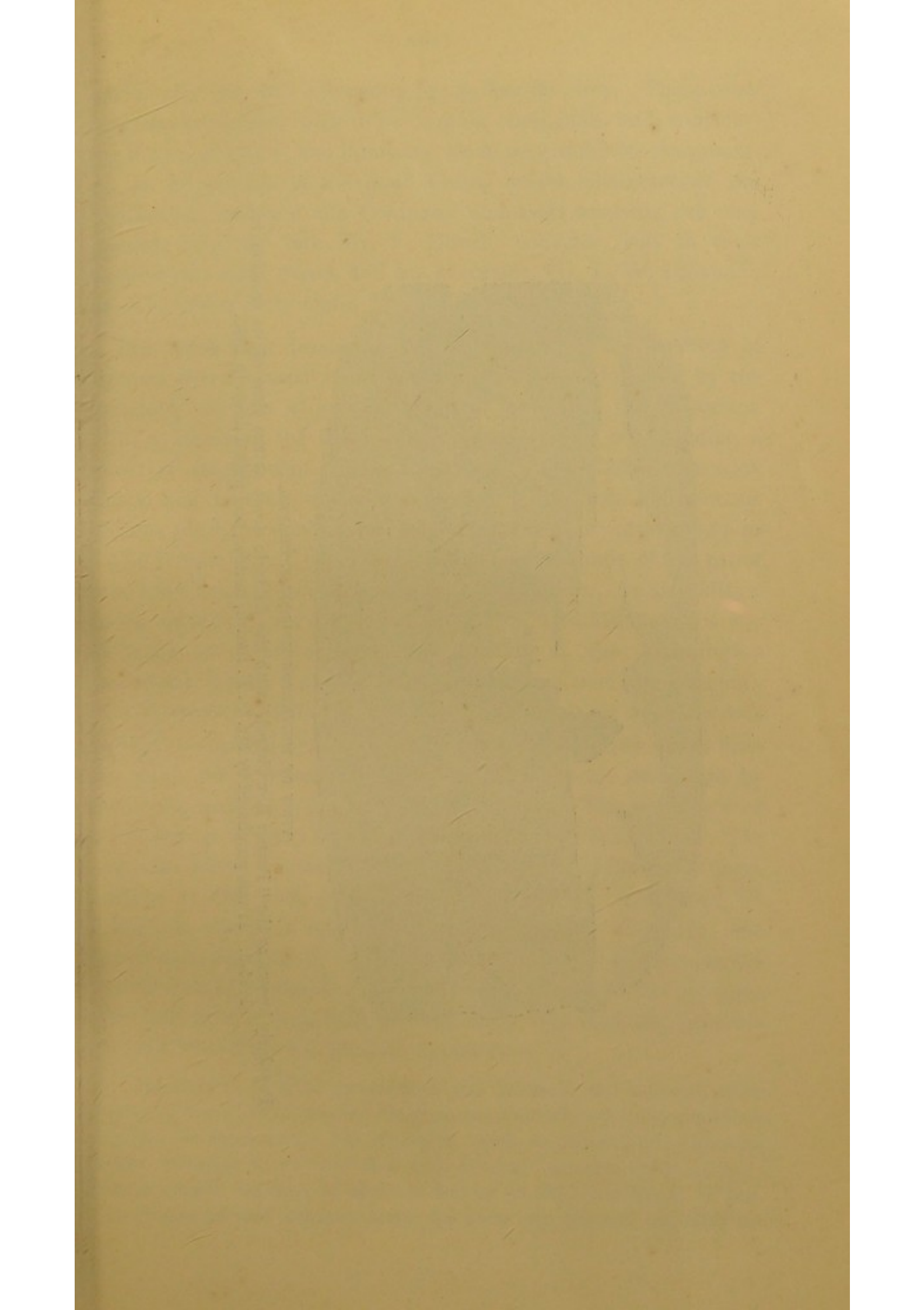
In 1834 the existing proprietary was established with the capital named. The original works, with the plant of the Warwick Gas Company in Leamington, were purchased, and steps taken to enlarge the establishment in a manner better suited to the requirements of a growing and fashionable town. The works were leased to Messrs. Robinson for fourteen years, and the price of gas by measurement was 12s. per 1,000 feet, subject to a reduction of 5 per cent. on prompt payment. By an Act of Parliament obtained in 1838 the shareholders were incorporated as the Leamington Priors Gas Light and Coke Company, with extended power to light the surrounding parishes, increase the capital to £30,000, and raise, if necessary, a mortgage of £10,000. Mr. William Lionel Lampet was elected Chairman of the new Board of Directors; Dr. Jephson treasurer, and Mr. J. Bass Hanbury secretary.

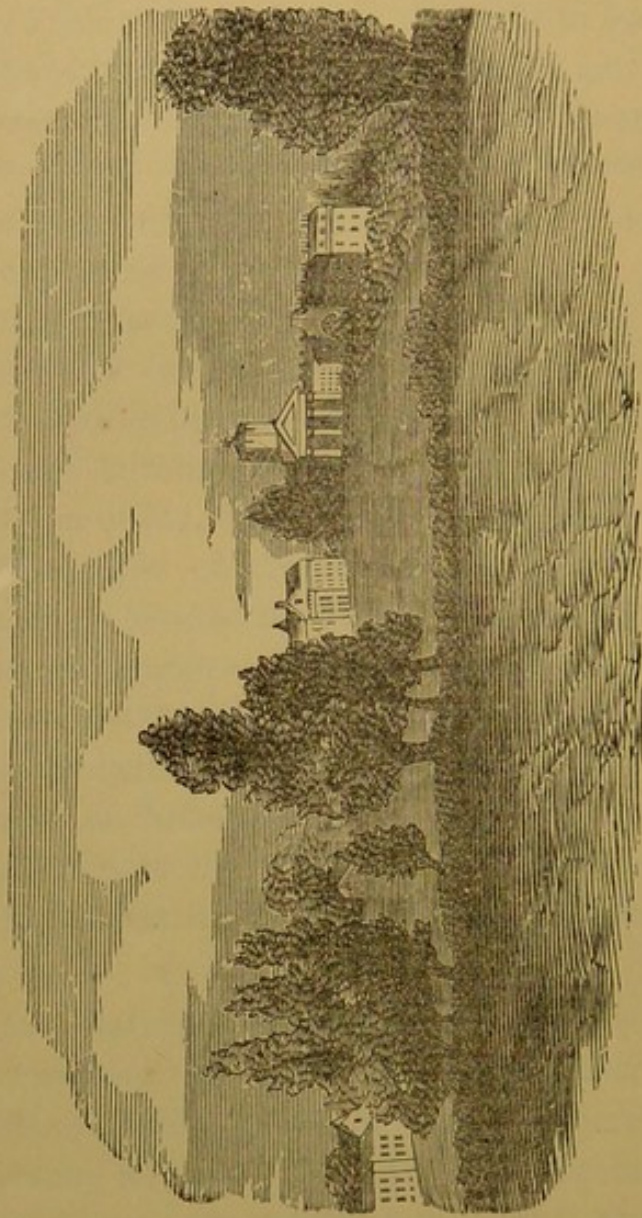
Renewals of the lease to Messrs. Robinson took place in 1848 and 1862, the latter, however, being to the survivor of the two original lessees and his two sons. This arrangement was brought to an abrupt termination in 1865, when the Company applied to Parliament for another Act, to which a majority of the ratepayers and the Local Board of Health strongly objected. An opposition,

led by Mr. T. Muddeman, and fostered by Mr. Flintoff, a voluble gas expert, surpassingly clever and entertaining in the manipulation of figures, acquired almost the weight of public unanimity, and when the Bill came before the Committee of the House of Lords in March it was vigorously and uncompromisingly opposed. The Company were successful in resisting the attempt to compel them to sell their works, but the right to lease was abolished; the proposed interest of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the new capital reduced to 7; the prescribed maximum price for gas lowered from $4/6$ per 1,000 feet to 4s., and the illuminating quality raised from 12 to 14 candles.

The lease of 1862 being thus determined, Messrs. Robinson were appointed secretaries and managers. In 1873, one of them resigning through ill-health, Mr. Cross, of the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Works at Saltley was appointed in his place, and in 1876 he became sole secretary and manager. After twenty-four years' faithful service he resigned, and in 1897, on the recommendation of Mr. George Livesey, M. Inst. C.E., Mr. T. Berridge, Superintendent of the Litchurch Gas Works, Derby, whose testimonials assured his ability for a most successful management, was elected engineer and secretary to the Company. Under the local Act of 1896 the Town Council acquired power to purchase the works within a period of three years, and in 1899, on the initiation of Alderman S. T. Wackrill, the requisite notice was given, but with the consent of the Company and authority of a subsequent Act it was withdrawn, the Council agreeing to pay all costs.

A few statistics relative to the growth of the establishment must conclude these remarks. In 1834 there were two gasometers capable of holding 50,000 feet of gas; there are now (1902) three, with room for 1,237,000. In 1838 the annual quantity of gas produced was 9,500,000 feet; in 1901 it was 214,949,000. There were 248 consumers in 1838; the present number is 3,650; slots, 336, and length of mains $41\frac{1}{8}$ miles. The paid-up capital is £60,000, and the dividends 7 per cent. on one class of shares and 10 on the other; the loan account is £11,700, for which interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ is payable. The minimum illuminating power prescribed in the Act of 1865 is 14 candles gas, but the quality of the supply is 17. The price to private customers is 2s. 7d. per





VIEW OF MILVERTON EPISCOPAL CHAPEL,

Popularly known as the "Pepper Box Chapel," with the fields in front at the time of its erection in 1835-6. It was purchased by Mr. G. F. Smith, builder, and pulled down in 1880.

1,000 cubic feet, and one penny per 25 feet for slots. These rates compare favourably with those of other companies, and, considering the excellence of the luminant, leave no ground for complaint. As an illustration of the good feeling which characterises the relationship between the Company and their servants, we may mention that the late Mr. F. Bissell, collector, was in their employment sixty years, and his successor, Mr. T. W. Bloxham, has a record of forty-eight.

The interesting proceedings connected with the opening of Spencer Street Chapel in 1836 were immediately followed by the inaugural services of another place of worship. On Milverton Hill, overlooking the whole of Leamington, and commanding a series of magnificent views, in which Guy's Cliffe, Warwick Castle and Church, and the Newbold Hills, were conspicuous objects, the Episcopal Chapel for Milverton, afterwards known as "The Pepper Box Chapel" on account of the shape of the turret over the elevation, was drawing near completion. As an addition to the ancient Parish Church of St. James', Old Milverton, it was designed to accommodate that portion of the Leamington population which was just beginning to flow over the boundary into Milverton parish. At the time of building, its situation was isolated compared with the position it occupied a few years later on, when the surrounding villas and houses were numbered by hundreds, and the population by thousands. The site was that on which have since been built the Milverton Hill villas. The cost was borne by the Earl of Warwick, the owner of a large portion of the land in this locality, the Rev. Alexander B. Campbell, the first incumbent, and a number of friends who contributed liberally to the building fund. Mr. J. S. Jackson, the well-known local architect and surveyor, prepared the designs. The first service was held on August 5, 1836, and the preacher was the Venerable Archdeacon Spooner:—

"The Grecian style of architecture was adopted, and although some anomalies were visible, they for the most part resulted from its adaptation to existing circumstances. The following were its dimensions:—Extreme length, including portico and altar end, 115 feet; extreme width, 54 feet; area of chapel, exclusive of altar, 72 feet by 50 feet; and height 26 feet. The chapel afforded accommodation for about 650 persons, including the

children in the gallery, and the free sittings on the ground floor. The entrance front had a portico of four Doric columns, 25 feet high and 4 feet in diameter. Two wings were attached to this portico, forming the side entrances, and containing a staircase to the organ and children's gallery. The regular entablature and pediment of the portico were surmounted by a circular ball tower, 15 feet 6 inches in diameter, surrounded by pilasters, carrying an entablature and flat dome, terminated by a cross; the whole height from the floor of the portico to the top of the cross was 70 feet. The flank walls of the chapel were plain, and concealed from view by the houses to be built on either side. A small vestry room was on the western side of the altar. From the centre of the portico a square vestibule was entered, communicating with the side doors opening into the chapel. The interior was divided into side aisles, with a centre aisle to a portion of the seats commencing from the altar end. It was lighted by four windows on either side, plain in character, and the altar end (from the suggestion of the Incumbent, the Rev. A. B. Campbell), was circular in form, with a dome terminated by a concealed top light. The pulpit was placed at the back of this circular end, and the reading-desk in the minister's pew on the right of the altar; on the left side was a pew appropriated to the Earl of Warwick. At the opposite extremity were the children's and organ gallery, the latter central and projecting sufficiently for the reception of a fine organ prepared by Messrs. Hill, of London. The chapel was heated by hot air flues, with proper ventilation, and the pews were variously and commodiously arranged as to the number of sittings. The clerk's desk at the opposite extreme from the pulpit was a novel feature, and the free seats were placed in front of it under the gallery. Plainness, simplicity, and neatness had been attempted throughout the design. In the interior an enriched cornice was connected with the ceiling by a frame moulding, containing a running enrichment, with the addition of pateras, or rosettes, at intervals, and three large centre flowers for chandeliers. The domical ceiling of the altar was divided into five long panels, and the circular altar and altar piece were in a similar manner decorated with pilasters and panels. In those of the altar piece were contained the Creed, Lord's Prayer and Commandments."

The Rev. Mr. Campbell, who in 1836 assisted in starting the first Temperance Society in Leamington, was succeeded in 1841 by the Rev. J. H. Smith, whose father occupied for many years the residence immediately opposite the chapel on the south side of the road. He was a famous preacher, and throughout the whole course of his ministry, an aristocratic and exceedingly influential congregation, assembled from all parts of the town, occupied every sitting. His voice, of full average power, but limited to a few notes, was singularly rich in its inflections, always impressive, and in respect to emphasis in the right place, it was used with the

skill and also with the effect of an orator. In 1860 a collection of his sermons was published in two volumes, which had an extensive sale. In 1868 he became Vicar of Milverton under the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, resigned in 1871, and died in 1883 aged seventy. It is recorded of him that during the twelve years of his retirement he exemplified the comprehensive character of his faith and the catholicity of his Christian principles, by frequently attending the Wesleyan and other Nonconformist services, and sometimes joined them in their celebration of the Lord's Supper.

His successor was the Rev. Charles Carus Wilson, a member of the Carus Wilson family of Casterton Hall, Westmoreland—one of whose ancestors was a Simeon Trustee—and brother of Lady Wheler, wife of Sir Trevor Wheler, who resided at Limerick House. In 1872 St. Saviour's Church, Heath Terrace, was erected—it was said at the cost of the Rev. Carus Wilson, but it is most probable that Lady Wheler was a large contributor to the building fund. He was followed in 1877 by the Rev. Henry Landon Maud, who in "reading himself in" explained that though he was introducing the use of the surplice, he had never regarded it as the badge of a party, and considered it of little moment whether the gospel was preached in a surplice or a black gown.

In 1876 St. Mark's, New Milverton, was commenced, and in 1879 was opened and consecrated by the Bishop (the Rev. Dr. Philpott). The site for the church was the gift of Lady Charles Bertie Percy, of Guy's Cliffe, who also presented the costly and beautiful alabaster font, on the base of which is an inscription recording her generosity. Mr. Gilbert Scott was the architect, Mr. G. F. Smith the builder, and the whole cost—including the vicarage, the parish room, St. Saviour's, and an endowment of £6,500—amounting to £41,500, was defrayed by Lady Wheler and her two brothers, the Rev. Charles Carus Wilson and Mr. Edward Shephard Carus Wilson. Lady Wheler, who died previous to the erection of the church, had bequeathed £9,000 for the cost of the building, and after payment of a number of legacies to relatives and charities, the whole of the remainder of her fortune was left absolutely to her brothers. As a memorial to

their sister, to whom they were deeply attached, they resolved to build the church in its present form, and to supply the funds which would be required over and above the £9,000 she had set apart for the purpose.

St. Mark's, thus erected by a display of liberality unexampled in the religious history of the Midlands, presents many features of interest to the ecclesiologist, not the least of which is that it is the work of the eldest son of Sir Gilbert Scott, one of the most celebrated English ecclesiastical architects of the nineteenth century. For a minute description of the edifice we have no room, the space available only permitting us to say that the accommodation is sufficient for 1,000 persons, and that the organ, built by Hill & Son, London, at a cost of £1,600, is an unusually fine one, beautiful in tone, extensive in compass, and finished in every respect in a manner highly creditable to that eminent firm. It was an additional gift by Lady Wheler, and at the consecration services, when it was artistically played by Dr. Chipp, and on all other occasions under the able management of Mr. G. Kennett, the organist, it has been the subject of unqualified admiration.

The Rev. H. L. Maud resigned in 1890 in consequence of the ill-health of Mrs. Maud. His vicariate of thirteen years' duration was characterised by much earnest work, and under his careful supervision the local Church agencies were raised to a high state of efficiency. His successor was the Rev. F. Carus Wilson, son of the Rev. C. Carus Wilson, to whom reference has already been made. In 1898 he retired, and in October of that year the Rev. Edward A. Parry, son of the suffragan Bishop of Dover, and grandson of Admiral Parry, the intrepid Arctic explorer, was appointed, and inducted into the living by the Bishop (the Rev. Dr. Perowne). He remained in the vicariate only about two years owing to his having been elected Bishop of Guiana, but short as his term of office was it served to establish his popularity as a most genial, hard-working clergyman, and when he left Milverton for his new and more important sphere of labour he had the best wishes of the whole parish for his future prosperity and happiness. His successor (the present Vicar), the Rev. H. B. Streatfield, has been equally successful in winning the esteem of his parishioners, and maintaining in an unimpaired

state the various parochial institutions. While these lines are passing through the press preparations are being made for the erection of a beautiful reredos, towards which Miss Holy has subscribed £500, and the introduction of the electric light; in addition to which a screen is in contemplation.

The proposed ornamentation of the interior of the church, as stated, has not met with the approval of all the congregation, some of whom regard the project as the first step in the direction of an advanced form of ritualism, while others deplore the change because they consider it will spoil the most beautiful example we have of the style adopted by Mr. Gilbert Scott, the architect. To these the Vicar has given the following explanation, the goodwill and conciliatory spirit of which cannot be too highly commended:—

“There are some, I know (and I quite understand their position), who are opposed to the church being touched, fearing that its beautifying implies an upward tendency in ritual. I do not think such an idea is warranted, and I can assure all who hold it that if I had thought so I would not have consented to the scheme. We like our houses to be bright and cheerful; the walls of the chancel of our church are at present, as all must acknowledge, cold and bare, and to brighten them with warmth of colour does not imply an advance of ritual.”

CHAPTER XXVI.

Friendly Societies, their public and membership value—introduction of the federative principle in 1836 by the starting of the "Temple of Peace Lodge," M.U.—beneficial and financial results of sixty years work—Ben Satchwell's "Fountain of Hospitality," 1777—its objects, rules, feasts, and allowances for old age—list of societies of the last century—valuable statistics prepared by P.P.G.M. J. Hudson—origin of the Temperance movement.

MODERN Leamington has every reason to be gratified with the success which has attended the growth and prosperity of its many well-conducted Friendly Societies. A large saving to the rates, an improvement in the standard of health, the prevention of disease, and the encouragement of thrift among the working classes, have been the direct results of the movement.

On February 29, 1836, was formed the Temple of Peace Lodge (1059), of the Manchester Unity Order of Odd Fellows. This is the oldest of the affiliated Societies in Leamington, and was the first to adopt the federative plan which has given the Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Hearts of Oak, and other similarly constructed Associations, solidity and an irresistible strength against the winds of misfortune. It was started at the Rose and Crown, Kenilworth Street, where the meetings continue to be held. To those who lightly value the work of such societies as this, and especially the ratepayers who reap in reduced poor rates an annual harvest of benefits, it may be useful to mention that, in sixty years, the Lodge enrolled nine hundred and sixty members, and received in contributions £24,761. Of this it paid back £19,818 in benefits, and securely invested £4,943 at an average rate of $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. interest.* Facts like these require no argument to enforce the utility of Friendly Societies.

* These statistics relate to the close of the financial year 1896.

Before proceeding further with the developments of these societies subsequent to the date mentioned, it will be useful to go back to the establishment of the parent Friendly Society, which took place on Whit Monday, 1777, when Ben Satchwell convened a village meeting, at which was started "The Fountain of Hospitality," a philanthropic club, the objects of which are fully set forth in the following paragraphs. The name will doubtless appear to most readers bombastic, if not grotesque, but to such as are acquainted with the inflated and high-sounding titles of such Societies in the eighteenth century, it will be admired for its comparative modesty and obvious propriety of language and sentiment. Proud as the Odd Fellows, Foresters, and members of other kindred friendly organisations must feel when they contemplate the beneficent work they have accomplished, and the noble edifice which they have reared by the simple process of combined effort, it cannot fail to increase their satisfaction to find that the principle of unity for their own and each other's good was adopted and practised in the form of club-life before Leamington had the least title to be called a borough, and that they occupy the first place in the chronological order of public institutions. We transcribe from the Book of Rules the description of this interesting association:—

"The Fountain of Hospitality supported by select Pillars of Gratitude: Beautified with Humanity and also embellished with Regulations to conduct a Friendly Society, holden at Leamington Priors in the County of Warwick. United in a bond of peace and good will, to glorify God, to comfort and assist each other as Christian Brethren, to provide for the sick, the Lamé, the Blind, the Prisoners, the Widows, the Orphans, the Infirmities of old age, and to Bury the dead.

Comprised by B. Satchwell & Co.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the Infirmities of the weak.—
Rom. 15, verse 1.

"General meetings of the Society. 1. On Whitsun Monday. 2. First Monday, on or after the 24th day of June. 3. First Monday on or after the 29th day of September. 4. First Monday on or after the 20th day of December. 5. First Monday on or after the 25th day of March. All annually.

"N.B.—The Committee meet on the 14th day next after every meeting aforesaid."

In the rules, which are styled the "Articles of Agreement," the appointment of a "Warden," or, as he would be called in these modern times, a "Sick Visitor," is first provided for. He was to be elected by the Stewards of the "Leamington Priors Association" to visit any brother who fell sick, and report upon his state and condition in writing at the end of every twenty-eight days, under the penalty of forfeiting sixpence for each and every neglect. He was to pay the sick brother the sum of ——— shillings per week, the same to be repaid to him by the Society on demand.

At the annual meeting on Whitsun Monday, May 16, 1785, it was declared that many of the original rules had been found of little or no use, in consequence of which they were revoked, while those which had been adjudged useful and necessary were retained "in full force, and power and virtue," with some additions which were considered to be required.

The revised rules prescribed that at all times thereafter every person who intended to be a brother of the society should first give notice in writing and send one shilling with the same to some brother, setting forth his Christian and surname, age, occupation, and place of abode, but such writing was not to be deemed any notice until the same had been read and laid before a general meeting. On all occasions when a brother was chosen, the question was to be determined by the impartial method of voting by ballot in a general meeting and in the presence of one steward or deputy steward, and one clerk, with nineteen other brothers at least, a less number voting to be null and void. And whenever twenty-one members or upwards as aforesaid voted for a new brother, and the majority appeared in favour of the candidate, it was the duty of one of the clerks to enter in the books the day and date of the election, and the true number of votes for the candidate and against him, or forfeit one shilling for every neglect, and one steward and one clerk were to attest the same or forfeit sixpence. After a member had been chosen as aforesaid, the stewards and committee had fourteen days to enquire and receive information touching the character of such member elect, and if any reasonable objection appeared that such person was not qualified,

one of the clerks was to write across the votes of the election thus : " T.J. is not qualified for a member of this society, and, therefore, is excluded by the committee," the same being attested at the meeting by five of the committee at the least, to pay a fine of twopence each for neglect. On confirmation of the election, the new member had to contribute five shillings to the cash box, but if rejected the shilling sent with the application was returned. No one could be elected a member under sixteen nor over thirty-five years of age. The following were also ineligible: felons, soldiers, sailors, militia, Jews, and aliens. The place for holding the general meetings was for the members to determine, but if no selection was made, they were to take place alternately at the two public houses, known, the one by the sign of the Dog, and the other by that of the Bowling Green.

The hours for commencing business were six o'clock in the evening in summer and five in the winter months; members' contributions one shilling and sixpence each and threepence to be spent in ale, but of this sum one shilling and sixpence was to be applied in eating, and two shillings and sixpence for committee refreshments. On Whitsun Monday, "our great feast day," the Fountain was much given to demonstration and hospitality. The thirty members of which it was composed assembled at the Club House in High Street at eight o'clock in the morning, and after transacting business, marched to Church at eleven, accompanied by a "band of music," for whose services the sum of two shillings and sixpence was payable out of the funds. In this Church Parade, every member was to appear "in a decent manner, with a wand, or some emblematical instrument or order." Ten shillings and sixpence was allowed the Vicar for preaching the sermon, and one shilling the Parish Clerk for his attendance. Returning to the Club House on the conclusion of the service, to the merry strains of the band, they were regaled with a bountiful feast, for which each member paid one shilling and one shilling for ale; a penny being also due from each member for the clerks, one penny for the cooking and another for the waiting. A sum of one and sixpence was reserved for refreshments at the next committee meeting.

With what absorbing interest would a full report of these proceedings be now studied! Ben Satchwell's few remarks on opening the Lodge; the subjects brought forward for discussion; the results of the year's working; the names, addresses and occupations of the thirty pioneers of the Friendly Societies movement in Leamington; the strength and composition of the band and the music they discoursed; the small crowd of villagers who lined the streets; the menu, the toast list, and the Vicar's sermon, would furnish a delectable page of reading. The personality of the trombone, who, with ballooned-cheeks, spoke in tones which shook the thatch of the cottages; the big drum with stately step beating rhythm and earnestness into the movement, and the dominating clarionet, would add to the interest of local musical memories.

According to rule, the business of the Society was concluded at four o'clock in the afternoon, but there was nothing to prevent the devotion of an extra hour or two to the cause of enthusiasm, a renewal of pledges of friendships and convivialities. The benefits of membership were an allowance of three shillings per week during sickness for members who had been enrolled twelve months, and five shillings after membership of two years. An old age allowance of one shilling weekly was granted for members sixty years of age who had been on the books twenty years; two shillings at sixty-five with twenty-five years' membership, and three shillings at seventy years of age and thirty years' membership. When the funds in the cash box were below twenty pounds, a levy of threepence per member might be made.

We have no information of the duration of the society's existence, but on such a basis it could not have been immortal. All Fountains must soon run dry which have no better sources of supply than the contributions specified in its rules. But the efforts of Satchwell are not to be judged by nineteenth century standards. He had not in his possession the carefully prepared tables of actuaries which make the establishment of a solvent Friendly Society now an easy task, nor could he call to his aid a single experimental test as to the proportion which should exist between contributions and benefits. The soundness of his society does not call for discussion in this place. It is his motive rather

than his method with which we have to deal. In the lofty and capacious gallery of illustration which the history of Leamington has filled with noble and beautiful pictures, there is no scene more captivating than the sight of these thirty hob-nailed Knights Hospitallers, clad in homely fustian and serviceable corduroy, groping with sterling probity of purpose for workable ideals of self-help, amidst gross statistical darkness, and seeking a harvest from a soil barren of philanthropic husbandry and experimental science. Actuated by the single desire of enhancing the welfare of all, they were unconsciously assisting in laying the foundation of a movement destined to outlive every form of ridicule, to flourish in spite of all kinds of opposition; to acquire renewed strength from those errors of judgment which are unavoidable in new movements: in our own time to wield an influence respected by the most powerful Governments, and to be locally represented by a roll of membership which includes the most reflective and thrifty of the working classes of Leamington and many of those who by loyal devotion to its interest have won for themselves the highest positions in the administrative departments of the borough.

"The Fountain of Hospitality" of 1777 introduced the principle of association and mutual benefits, which found in Leamington a soil and climate congenial to its development. Most probably the duration of the Society was short, but on that account it must not be supposed either that Satchwell's teachings were wasted, or that the desire of the labourers to provide something for the rainy days of affliction was extinguished. As a matter of fact, however, it is not clearly established that it did fail. Early in the eighteenth century a number of independent Friendly Societies was formed, and some one or other of these may have been the direct aftermath of the original harvest Satchwell was privileged to gather in the village. The earliest of these, respecting which we have discovered any report, was the "New Town Benefit Club," at the Turf Inn, Satchwell Street, established in 1823, and the next, the "United Tradesmen's Friendly Society," of 1826. In 1836 the sounder systems of the modern affiliated societies was locally recognised by the starting of the "Temple of Peace" Lodge (M.U.), at the Rose and Crown,

Kenilworth Street, where its meetings have been held for the past sixty-four years. From this date the Friendly Society movement in Leamington entered on a new career, the contributions being based on actuarial calculations, and the management conducted on those principles which experience had shown to be necessary for solvency and the due performance of every obligation to the members. In connection with the M.U., of which the "Temple of Peace" Lodge was the forerunner at the Spa, three other Lodges were successively established: the "Loyal Leamington," 1838; the "Loyal Guy's Cliffe," 1843; and the "Loyal Albion," in 1862. In a comprehensive paper contributed to the "Leamington Spa Courier" in July, 1897, by P.P.G.M. J. Hudson, ex-valuer of Friendly Societies, the number of members of these four Lodges was stated to be 1,653, the reserve capital amounting to £19,157. The kindred great Society, the "Ancient Order of Foresters," had in the same year two Courts, the "Royal Leamington" and the "Leamington Oak," with 460 members and £3,131 reserve capital; the "Nottingham Ancient Imperial United Order of Oddfellows," four Lodges, namely, the "Shrubland," "Aylesford," "Rose of Sharon," and "Hand of Benevolence," with 87 members and £1,282 capital. The total membership of these three Orders was 2,240, and the reserve funds £24,631. In addition to these there were two Juvenile Societies with 450 members and £810 reserve capital, and a "Tent of the Independent Order of the Rechabites," with 48 members and capital amounting to £1,061, making the aggregate total of members 2,498, and reserve funds £25,441. Mr. Hudson estimates that the total amount paid by these Societies in relief, during sixty years, amounted to £75,000, thereby effecting a saving to the poor rate equivalent to £496 per annum. Besides the above there are "The Druids," "The Hearts of Oak," and "The Rational Association Friendly Society," the funds of which are transmitted to headquarters.

The temperance movement in Leamington began on November 20, 1835, with a lecture in the Pump Room by Mr. Chapman, of Birmingham, "a gentleman who has sacrificed much time and property in the service of Temperance Societies." This was followed by a public meeting on January 7, 1836, in the Upper

Assembly Rooms, to found a Society. Sir John Mordaunt, Bart., was in the chair; the speakers were the Rev. A. B. Campbell, of the new Episcopal Chapel; the Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham; and Mr. W. Mellor, "a most respectable Wesleyan Methodist local preacher." The Bishop and the Earl of Denbigh were in the list of patrons. A second meeting was held in March in the National School, Kenilworth Street, when there was a disturbance, in the course of which the stove and the piping were argued out of their places, and the two camps retired in what military critics would not call good order, and perhaps not in quite the best of tempers. The new Society met weekly in the building in Guy Street, previously occupied by the Baptists, and in five years about seven hundred members were enrolled. From the time they went into possession, it became known as the Temperance Room.

Early in 1848 the Society moved into Clemens Street and opened a new Temperance Hall in the Apollo Rooms, and about the year 1860 they returned into the New Town and settled in Colley's Temperance Room, Warwick Street, where successful meetings were held under the auspices of the Midland Temperance League, the headquarters of which were at Birmingham. The Garibaldi Lifeboat Crew, established a few years later by a temperance lecturer from Smethwick, held its first meetings in the thatched cottage, New Street, once the residence of the famous Ben Satchwell, and the original Leamington Post Office. Mr. Jesse Overton was the first captain, and Mrs. Mark, wife of Sergeant-Major Mark, of the Second Warwickshire Militia, the first lady commander of the Women's Branch. When Mrs. Meeks, the tenant of the cottage, removed to the Guernsey Hotel, Church Street, the Crew accompanied her, cast anchor in the commodious room on the first floor and there started the earliest Band of Hope Leamington has had. To this new variety of the Temperance movement Mr. Fred Wilson, who, in his unfailing good humour, perennial wit and ceaseless labour in the public welfare, closely resembled the "lively Bisset," voluntarily and with fidelity discharged the responsible sponsorial duties of godfather.

In 1871 Good Templary was introduced into Leamington by the starting at the Temperance Hall of Feeling Heart Lodge, number 199 of the Order. Messrs. Joseph Malins, the official head of that movement, and G. Hastings, of Acock's Green, attended the inaugural meeting, at which the mantle of the chief office was placed on the shoulders of Mr. T. H. Joyce, who was elected the first local Chief Templar, Mr. Israel Sida, L.D., and Mr. John Fell, hon. secretary. The Old Town Refuge was afterwards commenced in Clemens Street, chiefly through the instrumentality of Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Mark, and the Loyal Leamington Lodge was subsequently established at the British Workman, Covent Garden. At one time all these agencies were working together in harmony, and from past successes great expectations were entertained of signal triumphs in the near and distant future. In less than thirty-five years every Lodge was closed and the Temperance work for adults was practically effaced.

A great revival followed the appointment of the Rev. J. W. Leigh to the vicariate of All Saints' in 1877. He was not an abstainer, but presiding at a meeting of Feeling Heart Lodge his sympathies were aroused, and when, later on, Canon Wilberforce spoke at the Public Hall in favour of the Temperance Union, he signed the pledge, and, amid the cheers of a crowded audience, was decorated with the insignia of the Blue Ribbon Army. His popularity imparted a new vigour to teetotal opinion, and Blue Ribbon meetings became fashionable. The Church of England Temperance Society founded by him was an unprecedented success. The Rev. W. J. Woods, of Spencer Street, also started a Temperance Society, which was powerful in its day. But with his departure from Leamington, and that of Mr. Leigh, the enthusiasm of the public abated, and for several years the energetic appeals of former days have been unknown. There are now several Bands of Hope in connection with the local Churches, and recently a branch of the Midland Temperance League was established at a meeting held in the Memorial Hall, and attended by the Hon. and Very Rev. Dean Leigh, who gave an address.

CHAPTER XXVII.

The Mechanics' Institute of 1836—Coronation Festivities of George IV in 1821 "a melancholy pleasure"—of William IV. in 1831—rejoicings at Princess Victoria's coming of age in 1837, and at her Coronation in 1838—Coronation of King Edward VII. in 1902, and local festivities—Queen Victoria's grant of the prefix "Royal" to Leamington—origin of the Victoria Bridge, and opening ceremony in 1840—etc.

THE year 1836 was the age of Mechanics' Institutions, and Leamington was not slow in adopting the new scheme. At a public meeting in the Royal Assembly Rooms, on March 23, Sir Eardley Wilmot presiding, the Mechanics' Institute of early Leamington was opened. During the first quarter a hundred and thirty members were enrolled, and a library established, containing two hundred volumes. The meetings were held at the Assembly Rooms every evening from nine till ten o'clock. Daily and weekly newspapers, and weekly and monthly periodicals, were supplied for the use of the members. The President was Chandos Leigh, Esq.; Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Lloyd; Mr. A. S. Field was its Hon. Secretary; and Mr. James Bird filled the office of Treasurer. Compared with modern agencies of the same kind, the work of the Institute was limited, but in the ancestry of the Free Library, the Philosophical Society, and even the Technical Education movements of very recent times, it occupies the first position.

There were grand doings in Leamington on May 24, 1837, when the Princess Victoria, being eighteen years of age, attained her legal majority. As the joyous demonstration of this occasion was one of a series which have marked the undeviating loyalty of the town, a brief notice of the Coronation rejoicings, in the order in which they occurred, will not be out of place.

Of the three coronations which took place in the nineteenth century, the first was that of George IV., who visited Leamington in 1819 under circumstances already described. He was crowned

on July 19, 1821, and the event was celebrated by feasting five hundred poor men, women and children on the Bowling Green, the site of the pleasures and gaieties of the village from time immemorial. In the evening the principal buildings were illuminated, and the display of devices and lamps of variegated colours was profuse and pleasing. It is doubtful, however, whether these festivities were as thoroughly enjoyable as their classification among royal celebrations will lead many to suppose they were. The differences between the King and Queen Caroline absorbed the attention of the country, and a Privy Council Order to expunge her name from the Liturgy, together with the King's refusal to allow her to be present at the Coronation ceremonial, won for her the sympathy of the majority of the nation. At Leamington she had numerous friends—prominent amongst whom was James Bisset—and to them, the demonstration at its best, could have been nothing more than a melancholy pleasure.

The Coronation of William IV. on September 8, 1831, was celebrated by a manifestation of loyal feeling exceedingly creditable to the town. In the afternoon there was a general holiday for the shopkeepers, their assistants, and the workpeople, and in the evening an illumination on a scale then unsurpassed in the annals of the Spa. A magnificent design of "William and Adelaide," in various colours, adorned the front of Copps' Royal Hotel in High Street, and the side in Clemens Street was beautifully decorated with a large crown, the resplendence of which was heightened by a surrounding constellation of small lights in the shape of stars, etc. The Crown Hotel was lustrous with the initials of the King and Queen, accompanied by a crown and star formed with gas jets, while at the neighbouring establishment of Bettison's Library another splendid star was shown. The royal initials were also exhibited at the Bath Hotel, festoons of lights graced the County Library, Upper Parade, and and at the Assembly Rooms, Regent Street, and other public buildings and private residences, there were devices evincing the good taste, ingenuity and liberality of the Spa. Music was supplied by a military band stationed in the balcony at the Regent Hotel, and a grand ball and supper at the Lower

Assembly Rooms, Bath Street, at which Elston's Quadrille band were present, brought the local rejoicings to a conclusion at about three o'clock the next morning.

Though not a Coronation festivity, the celebration of the majority of the Princess Victoria on May 24, 1837, deserves notice, for in that year she was emphatically "the Queen of the May" in all England, and in no place more so than in Leamington. At an early hour the bells began clanging their loyalty, and the inhabitants turned out in their thousands. A procession of residents, clubs and schools, a mile in length, marched through the streets, the Warwickshire Yeomanry band giving them a good start with a version of the National Anthem, played in splendid style and with plenty of wind. For the time being the town had the appearance of fairyland. Bells and band made merry music throughout the day, which was a general holiday; flowers and evergreens decorated the balconies; flags and banners were suspended from many of the windows, and the beautiful Victorian medals, struck in honour of the event, from the necks or waists of the children. Scarcely a resident appeared in the streets without a white rosette, scarf and medal. All the school girls wore bonnets and tippets of the same style and pattern (presents from the promoters of the festivities) which made them look so much alike that their parents, after dining extensively, may easily have found some difficulty in sorting out their own at the close of the day. Two thousand and fifty of the working classes were entertained at dinner in "Mr. Willes's grounds" (the Jephson Gardens), the fare consisting of roast and boiled beef and plum pudding, with one quart of ale for each man, and one pint for each woman. The principal toast was proposed by Dr. Jephson—"The Princess Victoria, and may she have many happy returns of the day, and be a source of great happiness to her country," a two-fold hope which was realised to a far greater extent than any one at that period could have anticipated. In the afternoon, one thousand two hundred children were provided with tea, and while at their repast a Montgolfier balloon, the production of Mr. S. Gore and Mr. J. Hordern, junior, watchmaker, Clemens Street, ascended from a field at the back of Victoria Terrace, and floated over the grounds. The event was also the subject of an address

of congratulation to her Majesty on the part of the town which Lord Eastnor, the Hon. Captain Somerville and Dr. Jephson were appointed a deputation to present.

Equally patriotic but far more magnificent was the demonstration on June 28 of the following year, the date of her Majesty's coronation. The proceedings on that occasion occupied two days and included a grand procession, the details of which are far too numerous for the briefest recapitulation here; decorations, music, fireworks, illuminations, and a free dinner in the Newbold Grounds to upwards of six thousand men, women and children, Dr. Jephson again in the chair and proposing the chief toast—"Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen, and may her future career be as conspicuous as the day of her coronation." The chief event of the second day—the laying of the foundation stone by Dr. Jephson of the enlarged bridge, thenceforth to be known as the Victoria Bridge—happily united to the passing pleasures of the first, a work of great public utility, an ornament to the locality, and a permanent record of the commencement of the Victorian era.

The only coronation remaining for notice is that of King Edward VII. on August 9, 1902. His mother—Queen Victoria—died January 22, 1901, in the eighty-third year of her age, and after a reign of sixty-four years, in which the prosperity of England had been beyond a parallel in history. The accession of the Prince was proclaimed from the balcony in front of the Municipal Buildings on the 30th, by Alderman W. Davis, Mayor, the Parade being filled with thousands of the inhabitants whose hearty cheering and singing of the National Anthem testified to the sincerity of Leamington's welcome to the new king.

As soon as it was known that the 26th of June, 1902, had been appointed for the coronation, preparations were commenced for celebrating the event in a manner becoming a royal and loyal borough. To meet the expenses it was resolved at a public meeting that a special rate ought to be levied, and this principle was afterwards recognised by the Town Council, who contemplated 2d. in the £ as the sum to be so charged; but the Mayor and Mayoress having generously offered to entertain all the aged, poor people and school children at their own cost, a rate of 1½d.,

estimated to produce upwards of £1,000, was considered sufficient, and that amount was accordingly authorised. There were some objections to this mode of making the rates chargeable for festivities; it had, however, the approval of the majority of the burgesses, and the opponents eventually accepted with good grace the substitution of compulsory payment for the voluntary system of contributions at former celebrations.

Possessed of ample pecuniary resources, and animated by the praiseworthy ambition of making the demonstration memorable among the most pleasing annals of the Spa, the Mayor and Corporation lost no time in commencing the preparatory arrangements. Owing to the serious illness of the King, the Coronation was adjourned from June 26 to August 9, and the decorations for the first date had to be taken down and when the time arrived replaced for the second. It is only fair to say that on both occasions the Town Council, in their arduous task, had the heartiest co-operation of the tradespeople and the residential classes, as well as the enthusiastic support of the general public. Considering the few months which have passed since Coronation Day, and remembering the very full reports of the festivities published in the columns of the local Press, it will be sufficient if we very briefly mention the several items of the proceedings. In the morning, the Mayor (Alderman W. Davis) entertained the members of the Town Council and the officials at breakfast in the Town Hall, and at half-past ten, accompanied by the police force and the fire brigade, they walked in procession to the Parish Church, where a special coronation service was held. There was a crowded congregation, and the officiating clergy were the Rev. Cecil Hook, Vicar, the Revs. Prebendary Rayson, W. Langley, J. Barton, J. P. Cranstoun, and C. E. Long. At the same time there was a largely attended united service in Spencer Street Congregational Church of the several Nonconformist bodies, at which the following ministers were present: the Revs. J. Sellicks, B. Bramham, W. B. Dalby, and H. V. J. Angel. Sports, on an extensive scale in the Victoria Park, delighted a large concourse of spectators, and music, discoursed sweetly from the stands in the gardens, yielded pleasure to thousands of listeners. In the afternoon nearly 600 aged and poor people had a bountiful

repast in the Pump Room Gardens, provided for them by the Mayor, and in the evening, the effect of the brilliant general illumination was intensified by a splendid and admirably conducted torchlight procession. On September 5 the Mayor brought the festivities to a close by treating upwards of four thousand school children—to each of whom he had previously given a Coronation medal—to tea in their respective schools, before which they assembled in the Pump Room Gardens and sang “All people that on earth do dwell,” and the National Anthem.

The gracious concession of the Queen in 1838, entitling Leamington to the prefix of “Royal,” caused much rejoicing in the town. At the levee on Wednesday, July 18, a deputation, composed of Lord Eastnor, Major Hawkes, M.C., and Mr. John Hampden, attended and presented an address expressing loyal sentiments from the inhabitants of Leamington Priors, on her accession and coronation. The application for the new and important dignity was made by Major Hawkes on the 3rd, in a letter addressed to Lord Melbourne, to which the following reply was received:—



Whitehall, 19th July, 1838.

Sir,

“Viscount Melbourne having placed in my hands the Letter which you addressed to him on the 3rd instant, I have had the honour of submitting to The Queen the respectful Request of the Inhabitants of Leamington that they may be permitted to call that Spa in future the Royal Leamington Spa: And I am to inform you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accede to the Request of the Inhabitants of Leamington.”

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

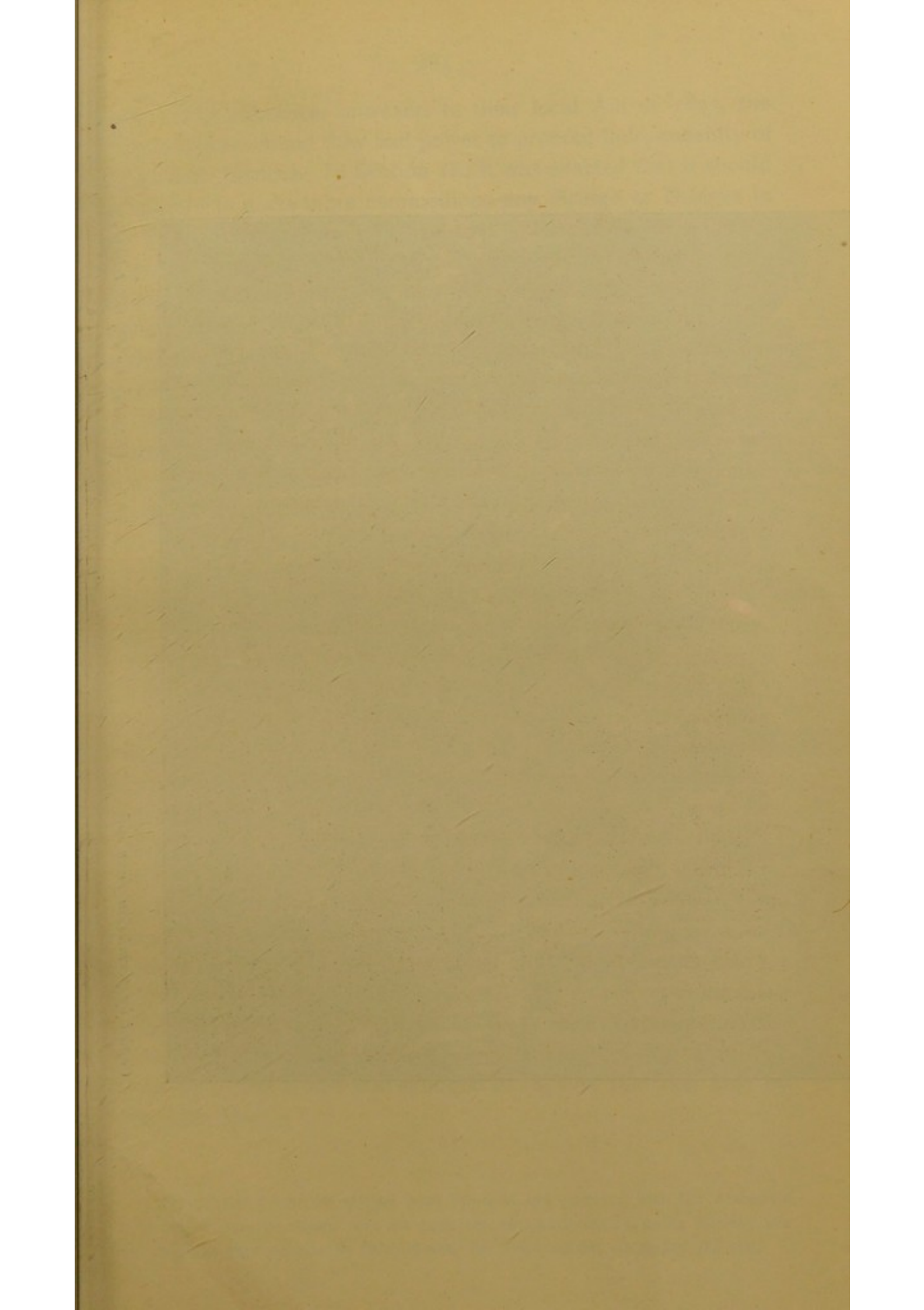
“JOHN RUSSELL.”

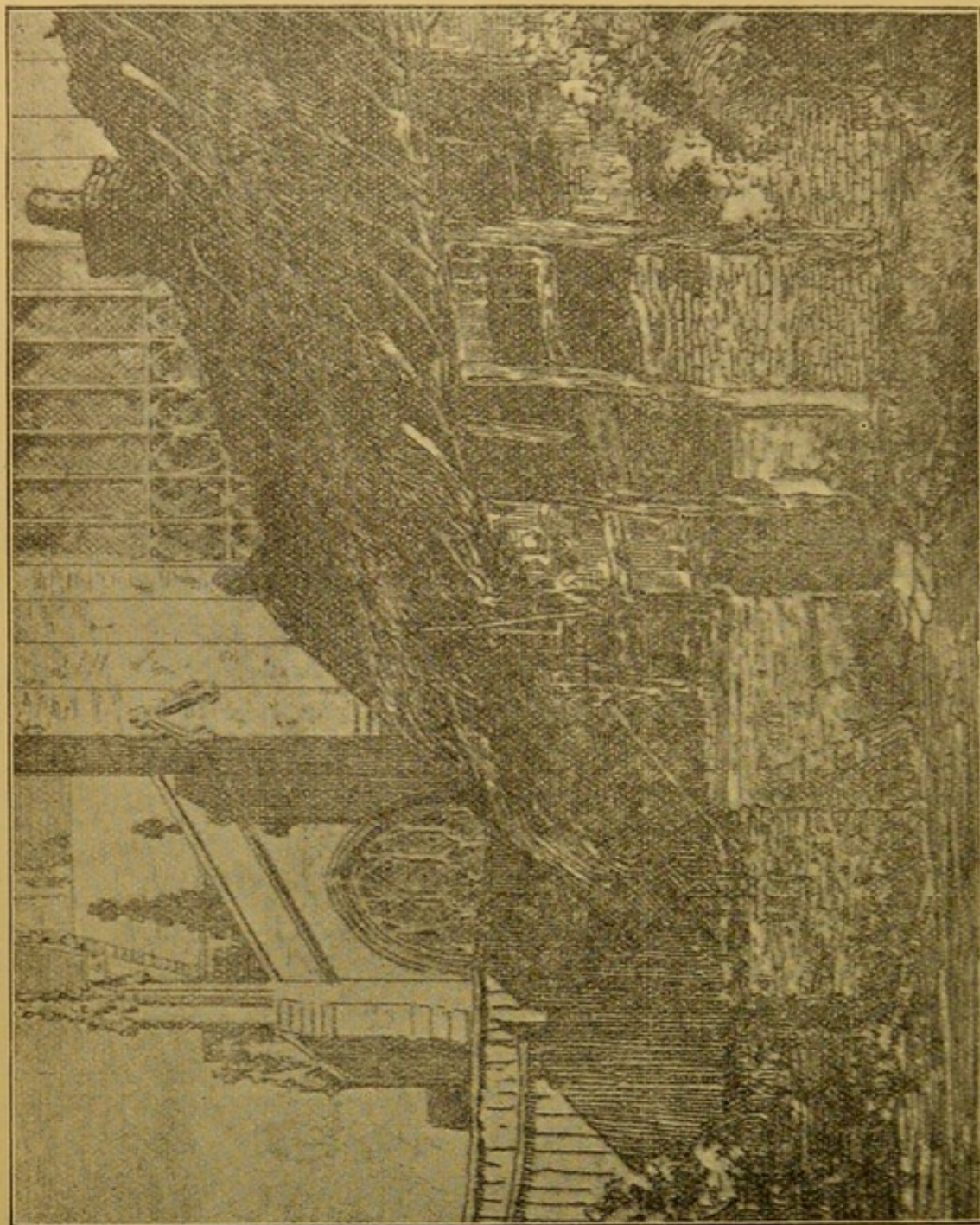
Major Hawkes, M.C.,
Leamington Spa.

Leamington was nearly beside itself with joy on receipt of the news that the Queen had granted its request. Hoarse with its loyal shoutings at the coming of age and coronation of her Majesty, it still had power enough to make the welkin ring with its present jubilation for itself. The deputation, highly pleased with the success of their mission, returned on the 24th, and reached the town shortly before ten o'clock in the evening. A crowd, brimming over with enthusiasm, awaited their arrival at the old Town Hall, for whose benefit rockets were sent up as soon as the approach of the embassy was seen in the Radford Road. At the Town Hall they were greeted with cheers, and the horses having been taken from the carriage, Major Hawkes and Mr. Hampden delivered congratulatory speeches from the steps, the former stating that the privilege of styling a town "Royal" was one possessed by no other place in the United Kingdom. They then re-entered their carriage, which was drawn by the crowd to the Regent Hotel, the cheers rolling along the streets like volleys of thunder. From the balcony at the south end they again addressed some thousands, both felicitating the town on its good fortune in securing a royal favour, unique in history. Mr. Hampden's ancestor was John Hampden, who, in the Civil War, fell at Chalgrove in a skirmish with the troops of the fiery Prince Rupert, and of whom Macaulay says that his history, more particularly from the year 1640 to his death, is the history of England. His descendant resided in Clarence Terrace; was one of the most popular men in Leamington in his time, and during his residence here was foremost in all movements for the good of the town.

The Improvement Commissioners, in May, 1835, directed their attention to the state of the river, and the inconvenience caused by the narrow approach to the bridge on the south side. At a public meeting in the Town Hall, June 13, their decision to clean out the one and widen the other was approved, and a subscription for £1,500 started towards the £5,500 required. The contract, given to William Green, was to "widen the road at the northernmost end of Bath Street, take down part of the present bridge, widen and improve the same, excavate certain parts of the bed of the river, and make and lay new culvert and sewers." The road

was widened twenty-nine feet, and on October 6, 1837, Mr. Hitchman laid the first stone of Victoria Terrace, an improvement which followed the action of the Commissioners in regard to the bridge, the road, and the river. As far back as 1831 the state of the Leam had been considered by the Parish Committee in consequence of an order received from the Privy Council respecting the formation of a Board of Health. On this the Committee adopted the prudent course of consulting the members of the medical profession, a precedent which has been followed on several occasions in the history of the town, and never without benefit to the inhabitants. Their opinion was that no new powers of government were then needed, but they advised constant and unremitting industry in abating nuisances which might arise, and particularly impressed on the Committee the duty of steps being taken "for causing a freer flow of water in the river." This advice was urgently needed. From the Mill to the bridge the Leam was then scarcely more than half its present width. The sides and banks were lined with sedges, and overgrown with bushes, which intercepted the filth brought down by the stream and holding it there in accumulated masses, caused, in the hot season, smells which were offensive, if not pestilential. Notwithstanding this the health of the town was satisfactory, and a certificate that Leamington had never been more exempt from severe illness was signed by Drs. John Staunton, Amos Middleton, Henry Jephson, Francis Franklin, James Cave Jones, Charles Loudon; and Surgeons D'Arcy Boulton, Richard Jones, W. W. Middleton, John Hitchman, William Haines, J. M. Cottle, John Pritchard, E. A. Jennings, and William Fairweather. Not forgetful of the recommendation by the Faculty, the Commissioners, in their work of 1839, thoroughly cleansed the river, removed from the sides all obstruction, excavated the bed, and, by constructing a culvert for storm and surface water, with an outlet between the bridge and the Mill, gave to the water a motion which removed an admitted nuisance. The widening of the bridge was a matter of some difficulty. It was erected in 1809 by the county, and was still the property of the County Court of Quarter Sessions. The Court refused to sanction any interference, and for a time it seemed as though the enlargement could not be





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[Etching by F. Whitehead.

OLD COTTAGES NEAR THE CHURCH, DEMOLISHED JUNE, 1880.

made. On reference, however, to their local Act of 1825, the Commissioners found they had power to proceed independently of the County Justices. In Section 122 it was enacted that it should be lawful "to make more commodious any Bridge or Bridges in the Town leading to or from the said Wells, or any or either of them, in such manner as the said Commissioners shall judge proper." Relying upon this, they proceeded with the work without interruption by the County Authority, and widened the bridge on the east side, making the distance between the balustrades forty feet. The scheme was introduced and discussed in 1838, the year of the Queen's Coronation; the opening ceremony took place in May, 1840, Dr. Jephson officiating, and after laying the memorial stone, which may still be seen at the south-east corner, he formally declared the bridge open for traffic. The customary public rejoicings—bell ringing, flags, banners, garlands, music, etc.—were not omitted. There was a large assembly to witness the ceremony, on the conclusion of which they sang, with ardent loyalty, "God Save the Queen," accompanied by Charles Elston's Military Band. The proceedings of the day were appropriately concluded with feasting in the evening, fifty workmen being entertained at the Angel Hotel, while a more select party dined at the Bath Hotel, under the genial presidency of Dr. Hitchman. Subjoined is the inscription commemorating the event:—"This stone was laid by Henry Jephson, M.D., on the 25th of May, 1840, in commemoration of the Extension and Improvement of this Bridge, and in celebration of the Birth Day of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria."* From this time the structure became known as the Victoria Bridge, an appellation most happily chosen, seeing that in its commencement it was associated with an event of absorbing interest to the Queen, and that its completion and inauguration were coincident with a national celebration of her Majesty's birthday. The bridge was enlarged in 1848 on the west side by Mr. John Hart.

* To prevent confusion arising from the date not agreeing with her Majesty's birthday, it may be stated that the 24th, the real anniversary, being Sunday, the proceedings were necessarily delayed until the following day—Monday, the 25th.

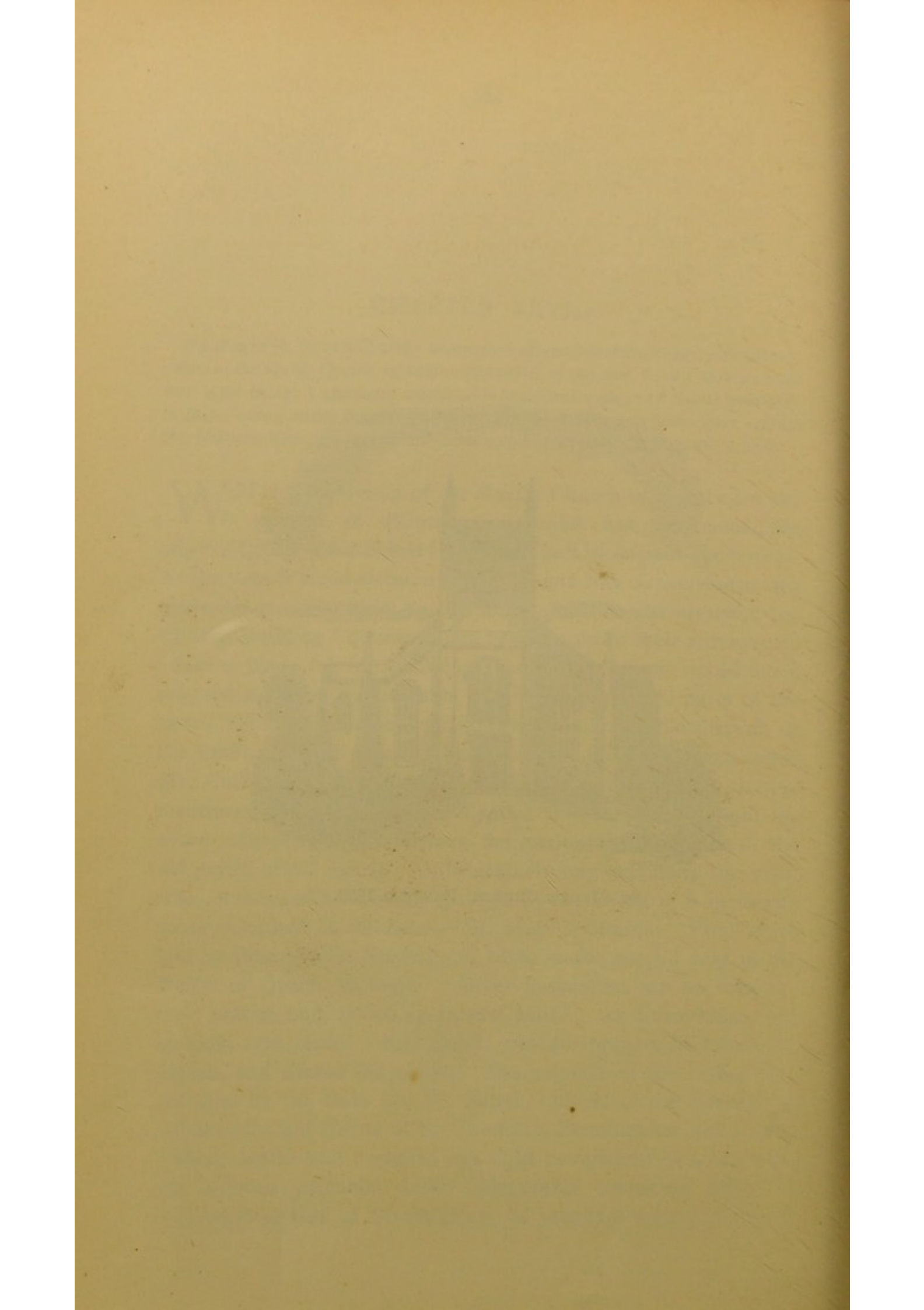
CHAPTER XXVIII.

Building of St. Mary's Church—description of, and list of the clergy, with notes—affairs at the Parish Church in 1839—resignation of the Rev. Robert Downes—the Rev. John Craig; a character sketch—his important work at All Saints from 1842 to 1849—stormy vestry meetings—memorial to the Bishop, and libel action against Mr. Matthew Wise, with the result—brief notice of Mr. Craig's Grammar School.

WITH the erection of St. Mary's Church in 1839 began the process of disintegration which has contracted the original parish of All Saints to less than half its ancient dimensions. At the time it stood alone in the fields, and this circumstance was made the groundwork of an objection. "If," it was argued, "the Church Building Commissioners had sent down their surveyor to name a place for an additional church, he never would have selected a site so remote from the thickly populated parts of the town." The greater contest, however, was over the district, to the grant of which there was a feeling in the vestry, and when Mr. Cullis was re-elected Parish Churchwarden in 1840, it was mentioned as his special qualification that he "would fight for every inch of ground" forming the territorial inheritance of the old parish of All Saints. With scarcely any ceremony the work was commenced on October 5, 1838, by the laying of a memorial stone inscribed as follows:—"St. Mary's Church. First stone laid by John Walter Sherer, A.D. 1838, in the second year of the Reign of Queen Victoria. 'Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' 1st Corinthians, 3rd chapter, 11th verse." Mr. Sherer was an intimate friend of Dr. Marsh, and shared his views. The expense of the edifice was defrayed by the Rev. Dr. W. Marsh, Official of the Peculiar of Bridgnorth, and Rector of St. Thomas's, Birmingham, and others. Failing health and impaired eye-sight compelling him to resign the arduous parochial duties inseparably connected with the rectorship he held at Birmingham, he sought a sphere of labour



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ERECTED 1839.



where the work would be lighter and more proportioned to his strength. The opening services and the consecration took place on Saturday, July 27, 1839, the sermon being preached by him; Bishop Ryder, the Diocesan, consecrating the building. Dr. Marsh settled in Leamington the same month, and took up his residence at Lansdowne House; but in consideration of his father's health, the Rev. W. Tilson Marsh filled the incumbency for a time:—

“ This new district Church was from the designs of Mr. J. G. Jackson, situated a short distance eastward of the Warneford Hospital, and when built stood in a field. The site was the gift of E. Willes, Esq., and the architecture of the building was the ecclesiastical of the 15th century. It contained six windows on either side, ornamented with tracery, and placed between buttresses, additional light being supplied by a large altar window. The tower at the west end rose to the height of 75 feet, and was ornamented with battlements and pinnacles. The interior consisted of a nave and side aisles, the former being separated from the latter by a series of arches. The ceiling was divided into panels, having also enriched spandrels. The altar below the east window was decorated with panels, surmounted by ornamented canopies, pinnacles, etc. A very handsome stained glass window, placed at the east end, was the munificent gift of a member of the congregation, and contained in the upper central compartment the episcopal mitre surrounding the arms of the diocese, quartered with those of the late venerable and respected diocesan, Dr. Ryder. The remaining compartments were occupied by the arms of the trustees, viz., Edward Willes, Esq.; the Rev. W. Marsh, D.D. (the then incumbent); and Alexander Gordon, W. Sherer, and Edwin Woodhouse, Esqs. The whole presented a highly creditable specimen of the skill of Mr. Holland, of Warwick, by whom this and many very clever specimens in pictorial glass had recently been executed. A handsome octagonal font of Darlaston stone was placed in front of the reading desk, around the bowl of which were carved the emblems of our Saviour's sufferings. The body of the church was 80 feet long by 67 feet in width, and the height 30 feet.

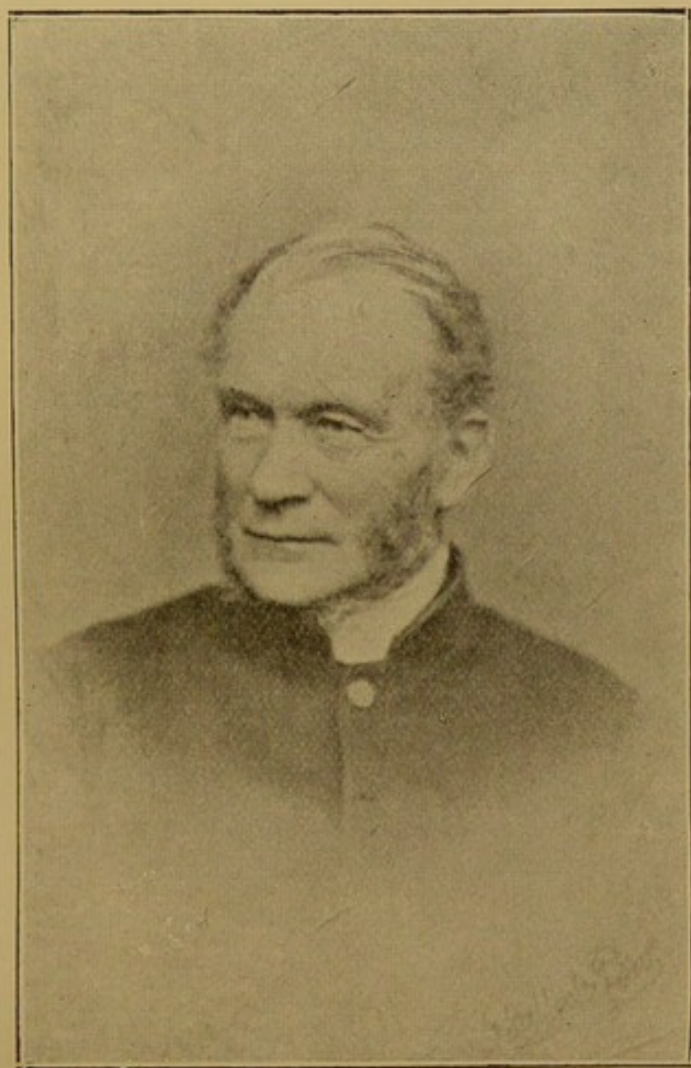
Despite an influential opposition, in 1840, the Venerable Archdeacon Spooner with the Rev. Archer Clive and the Rev. B. Twistleton, met the Churchwardens in the vestry and mapped out a large new district, which afterwards received the sanction of the Diocesan Consistorial Court; but St. Mary's did not attain its perfect parochial status until the death of Mr. Craig, in 1877. The incumbency by the Rev. W. Tilson Marsh, after the opening in 1839, was provisional for the convenience of his father, the

Rev. Dr. Marsh, who was a man of wide and solid reputation as an evangelical divine, a personal friend of the Rev. Charles Simeon, of Cambridge, whose views on doctrine and simplicity of service he shared; much opposed to Ritualism and Apostolic succession, the last-named tenet being, in his opinion, the great root-error in the Church. He had a warm welcome in Leamington, and during the twelve years of his ministry there was probably no one more highly esteemed. In 1849, the jubilee year of his clerical life, he was presented by his many ardent admirers with a congratulatory address and a horse and carriage, and when, in 1851, he resigned, he was entertained at a public breakfast at the Regent Hotel, and was given another testimonial and address. On leaving Leamington he went to reside with his son-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Chalmers, at Beckenham Rectory, and in 1860, accepted the living of Beddington, where he died August 24, 1864, aged eighty-nine years, sixty-four of which had been spent in Holy Orders. The vacancy at St. Mary's was filled by the appointment of the Rev. D. F. Morgan, who made himself very unpopular in 1852 by dismissing Mrs. N. Merridew from the organistship because she was in the habit of giving and singing at public concerts. He afterwards resigned, and became the English chaplain at Mentone. For some time the Rev. J. Nadin was curate-in-charge, and in 1856 the Rev. T. Bromley was appointed to the vacancy by the trustees. He effected many improvements; and the removal of a heavy debt on the school in the Holly Walk, the establishment of an infant school in Queen Street, the erection of the schools in the Radford Road and New Street, and the formation of St. Paul's parish with the building of St. Paul's Church, are so many permanent memorials of his energy and devotion to his work. He died at the age of seventy-two years, on the 22nd of September, 1886, and was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. S. C. Morgan, formerly Vicar of Swansea, who retired in October, 1890, to take charge of the English Church at Mentone. His relations with the parish were clouded with a want of sympathetic support, many subscriptions being withheld on account of some singular doctrine he was supposed to hold. The present Vicar, the Rev. E. W. S. Kingdom, came from Lowestoft in 1891, and preached his first sermon in St. Mary's on Sunday,

February 1. He has succeeded in restoring the harmony which was broken during the vicariate of his predecessor, and in bringing back the days of prosperity of Dr. Marsh and Mr. Bromley. The purchase of a vicarage at a cost of £1,500, the renovation and improvement of the interior of the Church, together with the maintenance in a state of efficiency of the various parochial institutions, and the addition of a fine new organ, dedicated in May, 1902, are evidences of his zeal and the support and esteem of his parishioners.

In 1839 the connection of the Rev. Robert Downes with Leamington as its Vicar was brought to a close. On Sunday, June 9, he preached two farewell sermons to "exceedingly crowded congregations"—in the morning at the Episcopal Chapel, and in the evening at the Parish Church. His experience in the Vicariate had not been that of one luxuriously reclining on a bed of roses. Briefly stated in his own words, he had laboured in the parish for eighteen years, through evil report and good report, and "of the former there had been rather an undue proportion." To his memory it is only just to say that during his term of office the Church had been enlarged four times, and though it is doubtful if he defrayed any considerable portion of the cost, as frequently stated in the "Guides," he threw himself heart and soul into the work, and carried it to a successful issue. His resignation of the living was followed by a circumstance of a very gratifying character. On the 11th of October, 1839, he was entertained at a banquet at the Crown Hotel, and presented with a valuable gold watch and a massive silver candelabra, weighing two hundred ounces, and rising to the height of two feet six inches. Three figures representing Faith, Hope and Charity, were on the base, with the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. Robert Downes, M.A., in testimony of his faithful service, during eighteen years, as Curate and Vicar of the parish." This "olive branch" of good will having been subscribed for by those who were opposed to him, as well as by others who concurred in his opinions, greatly enhanced its value and acceptability, and led the rev. gentleman to fairly conclude that both parties respected the integrity of his motives and the sincerity of his intentions.

The new Vicar was the Rev. John Craig, M.A. He was born at Fescati, County Dublin, his father being a Scotch clergyman, and his mother an English lady related to Lord Melbourne. This triangular descent of birth and parentage he was accustomed to turn to good account by remarking that he represented all that was best in the three countries—the English rose, the Scottish thistle and the shamrock of Ireland. To Leamington he came from Fetcham, Surrey, the rectorship of which he exchanged with Mr. Downes for the living of All Saints'. His reception was as favourable as a clergyman could desire or an admiring parish give; for a time he was esteemed by all classes; by some almost worshipped with the passion of idolatry. Wealth had poured into his lap an abundance of its treasures; learning had awarded him one of its numerous chaplets; eloquence had touched the tip of his "subduing tongue" with the rod of its enchantment, and fortune had liberally strewn his path with flowers. Yet, in disappointment of all the bright anticipation of a long and happy ministry called forth by this many-hued rainbow of promise, he experienced every phase of sorrow, affliction, and bereavement, and spent much of his time in dissension, controversy and litigation. His riches took to themselves wings and flew away. Many early friendships were dissolved, and he became the target for a thousand shafts; the central figure around whom friends and foes were continually revolving, showering on him and each other, diatribes of encouragement and praise; censure and exasperating recriminations. Twice, "in the interest of all parties," it was arranged that he should leave the parish, but he remained its ecclesiastical head to the close of his life, the serene setting of which resembled the golden calm of a summer evening following a day of elemental strife—of storm, cloud and tempest; of thunder, lightning and rain. To enter into the ceaseless disputes which gave to his term of office the character of a warfare—sometimes of a pitched battle—and to apportion blame where it was deserved, and commendation where it was merited, would be a task difficult under the most favourable circumstances; in the presence of that compact made at his bed side a short time previous to his death, extremely undesirable. He, and those between whom an estrangement had lasted for nearly a

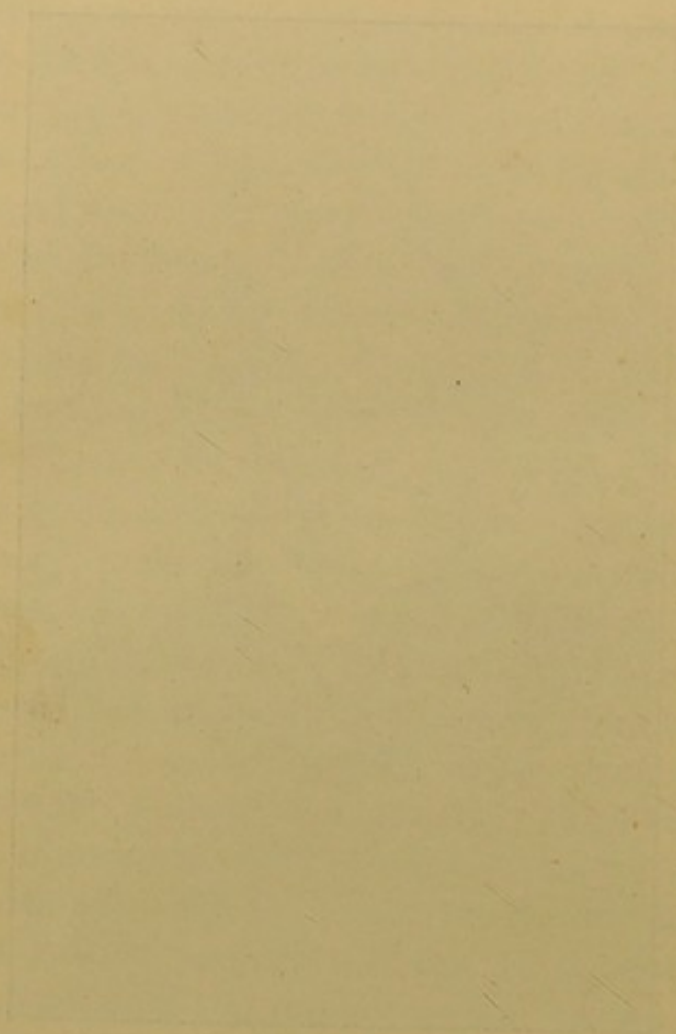


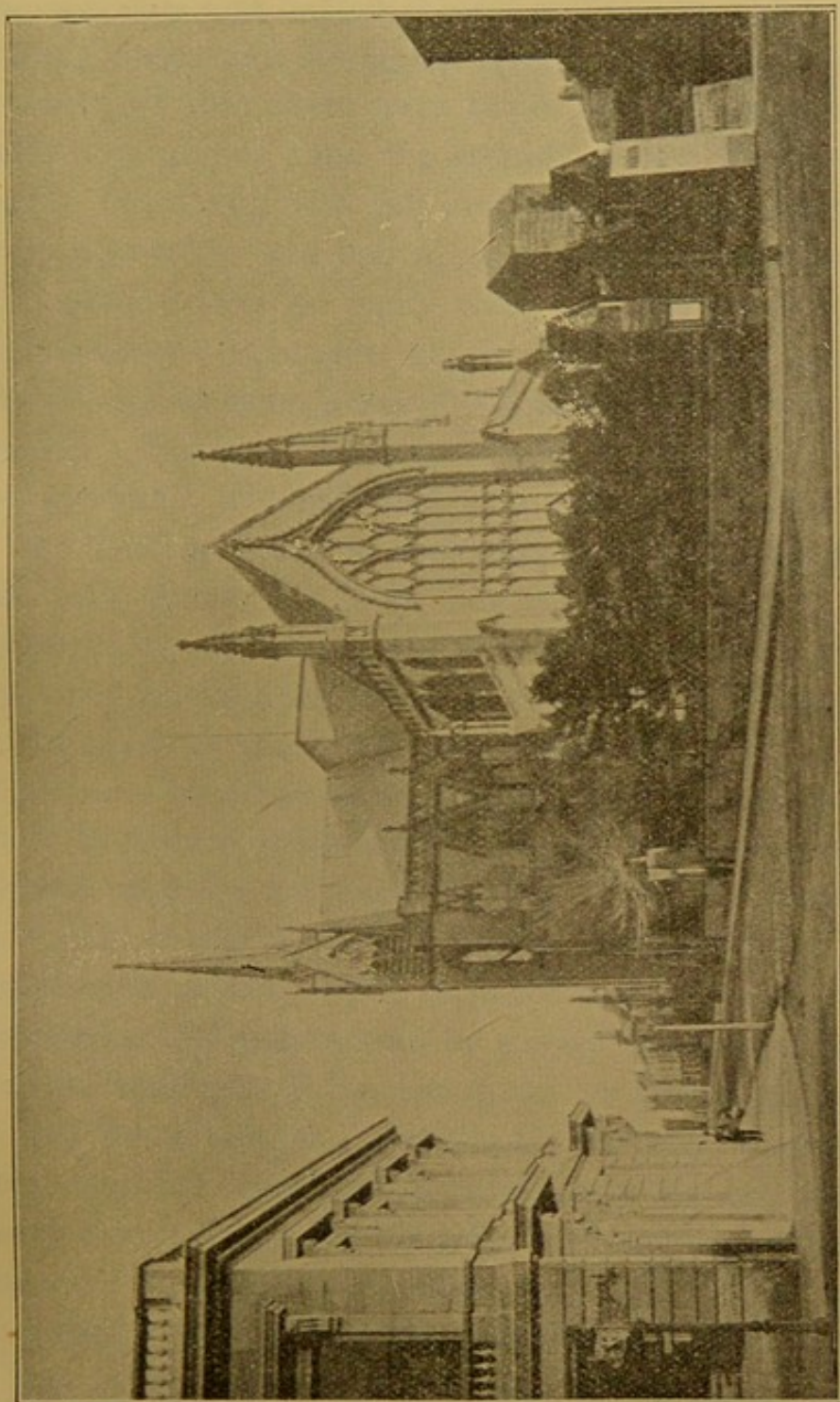
From a Photo by Bullock Bros.]

[Royal Leamington Spa.]

THE REV. JOHN CRAIG, M.A.

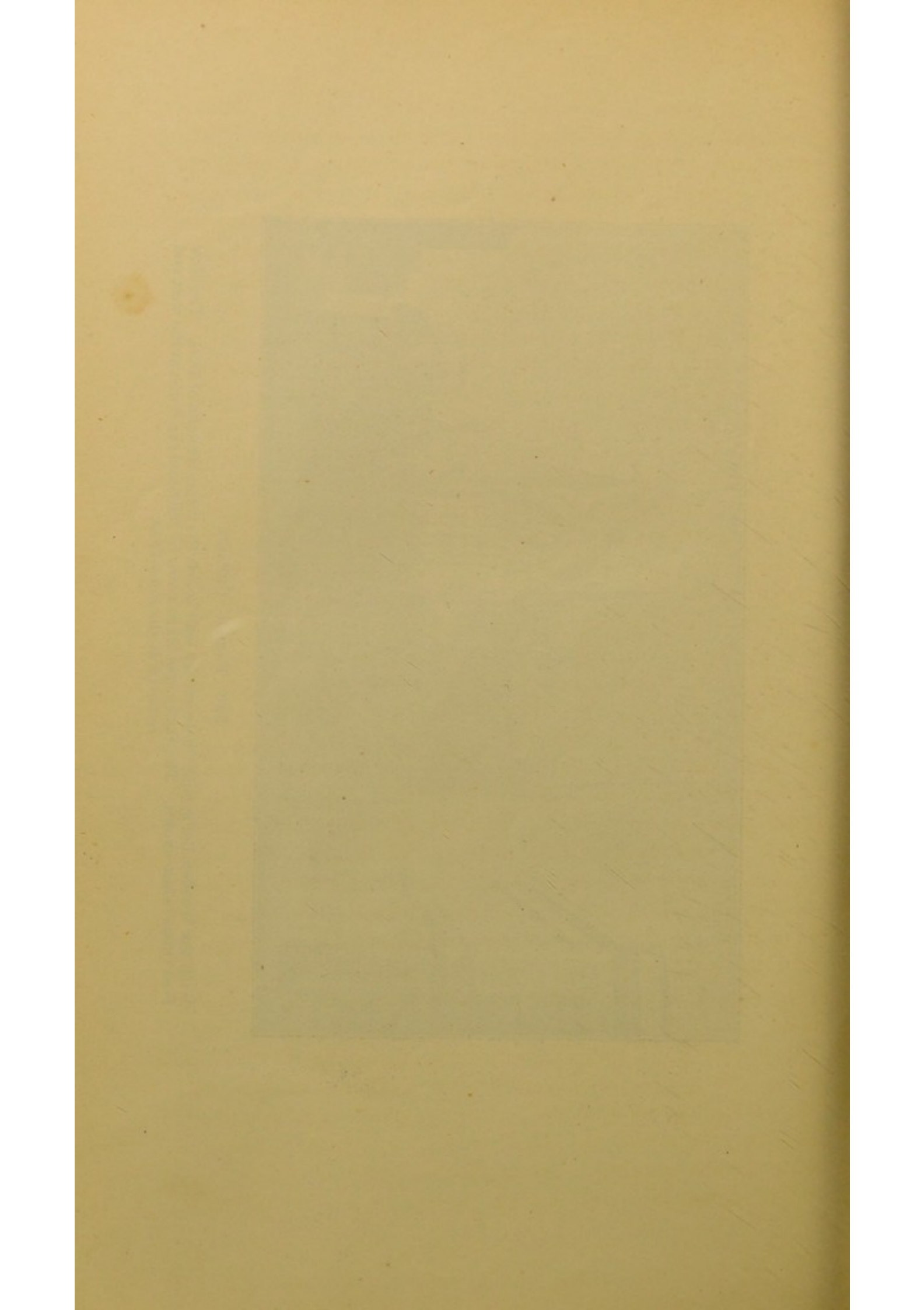
Vicar of Leamington from 1839 to 1877.





THE PARISH CHURCH,

With the Wooden Belfry and the boundary wall before the improvements of 1883. The New Post Office is also shown. The Belfry was taken down in 1889, and the Porch at the west end removed at the same time.



generation, asked and received mutual forgiveness. The reconciliation which then took place, the amnesty concluded, and the act of oblivion passed, are so many barriers opposed to even a most dispassionate and impartial review of events which kept the parish in the vortex of a perpetual strife. Generally, however, it may be observed that there were faults on both sides, and that each party was at one time the aggressor, and at another the aggrieved. Mr. Craig was tall and sparely built, walked with rapid, tottering steps, and had a stoop which made him appear shorter in stature than he really was. In the street he talked much to himself—"thought aloud," as a quaint old writer expresses it—and at times gesticulated as though he was arguing with another. For the "archery of controversy" he never had the least aversion. He belonged to a former class of polemical divines who held the "once famous maxim that he who preaches the best and prays the best can fight the best." If the churchwardens, or any others laid their coat tails at his feet, with gleeful alacrity he trampled them in the dust. Failing this, he had no objection to place his own before his opponents. He would even have done as much to oblige a near or a distant friend. His love of merriment was irrepressible, and of that degree which Dr. Johnson sternly reprehended as "mighty offensive in parsons." But it was neither venomous nor malicious. It was the quintessence of wit; light, polished and stingless. In the vestry, where he was paramount, he played the part of autocrat or that of an indulgent ruler, according to the humour of the moment and the direction in which his feathers were stroked. After being heckled hotly and acrimoniously for two hours, he would leave the chair shaking his sides with laughter, tickling his intimates and exclaiming, "wasn't it jolly?" He was an eloquent preacher, and though his voice, being thin and weak in quality, was not conducive to oratory, the disadvantage was overcome by exalted moods of intense and thrilling effect. On the political platform he was the most welcome of speakers. Wayward often, and frequently unmanageable, he yet possessed noble traits of excellence. His benevolence, his compassion for the poor, the impetus he gave to the cause of elementary education, and lastly, his service to Leamington for all time

in planning and erecting the frame of the finest modern Parish Church in England, are ponderous weights to be placed in the scale against his numerous eccentricities. "I wish to speak with kindness and respect of the Vicar of Leamington. I have a great liking for Mr. Craig. I consider him a most excellent preacher; I believe him to be one of the ablest expounders of Holy Writ in this country; I know him to be a ripe scholar, and I believe him to be too good a lawyer for his own peace and happiness, but I do not consider him to be a very judicious or consistent politician," was the testimony given him by the Venerable Archdeacon Sandford. By way of explaining the qualifying expression of opinion as to the flexibility of his politics, it should be mentioned that this was said during the General Election of 1868, when Mr. Craig, differing from Mr. Gladstone on the subject of the disestablishment of the Irish Church, left the Liberal Party, with whom the Archdeacon remained, and joined the Conservatives. The portrait we give is supremely a speaking likeness. With rare fidelity it represents the concentration of mental power which always characterised him when interested in any question, and his general deportment "under fire" at the Easter vestry "vicar-baitings," searching for the weak joints in the armour of the enemy, and invariably finding them.

Mr. Craig, on his coming to Leamington, took a lease of the Episcopal Chapel from the Rev. Robert Downes, at a rental of several hundred pounds per annum, and one of his first public actions with respect to that property made him very popular. It had been the custom, we believe, ever since the chapel was built in 1825, to pay at the door for admission to the services. The original tariff we are unable to give, but in 1837 the reduced terms of admission to each service for casual attendants were:—"Tickets to admit five persons, 2s.; four ditto, 1s. 6d.; three ditto, 1s.; single admission, 6d.; servants, 3d." This practice had long been the subject of animadversion, and as early as 1831, Messrs. Robbins, Stanley, Smart, Bird, Oldham and Russell, of Wise Street, had waited upon Mr. Downes, as a deputation from the Parish Committee, and represented to him that "the mode of receiving contributions is objectionable to the public." His

answer was "that he had no objection to sell or let the Chapel to the Parish, the Patron first declining, to whom he is bound to offer it in the first instance." Mr. Craig, on taking possession of the living, lost no time in abolishing the obnoxious charges. His next step was still more important. The National School, established in Church Street in 1822, he found, in 1839, to be crowded, and, in consequence, inefficiently conducted, in a room in Kenilworth Street. At this time the Workhouse at the rear of the old Town Hall in High Street, was unoccupied, not for want of paupers, but because the Statute 4 & 5, Will IV., c. 76, had put an end to each parish separately maintaining its own poor, and had established Unions of Parishes, with Union Workhouses managed by Boards of Guardians. The old Workhouse belonged to the local Commissioners, and to them Mr. Craig applied and was granted its use for the National School, on terms which practically amounted to a gift. The School was then removed to the Workhouse premises, and the late Mr. Robert Baker, of Church Street, became its first master. By his management it began a new career of usefulness, which was continued until its final removal into Bath Place.

The event in the history of the Parish Church to which the public mind has, and ever will, revert with feelings of admiration and gratitude, was the commencement of the building of the present fabric in 1842 and its continuance with uninterrupted zeal, energy and munificence until 1849. All previous extensions and improvements were so many clumsy pieces of patchwork in comparison with the grand design then adopted. The idea of demolishing the old church and erecting a larger one was first broached in 1834, but the parochial climate was at that time too cold for its germination. The Parish Committee were in favour of the project, and Mr. Downes was willing to give his consent as soon as they could satisfy him that a new church was necessary. In the vestry the objection was of a commercial character. More pews and sittings meant lower rents, and if the accommodation were doubled, the monetary value of those which had been purchased would deteriorate to the great loss of the owners. On September 15, 1842, Mr. Craig explained to the Vestry his intention to proceed with the erection of a new nave and bell

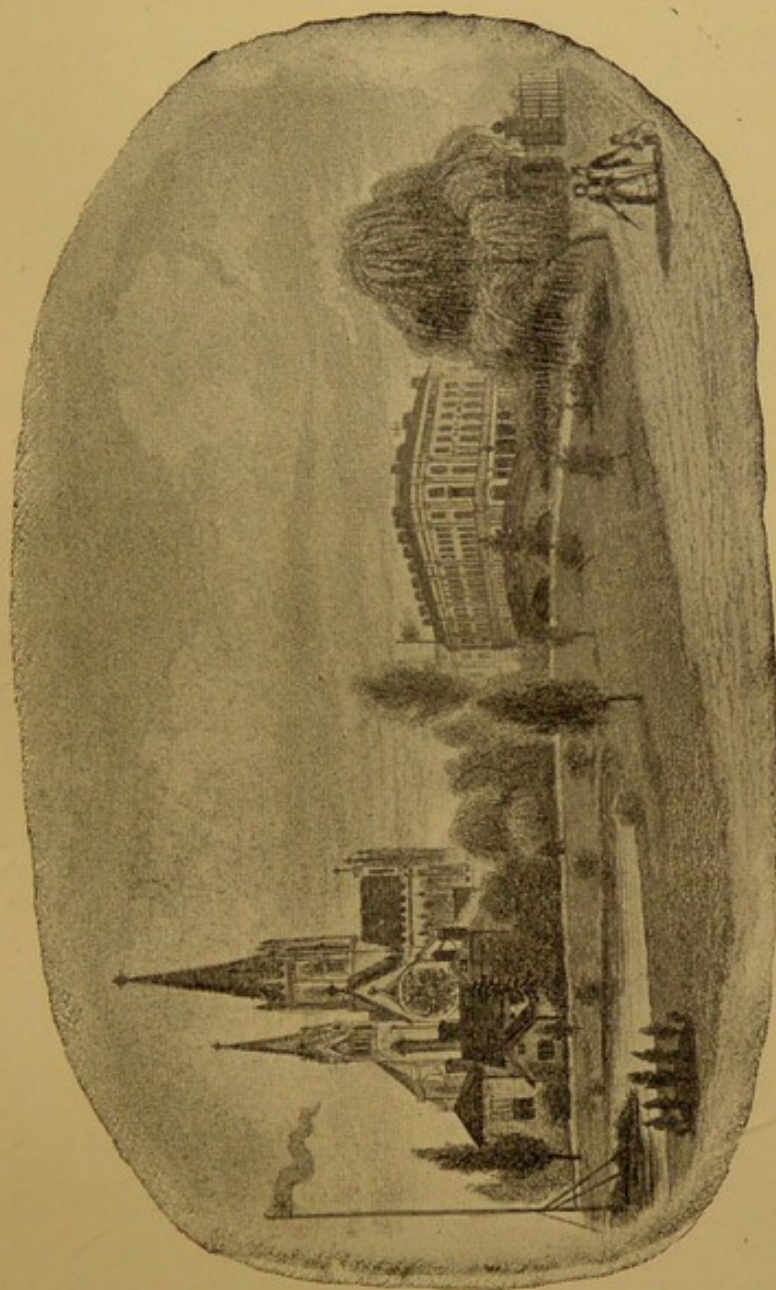
tower, the estimated cost of which was £10,000. Not a farthing of this expense, he said, was to fall on the parish. The Vestry having sanctioned the scheme, as a preliminary, several of the cottages were demolished, and the first stone of the projected new lantern tower was laid in 1843, with Masonic rites. The proceedings of the day commenced with the opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge at the Music Hall, after which there was a successful procession round the town, nearly forty clergymen and a considerable number of residents joining the Masons. A special service was held in the Church, at which the Rev. Prebendary Gresley preached the sermon. The stone, ceremoniously laid, had this inscription ;—"Laus Deo. This first stone of the Lantern Tower of the Parish Church of Leamington Priors was laid on the 13th day of September, 1843, by Thomas Henry Hill, Esq., G. Register, acting as P.G.M. for Warwickshire. God save the Queen." In the evening, the Masons dined at the Bath Hotel, Mr. Nicholas Torre, deputy Provincial Grand Master, presiding. The speed with which the work was carried forward was remarkable. In twelve months from the date of the laying of the stone, Dr. Hook, of Leeds,* was in the pulpit preaching the opening sermon, and a crowded and fashionable congregation lost in wonder at the magnificence of that building which had risen, as if by magic, on the ruins of the old. Four evangelist columns marked the outline of the village church, and, though not complete, two were already soaring aloft and spreading out their strong arms for the reception of the beautiful Lantern Tower which never came. This inauguration took place on May 9, 1844, and on July 17, 1845, there was another special service for the formal opening of the Chancel, when nearly fifty clergymen were present. The preacher was the Rev. R. Parkinson, B.D., Canon of Manchester ; the offertory realised about £200. On the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr. Craig again displayed his love of hospitality on a large scale by entertaining nearly four hundred people at a banquet in the Music Hall. The last of

* Mr. Downes had as fellow students at Winchester School, Dr. Arnold, of Rugby ; the Right Hon. C. S. Lefevre, Speaker of the House of Commons ; and Dean Hook. It was probably owing to this early association that the latter was induced to preach in the Parish Church and Christ Church on several occasions during the time he was Vicar, and also while his successor, Mr. Craig, was in office.

these great improvements at this period was the erection of the north transept and the clock tower, the foundation stone of which was laid on June 16, 1846, by the Rev. Vaughan Thomas. The ceremony and service were similar to those we have been describing. The Rev. T. Short preached the sermon; a sum of £210 was realised by the offertory, and Mr. Craig exercised his hospitable disposition by giving a generous banquet for the third time to a very large number of clerics and laymen at the Music Hall. These improvements and enlargements, carried forward with astounding energy, were followed in 1847 by a movement for completing the fabric, and at the Easter Vestry in that year Mr. Craig expressed his willingness to finish the whole of the work as soon as he received a sum of £2,500. This liberal offer was readily accepted; collectors were appointed to canvass the town, and a sum of £1,366 18s. 2d. was raised. A legacy of £1,000 by Mrs. Elizabeth Charlotte Burgess, which, however, was not paid until 1849, and a few other contributions, brought the total up to the required amount. At this time something occurred which changed the whole aspect of affairs. What was its nature has never been explained, and probably never will. But it may have been the boundary wall question, about which there had been a long and fruitless correspondence between the Vicar and the Commissioners. Finding his own views were not approved, he gave up the contest by recommending them to change the name of Priory Terrace to Magpie Square, in commemoration of the endless talking and letters to which it had given rise; and after chaffing them on their official dignity, retorted with the ironical answer of Job to his three comforters: "No doubt but ye *are* the people, and wisdom shall die with you." Be that as it may, the Vicar retired sulkily to his tent, as Achilles did of old, or to quote the words of the memorial to the Bishop in 1854, he "became very lukewarm and indifferent as to proceeding with the same." The work was delayed, and the building remained for many years in an unfinished state—a monument of high resolve paralysed by local misunderstanding. But that which had been accomplished was sufficient to mark the period as one of great activity and liberality, and also as that in which was condensed all that was best and happiest in Mr. Craig's ministry.

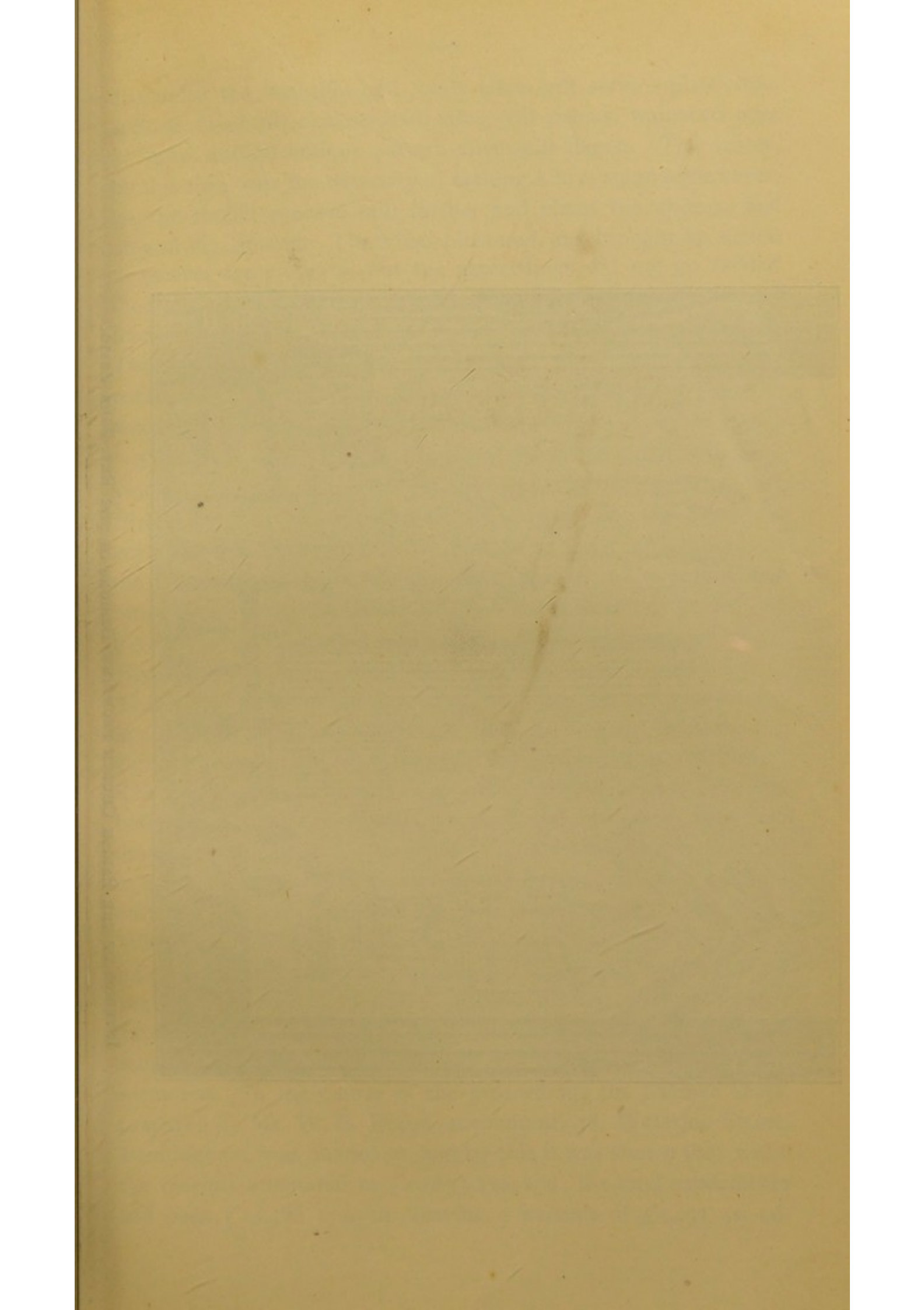
The whole plan was his copyright, and though necessarily he had to call in the services of a draughtsman, it was to delineate his own ideas, not to supply others. The space at present disposal is not ample enough for all the details of these improvements. The illustrations will convey to the reader a more vivid appreciation than could be derived from a copious assemblage of technicalities, figures and measurements. The first exhibits the Lantern Tower projected by Mr. Craig. In the opinion of experts the Evangelist columns were incapable of sustaining the weight, and it was consequently never erected. The nave, compared with the height of the tower, lacks the harmony of proportion, but this defect would have been removed by its extension several bays, which from the first was in contemplation. In the second are displayed the manifold architectural beauties and merits of Mr. Craig's ideal—his ambition to build a church which should be national in its form, instead of parochial. How well he succeeded may be gathered from the testimonies of Bishops and Archdeacons, church architects, visitors from far and near, and from the universal sentiment which has readily ascribed to it the grandeur and sublimity of a cathedral. At the luncheon following the laying of the memorial stone, on June 30, 1898, two speakers, competent to estimate his work, made reference to Mr. Craig's labours. Alderman Sidney Flavel, ex-Mayor, and Vicar's Warden since the year 1885, elicited the applause of a large and distinguished company by observing that it was to Mr. Craig's magnificent conception that they were indebted for the beautiful design they had in the Parish Church, and the Rev. Cecil Hook, Vicar, also mentioned the name of Craig with a deep sense of gratitude, as he had laid the foundation of that which they were privileged to follow. However widely opinions may differ respecting Mr. Craig, few, we think, who are acquainted with this part of the history of the Church will dissent from the meed of praise thus bestowed on his memory.

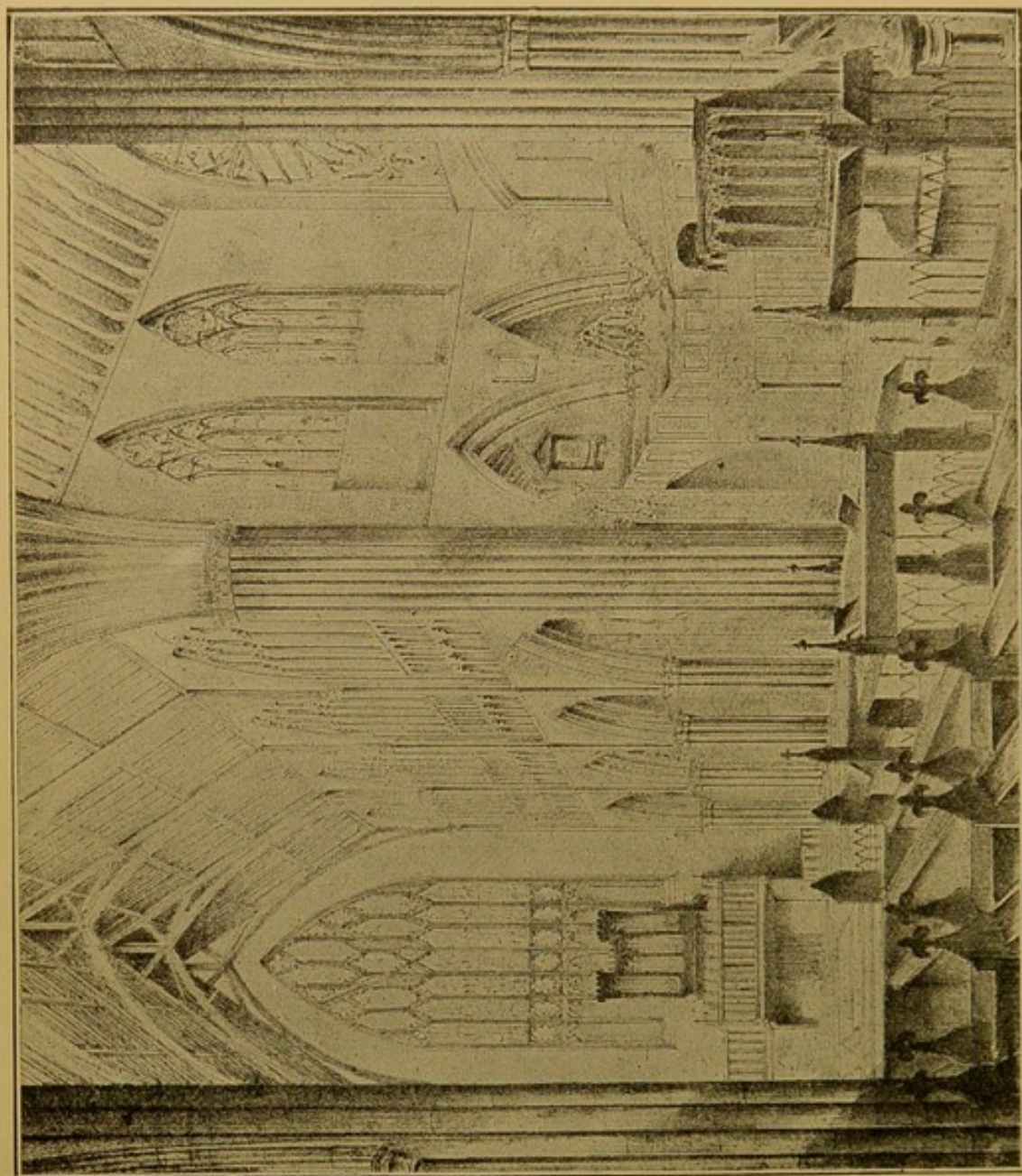
In 1849 the north transept was opened, and the chancel completed in 1851. The tension between the Vicar and the churchwardens was increased in 1852 by his foolishly claiming as his own the large brass eagle now used as a Lectern, and on being informed that he might have it, he still more foolishly



VIEW OF THE PARISH CHURCH, SHOWING MR. CRAIG'S DESIGN
FOR THE LANTERN TOWER.







INTERIOR OF THE PARISH CHURCH FROM THE DESIGNS OF THE REV. JOHN CRAIG.

demanded the beautiful and costly silver-gilt service plate—two antique silver-gilt chalices, two silver-gilt patens, wainscott case for ditto, and an antique pattern silver-gilt flagon. The vestry, by this time, saw the necessity of making a firm stand somewhere, lest he should proceed still further and claim the church, and refused his demand. The Vicar blustered, and brought an action to recover the property, but the proceedings did not go farther than service of the writ and the pleadings, the Vicar withdrawing from the suit after notice given for trial at Warwick Assizes. The vestry meetings at this period were turbulent, and personalities were freely employed by the Vicar's friends, who were strong in numbers, and his opponents.

The storm, which had been brewing since 1847, burst with great violence over Mr. Craig's head in 1853. A statement to the Bishop by Mr. Owen White, churchwarden, that the Vicar did not appear to have applied any portion of the £2,500 raised for the completion of the building, to that purpose, led to a long and bitter controversy, the effects of which lasted for many years. At a vestry meeting it was resolved to present a memorial to the Bishop containing numerous allegations against Mr. Craig. This added fuel to the fire, and the Vicar brought an action against Mr. Matthew Wise for libel, that gentleman having signed the memorial in his capacity of chairman at the vestry. The trial was commenced at Gloucester Assizes on April 3, 1856, before Mr. Justice Creswell and a special jury, and after two days' hearing, on the suggestion of his lordship, was referred to arbitration, a verdict being entered for plaintiff with nominal costs of 40s. In accordance with this arrangement, Mr. C. L. Whitmore, Q.C., sat at the Bath Hotel on the 19th of the following month. The only question of interest to the public, and that which forms the principal justification for reference to this subject, is the alleged misappropriation by Mr. Craig of public moneys, distinctly implied, though not definitely stated in the memorial. In the course of the proceedings the balance sheet, prepared by Mr. W. G. Dixon, accountant, 38, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, was handed in, and by this it was shown that while the receipts amounted to £10,695 12s. 10d., the total expenditure had been £14,186 17s. 7d., leaving a balance of £3,491 4s. 9d.

paid by Mr. Craig out of his own private means. To this were added £1,751 11s. 7d., the amount disbursed by him for the Choir School, and £1,717 12s. 6d. for the Grammar School, making in all £6,960 8s. 10d. These figures were not disputed; on the contrary, Mr. Sergt. Pigott, who appeared for Mr. Wise, accepted them, disclaimed any intention to impute to Mr. Craig misapplication of the funds entrusted to his care, and consented to the proposal that he should be remunerated for the excess of his expenditure beyond the amount of the subscriptions he had received. After sitting three days the enquiry was closed on terms agreed upon by the parties, and in his subsequent award the arbitrator set aside the verdict, ordered each party to pay his own costs, and declared the Communion service to be the property of the Church. Respecting the Church accounts, he found that there were no moneys in Mr. Craig's hands applicable to the Completion Fund, and directed that in the event of his resigning the living of All Saints within twelve months, a sum of £1,200 was to be paid him "towards his outlay on the Church improvements." The arbitrator further appointed a committee to complete the church. Mr. Craig did not leave Leamington, and the remuneration consequently was never paid, but he obtained by his action that which was of far greater consequence—an avowal that the memorial was never intended to impute the application of public funds to his own use, and proof that the parish was several thousand pounds in his debt.

The Vicar's Grammar School, in Priory Terrace, now occupied as a furniture store, was the second of several great projects which engaged Mr. Craig's attention during the first ten years of his ministry. One would have thought he had on hand at the Parish Church quite sufficient for all the time he could spare from his strictly clerical duties, but he was a man of great energy and liberality, and with the temperature of his nature raised to white heat by the praise he was daily receiving for his zeal, there was no scheme for the public advantage from which he could stand apart with folded arms. The special purpose of the school was to fill a void which the erection of the College had made more palpable than ever. The sons of the trading community were not then eligible for admission into that

institution, and in the private academies they could not obtain, economically, a good commercial training with some practical knowledge of the rudiments of a classical education. When the Leamington College closed its doors against the tradespeople of the town, Mr. Craig stepped forward and built the Grammar School, the site being land on which "Priory House" stands (Mr. Aspa's) and the stores of Reynolds and Co. Mr. Craig's idea was to found a Grammar School worthy of the Spa, and he very nearly succeeded. The foundation stone was laid on September 15th, 1847, by the Free and Accepted Masons, whose services, by the way, have been of signal advantage to Leamington. Earl Howe, at the time Provincial Grand Master of the Warwickshire Grand Lodge was to have performed the ceremony but was prevented doing so by indisposition. The Lodge was opened at the Regent Hotel, and after the customary ceremonials had been observed, there was a procession to the Parish Church, led by the fine band of Prince Albert's Regiment of Hussars, then stationed at Coventry. There were altogether about one hundred and thirty chief officers and members of the craft in attendance. The sermon at the Church was preached by Brother, the Rev. G. C. Fenwick, Grand Chaplain, after which the procession was again formed and proceeding to the ground the stone was duly laid by Dr. Bell Fletcher, Deputy P.G.M. The Vicar having delivered an address, the Old Hundredth Psalm was sung. There was a very large attendance of the public. The programme of the day was concluded with a grand banquet at the Bath Hotel, at which ninety members of the Order were present. Dr. Bell Fletcher presided, and amongst those who supported him was Dr. O'Callaghan who attended as a member of Grand Master's Own Lodge, Ireland, and who afterwards took a leading part in the founding of the Leamington Philosophical Society. The School failed, and in 1853 the property was for sale.

CHAPTER XXIX.

History of the Parish Church, continued—completion of South Transept—system of selling pews; agitation against, and abolition of, by the Ecclesiastical Courts—illness, death and funeral of the Rev. John Craig—his successors, with notes on their work—the Hon. and Rev. J. W. (now Dean) Leigh—the Rev. W. C. Furneaux—the Rev. Cecil Hook—completion of the Church and dedication services—description of the fabric, etc., etc.

A FEW years afterwards steps were again taken to complete the Church, and for that purpose several designs were obtained, one set being sent in by Mr. Craig, who had been assisted in all technical matters by Mr. Alex. Johnson, a local architect, and afterwards one of the churchwardens. There were no immediate results from this movement, but in 1866 the Vicar's plans were approved by the Vestry, and on May 1, 1867, the foundation stone of the South Transept was laid by Lord Leigh "in solemn form and according to ancient usage," in the presence of a vast concourse of Free Masons and the general public.* Mr.

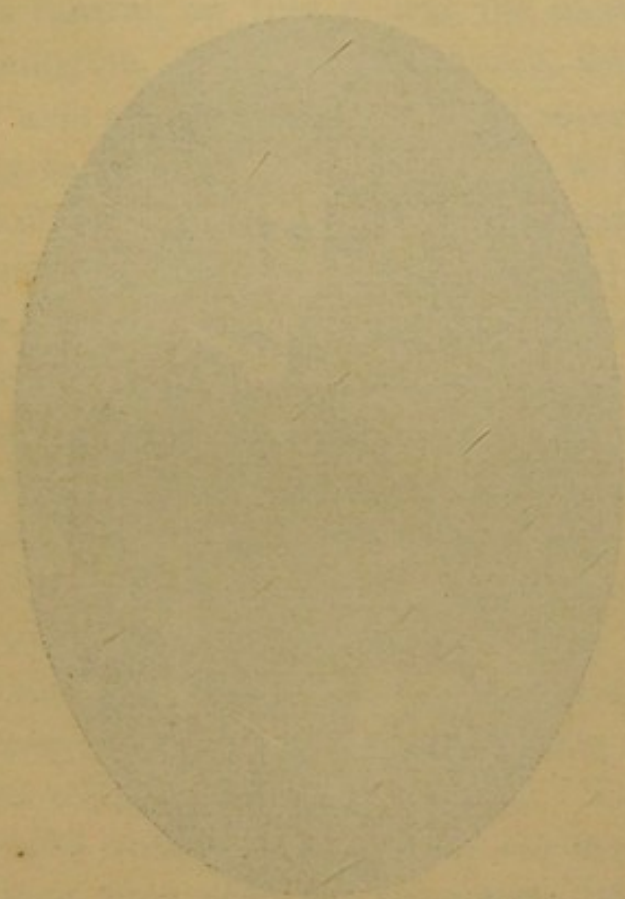
* Plans were also prepared by the late Mr. Charles Orton, builder, at the request of the Church Completion Committee, for finishing the Evangelist columns and arches, as well as the south transept and porch. In Mr. Leigh's time he furnished designs for an organ chamber and vestries, but these were not carried into effect. He was born at Southam in 1817, and as a young man was employed on many of the principal buildings of early Leamington. He was superintendent of the works during the construction of the chancel, nave and north transept, and in 1850 commenced business on his own account in Copps' Hotel Yard, removing to Wood Street in 1858, and building the Hydropathic Establishment (now the Midland Counties Home for Chronic and Incurable cases), for the late Mr. John Hitchman, in 1862. He retired from business in 1877, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. R. A. Orton, who was one of the founders of the original Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1863, and rendered valuable service to the public by continuing his connection with that useful organization until 1900, commencing as sub-engineer, and in 1884 succeeding Mr. Lund in the captaincy, besides representing the North-East Ward on the Town Council for 15 years. Mr. Charles Orton died in 1899, aged 82, much respected by the burgesses. His youngest son, Mr. John Orton, holds the important appointment of Secretary to the Leamington Brewery Company.

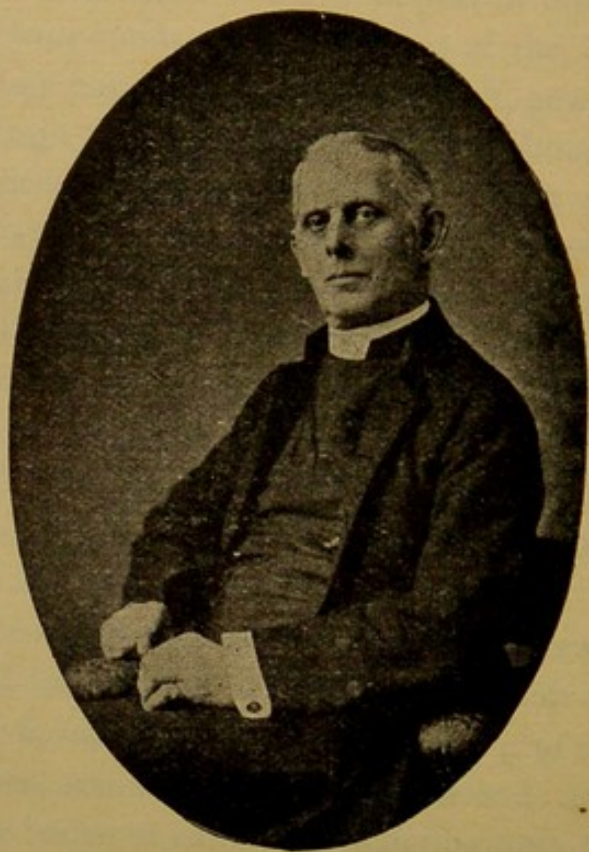
Marriott, of Coventry, was the builder, and Mr. T. D. Barry, C.E., the architect. The total cost of this section was £8,400. The opening ceremony took place on September 26, 1869, the Rev. R. H. Baynes (afterwards Canon Baynes), vicar of St. Michael's, Coventry, preached in the morning; the Rev. T. E. Franklyn, then curate, in the afternoon, and Mr. Craig in the evening. This was the last instalment of the progress towards completion that the Vicar was permitted to see.

The purchase and sale of pews, which had given much offence since the year 1839, was determined by the action of the Consistory Court and the Court of Arches in 1870-1. Modern church goers will read with wide-eyed astonishment that from 1816 to the years just named, a large number of the sittings at the Parish Church were regarded as the private property of certain individuals who had bought them, either from the two Vicars (Mr. Downes and Mr. Craig), the churchwardens, the alleged owners, or at the public auction sales at the leading local hotels. This system was admittedly illegal, but in extenuation it ought to be always borne in mind that the practice was introduced in 1816 under the sanction of the Consistorial Court of Lichfield, and that there is no reason to doubt the *bonâ fides* of any one engaged in the transactions. In the sixties a Pew Redemption Committee was formed, with the view of arranging with those who had been led to believe that they were the owners of the pews. Negotiations failed, and to relieve themselves from the contentions of rival parties, and the church from the strife which had existed for many years, Messrs. Walter Watson and Alexander Johnson, Churchwardens, in 1870, requested the Consistory Court, at Worcester, to appoint a Commission to examine all claims, and re-allot pews according to law and the requirements of the parishioners. The Commissioners appointed were the Revs. James Reynolds Young, Rector of Whitnash, and John Wise, Vicar of Lillington; Messrs. John Ogden Bacchus, John Panton Gubbins, and Frederick Acton Colville. The two principles on which they proceeded were the disallowance of all claims of proprietary interest by reason of purchase, and provision for the needs of those attending the church. The Rev. John Craig, who had purchased Mr. Downes's pews for £1,100, and

claimed to have spent £7,000 of his own money on church improvements, opposed the Commission on several grounds, as did Mr. John Oldham in consideration of the pews purchased by his father, with the sanction of the vestry, in 1825, and Mr. William Savage, because of the pews which had been in the possession of his family for three hundred years. The Consistory Court dismissed all the objections, but directed that better accommodation should be provided for Mr. Savage and his family than the Commissioners had made. On an appeal to the Court of Arches, in 1871, the Dean confirmed the finding of the Consistory Court, and in so doing handed back to the parish, pews which had been alienated through an irregular Faculty for about fifty years. The result gave satisfaction to the public, but a strong feeling of sympathy existed for those who had lost considerable sums of money through an erroneous impression produced by the Faculty of 1816, and especially for Mr. Craig, whose purchase, in consequence of the exchange of livings with Mr. Downes, had not been entirely voluntary, and whose generosity in church improvement was well known. An offer of £700, made to him previous to the litigation, entitles the Pew Redemption Committee to the credit of having desired a settlement which would not have entailed the loss of all his money; but their peremptory rejection of his proposal for arbitration, after the decision of the Consistory Court in their favour, and before the hearing of the appeal in the Court of Arches, was considered by his friends as depriving them of the peculiar lustre of exercising magnanimity and generosity in the hour of victory.

Mr. Craig continued to hold the living until June 30, 1877, when, after a long and painful illness, he died at the age of seventy-two years. A few hours before his death he repeatedly assured his sorrowing friends that he was at peace, and so tranquil and imperceptible was his dissolution that those who watched at his bedside were unable to say the exact time at which it occurred. In the course of his sermon at the Parish Church on the following day, the Rev. J. W. Johnson, a former head-master at the Leamington College, referred to the deceased as a remarkable man in body and intellect. Of the latter, the congregation had evidence in that church, which was the





THE HON. & REV. J. W. LEIGH,
Dean of Hereford.

conception of his mind, and were it only finished in all the grandeur of his original design, it would stamp him as a man who possessed one of the most distinguished minds of the present century. He was also singular for the power he had in making friends and enemies, for his forbearance in uttering words of unkindness to those whom he deemed to be his foes, for his want of power to appreciate the value of money, and for his exemplary patience, fortitude, and submission when writhing in agonies of bodily pain. His funeral, on July 7, was the most impressive ever seen in Leamington. The Parish Church, where the first part of the service took place, was crowded, and several hundreds, desirous of sharing in this last token of respect to his memory, were disappointed of admission. The officiating clergymen were the Rev. J. W. Johnson and the Rev. W. (now Canon) Flory, Vicar of Trinity Church. Bath Street, Clemens Street and Brunswick Street, the route from the church to the cemetery, were lined with spectators, and, until the procession had passed, the majority of the tradesmen's shops were wholly or partially closed, and at many of the principal private residences the blinds were drawn down. During the conclusion of the service the number of persons present was estimated at 10,000, among whom were representatives of the Corporation, the Burial Board, and Christ Church. The remains were interred in the family mortuary at the east end of the chapel in the old cemetery. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths and crosses of the choicest flowers, and for a very long time after the conclusion of the service thousands crowded round the entrance to the vault to take a last look of all that remained of him "who in life was in many ways eminent and distinguished, and who in death will not soon be forgotten."

Mr. Craig was succeeded by the Hon. and Rev. James Wentworth Leigh, youngest brother of Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the county. His previous appointments had been a curacy at Bromsgrove, the Vicariate at Stoneleigh, and the curacy at St. James's, Stratford-on-Avon. With the usual formalities he was inducted on August 20, 1877. His advent to office was the signal for the establishment of a time of peace and harmony at the Parish Church such as had not been known since

the resignation of the Rev. J. Wise in 1823. Large-hearted and broad-minded, he won back many who had left, united those who had long been divided, stimulated the practical sympathies of all, and inaugurated that system of beautifying the interior of the church, the splendid results of which are to be seen to-day in whatever direction the eye is turned. Apart from church work he was a great force in everything appertaining to the public welfare. While Vicar of Stoneleigh, he manifested a deep interest in the agricultural labourers' question, which agitated the country in 1872, counselling moderation, at the same time that he suggested means for much-needed amelioration. In Leamington, the several hospitals and other charitable institutions, the School Board, the temperance cause, and the Poor Law system were all benefited by his continuous services. By marriage he is allied to the Kemble family, eminent in literature and the drama. Mrs. Leigh's mother, Mrs. Butler, was the celebrated Miss Fanny Kemble, daughter of Charles Kemble, neice of John and Sarah Kemble, and sister to Adelaide Kemble, a famous singer, and John Mitchell Kemble, author of the authoritative work "The Saxons in England." Sarah Kemble, Mrs. Leigh's great-aunt, became Mrs. Siddons, to whom reference has been made in previous pages. During his ministry at All Saints, Mr. Leigh was appointed one of the Honorary Canons of Worcester Cathedral, and in 1883 was presented by Mr. Gladstone to the living of St. Mary's, Bryanstone Square, London. He afterwards became Dean of Hereford, a promotion popularly regarded as the forerunner of a still more important advancement. Brief as was his tenure of office, it represented a time of great activity and liberality, and the commencement of the "decorative period" in the history of the Church. The aggregate monetary value of the gifts to the Church during his Vicariate was, at the lowest estimate, £4,515.

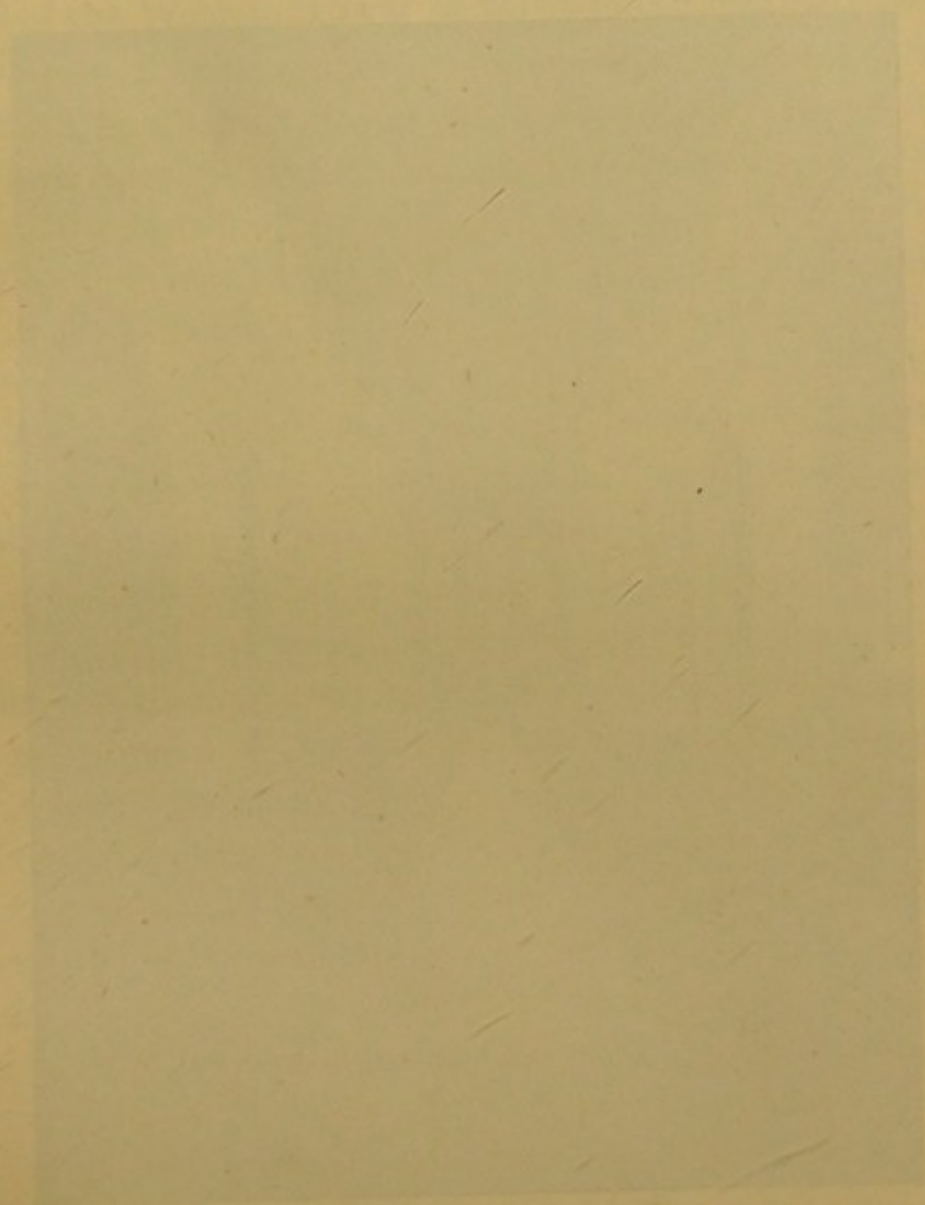
The Rev. Walter Coplestone Furneaux was the next Vicar. His father was the Rev. W. D. Furneaux, Vicar of Walton from 1843 to 1860, and afterwards Rector of Berkley, Somersetshire, a gift he received from the late Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart. Mr. Furneaux was first curate under his father at Berkley, then filled a similar appointment at Leeds, under Dr. Gott, and, at the time

He accepted the living at Leamington, was army chaplain at the Pro-Cathedral, India. He arrived in Leamington in February, 1884, and was inducted on the 6th of that month, the attendance of the local clergy and parishioners being large. His efforts in advancing the policy of his predecessor were very vigorous, extensive and successful, and including the cost of the new vicarage in Leam Terrace, the probable total expenditure from 1877 to 1896 may be accepted as about £14,000. In 1896 Mr. Furneaux was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester to the living of Mortlake and East Sheen, on the Thames.

His successor was the Rev. Cecil Hook, son of the late Dean Hook, the author of "The Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury," the popular and valuable "Church Dictionary,"* and numerous other standard works. He had previously been Vicar of the Parish Church, Oswestry. The ceremony of induction took place on October 2, 1896, the Bishop of Worcester officiating, and a crowded congregation, with many of the local clergy, being present. On Sunday, October 4, Mr. Hook commenced his clerical duties by reading the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England and giving an address; in the evening he preached his first sermon. Much as had been done for the church, and munificent as were the sums poured into its treasury, the completion still remained to be accomplished. To this he immediately turned his attention, and having regard to the fact that his father was eminent for promoting the building of new churches and schools, he might be considered as possessing hereditary qualifications for such a task. However, no time was lost in forming another Church Completion Committee, of which he was Chairman; his Warden, Alderman Sidney Flavel, hon. secretary; and Mr. G. M. Fayerman, hon. treasurer. In March, 1897, Mr. Hook issued an appeal for "something under £20,000," to consummate a parochial aspiration of nearly half a century standing, and to make All Saints "The handsomest Modern Parish Church in the United Kingdom." After stating that "the

* Mr. Hook can boast a family connection with Leamington extending back to 1784, the year of the discovery of the spring in Bath Street by Satchwell and Abbotts. His mother was the eldest daughter of the late Dr. John Johnstone, an eminent Birmingham physician.—See foot-note, page 70.

splendid designs of the talented Vicar of Leamington, Mr. Craig, were not carried out with corresponding technical knowledge," the Vicar pointed out that "it had consequently been found necessary to expend a large sum on the present fabric, a difficulty which had been met in part by the generosity of the parishioners. The west wall had been excellently repaired, and the congregation thereby saved from the piercing draughts which used to issue from the faulty window. The Clock Tower had been entirely restored at considerable cost, and the satisfactory nature of the work was assured, as it had been carried out under the able care and advice of Mr. W. Hawley Lloyd. It remained, however, to complete the external repairs; to lay down uniform flooring in the Nave; to reseat the Church; to extend the nave westward three bays; and to erect a suitable Western Tower in which to rehang the bells. The Committee had obtained designs for a Central Tower, like that of Ely, in timber and lead. To accomplish these ends, in a style suitable to that in which the church had been begun, would be a matter of great cost, but it was felt that the work was in good hands. Sir Arthur Blomfield, who would carry out the plans, had been the consultative architect of the Church Committees for the past 14 years, and his skill in the arrangement of the chancel had already been abundantly displayed." This vigorous statement was accompanied with a list of subscriptions amounting to over £2,000, the amounts in eleven cases being for sums of £100 and upwards. The work, happily designed to be an expression of "gratitude for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee," was commenced on July 5, when Messrs. G. F. Smith and Sons, the contractors, began excavating for the foundations, and on June 30, 1898, the Memorial Stone in the west elevation was laid by Councillor Gordon Lyon Bland, Mayor, amid general manifestations of the most enthusiastic rejoicings. The procession from the Town Hall to the site was the most effective of the kind, then within memory, and included the Bishop of Worcester and Bishop Mylne (of Bombay), the Mayor and many members of the Corporation; the Vicar and the Wardens—Alderman Sidney Flavel and Councillor C. I. Blaker; the Sidesmen, nearly all the local and neighbouring clergy, a large number of the principal inhabitants, and Mr. W.





[By permission of *E. Lippiatt, Leamington.*]

LEAMINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

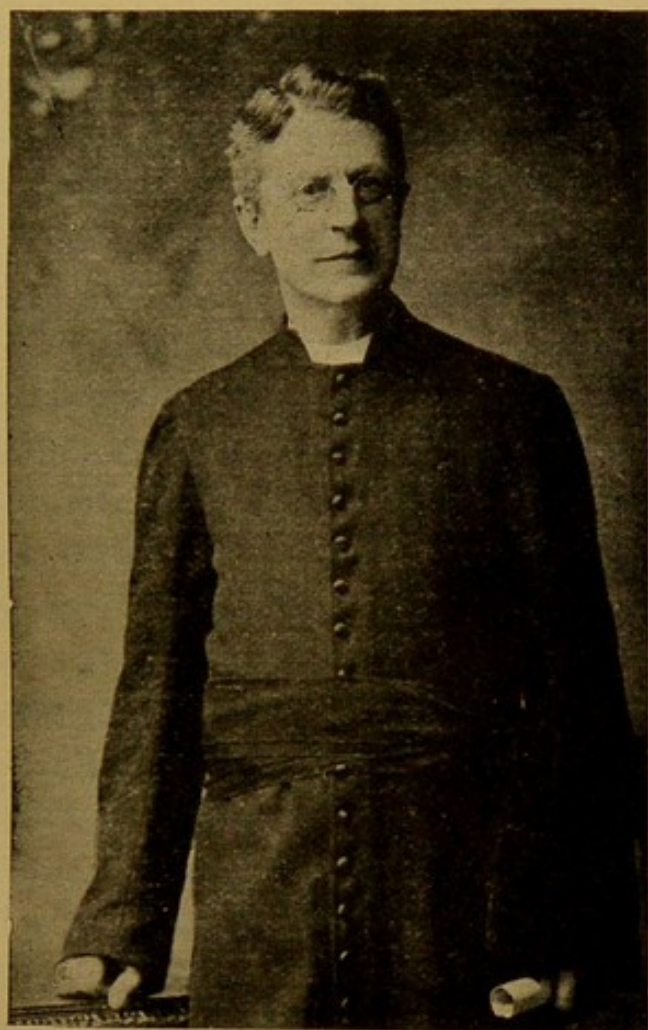
(Completed Interior.)

H. Bellamy, organist, and the choir. The display of the beautiful banners of the various Guilds was effective, and the national flag appropriate to the occasion. The stone has the following inscription:—"To the glory of God and in the faith of Jesus Christ, this Foundation Stone of the two Western Bays of the Nave and of the Western Tower of this Church was duly laid on Thursday, June 30th, 1898, by the Mayor of Leamington, Gordon Lyon Bland, in memory of the long and prosperous reign of Victoria, Queen of England and Empress of India. *Laus Deo.*" Upwards of three hundred dined at the Town Hall, and in the course of the many congratulatory speeches called forth by an event so auspicious, Mr. Flavel reminded the company of the extremely interesting circumstance that they were celebrating the stone-laying for completing the Church on the day which was the twenty-first anniversary of the death of Mr. Craig, the designer of that noble fabric.

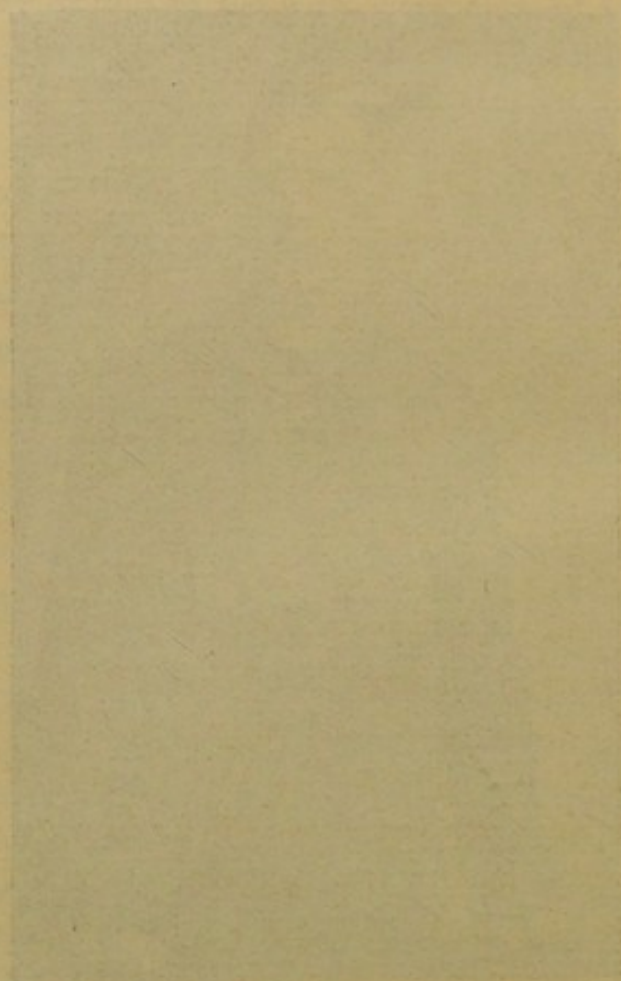
The last of these celebrations and thanksgivings, and the one in which a deeper and wider public interest centred than in any other, was the dedication of the Tower and Bells on Thursday, October 30, 1902—a day for ever memorable in the annals of the Parish Church, as the occasion when the guerdon for toil and devotion of more than three-quarters of a century's duration, was won. As, at the time of writing this page, less than six months have elapsed since the event, the details of which are still fresh in the general mind, there is no necessity for more than a brief reference in this place to the principal circumstances. A short preliminary service in the afternoon was held in the Parish Church, largely attended by the clergy and a fashionable congregation, after which an adjournment took place to the open space at the west end where the dedication was performed by the then recently elected Diocesan, Bishop Gore. A hymn having been sung, Mrs. Urquhart, to whose munificent gift of £4,060, the completion of the Tower was due, addressing his Lordship, the Vicar and the Churchwardens, said, "I desire to offer to the glory of God, and the decoration of the Parish Church of Leamington, this Tower, which I commit to the care of the Vicar and Wardens, and pray the Lord Bishop to dedicate." The splendid gift being officially accepted by Alderman S. Flavel, the senior

Warden, on behalf of the Vicar, the Wardens and the inhabitants, the Bishop proceeded to invoke the blessing of God on "the Tower and the Bells therein placed," and prayed that they might be hallowed and sanctified. Another hymn followed, and the bells, now increased from six to eight by the gift of the treble by the Misses Teulon in memory of their father, and the tenor by Mr. R. Badger to that of his wife, were chimed for the first time after a silence of thirteen years. The "Hallelujah" Chorus from the "Messiah," sung by the choir with band accompaniment, and the Blessing, pronounced by the Bishop, concluded the ceremony. A reception was afterwards held in the Winter Hall, the Hon. A. Lyttelton, M.P., presiding, at which Mrs. Urquhart's signal generosity was acknowledged in highly appreciative terms. It is deserving of mention that, in addition to the gift of the large sum named, she defrayed the cost of the flagstaff and entertained all the workmen with a dinner in the Parish Room, besides having them photographed in a group at her own expense, and presenting each with a copy as a memento of the completion of the church. While they were dining, she and Miss Urquhart paid them a visit, and on the proposal of the Vicar, who remarked that her kindness and generosity would never be forgotten, she was given three of the heartiest cheers. At the same time, Mr. James Smith, foreman, was presented with a silver match box by the Completion Committee in recognition of the care with which he had discharged his duties, and to Mr. James Cramp, the Clerk of the Works, the Vicar handed a valuable clock as a mark of his personal esteem of the courtesy and ability which had characterised him throughout the whole completion work. A significant circumstance connected with the celebration was the adoption of a resolution by the Spencer Street Congregational Church congratulating the Vicar and his friends on the success which had crowned their labours.

With a few general remarks of a descriptive character, applicable to subjects not hitherto noticed, we must conclude these remarks on the present Parish Church. The foregoing illustration, with the accompanying ground plan, supplies all necessary information as to the complete form of the building and the nature of the work carried into effect in commemoration



THE REV. CANON HOOK,
Vicar of Leamington.



of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee reign. No comments are necessary by way of pointing out the manifold beauties of Sir Arthur Blomfield's design, for even to the technically uneducated eye, its harmony of detail, graceful ornamentation, and bold outlines will prove to be so many attractions. While on this subject of the fabric, a reference must be made to the exceptionally noble wheel window and triforium in the north transept, and also the nearly associated rose window in the south façade. For these the parish is indebted to Mr. Craig, who obtained the first from the Cathedral of Rouen, and the second from the Church of St. Ouen, and his own explanation of them was that, while opposed in ideas, they blended so as to produce an effect exceeding anything to be seen even in our English cathedrals. The interior is lofty, and closely assimilated to that majesty of dimensions which is popularly associated with the cathedral characteristic. Few chancels in the Church of England are so enriched with costly gifts, and none appeal more powerfully to the æsthetic faculty. The triple window of stained glass in the apse, with its varied lights softened and mellowed by age, is in affectionate memory of Diana, Frances and Anna Maria Manners-Sutton, three daughters of the Most Rev. Charles Manners-Sutton, D.D., Archbishop of Canterbury from 1805 to 1828. After the death of their father, they came to Leamington and resided in Lansdowne Place. Towards the expense of this the family contributed £500. The carved reredos, the gift of the Willes family, is in memory of the late Mr. Edward Willes, and is a fine copy of Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated painting, "The Last Supper." The artistic restoration of the chancel, including the very handsome screen, are portions of a series of munificent gifts by Alderman and Mrs. Sidney Flavel, of the aggregate value of several thousand pounds. As set forth in a tablet, the earlier part of this work was carried out several years ago: "To the glory of God, and in thankfulness for blessings received, this Chancel was tiled and the stalls and screen erected by Sidney Flavel, jun., Mayor, and Gertrude, his wife, October 24, 1889." The large screen placed on the former, one of the most beautiful outside the cathedrals, was made by Messrs. Hart, Son, Peard and Co., of the Drury Lane Works, London, from a design

specially prepared by Sir Arthur Blomfield. The material throughout is of wrought iron, and the style—gothic—has been chosen so that it might harmonise with the early gothic architecture of the Church. On February 11, 1899, it was presented by Mr. Flavel to the Vicar for the use of the Church, at a largely attended service, when the Bishop preached the dedicatory sermon. On the reverse side are the arms of the Flavel family in heraldic colours. At the bottom of the south side are the following inscriptions: "In the reverence of God, and in grateful memory of Elizabeth Flavel, Widow of Sidney Flavel (married in this Church), died June 29th, 1894, aged 76 years. 'Her children rise up and call her blessed.' This Chancel Screen is placed by her son, Sidney Flavel, Churchwarden since 1885 of this Church, and Mayor four times of this Borough. Sexagesima, 1899."

The Church contains no "storied urn," no "animated bust," nor trophy to the illustrious dead,

"Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise."

Still, religion, law, and patriotism, are worthily, if not numerously, represented. Formerly a modest slab in the centre aisle marked the last resting place of the Rev. Dr. Greenwood, from 1713 to 1724 Vicar of St. Nicholas', Warwick; of St. Nicholas and also of St. Mary in that borough from 1724 to 1739, and the holder of the two livings of Solihull and St. Nicholas from 1739 to 1750. He was the author of "Essays on the Creation," and a "Harmony of the Gospels," in addition to which he prepared some notes on the "Paradise Lost" for Bishop Newton's edition. In the chancel is a marble tablet to the memory of the Right Hon. Edward Willes, at one time Recorder of Coventry and Attorney-General for the Duchy of Lancaster; afterwards King's Sergeant-at-Law, and, finally, Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer and of the Privy Council, Ireland. He was one of the promoters of the Leamington Enclosure Act of 1768, an abstract of which has been given in the early pages of this work, and father of Mr. Edward Willes, whose name is associated with the history of the town down to 1846. In addition to these, the remains of Admiral

Fleeming, who was distinguished by his bravery in numerous engagements between the years 1794 and 1839, repose in the catacombs beneath the north transept.

The Register, the material parts of which have already been quoted, dates back to 1646.

To other subjects of interest allusion would be agreeable, but the exigencies of space compel us to conclude with the statement that nothing of the original Church remains except the stone in the vaults, previously described, and the small stained glass window in the north transept, containing the arms of the Willes' and other families.

The following list of the Clergy of All Saints' will appropriately terminate our remarks on the history of the Parish Church:—

Henr. de Keton, November, 1315; Tho. de Lemyngton, February, 1338; Will. de Leycester, July, 1348; Iweyn de Pershore, May, 1349; Joh. de Wytloxford, July, 1349; Joh. de Geydon, October, 1349; Rob. de Morton, September, 1368; Will. Cras, October, 1370; Will. Port, September, 1402; Joh. de Swetenham, December, 1408; Thom. Séborowe, June, 1410; Joh. Radford, May, 1422; Joh. Cocks, March, 1426; Ric. Bennet, January, 1429; Joh. Graunge, August, 1436; Nic. Clement, December, 1444; Will. Pomfret, May, 1446; Joh. Twysse, October, 1445; Thom. Albyn, May, 1457; Will. Bradbury, May, 1459; Joh. Newton, April, 1462; Will. Knyght, October, 1467; Will. Woodward, September, 1489; Will. Wheywall, July, 1505; Joh. Corney, September, 1519; Henricus Stephens, March, 1562; Ric. Astlyn, June, 1567; Hen. Clarkes, September, 1574; Tho. Walker, January, 1633; Valentine Jackson, 1662; Edw. Farr, December, 1664; Humfr. Jones, August, 1673; Emmanuel Jones, February, 1720; J. Paisley, no date; T. Willes, no date; J. Shuckberg, no date; J. Knightley, no date; J. Wise, M.A., no date; R. Downes, M.A., 1823; J. Craig, M.A., 1839; J. W. Leigh, M.A., 1877; W. C. Furneaux, M.A., 1884; Cecil Hook, B.A., 1896.

CHAPTER XXX.

Local cemeteries and burial grounds, their histories—an injustice to Dissenters—the Holly Walk, its famous oaks, hollies and elms—three distinguished visitors, Bright, Cobden and Ruskin—the Anti-Corn Law League—The Labourers' Fund and its work—growth of the Police Force from the ancient vestry appointments to date—successive Superintendents and Chief Constables—present strength of the force, area of the Borough, rates of pay, etc.

SEVERAL subjects having been left in arrears by the space allotted to the Parish Church in the last and the preceding chapter, it becomes necessary to go back to the latter part of the "thirties," and refer to each in its own proper order.

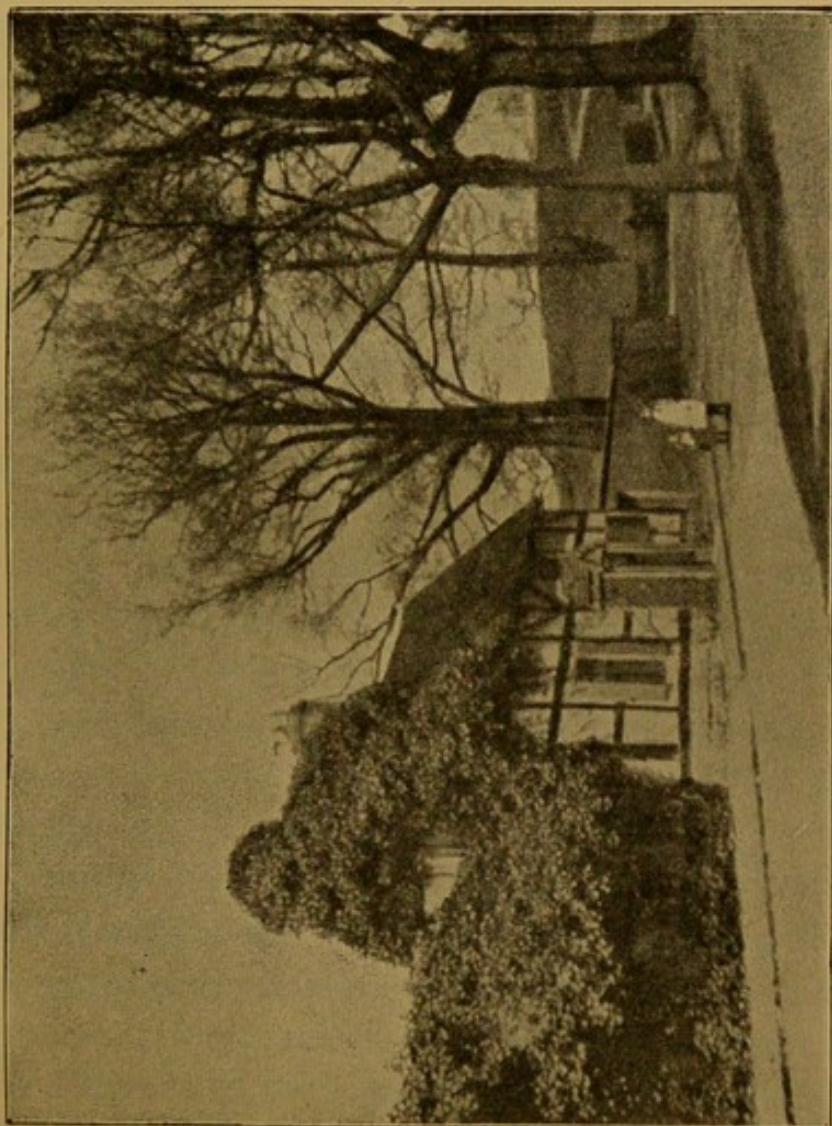
The year 1838 was remarkable for the gracious permission of Queen Victoria to call the town "Royal;" the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the first enlargement of the Victoria Bridge, and the progress made in the building of Victoria Terrace, the memorial stone of which was laid in the previous year by Mr. Hitchman. Another event was the extension of the burial accommodation of the parish by the purchase, laying out and consecration of the New Street Burial Ground. The old churchyard, on the south side of the church, had been previously enlarged towards Gloucester Street, but being at the time full, further provision was necessary. The cost of the new cemetery was charged to the church rate, to which Dissenters were liable equally with Churchmen, although, as was universally the custom of the time in such cases, no Dissenting minister was allowed to discharge the last office of religion at the graveside of anyone, no matter what were the wishes the deceased had expressed, nor how strong were the desires of the family. This system had led the Nonconformists to provide themselves with separate burying grounds, of which, when that in New Street was opened, there were four, namely, one in Spencer Street, another in Warwick Street, a third at the back of Mill Street

Chapel, the fourth and last adjoining the Roman Catholic Church in George Street. In addition to these, burials continued to take place in the old churchyard, inside the church, and in the vaults beneath the clock tower. These arrangements lasted until 1851, when the first of the two cemeteries on the Whitnash Road was opened and consecrated, and four years afterwards all the burial places mentioned were closed by order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Mr. Matthew Wise gave a portion of the land and defrayed the cost of erecting the chapel, but the residue amounting to upwards of £4,000, was charged to the church rate, to which the Dissenters had to contribute, while their ministers were still excluded from conducting services at the funerals of the members of their respective churches. This Burial Ground was the one in use from 1851 to 1866, at which date a new development relieved the Dissenters from the hardship and injustice of which they had most justly complained, and obtained for the parish a cemetery, than which there is not in England one more commodious, managed with greater reverence for the dead, or more consideration for the feelings of the living. In June of that year a memorial, signed by forty-four ratepayers, was presented to the Churchwardens (W. Watson and W. Gascoyne), and the Overseers (W. G. Bloomfield and B. Bradshaw), asking them to convene a parish meeting to determine whether a Burial Board should not be appointed and a new Burial Ground provided. Of the signatories five alone are now (1903) living—Alderman Bright, C. R. Burgis, J. H. Horder, J. Colbourne and T. Mason. The meeting was held according to the prayer of the memorialists, and on the motion of Mr. T. Muddeman, seconded by Mr. J. Fletcher, supported by Messrs. T. Southorn, W. Colley, D. Humphreys, W. Overell and T. Ball, the proposal to establish such a Board was carried by a large majority against an amendment in favour of a Limited Liability Company Cemetery, moved by Mr. J. T. Hirst and seconded by Mr. George Wamsley.

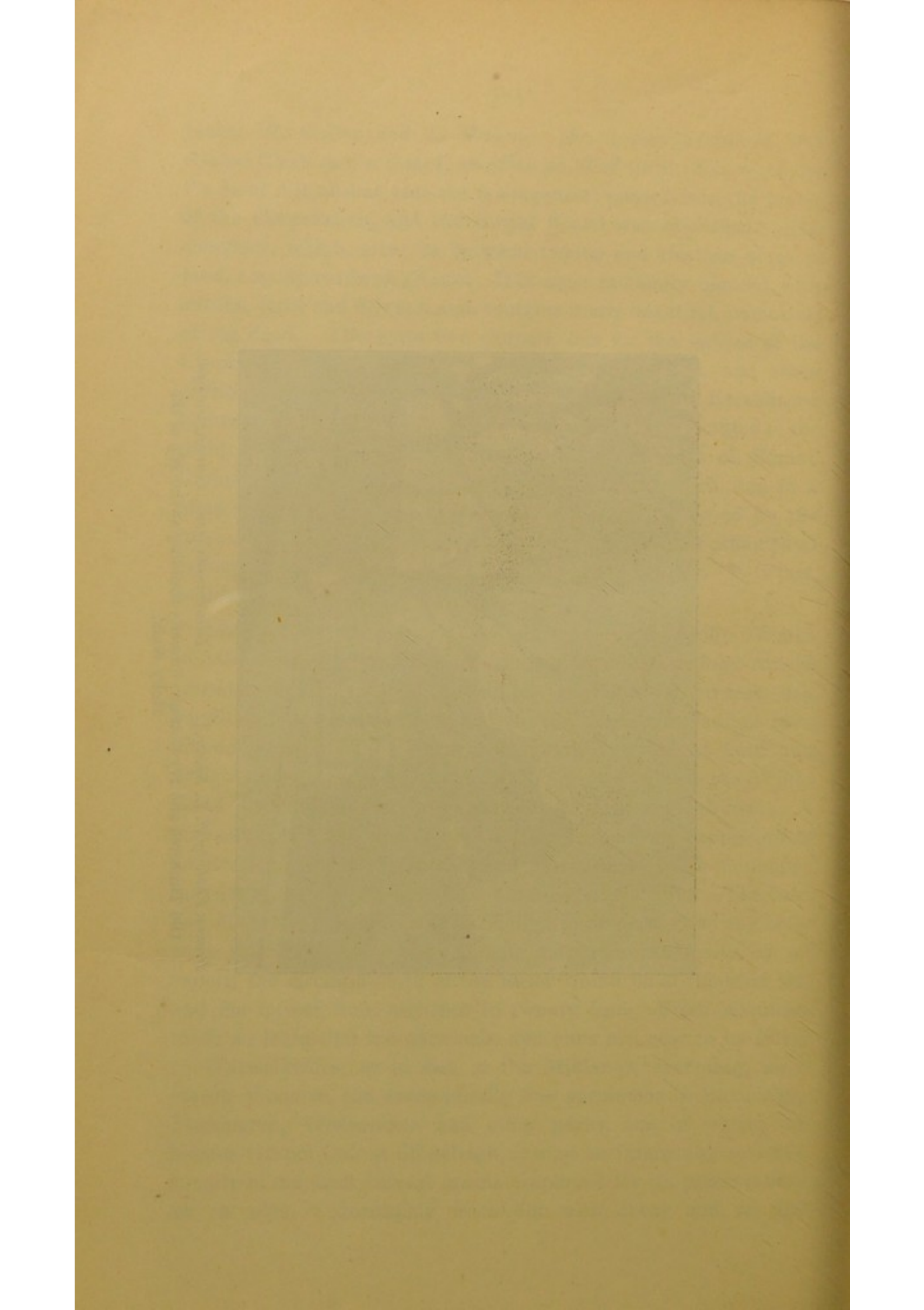
On a poll being taken the resolution was confirmed by 386 votes to 112, and at the adjourned public meeting the following were appointed the first Burial Board: Messrs. J. Williams, N. Du Moulin, G. A. Cundall, J. Fletcher, H. Mulliner, J. Jury, P.

Jacks, W. Colley and T. Mason. Mr. Josiah Southorn was elected Clerk to the Board, an office he filled until 1890, when, by the local Act of that year the management passed into the hands of the Corporation, and the Burial Board was abolished. The cemetery, which occupies between twelve and thirteen acres of land, cost upwards of £8,000. It is most tastefully planted with shrubs, trees and flowers, and contains many beautiful memorials of the dead. There are two chapels, one for the service of the Church of England, the other for the Dissenters, and three portions, one consecrated for the members of the Established Church, the second for Nonconformists is unconsecrated; the third also unconsecrated, is reserved for the burials of Roman Catholics. In 1902 the New Street Cemetery, which was in a most discreditable state of neglect, was much improved by the removal of the old wall in front and the substitution of ornamental railings, the contract for which was given to Mr. T. Pratt, builder.

Beautiful was the early appearance of the Holly Walk; in native grace and luxuriance, perfection. No analogy can be traced between its appearance in 1840 and its present day condition. The majesty of its oaks and elms, the vaulted roof, affluent with boughs interlaced in infinite variety of form and design, and the mass of holly trees at the point where the Willes Road intersects the Walk, are now departed glories. A horticulturist then visiting the town, has, with an expression of admiration, placed on record some particulars of this singularly fine grove, the heirloom of many vanished centuries. The oaks and elms were on an average six feet in diameter, and the holly trees two feet. According to this measurement, made by an expert, the circumference of the latter would be at the least six, and the former from eighteen to twenty feet. From enquiries made we learn that few such oaks and elms are now to be found in Warwickshire, or in fact in the Midlands, excepting, as a matter of course, the exceptionally fine specimens in Stoneleigh, Packington, Wedgenock, and other parks, one of which, the famous Gospel Oak at Stoneleigh, it may be interesting to state, in spite of the most careful means employed for its preservation, fell in 1872, "thoroughly worn out with decay and an age



From a Photo by F. L. Spicer,] [*Lansdowne Circus, Leamington Spa.*
Old Timbered and Ivy Cottage, formerly standing at the Top of the
Holly Walk.



calculated to have reached 2,000 years." What might have been the years of these elms and oaks cannot definitely be stated, but the authority we have quoted says they were old, and bearing in mind the familiar lines of Dryden :

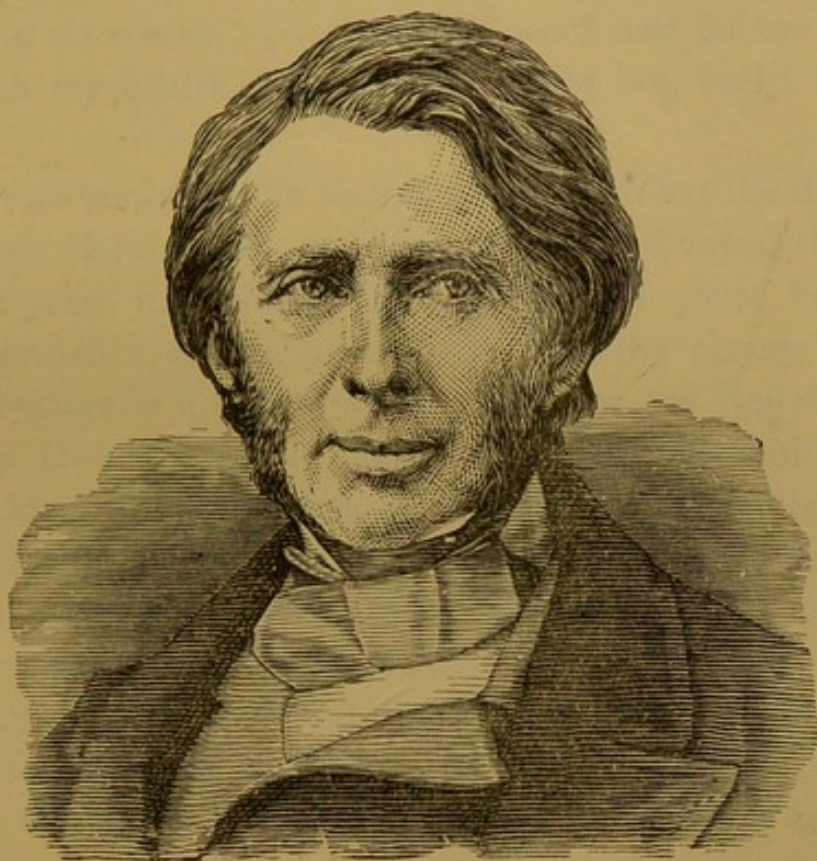
" The monarch oak, the patriarch of trees,
Shoots rising up, and spreads by slow degrees ;
Three centuries he grows, and three he stays
Supreme in state, and in three more decays,"

the period of planting was probably not much later than the time of the Conquest.

The beginning of John Bright's apostleship of Free Trade, "a signal event in the annals of the Anti-Corn Law League," is another leaf in the volume of local history for 1841. In the autumn of that year he came to Leamington with Mrs. Bright, who was seriously ill. He had been a Free Trader from the origin of the movement, and occasionally lectured in support of the League proposals. But his position was that of a powerful auxiliary, or co-worker in the ranks rather than an official leader and director of the gathering forces of that great organisation. After a residence here of a few weeks he accepted an invitation to deliver an address at Warwick on the subject of Free Trade, and an unsuccessful application having been made for the use of the Court House, in respect of which the Mayor said "that he did not feel called upon to give any reason for his refusal," the doors of the schoolroom of the Independent Chapel, Brook Street, were instantly flung wide open. On Thursday, August 12, Mr. Bright spoke there for about two hours to a crowded audience, estimated to have numbered five hundred persons, and at the conclusion of the meeting a branch of the League was formed in the old county town. Mrs. Bright died on the 10th of September, and on the 13th, Mr. Cobden, then on a visit to some relatives in Leamington, called to condole and sympathise with Mr. Bright in his bereavement. The meeting and resolution to which it led were thus described by him in his speech at Bradford, July 25, 1877, when he unveiled the Cobden statue:—"The sufferings throughout the country were fearful, and you who live now, but were not of age to observe what was passing in the country then, can have no idea of the state of your country in that year. . . .

At that time I was at Leamington, and I was, on the day when Mr. Cobden called upon me—for he happened to be there at the time on a visit to some relatives—I was in the depth of grief, I might almost say of despair, for the light and sunshine of my home had been extinguished. All that was left on earth of my young wife, except the memory of a sainted life and of a too brief happiness, was lying still and cold in the chamber above us. Mr. Cobden called upon me as his friend, and addressed me, as you may suppose, with words of condolence. After a time he looked up and said, ‘There are thousands of homes in England at this moment where wives, mothers and children are dying of hunger. Now,’ he said, ‘when the first paroxysm of your grief is past I would advise you to come with me, and we will never rest till the Corn Law is repealed.’ I accepted his invitation. I knew that the description he had given of the homes of thousands was not an exaggerated description. I felt in my conscience that there was a work which somebody must do, and therefore I accepted the invitation, and from that time we never ceased to labour on behalf of the resolution we had made.” The battle of Free Trade was protracted, bitter, and obstinately contested; its victory was not without a vast expenditure of service, wealth and devotion. Public opinion, which was then widely divided, is now practically unanimous in its favour. It is to Cobden and Bright the country owes its cheap loaf, and though the policy of Free Trade is still questioned by a few, none will deny their disinterested service, or doubt the sincerity of their desire for the public welfare. Leamington does not appear to have taken any decided action, one way or the other, in the great contest, but it has the honour of having been the place where Cobden and Bright, to quote the words of Mr. John Morley in his “Life of Richard Cobden,” “made that solemn compact which gave so strong an impetus to the movement, and was the beginning of an affectionate and noble friendship that lasted without a cloud or a jar until Cobden’s death.”

Another visitor, in no degree less illustrious in his later days than Bright and Cobden, was in Leamington about the year 1841. John Ruskin, broken down in health, stopped at the Spa on his way for a holiday in Wales, to see Dr. Jephson, “called a quack



PROFESSOR RUSKIN, a distinguished visitor.

by all the Faculty," yet, "no quack, but a man of the highest general power, and keenest medical instincts." As his patient, he stayed six weeks "in tiny lodgings near the wells a small square brick lodging-house, number what you like of a row looking out on a bit of suburban paddock and a broken paling; mean litter everywhere about; the muddy lingering of Leam, about three yards broad, at the other side of it. Down the row, beginnings of poor people's shops, then an aristocratic grocer and mercer or two, the circulating library and the pump room. Jephson, who at the first interview said "stay here, and I'll put you to rights in six weeks kept his word and let me go in six weeks with my health, he told me, I doubt not, truly, in my own hands."

Probably at no period in the history of the town has the distress among the poor been deeper, or more generally diffused than in 1840 and the years immediately following; and never has the spirit of benevolence on the part of the wealthy classes found practical expression in a greater variety of forms. A Relief Fund established in December, 1840, at a public meeting held in the Town Hall, Mr. R. Whitehouse, churchwarden, presiding, was followed in 1843 by the Labourers' Employment Fund, originated by Mr. Hitchman and liberally supported by the Clergy, the Dissenting ministers and the residential classes. This was the most conspicuous of the several movements of the time, and it had the special merit of uniting charity with works of public utility. The funds collected were paid to the labourers for work performed. It was stated that the unemployed preferred this form of assistance to the usual distribution of tickets for soup, bread and coals, which, though excellent in themselves, had more of the element of charity than was agreeable to their feelings. Under the auspices of this useful movement, many of the walks in and around Leamington were greatly improved and planted with trees, in two instances—the making of the lake and raising the land in the lower part of the Jephson Gardens, and the laying out of the gardens near Christ Church, the effects materially adding to the attractions of the town.

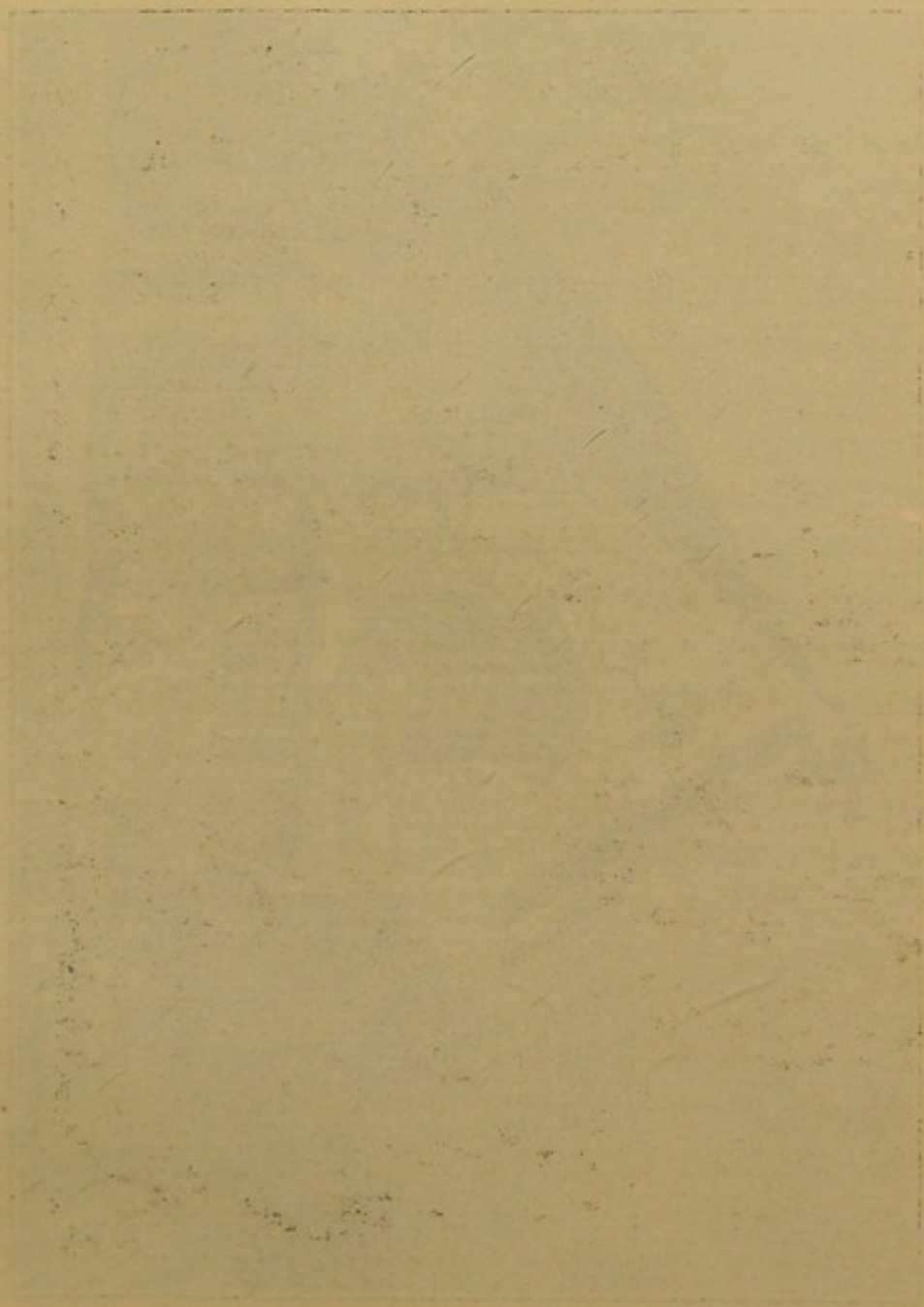
Commencing with the year 1842, and continuing till 1843, the Improvement Commissioners were constantly employed in

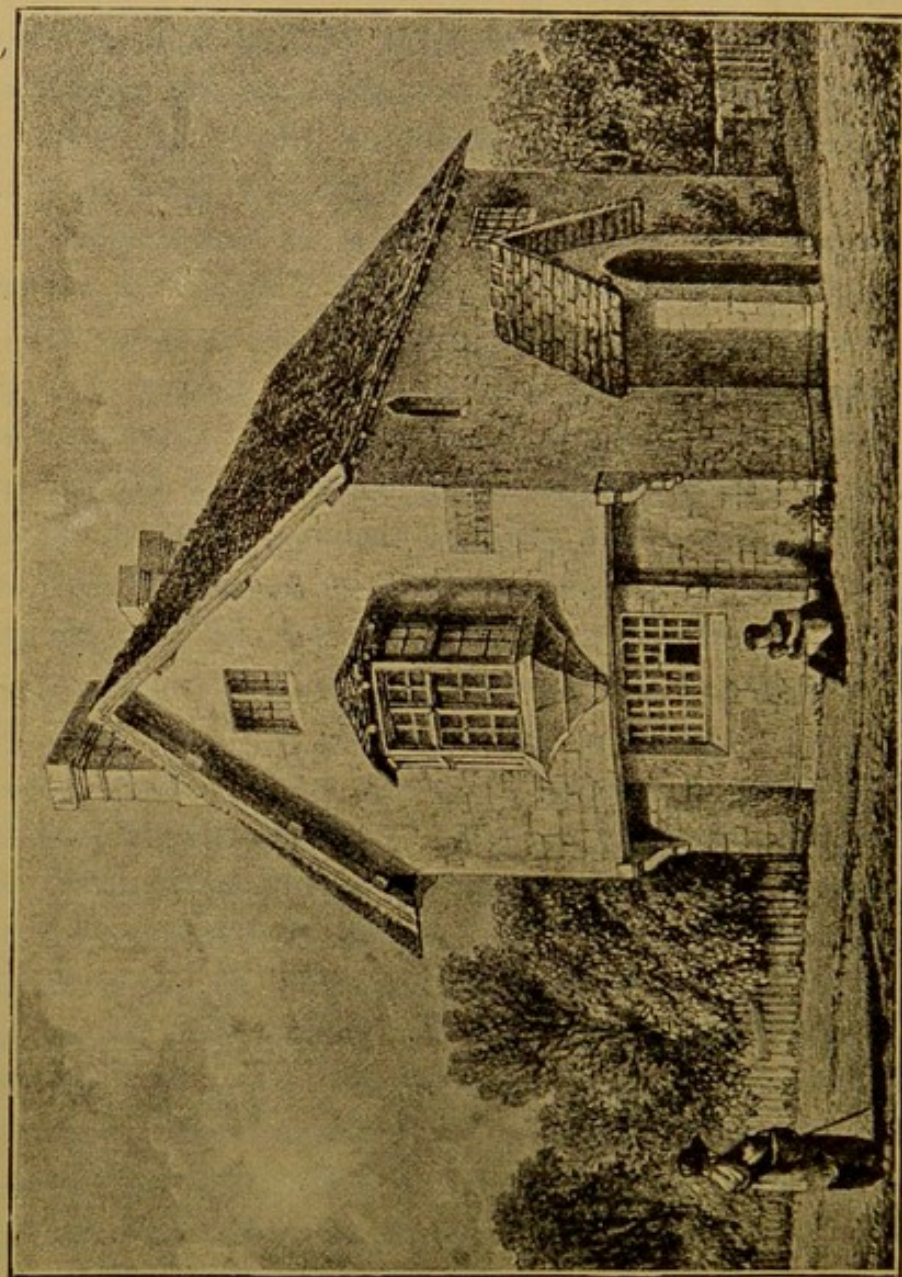
the work of establishing a local police force to be paid and managed by them independently of the County Authority. There have been three kinds of police establishments in the history of the town, only one of which was subject to external control. The first was the parochial system, consisting of constables, headboroughs, thirdboroughs, and special constables, appointed at the vestry meetings, and acting throughout the year under the direction of the Parish Committee. The pay of the constables was about £25 per annum, and their office being an annual appointment, they were liable to be superseded at any vestry meeting by preference being given to other candidates. Two constables were regularly appointed, but the numbers of the other classes varied; sometimes no headborough was elected, on another occasion there would be three. The tenure of the thirdboroughs was similarly precarious. As a rule the force consisted down to 1825 of two constables, one of whom was the superior officer, a headborough, a thirdborough, and a pinner and crier, who was also sworn in as an assistant constable. The first of the two principal officers was William Langham, who held office in 1824. In the year following, George Reading and John Hickling (probably a relative of the late Superintendent Hickling, of Warwick), were elected. The County Magistrates also had authority, on receipt of a memorial from the inhabitants, to supplement the parochial force with assistant constables, and in compliance with a representation, signed by five respectable inhabitants, stating that the Civil power was insufficient for the protection of the persons and property in the town, the Rev. James Coral Roberts, clerk, and Arthur Francis Gregory, Esq., increased the local force on December 8, 1824, by swearing in four watchmen. This was the first departure from the old parochial system, and may be regarded as the time when the foundation was laid of our modern borough police establishment. Each of the new men was supplied with a coat of dark grey pattern, with one to four stripes of white cloth on the right arm; a dark lanthorn, rattle, staff and belt. Their wages were 10s. a week. This dual scheme was expanded by some police powers conferred on the Paving Commissioners by the local Act of 1825, under which they also began to appoint their own police, the pay

for whom appears to have been 15s. weekly. This state of things continued until 1839, when Sir Robert Peel's Constabulary Act was passed, and the policing of the town was merged into the County Constabulary arrangements. At this time the police force of the Commissioners had grown to sixteen members, and the office of head constable was held by William Shirley Roby, at a salary of £150. The Commissioners were willing to part with their control of the force on condition that he was appointed the new chief constable for the county, and Leamington made the head-quarters of the Knightlow Hundred; and as an inducement to the Court of County Quarter Sessions to acquiesce in this proposal, they offered the free use of the Town Hall, the large room, cells, offices, &c. It was decided, however, to advertise for candidates, and out of eleven applicants, including Mr. Roby, the choice fell on Mr. George Baker, R.N. He was the first chief-constable for Warwickshire, and by virtue of his office, also the third for Leamington. He commenced his duties in 1840, and at the same time the local police force of the Commissioners underwent a singular transformation, and the county force was instituted in their place. The Commissioners soon saw reason to be dissatisfied with the new arrangements. Leamington was one of a group of eight parishes, to which the Quarter Sessions had allotted seven policemen, so that, as Mr. Patterson explained, the proportion of the County Constabulary in the town consisted of seven-eighths of one constable, for whom they had to pay a police rate amounting on an average to about £500 per annum. It was considered advisable to keep up the old force on a reduced scale, and to give it another title. Mr. Roby, the head-constable, was appointed Town Surveyor, and to clothe him with proper authority, the Vestry made him the parish constable. Several of the former police were retained as street-keepers, with duties not very distinctly defined, and a position which Captain Baker regarded as irregular and interfering with matters under his care. Constant bickerings arose between the rival forces. The street-keepers turned up their noses at the county constable, and he looked down on them with feelings of lofty contempt. The Commissioners did not stand aloof from the quarrel. They refused to allow the County the use of the Town Hall, but offered

the Station House in Park Street, for which they charged a rental, and on Captain Baker refusing to pay they gave him notice to quit.

Under these circumstances a new local Act was obtained in 1843 which gave the Commissioners power to establish their own police force, but the dismissal or suspension from duty of any constable was a right reserved for the Justices. A Police Committee was appointed, and in August they reported having reinstated Mr. Roby as "head of the new police force" at a salary of £135, and ten constables at £1 per week each, subject to a deduction of 2s. weekly for clothing, and 1s. per week "to create a sick fund." He was followed by Mr. J. Thompson, and in 1856 the force was increased by the addition of five men at the pay of £1 weekly. In April, 1859, he retired, and out of thirty-five applicants, Mr. John Lund, who had served twenty-three years in the Metropolitan police and was retired on pension, was selected as Superintendent of Police and Inspector of Nuisances. Mr. Lund continued to discharge the duties until 1881 when he resigned, and besides being awarded two-thirds of his pay as pension, received from the inhabitants a magnificent loving cup and three hundred sovereigns as a testimonial. There were twenty candidates for the post, which was given to Mr. J. F. Brabner, Superintendent of Police at Abingdon, Mr. John Glenn, the senior Inspector, being also a candidate and polling the creditable number of eleven votes against thirteen recorded for Mr. Brabner. In February, 1900, Mr. A. Thompson, Superintendent in the Nottingham police force, succeeded him, and on his retirement in 1902, the present Chief Constable, Mr. T. T. Earnshaw, Superintendent and second in command in the Wigan County Borough Police, was elected to the vacant post. Under the local Act of 1890, the boundaries of Leamington were enlarged so as to include the Urban portions of Milverton and Lillington, and the force, which had been slightly increased on several previous occasions, was then raised to the strength of forty-one and included the Chief Constable, a Chief Inspector, two Inspectors, a Sergeant Clerk, a Detective Sergeant, four Patrol Sergeants, and thirty-one Constables. The area of the borough is 2,816 acres; the total length of the streets, squares, etc.,





COTTAGE formerly standing at the corner of Mill Street, on the site of Brighton House.

thirty-three miles; population at the census of 1901, 26,888, and the number of inhabited houses, 5,959. The rates of pay are, Chief Constable, £250 per annum; Chief Inspector, £2 10s. weekly; other Inspectors £2 2s. 4d. on appointment, rising to a maximum of £2 6s. 10d.; Sergeants, £1 14s. 4d., rising to £1 17s. 6d.; Constables from a minimum of £1 4s. to a maximum of £1 13s. On the initiative of Chief Constable Earnshaw, a St. John's Ambulance class was formed in November, 1902, and at the official examination on the 18th of the following month every member of the force was successful in passing. The Fire Brigade is now amalgamated with the police establishment, and extinguishing appliances are supplied to the several stations, namely, the old Town Hall, Chandos Street, Union Road and Lillington. The Inspectors during the past half-century have been Horswill and Waters, T. and J. Glenn, W. T. Edwards (now Chief Inspector), T. Turner and J. Hemmings, and the Detective officers, F. Brown, J. Baum and H. Ryder, the two last ranking as Inspector and Sergeant respectively. In bringing this account of the local police force to a close it is not too much to say that no body of men could have been more efficient in the discharge of their duties, or have succeeded to a greater degree in earning the commendations of the Government Inspectors, the approbation of the successive local authorities and the esteem of the public.

CHAPTER XXXI.

The Jephson Gardens, originally the Newbold Wood Walks, or Gardens—public movement in 1845 in honour of Dr. Jephson—dedication of the Gardens to him in 1846—description of the ceremony—the planting of Memorial Oaks in 1848—the Jephson Statue—purchase of the Gardens in 1854—notes on the early fêtes, horticultural shows, concerts, and the modern history of the gardens—list of the head gardeners, etc., etc.

HORTICULTURE, or garden culture, from time immemorial has been universally considered promotive of the pleasure and profit of mankind; soothing to the mind distraught with the cankering cares of business or professional avocations, refreshing to the worn invalid, and a source of perennial delight to all, whether in health or sickness, burdened with poverty or abounding in wealth. It is not within the province of domestic legislation to provide a beautiful garden separately for every house, but happily, means are to be found for laying out public pleasure grounds for the benefit of all, and at a cost so trifling to each householder that the poorest need not complain. These have been applied in Leamington with eminent success.

We have now to state the circumstances attending the acquisition of the Jephson Gardens by the town in 1846, and in due order to refer to that popular and beneficent measure of recent date, which has idealised the primary object of the general good by admitting on three days in each week the public free of charge. Any remarks respecting their value would be as superfluous and futile as an attempt to "gild refined gold, to paint the lily," or to invite art "to throw a perfume on the violet." None can visit them at any season of the year without feeling how greatly Leamington would be impoverished by their loss. The land, about thirteen acres in extent, belonged to the Willeeses, of Newbold Comyn, and early in the century was partly pasture in the occupation of Farmer Court, of Lillington, a man of burly

size, who used to ride about on a stout cob, and chase and chastise the boys with his whip, when he found them bird-nesting, playing at rounders, or gathering mushrooms on his land. A path, commencing near the west end lodge, led through the wood beyond the present Willes Road on to the Hall. John George Jackson, architect, succeeded Farmer Court, and about the year 1834 laid the ground out as a pleasure garden. He resided in a small attractive cottage formerly standing on the site of the Hitchman Fountain. As the owner of Newbold Terrace and the Newbold Gardens, Mr. Edward Willes entered into covenants with purchasers—which enhanced the selling price of the former very materially—that the latter were never to be built upon, and that the occupier of every villa should have the right in perpetuity of free admission. This agreement was fulfilled by placing gates along the whole length of the north side of the grounds, and as the houses were erected the occupiers were supplied with keys with which to let themselves into the Gardens. A writer to the *Gardeners' Magazine* was in Leamington in 1840, and from the curt manner in which he refers to the Newbold Gardens, we conclude that they were not then in an advanced stage of development, nor possessed of much artistic beauty.

In 1845 a popular movement was originated for presenting a testimonial to Dr. Jephson, and at a meeting held in the Upper Assembly Rooms, on Thursday, May 7, Lord Somerville presiding, resolutions in favour of the project were adopted. A Committee, appointed to receive donations, and to consider the most appropriate mode of carrying this praiseworthy object into effect, was elected. On Tuesday, May 12, 1846, Leamington was once more in one of its exuberant moods. The weather was glorious, the bells were ringing without pause note or rest, and “the Parades from one end to the other were thronged with holiday folks.” A short time before the opening ceremony took place, a second gathering of the subscribers was held in the Royal Assembly Rooms, at which the character of the testimonial was made public. After reporting subscriptions to the amount of £1,850, the Committee were unanimously of opinion that if the grounds could be obtained on reasonable terms, and were dedicated to the use of the visitors and inhabitants, under regulations

approved by the Trustees,* named the Jephson Gardens, and a statue of the Doctor placed therein, it would combine more effectually than any other of the proposed plans, the instructions they had received. They also stated that they had succeeded in negotiating, and then had the pleasure of laying before the meeting for confirmation a lease of the Gardens for 2,000 years at the small annual rental of £30, such rental being redeemable at any time within ten years upon payment of £600. Mr. Hollins,† the eminent sculptor, was recommended as the artist to be employed. The report was adopted. The party then marched to the grounds, where it was estimated upwards of seven thousand people were assembled, and after a speech by Sergeant Adams the National Anthem was sung and the Gardens formally given their new name. A beautiful medal—one of which is in the possession of J. Cleaver, New Street—struck by Messrs. Bright and Sons, from a design

* Mr. A. S. Field, the venerable Clerk of the Peace for the County and Clerk of the County Council, is the sole survivor of the 44 trustees chosen. He is now (1903) in his 90th year, enjoys excellent health, and is more active than are the majority of men who are his juniors by a quarter of a century. His connection with the Gardens began with the first meeting held to promote the testimonial to Dr. Jephson, and closed fifty years afterwards, when the Trust was extinguished by the local Act of 1896, and the property was vested in the Corporation. At no time during that very long period were his services of a merely nominal or perfunctory character. He was one of the first committee elected at the preliminary meeting in 1845 to make arrangements for collecting subscriptions for the testimonial, and in the lease of the Gardens his name appears as one of the trustees. He was also one of the first Committee of Management to whom the work of laying out the Gardens in 1846 was entrusted, and in 1847 he, with several other trustees, signed a guarantee to the Warwick and Leamington Bank for an advance of £370. To him Leamington is largely indebted for half-a-century of hard work in bringing the Gardens to their present state of perfection. He and Alderman Bright, who is in his 86th year, are the only living representatives of the original list of subscribers.

† Peter Hollins was a Birmingham man, and resided in Great Hampton Street. In a letter to Lord Somerville, dated May 15, 1846, he said that his usual charge for a statue executed in Carrara marble, and of heroic size, was £1,000, and for a suitable pedestal in Sicilian marble, £100, with an extra charge for fixing the statue. In consideration, however, of the importance of the undertaking, the "beneficial effect it cannot fail to produce on my future professional career," and also the handsome and highly honourable manner in which the commission had been placed in his hands, his charge would be £1,000 for statue and pedestal. "Heroic size" he explained to be seven feet high. His offer was accepted. The statue of Dr. Jephson is considered by qualified judges to be an excellent likeness; in pose, drapery, and general expression, faultless.

by Mr. Ottley, of Birmingham, was generally worn by the inhabitants, suspended from their collars by a blue ribbon. Of course, an event so auspicious was not allowed to pass without the customary banquet.

Two years after (1848) there was another demonstration, or rather a series of demonstrations, in the Gardens. The men employed by the Labourers' Fund had for more than twelve months been at work, under Mr. Cullis, in forming the walks, levelling the ground, putting in shrubs and evergreens, and excavating for the formation of the lake. By way of celebrating the completion of this first section of the improvements, it was decided to plant two rows of evergreen oaks about the central walk in the lower part of the Gardens, and to name them after local men entitled to public respect and esteem. The ceremony, appropriately described by the *Courier* as "The Festival of the Oaks," was commenced on Monday morning, May 1, and continued with slight intermission until Thursday evening, May 4. Dr. Hitchman, a liberal and energetic friend of Leamington, was Master of the Ceremonies, and being in a charmingly speechifying mood, right well did he discharge the duties. The titles of the trees were the Royal, Jephson, Wellington, Somerville, Stoneleigh, Russell, Chambers, Warneford, Greville, Abbots, Satchwell, Willes, Patron, Finch, Guernsey, Adams, Percy, Cholmondley, Manners-Sutton, Downes, Dynevor, Carnegie, Marsh, Bisset, Angel, Hodgson, and Walhouse Oaks. The rights of the residents in Newbold Terrace to free admission to the Gardens through gates on the north side was denied under the new arrangements, but they were still allowed to enter by the two lodges without payment. Miss Dawson resolved to test the legality of the action of the Trustees in closing the gate opposite her house, by causing it to be broken open. Thereupon they brought an action for wilful damage and trespass, which was tried at Warwick Assizes in September, 1848, before Mr. Justice Maule. The court held that in the covenants Mr. Willes had not specified any particular place for entry to the grounds, and so long as the residents in the Terrace were permitted to pass through the lodges without subscriptions, there was, practically, a fulfilment of the obligation. A verdict was given for the

plaintiffs, damages 40s., and 40s. costs, with leave to the defendant to move for a nonsuit. An unsuccessful appeal followed, and, as a consequence of this litigation, the custom established by the Trustees remained in force. The task of perfecting the Gardens was arduous. A committee of Trustees, appointed for three years, were authorised to act according to the best of their judgment. Among these were Dr. Jephson, Messrs. A. S. Field, R. Whitehouse (father of Mr. Robert Whitehouse), E. Woodhouse and J. Haddon. Several thousand pounds were spent, and in a brief period what was almost a bare field was tastefully embellished with walks, flowers and trees. Of the poor and the non-subscribing part of the public, the Committee were not unmindful. One of their earliest resolutions was to open the Gardens free every Sunday afternoon. In 1873, Mr. William Willes complained that the change of name from the Newbold to the Jephson Gardens was unjust to his father's memory, and, without admitting that the founders had in any way slighted Mr. Edward Willes, it was decided to erect the obelisk in the central walk, whereon the gratitude due to him for "the site" is conspicuously acknowledged. There was no doubt generosity on the part of Mr. Willes, but in the opinion of every inhabitant who remembers the original state of the land, it was not of such a character as to entitle him to a retention of the old name. Further, the Trustees could not have been actuated by any unkind feeling towards him. All were his friends, and one—Sergeant Adams—had been his schoolfellow. The Committee received much voluntary assistance, and a resolution records their appreciation of the gratuitous services of the late Mr. John Hart, father of Messrs. George and Charles Hart.

In 1854 the redemption money of £600 was paid, and from that time the rental of £30 ceased. The cottage standing on the site of the Hitchman Fountain, with the land belonging to it, were purchased from Mrs. Willes in 1866 for £1,100 and added to the Gardens. For half-a-century—1846 to 1896—the grounds were in the care of the Trustees, with a Committee of Management acting under them, and it would be ungrateful not to recognise their services in the public interest. Their horticultural and floricultural shows were the best of the kind in the Midlands;

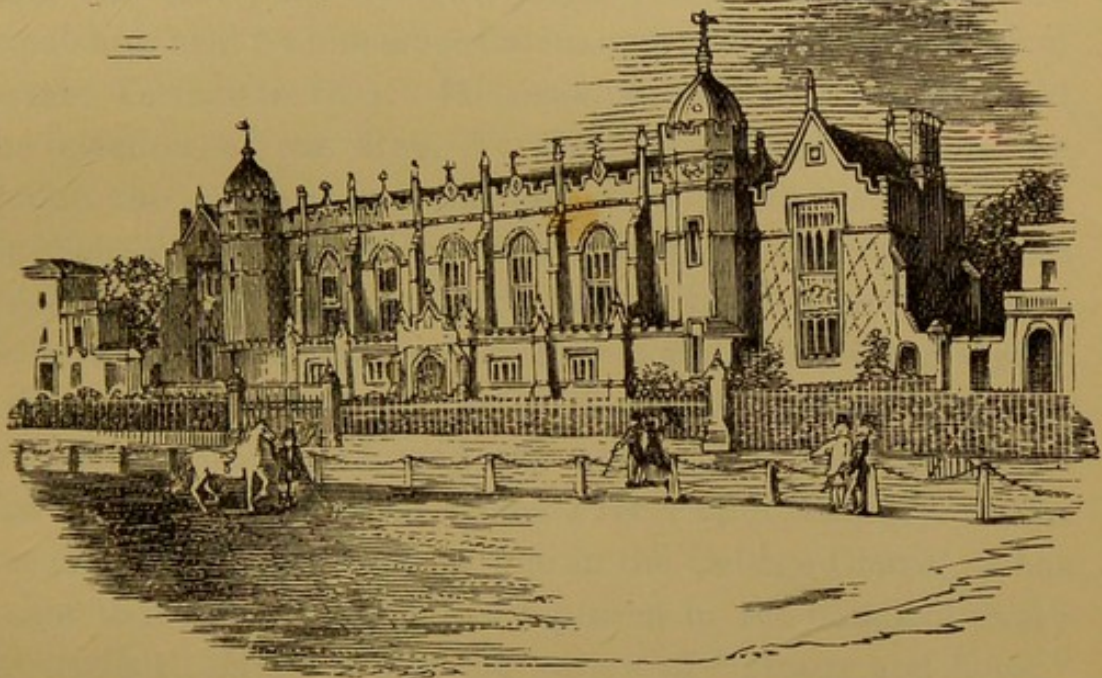
their concerts and fêtes were unrivalled ; and the archery meetings, admirably arranged in the first instance by the late Mr. N. Merridew, and afterwards by Mr. H. Bown, attracted archers from all parts of the kingdom. In 1896, through the action of Mr. Councillor J. Heath Stubbs,* the property passed into the hands of the Corporation under the Local Act of that year, since when the public have been admitted free on three days in each week. The principal gardeners have been Messrs. Cullis, Aylott, and Dell, to each of whom praise is due for the culture which has characterised their services. On Mr. Aylott's work it is hardly possible to bestow exaggerated praise, for commencing his duties in 1850, he had to develope and perfect plans which were then in a crude state. Through failing health he resigned in 1878, much to the regret of the Committee, who, to retain his services, offered to provide an assistant. He was, however, unable to avail himself of their kindness, and consequently his connection with the Gardens of twenty-eight years was brought to a close. A resolution was adopted by the Committee expressing their appreciation of the efficient manner in which he had discharged his duties, and substantial grants out of the funds were made to him and Mrs. Aylott.

* See page 202-3.

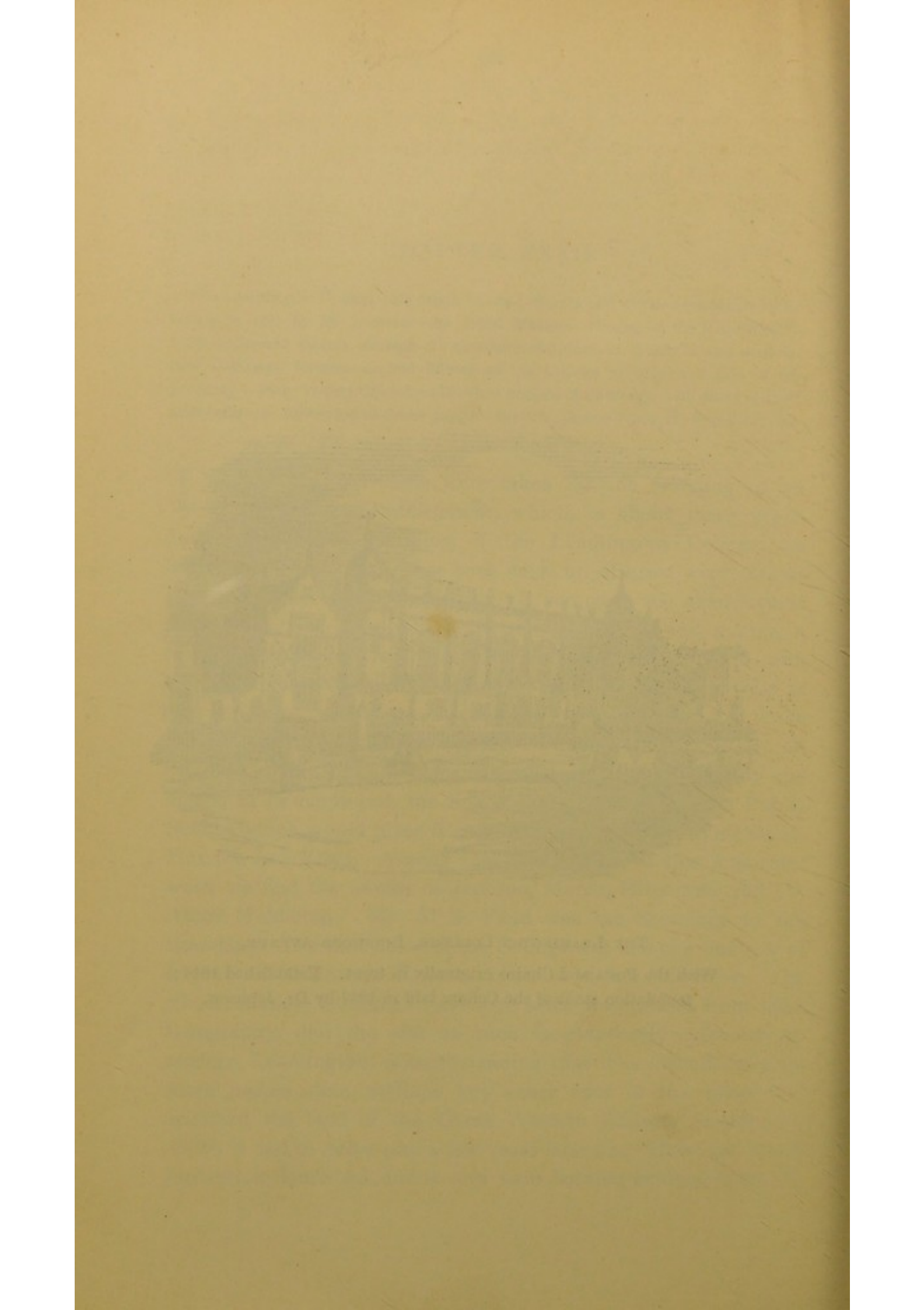
CHAPTER XXXII.

The Leamington College—its origin in 1844, objects and work—foundation stone laying in 1847 by Dr. Jephson—the Head Masters—closing of the Institution in 1865—reopened mainly through the exertions of Alderman Wackrill, and proprietary Company formed—second failure of the College in 1902, and sale of the property.—Holy Trinity Church—historical notices of its clergy, with dates of their appointment—formation of a new parish—the Rev. Canon Flory, the first Vicar, etc.

IN 1844 the first steps were taken for the founding of an Educational Establishment, which, in about three years, developed into the building of the Leamington College, an institution whose history has been made up of great expectations and still greater disappointments. A company was then formed to provide "for the sons of the nobility, clergy and gentry, a sound classical and mathematical education in accordance with the principles of the Established Church." Leamington was at this period sadly deficient in scholastic arrangements suited to the requirements of the classes named. Public approbation was on the side of the new movement, and it was hoped that by the means to be employed, the Spa eventually would have a Public School which would place it on a level with Rugby, Winchester, Harrow and Eton. Among the local leaders of this important work we find the names of Jephson, Marsh, Hitchman, and Dr. Amos Middleton. Mr. A. S. Field was the Secretary to the Company. The first home of the College was one of a fine row of houses, called Eastnor Terrace in honour of Lord Eastnor. The whole of these buildings have long since disappeared from local topography, and the site as such is practically unknown to modern Leamington, notwithstanding that it is visited daily by more people than perhaps any other spot in the town. It occupied the land of the Great Western Railway Station, for which it had to make way a few years later on. Here the young institution flourished, and it very soon became evident, from the



THE LEAMINGTON COLLEGE, BINSWOOD AVENUE,
With the Posts and Chains originally in front. Established 1844 ;
foundation stone of the College laid in 1847 by Dr. Jephson.



increasing number of pupils, that a new building of large proportions would be necessary. In 1846 the land in Binswood Avenue was purchased, and on April 7, 1847, a large concourse of influential residents proceeded from the Regent Hotel to the site, where Dr. Jephson, in the presence of several thousands of spectators, laid amid general rejoicings, the foundation stone of the recent College, which had an inscription of which the following is a free translation :—" Henry Jephson, M.D., laid this foundation stone of Leamington College, an Institution dedicated to Sacred and polite literature—a work long desired and long needed—on the 7th of April, 1847, which undertaking may the Almighty bless and prosper."

It was built in the Tudor style of architecture, and was opened in 1848, the Rev. W. Wright, LL.D., D.C.L., retaining the Principalship, held by him since the inauguration of the institution in Eastnor Terrace in 1844. His resignation in 1851 was followed by the election of the Rev. T. Burbidge, LL.D., on whose suggestion the College was changed from a Proprietary into a Public School. Dr. Burbidge was a man of great energy, and besides enjoying the respect and confidence of all connected with the College, he won a large measure of popularity by the vigour with which he supported the Rev. E. Clay in his advocacy of the Early Closing Movement, and the enthusiasm with which he worked for the establishment of the Free Public Library. Of a volume of sermons, preached by him in the College Chapel, it has been said that a copy ought to be placed in the hands of every young student. He was also the author of "Hours and Days," a collection of poems favourably noticed in the Press. In 1862 he resigned, and the Rev. E. St. John Parry, of Winchester School, was appointed to the post, the duties of which he discharged until the College was closed in 1865 for the want of adequate support. While the property was in the market and its future doubtful, Mr. S. T. Wackrill, by prompt action, succeeded in forming a Limited Liability Company, who purchased and started it again on a more comprehensive basis. Mr. J. Fenn Clarke was hon. secretary and member of the first Council, with the Rev. T. Bromley, Drs. T. A. Carter, R. Slack, and T. Thomson, Major Machen and Colonel Purvis, Messrs. S. T. Wackrill, W. A. Adams, Strachan Davidson,

E. Goold, W. Hannay, A. Jepson, C. E. Large, A. Bernard, H. Broughton and H. Mulliner. The new head master was the Rev. J. W. Johnson, who commenced his duties in 1867, and, in consequence of some disagreement, retired in 1870. From that year until 1890 the College was under the direction of the Rev. Dr. J. Wood, and many were the important improvements of that time, chief among which were the additions of the cricket ground, chapel, organ, library, gymnasium, sanatorium, fives courts, etc. Dr. Wood was appointed Principal at Tunbridge School in 1890, and his successor was Mr. W. J. Ford, of cricketing celebrity, who resigned in 1893, when the Rev. R. Arnold Edgell, M.A., of University College, Oxford, was elected, and a new era of prosperity commenced. He was also Chairman of the School Board.

Greatly to the surprise of the public the announcement was made in April, 1902, that the Council had resolved to recommend the shareholders to close the College at the end of the summer term, unless very considerable financial assistance could be found. This report, incredible at the time, was officially verified, the explanation being that the institution had been under-capitalised to such an extent since its reconstruction in 1867, that it had always been obliged to carry on its operations with borrowed money. It appeared that though the total of the nominal capital was only £8,000, barely more than one half of that sum had been subscribed, and to place the College on a thoroughly sound financial basis at least £9,000 was estimated to be necessary. Various suggestions were made for meeting the difficulty, but there was no practical response on the part of the public, and the Council, therefore, with the sanction of the shareholders, finally closed the College at the time stated. In the month of September following, the furniture and fittings were sold by auction by Messrs. Hawkes and Foster, but the organ was reserved for private treaty with the Town Council, who were expected to purchase it for the large Assembly Room at the Town Hall. The Smith-Ryland and Beaumont gifts to the library, comprising 1,294 choice classical works of the value of £278 1s., were bought by Alderman S. T. Wackrill, and generously presented by him to the Free Library. Failing any other way of disposing of the

College buildings and lands, in April, 1903, they were sold to one of the Roman Catholic Orders, whose exodus from France had been rendered compulsory under the new policy of the French Government. This transfer was one of the greatest surprises ever caused in Leamington by the variations in ownerships of its churches, chapels, and other public buildings.

The next Proprietary Church to which we have to refer is that of Holy Trinity, Beauchamp Square, erected and opened by the Rev. John Craig in 1847. Dr. Young, the first incumbent, was licensed November 11 of that year. He was of Oriel College, Oxford, and came to Leamington from the Isle of Wight, where he had been Vicar of St. Helen's. In 1850 he resigned, and was presented to the Rectories of Croxton and Eltisby, Cambridgeshire. For the space of nearly seven years there was no regularly licensed minister, but the services were continued, and in 1856-7 the Rev. J. Hamilton Davies, then a curate at the Parish Church, was frequently preaching the Sunday morning sermons. On August 28, 1856, Mr. W. H. Hewitt offered the property for sale at his Mart, opposite the Bank of England. The first offer was £1,500, and the biddings having advanced as high as £2,680 the auctioneer's hammer fell, and the edifice was disposed of at that price, the fixtures, including the organ and communion table, to be taken at £200. The Rev. W. N. Tilson Marsh was appointed incumbent on the 13th of August, 1857, and is reported also to have bought the property. He returned to Leamington from Ryde, Isle of Wight, where he had been rector of St. James's. The next minister was the Rev. A. F. Pettigrew, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Rev. W. H. Lambart succeeded to the incumbency in 1863, and in 1865 expended nearly £400 in enlarging and improving the edifice. From 1869 to 1876 the Rev. J. S. Ruddach was in office, and on his leaving for the Isle of Wight the Rev. W. Flory, formerly curate to the Rev. Charles Dallas Marston, Vicar of St. Paul's Onslow Square, South Kensington, was appointed his successor. Mr. Flory, who was ordained by the Bishop of Worcester to the curacy of St. Clements, Nechells, Birmingham, in 1870, and afterwards worked for a considerable time in St. Mary's district under the Rev. T. Bromley, preached his first sermon in the Church on Sunday,

January 7, 1877. His appointment gave great satisfaction. In 1881 some extensive improvements, designed by the late Mr. John Cundall, were carried out by Mr. T. Mills, builder, including the addition of a new choir vestry and enlargement of the north and south transepts. On completing the twentieth year of his incumbency, in January, 1897, Mr. Flory was presented with an artistically-illuminated address, bound in morocco, and lined with white satin. The pages were of vellum, the first being embossed with his coat of arms, crest and motto, and the others containing the address and some beautiful etchings of the interior and exterior of the Church. He was also given at the same time a costly silver dessert service, consisting of an epergne with two fruit and four hanging baskets, four bon-bon dishes, and six flower vases. Mrs. Flory was presented with a silver afternoon tea service "in recognition of her faithful co-operation with her husband in his earnest and faithful ministry, unfailing sympathy, kindness, and courtesy." An event in 1898 exercised an important influence on the future of the Church, besides affording further evidence of the high esteem in which Mr. Flory was held. The living of Snitterfield was offered him by his Diocesan, and with a view of inducing him to stay in Leamington an organised effort was made for obtaining the assignment of a parish to the Church. This was regarded by the Bishop and the Rev. Mr. Hook, Vicar, with favour, and as soon as the necessary endowment fund of £1,000 was raised the application was granted, and Holy Trinity Parish, with Mr. Flory as its first Vicar, was the gratifying result. The consecration service, at which there was a very large gathering of the clergy and laity, was held on November 16, 1899, the Bishop, who was attended by his chaplain, the Rev. A. Perowne, and the Registrar, Mr. Hooper, preaching a sermon special to the occasion. In the "Worcester Diocesan Calendar" for the year 1900 reference is made to the formation of the new parish of Holy Trinity as a noteworthy event, and the portrait of Mr. Flory is given as one of six clergymen who had, in various ways, "contributed greatly to the advance of Church work in the Diocese." The creation of the parish, it should be stated, had the full consent and active assistance of the Vicar of Leamington and the patron of that living. The liberality of Mr. T. Ryland, of

Moxhull Park and Erdington, and the congregation was exceptionally great; and it is extremely creditable to all that on one occasion the offertory amounted to £765 17s. 5d., while in the course of the year the magnificent sum of £5,000 was found for the purchase of the edifice, endowment, and necessary extensions and repairs. Mrs. and Miss Lea contributed £1,000 to the endowment fund, erected the chancel wall, laid the chancel with mosaics, and gave the handsome communion table. The font of alabaster is the gift of Mrs. Beloe. Subsequently Mr. Flory was appointed a Canon of Worcester Cathedral. His success is a matter of congratulation in the Borough, not less to the Nonconformist bodies than to Churchmen, with all of whom, including the working classes, he is immensely popular.

In connection with the dedication by the Bishop of Coventry in December, 1902, of the new window in the side chapel, the organ chamber and recently erected porch, some interesting statistics were given showing the extensive work which had been carried on in the parish, and the liberality of the members and congregation. It appears that during the past twenty-five years the annual sum contributed to the various offertories, etc., had been nearly £1,000, the total for the whole period amounting to £24,000, besides £17,000 given for improving, beautifying and enlarging the fabric. The subject of the window is that of the Nativity, and it is only just to state that, to the additions dedicated by his lordship, Mrs. and Miss Lea were most liberal with their donations.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Congregational Church, Holly Walk—interesting ordination service at the Music Hall, Bath Street—description of the new edifice—notices of the several pastors and general history of the cause.—St. Luke's, Augusta Place—The Rev. E. Clay and Spiritualism—the Rev. H. Fisher—sale of the property—migration of the congregation to the Holly Walk.—Introduction of the Great Western and London and North Western Railway Systems into Leamington.

DURING the month of April, 1849, the foundation stone of the Congregational Chapel, Holly Walk, was laid, and on the 25th October following, the opening sermons were preached by the Rev. John Sibree, Coventry, and the Rev. W. Forster, London. The origin of this cause was a dispute at the mother church, Spencer Street, which led to the secession of some members, and the holding of separate meetings in the Music Hall, Bath Street. The event was a forcible exemplification of the crisis which inevitably arises in the history of every free church when the pulpit becomes empty, and of which Mr. James says nothing can happen that places its interests in greater peril. The Rev. Mr. Pope, having resigned the pastorate, removed to Torquay, and it was during his absence that the unity of the church and congregation was broken. A more eligible site than that chosen for the new building could not easily have been found. The surroundings were pleasant, and the neighbourhood thickly populated; the structure itself was an agreeable contrast in its external appearance to the stereotyped plaster, or stucco work, so characteristic of every other sacred edifice in Leamington at that time, excepting the Parish Church. The style of architecture belongs to the period of Henry VII. The front elevation is composed of pressed red brick, relieved with diagonal lines of blue, with Bath stone dressings for the windows, doors, buttresses, and walls. There are two entrance doors—one on each side—and in the centre of the elevation a fine window of five traceried

lights. Two substantial ornamental buttresses, separating the windows from the doors, are continued to the roof, where they terminate in crocketed pinnacles and fineals. The gable is surmounted with an enriched stone cross. The length of the building from north to south is seventy-two feet, including the schoolroom, and the width from east to west forty-seven feet. The interior was most comfortably fitted up with open seats, and with the gallery at the north end, provided accommodation for about six hundred persons. An ornamental desk, placed on a dais, approached by five steps on each side and in front, was the pulpit. Mr. D. G. Squirhill, to whom must be awarded special commendation for designing the most cheerful and comfortable edifice of the kind in Leamington at that period, was the architect.

The section who separated from Spencer Street Church held their first services in the Clemens Street Chapel, which was vacated by the original congregation in 1836, when, with their pastor, Mr. Pope, they went to Spencer Street. Their first minister was the Rev. Henry Batchelor, of Cheshunt College. In consequence of the building in Clemens Street failing to provide the necessary accommodation, Mr. Batchelor and his friends removed to the Music Hall, Bath Street, in April, 1848, where in the ensuing month of September he was ordained to the ministry. This being the second service of the kind in Leamington,* the Assembly Room was crowded, the congregation including a number of members of the Church of England. There were upwards of twenty Dissenting ministers present, among whom were the Revs. J. W. Percy, Warwick; J. Caston, Stratford-on-Avon; E. Bates, Mill Street, Leamington; J. Sibree and N. Branton, Coventry; W. Forster, E. Miall and H. J. Morris, London. In the course of his replies to the usual questions, Mr. Batchelor said his first sermon was preached to under one hundred persons, and nineteen members formed the nucleus of his church. Since then the roll of membership had risen to between forty and fifty and the usual congregations filled that room, sometimes inconveniently so. The Rev. John Sibree, who

* The first ordination of a Dissenting minister in Leamington was that of Mr. Pope at Clemens Street Chapel, April 28, 1829.— See page 86.

preached one of the sermons at the inauguration of the new chapel, was remarkable for his steadfast adherence to the principles of Independency, his liberality and labour to promote their success, and his varied gifts of head and heart, tongue and pen. He received his ministerial training in Hoxton College, and was appointed pastor of Vicar Lane Chapel, Coventry, in 1820, but though resident in that city he displayed an exceptional interest in the maintenance of Congregationalism at Leamington, and besides attending nearly all the most important gatherings, he re-established the cause at Clemens Street in 1866, at his own expense, and for a comparatively brief period occupied the pulpit there. During his ministry he wrote and published a number of tracts and larger works, one of which—"Independency in Warwickshire"—in the preparation of which he had the assistance of Mr. Caston, attained great popularity. In 1861 he visited the Holy Land, and on his return home, under the title of "Eastern Travels," delivered a series of lectures which attracted, instructed and delighted large audiences. He died at Foleshill, near Coventry, in April, 1877, aged eighty-one years, venerated by his co-religionists, and held in high esteem by all.

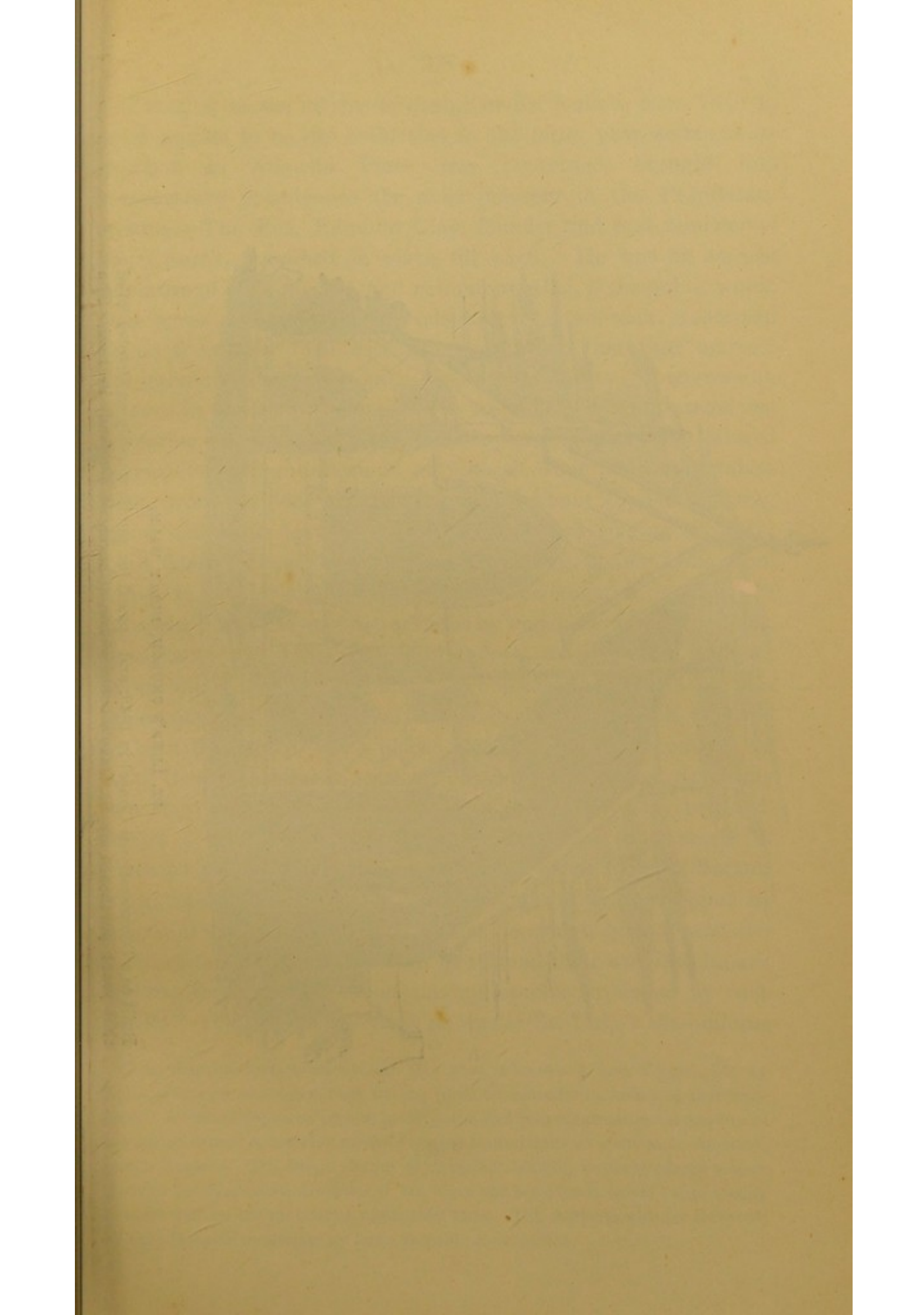
Mr. Batchelor having accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church, Fetter Lane, London, resigned in 1851, and in 1853 the Rev. J. Hamilton Davies, of Sherbourne, was elected. His ministry was of short duration, for in consequence of his views undergoing some change, he resigned in April, 1855, and on February 17, 1856, was ordained by the Bishop of Worcester, and in the following month he preached his first sermon as one of the curates at the Parish Church. It would be idle to deny that this unexpected event was a heavy disappointment to the young cause. Mr. Davies was a fine, gentlemanly-looking man; portly, with gifts and graces in the pulpit vouchsafed to few. He was a member of the Hebrew Literature Society, and generally his scholastic attainments were extensive and sound. With the exception of a period of sixteen months, during which he was acting as senior curate at Holy Trinity, Coventry, he remained at the Parish Church until 1872, popular as a preacher, a lecturer, an indefatigable worker for the good of the town, and especially useful as Chairman of the Free Library Committee. In 1874 he

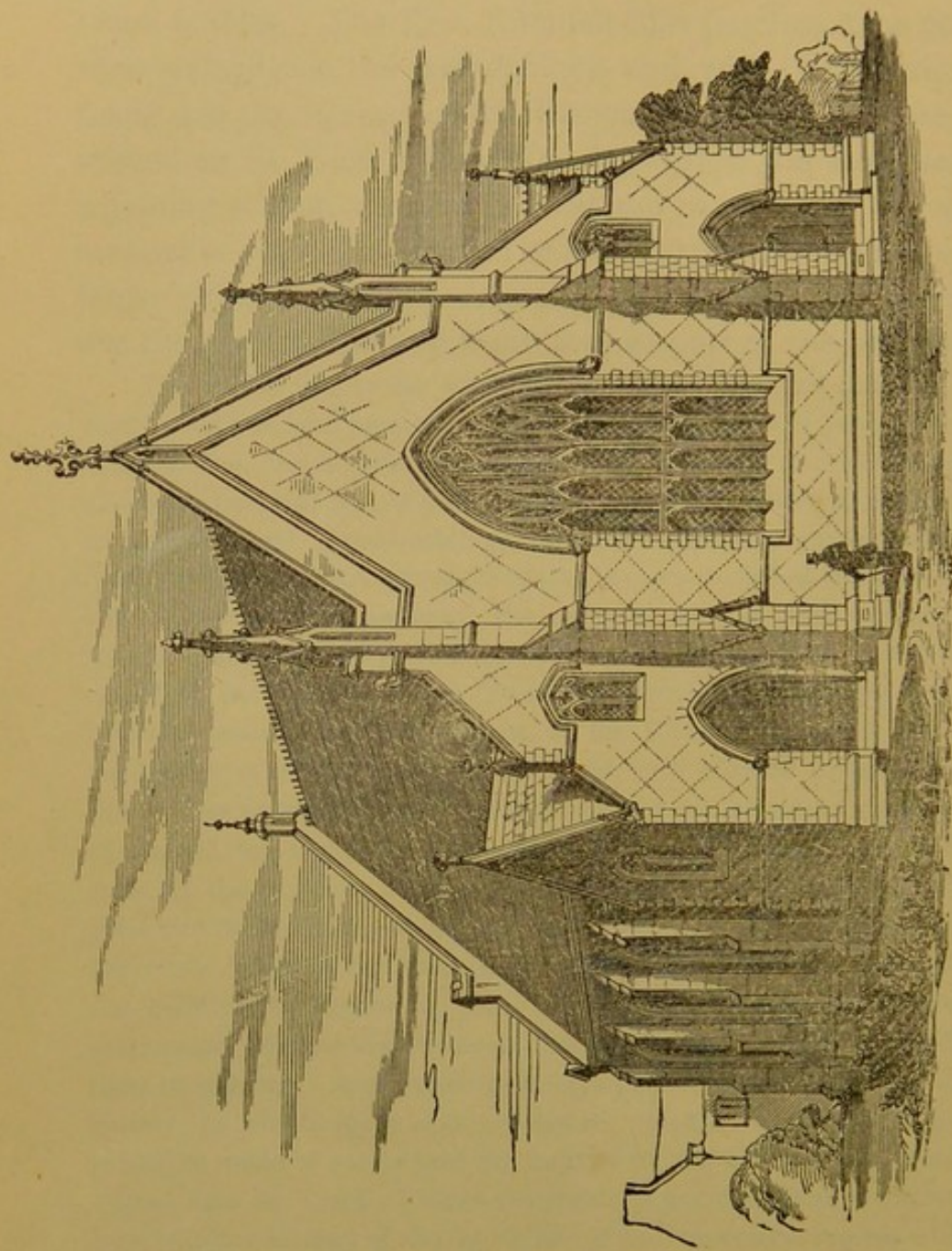
was presented to the living of St. Nicholas, Worcester, where he passed the remainder of his life. The Rev. J. Key, of Cheshunt College, succeeded him at the Holly Walk in July, 1856, but he retired in two years, and after Mr. Sibree had conducted the services for three months, the Rev. T. Slade Jones, of Rotherham College, was elected. The next minister was the Rev. C. S. Sturrock, B.A., who resigned in 1863 through failing health, and was followed by the Rev. W. Slater. In 1868 he removed to the Vineyard Chapel, Bath, and was succeeded by the Rev. F. S. Attenborough, who came to Leamington from Uckfield, and preached his first sermon in the Holly Walk Chapel in March, 1869. Under his ministry the church prospered, and signal proofs were given of the esteem in which he was held. He was an attractive speaker on the platform, and an able preacher in the pulpit. For many years he was a member of the Free Library Committee, and he originated the idea of the juvenile department, the literature of which has always been a source of much enjoyment and instruction to young Leamington. For some time before Mr. J. E. M. Vincent disposed of the "Leamington Chronicle," he was a regular contributor to the editorial department of that paper, and subsequently became its proprietor and editor, holding at the same time the editorship of the "English Labourers' Chronicle," the organ of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, in addition to which he was treasurer to that organisation. His death, deeply lamented by all classes, occurred in October, 1879, at the early age of thirty-seven. During his illness arrangements were made for the transfer of the cause at Holly Walk to Spencer Street. A minority, however, dissenting from the plan of amalgamation, elected the Rev. D. Lloyd Jenkins as pastor, who removed to Chichester in September, 1883; the Rev. Mr. Tuck succeeded to the vacant pastorate, and the services were continued for some time with but slender support. In 1895 the property was sold to St. Luke's Church and Congregation, Augusta Place, and Independency retired, probably for ever, at any rate for many years to come, from a most eligible position on the north bank of the Leam—the largest, the wealthiest, the most thickly populated and prosperous part of the borough.

St. Luke's Episcopal Chapel, Augusta Place, was built in 1850, on land which had previously been used for two important, and, at the time, most prosperous local trades. About the year 1832 Stephen Peasnall, a plumber in a very large way of business, had his establishment there, and he was followed by Mr. Hoadley, a coach builder. The Rev. Edmund Clay purchased the property in 1850, demolished the manufactory, and, with the sanction of Mr. Craig and the licence of the Bishop, St. Luke's was erected and opened on St. Luke's Day (October 18) in the same year. The adjoining schoolroom was built at the same time. An early and somewhat scarce illustration of the Chapel shows that neither the large circular window formerly to be seen in the elevation, nor the present doors in front, formed part of the original design.

"The edifice was in the Early English style, and had accommodation for about four hundred persons. There were three rows of pews in the body of the building, and a gallery extending along the north and west sides in which about one hundred and fifty sittings were provided. Three lancet windows were at the north end of the building, and eight in the east or principal front facing Augusta Place, which was surmounted by an enriched cornice terminating with a battlemented parapet, the external facings and ornaments of the Chapel being finished in Roman cement with a neatly-executed cross introduced at each gable. Both the communion table and pulpit were, from the peculiar position and dimensions of the Chapel, placed in the south, the enclosed area of the former being paved with Minton ornamental encaustic tiles. The principal timbers of the roof and the internal fittings, which were of stained deal varnished, were completed with tracery to suit the general style of the building; the north and west galleries were supported by six clustered pillars of like material, and the floors of the aisles and lobbies were composed of partly coloured tiles. Ample provision was made for warming the building by means of flues, and effective ventilation secured by four ornamental perforations in the ceiling from which was suspended a twelve-light chandelier. A suitable organ occupied a portion of the north side of the gallery, to which there was a separate entrance by a flight of stairs. The principal mode of access into the interior of the Chapel was from Academy Place—now St. Luke's Place—through a convenient lobby which was lighted by a window formed of neatly stained glass. A vestry, replete with the usual accompaniments, communicated with the Chapel by a door on the west side, near to the Communion table."

The opening services were plain, and consisted of a sermon in the morning by the Rev. J. Craig, and another in the evening by the new clergyman, the Rev. E. Clay, with congregational psalmody on each occasion.





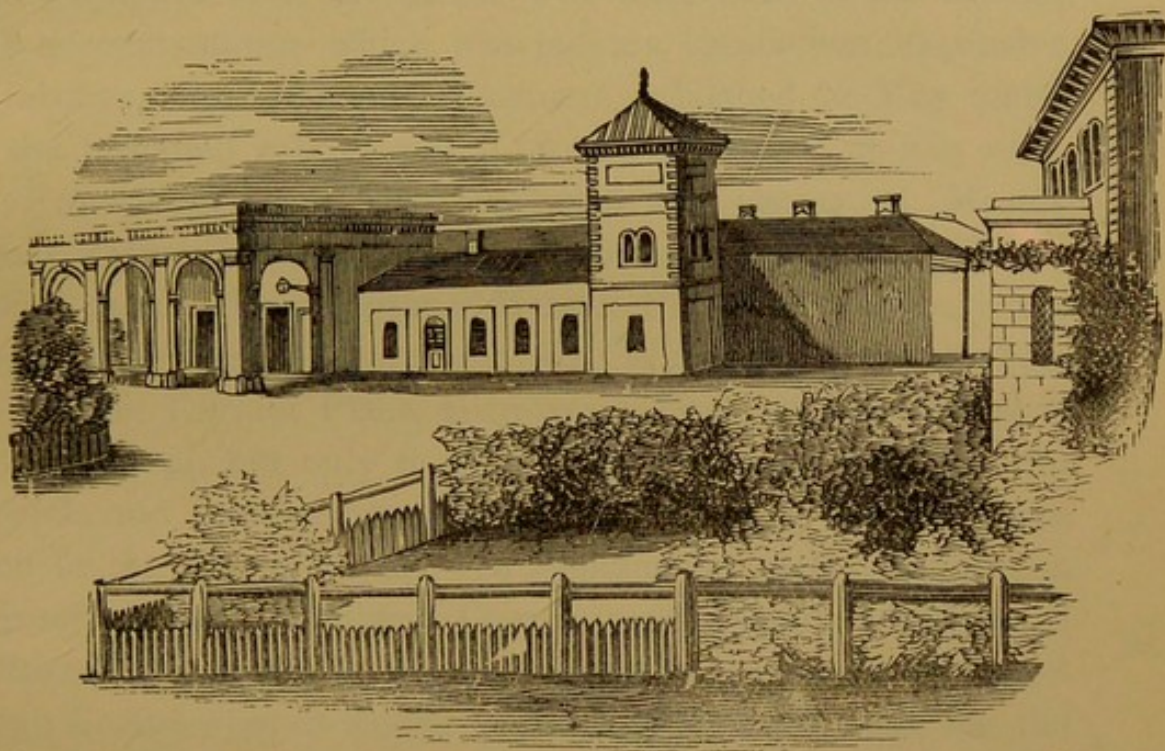
ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HOLLY WALK.

Built as a Congregational Chapel in 1849, and opened for public worship on October 25 of that year; purchased by St. Luke's congregation (Church of England) in 1895. The dedicatory services were held on February 16, 1896.

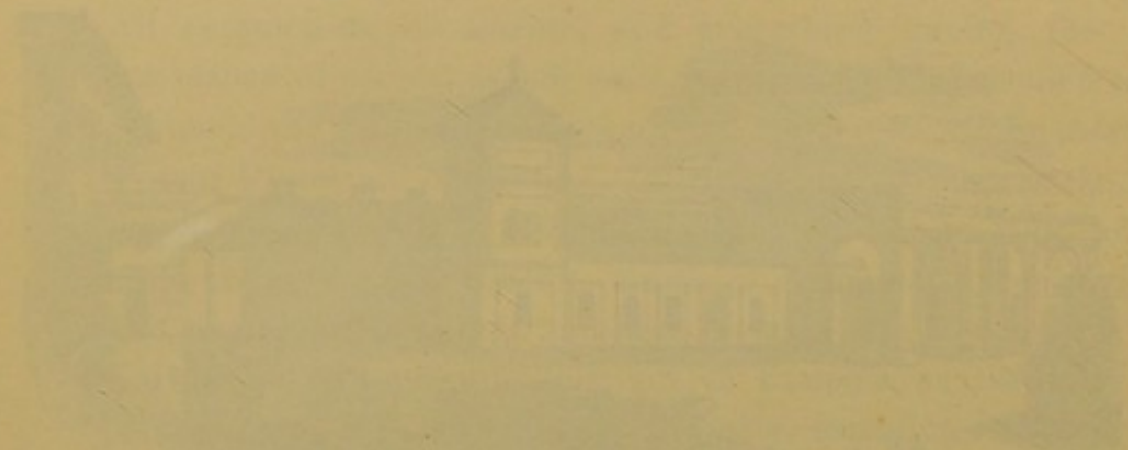
Tranquil as the course of events at St. Luke's, from 1850 to 1896 proved to be, its extinction in the latter year, so far as its position in Augusta Place was concerned, brought into unnecessary prominence the evils inherent in the Proprietary system. The Rev. Edmund Clay, founder and first minister of the Church, remained in office till 1856. He was an earnest advocate of early closing, and pointed out that, if the public would only agree not to purchase goods after a certain hour, tradesmen would soon close their establishments when that time arrived. On table-turnings and spirit-rappings, subjects of engrossing interest in the fifties, he appears to have been far too credulous, accepting as established and incontrovertible facts, the alleged extraordinary manifestations at seances, such as heavy tables rising from the floor and turning over without anyone touching them, hand-bells leaving the mantelpiece and ringing violently while floating about the room near the ceiling, chairs flying from corner to corner with a velocity which endangered the safety of all present, and answers to questions by knockings under the floor, remarkable for some successful efforts at emphasis and an appreciation of correct spelling. In one case the movements of a table could not be prevented, although "a heavy book, believed to be a dictionary," was placed upon it, but the moment "a small Greek Testament" was substituted its caperings gave way to a staid and motionless decorum. All this Mr. Clay believed, as did several other clergymen of that time, and scores of educated people besides, but he held the cause to be of Satanic origin, asserted that consulting familiar spirits was prohibited by scriptural authority, and, as a further deterrent, quoted statistics showing the large number who had found their way into lunatic asylums through their minds having become unhinged by such studies.* During the six years he was at St. Luke's the building

* In doctrine and ceremonial he was what is known as Low Church, but in Spiritualism he was high enough for the most enthusiastic believers in that hazy faith. A lecture delivered by him in 1853 attracted general attention on account of the extraordinary statements made of alleged transactions at séances in America, and in England. Mr. Bright (father of Alderman Bright) publicly offered to give £100 to the Warneford Hospital if Mr. Clay and his friends would cause a table to move without the application of physical force. The challenge was not accepted, and the Hospital consequently lost a valuable contribution.

was enlarged and improved three times. Retiring in 1856, to the sincere regret of his congregation, who presented him with an affectionate address, he removed to Brighton, where he held the Incumbency of St. Margaret's for sixteen years. His death in 1872, at the age of fifty-two, was followed by a glowing eulogy in "The Rock" on his sound Evangelical churchmanship, his arduous and effective ministry, and by a wide-spread feeling of sorrow at Brighton, in which Leamington joined. The Rev. Henry Fisher succeeded Mr. Clay at St. Luke's in 1856. Like his predecessor, he was a thorough Evangelical, and throughout the thirty-eight years of his ministry he never deviated from the utmost simplicity in his manner of celebrating divine service. All ceremonies, ornaments, and everything having the least semblance of sacerdotalism were regarded by him as alien to the genius of the Church of England, and dangerous to her safety as a great Protestant institution. At the annual lectures of the Rev. Dr. Cumming, which always crowded the Public Hall, and at other enthusiastic Protestant meetings in the same building, he was a regular attendant and was often in the chair. He was Calvinistic, though probably not so extreme as the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson; preached extemporaneously, sometimes for an hour, but without producing a sense of weariness. To the Sunday afternoon Services in the Public Hall he rendered signal assistance by numerous addresses. The new schoolrooms and formerly flourishing Day and Sunday Schools were established during the incumbency of Mr. Clay, and it is interesting to learn that the Rev. Dr. Warneford contributed £50 in aid of the building fund. Mr. Fisher died on the 21st of June, 1894, aged seventy-nine years, and had as his successor the Rev. J. W. Dance, of Old Hill. A dispute arising respecting the tenure of the premises, the Holly Walk Congregational property was purchased for £2,000, and on Sunday, February 16, 1896, Mr. Dance and his friends celebrated divine worship for the first time in their new home. Their right to establish a church in St. Paul's Parish without permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. Pargiter) was questioned, and led to an acrimonious controversy, but though the sanction was withheld, and the license of the Bishop refused, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, public



THE ORIGINAL STATION AT MILVERTON, erected in 1844, when it formed the terminus of the new line from Coventry to Warwick and Leamington.



sympathy was on the side of the ejected minister and his congregation. On May 29, 1899, Mr. J. A. Locke (late Locke, Gilbert & Co.) sold the property in Augusta Place by auction at the Crown Hotel.

The importance of efficient railway communication was recognised at an early period in the history of the town. In February, 1839, Messrs. Patterson and Hanbury issued the usual Parliamentary notices for the construction of a line from Coventry to, or near, "a certain Street or Place called Bath Place, in the Parish of Leamington Priors." Objections were raised to the scheme on various grounds, but generally speaking it had the approval of the public who were tired of the existing coach accommodation which was tedious, insufficient, expensive, and inconvenient. An advertisement published in May stated that the proposed capital was £180,000 in shares of £25 each. The Provisional Committee included the names of Messrs. Thomas Verner, William Marshall, Thomas Bryan and William Watkin, each of Leamington; Messrs. Patterson, Hanbury and Chinery, were the solicitors, and Mr. William Hodgson, whose office was in Dormer Place, secretary. The line was opened in December, 1844, but only to Milverton, the terminal station for Warwick and Leamington forming part of the present goods station in the Rugby Road. In September, 1846, the London and North Western Railway Company purchased the whole of the shares at a premium, and in 1847 commenced an extension through Leamington to Rugby. Mr. Robert Stephenson was the engineer-in-chief of the new work, with Mr. R. Dockray second in command at Euston, and Mr. E. Dixon as residents. The late Mr. John Hart was contractor for the bridges across the Leam and the one over High Street, to make way for which, and the railway, Copps's Royal Hotel and Curtis's Baths were demolished. Originally the bridge in High Street was of lattice wood work covered with an iron roof, and had an ornamental entrance at each end resting on the present abutments. This new portion of the line was opened in February, 1851, the completion of the works being celebrated by a banquet at the Regent Hotel. In 1861 the bridge in High Street had to be supported by ponderous pillars in the middle of the road; the following year it was pulled

down by Mr. W. Gascoyne and the present structure supplied. The first Avenue Station, an "inconvenient wooden shed," was superseded in 1860 by the existing extensive buildings occupying the site below that on which it stood; and on May 1, 1883, the new station in the Warwick Road, Milverton, was substituted for that in the Rugby Road—the terminus of the branch from Coventry in 1844.

A few years after the above was opened steps were taken for completing the Oxford and Birmingham Railway, now known as the Great Western. About the year 1848 Mr. I. K. Brunel, the famous railway engineer, commenced the cutting at Harbury, then the largest in England, and ever since the favourite resort of geologists on account of its rich and rare fossiliferous deposits and generally instructive stratifications. In 1850 the section between Oxford and Banbury was opened; in 1851 the works in Leamington, including the erection of the Great Western station on the site of the original Eastnor Terrace, were commenced, and in 1852 the extension from Oxford to Birmingham was officially inaugurated, the proceedings in connection with which comprised a chapter of accidents as strange as ever occurred in the history of railway enterprise. On October 1, a special train leaving Paddington at nine a.m. with a number of the Directors, Officials and their friends, at Aynho ran into a composite goods and passenger train standing in the station in consequence of a coupling chain having snapped while the officials were endeavouring to clear the line for it to pass. Both trains were damaged, several passengers injured and the traffic stopped for a considerable time. To prevent the whole of the credit of this performance being given the engine driver, it should be stated that Mr. I. K. Brunel, the consulting engineer, and Mr. Gooch, superintendent of the locomotive department, were with him on the engine at the time of the collision, to each of whom belongs, at least, a share of the honours. At Birmingham another accident brought the disasters of the day, so far as numbers went, up to a record point. An engine proceeding to take in water preparatory to conveying a party of invited guests to Leamington, left the rails and caused a delay of three hours and a half in starting. The banquet at the Regent Hotel, announced for three o'clock,

was not commenced till four-thirty, and though the penance of waiting so long doubtless increased the appetites of the diners, it could hardly have sweetened their tempers. The Birmingham visitors did not arrive until five-thirty, when the best of everything had disappeared. Hunger, however, is a sauce which will impart a relish to even the coarsest food, and after the prospect they had of losing the whole of a sumptuous banquet, a portion could not have failed to afford them gratification. The speeches were a strange admixture of congratulations, condolences and commonplaces, to which "The Times" added the following comments:—

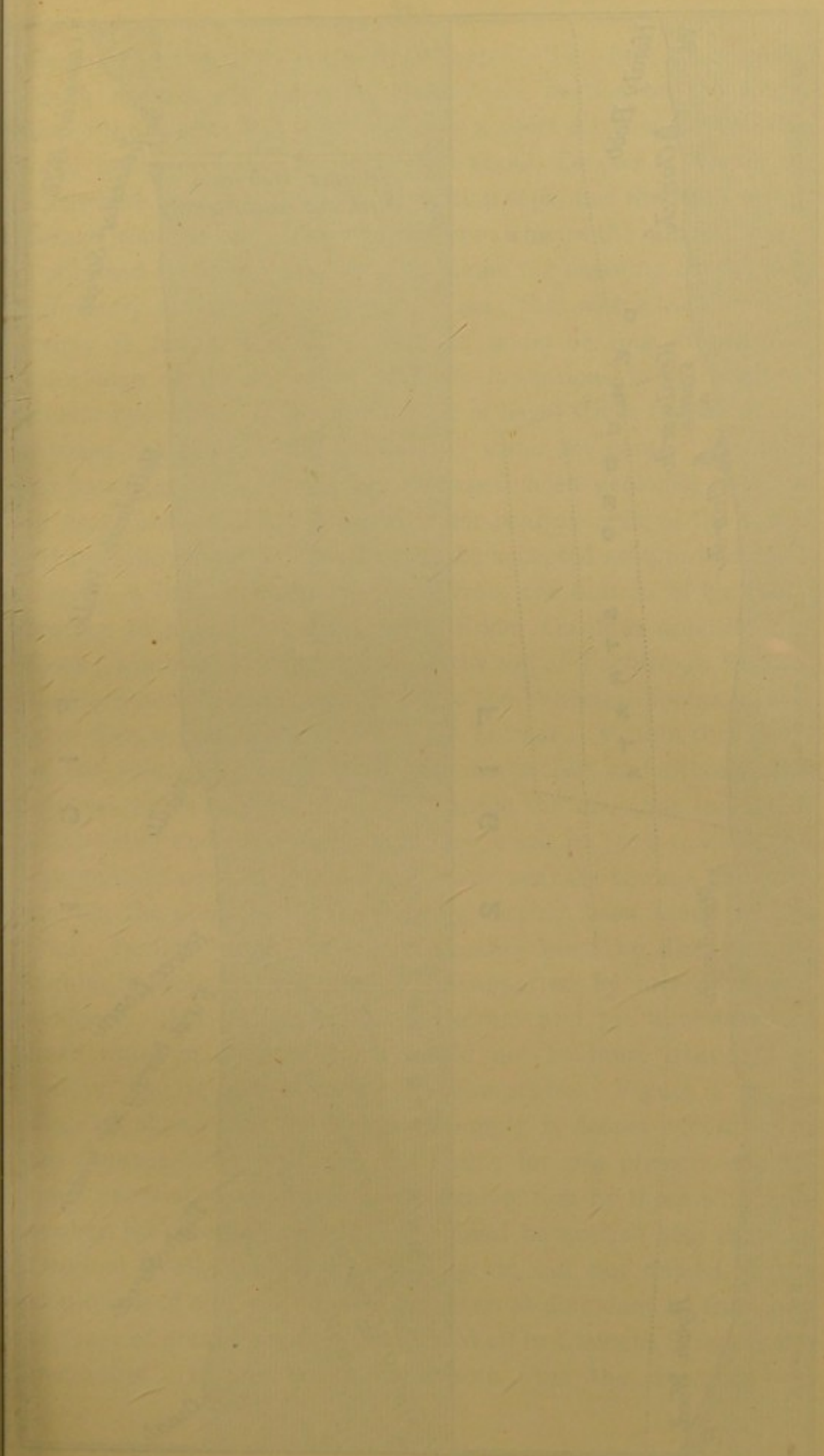
"It must be some consolation to the public to find the Directors are as careless of their own lives as of theirs. We are afraid that the festivities at the Regent, at Leamington (and the return home, which occupied more than five and a half hours in travelling 105 miles) would be flat and distasteful to the ladies and gentlemen who received so striking a proof of the uncertainty of life and the risk of the mode of travelling they had adopted. One may excuse a friend if he fail to give us all the amusement we anticipate; but charity herself could hardly forgive the man who asks you to a party of pleasure and breaks your bones, or frightens you out of your wits."

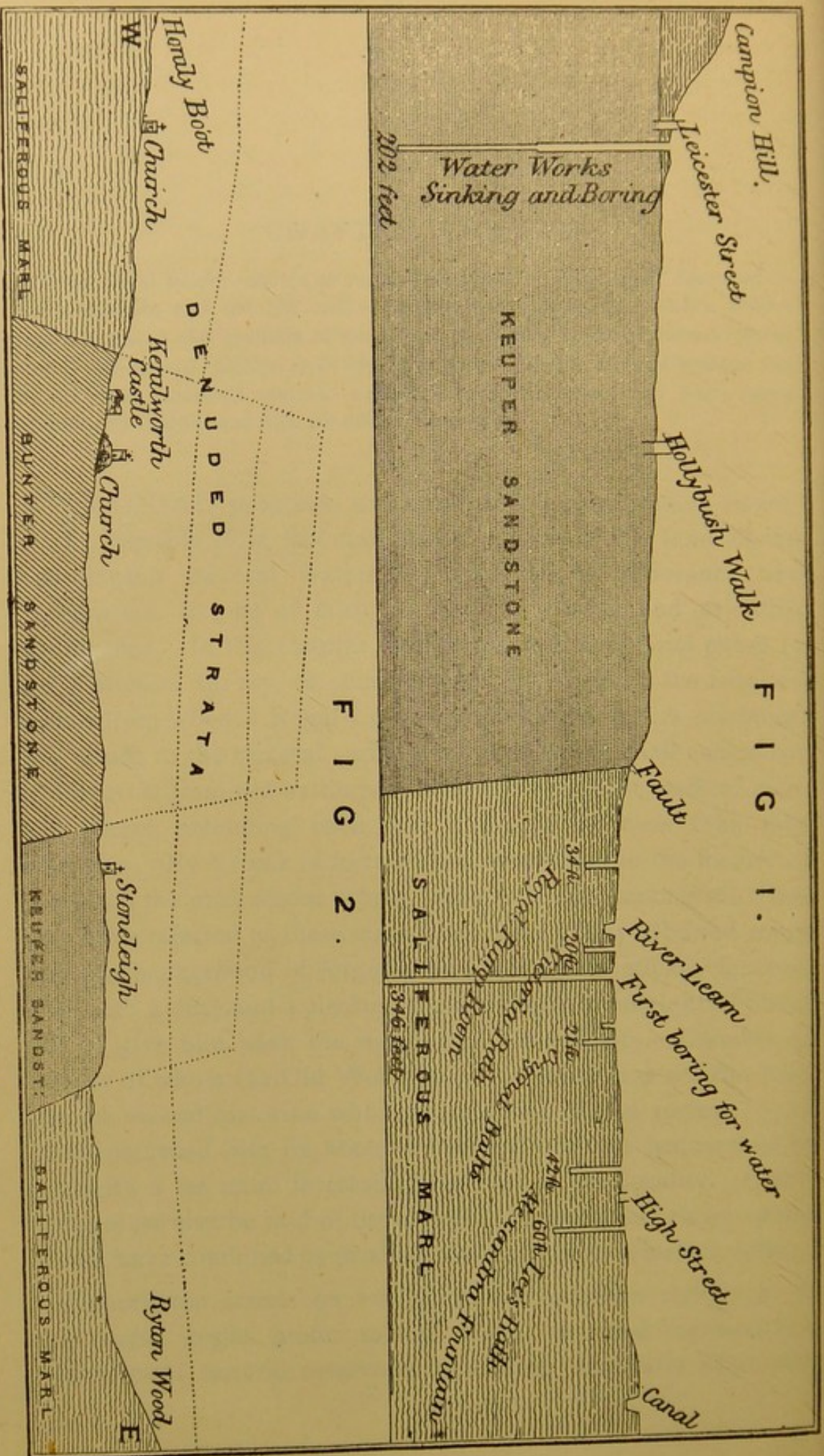
CHAPTER XXXIV.

The mineral waters—source of supply—the ancient "sperringys" described by Rous—Camden and the old well—Dugdale's version—quaint Fuller's ditto—speculations on the qualities of the Water by Blome, Guidot, Thomas, Short, Ratty, and Russell—Dilkes, or Dawkes, the dipper—alleged cures of hydrophobia by the water—Lambe's analysis—services of Allen, Johnstone and Kerr—Amos Middleton's analysis and rules for taking the waters.

GRADUAL progress, originally by degrees almost imperceptibly slow, has marked the growth of the fame of the Leamington mineral waters from an age of ignorance and superstition, to one of faith, founded on reason and scientific intelligence. In this chapter we purpose making a brief pause in our historical survey, to consider a subject which is the fountain source from whence Royal Leamington Spa derives its existence. We allude to the mineral springs, whose story we shall endeavour to construct from the writings of historians, eminent medical men, and others, extending back over a period of more than four centuries. By a freak of fortune, not uncommon in the history of mankind, the man whose proper position is first among all those who have referred to these waters has been gently elbowed away into the background of forgetfulness, and systematically ignored. It is both a duty and a pleasure to restore him to his rightful place, and to give him back the insignia of his seniority. Camden, in honour of whom the Old Well has been named, was not the first, but the second historian who made mention of that spring. John Rous preceded him by about a century, and has bequeathed to posterity a far more interesting account of the locality. Something must also be said of the sources of supply, and those causes which have combined to produce waters of such priceless value.

Leamington stands on two great subterranean rivers, or, as the reader might prefer to call them, vast and inexhaustible underground natural reservoirs, one being constantly filled with





F I G 2 .

DIAGRAM OF THE LEAMINGTON FRESH AND SALT, OR MINERAL WATER SPRINGS.

Copied by permission of the Warwickshire Naturalists' and Archaeological Field Club, from the paper on "The Triassic Formation in Warwickshire," by Mr. C. Twamley, F.G.S.

mineral and the other with fresh water. The first of these is chiefly beneath the old town, namely, the portion on the south side of the Leam; but it also extends a short distance beyond the north bank, probably as far as Newbold Terrace. There, or somewhere near, a fault in the formation separates the fresh water storage from the salt. The stratum from whence the mineral water is obtained is called "saliferous," a name the meaning of which is sufficiently obvious without explanation; that where the domestic supply is found, the "Keuper," or water-bearing stones. A knowledge of the existence of these formations is of infinitely greater importance than any number of hazel-sticks twirled about between the thumbs and fingers of "water diviners." It might not be an easy task for any but an experienced geologist to draw an exact outline of the mineral water-bearing area of the town, but the following rough sketch may be accepted as approximately correct—a line extended westward from the bottom of Newbold Terrace to a point in the Pump Room Gardens opposite the Kiosk; southward over the river to the top of Tachbrook Street; eastward across Brunswick Street to the Whitnash footpath, and from thence northward to Newbold Terrace. Within this space all our principal springs have been discovered, and although the mineral water may be met with outside the line thus indicated, southwards and westwards, as in fact it was in 1872-3, when the Corporation were boring for fresh water near the sewage pumping station, the story of a saline spring having been found in the South Parade (now Clarendon Avenue) must be discarded as highly improbable and totally unsupported by any creditable evidence. Having regard to the strata and the abundance of fresh water in the locality, it would not be more irrational to believe that it was a spring of champagne. Figure 1 in the diagram shows that the source of supply is deeper according to the distance of the well from the river; for this phenomenon we have never seen any satisfactory explanation by those who have studied the question closely. It should be noticed also that the Original Well, marked in the diagram but not named, is the shallowest of all; yet its yield has been as abundant as from any of those of greater depth. Smart's Well in Clemens Street is not mentioned; it was the most remote from the river, and in

accordance with the law governing the other springs, it was the deepest—seventy feet. The one in Charlotte Street is also omitted, but no particulars are extant of this spring.

John Rous, the “fader” of Warwickshire historians, was a Priest, who, dying at the Chantry, Guy’s Cliffe, in 1491, left several important works for the benefit of his country, only two of which have been preserved—the “Chronicon de Regibus Angliæ,” and an account of the Earls of Warwick, commonly known as the “Rows Rol.” In the latter, published, it is conjectured, about 1480, is the following passage, singularly beautiful in its old world setting of quaint spelling and phraseology, and of special value as a picture of the Leamington saline springs more than four hundred years ago:—“Wyth in lytyll more then a mylle from Warwik is a salt well and many sperringys about hyt where myght be made many wells and have salt watyr rennyng therowt the yere and the Reuer of Lemyn that rynys by of time flows ouer hem.” From this we learn that in the fifteenth century there were numerous springs besides the principal one now known as the “Old Well,” and that the supply was considered sufficient to provide for several other wells without intermission. Walter Bailey, Queen Elizabeth’s physician, who in 1572 was in attendance when she visited Warwick, published, in 1582, a description of the chalybeate springs of Newnham Regis without making the slightest allusion to those at Leamington. As the roads were in such a bad state that her Majesty could not pass through the village, his silence may be explainable by his having had no opportunity of inspecting them. After Rous came Camden, the “Varro, Strabo, and Pausanias” of his age, at the respectable distance of about a century (1586). In his “Britannia” he speaks of “Leamington (so called of Leame, a small brooke that wandereth through this part of the shire), where there boileth out a spring of salt water” (*Ubi fons salsus ebullit*). Speed, the next historian of note quoted in this connection, carries the subject no further, but simply remarks in his “Theatre of Great Britain” (1606) that “at Leamington, so far from the Sea, a Spring of salt-water boileth up.” At this time there was only a glimmering of light as to the medicinal character of the English mineral waters, but in 1636, Dudley, the

third Lord North, in his "Exonerations," brought the subject prominently before the public, and in so doing materially advanced the healing and health-preserving art. "The use of Tunbridge and Epsom waters for health and cure," he says, "I made known to London and the King's people. The Spa is a chargeable and inconvenient journey to sick bodies, besides the money it carries out of the kingdom, and inconvenient to religion." "It were well, remarks Moncrieff, "if this consideration were duly weighed by travellers in the present day when seeking for health and pleasure across the channel," and to this opinion all will readily subscribe who know anything of the value of the Leamington waters. The next notice occurs in Dugdale's "Antiquities of Warwickshire," published in 1656, where, in this particular, our great county historian can only be considered as having approached the simple grandeur of Homer when he was in one of his nodding humours. After some valuable information respecting ancient Leamington, he proceeds, "All that is further observable touching this Place is that nigh to the East End of the Church there is a Spring of Salt-water (not above a stones-throw from the River *Leame*) whereof the inhabitants make much Use for seasoning of Meat." Here Dugdale is in error as to the situation of the well and the quality of the water, the former being at the west end of the Church, and the latter possessing no power such as that attributed. But assuming that he was in a drowsy state of mind when he thus blundered in his description, Moncrieff must have been snoring heavily at the time he attempted to correct him, for after quoting him as having said that the spring was "nigh to the *west* end of the Church," which would have been correct, he asserts that the statement is "inaccurate, the spring lying to the East of the Church." In 1662 Fuller in his "History of the Worthies of Great Britain," "with his usual originality of thought and singularity of phrase," thus alluded to the subject:—"At Leamington, two miles from Warwick, there issueth out, within a stride of the womb of the earth, two twin springs, as different in taste and operation as Jacob and Esau in disposition, the one salt the other fresh. This the meanest countryman does plainly see by their effects which it would puzzle a consultation of physicians to assign the cause thereof." Following Fuller came

Blome, who in 1673 printed his "*Britannia*," and substantially repeated Fuller's words. Down to this period the question of the medical power of the waters had not been brought into the alembic of scientific investigation; to the historians they were only matters of curiosity, and to the Faculty subjects of general indifference.

There was a new departure in 1698. Dr. Guidot, a practitioner at Bath, had devoted his whole life to the study of the therapeutic effects of the waters at different places. "He was a man of industry," remarks the celebrated Dr. B. W. Richardson, "and I suppose, in his day, of erudition; but I do not think he would stand much chance now in the grand scuffle. He wrote seven or eight treatises on waters. . . . From the remarks he makes of the spring at Leamington Priors, I have no doubt he had been there and had observed the quality of the water." As the result of a reported analysis, he declared the old well to be a nitrous spring. In 1730 the Rev. Dr. Thomas published an enlarged and improved edition of Dugdale's "*Antiquities*," wherein there appears the first mention of the waters being resorted to for medicinal purposes. Having corrected Dugdale's error by stating that "nigh to the West end of the Church" there is a Spring of salt water, he observed that the inhabitants used it for making their bread, "and strangers drink it as a purging water with much success." As the author was a Warwickshire clergyman residing at Exhall, near Coventry, he would have excellent opportunities for acquainting himself with this dawning fame of the Old Well. Guidot's view as to the water being of a nitrous quality was probably the accepted opinion until 1740, when Dr. Short wrote his "*Treatise on Mineral Waters*," and announced it to be a "brine spring, possessed of a considerable quantity of calcareous nitre." Dr. Rutty, who has been pronounced "the most profound and correct inquirer of all the early writers, into the nature and properties of mineral waters," in his "*Methodical Synopsis of Mineral Waters*, including a minute examination of all the most celebrated mineral springs in this and other European countries, 1757," in some degree reconciled the difference between Drs. Guidot and Short by declaring it to be "A salino-nitrous spring." He also made an analysis, and found

that "after careful evaporation a gallon of the water yielded 960 grains of sediment, 30 of which were calcareous earth, and the rest marine salt." Public attention was further directed to the subject in 1765, when Dr. Russell, in his treatise on sea-water and salt-springs, concurred with Dr. Rutty.

Besides the increasing interest thus manifested, some progress had taken place in regard to the higher and more important question of the healing, or alleviating power of the water, and locally, there was a rude faith in its efficacy, one phase of which now only elicits a feeling of amusement. Near to the old spring a tub is reported to have been placed in the ditch for bathing purposes, and also for the immersion of sufferers from hydrophobia. Moncrieffe says it appeared to have been used "more in cases of hydrophobia than any other; a regular dipper, Thomas Dilkes, having been engaged from the beginning of the eighteenth century for this express purpose. . . . Of the persons thus cured of that dreadful disorder, an annual register was kept, attested by the dipper on oath, from these registers it appears that from June 1778 to 1786, eight years, no fewer than 119 persons, who had suffered from the bite of mad dogs, had been effectually cured by immersion in the water. This Thomas Dilkes, the dipper, was quite a character in his way; so jealous was he of the water that he declared if ever he should meet with a failure he would not dip anyone again, and, on a patient being brought whose case was more than commonly desperate, he obstinately refused to perform his office, so that the friends of the sufferer were obliged to undertake it themselves, and were luckily successful, for, says my authority, though the man was absolutely raving mad at the time he was brought, he very soon afterwards perfectly recovered." This story must be taken for what it is worth. The name of Thomas Dilkes does not appear in any of the registers, and Thomas Dawkes makes no allusion in his memoranda either to Dilkes or the dipping process. It has been thought that Dawkes himself was the "regular dipper," and that the name of Dilkes is a printer's error. Considering that he resided close to the spring, the theory is not improbable, but in any case the story of the cures of hydrophobia is the most absurd of idle fables.

In the *Coventry Mercury* for September 29, 1788, reference is made to a Dr Allen, who is said to have been a resident medical man in the village, and the first that "generally impressed the public with a proper feeling of the value and qualities of the Leamington waters." As to his residence here, we can express no opinion but that he very worthily occupies a position with those writers whose names have been given, and Drs. Lambe, Kerr, Johnstone, Middleton, and Loudon, is beyond all question.

A most important advance was made in 1794 by Dr. Lambe, who, as Mr. Field remarks, "practised as a physician, with great reputation and success at Warwick." Of him some interesting figures have been supplied by Dr. Jeaffreson, father of the late Mr. Councillor J. R. Jeaffreson. His personal recollections of Dr. Lambe were "that although somewhat eccentric in his practical views, he was not less a scientific man, an intelligent observer of nature, and an accomplished physician. He was, moreover, one of the most elegant medical writers of his day. The springs of the neighbouring villages, continues Dr. Jeaffreson, did not escape his observation, and having studied and analysed the waters, he published an account of them in 1797, in the fifth volume of the "Transactions of the Philosophical Society of Manchester"—a society embracing the respected names of Priestley, Dalton, and Watt, and not, perhaps, inferior to any contemporary Association in Europe. The chief results of Dr. Lambe's investigation were a demonstration of the presence of iron in the Leamington water to some extent, and general analytical evidence that the same curative effects might be anticipated from its use as from that at Cheltenham. Such an opinion, expressed by one of great eminence in his profession, at a time when the fashionable world were flocking to Cheltenham, had a powerful influence in turning the tide in favour of Leamington.

Working in the same field of research, and with corresponding zeal, success and enthusiasm, were two other medical men besides Dr. Allen, to whom we have referred; Dr. Johnstone, of Birmingham; and Dr. Kerr, of Northampton. They were contemporaries of Dr. Lambe, and the commencement of their services dates from a period closely following the discovery of the

second spring in Bath Street in 1784. Dr. Edward Johnstone was a member of a family, or rather a series of families, famous for their intellectual endowments, their devotion to science and the cause of the afflicted. He was one of the founders of the General Hospital, and became its senior physician, a post he filled with great distinction until March, 1801, when he resigned. "His influence," the late Dr. W. B. Richardson writes, "was second to none, and as he commanded an extensive practice in the most rising district of the Midland Counties, he contributed largely to results which he did not foresee." It was doubtless owing to his exertions that many Birmingham people came to reside in Leamington in the beginning of the century. His son, Dr. James Johnstone, died in Leamington in May, 1869, at the age of sixty-four years, few being aware at the time of the signal service his father had rendered the Spa in its village days.

Greater credit has been given Dr. Kerr for bringing the Spa fully before the world than has been allowed Dr. Lambe. He was connected with the Northampton Infirmary, and Dr. Richardson characterises him as "one of the shrewdest practitioners of the last century. He was not profoundly scientific, but a gentleman of position and influence, and one who possessed a profound knowledge of the world, its weaknesses, and its wants—a knowledge nowhere wanted more than among practitioners of the medical art. He was accustomed to send his patients from Northampton to the Spa, and under the force of his recommendation, the 'Dog' and the 'Bowling Green' had become widely known in the year 1785."

By this time the value of the Leamington waters was generally acknowledged, but something more was required to popularise them. This was supplied by Dr. Amos Middleton, in 1806, publishing his Analysis "Illustrated with cases to prove their efficacy in the cure of Scrofula, and Scorbutic Humours, to which are added Instructions for cold and warm bathing." His work was the most practical on the subject that had been placed in the hands of the public, and its value remains undiminished to the present day. Lambe did immense good by writing specially for the profession to which he belonged; Middleton did much more by writing down to the capacity of the people. We append the

results of his matured experience, the cream of his thorough acquaintance with the subject, in the hope that the afflicted will be encouraged and led to see that the efficacy of "even a sovereign remedy" may be frustrated if used indiscreetly, either by not allowing it sufficient time, or applying it in a manner, and under circumstances calculated to render its virtues a nullity.

MIDDLETON'S GENERAL RULES FOR TAKING THE WATERS.

"It will be at first necessary to reflect that mineral waters, like other medical substances, are appropriated to certain diseases only, and that the more powerfully they act, the greater mischief they are capable of doing if improperly administered, for, if it be asserted that they are capable of doing good only, without the power of doing harm, we may be satisfied that their qualities are too insignificant to merit notice. This consideration indicates the necessity of some caution in the use of all waters which are said to possess any sanative power, and suggests the propriety of consulting some professional man upon the spot, whose judgment may determine how far the water is appropriate to each individual case, and in what manner it should be employed so as to be most efficacious. There is, however, an advantage attending the Leamington waters, in common with very few others, that wherever their use may be of service they may be entered upon at once, without any danger or necessity for previous preparation, for, at all times, and in all cases, they invariably act upon the bowels as a mild and gentle purgative. The season for drinking them is during the whole summer, and in the spring and autumn, from March to December. The water should, if possible, be drunk at the fountain head, and never kept long exposed to the open air. After a full dose, there is generally a slight determination to the head, which is manifested by a sense of drowsiness, and a little fulness across the forehead, but this speedily goes off of itself, or is immediately removed by a walk, or ride, or any gentle exercise; and, indeed, I should always recommend some sort of exercise after drinking the water, as it prevents the nausea and oppression which arises from a quantity of any fluid when taken into a stomach preternaturally weak and irritable. In general, for an adult, I should advise half a pint of the water to be taken first thing in the morning, while the stomach is empty, and the same quantity in half-an-hour afterwards. Should this be found insufficient to keep the bowels open, and to act as a diuretic, I should recommend a teaspoonful of the salts to be dissolved in a wine-glass of the water, boiling, and added to each half-pint when taken, this being far preferable to increasing the quantity of water to any greater extent, for common prudence, independent of medical information, dictates that the quantity of water taken into the stomach at one time, that some people require to act as a purgative must be highly improper. By pursuing this method for a few days, the bowels will invariably be brought into that relaxed state that ever after, a pint or three half-pints of the water will be

found sufficient. But, if the stomach should be in such a debilitated state from age or disease as to reject this quantity of water when taken in the morning, which will often be the case, I should recommend it to be taken at night as water gruel, and a small glass (about a quarter of a pint) at eleven in the morning, after breakfast, as the irritable stomach will, at that time, better receive it, and it will be found much more grateful if a little warm. To do this it is by far the best method to put water into a bottle, closely corked, and to immerse the whole in hot water, for by this means but little of the air can escape. With regard to the time requisite to continue the use of the waters, much depends upon the disorder and convenience of the patient. A month or six weeks is the time commonly allotted for a trial; but this term is much too short for any great constitutional change to be effected, and it may be observed in general that in those diseases for which the Leamington waters are famous—for scrophula and cutaneous eruptions of any kind—the longer they are continued the more important and conspicuous will be the relief they are likely to afford. With children I have always found it the most pleasant way to give them the waters at first with their meals, for they will take it at those times when you cannot persuade them at others; and it is wonderful how soon they acquire a taste for it, and really prefer it after to common water. The quantity taken at a time must depend upon their age and constitution, but it will always be found that they will take more in proportion than adults. As a warm bath the waters of Leamington, artificially heated, are highly serviceable, particularly in stiffness of the tendons, rigidity of the joints, the effects of preceding inflammation, from the attacks of gout and rheumatism. Patients afflicted with paralytic affections often find most remarkable relief."

CHAPTER XXXV.

The mineral waters continued—Saunders on the importance of climate, soil, and scenery in disease—Winthrop's elaborate analysis of the waters—Loudon's speculations on the saline impregnations—opinions of Weatherhead and Granville—various diseases named by the medical staff of the Warneford Hospital for which the Leamington mineral waters are particularly useful—views of Drs. Smith and Eardley Wilmot—remarkable cure—Mr. Hitchman's testimony.—Leamington salts.

FURTHER progress is observable in "The Medical Powers of Mineral Waters," published by Dr. Saunders in 1810, wherein will be found a newer and more comprehensive view of the whole question. He was distinguished for enforcing the importance to invalids of a mild, pure and equable climate; of the refreshing and invigorating effects of surrounding scenery, richly diversified with hill and dale, and variegated with flowers and foliage of many hues and colours. Nor did he neglect the question of soil, how indispensable it was for all that it should be of such a nature as to admit of dry, healthy dwellings being erected on its surface. Each and all of these belong to Leamington, and as we shall advert to them in a later part of this work, we need not refer now to their advantages. In 1810 Dr. Winthrop, who had succeeded Dr. Lambe at Warwick, made an elaborate analysis of the mineral water of the Old Well, of that yielded by Abbotts's Well in Bath Street, Robbins's Well in the Colonnade, near the Victoria Bridge, the one in High Street opened by the Rev. Mr. Read, and Wise's Spring, now the Alexandra Fountain. No examination could take place of the water of the spring in Clemens Street, as it was not at that time known. All his processes and tests are set forth in Field's "History of Warwick" with great minuteness and care, but as they are matters for the analytical chemist and the physician rather than the general reader, we must content ourselves with mentioning the work where those interested in such subjects will be able to collect all the information they require. Dr. Winthrop

stated that the waters in the whole of the wells were similar in the quality of their contents, and most of them agreed in their quantities, and expressed the opinion that "internally and externally they may be had recourse to with well-founded expectations of advantage in various irregularities of the digestive organs, comprised under the general term dyspepsia; in some diseases of the liver and gall ducts, arising from deficient action or obstruction; in several scrofulous, rheumatic and cutaneous affections, and in many anomalous complaints, which have been termed cachectic, proceeding from, or connected with, morbid action of the abdominal viscera. He also extols the occasional use of the warm bath, and observes that the waters, drunk for months together, gradually, and often rapidly, restored lost appetite, looks, flesh and strength. The next work was by a local practitioner—Dr. Loudon—who resided first in the Lower Parade, and afterwards in Clarendon Square. It was entitled a "Practical Dissertation on the Waters of Royal Leamington Spa," and came out in 1816. His design was to disseminate information among medical men in distant parts of the country, of the value of the mineral waters, and for their benefit he furnished an elaborate report of each analysis. One circumstance mentioned by him is curiously interesting as confirmatory of the description given by Rous of the "many sperringys" there were about the town in the fifteenth century, most of which, if not all, seem to have existed down to a comparatively modern date. After enumerating the several wells, he observes, "Besides them, there exist in the fields around the town several other open mineral springs, none of which, however, have been analysed. They are all similar in their properties to those already described, with the exception of Bissett's Well, at the north-east corner of the Leam bridge, which is of a sulphuric-chalybeate nature, without being, like the others, combined with any of the neutral salts. It has not hitherto been employed medicinally." But that with which we are more particularly concerned is the opinion he entertained of the efficacy of the waters in the treatment of disease. On this subject he concurs with Middleton and others that their value is very great, and mentions numerous complaints in which their use would be attended with advantage. His

directions for drinking and bathing render his work of scarcely less value than that of Middleton. The popularity of the "Dissertation" carried it through several editions, and placed it in the rank of a text book. In this useful work Dr. Loudon refers to the interesting problem of the impregnation of the mineral waters with their respective gases and salts—a question inscrutable to geologists, and one to which imagination, though enlightened by science and assisted by reason, has so far been able to return only a dubious answer. But his criticisms are destructive of the views of others rather than constructive and declaratory of his own. The opinion that the saline ingredients are acquired from beds of salt or brine pits beneath the town, he dismisses as "purely hypothetical," and rejects as "mere suppositions" the theories of weighty authorities respecting the particular manner in which the several springs become charged with numerous gases, miraculously combined, and marvellously adapted to cure, or mitigate, serious diseases unamenable to other remedies. Geology and chemistry are much better understood in the present day than they were in his, but though neither is sufficiently advanced to explain all the processes by which these priceless waters are produced, the existence of beds of rock salt from which it is generally believed the saline quality is obtained, is no longer to be passed over on the ground of hypothesis. For the rest we must be content with the elementary knowledge that Nature has a vast laboratory somewhere under the borough, wherein are compounded medicated waters, the curative virtues of which have excited admiration in the minds of the most eminent physicians, and have earned the gratitude of thousands afflicted with a large number of those serious ills to which flesh is heir.

The volume of approbation thus accumulated was increased by Dr. Weatherhead's "Analysis" in 1820, and in 1841 Dr. Granville published his "Spas of England," in which he expressed a high opinion of the sulphureous water at Mrs. Lee's Baths, High Street, and remarked that it well deserved the attention of the medical men of the place for many of the cases in which a saline water of considerable power, charged with sulphurated gas, was required.

Beyond the following collective pronouncement by the medical staff of the Warneford Hospital in favour of the curative effects of the Leamington waters testimony can go no further, nor is it necessary that it should, for the authority is unimpeachable, and the opinion worthy of being "engraved in letters of gold on pillars of alabaster." All those who signed had spent many years in Leamington, were held in respect by their professional brethren, by the townspeople, and by all who knew them, and in addition to the benefits they had seen at the Hospital accruing from the use of the mineral waters, each one had a large private practice in which to make observations among a class of patients not admissible into any charitable institutions.

LEAMINGTON HOSPITAL, 12th Dec., 1855.

We, the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Warneford General Bathing Institution and Leamington Hospital, having been requested by the Committee to enumerate the principal maladies in which we find the Leamington Waters useful, beg to state that they are more particularly useful in the following maladies, whether used internally as a medicine, or externally in the form of baths, whether cold, hot, shower or douche:—

Most forms of dyspepsia and consumption; in derangements of the liver, especially in congestion of that organ, as also of the spleen and other abdominal viscera; in jaundice; in some forms of diseases of the central nervous system, especially in the sequel of acute attacks, such as paralysis, &c.; in epilepsy (occasionally); in cholera, hysteria, neuralgia; in many forms of deranged kidney; in gout; in most forms of rheumatism, more especially the sub-acute and chronic; in many periostial affections; in scrofula; in many cases incidental to females; in most sub-acute and in almost all chronic affections of the skin, especially eczema, herpes, lepra, psoriasis, &c. HENRY HOMER, M.D.; SAM'L. J. JEAFFRESON, M.D., LL.M., Cantab., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, &c.; WILLIAM MIDDLETON, F.R.C.S.; R. JONES, F.R.C.S.; JOHN HITCHMAN. To the Trustees of the Warneford Leamington Trust.

After this nothing of special importance appeared until 1884, when Dr. Smith, of Milverton (now of Harrogate), published a most valuable work, entitled "The Saline Waters of Leamington, Chemically, Therapeutically, and Clinically considered, with Observations on the Climate of Leamington." The motive which led to this publication he explains to have been a determination to satisfy himself with regard to the actual condition of the water, for which purpose he called in the aid of some of the first analysts

of the day. It is by no means an easy task so to condense the excellencies of this skilful monograph as to enable our readers readily to comprehend its full importance. The style in which it is composed is attractive, and information of the utmost value to the afflicted shines on every page. He remarks that so far as the totals of the constituent salts go the Leamington waters will be seen to compare favourably with all the foreign Spas. His cases of the cures he had met within his own practice are very remarkable, and add new force to the following lines on Leamington, penned and published some sixty years ago:—

“ If but one leper cured, made Jordan's stream,
In Sacred Writ a venerable theme ;
What honour to thy sovereign water's due,
Where sick by thousands do their health renew ! ”

Encouraging to the afflicted as these reports are, one is singularly hopeful for aged invalids suffering from sciatica of an aggravated type combined with obstinate forms of rheumatism. It is the case of the late Mr. Hyde, of 15, Church Hill, whose hale and wonderful convalescence, after so serious an illness, was, at the time, widely known. His own version, as supplied to Dr. Smith, is as follows:—“About the year 1871 I had a severe attack of sciatica. I tried the baths and waters at Buxton, Matlock, the Isle of Wight, and the ozone baths at Llandudno, likewise galvanism ; but all to no effect. This had been going on for seven or eight years, and I got worse instead of better. I had to carry a camp stool when I went out, and had frequently to sit down, the pain coming on suddenly. In addition to sciatica, I had rheumatism in my feet and hands, which were much swollen, and for weeks at a time rendered me quite helpless. I was told that the complaint was chronic, and at my age (eighty-one) I must not expect a cure. I was not satisfied with this verdict, and determined to try the Leamington Spa Water, which I did. I began a course and soon experienced benefit ; and after persevering for several months I was quite cured, and remain so, although this is now thirteen years ago.” A subject on which Dr. Smith lays special stress is the longevity obtainable in Leamington. “It is surprising to what ripe old ages people live here, especially women, and as a medical man I can testify that many of my

patients look upon four score summers as in no way near the goal to which they hope to attain."

Another meritorious contribution to the medical literature of the Spa is the paper read before the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, at Birmingham, on July 31, 1890, by Dr. Eardley-Wilmot, who, like his colleague, Dr. Smith, has devoted much attention to the nature of the waters, and their efficacy in combating disease. After acknowledging the eminent services of Dr. Jephson, Dr. Eardley-Wilmot points out the bountiful supply of our mineral water, and consequently the special advantage Leamington has over some other Spas, the springs of which are so impoverished that "the water has to be stored in winter for use in the summer, and where a constant dread of failure of the supply limits the use to which the saline springs can be applied. Here the water gushes plentifully and perennially from the earth, and is as common to all as it is unlimited in quantity."* He mentions that the quality of the waters has in no sense deteriorated, and to that wonderful, we might even say miraculous, blending of salts, gases, and minerals, mentioned by Dr. Smith, as surpassing the skill and ingenuity of science, he bears emphatic testimony, acutely remarking that the perfection of the proportions is such as is "calculated to aid the individual action of each, and to increase the therapeutic value of the whole."

Our review of this work completes the history of the mineral springs as it appears in the pages of general and medical literature, and brings down to the present time the most important publications on the subject we have been able to collect. An examination of the local journals will furnish hundreds of testimonials to their powerful agencies as restoratives and preservatives of health, while in pamphlets and special contributions to organs devoted to medicine and the divine art of healing, will be found many distinguished physicians—Gull, Braun, Christison, Graham, Richardson, and Clark—asserting with the convincing authority

* In illustration of this it may be mentioned that in 1801 the quantity of water issuing from the spout of the old salt spring during the space of one solar year was 4,174 hogsheads and 18 gallons, or 262,980 gallons, wine measure. The yield of the other wells is equally abundant, and no sign of the slightest decrease has ever been observed.

of science and reason, the extraordinary health-giving properties they possess. Brimful of enthusiasm on this subject was the late Dr. Hitchman, and in one of his occasional papers he has elegantly, and even poetically, compared the refreshing and invigorating effects of a stay in Leamington, with the use of the waters, on the wearied mind of the statesman, the courtier, and the merchant, to that "sweet restorative" which "balmy sleep" always brings to "tired nature."

The Leamington salts, famous in the first half of the century, have, in these later times, somewhat declined in fashion, but there is no reason for believing that they are less worthy of patronage. In Reeve's Guide for 1846 it is stated that they were first manufactured in 1803, by Abbotts, under the superintendence of Dr. Kerr, of Northampton, "who, by a long series of experiments, discovered a process by which alone a salt could be prepared retaining all the properties of the Leamington waters." After the death of Abbotts in 1805, they were made by his son-in-law, William Smith, and subsequently by the grandson, also named William Smith, until 1836. They are now supplied by Fisher & Co., Bath Street, and Tonkin, Victoria Terrace.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Remarks on the changed appearance of the town—Clemens Street, High Street, Radford Road, Bath Street, The Parade, Holly Walk, Avenue Road, the Old Cricket Field—the Wesleyan Reformers—their secession and expulsion from the Old Wesleyan Church, Portland Street—early meetings in Tavistock Street—their first Chapel in Clarendon Street; its failure—erection of the United Free Methodist Church, Warwick Street—history of the cause and list of ministers.

HAVING brought the course of events down to 1850, and supplied the history of the Leamington waters from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, we shall proceed by giving a short sketch of some of the principal changes which have taken place in the borough within the last fifty years, and then prepare to bring our labours to a close by completing our descriptions of those institutions, movements, and occurrences to which no reference appears in previous pages. In so doing, we shall follow, as nearly as possible, the order of time in which they appeared.

It is a trite observation that a person who knew Leamington half a century ago and had been absent since, would, on his return, experience much difficulty in recognising the town as that with which he was once so familiar. Allowing for a modicum of hyperbole, more or less inevitable whenever it is desired to express or create a feeling of wonder, this statement does not altogether unfairly represent what would be his perplexity. In Clemens-street he would search in vain for the balcony and portico in front of the Blenheim Hotel, and in the present Stoneleigh Arms find no trace of the quaint old house, the curiously shaped roof of which made it look as though one side had, with the rapidity of a weed, grown up to maturity before the other had reached its teens. The transformation in other places has been on a larger and more imposing scale. The unoccupied space on the north side of High Street, between Packington Place and Church Street, has been filled in with shops, and on the opposite side, near the Old Town Hall, the cottages, the gardens in front, the blacksmith's shop and

the wheelwright's yard, have passed away from the position they had filled during many vanished centuries, and on the site are commodious and handsome business establishments. Changes, still more extensive, are to be seen in the Radford Road. The Warneford Hospital has been more than doubled in size by the addition of two extensive wings, the beautiful kitchen gardens surrounding it, cultivated by the tradesmen with profitable industry and success, have had to make way, with the large open field opposite, for the erection of residential properties. The barracks in Clapham Terrace have been supplanted by tenements for the working classes, and the land on the west side is now covered with similar buildings and a Board School. St. Mary's Church, fifty years ago "in the fields," is now the centre of a vast and thriving community. Bath Street has afforded no opportunities for variations such as we have just mentioned, but in two instances it has lost architectural ornaments which in the early days gave it a far more impressive aspect than it now possesses. The removal of the portico before the old Post Office, and the "handsome and lofty Arcade and Colonnade of the Ionic order," originally projecting from the central division of the Parthenon, or Music Hall, with the beautiful cornice frieze, has detracted seriously from the "remarkably classical and commanding appearance" of one of the oldest and most interesting streets in the Royal Borough, while the absorption of Abbotts' baths by the establishment of Francis and Son has dissolved the special charm which local history had thrown over a building closely associated with the rise of modern Leamington. At the west end of the Parish Church nothing remains of the Leamington of the past but the old well; the wooden belfry, the snug cottages in Church Walk, and the four houses on the north side of the well-house, have all been cleared away. Further on, additional lines have been ruled by the waves of progress during the last half century. The charming Vicarage Gardens have disappeared, and on the site stands the present extensive Post Office; the ford way to the river has been levelled and closed. On the north bank of the Leam the changes are quite as extensive. The Pump Room fence, protected by wooden palisades, carried along the present pavement round the

tree standing at the south-east corner of Dormer-place, and continued to Portland Lawn, is gone, and the gardens, formerly available only for a privileged few, now greatly beautified, enriched with beds of choice flowers in perpetual bloom, and in the summer months filled with excellent music, are as free to the public as the Parade or any other of the streets. Equally numerous, and commensurate with anything that has yet been noticed, are the evolutions in the Parade itself. The cottage orné in the north-west corner of the Jephson Gardens has been replaced by the Hitchman Fountain; the grounds in Euston Place have been laid under contribution to the public pleasure by the removal of obstructive shrubs and the substitution of ornamental flower beds. The Holly Walk, poorer in the grandeur and luxuriance of its trees, and with outstretched withered arms beseechingly pleading, but in vain, that its succession might be preserved by planting for future generations, yet retaining much of its former beauty, has been otherwise greatly improved by the disappearance of the dwarf wall and palisades separating it from Regent Grove, the sloping off the north side down to the road, and the exchange of the heavy stone pillars at the Parade end for the Bright obelisk and fountain. As far as the old Denbigh Villa property is concerned, all is new, and to the suppositious visitor, whose feeling of surprise we are endeavouring to describe, "passing strange." A theatre, which in the completeness of its arrangements will compare favourably with any other in the kingdom; a large and well-appointed club, a fine row of shops, and a splendid suite of Municipal Buildings are now on the site which was known in ancient history as the "Pingle," and forty years ago contained but one residence—Denbigh Villa. The soaring elms, firs and other trees, the flourishing rookery in their topmost branches, bringing into the very centre of the town the "habitual rusticity" of country scenery and an interesting phase of rural life, and the dense masses of laburnum and lilacs, trespassing over the plain brick boundary wall, and diffusing fragrance and scattering blossoms all round, are lost treasures never to be seen again in this part of the borough. The tramway, representing increased public activity and convenience, and bringing Warwick and

Leamington into closer connection than was practicable when the principal means of inter-communication were McGregor's omnibuses, and the transformation of the Upper Assembly Rooms into large business establishments, are other manifestations of that steady advance in local energy, thought and action the past half century has brought in its train. Evidence to the same effect is plentiful in all the remote parts of the town, but nowhere are the many developments of recent years in greater contrast to the state of things in 1860 than in the Avenue Road. There, the Manor House, then an Academy for young gentlemen, conducted by Mr. Andrews, has been succeeded by the Manor House Hotel; the section of the old Avenue between the railway and the road by a shrubbery neatly arranged and always kept in good order, and the Avenue Station, at the time hardly bigger than a moderately-sized cottage, by a building with ample accommodation for the public and provision for expediting the transaction of such business as an important town like Leamington is certain to yield. The extinction of Perkins' Garden, through which the public were permitted to walk without charge, is the deprivation of a peerless picture. For the loss of its opening leaf and bursting buds in the early spring; its broad acres of flowers in the summer, "golden stars" Campbell calls them, and its luscious fruits in the autumn, no villas nor public buildings will be adequate compensation. Lastly, though by no means exhausting the category of these changes, we may direct attention to the encroachment of villas, houses and streets on to the Old Cricket Field, the locality of the sports of early Leamington, and the formation of the Victoria Park, which, in a few years, will prove to be one of the most delightful recreations of the borough.

No provisions had been made down to 1844 for the social convenience and daily intercourse of the nobility and gentry who were resident in Leamington and the neighbourhood in large numbers. Their only means of association were the hunting field, balls, or assemblies as they were then called, and parties. To supply this want a movement was started in this year for providing a Tennis and Raquet Court. The first meeting was held on April 25th at the Upper Assembly Rooms, when the scheme was adopted and a resolution passed to raise the requisite

funds by shares. The following noblemen and gentlemen were constituted a provisional committee to give effect to the decision of the meeting:—Lord Brooke, Lord Somerville, Lord Leigh, Lord Guernsey, Lord Lewisham, Sir Charles Douglas, M.P., Messrs. C. N. Newdigate, W. H. Wilson, H. C. Wise, Matthew Wise, E. Greaves, Hyde Clarke, R. Ramsay Clarke, Walter Gowan, E. T. Warde, W. C. Russell, E. Musgrave, B. Granville, J. Saunderson, J. B. Hanbury, G. E. Baker, and Dr. Jephson. Their first duty was to select a site, of which there were three offered. One was near the Old Bowling Green (probably the present garden in Church Street and Regent Place), another at Lillington, and the third, a plot at the back of the Holly Walk, the property of Mrs. Barber. It was decided to purchase the last for £193 10s., and Mr. Jackson was instructed to prepare plans. Before, however, the work was commenced attention was drawn to the site in Bedford Street, and considering the situation more central, the committee paid £50 to Mrs. Barber for non-fulfilment of the contract to purchase, and bought the land in Bedford Street from Mrs. Bishopp for £500. The work of building was at once commenced, the late William Ballard being the contractor, and Mr. Jackson the architect. The funds were raised in £10 shares. The total cost, including furnishing, was £4,211. The first trustees were Lord Brooke, Messrs. Charles Earle and H. C. Wise. The Club premises, substantially the same as when erected, though some improvements have recently been made in the Courts, consist of two billiard rooms, tennis and racquet courts, reading, smoking, committee rooms, &c., each and all being suitably furnished. The Club is very select, and the election of members, of whom there are upwards of two hundred, exclusive of honorary members and visitors, is by ballot. The first secretary was Mr. Sanders. He was succeeded by the late Mr. W. J. Spicer, who held the office for a very long period; Mr. W. R. Wiggins is the present secretary.

Among the thousands daily passing along Clarendon Street, the number of those who can see in Chesford House, at the north-east corner of Morton Street, the earliest local outward and visible sign of that great controversial upheaval which in 1849 shook Wesleyan Methodism to its foundations, is very few. The

famous "Fly Sheets" charging Conference with arrogance and the exercise of arbitrary power, are, especially outside the limits of the denomination, the thinnest of traditions; their authorship still remains impenetrable as "The Letters of Junius." Everett, Dunn, Bromley and Griffiths, the four expelled ministers, had many sympathisers in the Wesleyan Church, Portland Street, and as compromise was impossible, there were the inevitable consequences of the dispute—expulsions, withdrawals, and the starting of another cause. The leaders of this new departure were the late Mr. Councillor William Colley, father of the present Archdeacon Colley; Messrs. F. Silversides, W. Heritage, junior, J. Derry, "a venerable local preacher," Vause, etc. In 1850 several public meetings were held in the Temperance Hall, Clemens Street, and the new Temperance Hall, Warwick Street, for ventilating the grievances of the Reformers, as the dissenting party from the old Wesleyans now began to style themselves. One of these was attended by the Rev. Mr. Bromley, and after hearing his strongly worded explanation of the intolerant and anti-scriptural spirit which had characterised the proceedings of Conference a resolution was unanimously adopted condemnatory of that body.

The first services of the Reformers were held in an upper room on the west side of Tavistock Street, next the passage leading into Covent Garden Market, from which they moved in September, 1851, to their newly erected building in Clarendon Street, then known as the Wesleyan Reform Chapel. It was a plain brick structure, designed and furnished for comfort, and without the least pretension to any special architectural merit. Still it was a great advance on the ill-ventilated and inconvenient room in Tavistock Street. The most notable events during their stay here were the special sermons preached by the Revds. Messrs. Everett and Bromley. The Rev. W. Griffith, another of the founders of the Wesleyan Reformed Church, does not appear to have preached in the Clarendon Street Chapel, but he occupied the pulpit at the United Methodist Free Church, Warwick Street, twice in October, 1882. At first the stripling cause had the promise of a vigorous life, in disappointment of which the enthusiasm of several of the leaders evaporated, and

withdrawals following, Mr. Colley and a small circle of supporters were left to bear the burden of heavy expenses. The results were the closing of the chapel and its sale to Mr. Jeffs, a builder, who turned it into the villa now named Chesford House.

Services for the remnant of the Church were then held in a room at the back of a stationer's shop in Warwick Street, kept by Mr. F. Silversides, and some time afterwards were removed to the large upper room at the Temperance Hall, a portion of which forms the existing Meeting Room, 44, Oxford Street. On May 16, 1864, the memorial stone of the present United Methodist Free Church, Warwick Street, was laid by Mr. John Green, and in the month of September following the Reformers commenced their services in that building, the cost of which was £2,200, and the accommodation sufficient to seat five hundred persons. A small organ, of excellent construction and quality of tone, was supplied by Messrs. Wyatt and Son, of Binswood, at which Mr. T. Colley, the present Archdeacon, presided for some considerable time as honorary organist. The adjoining schools in Kenilworth Street were a subsequent development.

In 1860 the Church, then consisting of twenty-five members only, was incorporated with the United Methodist Free Church Connection, and since that time the following has been the succession of ministers: Revds. Maurice Jones, T. Coop, C. R. Hooper, C. Reeves, G. H. Thompson, T. J. Cope, T. Ashcroft, G. Chesson, senior, W. Howard, W. Skinner, J. W. B. Brown, J. Kendall, I. Garside, G. Graves, H. Umpleby, T. M. Booth, I. B. Booth, G. Lord, E. Orme, A. Hands, J. J. Leyland, J. Kirsop and E. Boaden, the present minister. Of these, the Revs. G. Chesson, J. Garside, T. M. Booth, A. Hands, J. Kirsop and E. Boaden have filled the office of President, the highest position of honour and esteem in the Association. The Rev. E. Boaden, who is the author of a charming biography of the Rev. Richard Chew, has been in the ministry fifty-four years and is the oldest official in English Methodism. For thirty-eight years he was Chapel Secretary to the Connection. Since the services were commenced in Tavistock Street the cause has been subjected to many vicissitudes, and doubtless would have collapsed before the

amalgamation of 1860 had it not been for the firmness, perseverance and extreme liberality of the late Mr. W. Colley, whose total gifts are reported to have reached the sum of £1,500.

In regard to two of the ministers whose names have been quoted a misimpression is current which a few words ought to be sufficient to clear away. Owing to the similarity of sound between the Rev. T. Coop and the Rev. T. J. Cope it is frequently asserted that the former, who was the pastor in 1863, was again appointed in 1868, the year in which the latter assumed the responsibilities of the office. They were different persons as the modes of spelling show. The Rev. George Chesson, the successor of the Rev. T. Ashcroft in 1871, is being constantly mistaken for his son, the Rev. George Chesson, who is also in the ministry of the United Methodist Free Church Connection, and is well-known in Leamington where he spent his early days as a printer in the "Chronicle" Office.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Literature and Science—the Mechanics' Institute and Socialism—the Athenæum—Dr. Brindley, his lectures and their effect—the Royal Leamington Literary and Scientific Institution—its purpose and work—origin of the Public Hall, description of foundation stone-laying and inaugural ceremony—brief notes on its history—the property offered for sale by auction—Leamington Young Men's Christian Association and Literary and Scientific Institute, etc., etc.

A REMARKABLE exhibition of feeling and action in favour of literature and science began about the year 1846, and though the primary idea of uniting all classes in one great and powerful organisation, irrespective of religious creeds and political beliefs, was only partially realised, the beneficial effects of this movement were felt and seen for more than twenty years afterwards. The Mechanics' Institute of 1836, launched in calm waters and beneath an unclouded sky, was ultimately wrecked among the breakers of public distrust, internal squabbles and an interchange of views on personal matters between the secretary and a section of the members, more noticeable for its candour than its complimentary spirit. The determining cause, however, was a suspicion that the seeds of Socialism were latent in the mind of more than one of the members, and in the early forties that in itself was a serious hindrance to the prosperity of any public institution in Leamington. A few months before the Institute was preparing to make its bow and retire in 1840, the Leamington Athenæum for the diffusion of literature and science "under the Guidance of Sound Religious Principles," was announced. This was evidently meant to act as a breakwater against the waves of Socialism which the Mechanics' Institute had been powerless to resist.

The highly sensitive condition of the public mind on the subject of Owenism had its origin in the powerfully stirring lectures of the Rev. Dr. Brindley, who was the principal of an

important school at Knightcote House for imparting a classical education to young gentlemen. He was a man of great gifts, had few equals on the platform, took part in almost every local movement, and was extremely popular.

About the year 1848, the Royal Leamington Literary and Scientific Institution was established under exceptionally promising auspices and patronage. Lord Leigh and Dr. Jephson were the patrons, the Rev. Dr. Marsh filled the office of president, and in the official list were the well-known and much respected names of Messrs. Hitchman and T. H. Thorne. It was received with favour and soon enrolled upwards of two hundred members. The programme was comprehensive and included a reading room, library, classes of instruction in French, mathematics, drawing, music, lectures "on various topics of intellectual interest," the founding of a museum, and recreations. Meetings were commenced in "the spacious room adjoining the Music Hall," Bath Street, and afterwards No. 23, Upper Parade, corner of Warwick Street, was the permanent home of the Institution. It does not appear that any progress was made with the museum project, but in every other respect the success of the movement was most gratifying. The lectures, delivered by men eminent in literature and science, attracted large audiences, who were instructed while they were being entertained, and of whose appreciation there could be no possible doubt.

For the purpose of considering the best means of placing the Society on a durable basis, a meeting of members was held in February, 1851. Mr. F. Manning, of Byron Lodge, presided, and a resolution was adopted in favour of the erection of a building suitable for the uses of the Institution, the funds to be raised by voluntary contributions among its patrons and members. This led to the erection of the Public Hall, Windsor Street, by a Company of Shareholders, for whom the late Mr. W. Overell was solicitor, the foundation stone of which was to have been laid on May 23, 1853, by Lord Leigh with Masonic ceremonial, but being unable to fulfil the engagement he voluntarily fined himself £25, a cheque for which amount he forwarded with an apology for his absence. The duty was satisfactorily discharged by Mr.

... W. Boughton Leigh, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, in the presence of a large gathering of the Craft and an influential concourse of the general public. The day was observed as a holiday, the bells at the Parish Church were rung merrily in honour of the event, and the decorations, though not so lavish as on several previous and subsequent occasions, were sufficient to impart to the principal streets a joyous and festive appearance. The opening ceremony took place on February 20, 1854, when an excellent concert, arranged by Mr. N. Merridew, was given to a crowded audience.

Financially, the speculation was not satisfactory, and after vainly endeavouring to sell the building to the Local Board of Health, for the purpose of a Town Hall, the proprietors disposed of it to Mr. Ebenezer Goold. Among the numerous public rooms in the Royal Spa there is none which possesses so many local historic associations—so large and rich a cluster of stirring incidents and happy memories as belong to the Public Hall, Windsor Street. From 1854 to 1884, the date of the opening of the Assembly Rooms at the Municipal Buildings, it was the Mars' Hill of Leamington, where was proclaimed the gospel of religion, science, politics, philosophy, music, self-help, local government and trades unionism—the chosen spot to which all the tribes in the old and new towns regularly repaired to celebrate their triumphs, to explain away their defeats, or to plan and perfect new schemes of enterprise; for song, sermon and prayer; for controversy and propagandism; for the fashionable amenities of the brilliant ball room, and the solemnities of divine worship, both of Church and Dissent.

From its spacious and cosmopolitan platform Leamington heard the venerable Dr. Moffat, famous in all lands for his missionary labours; Dr. Cumming, the approved champion of the Protestant faith; H. M. Stanley, the intrepid explorer; the Rev. John Curwen, of Tonic Sol-Fa celebrity; Archibald Forbes, Charles Villiers and Melton Prior, war correspondents; Henry Coxwell, the pioneer of the balloon; Henry Vincent and Mason Jones; Gerald Massey, Matthew Arnold, John Gadsby, Max O'Rell, Norman Lockyer, Father Gavazzi, S. Bowly, Professor Seeley, George Dawson, Thomas Cooper, Professor A. Herschell,

Sir Edward Creasey, Sir George Campbell, Major-General Sir Arthur Phayre, Dr. W. B. Richardson, Rev. J. B. Owen, Dr. B. W. Carpenter, Rev. Dr. Northcote, Professor Gamgee, Marianne Farningham, the Tichborne Claimant, and, chief among musical people, Sarasate, Paderewski, Sir Charles and Lady Hallé, Fanny Davies and Madame Patey. Many of the lectures of the Philosophical Society—and local history has furnished none more brilliant nor important—and nearly all the highly successful concerts of the Musical Societies were given within its walls, besides which it has the merit of having been the building where Anglo-Israelism lifted up its attractive, though not sufficiently appreciated, voice, where one Building Society movement was established, and the standard of the great uprising of the farm labourers was officially unfurled. In fact, until the opening of the new Town Hall it was the resort for all the Associations and Societies in Leamington, and the favourite room for lectures, services, concerts, entertainments, etc. In 1896 Messrs. Mousell Bros., the well-known furniture removers, and lessees of the property, found it necessary to convert the Hall into a large store room, the ground floor premises being no longer sufficient for the requirements of their increasing business.

Associated with the Public Hall is the origin of "The Sunday Afternoon Services for Carmen, Bath-Chairmen, Grooms and Stablemen," the inaugural meeting of which was held in January, 1860. From the first the movement was extremely popular, and for years it was difficult, and frequently impossible, for late arrivals to find even standing room. In November, 1896, they were removed to the Royal Pump Room, and in January, 1900, to the comfortable and convenient Memorial Hall, Augusta Place, formerly St. Luke's Church. The clergy and nonconformist ministers, together with the leading laymen of the several religious institutions in the town, have from time to time rendered valuable aid, and Mr. E. Goold, senior, on whom devolved the burden of management, for forty years provided a suitable supply of preachers and speakers. The "S.A.S." were introductory to the present day "P.S.A."

Comparatively few and fleeting as the years of the Literary and Scientific Institution were, it was not established in vain.

The effects of the impetus it imparted to intellectual studies and pursuits long survived its existence. For a generation, at least, after the circumstances of its origin had been well-nigh forgotten, the noble Hall it had erected, by its ever widely-opened portals, its unrivalled accommodation, and the refreshing charm of the many cherished traditions which it threw over every gathering beneath its artistically decorated roof, continued to exercise a potent influence on the public life, the fame and the fortunes of Leamington. And not less important was its bequest to all succeeding institutions of a similar character—a standard of lectures unprecedentedly high, lustrous and opulent in diction and sentiment.

The Athenæum maintained an active course for several years after the foundation stone laying of the Public Hall took place; arranging for excellent lectures, classes, etc., and providing for its members pleasant meetings of a social character. As an illustration of the subjects it encouraged, and with the view of showing that music was not excluded from the platform half-a-century ago, we may mention that in July, 1856, Mr. Mackintosh delighted an audience assembled in the Public Hall by explaining in an interesting manner the musical characteristics of the West of Europe. His address appears to have been greatly enjoyed, and judging from the reports it was distinctly creditable to the Committee of the Athenæum to have obtained such a treat for their members and the public.

Following closely on the slowly receding footsteps of the Athenæum came the Leamington Young Men's Christian Association. It was designed to unite in a permanent bond of union the young men of the period, irrespective of sect, politics and differences in status, and for their convenience provided comfortable rooms at the Public Hall, where they might pass their evenings pleasantly; lectures, and occasionally soirees. Notwithstanding every effort to promote the lasting welfare of the institution, after a career of several years, its doors were closed by the combined effects of jealousy, positive hostility, and apathy.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Rise and progress of the Building Society movement—revival of theatrical plays in 1849—the Clemens Street House—its original title—the first performance, and list of celebrated actors—the A.B.C. Dramatic Club—the Garrick—the new Theatre in Regent Grove—history of the Ratepayers' Associations—the Rifle Volunteers; origin and list of officers—S. Albans—the Rev. Dr. Nicholson.

THE importance of the Building Society movement was impressed on the public mind for the first time in Leamington at a meeting held in the Old Town Hall, High Street, in May, 1848. The Rev. John Craig, vicar, presided, and the project of founding such a society at the Spa had the unqualified approval and good wishes of two clerical brethren—the venerable Dr. Marsh, of St. Mary's, and the Rev. Dr. W. Young, of Holy Trinity. The Rev. Dr. O. Winslow, then pastor at the Warwick Street Baptist Church, was, with the clergymen just named, present, and in a speech delivered by him in support of one of the resolutions he expressed the firm conviction that the organisation contemplated, was neither Utopian, speculative, visionary nor ideal, for its practicability was already established by the flourishing existence of seven hundred of such institutions in various parts of the country. After hearing several speeches in support of the project, a resolution was unanimously adopted by which the Leamington and South Warwickshire Building Society was established, and it was decided to ask the following gentlemen to be the patrons: Rev. John Craig, vicar, the Earl of Buchan, Lord Somerville, the Rev. Dr. Marsh, Mr. H. Bradley, the Revds. Dr. Young and O. Winslow, and the Revds. E. Bates, A. Pope and W. Goy. For the committee the services of Captain Stewart, Messrs. D'Arcy Boulton, T. H. Thorne, W. Watson, H. Houghton, J. E. Jackson, G. Cundall and E. Gould were invited.

In 1853 a second Association, entitled the Leamington, Warwick and South Warwickshire Building and Investment Society was started with Mr. H. Goude as president; the Revds. T. Short and E. Clay, Messrs. W. Watson, W. Franklin, W. Gill and J. Satchell, as vice-presidents; Messrs. H. Goude, D. Summerfield and Charles Earle, as trustees; and the following on the directorate—Messrs. R. Reading, Heathcote, Warwick, and J. Nutter, W. Ballard, James Hill, G. Ellis, E. Goold, J. Beck, G. Harwood, Willey, Horder, Brind, W. S. Roby, and J. Stiff: Messrs Chinery and Large were the Solicitors, Mr. J. Evans, Secretary and Mr. E. Mitchell, the Surveyor. In 1859, Mr. R. Baker succeeded Mr. Evans in the Secretaryship, and on his resignation in 1887, Mr. J. Nichols, the present Secretary was appointed, and the office of the Society removed from Church Street, to the premises now occupied in Regent Street, West. On the death of Mr. Mitchell, in 1860, Mr. W. Russell, was elected surveyor, and his successors in that office have been Mr. B. Bradshaw, senior, and Mr. B. Bradshaw, junior. The partnership between Messrs Chinery and Large, having been dissolved in 1856, the latter acquired the business and became sole legal adviser to the Society, an office he held until his death in 1893. He was succeeded by his son Mr. A. W. Large, on whose retirement in 1900, Mr. A. E. Overell received the appointment. As will be seen on reference to its reports, the Society has had a most prosperous career.

Another Society was begun about the same time, but whether shortly before, or immediately after the one just described, is not quite clear. The history of the movement at this period though somewhat perplexing in matters of detail, suggests that the proceedings at the meeting in 1848, began and ended with the resolutions then adopted, and that the year 1853, must be accepted as the date when the theory of such organisations was first reduced to practice in Leamington. The new institution, started under highly favourable circumstances, had for its title the Leamington Permanent Building Society. The Rev. J. H. Smith, was President and the Revds. Dr. Burbidge, T. Bowen, J. H. Davies, and Messrs S. Taylor, H. Roberts and H. Harper, filled the office as Vice Presidents; Messrs T. Sharp, D. Johnson and R. Russell,

were Trustees, and the Committee consisted of J. Roberts, T. Southorn, A. H. Appleford, B. A. Ablitt, J. White, J. W. Brierley, G. Lock and T. Muddeman. The Surveyor, Solicitor and Secretary, were Messrs W. Russell, C. Griffin and J. L. Frost. Mr. Frost resigned the secretaryship in 1854 through failing health, and at the annual meeting Mr. Eve, an articled clerk in the office of Mr. A. S. Field, was chosen to fill the vacancy. A few more changes followed, after which Mr. Josiah Southorn was elected to the office, which he has continued to fill down to its close. There was much bitterness of feeling between these Societies at first, but a Parliamentary Return published a few years later on proved that there was room for both, and learning by experience that nothing was to be gained by quarrelling they soon settled down to the better and more profitable duty of leaving their neighbours alone and attending to their own business. Messrs. Wright and Hassall were eventually appointed solicitors, and the office, originally at the Public Hall, was transferred several years ago to 38, The Parade. About the early part of this year (1903) the Society was dissolved with the consent of the shareholders.

The only other Society calling for remark in this connection is the branch of the Starr-Bowkett (318th), established at the Albert Hall in 1880, and of which Mr. W. J. Callow was the secretary, and Mr. C. I. Blaker the solicitor. In their first annual statement the directors reported that there were 236 shareholders with 651 registered shares, representing an issue of £65,100, and expressed themselves in hopeful terms of the ultimate success of the movement. These anticipations, however, were not realised, and in 1889 the branch was wound up through lack of the necessary public support.

Theatrical matters were greatly advanced in 1849 by the purchase of the old and disused Congregational Chapel in Clemens Street, and its dedication to the drama. Small though the Bath Street House was, we doubt if any theatre in the provinces at that time had a more brilliant career. When dramatic representations were no longer possible there, arrangements were made by Messrs. Henry and Charles Elliston for their continuance at the Upper Assembly Rooms, which became and

continued to be the local temple of Thespis until the important development in 1849, just mentioned. The catering at the "extremely elegant temporary theatre fitted up in the Assembly Rooms," was energetic, and occasionally Mr. H. T. Elliston, the organist at the Parish Church, won much applause by his realistic impersonations. The name given the Clemens Street House was "The New Elliston Rooms and Theatre Royal;" Mr. Charles R. Elliston was the Managing Director, and the opening performance took place on Monday evening, February 5, the pieces selected being the comedy of "The Wonder, or a Woman Keeps a Secret," and Planche's comic drama, "Who's Your Friend, or the Queensbury Fête," for which Mr. James Wallack, Mrs. Glover, and Mr. Webster were specially engaged. On the following evening, and on Saturday, the 10th, there were grand concerts, at which Thalberg appeared, and on the 31st Jullien gave two concerts to crowded audiences. Mdlle. Alboni, then commencing her brilliant career, sang the part of Norina in "Don Pasquale," in October, Benedict conducting; and Macready, at his farewell visit on December 1, played "Hamlet," the building being packed, and Clemens Street a vast, surging mass of disappointed applicants for admission. Buckstone, Mrs. Fitzwilliam, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, Charles Mathews, G. V. Brooke, Sir William and Lady Don, Anderson, Madame Celeste, Sam Cowell, and many other celebrities might be quoted as having delighted Leamington from the footlights at this theatre. In 1859 a local A.B.C. Dramatic Club, established by Captain Horton Rhys, were fashionably patronised in their amateur performances, and in the early sixties entertainments of a similar character, given by the Rifle Volunteers for the funds of their Corps, were exceedingly popular. The principal characters, with one or two exceptions, were sustained by the officers and men of the company, all acquitting themselves creditably, Colonel (then Ensign) Magrath, Lieutenant N. Merridew, and one or two others being particularly good. The Theatre was closed in 1866, after which dramatic plays were occasionally performed in the Music Hall, Bath Street, and the Upper Assembly Rooms. A new movement opportunely started at this time by Sergeant White, and first

known as "The Leamington Amateur Dramatic Club," but afterwards as "The Garrick," supplied for fourteen seasons a most enjoyable series of entertainments. With him were associated Messrs. J. Heydon Sole and E. and A. Holmes, all of them possessing good histrionic ability and deserving well of the public for the admirable manner in which they catered and acted for its pleasure. In 1881 the Leamington Theatre Company was formed, and proceedings at once commenced for building the present charming Theatre in Regent Grove. It was erected by Mr. John Fell at a cost of £10,000, from designs by Mr. C. J. Phipps, of London, and was opened on the 2nd of October, 1882, with a performance of "The Lily of Killarney," under the direction of Sir Julius Benedict. After changing hands many times the property was purchased several years ago by Mr H. Dundas, by whom it was disposed of to David Allen and Sons, Mr. Dundas still retaining the management, and under his excellent judgment, liberality and ripe experience, assisted by Mr. Scutt, the dramatic art has reached a point in every way worthy of a Royal Borough.

The Ratepayers' Associations, of which there have been four, commenced three years after the constitution of the Board of Health. Before that time such institutions would have had no power, as the Commissioners ruled by virtue of their property and could not be turned out of office. The meeting for the formation of the first society was held at the Town Hall, High Street, in June, 1855. Mr. R. Russell presided, and the attendance included Messrs. A. Alexander, T. Sharp, R. A. Wallington, W. Russell (solicitor), J. Oldham, S. Oldham, T. Muddeman, S. Bird, Grove, Milman, Lane, Wilcox, Woodruffe, Neale, J. Roberts, J. White (Tavistock Street), B. A. Ablitt, Heyden, Colley and Bellamy. On the proposal of Mr. Ablitt, seconded by Mr. Neale, a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the rates were unnecessarily high and that there had been great recklessness and extravagance in the expenditure and conduct of the town affairs, and to prevent such extravagance and ensure good management in the future, the formation of a Ratepayers' Protection Committee was expedient and desirable. The second resolution, moved by Mr. White and seconded by Mr.

J. Roberts, was as follows: "This meeting proposes that a Committee be appointed, and that such Committee be requested to watch the proceedings of the Local Board of Health; to expose and make public by advertisement, hand-bill, public meeting, or otherwise, any unjust or improper outlay of the funds of the town, and generally to take such proceedings to economise and reduce the yearly expenses as such Committee in their discretion shall think fit." The motion was adopted, and in accordance with its terms a Committee was nominated and appointed.

The Society continued to take an active interest in electoral matters for upwards of three years, convening public meetings on the eve of the elections for discussion and the selection of candidates for whose return it made strenuous exertions. That it exercised an influence for good cannot be called in question, even by those public men who were not the recipients of its patronage. It is a tradition that it was discontinued in consequence of a nervous feeling among many of the tradespeople that their businesses were likely to suffer if they continued their membership.

The second Association appeared in 1864, from which time down to the granting of the Charter in 1875 it exercised a wider influence and more powerfully affected the local government of the town than any kindred institution before or since. As the story of its growth and work has never been told a few facts relating to its history will not prove unacceptable to the reader. The roll of membership numbered about nine ratepayers, who held occasional meetings in a small private room in Regent Street for the consideration of the public business. Of these several were members of the Local Board of Health, whose views on municipal questions were popular, and whose assistance in the work of the Association was of great value, though, it ought to be stated, their attendances were "few and far between." On special occasions, when the Local Board had decided on some step inimical to the interests of the ratepayers, the Association promptly took the matter in hand, and by means of bills, extensively circulated, roused public attention and gained thereby a degree of approbation which proved to be of much party consequence at the ensuing election. Previous to the annual elections it was industrious in

providing candidates whose claims it effectively enforced by the distribution of leaflets. The obstacles in its path were the plural votes of the villas, and "exclusive trading" with which some of the tradespeople expected to be visited in the event of it becoming known that they had voted for its candidates. With respect to the first point, it may be observed that the Association had but few supporters in the villas which represented a great preponderance of plural votes, but among the middle class tradespeople, small shopkeepers, and in the ranks of the working-classes it had a decided majority. As to the second it is well to remember that Leamington is far more tolerant now than it was forty or fifty years ago, and while admitting that the fear of losing custom in those days was largely derived from imagination it had, beyond doubt, some foundation in fact. Numerous proofs might easily be adduced of the special gift this Association had of setting in motion the springs of public life, and if it be urged that it failed to obtain a majority on the Board of Health it cannot be denied that it succeeded in increasing the numerical strength of the minority, and that too under circumstances extremely unfavourable for success. Its decadence commenced about the time when a strong feeling in favour of incorporation began to revive and assume an active form, its view being that the equalisation of the municipal franchise, which it had always advocated, would remedy the grievance of partial representation, and by giving to the ratepayers at large each an equal vote, invest them with the absolute authority of determining the future policy and work of the town.

The third Ratepayers' Association belonged to the Corporation era, and was described by its promoters as equally open to Liberals and Conservatives. Imperial politics were to be strictly excluded, the sole object being the good of the borough. From the first the movement was regarded with distrust, and when it was found that notwithstanding all these professions parties were not very enthusiastic for each other at the poll, the work of the organisation was discontinued. Of the Association recently formed, the office of the presidency of which is filled by Mr. S. W. West, and that of secretary by Mr. J. H. Fairfax, it is too soon to speculate on results.

Before leaving the question of these movements, it may be as well to point out that they are capable of great public usefulness when properly conducted, and that their existence does not necessarily imply an offensive attitude towards the governing body. As an index of the state of the feeling of the ratepayers they serve a good purpose, and to the eye of the intelligent observer they will be seen to assist in promoting rather than obstructing the well-being of the town.

The local Volunteer movement had its origin in 1859, the year in which General Peel issued his famous circular. Two meetings for the consideration of the subject having been held in October in the Town Hall with satisfactory results, Lord Leigh was in a position in November to offer the Queen the service of "a Company of Rifle Volunteers at Leamington and Warwick," and on January 11, 1860, he was officially informed by the War Office that "her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the same." The enrolment of the corps took place without delay, Mr. J. Machen being appointed captain, Mr. R. C. Heath lieutenant, and Mr. E. Muntz ensign, and before the month of January was out, sixty volunteers were sworn in at the Shire Hall, Warwick, before Mr. E. Greaves, and Captain R. D. Vaughton, a Crimean hero. Words of encouragement and congratulation having been addressed to the men, certain baptismal or christening rites, in which the element of wine was substituted for that of water, followed, and after "trying their hands at the goose-step" for a short time, the newly-fledged Volunteers had a march-out to the martial strains of the Militia Band. Drills were held alternately at Warwick and Leamington; the first instructor was Sergt.-Major Robertson, and afterwards Captain and Adjutant Edwards, a typical soldier, who, as Sergt.-Major in the 1st Scots Fusiliers, had seen active service in the Crimea, undertook and carried out to a successful issue the military training of the battalion. The butts at Milverton were erected in 1860 at a cost of £500, and in the same year the County Rifle Association was formed to promote good shooting, and encourage the volunteer spirit by offering prizes annually for competition. Foremost in this patriotic work was Lord Leigh, subscribing liberally to the funds and providing a target and range in Stoneleigh Deer Park

free of all expense. The first battalion prize-shooting in July, 1860, was attended by thousands of spectators, and had a most healthy and invigorating influence on the movement. At the subsequent yearly meetings, which have been continued to the present time, the Leamington Volunteers have had the honour of holding a high position for first-class firing, and chief amongst the band of crack shots who have thus won military laurels for themselves and the Spa the following must be named :—Quarter-Master-Sergeant (now Major) Cutting, Quarter-Master J. B. Stanley; Colour-Sergeants Metcalf, Doogan, Squires, A. Orton; Sergeants E. Holmes, H. Johnson, Peyton, J. Smartt, Walker, Whieldon; Corporal Haynes, and Privates Stoney and Slater. In 1860 the Company creditably took part in the great Volunteer Review in Hyde Park, and some time afterwards, in consequence of the number of recruits increasing, two corps were formed—one for Warwick and one for Leamington. The want of a suitable Drill Hall and Armoury, which from the first had caused great inconvenience, was met in 1870 by the erection of the present building near the Adelaide Bridge, the cost being ultimately defrayed by shares, repayable by ballot according to a scheme proposed by the late Mr. John Beck. Sergeant-Major Hodge, connected with the Corps from 1861 to 1876, was a popular officer, and was the possessor of several medals and clasps. His successor was Q.M.-Sergt. Harwood, from Budbrooke, who after serving eight years, retired, and was followed by Colour-Sergeant Davenport and Sergeant-Instructor Rogers, the present holder of the office being Colour-Sergeant Langston. Captain Machen, the first Captain Commandant of the Detachment, was succeeded by Colonel Magrath, who joined in 1860 as a private, was made Ensign in 1862, Captain in 1869, Major in 1882, and afterwards proceeded to the ranks of Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel. He retired in 1893 with full rank as Colonel, after which the office was filled successively by Major A. E. Overell, Major Frank Glover, Captain Kendall and Lieut. P. J. Locke. The following are among the prominent supporters of the movement in the early days as well as recent times, and sharers of its work by membership :—Ensign Sidney Flavel, Lieutenant J. W. Hassall, Lieutenant Dr. Collins, Captain C. I. Blaker, Lieutenant Dr.

Thorne, Surgeon-Major Dr. T. W. Thursfield, Lieutenant J. R. Jeaffreson, Lieutenant Laurie Brown, Ensign Parsons and Quarter-Master-Sergeant J. P. Beck.

S. Alban's, to which no reference has yet been made, has had a history more strange and eventful than any other church or chapel in Leamington. It is the survival of a corrugated iron building erected by the Rev. John Craig in 1861, on the site in Priory Terrace now occupied by Priory House, and was known in those days as "The New Opposition Church." Mr. Craig was caustically criticised in the Press and at the Vestry meetings for causing the Iron Church to be placed within a few yards of the Parish Church, and as it was thought that he had some pecuniary object in view, his enemies did not hesitate to speak of it openly as "The Vicar's New Shop," one of them recommending him to dedicate it to St. Demetrius, and to have inscribed across the front elevation this motto, in bold characters, "Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth." At this time the Parish Church afforded sitting accommodation for nearly 2,500, and in the Iron Church there was provision for about 1,000 more. In 1864 the new building was purchased by the Rev. T. S. Millington, Rector of Woodhouse Eave, Leicestershire, and transferred to the site in Warwick Street, which was then part of the large and beautiful garden belonging to Orleans House, now the Working Men's Conservative Club. The credentials of the new clergyman were, the authorship of a book of laborious research, high scholastic attainments, and sound churchmanship, "going to extremes in neither High nor Low directions." There was some change in the arrangements, including the erection of a chancel designed to form part of an entirely new church, for which the Vicar had agreed to assign a district. Mr. Millington resold the property in 1865 to Mr. Craig, who, with clerical assistance, continued the services until February, 1871, when the Rev. W. Wilkinson, of Christ College, Cambridge, and Vicar of Sutton, St. Michael, Hereford, became the purchaser. Means were now adopted for building a new church, and the appeals to the public for support meeting with liberal responses, the present edifice was commenced on June 7, 1877. A special sermon was preached by the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh, on the conclusion of

which Mrs. G. Unett laid the foundation stone with a silver trowel she had used for a similar purpose at the building of the Smethwick National Schools. The designs, which have been much admired for their many artistic merits, were prepared by the late Mr. J. Cundall, and the work was carried out by Mr. John Fell at an outlay exceeding £2,000. The name was now changed to that of "St. Michael's and All Angels." In 1881 there was another variation in the proprietorship. It will be remembered that in 1880 the Rev. Dr. Nicholson and his congregation had to leave Christ Church in consequence of Mrs. Downes refusing to renew the lease. The only building available was the Public Hall, to which they removed and there resumed their services. Early in the following year it was reported that Dr. Nicholson had purchased "St. Michael's and All Angels" from Mr. Wilkinson, and that possession was to be had as soon as the money was paid. Shortly after Dr. Nicholson acquired the property and gave the church the name of S. Alban's. In his financial statement for 1882 the price paid is set down as £5,600, and the total expenditure as £6,174 8s. 3d. The transaction gave rise to much discussion, for the particulars of which we must refer our readers to the local papers of that time. A splendid processional cross was presented to the Church in June, 1886, the font fixed in the Lady Chapel was given in October, 1892, and in 1887 the tower was erected as a memorial of the Jubilee reign of the Queen. After the sale of the church Mr. Wilkinson left Leamington, and in 1890 was rector of Burrough, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

The following extracts from Dr. Nicholson's report referred to above show the candid and grateful spirit in which he received the subscriptions, the magnanimity of the donors, and the extensive and costly alterations necessary.

Annexed is a complete list of all contributions, from every source, which have been paid into the purchase fund. The sum total is £1,284 5s. 6d. The basis or understanding upon which these contributions have been solicited and received was stated to you in an address dated April 9th, 1881, as follows:—
 "If members of the congregation are willing to aid me so far as partly to meet and sustain this burthen—in such case, I do not suggest that their donations be handed to me as a personal gift in any way; but that the collected sum, next after the sum raised by myself, shall be treated on the principle of securing to

the congregation an interest in the property. It will be understood that I should be altogether unable to engage in these heavy liabilities unless the sum which is to be raised by means of mortgage, or otherwise by myself, be secured upon the value of the building. But, in the next place after that sum, I propose to secure to the congregation, also upon the value of the building, the amount of their own contributions. It is distinctly upon this latter basis that contributions on this list are now hereby solicited and received." The greater portion of the sum contributed has been given, as I am informed, without any restriction or condition attached to the donation. Nevertheless, while I cannot but feel grateful for this kindness and the sentiment from which it springs, I would beg of the donors that the conditions or understanding should remain as stated in the address just quoted. Over and above the purchase of the property and the attendant law expenses of conveyance, &c., it became necessary, as you are aware, to provide funds for the following purposes, viz.: —(1) the permanent building of one side aisle; (2) the enlargement of the gallery; (3) the construction of a vestry for the clergy; (4) the new seating of a great part of the church; (5) the choir screen and gates; (6) reparation of the organ, and of all apparatus for the warming and lighting of the interior; (7) the supplying of several matters needed to restoring the building to proper repair and adaptation to our Church services, as well as to meet the requirements of the present increased dimensions of the fabric. The work has been executed under the direction and from the architectural plans of Mr. Cundall, of Leamington, whose services must be estimated at a considerable sum. Mr. Cundall, however, in the most generous manner, declines any professional remuneration, and has devoted his services to our Church as a "labour of love."

With rare abilities, a fascinating quality of eloquence, and a fine pulpit presence, Dr. Nicholson gathered together at S. Albans a large and fashionable congregation, to whom he ministered for twenty-one years with great acceptability and increasing popularity. Apart from his church, his geniality, open and frank nature, amiable disposition, and splendid capacity for public readings brought him admiring friendships in every circle of society, even among those who conscientiously differed from his High Church doctrines and ceremonial. His death occurred on July 17, 1902, and caused general regret. A beautiful memorial has since been placed in the Church, and another on his grave in the Cemetery, as marks of the affection of his numerous admirers.

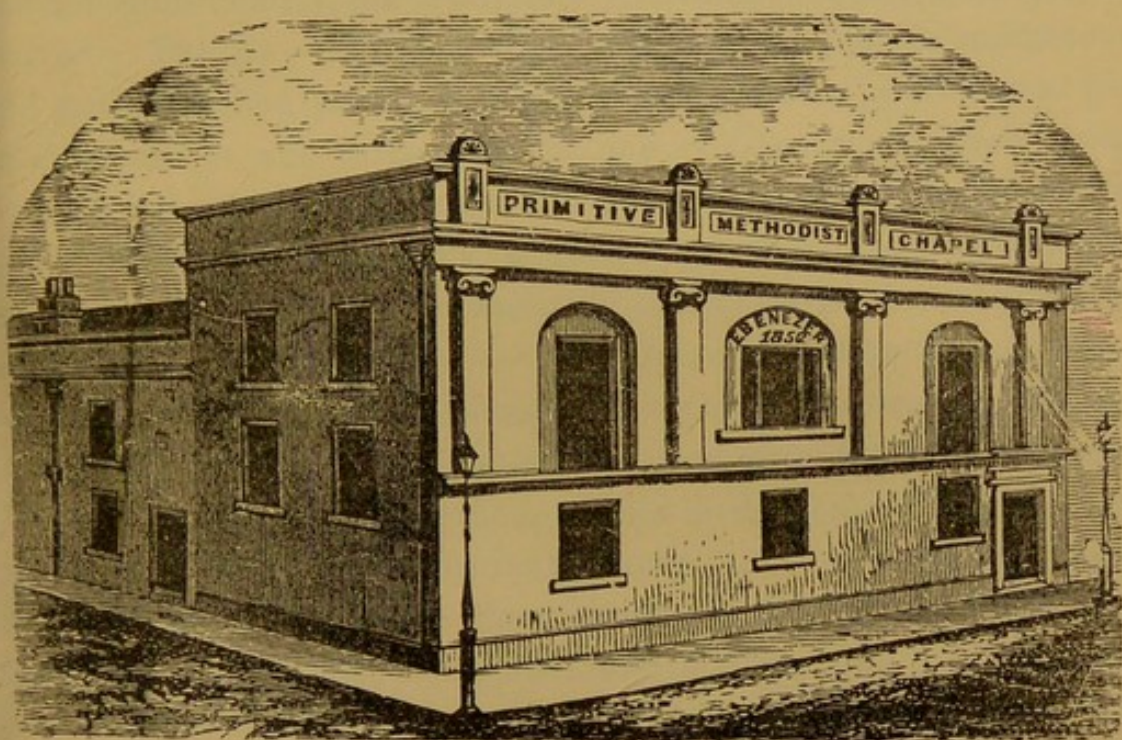
CHAPTER XXXIX.

The Primitive Methodist Chapel, High Street—an interesting building—Bisset's Museum—printing and publishing office of the Leamington Spa "Courier"—notes on the Primitive Methodist cause—"Much Ado About Nothing" by Conference—inaugural services and special meetings in 1852—Rev. John Craig's telescope—description of, and interesting notes on—joke by Charles Dickens respecting its purpose—introduction of the Electric Telegraph System into Leamington, etc.

WHETHER Ebenezer Church, High Street, be considered in the light of its denominational position and history—representing one of the several branches of English Methodism, and a centre of work over a somewhat extensive local area—or, as the building in which Bisset's Museum, famous throughout Warwickshire in the early years of the nineteenth century, afforded enjoyment and instruction to thousands of admiring visitors, or, as the premises where the Leamington Spa "Courier" was printed and published soon after its commencement three-quarters of a century ago, it will be seen to have numerous interests special to itself.

It was erected in 1819 by James Bisset for the purpose of bringing together in one commodious and convenient building the large number of paintings and curios which he brought with him to Leamington in 1812. Having in chapter XIV.* referred to him at some length, it is unnecessary now to say more than that this is the only museum the Royal Spa has had, notwithstanding that repeated efforts have been made by societies and individuals to supply such a desideratum, and unless something approaching a miracle of generosity take place, Bisset's museum will not be equalled within the next half-a-century. At the date of the building the collection was being exhibited in three places, part of it was on view at his room in Clemens Street, a portion

* See page 149.



EBENEZER CHAPEL HIGH STREET.



THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

in a house in Gloucester Street, and the remainder in the Picture Gallery in Ranelagh Terrace, adjacent to Belle Vue Cottage. Originally he had a branch in Union Street, now known as the Parade, which is supposed to have occupied a position opposite what was then described as "the plantation," namely, the Pingle, on the site of which stand the present Municipal Buildings. This, however, had evidently been closed for several years. In the accumulation of his very large treasure of paintings, articles of vertu, etc., Bisset had evinced good taste in combination with an artistically sound judgment; had spent his money liberally, but not injudiciously, nor fruitlessly, as events, happily, abundantly proved. The Rev. William Field, from whose placid, competent and accomplished pen, praise was praise indeed, commended his establishments, and respecting the one in Gloucester Street said, "Certainly, an hour of leisure at Leamington can scarcely find a more rational and pleasing gratification than that which the inspection of this small but amusing collection of the wonders of nature and art will afford." On the completion of the new building in High Street, Bisset concentrated his varied exhibits there, but reserved the choicest of his paintings for the Picture Gallery in Ranelagh Terrace. This arrangement suiting the public convenience much better than the previous sectional displays, and at the same time greatly adding to its importance and effect by affording an opportunity of inspecting it as a whole, the Museum in High Street proved to be an irresistible attraction to visitors and residents from 1819 to 1832, the year of his death, and yielded a remuneration highly satisfactory to its ingenious, cheery and public spirited proprietor. Its ultimate dispersion was a material subtraction from the then very limited sum total of those æsthetic and unexciting enjoyments which are sources of refreshing delectation for invalids, restful pleasures for fatigued visitors, and grateful relief for all who suffer beneath the intolerably crushing burden of ennui. Viewed by the light of the now universally accepted axiom that an exhibition of beautiful pictures is educational in its influence on the public mind it assigns to James Bisset the unique and distinguished position of having been the forerunner of art culture at the Royal Spa, and abundantly justifies the application to him, in respect of his public

work at Leamington, the praise bestowed by an eminent authority for his services at Birmingham in a corresponding department of popular instruction, "he spent the best of his days in trying to establish a local museum, and certainly succeeded in doing more for local art than anyone who had preceded him. He left a record which entitles him to a commanding position among our local worthies."

Bisset's influence and work in support of the Spa as the Bethesda of mid-England, were wholly free of the narrow limitations of parochialism; they were diffused like rays of sunshine through every county, and operated as powerful auxiliaries to other causes in promoting the general prosperity of Leamington. His Guide of 1814 has no equal as an innovation, both in regard to matter and method; nor can it be paralleled for sprightly wit and innocuous fun; for condensation and velocity of description. It delighted everybody, and amid the welcome avalanche of encomiums it showered upon him there was one which, being expressed in his own style of verse, yielded him special gratification. The writer was the Rev. J. H. Smyth, a clergyman then resident at Liverpool. The following are the introductory lines to his graceful compliment:—

"Thanks! thanks! lively Bisset, whose excellent "Guide"
First led me on Leam's pleasant banks to reside!
And here am I, bound by your magical spell,
Near Leam's placid stream for a season to dwell.
Your Muse and your Pencil have clearly pourtray'd
Each object which nature and art have display'd,
In grandeur sublime, or in elegant ease,
The mind to enlighten, the fancy to please."

Of his verse it is unnecessary to say more than that he wrote to amuse rather than instruct, and fulfilling this purpose he was as contented and happy as he would have been had the coveted laurel of the Laureateship encircled his brow. Those who seek in his writings for the faintest trace of the higher qualities of poetry will be disappointed. For such a performance he had no ambition, and it is doubtful if he had the ability. He discarded the aids of mythological art, gave free rein to his fancy, struck while the iron was hot, and, as Dryden remarks of Elkanah Settle, a minor poet of the period:

"He fagoted his notions as they fell,
And if they rhymed and rattled, all was well."

The following are fair specimens of his style, and as one relates to the fame of the Leamington mineral waters, and the other is Shakesperian, they are certain to prove entertaining to the reader. The coronation of George IV. in 1821 was an opportunity for saying something in favour of the saline springs, the "amazingly efficacious" healing virtues of which he had proved by experience. Accordingly Bisset, under the alleged right of a Royal author, in a humorous publication, asserted his claim to be present at the ceremony in the form of this "humble petition."

He claims, as Royal Authors should,
To serve without a Fee,
And, loving King and Country well,
Most humbly begs that he
May be allowed, from Leam's fam'd Spa,
Three Crystal Cups to bring,
And at the Coronation feast
Present them to the King.
Fill'd with three sev'ral draughts divine
Chalybeat or Carbonic,
With all th' ingredients that combine
To render systems tonic.
They'll do His Majesty more good
Than Claret or Champagne,
Or imports of imperial juice,
From It'ly, France, or Spain.
May millions sing, "God save the King,"
From Johny Grott's to Dover,
And when the Coronation's o'er,
May Britons live in clover!

The subjoined clever verses belong to a sheaf of "Bisset's (anticipated) joys of the Jubilee at Stratford-on-Avon in 1826, in commemoration of the anniversary birth day of the Immortal Shakespeare." They included twelve pieces inscribed to the Shakespearian Society, of which he was an ardent admirer, and for whose indulgence he appealed in the following amusing lines:—

Mirth and glee to promote, I have ta'en up my pen;
Should the flights of my fancy show Nature's impairs,
I trust Stratford friends the attempt will excuse—
For the sake of "Lang Syne," a weak head, and grey hairs.

THE HALLOWED CRAB.

Tune—"Over the Water to Charlie."

We have songs, two or three, 'bout the Mulberry Tree,
That was planted by Stratford's fam'd Bard, sir,
But I sing of a tree, sir—to-day with great glee, sir,
Of which you perhaps never heard, sir,
'Tis deserving of fame, and a Crab Tree its name,
Tho' as yet no poetical muse, sir,
Has on it wrote line—tho' the Bard called "Divine"
Chose under its branches to snooze, sir.

With friends a gay party, young Shakespeare so hearty,
One day went to Bidford a'boozing;
And when of good ale they had all drunk their fill—
Were returning to Stratford for snoozing,
But being half-drunk, it is said, down they slunk,
A night's shelter none chose to refuse, sir,
So contented they lay, till the next peep of day,
Beneath an old crab tree to snooze, sir.

Some fairies were found, tripping light near the ground,
They cried "Quick, let us haste to Queen Mab, sir,
"To tell her who lies 'neath the star spangled skies,
"A snoring so sound near yon Crab, sir."
The Queen hastened soon, from her mansion the moon,
Found our Bard snug repos'd after boozing,
She cried "May this tree, ever hallowed be,
"Where my favourite Willy lies snoozing."

When young Willy awoke, it is said, thus he spoke—
"I've a notion this crab bearing tree, sir,
"Tho' the fruits tart and sour, yet by some magic power
"Will in future immortalized be, sir;
"For merry Queen Mab, as I slept neath the Crab,
"Has instilled some bright thoughts in my muse, sir;
"Then bless'd be the day, when so snugly I lay,
"In the shade of its branches to snooze, sir."

When Shakespeare got back, 'tis asserted, no lack
Of the wit that Queen Mab had instill'd, sir—
In his wonderful brain had unfertilized lain,
For in all things the youth was well skilled, sir—
In every point true, he kept Nature in view,
And 'tis thought that his magical muse, sir,
Had he lived to this day, he'd have penn'd a short lay
On the Crab he popp'd under to snooze, sir.

From the mulberry tree many trinkets I see
 Neatly carved and with silver gilt lin'd, sir ;
 But a rudely cut slab, from the night-sheltering crab,
 Is a relic much more to my mind, sir.
 To merry Queen Mab then be sacred the Crab—
 This tribute sure none will refuse, sir ;
 Whilst the honoured spot will not soon be forgot—
 Where young Shakespeare so snugly did snooze, sir.

ADDENDA—FOR SHAKESPEARIANS.

Shakespearians all, on his birthday, I call
 For goblets of punch, ale or wine, Sir ;
 We'll his memory drink, and I verily think,
 There are none will a bumper decline, Sir.
 Fill your glasses, my boys—may our Jubilee joys
 Still increase, and the old sacred tree, Sir—
 The hallowed Crab, of the merry Queen Mab,
 For ever immortalised be, Sir.

The commencement of the advantage of having a local Press the Borough owes to the year 1828, when "The Leamington Spa Courier" was founded on a durable and firm basis, and occupied the ground floor of the Museum, Bisset's exhibits being moved into the upper room, access to which was through the present door. The "Courier" office door was at the opposite corner, either in High Street or Wise Street, which, is not certain. There had been previous attempts to establish a local newspaper, all of them failures, and none calling for remark except the "Warwickshire Chronicle" of 1826, printed in the county town and introduced into Leamington, where, at the best, its success was equivocal. The first number appeared on April 19, and among its contents was a report of a social dinner at the Blenheim Hotel, Dr. Amos Middleton presiding, of which it was said that the superabundant supply of fish, flesh and fowl gave place to a delicious "desert." There was also an advertisement of a new paper to be called "The Leamington Herald," which, however, never advanced beyond the prospectus stage. There can be no disputing that the honour of having been the first really Leamington paper, edited, printed and produced in the town, without the least external aid, belongs to the "Courier." It was the property of a company of shareholders, whose first number appeared on August 9 under the editorship of Mr. James Sharp, senior, his coadjutor being Mr. John Fairfax, one of the deacons

and founders of the Clemens Street Congregational Church, a man of great importance in Nonconformist circles, and two years earlier the proprietor of a printing office known as The Original Spa Press. Until the "Courier" appeared there was no systematic publication of the daily events of the town; no regular spirit of journalistic enterprise netting the ephemeral motes which fluttered about in the local atmosphere, and gumming them on the page of history for the benefit of posterity. The transient system of paragraph journalism which had previously obtained had now to give place to the new organ, whose issues proved to be a fitting and welcome accompaniment to the municipal system of government introduced in 1825. It served the practical purpose of exciting in the minds of the ratepayers a sympathetic interest in that novel experiment, and supplied a valuable means for the dissemination of useful information and the discussion of all matters affecting the welfare of the then budding Borough. In 1837 the paper was sold to Mr. G. Christopher Liebenrood, who continued to print and publish it "at his printing office, situate in High Street and Wise Street," down to 1848, at which time it was removed to "more convenient premises," in course of erection at the back of 111,* Warwick Street, and at the same time enlarged it by adding an extra column to each page and lengthening the pages by several inches. The late Mr. Joseph Glover purchased the property in 1855, and subsequently transferred it to the extensive printing premises in Church Walk which had been specially erected by him for the purpose. Under his spirited management, and materially aided by his deserved popularity with all classes the paper rose to a position second to no provincial journal in a town similar to Leamington. His successor in the proprietorship is his son, Mr. Frank Glover, who also discharges the responsible duties of the editorship. In his hands the prestige of the "Courier" has been maintained, and its traditions preserved. Early information, full reports, a liberal support of Leamington institutions, fidelity to Conservatism and party obligations, a capacity for good fighting, and extensive intelligence respecting county occurrences, are qualities which in no mean degree have characterised its career.

* The present number is 39.

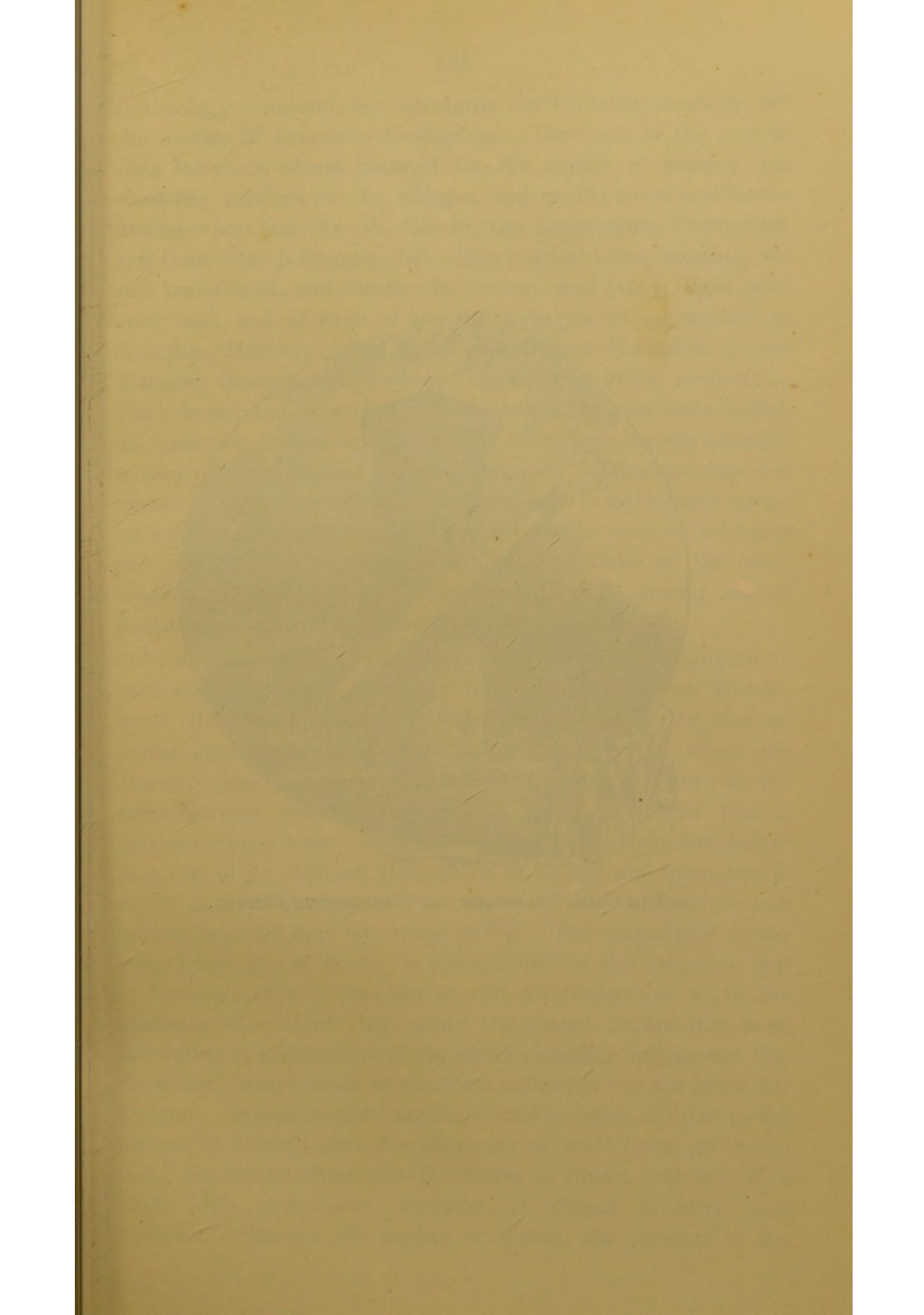
In 1852 the Primitive Methodist Connection bought the property with the five cottages adjoining in Wise Street, and the Star public house. The latter was sold as soon as a customer could be found, but the other buildings were retained and still belong to that body. The origin of Primitive Methodism is a curious case of "Much Ado about Nothing" on the part of the Wesleyan Conference, and taken in conjunction with the great split of 1849 it goes to show that the religious intolerance imputed to Roman Catholic Conclaves and Protestant Convocations was far from being a monopoly in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is almost beyond credibility that the "parting of the ways" in this instance was brought about by no weightier consideration than the expediency of camp meetings or open-air services, a form of worship allowed in the Church of England, and adopted by Dean Leigh when he was Vicar of Leamington, without a murmur of complaint or the least thought of interference by his Diocesan. It appears that about the year 1807 a number of Wesleyans, of whom the Rev. Hugh Bourne was one of the leaders, finding chapels were few, and barns and other rooms in which to hold their services, scarce, adopted the American system of holding Camp meetings, at which thousands of hearers were present. At this the magnates of Conference frowned severely, haughtily refused to grant their sanction, and finally prohibited such irregular proceedings as "highly improper and likely to be productive of considerable mischief." As neither Hugh Bourne nor his colleagues would give way, they were expelled and denied further membership in the Wesleyan Society, whose fundamental doctrines they accepted, and to whose Church policy they conformed, excepting in this and one or two other fine, but unimportant details.

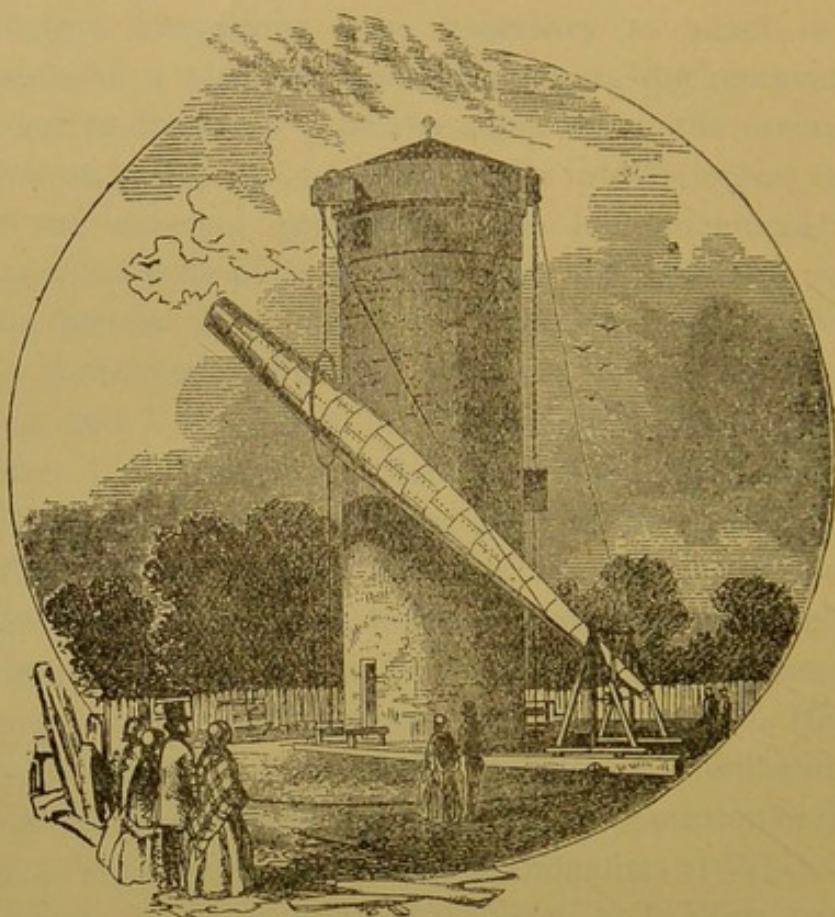
Out of these vexatious and unexpected circumstances came a new movement, substantially allied to the existing form of Wesleyanism, and differing therefrom mainly in the holding of Camp meetings, in respect of which its members claimed to be following in the footsteps of John Wesley, who preached at open air services where and when the people were willing to listen. Hence the name they assumed, "Primitive Methodists," not meaning thereby that they were first in the order of time, but that

they adhered closely in their worship and preaching method to those of the famous founder of their denomination. At the commencement they were a few and feeble folk; they speedily, however, increased in numbers and influence, and eventually organised a Connection on the Wesleyan basis which has progressed steadily for nearly a century.

On purchasing the Bisset Museum building in 1852 some slight internal alterations were necessary to adapt it to the requirements of a place of worship, such as the removal of the floor separating the lower from the upper room, the erection of a gallery, pulpit, pews, etc., but beyond the inscription on the front elevation the external appearance was left unchanged. The opening services took place in September and extended over four days; the Revds. T. Turner, of Swindon, and T. Nash, of Warwick, preaching on Sunday, the 12th; the Revds. E. Bishop, of Reading, and J. W. Percy, of Warwick, on Sunday, the 19th, and the Rev. J. E. Beaumont, M.D., of Bristol, on Thursday, the 23rd. There was also an evening service the same day in the Independent Chapel, Spencer Street, kindly lent for the occasion, and on Monday, the 20th, the inaugural services were celebrated by a public tea meeting at the Temperance Hall, Clemens Street, for which the advertised speakers were the Revds. E. Bishop, J. W. Percy, T. Nash, A. T. Weir, H. Yeates, W. Stephenson, etc. The loan of the Spencer Street Chapel, the co-operation of the Rev. J. W. Percy, representing the Congregationalists at Warwick, and the presence at the tea meeting of the Rev. A. T. Weir, one of the ministers at the Wesleyan Chapel, Portland Street, are gratifying indications of the cordial welcome given the new cause by the Free Churches, and the absence of any feeling of jealousy remaining among the Wesleyans in consequence of the original dispute.

Ebenezer Church is the headquarters of the Leamington Circuit of Primitive Methodism, of which the Rev. A. Harding is the Superintendent. The area of its work comprises fourteen places of worship, twelve of which are in rural parishes, the most important being those at Southam, Harbury, Long Itchington, Stockton, Napton, Barford, Fenny Compton and Bascote. The pulpits are supplied by voluntary preachers whose names are placed on the rota only after satisfactorily passing an examination





THE CRAIG TELESCOPE ON WANDSWORTH COMMON.

in theology, grammar, the scriptures, the Christian ministry and the history of Primitive Methodism. There are at the present time forty-one names planned for the supply of Sunday and week-day services in the villages, and twenty-seven auxiliaries among whom are Mr. W. Clarke, the Leamington Postmaster, and Councillor J. Bennett, J.P. The original Camp meetings are still maintained, and during the present year (1903) eight have been held, one at each of the following places:—Leamington, Southam, Harbury, Long Itchington, Priors Hardwick, Priors Marston, Bascote and Stockton. In addition to the property in High Street and Wise Street, the Connection own Bute Lodge, 21, Charlotte Street, which serves as a residence for the superintendent of the Circuit. Though Primitive Methodism does not appear to be a plant of extraordinary growth in fashionable towns, its increase throughout the country, as will be seen on reference to "Whitaker," compares favourably with those of the other branches of the original Wesleyan Church, among whom, statistically, it is not far from the top of the list.

Another subject that engaged the attention of Leamington in 1852 was the erection of a large Refractor telescope on Wands-worth Common by the Rev. John Craig, vicar. He was an ardent student in astronomy, for the promotion of which his liberality was princely. The telescope, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, weighed three tons and had a maximum focal length of eighty-five feet, being forty-five longer than that of Sir William Herschell's, at Slough, and thirty-two in excess of Lord Rosse's, at Parsonstown. But its aperture was less by two and four feet respectively. The magnifying power ranged from 500 to 3,000. It was claimed for this telescope that in October, 1852, it had set at rest all conjectures as to the existence of a third ring round the planet Saturn, the most interesting in architecture of the whole planetary system, but the statement, though made on excellent authority, was not borne out by facts. Several persons are mentioned as being entitled to the honour of having made the discovery of the "inner, or dusky ring," the first of whom was Dr. Galle, of Berlin, who saw it in 1838. His observation, however, is alleged to have been "shelved" through the neglect of Encke, the director of the

Berlin Observatory. It was again seen on November 15, 1850, by Mr. Bond at the Observatory, Cambridge, Massachussets, and on the 29th of the same month by Mr. Dawes, and some days later by Mr. Lassell in England, neither of whom had at the time heard of Mr. Bond's success. It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Craig could not have been the first to discover it as his telescope was not erected until a later date. But this need not detract from the high merits of his instrument, respecting which Lord Rosse expressed the happiness it afforded him to hear so good an account of it, and which the Rev. Dr. Dick, author of "Celestial Scenes," "The Solar System," and several other astronomical publications of standard value, commended in terms of almost unmeasured praise.* But it is not on individual testimony alone that the reputation of the telescope depends. The London papers were agreed as to the beauty and distinctness with which it brought out the inner ring, and it was remarked by one journal that "the wonders of the heavenly bodies were exhibited by this eighty-feet refractor in a way the eye of man had never heretofore been permitted to see them." Mr. Craig, who had not the support of a royal bounty as Sir William Herschell had, nor the

* Addressing a crowded and influential audience in the Royal Music Hall, Bath Street, in October, 1852, this distinguished man referred to the planet Saturn, and after explaining its double rings, spoke of Mr. Craig and his telescope in the following terms:—"Lately, however, the famous American astronomer, Mr. Bond, intimated that he had observed a *faint* inner ring; this has been seen in this country by certain members of the Astronomical Society, although not seen by the Northumberland telescope at Cambridge, and your Vicar, in his noble Refractor, lately erected at Wandsworth, *brings out this third ring to perfect view*. I have seen that wonderful telescope, having travelled 400 miles for that purpose, feeling as I do that it will enrol your Vicar's name with Galileo, Tycho Brahe, Huggens, of Lord Rosse, and those worthies who have done so much to benefit and bless mankind."

In the first edition of this work, Mr. Craig was credited with the honour of having been the discoverer of the inner ring. That statement was made on the authority of "The Illustrated London News" for August 28, and October 16, 1852, and the opinions of the London papers, collected and republished in "The Leamington Courier" on the latter date. At the time our claim on behalf of Mr. Craig appeared, or, rather, let us say the claim advanced by his contemporaries, "The Leamington Chronicle" corrected it by giving the story of the ring much the same as stated above. The only qualification rendered necessary is to say that while Mr. Craig's position as the discoverer cannot be maintained, to him belongs the distinction of having shown it more clearly than any of the others; at least, that is the construction we place on the foregoing and other testimonies.

wealth of Lord Rosse, lost an immense sum by his enthusiasm in the cause of astronomical science, and though he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had extended the boundaries of its knowledge, he at the same time had seriously impaired his own fortune. Notwithstanding its superior excellencies in many respects, the telescope had an irremediable defect which somewhat impaired its utility.

Forster, in his "Life of Charles Dickens," has a story of Mr. Craig and his telescope which appropriately brings this notice to a conclusion. Professor Owen was describing one day a telescope of huge dimensions built by an enterprising clergyman who had taken to the study of the stars, "and who was eager," said Owen, "to see farther into heaven—he was going to say than Lord Rosse, if Dickens had not drily interposed, 'than his professional studies had enabled him to penetrate.'"

The luxury of the Electric Telegraph system by which distance was practically abolished and the length of days reduced to the measure of minutes, was introduced into Leamington in the middle of the last century. There were two offices for the dispatch and reception of messages; one, the United Kingdom Telegraph Company's, at Mr. Maycock's Bath Street, and the other, the Electric and International Telegraph Company's, at the Jephson Gardens Lodge, now used as an office by Mr. Dell, the head gardener. One clerk at each was sufficient, the public as a rule resorting to the telegraph only in cases of urgency and great importance, not for ordinary business transactions as is the case in the present day. The office at the Jephson Gardens Lodge was opened in 1853, and as that of the other most probably took place about the same time, the present (1903) may be taken as the Jubilee year of the local system. In 1870 the Government purchased the telegraphs, and on February 5 the business was transferred to the Post Office in Priory Terrace, where seventeen clerks (Mr. Gething being the chief telegraphist) and assistants are employed in the department, and the messages received and despatched have reached the enormous total of 250,000 annually, and are still increasing.

CHAPTER XL.

Baptist Church, Clarendon Street,—origin of, building, and brief description—the Rev. W. A. Salter, the first Minister; his zeal, learning, and contributions to "The Annotated Paragraph Bible"—successors in the pastorate—St. Paul's Church—foundation stone laying and opening services—the Rev. T. Bromley; brief notice of, and of the successive clergy—St. John's—generous gifts of Mrs. Matthew Wise and Mrs. John Hitchman—the Rev. E. T. Franklyn—list of clergy, etc.

AFTER the Rev. W. A. Salter resigned the pastorate at Warwick Street Baptist Church, as mentioned on page 247, he and some attached friends held services in Beck's Room, Upper Parade; and in August, 1860 (six months after the commencement of these meetings) he announced his intention to remain in Leamington. Steps were immediately taken to provide a new place of worship, the result being the purchase of a site in Clarendon Street, and the erection of the present edifice by Mr. B. Bradshaw from his own designs. The architecture is Early English, and the arrangements and treatment throughout "evinced a rare combination of beauty and commodiousness." The entire cost, exclusive of the schoolroom, was £2,098 2s. 11d. The late Mr. C. E. Large prepared the necessary deeds and gave valuable professional advice without any remuneration, and, among other helpers, Mr. T. H. Thorne and Mr. Philip Locke subscribed liberally and rendered much practical assistance. At the opening services in June, 1863, sermons specially appropriate were preached by the Revds. John Aldis, of Reading; Newman Hall, of Surrey Chapel; and W. Landels, of Regent's Park Chapel, London. Mr. Salter continued his ministrations with steadily increasing popularity until 1877, and his health then beginning to fail, the Rev. Henry Wright, of Regent's Park College, was appointed co-pastor, and on his subsequent removal to Manchester, the Rev. J. Butlin, B.A., was elected his successor. Mr. Salter died on the 29th of July, 1879, aged sixty-seven, and was interred in Warwick Cemetery on the 2nd of August.

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ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

Foundation Stone laid May 15, 1873, by
William Willes, Esq., Newbold Comyn; opened
by the Bishop (Dr. Philpott) May 14, 1874.

During his twenty years' residence in Leamington he had gained general esteem by his willing services to every good cause, and by his zeal, learning, and personal excellencies. When his death was announced, the "Athenæum" mentioned, as a matter of world-wide interest, that he was one of the principal writers of the "Annotated Paragraph Bible," published by the Religious Tract Society, and that he had completed a new edition of his notes on the New Testament, and with those of the Old Testament had made considerable progress at the time his labours were finally interrupted. After his death the Rev. J. Butlin, who had been assisting him three months, was elected pastor. In 1884 he was succeeded by the Rev. G. A. Willis, of Regent's Park College, who resigned in 1896, and after staying in Leamington a few years accepted the pastorate at Henley-in-Arden. In the month of October following, the Rev. Francis Johnson was elected. His connection with the Church lasted without shadow or cloud, until a serious illness in 1903 rendered a change of air necessary for his health and compelled a resignation which was deplored by every member of his congregation, and in the public mind produced a feeling of deep regret.

The preliminary steps for erecting St. Paul's Church were taken in July, 1872, when the Rev. T. Bromley, Vicar of St. Mary's, issued an appeal for the necessary funds. In August, £3,212 had been subscribed towards the £5,000 required, not estimating the site given by Mrs. Willes, and valued at £150. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. William Willes on May 15, 1873, and the church was opened by the Bishop on May 14, 1874. The style of the building, which has accommodation for nearly 1,000 persons, is the 13th century Gothic. Mr. J. Cundall was the architect, and the contractor was Mr. Kibler, of Wellesbourne. At first the services were under the superintendence of Mr. Bromley, who had as assistant ministers at St. Mary's, the Revds. J. H. Rogers and D. C. Hunt. In 1876 the Rev. W. Flory took the place of Mr. Hunt, and continued in office until his acceptance of the incumbency of Holy Trinity in 1877. Mr. Rogers resigned in 1876, and became incumbent of St. George's, Kemp Town, Brighton. After the transfer of Mr. Flory to Holy Trinity, Mr. Bromley carried on the services with

the Rev. H. Macdonald as his assistant curate. In September, 1877, the Rev. J. Bradley, of Walsall, succeeded Mr. Macdonald as assistant curate, became incumbent-designate in October of the same year, and the church having been consecrated on the 25th of April following, and on the 29th of June having had a district allotted to it, he was presented to the living in July. Mr. Bradley, after fifteen years' harmonious and prosperous work, resigned in 1893 through failing health, for the benefit of which he had been abroad for a considerable time, the Rev. J. Pleydell Driver acting as his *locum tenens*. He was succeeded by the Rev. G. E. A. Pargiter, formerly of Yarmouth, the present Vicar.

St. John's Church, dating from 1877, was the outcome of a feeling that the parochial system of the Church of England demanded the constitution of an ecclesiastical district for South Leamington. Among the early promoters of this project was the Rev. Canon Young, of Whitnash; and to Mrs. Matthew Wise special praise must be awarded for having given the substantial sum of £1,000 for the benefit of the church. At a preliminary meeting at the Crown Hotel, 1875, for the purpose of selecting a site, it was announced that there were eight offers, one being by Mrs. Hitchman, who, in addition to contributing liberally to the building fund, was willing to give sufficient land and convey it to the trustees free of all charge. This generous offer was accepted. The foundation stone was laid by Lord Leigh, with Masonic honours, on April 3, 1877, and the building was erected by Mr. John Fell, from plans and designs prepared by Mr. J. Cundall. The style of architecture is the early English. On February 14, 1878, the church was consecrated by the Bishop. The Rev. E. T. Franklyn, who, previous to its erection, had been conducting services in a large room lent by Mrs. Hitchman, was the first incumbent and vicar of the parish. In 1882 he accepted the living of Kenilworth, and was succeeded by the Rev. W. G. Wise, formerly of Leeds, and son of Mrs. Matthew Wise, whose signal liberality has just been mentioned. He resigned in 1902 and was succeeded by the present Vicar, the Rev. T. J. Cartwright.

The annual trainings of the Second Warwickshire Militia, fifty years ago, gave to Leamington a novel and picturesque appearance. It was customary in April to assemble the recruits who in

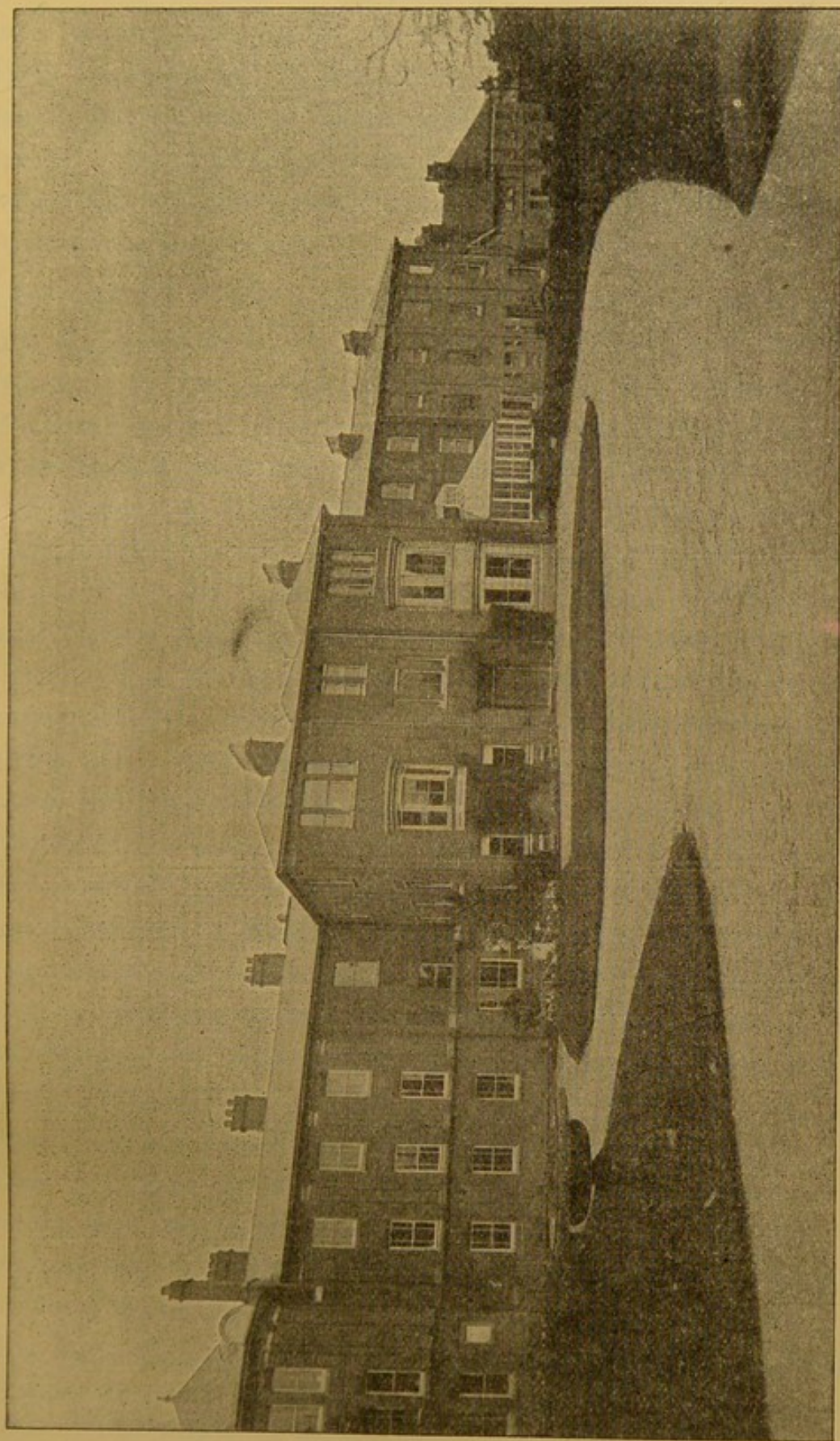
May were joined by their more experienced comrades. Their first appearance was in 1853, and with the exception of absences during the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, they were regular visitors until the erection of the barracks at Budbrooke. In 1857 those in Clapham Terrace were built for stores and the residences of the Permanent Staff. Each morning there was a parade in Clapham Terrace, and between nine and ten o'clock the regiment, led by its fine band and generally playing "Ye Warwickshire Lads and Lasses," marched through the town to the Cricket Field, now the Victoria Park. In the afternoon there was a second drill, and for the evening a reading and recreation room at the Town Hall, amply provided with papers and light refreshments by Mrs. Francis and other ladies; frequently concerts and entertainments organised by Mr. W. Southern and a number of friends, took place in the Public Hall. While the officers were at mess at the Regent Hotel, the band, stationed in the garden, gave excellent open air concerts. At the official inspections, conducted by officers appointed by the War Office, Lord Leigh was always present in his uniform as Lord Lieutenant. The drilling of nearly seven hundred soldiers in the town for something like two months, the daily marchings, the military music, and the attendant crowds of spectators, rendered the period the liveliest and most attractive of the whole year. The discontinuance of the trainings naturally withdrew a large sum from the trading income of the town. Sir Thomas Skipwith, the first Colonel, was succeeded by Major Granville, and of the officers four names readily occur as enjoying the popularity of the public in an exceptional degree, namely, Sergeant-Major Mark, a zealous temperance reformer, Sergeant Poole, Sergeant White, a good actor and a splendid reciter, and Staff-Sergeant Nason, who received numerous testimonials from his Colonel, Mrs. Francis and others, for his efficiency and services in promoting the welfare of the men.

CHAPTER XLI.

The Midland Counties Home for Chronic and Incurable Cases—the Clemens Street Hospital; historical notes on—Mr. Winters's organisation—formation of the Home in 1874—definition of its objects—declared a public institution in 1880—purchase of the arboretum and removal to in 1884—cost of; some generous gifts—reminiscences of the property—description of the work carried on and particulars of the accommodation provided, etc., etc.

NEXT, for its deep and far reaching philanthropic interest, to the founding of the Warneford Hospital in 1832, must be placed the origin in 1874 of the Midland Counties Home for Chronic and Incurable cases. If it occupied a position historically separate and distinct from every other, its record would still furnish abundant material for gratitude on account of results achieved, and admiration of those disinterested and persevering qualities which have been displayed by its friends and supporters in their arduous task of construction and development. Dove-tailed, however, as it is by the accident of birth and the necessity of migration into the histories of four older institutions, the Dispensary and Hospital for Skin Diseases, Clemens Street, and Mr. Hitchman's Arboretum and Hydropathic Establishment, it has, independently of its own central merits, marginal attractions not possessed by any other institution in Leamington.

The premises in Clemens Street, where the movement was started, were erected in 1813, and at first formed a part of Booth's Terrace, a name conferred in honour of Mr. Booth, the owner of a considerable amount of land and house property in the locality. In the sixties, having ceased to be dwellings, they were used by Bollans and Co., as a manufactory for fancy stationery, such as birthday cards, satchets, etc., and until St. Valentine was dethroned and lost his regal power of empire on each returning 14th of February, valentines of artistic finish. The traveller for this firm—Mr. Povey—no doubt still remembered by a few, merits just a



THE MIDLAND COUNTIES HOME FOR CHRONIC AND INCURABLE CASES.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

slight allusion. He belonged to a Warwick family, and about the middle of the last century came to Leamington where he gained lasting friendships by his unvarying geniality. Subsequently he embarked in the same kind of business on his own account, and not without some show of reason, constantly evinced a degree of special pleasure on his ability to dispense with the services of a full-blown and mint-marked poet, by manufacturing his own sonnets as well as his cards and satchets.

After Bollans & Co. vacated the premises they were occupied by Dr. R. Howarth Blake, as a Hospital for Diseases of the Skin (a subject, to the careful study of which, his translation of Caillault's Practical Treatise of Diseases of the Skin in Children, with notes and additions, is proof that he had applied himself with diligence and to advantage), Cancer and Scrofula. It was a Midland institution with an open door for patients from all parts of England and the United Kingdom. Dr. Alfred Hollis was the resident house surgeon, and Lady James Murray the hon. treasurer. The patronage was extensive and influential, but the pecuniary support was far from adequate, and after several years of useful work, during which hundreds of patients were cured or relieved, the larger scheme lapsed and the institution came into the hands of Dr. Horace Sweete, who conducted it for some time in the modified form of a dispensary. This experiment, despite strenuous efforts to make it a success, failed through insufficient interest, and a proposal to again close the premises and start in another part of the town a hospital specially designed for the middle classes, elicited no encouraging response. In 1874 another change took place, Mr. Winter becoming the manager, and the originator of the Clemens Street Hospital, from which the present Midland Counties Home for Chronic and Incurable Diseases has been the slow but sure growth. Its history from this date, its difficulties and its triumphs are thus detailed in the annual report for 1894 :—

" The early History of the Home is a somewhat melancholy record of a noble cause hampered by disastrous conditions, and its struggle with and eventual triumph over circumstances the most adverse to its furtherance.

" Originally a private enterprise, the year 1874 witnessed its first appearance in the garb of a public institution, and the report for that year

opened with the following sentence:—'It is with earnest solicitude I beg to call your attention to the establishment at Leamington of a hospital especially set apart for the treatment of chronic and incurable diseases.

"Though it would be manifestly unfair to suspect the founder of a feeling of diffidence in regard to the success of his project, we cannot help noticing a significance in the words 'earnest solicitude,' which is prophetic of its subsequent fortunes. Indeed, this sense of anxious distrust must have been almost universal among the supporters and well-wishers of the Home, and the course of events would tend rather to increase than to lessen it.

"Except as evidence of the value of public charitable institutions, it is unnecessary to dwell upon the records of the Home throughout that period (1874–1879), during which, though bearing ostensibly the appearance of a combined Public Hospital and Dispensary, it had all the least desirable features of a private establishment.

"The building—situated in Clemens Street—was well adapted for the purpose, though it was wanting in the spacious gardens and beautiful surroundings which are so prominent a feature of the Arboretum. Accommodation was provided for some forty patients, who paid sums for their maintenance varying from the actual cost of their support in a few cases to a merely nominal payment in others, while several were kept entirely free of cost.

"In connection with the Institution there was a Dispensary for out-patients, open daily for those desirous of obtaining medicine and advice at a very low charge.

"In the year 1879 it is reported that 4,400 persons applied for treatment under this Department, there being then 34 in-patients as compared with 10 in the year 1874.

"In spite, however, of these apparently satisfactory and hopeful results, public confidence in the Home was continually being shaken by rumours of bad management and extravagance—charges which a glance at the account of expenditure for the year, as compared with that of the past year (1893), would seem to show were not unfounded—and at the beginning of the year 1880 it had gained such an unenviable reputation that opinion was almost universally in favour of leaving it to die of inanition, which fate would certainly have speedily overtaken it; but, to the credit of Leamington humanity, rather than turn adrift the whole of the inmates, men of public spirit came forward, and a determined effort was made to rescue the Home from its questionable position and establish it on a basis more in accordance with that of similar institutions elsewhere.

"In January, 1880, the furniture was purchased, a deed of agreement drawn up and signed between the Proprietor and certain Trustees, and the Institution was formally declared public, but attempts to form a fresh Managing Committee from among those who had nominally served on the Committee under the old system, failed, and matters went on much as before,

until September of the same year, when a provisional Committee was formed, composed to a large extent of gentlemen who had been the most vigorous denouncers of the old régime.

"The provisional Committee found themselves confronted with a heavy burden of debt, to alleviate which was their first duty, and so successfully did they grapple with the formidable task set them that by the end of the same year nearly all the debts were paid off, and in January, 1881, at a General Meeting of the Subscribers, the provisional Committee gave place to a permanent one, from whom a Board of Management was elected, to which was entrusted the duty of framing regulations calculated to put the administration on a satisfactory footing.

"Throughout the year meetings of the Subscribers were convened at Leamington, and elsewhere, for the purpose of courting full enquiry into the new management, resulting in expressions of confidence, conveyed not only in formal resolutions, but in the more tangible form of increased contributions to the funds.

"On the lines then laid down for the constitution of the Governing Body and Staff, the affairs of the Home have been ever since conducted, with such modifications only as its growing needs required."

After acknowledging the untiring exertions of the late Sir William Marjoribanks, to which more than to anything else the Home owes its existence as a public institution, the valuable services of General Radcliffe, the hon. treasurer, Surgeon-General Ranking and the Rev. Maze Gregory, who, as hon. chaplain to the institution, fitted up the chapel at his own expense, the report states that the Home, still located in Clemens Street, became fairly established, and having regained public estimation the necessity of removing to more suitable premises began to force itself on the notice of the management in consequence of the insufficient room available for patients. Consequently a special appeal for funds to realise this desideratum was issued in 1883, the responses to which gave proof that a tide of good fortune had set in. A generous offer by an anonymous donor, followed by donations of equal munificence from the late Miss Ryland, of Barford, Miss Berrow, of the Laurels, Leamington, the late Mrs. Hitchman, of Fenton, Staffordshire, and other liberal contributions, enabled the Committee towards the close of that year to negotiate for carrying the project into effect by purchasing the Arboretum property, which at the time was fortunately in the market for sale.

The site thus chosen was, previous to 1851, meadow land. It was then acquired by the late Mr. John Hitchman and devoted to two objects—one of a national, and the other of a local character. His desire was to promote the introduction of exotic trees, plants and flowers into this country, and at the same time to provide for the public a delightful park, open to rich and poor without charge for admission. To these great and noble purposes he applied himself with a taste and liberality of expenditure worthy the genius of Evelyn and the inexhaustible purse of Fortunatus. The land, comprising upwards of eleven acres, was gracefully laid out in winding paths and flower beds, and planted with nearly half a million of young trees, shrubs—many of them exotic and not much known, others rarely to be seen though familiar to the professional gardener—and flowers of every hue and species. On Sunday afternoons there were open air services at which Mr. Hitchman frequently delivered addresses to large congregations; occasionally there were series of concerts for raising a fund to defray the expenses of a band who played in the Pump Room Gardens every morning, and in 1856 a great Peace Festival was held there to celebrate the conclusion of the Crimean War consequent on the fall of Sebastopol.

In 1860 Mr. Hitchman, who had an extensive practice as a Surgeon, adopted the principles of the cold water cure as practised by Priessnitz at Gräfenberg with eminent success, and without abandoning the system of allopathy, resolved to substitute for the highly popular Arboretum a Hydropathic Establishment on an extensive and expensive scale. Preparatory to this change an auction sale of three hundred thousand plants, trees and flowers, took place in October, 1862, and space being thus obtained the new building was commenced, and in August, 1863, was ready for the reception of patients. It had forty apartments, and throughout was fitted up with all the appliances necessary for a high-class institution, and regardless of expense was furnished with every luxury the most fastidious could reasonably require. Mr. Hitchman conducted the establishment until his death in March, 1867, at the age of sixty-two years, but with what measure of success is not known, for the practice being his own private property no account was due to the public. The system



THE LEAMINGTON HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT, ERECTED 1862-3.



of Priessnitz was continued into the seventies without, however, receiving that amount of public approval and adoption which are indispensably necessary for the permanence and prosperity of such a costly establishment.

Such was the building and the situation to which the Midland Counties Home was removed in 1884, and such were the public-spirited and philanthropic movements—praiseworthy even though they were failures—it inherited by ultimate association. The sum paid for the property as it stood, exclusive of a gift by Mrs. Hitchman of three and a half acres of adjoining land, was £7,100, and for necessary structural alterations, furnishing, etc., £2,000. On June 27th the opening ceremony took place under the presidency of Lord Leigh, and on July 2nd the patients were transferred from Clemens Street to the new building, which for nearly twenty years has been a veritable haven of rest to hundreds afflicted with diseases for which no cure is known. Of its history throughout that lengthened period we can refer to only a few circumstances and dates which indicate its marvellous growth. The list of donors contains numerous examples of a splendid liberality, including the following :—Miss Ryland, £4,000 ; Miss Berrow, £2,000, and handsome annual subscriptions ; an anonymous friend, £2,000 ; Miss Izod, £2,000 ; Mr. Arden, £1,500 ; and the late Mr. John Corbett, £1,000. In 1888 a new west wing was added, and in 1892 a number of cottages were built for the nurses, thus increasing the accommodation for patients from fifty-three to fifty-eight. The situation is healthy, quiet, and pleasant, and in every way adapted to soothe the minds and alleviate the sufferings of those afflicted with incurable disorders. There is accommodation for ninety patients, of whom there are now in the Home eighty-eight, in addition to twenty-nine pensioners receiving £20 a year each. Mr. P. H. Couchman, efficient, painstaking, and courteous, discharges the responsible duties of the secretaryship.

CHAPTER XLII.

Homœopathy—early closing—Chess Tournament—Peace rejoicings in 1856—the Russian cannon—testimonial to Major-General Windham—educational work—reported village schools—foundation stone laying of the National Schools, Bath Place, by Lord Leigh in 1859—the School Board, establishment of; first list of members and teachers—origin and progress of local art culture—the new Free Library, School of Art and Technical Education Building—opening ceremony by Sir Oliver Lodge, etc.

BREVITY, not because of lack of material, but from the restrictions imposed by the comparatively few remaining pages at disposal, must necessarily characterise our references to further subjects. In 1853 a Homœopathic Dispensary was established in Church Walk, at which the poor were supplied with medical advice and medicines at a charge of one penny a week and twopence for any longer period. Mr. Charles Bond, homœopathic chemist, Victoria Terrace, was the dispenser, and the patrons of this local movement in support of Hahnemann's system included Lord Willoughby de Broke, Sir Charles Mordaunt, Mr. T. B. Dale, and other influential residents in Leamington and Warwick. The institution prospered and annually showed increases of members until 1856 when they numbered several hundreds, the applications being in that year over four thousand. A homœopathic congress was held at the Regent Hotel in August, 1854, and another took place at the Music Hall, 1873. The Dispensary was ultimately removed to Portland Place, where it was conducted by Dr. Sutherland, who retired in 1865, and was succeeded by Dr. C. P. Collins. A branch of it was also opened in St. Nicholas Street, Warwick. Both prospered, but in 1885 they were closed in consequence of Dr. Collins retiring through the increasing demands made on his time by his private practice.

An agitation, equally vigorous and general, in favour of shorter hours of labour and early closing, absorbed the attention of the town in 1853, and resulted in immediate concessions to the clerks

employed in the offices of the local solicitors, and the drapers' assistants. In the case of the former their office hours were reduced to eight hours, namely, from nine a.m. to six p.m., and as this was represented to be a liberal response to their memorial, the previous regulation was probably nine hours. In addition to the reduction then made, they now have half-a-day on Saturdays, and some of the solicitors' offices also close at five p.m. on Thursdays. The decision in regard to the drapery establishments, which had previously been kept open as late as ten o'clock in the evening, was to close at seven from October to March. By degrees this understanding lapsed, and in 1872 there was again a lack of uniformity, each shopkeeper closing at what time best suited his convenience. An effort to re-establish a common understanding and secure united action failed for a time, from a cause which was very amusingly described, as each tradesman being willing to close if all the rest did the same, but the smallest refusing on the ground that he was not going to be dictated to, all the others kept their establishments open as long as his. An appeal to the public showed that everybody was willing to abstain from late shopping as soon as the shopkeepers adopted early closing—not before. Ultimately an arrangement was entered into by which the principal establishments were closed each evening at seven o'clock. There were further discussions on the subject in 1883, and a largely-attended public meeting was held in the New Town Hall, at which resolutions were adopted in favour of a further extension of the privilege. The general outcome of the movement is the present system of closing at seven, except on Thursdays, when, in the majority of cases, there is a half-holiday, and on Saturdays, the time for closing then being ten, or even later, the establishments for which the Thursday half-holiday is inconvenient close at four.

A grand Chess Tournament, promoted by the Northern and Midland Counties Chess Association, took place in 1855, at which upwards of three hundred visitors were present, nearly all of them celebrated as skilled exponents of that most intellectual of games. The matches, lasting three days, were played at the Public Hall, and in the lists of contestants were such masters of the science as Staunton, Wyvill and Captain Kennedy for England, and for

foreign countries, Lowenthal, de Riviere and Falkbren. At the close of the proceedings on the third day, Staunton's epitome of the Laws of Chess by Jarnisch and Heydebrand der Laza, embodying the views of those authorities with his own as to the desirability of a revision, was read, discussed, and a committee appointed to report thereon at the next anniversary meeting. A public dinner at the Regent Hotel brought the tournament to an agreeable termination. Lord Lyttelton, president of the society, and father of the Hon. A. Lyttelton, now (1903) member for the United Boroughs of Warwick and Leamington, and Colonial Secretary, was in the chair. In asking the company, who numbered about sixty, to drink to the welfare of the Association, his lordship urged the importance of chess as being something of greater value than intellectual amusement; it called for the exercise of constant discipline of mind and self control. Among the other speakers were the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Head Master of Shrewsbury Grammar School, the Rev. J. H. Smith, and Mr. John Hitchman, who confessed that until he heard the very sensible and striking addresses of the preceding speakers he had no idea that an intimate knowledge of the game of chess involved such close effort of thinking as to absorb the powers of the mind so completely as it appeared to do.

There were two celebrations in May, 1856, of the re-establishment of peace on the close of the Crimean War. The first was a demonstration by the Oddfellows on Monday, May 26, and the second, public rejoicings by the inhabitants on the Thursday following. The Friendly Societies named, accompanied by a band and a richly decorated emblematical car, paraded the principal streets, carrying their regalia and a large number of appropriate banners and flags, and proceeded ultimately to the Arboretum, where Mr. Hitchman kindly threw open for public inspection his extensive and choice collection of American plants. A promenade concert took place in the afternoon, and at five o'clock there was a tea party which was followed by "other amusements" during the evening. After defraying expenses the proceeds were handed over to the Warneford Hospital.

The town celebration of the happy termination of the war was on a much grander and more imposing scale. At the special

meeting of the Local Board of Health, convened for making the necessary arrangements, there were present Messrs. Leibenrood, chairman, H. Bright, W. Watson, Lane, J. Hackforth, T. Muddeman and H. Davis, and three of the parish officers, namely, W. Lloyd, H. Mulliner and J. Gilbert. It was resolved to have a public procession through the town of the inhabitants generally, and of all who desired to participate; to give a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding in the Jephson Gardens to the working classes, and refreshments for the various day and Sunday school children; to decorate the town and have music in the day and fireworks in the evening. It was also proposed to collect a sum of £75 among the ladies for presenting a straw bonnet to every girl, and a straw hat to every boy who walked in the procession. It is unnecessary to say that the programme was most successfully carried out, and was a source of memorable joy to all—to the rich who had liberally contributed to the funds, and to the poor who had partaken of their bounty.

Two events occurring in the year following may be conveniently mentioned in this place because of their relation to the foregoing rejoicings. In May, 1857, the Local Board of Health memorialised the Government for a grant of some trophy of the late war for exhibition in Leamington, which, as they pointed out, was the residence of Major-General Windham, the "Hero of the Redan," Sir George Cathcart, and other distinguished Crimean officers. Previous to this the Jephson Gardens Committee had forwarded a similar application, through Major-General Windham, to Lord Panmure, Secretary for War; the result was the presentation of a cannon captured at the siege of Sebastopol, a twenty-four pounder, weighing two and a half tons and measuring in length nine feet six inches. It was sent to the Jephson Gardens and was claimed by the Committee, but their right was disputed by the Local Board who contended that there had been an error in the delivery, for which it does not appear that they held the postman to blame. After a wordy war the cannon was retaken by the Board of Health and placed in the lower part of the Holly Walk—its present position—on a stone platform. The other subject alluded to was the presentation in April, 1857, to Major-General Windham of a beautiful and

valuable vase, suitably inscribed, and an address, artistically designed, bearing the signatures of two hundred and fifty subscribers. These splendid gifts in recognition of his valour were handed to him at his residence by Lord Leigh, and acknowledged in appreciative terms.

The laying of the foundation stone of the National Schools in Bath Place in 1859 affords an opportunity for giving, at this point, a condensed account of the rise and progress of educational work in the borough. We have it on reliable authority that early in the nineteenth century there was a schoolmaster in the village, who probably was self educated, and gave some very elementary instruction in a cottage. It is also affirmed that the Crown Hotel premises were originally a school where children were taught the Catechism and something of "the three R's." These statements do not throw much light on the education movement of the village days and are valuable only as proofs that the importance of instruction was recognised at so early a period. A decided improvement took place in 1822, when a National School was established in the old Parsonage, Church Street, and placed under the care of Mr. George Christopher Liebenrood. It was afterwards removed into Kenilworth Street, and remained there until its return to Court Street under circumstances already explained on page 291.

From about the year 1840 the education of the young began to receive more attention than formerly, and efficient schools for better training increased. The one at Spencer Street rose to a high position of popularity and usefulness under the management of Mr. T. Coles, while the Wesleyan Training Schools, first located in Windsor Street and now in Portland Street, were subsequently developed by Mr. T. Harvey, now in the Commission of the Peace for the Borough, to fully an equal degree.

The Rev. Dr. Brindley, a brilliant and versatile lecturer, conducted a famous academy at Knightcote House; the Rev. Dr. Bickmore had a private school at Highlands, extensively patronised by the gentry and nobility; Mr. Andrews, at the Manor House Academy, and Mr. J. Hugh Hawley, at the

Brunswick School, were both successful, and with regard to the generality of all the schools it is sufficient to say that they met every requirement and provided thoroughly good education at moderate fees. The National Schools, in Bath Place, were erected in 1859, after a prolonged and acrimonious dispute respecting the question of site, the proposed situations being: Copps' Yard, Clemens Street, the then unoccupied land at the corner of Church Street and Priory Terrace, and the land in Bath Place on which the Schools stand. The foundation stone was laid with the usual Masonic ceremonial, on April 12, by Lord Leigh, and they were opened on the 2nd of November following. Mr. R. Webb was the first master. He came from Cheltenham College in 1860, and, in 1876 was followed by Mr. J. Gameson. On the retirement of Mr. Andrews, Mr. Webb succeeded him at the Manor House Academy, and when the lease expired established Chorlton House Academy, Portland Street.

On April 7, 1881, the School Board was established. There were twenty candidates, and the following were elected:—

THE FIRST SCHOOL BOARD.

	Votes.	Voters.	Plumpers.
Rev. J. P. Driver (Church).....	2351	471	172
W. Andrew (Wesleyan)	1549	672	57
J. C. Richardson (Church)	1193	259	79
J. Greet (Baptist).....	1187	552	33
R. L. Francis (Congregational).....	1139	680	5
W. Harding (Church).....	1025	323	42
Rev. W. C. Phillips (Church).....	970	222	65
Hon. & Rev. J. W. Leigh (Vicar)...	968	631	2
H. Borton (Congregational)	835	187	54

These statistics give useful prominence to the astounding vagaries of the cumulative vote, and prove how fallacious, as tests of public opinion, are all returns of such elections from which the numbers of voters and plumpers are omitted. The Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh was chosen the first Chairman, Mr. C. I. Blaker the first Clerk, and Mr. T. H. Joyce, elected School Attendance Officer in 1877 by the Town Council, was continued in his appointment. Leamington had a strong desire to preserve the Voluntary system, but the "stars"—i.e., the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education—in their courses,

fought against and defeated the wish. Deducting spoilt papers, not 50 per cent. of the voters were polled, and although by so doing they put themselves to extra heavy expense, the managers of seven Voluntary Schools refused to transfer them to the Board. Since its formation the School Board have increased the attendance of the children from 75 to 90 per cent., and have erected four fine blocks of schools which meet every requirement for the comfort and welfare of the children, and have originated Continuation Classes which have been of great service. The number of children now being instructed in Board Schools is 2,293, and in the Voluntary Schools there are 1,662. In fairness to the managers and teachers of the latter, it should be stated that in the exciting discussion which preceded the establishment of the School Board, no complaint was ever made as to the inefficiency of the education they provided, and the allegation that the Order of the Department was the work of some two or three public men is totally without foundation. The determining cause was the amount of accommodation provided, which being below the required standard, the School Board followed, partly as a consequence of that deficiency, but primarily in fulfilment of the policy of Mr. Forster to have a School Board in every parish. The following were the first teachers appointed:—Messrs. Warner Simpson, J. Lamsdale and W. Smith; Mrs. Mawer, Misses Baker, Jeans, Campbell and Garley.

As Art culture now forms an important part of the education imparted to the young, it becomes necessary to incorporate with the present subject its local development and position. About the year 1866, Mr. G. Robinson,* Archidiaconal architect, who then occupied Orleans House, Warwick Street, now the Working Men's Conservative Club, originated evening classes for teaching drawing, &c.; one of his pupils was Alderman W. Davis, ex-Mayor. In the seventies there was a strong feeling in favour of starting a School of Art, and this led the Rev. Canon Young, of Whitnash, Dr. O'Callaghan and a number of other gentlemen, to affiliate a movement of that kind with the Philosophical Society. The classes were held in a room in Lansdowne Place,

*He was in the Franco-German war as correspondent for "The Manchester Guardian," and in Metz during the time it was besieged by the German legions.

Mr. Sturgeon being the head master. In 1877 the School of Art was taken over by the Free Library Committee from the Philosophical Society, and Mr. S. Flavel was appointed Secretary. For some years the school was in a flourishing state, and much good work was done. In September, 1885, it was moved from the Parade to the rooms at the top of the Town Hall; about two years before this the attendance began to fall off, the cause for which was attributed to bad trade, etc., and although every effort was made to keep the work going, it was closed temporarily in November, 1886. A number of gentlemen in the town then formed themselves into a committee, and after several meetings it was reopened in January, 1887, in the old rooms on the Upper Parade. Mr. D. Robertson was appointed the Art Master. In September the school was again removed back to the Town Hall, and a strong Committee of Management formed, with Mr. Ross Watt as chairman, Mr. A. Riches as secretary, and Miss E. Brown, who had been holding art classes at Beech Lawn, as Art Mistress. A large number of students joined. In October, 1889, Miss Brown resigned her position and opened a new school on the Parade, afterwards moving to the Studios which had been built over the Gymnasium in Warwick Street. Mr. W. R. Hewitt, from the National Art Training School, London, was appointed Head Master of the Town Hall School of Art, which soon was, and is now, in a flourishing condition.

The erection of the extensive and very fine structure in the Avenue Road, known as the Free Library, School of Art and Technical Institution Buildings, gave a wider and freer scope for the educational forces previously in operation, and at the same time by its imposing appearance, added to the dignity and importance of the borough. It was built by Messrs. Bowen and Son from designs and plans prepared by Mr. Bottomley, of Middlesborough, and cost over £21,000. The official opening took place on December 12, 1902, Sir Oliver Lodge, of the Birmingham University, performing the ceremony, and delivering an address to an influential assembly. The Mayor (Alderman W. Davis) gave an interesting retrospect of the beginning of art classes in Leamington, the Free Library movement and that of Technical Education, mentioning as deserving grateful recogni-

tion, the public services in this connection of Dr. Thursfield, Alderman S. Flavel (now—November, 1903—Mayor for the fifth time—a record period in the history of the mayoralty) and Mr. John Fell who had been succeeded in the chairmanship of the Educational Committee by Councillor Barrett. After short speeches by the Hon. A. Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., and others, the proceedings closed with thanks to Sir Oliver Lodge for his services.

The Free Library was opened in its new home two months earlier — October 20, 1902 — since which time the superior advantages of the arrangements have become more and more distinctly recognised, and are now fully appreciated by the public. The Cotgreave Indicator, introduced there for the first time, has proved to be a boon to Mr. Grant, the Librarian, his Assistants, and borrowers of books. It contains space for 20,000 indications, a number in excess of that at present required, and admits of direct reference to every volume. A novelty established in the lending department which cannot fail in gaining the approval of all is that of books for the blind, printed, or rather we should say, punched into letter form according to the Brailes system; the letters, or types, in this case being small round and hard protuberances, the feeling of which is something akin to passing the fingers over a nutmeg grater. These books have been introduced into the library by Miss Lowndes, and are much appreciated by the readers, of whom there are five—three resident in Leamington and two in the county. The Reference Library has been considerably augmented by valuable additions and a gift which calls for special notice. This is the library of the VI. Form at the late Leamington College, known as the Smith-Ryland and Beaumont collections, which was purchased by Alderman S. T. Wackrill and generously presented to the Free Library. It comprises 1,294 volumes, valued at £278 1s., and forms not only a most important branch of the institution, but adds materially to the obligations under which the borough has been placed by his numerous gifts. The arrangements of the Library throughout, made substantially in compliance with the suggestions of Mr. Grant, the experienced Librarian, are perfect, and well-lighted, ventilated, and conducted as it is, with

over twenty-two thousand volumes for reading and reference, and a liberal supply of newspapers, magazines and periodicals, etc., its influence on the Spa cannot be otherwise than conducive to its prosperity.

Technical education was commenced in the premises at the corner of Warwick Street and Russell Street, where, fifty years ago, the Rev. Mr. Walsh conducted a school for young gentlemen, of which at a later date the Rev. Mr. Sewell became the proprietor. It was promoted principally by Councillor John Fell, who was elected Chairman of the first Technical Education Committee. Mr. Mellows was engaged as the Director. In 1902, on the completion of the buildings in the Avenue Road, the apparatus and appliances were removed to the rooms set apart for their reception. Under the Education Act of the same year the various educational systems in operation were subjected more or less to a radical change, one result being the dissolution of the School Board, and the transfer of the work of elementary education to the Town Council. Another Technical Education Committee was formed, consisting partly of elected and partly of co-opted members, Councillor Barrett, who had previously succeeded Mr. Fell in the chairmanship, being appointed to that office in relation to the new body. The work now was greatly enlarged, and being adopted by the County Council, a further development followed in which the work of the Elementary Schools was connected with the Universities, and the Technical School itself raised to the position of a County School. How far Mr. Mellows and his able staff of teachers have succeeded is best shown by the increase of the number of students from seventy to one hundred and forty, and the commendation of H.M. Inspector who says that he hardly believed it possible for a school, in so short a time, to have made such progress. This is gratifying, especially to Mr. Barrett, whose devotion to this institution is so well known.

The last meeting of the School Board was held on Monday, September 28, 1903, after which the offices were removed from Dormer Place to the Town Hall.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Celebrated visitors—the Empress Eugenie, Charles Kean, G. V. Brooke, Madame Ristori and Artemus Ward—notes on the Fire Brigade movement—Dr. Jephson's portrait and statue—Leamington constituted a polling place 1865—names of promoters and opponents—Mr. Fred Wilson's Church of Comprehension—the Provident Dispensary, establishment of—Leamington Mutual Medical Society—the Tramway question—the Rev. J. W. Lake and the Unitarian services at the Music Hall, Bath Street.

ON account of the long residence of Prince Napoleon at the Spa in the thirties,* the visit of the Empress Eugenie in 1860 had a degree of interest which none of those of the other foreign royalties had excited. Another special feature of the occasion was her attendance at Mass in the old Roman Catholic Church, George Street, that being the only instance in the history of Leamington of a crowned head joining in Divine service in the town. The Prince, to whom she was married in January, 1853, was present at Mass in the same building on Sunday, November 25th, 1838, but he was not then a crowned monarch. Her Majesty came to Leamington from Manchester on Saturday, December 1st, 1860, arriving at half-past four, and proceeding to the Regent Hotel, where fifteen rooms had been engaged for herself and her suite. A hearty greeting was given her at the Great Western Station by a number of persons, and this welcome was repeated by a large crowd assembled near the Regent. As her visit was somewhat unexpected there was no time for decorations and a proper reception, but the authorities being most anxious to pay their respects and give expressions to their feelings of friendship, entertained for her Majesty's husband when an exile in our midst, hastily convened a meeting of the Local Board to consider the presentation of an address. It appeared, however, that the state of the illustrious visitor's health rendered the proposal impracticable, and the public, therefore,

*See pages 144-5.

could offer only a few verbal welcomes. The next morning the Empress, accompanied by the Marquis de la Grange, and other members of the entourage, walked from the Regent to St. Peter's, George Street, where a crowd, assembled an hour earlier than the time appointed, awaited her arrival. The musical part of the service was given under the direction of Signor Aspa, choir master and organist, and Father Jeffries preached the sermon. Her Majesty returned to the hotel in her carriage and afterwards drove round the town, not forgetting Clarendon Square, at No. 6 of which her husband once had rooms. She left Leamington by the 2-56 p.m. train on the Great Western for London, amid the cheers of a numerous party on the platform, and there was general satisfaction when it was known that the Marquis de la Grange had expressed a hope of their being able to pay another visit to the Royal Spa. The projects of Royal personages are liable to the same accidents of miscarriage as those of the humblest; and in the vicissitudes of life the histories of dethroned monarchs is one of the strangest chapters. Within about ten years from the date of this visit the Empress was an exile at Chislehurst on our own hospitable shores, her husband, Napoleon III., a prisoner of war in Germany, where he died, and the dynasty, of which she had been so conspicuous an ornament, closed for ever.

The temporary prestige, rather than the substantial good fortune, of the theatre in Clemens Street, was raised by the appearance there of Charles Kean, Brooke and Ristori, in the years immediately preceding its final withdrawal from the list of local institutions. These isolated displays of the highest types of dramatic genius and art were the fitful flames of an expiring taper, so far as that building was concerned with theatrical matters.

Charles Kean was an old established favourite with the theatre-going and theatre-loving portion of the Leamington public in the first half of the nineteenth century. He played "Romeo" at the Bath Street theatre in July, 1828, and with his talented and popular wife, *née* Miss Ellen Tree, was on the boards at the Clemens Street house in 1849—the year it was opened as a theatre—in "The Wife's Secret." In the year 1861 he terminated his

professional connection with the Spa by two visits, which, however, were practically one. On June 11 he and Mrs Keen sustained the principal characters in "The Gamester" with such success that they were induced to pay a return visit in the following week, when "Louis XI." was given in a manner which won golden opinions from all. On each occasion the house was crowded with patrons, the fashionable section being considerably larger than is usual at the visits, always "few and far between," of "stars."

It was in May, 1863, that Gustavus Vaughan Brooke, at one time the most eminent tragedian in England, played his second and last time in Clemens Street. The character he sustained was that of "Othello"—the one in which he originally attracted public attention and obtained the suffrage of every discriminating attendant at the theatres. He was now in the "sere and fallow leaf" of his years and fame, and though still great in places, the ideal impersonation of "The Moor" which characterised his early performances, was beyond his powers. The attendance was not large, and the applause bestowed was evidently influenced by generous recollections of past years when, with all his faculties bright and vigorous and his robust physique unimpaired, he enjoyed equal honours with John Kemble, Macready and Mrs. Siddons. Under happier circumstances he portrayed "Richlieu" "Sir Giles Over-reach" and "Master Walter" in 1854 at the Clemens Street house, and was the recipient of all the usual tokens of public appreciation. His death at sea by drowning produced a feeling of deep commiseration among all classes. In December, 1865, he sailed for Australia in the "London," which was destroyed by fire in the Bay of Biscay and foundered with all souls on board. He worked at the pumps until the last hope of extinguishing the flames was abandoned, and shortly before the ill-fated vessel sank he was seen standing in the prow, calmly surveying the wide, wild world of water, in which he was soon to be engulfed "unknell'd, uncoffin'd and unknown." In March, 1866, a bottle which had been tossing about on the ocean for nearly ten weeks, was cast on the beach at Brighton. On being examined it was found to contain part of a torn envelope, pencilled with the following sad message to his wife:—"11th of

January, on board the 'London.' We are just going down. No chance of safety. Please give this to Avonia Jones, Surrey Theatre.—Gustavus Vaughan Brooke." Fortunately with the present improved systems of ship construction such terrible calamities are rendered impossible.

Ristori was the last great name which lit up with surpassing splendour in 1863 the then decaying and almost defunct theatre in Clemens Street. She was there on July 19, and acted "Medea" supported by a company qualified in every sense to set off to the highest advantages her exceptional histrionic gifts and graces. The play was rendered in Italian—Madame Ristori's native tongue—and without the customary musical accessories, an arrangement considered in this special case highly conducive to a vivid appreciation of the various situations and subjects, neither the eye, the ear, nor the mind of the house being, under the circumstances, liable to disturbance and diversion by the introduction of any extraneous attraction. An English version of the text supplied enabled those unacquainted with the original, to follow with deep interest the great tragedienne in what was a wonderful and memorable display of realism in dramatic art. She was frequently enthusiastically applauded by an audience composed to a considerable extent of members of the aristocracy and nobility resident in Leamington and the surrounding neighbourhood.

In September, 1866, Artemus Ward, the American humourist, visiting "Stratford-onto-the-Avon," stopped at Leamington "a few minits," and with lance in rest tilted with knightly prowess at a national foible which had its origin in the outburst of patriotic feeling attendant on the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1863. The particulars of his witty joust were thus described in the pages of "Punch":—

"I went into a shoe shop to make a purchase, and as I entered I saw over the door those dear, familiar words, "By appointment to H R.H.," and I said to the man, "Squire, excuse me, but this is too much. I have seen in London four hundred boot and shoe shops, by appointment H.R.H., and now *your'e* at it. It is simply onpossible that the Prince can wear 400 pairs of boots. Don't tell me," I said, in a voice choked with emotion, "Oh, do not tell me that you also make boots for him. Say slippers—say that you mend a boot now and then for him, but do not tell me that you make 'em

regular for him." The man smilt and said I didn't understand these things. He said, I perhaps had not noticed in London that dealers in all sorts of articles was By Appointment. I said, "Oh, *hadn't* I?" Then a sudden thought flasht over me. "I have it," I said. "When the Prince walks through a street he no doubt looks at the shop windows." The man said, "No doubt." "And the enterprisin' tradesman," I continued, "the moment the Prince gets out of sight, rushes frantically and has a tin sign painted 'By Appointment, H.R.H.' It is a beautiful, a great idea!" I then bought a shoe string, and wringin' the shopman's honest hands, I started for the Tomb of Shakespeare in a hired fly. It lookt, however, more like a spider."

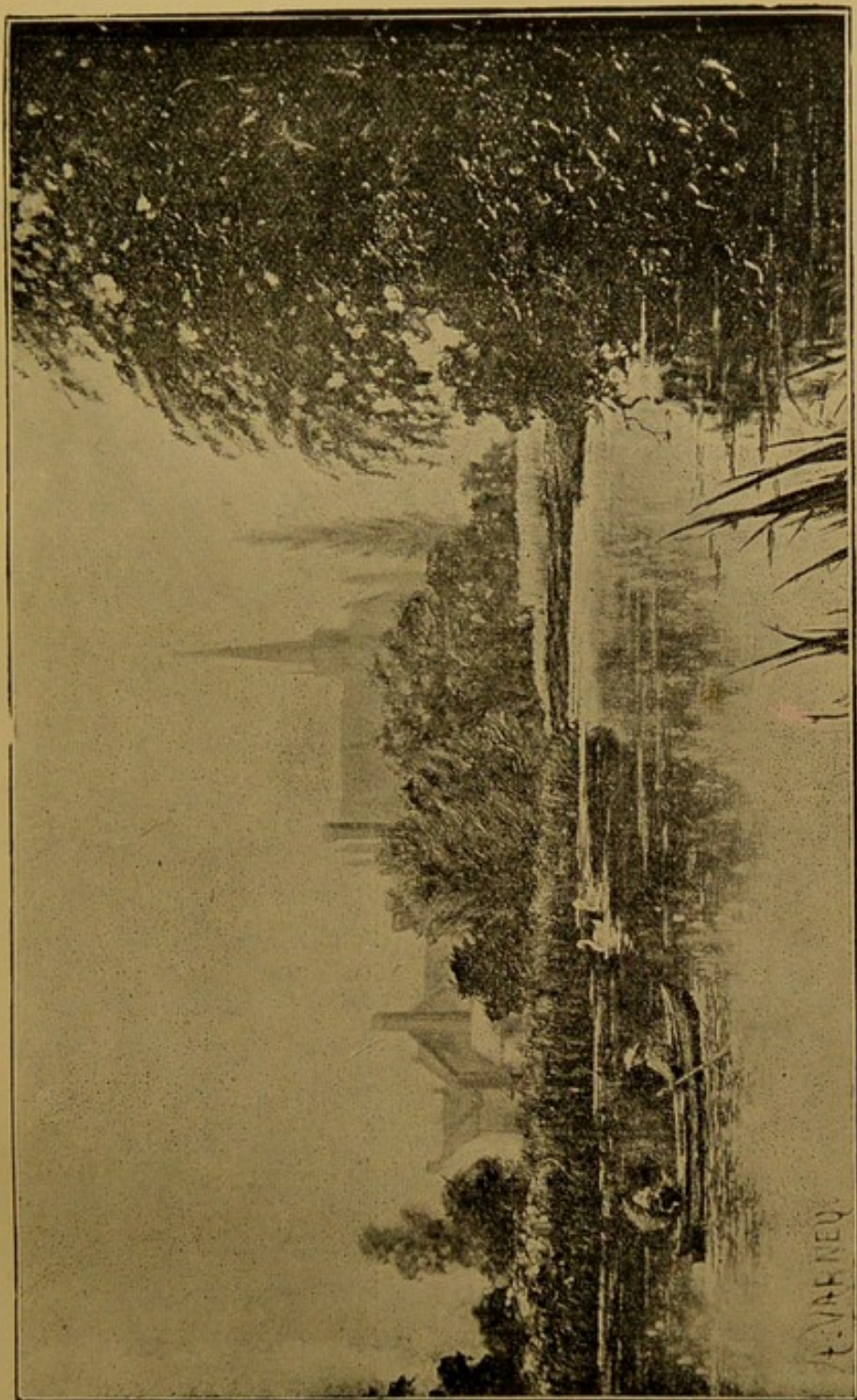
At an early period in our local history steps were taken by the Parish Committee to provide some means for extinguishing fires, the first phase of which was the housing of a manual fire engine, supplied by the Birmingham Fire Office, in a small building erected in the old parish churchyard. The arrangements were afterwards improved by the Paving Commissioners, who came into existence under the local Act of 1825, in which a clause had been inserted prohibiting in future the use of thatch for roofing purposes. A long, heavy, unwieldy ladder was purchased and stored in the Regent Grove so as to be ready for any emergency, a new engine was bought, and a third was generously supplied by the office named, which, with the others, was eventually kept at the back of the old Town Hall, High Street. Until 1850 such were the appliances ready for use on the breaking out of a fire. The great conflagration at Dowler's establishment, Regent Place, in January of that year, when thousands of pounds of valuable property were destroyed, called attention to the inadequacy of the existing system. The first fireman appointed by the Commissioners was James Butler, who was assisted by a man named Harris. They continued in office for several years and were at last succeeded by a Mr. Ward, Daniel Feasey* and Mr. Browne, then filling the office of foremen of the waterworks; all of whom were readily assisted by the public in running the engines to the scenes of the fires, and by pumping until the flames were put out. There were complaints as to the efficiency of the efforts to save property made

* He was also Town Crier and Pinner. When re-elected to his office at the Annual Vestry Meetings, he rarely missed the opportunity of displaying the quality of his lung power, and the stentorian tones of his voice by singing a stave of "God Save the Queen," and singing it very well.

at Dowler's fire, as has generally been the case, but the Local Board of Health held an enquiry and found that everything was exactly what it ought to be and nobody was to blame. A collection amounting to £193 1s. 8d. took place to restore the tools of the workmen, and the brigade continued as before for the ensuing thirteen years. In 1863 Mr. Superintendent Lund organised a Volunteer Fire Brigade, the majority of the officials of which were men practically connected with the building trades, and who consequently were thoroughly acquainted with the structure of buildings. Mr. Lund was appointed Captain; John Greet, plumber, of Park Street, Deputy-Captain; and amongst the others were A. Orton, builder; H. Blyth, plumber; George Eyres, builder, etc. The brigade was liberally supported by voluntary contributions, and on the 24th of May in each year celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria by a procession through the principal streets, riding on the engines which were decorated gaily with flags and banners, and in the evening dined at the Crown Hotel. It was the misfortune of this organisation to encounter opposition almost throughout the whole of its career, and although it cost the ratepayers nothing, it was constantly exposed to a running fire of criticism in the local Press. At one time it passed, in defence, a vote of censure on "The Courier," and at another "The Chronicle" was the subject of similar attention. In 1883, after the burning of St. Peter's, Dormer Place, the feeling against the brigade led to an acrimonious controversy in the local papers, the writers in its favour being as numerous as its opponents. Mr. Lund retired in the following year, and was succeeded in the captaincy by Mr. Orton. A new brigade was established a few years after by the Town Council, to which Mr. de Normanville, the town surveyor, was elected Captain, but this arrangement being generally opposed by the ratepayers, the Volunteers were reinstated. Several other changes followed, the last being the abolition of the Volunteer Brigade for the second time and the substitution of a Police Fire Brigade under the direction of Chief-Constable Earnshaw. The present appliances are beyond the reach of objection, and comprise a steamer, a motor, telescopic escapes and everything up to date.

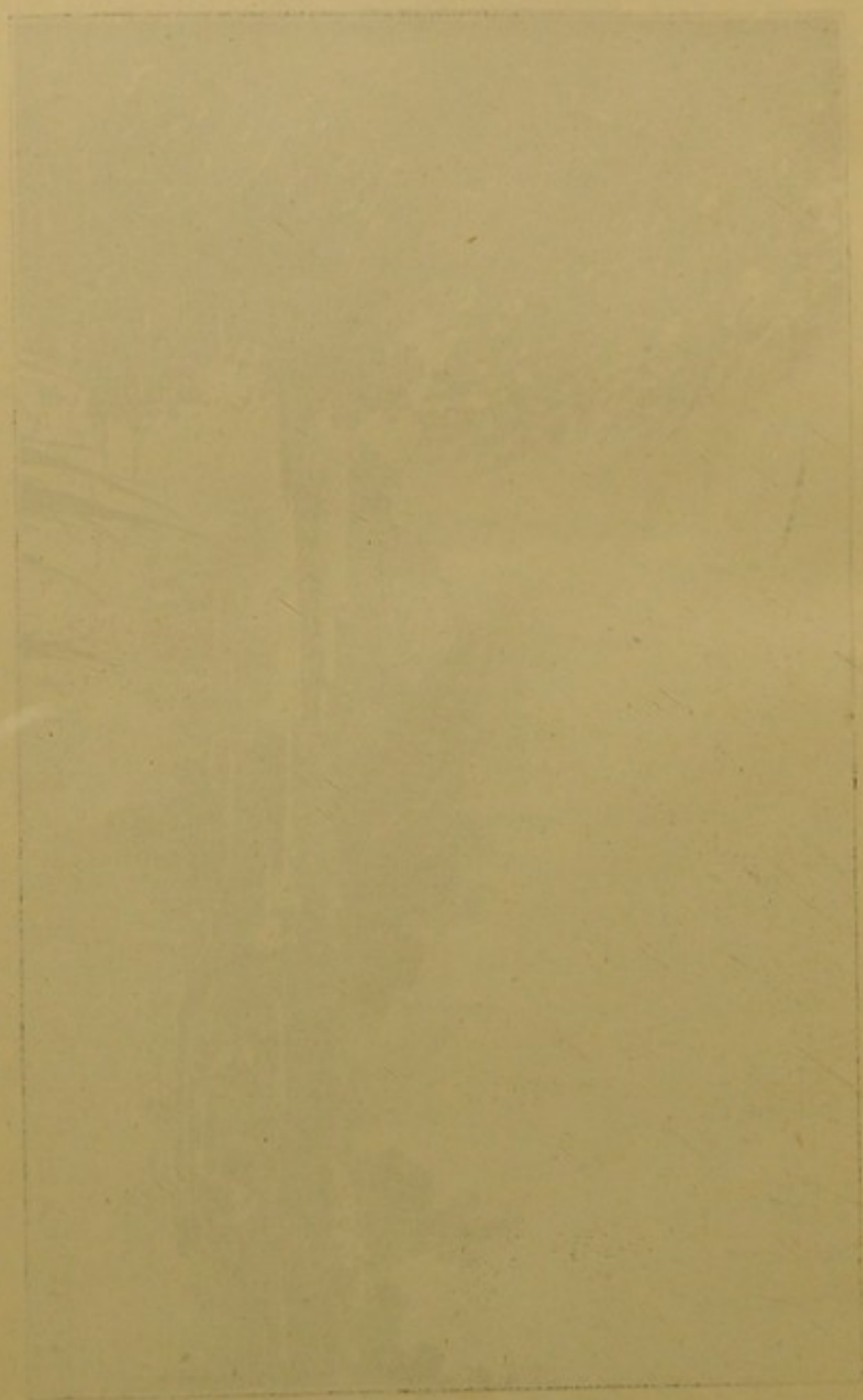
Space must be found here for a notice of two events connected with the eminent Dr. Jephson, both complimentary recognitions of his public services, and supplementary to the greater testimonial of naming the original Newbold Grounds the Jephson Gardens. On Monday, May 28, 1849, the statue in honour of his position in the medical world and local work was unveiled by Mr. Serjeant Adams, who, from the steps of the temple in which it stands, delivered an address to a considerable number of Dr. Jephson's admirers, in which he expressed hearty congratulations on the successful issue of the movement. A public dinner at the Regent Hotel followed, Serjeant Adams occupying the chair, and upwards of a hundred noblemen, clergymen, and representatives of the principal local families being present. The fine weather, and the attractions of an archery fete, a horticultural show, cricket matches, and musical entertainments drew together an unusually large concourse of people. The statue, which was executed by Mr. Peter Hollins, and exhibited in an unfinished state at the Royal Academy in 1848, is considered an excellent likeness of the famous physician, and, from the artistic point of view, highly meritorious. It is in fine Carrara marble, and rests on a plinth of Sicilian marble, for both of which the artist was paid the sum of £1,000. The temple, designed by Mr. Squirhill, is in Bath stone, and cost a few additional hundreds. The fine full-length portrait of Dr. Jephson in the Pump Room was painted by Mr. T. Gill, a local artist, at a cost of £200, and presented to the town in 1865.

Until the year 1865, Leamington had not the honour of being a polling place for Parliamentary election purposes. The booth was at Emscote, and every Leamington elector desirous of recording his vote had to make a journey there and back. In inclement weather this was extremely inconvenient, and a popular demand arose for an alteration in the arrangement. On August 16, H. T. Chamberlayne, Bolton King, Richard Greaves, H. Hunt, F. Dinsdale, J. Machen, and J. J. Bradshaw, Esquires, Justices of the Peace, residing in the Southern Division of the County, and the Rev. John Craig, Vicar of Leamington; Messrs. E. Kendall, Dr. P. O. Callaghan, T. Heath, Warwick; A. S. Field, Leamington; E. Draper, Kenilworth; John Beck, Leam-



BOATING ON THE LEAM; FROM AN OIL PAINTING BY A. VARNEY.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY



ington; T. Muddeman, Leamington; R. Corbett, Leamington; Robert Baker, Leamington; and R. C. Heath, Warwick, signed a memorial to the Court of Quarter Sessions, praying that the Queen be petitioned to constitute Leamington a polling place. At the Court of Quarter Sessions held on October 17 following, it was read, and a counter memorial submitted, signed by fifty, the principal of whom were Colonel Vandeleur, J.P., Colonel Eld, Dr. Jephson, J.P., the Rev. T. B. Whitehurst, Sir Morgan Crofton, Bart., and Mr. John Haddon, all of Leamington. The objection to the proposed change was that the introduction of noisy election proceedings into the town would prove inimical to its prosperity, which, as it was the resort of invalids, depended entirely on rest and absence of excitement. Mr. Bolton King moved the adoption of the first memorial, and Mr. H. C. Wise, Conservative M.P. for the Southern Division, seconded it for Colonel Granville, of the Second Warwickshire Militia, who was unable to attend. There was practically no opposition, and an order was made that a memorial to the Queen in Council be presented. On November 3 an Order was issued by the Privy Council declaring Leamington to be a polling place, and the Court of Quarter Sessions formed the district for voters resident at Leamington Priors, Lillington, Milverton, Bubbenhall Cubington, Offchurch, Radford, Wappenbury, Weston-under-Weatherly and Whitnash.

The "Church of Comprehension" was founded in the sixties by Mr. Fred Wilson, a gentleman of independent means who settled in Leamington about the year 1862. He first occupied apartments at Willington Hall—the property at the north-east corner of Althorpe Street—removing afterwards to the Guernsey Hotel, which for a time was locally famous as the birthplace of his novel religious movement. He employed his leisure hours in painting; in the production of a large number of fantastical designs, in works of benevolence, and in strenuously endeavouring to convert mankind to some very puzzling notions he held respecting matters of faith in general. He was a tall, thin, elderly man, with features naturally comical and flexible as those of Munden; eyes ever twinkling with fun, and a piping voice of treble quality. He introduced numerous schemes for the

betterment of the working classes, and on temperance and co-operation he placed the highest value. He was an extremely popular man, especially at the Penny Readings where his graphic mimicry in humorous pieces delighted thousands. The "Church of Comprehension," one of many schemes from his fertile brain, included something from everything, and nothing that was very clear. The services were held on Sunday evenings in the large room on the first floor at the Guernsey Hotel, Mr. Wilson preaching from a rostrum placed in a corner. For a time there was a fair attendance of working men, but the novelty soon wore away, and at last they were discontinued. In another direction his efforts were more successful. The allotment gardens on the Radford Road, which have proved a great blessing to numbers of the working classes, were established mainly through his instrumentality, and unite with the charm of his name and the generosity of his nature, the title of having been a benefactor to the poor.

In April, 1869, the Provident Dispensary was established at a public meeting held in the Pump Room, over which Lord Leigh presided. Its original name was The Leamington Self-supporting Sanitary Dispensary, but after a few years the present simpler, and quite sufficient title was adopted. At first some doubts were expressed as to the practicability of providing medicine and attendance at the extraordinary low charge of one penny per week, and there was also a fear in some quarters that the legitimate work of the medical men would be seriously diminished by persons in every way able to pay proper medical fees, improperly availing themselves of its advantages. These apprehensions have not been realised in the former case, and in the latter only to a limited extent. The resolution in favour of establishing such an association was moved by the Rev. Dr. Bickmore, and seconded by Dr. Thompson, and the same having been adopted Lord Leigh was elected President, and Dr. Jephson and Mr. P. Wickham Martin, M.P., Vice-presidents. Its history in the last thirty-five years shows that it has supplied a great want and has in every way earned the high position it occupies among our charitable institutions. The Dispensary is in the Holly Walk. Lord Leigh still fills the office of President, and

the following are the medical staff: Dr. F. H. Haynes and Dr. T. W. Thursfield, consulting physicians; Mr. J. Fenn Clark, hon. consulting medical officer; Mr. H. P. Hordern, L.D.S., B.C.S., hon. dental surgeon; medical officers, Dr. J. F. Heise Ellerton, Dr. A. W. Tomkins and Dr. W. G. Silvester.

The Dispensary is one of several in the Midlands which were founded, either under the personal superintendence of the late Mr. Henry Lilley Smith, surgeon, of Southam, the pioneer of the movement early in the last century, or in consequence of his labours. In early life he was assistant surgeon to the Forty-fifth Regiment, and settled at Southam in 1810. An opposition movement, entitled The Leamington Mutual Medical Aid Society, was commenced in the following year by Dr. F. Bradley and Mr. Henry Swinson, surgeon, son of Dr. Swinson, who died a few years previously at his residence in Hamilton Terrace. Their plan was to charge one payment per annum for medicine and medical attendance on a family, the sum to be regulated according to the annual rental of the house and not the number of members comprised in the family. It lasted only a few months, and at no time was the support of the public encouraging to the promoters.

The agitation in favour of constructing a tram line between Leamington and Warwick commenced in 1871, but it was not until November 22nd, 1881, that it was opened. Seldom have the projectors of such undertakings encountered greater difficulties, and it was only by the utmost perseverance and courage that they were eventually surmounted. Arrangements had to be made with the local authorities at Leamington, Milverton and Warwick, with the Court of County Quarter Sessions and with the Board of Trade, besides which there were special obstacles to a speedy conclusion of the negotiations owing to the steep gradient of Smith Street and High Street, Warwick, to the necessity for widening the bridge at Porto Bello, and to the divided state of public opinion at Leamington, respecting the policy of allowing the trams to pass up and down the Parade. From the first the majority of the residents were in favour of the substitution of trams for omnibuses, and the change, it is now admitted, has proved most beneficial to the interests of the two boroughs. The objection in Leamington to tram traffic along the Parade was

supported by the Hon. and Rev.—now Dean—Leigh, who at the time was vicar; Messrs. W. Willes, A. S. Field, J. Machen, and many other influential residents; all protest, however, was unavailing, the prevalent opinion being that the advantages of the tram service would be seriously reduced if the terminus was fixed near the junction of Warwick Street with the Parade. The history of the line is too well known to render any further references necessary, and all that remains to be stated in this connection is that preparations are now (December, 1903) in progress for superseding the present system by the introduction of an electrical service.

A strong and sustained effort to introduce the Unitarian faith into Leamington was commenced in 1872 by the Rev. J. W. Lake, minister at the High Street Chapel, Warwick. For the purpose of holding Sunday evening services therein the Music Hall, Bath Street, was hired, and for fourteen years Mr. Lake regularly preached to congregations, made up largely by members of his own church at Warwick, who came over to assist him in founding a branch in this town, and a number of residents at the Spa whose leanings were in the direction of his theological tenets. When the lease of the Music Hall had run out and the property reverted to the Wise family, Mrs. Elizabeth Wise, as the owner, declined to allow the Hall to be used for the promulgation of Unitarianism, in consequence of which the meetings were transferred to the Pump Rooms. There they were continued for several years, and were at length discontinued only on Mr. Lake's retirement from the ministry on account of age. He was a preacher of many, and some signal, gifts, and though he failed in making converts he won numerous friendships, and was generally regarded with feelings of respect.

CHAPTER XLIV.

The evolution of the Post Office—Ben. Satchwell the first Postmaster—Isaac Bloomfield the first letter carrier—Miss Satchwell and Richard Hopton—postal improvements in 1818—establishment of local office in 1830—the Bath Street post offices—uniforms of letter carriers—the new post office—successive postmasters: Messrs. Enoch, Adams and Clarke—statistics of business—"the evening Bell"—Sewage questions—Albert Hall—Debating Society—Winter Garden, Aquarium and Pavilion schemes.

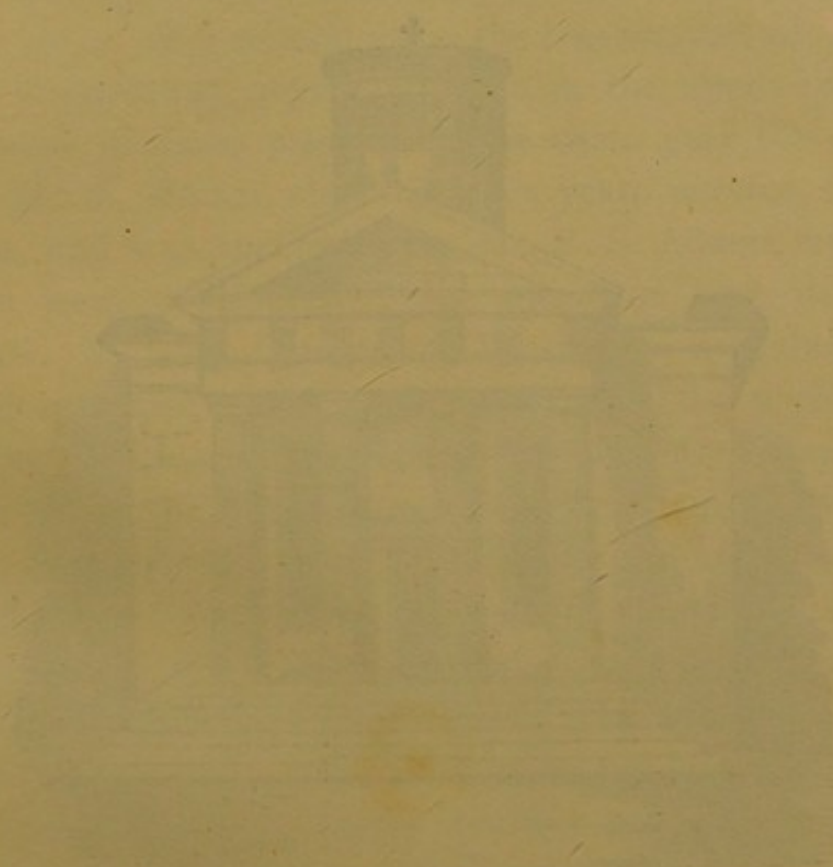
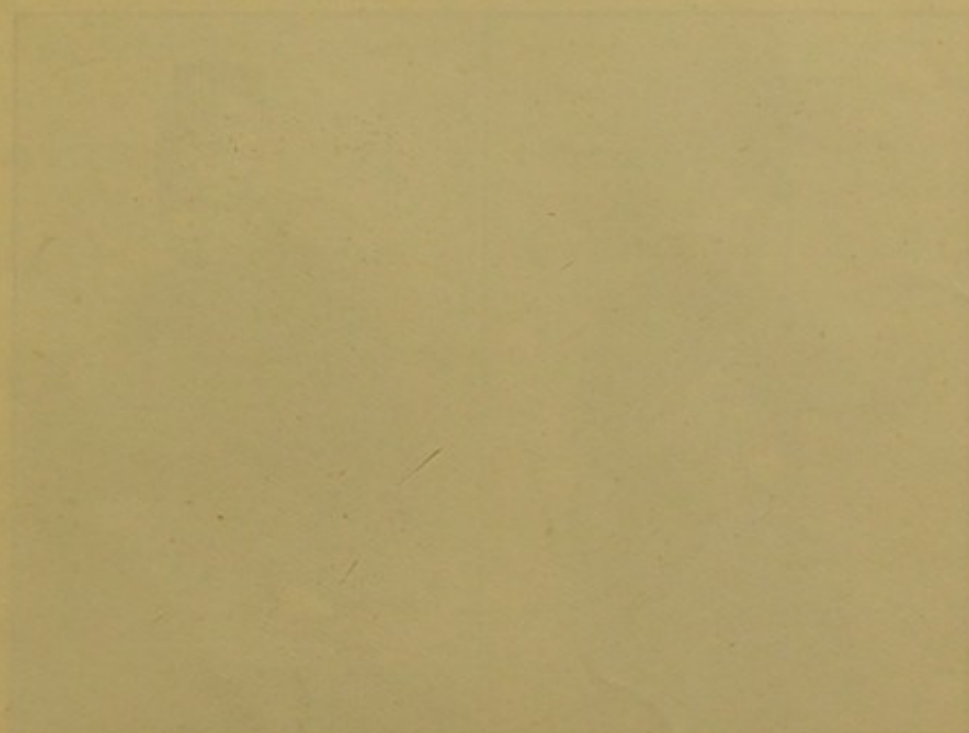
THE history of the Post Office commenced at the close of the eighteenth century, Ben. Satchwell being the first master and Isaac Bloomfield the first letter carrier. It was the duty of the latter to proceed to Warwick daily for the dozen or so of missives addressed to residents and "visitants" at the Spa, and to see that they were properly and punctually delivered. There is a report that he performed his diurnal journeys on a pony, and that the mode of announcing to the public that His Majesty's mails had arrived was the "merry peal of one small bell." As the reader is by this time well aware, the local post office was the historic thatched cottage at the bottom of New Street, the home of Satchwell and his family.

In 1811 Miss Satchwell was promoted to the office of Postmistress, in succession to her father whose death took place in December, 1810, and marrying Richard Hopton in 1814 the appointment was transferred to him. As the population and importance of the town increased, efforts were made from time to time to secure a more efficient postal service, for at this period letters were not delivered earlier than twelve o'clock, and replies could not be posted later than one if the return post was desired. In July, 1818, an improvement was effected by a new Royal Mail Coach, which commenced running from the Swan with Two Necks, Lad Lane, London, to Leamington and Warwick. It was "established for the express purpose of giving the long-wished-for accommodation to the increasing and flourishing" Spa and County town. The

result was that letters were delivered in Leamington between nine and ten o'clock in the morning, and replies could be posted up till four o'clock. To the exertions of Mr. Charles Mills, M.P., for Warwick, the public owed the advantages of the new system. This was the first advancement on the service established in the village by Ben. Satchwell, and the beginning of those successive enlargements and changes which have resulted in the present Post Office with its most efficient management and extensive postal and telegraphic business.

In 1826 "the thatched cottage, lately occupied as a post office," was advertised to be let, and as Richard Hopton went to reside in Clemens Street it is thought probable the business was transferred there. In February, 1829, and in January, 1830, an agitation took place for the establishment of a separate and independently constituted office for the town. Cogent arguments were fortified by statistics of great weight, and the Department, after enquiry by the Surveyor, granted the application. The date of the Order was February, 1830, and about the middle of that month the business was opened in the shop in Bath Street, now numbered 29, and occupied by T. Maycock & Son, hairdressers, etc. The first postmaster was George Bevington. The penny postage system introduced by Sir Rowland Hill, came into operation in 1839, and the postal transactions in Leamington immediately rose to one-third in excess of their former average. The office was next moved along Bath Street to 41 and 43, the present premises of Mr. J. Bennett and Mr. W. E. Beckingsale, and Mr. E. Enoch became the postmaster. There was an ascent of two or three steps into the office, which lacked the necessary accommodation for a rapidly increasing trade, and in addition it was ill ventilated and dark, owing to the obstruction of the light by the heavy portico in front, pulled down in 1871.

In 1846 further alterations were made, and a portico was erected in front, the cost of which was defrayed by the public, who also provided the new uniforms donned by the officials for the first time on May 25, the day on which the office was opened. It was a copy of the one chosen for the Metropolitan postmen, and consisted of a blue coat and vest, scarlet collar and cuffs, and gold band round the hat. The accompanying illustration which



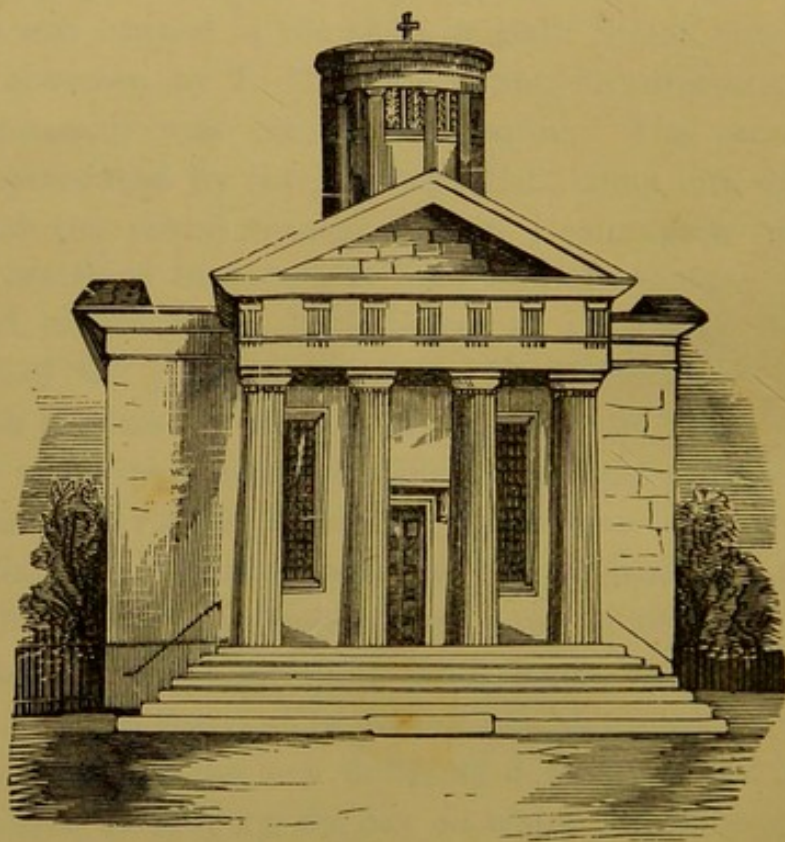
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LETTER CARRIERS' UNIFORMS.



1862.

1900.



THE OLD "PEPPER-BOX" CHAPEL, MILVERTON HILL.

we are able to give by the courtesy of the Editor of "The Postman's Gazette," shows the evolution of the uniform from 1862 to 1900, and at the same time preserves the form and figure of an early and popular letter carrier—Mr. F. Smith—who, in the time stated, improved his good looks and appearance quite as much as the authorities did the attractions of the uniform. "Freddy," as he was known in the office, joined the service in 1858, and retiring in 1900, on pension, is now spending the evening of his life by studying the flight of time at his original trade, clockmaking. The Improvement Commissioners in 1851 applied to the Postmaster General for improvement in the delivery and despatch of letters, and in 1856 the premises were enlarged by adding a wing of the building which had been used as a shop. The business of the establishment and its public utility also were greatly increased by the Post Office Savings Bank Act of 1861, after which the necessity for much larger premises began to be felt, especially when the work of receiving and despatching telegrams was added. The new General Post Office in Priory Terrace was built by Mr. W. Gascoyne, and opened in 1870. For several years the transactions of the Inland Revenue Department were carried on in the upper rooms, and the telegraph business was added the same year the office was opened. Mr. E. Enoch, after thirty-six years' service, retired on a pension, and was succeeded by Mr. E. S. Adams, who left in 1892 and went to Exeter. His successor was the present Postmaster, Mr. W. Clarke, of Worthing, a public official deservedly esteemed by all classes. In 1871 the portico at the Bath Street Office was demolished, the late Mr. Sidney Flavel, sen., purchasing the columns and erecting them in front of his residence, Edgeville, Newbold Terrace. Some idea of the magnitude of the work carried on at the Post Office may be formed from the following statistics: The staff number 180; there are 10 offices in the borough; the sub-offices are 15; and the receiving boxes in the town and neighbourhood 67. The letters amount to about 200,000 weekly; parcels, 6,000; money orders, about 12,000 yearly; postal orders, 80,000 ditto; savings bank transactions, 11,000; telegrams about 250,000 ditto; and telephones, 25,000.

The use of a bell for collecting evening letters in remote parts of the town was an interesting survival of the primitive arrangements which was continued until about the time of the building of the present post office. "Old Joe Mallard," as he was familiarly known, was the last of the letter carriers so employed. He was a sort of ambulatory post office in himself, always carrying with him on his rounds a supply of stamps for his patrons; few in his words, answering enquiries chiefly in monosyllables, and so punctual that the sound of his bell at different points gave the time as reliably as the church clock. On his retirement from the service the old custom, pleasantly reminiscent of the days of Satchwell, was discontinued.

Early in the seventies, the troubles which the Local Board had experienced for several years in regard to the sewage question, were terminated by the adoption of the principle of irrigation, for the carrying into effect of which the pumping works near the railway viaduct were erected. Two modes of treating the sewage had been tested, but without success. The first was the application of quantities of lime to sewage collected in large tanks with the view of precipitating the solid matter, the effluent water being drawn off to a reservoir from which, after standing for a considerable time, it passed into the Avon. It failed to prevent contamination of the river, and hence arose the necessity for a new system. The second was the "A B C" process, the invention of Messrs. Sillar and Wigner, at the time much extolled for its alleged efficacy in sewage treatment. A mixture composed of alum, blood and charcoal, the initial letters of which gave the name to the method of dealing with the sewage, was applied in the same way as the lime had been. The matter deposited in the tanks was claimed to be a valuable fertiliser of crops, and the prospect of large profits was held out to speculators. While this novel method was in force Leamington was frequently visited by deputations from various parts of the country representing authorities in agriculture, local government and science. Among these was one from the Royal Rivers Pollution Commissioners, and another from the Metropolitan Board of Works. The object in each case was to ascertain the real value of the much vaunted "A B C" process. Under the searching investigation of the last

two named authorities, its claims were so completely demolished that the Local Board of Health had no alternative but to abandon the system, and to proceed at once with the erection of works necessary for pumping the sewage on to the land.

The present pumping station, which, with the rising main connecting it with Lord Warwick's farm at Heathcote, cost £14,233 8s. 9d., was erected in 1871. The pipes were laid by W. Gascoyne and Sons; Mr. W. Green had the contract for the buildings, and J. Clayton, of Preston, supplied the engines. On May 11 Dr. Thomson, M.D., in the presence of a numerous company, laid the foundation stone of the chimney stack, the mallet with which the orthodox three taps were given being the one used by the Bishop at the laying of the foundation stone of St. Mary's Church, October 5, 1838, and by Dr. Jephson at that of the memorial stone celebrating the completion of the widening of the Victoria Bridge, May 25, 1840.

The Albert Hall, Kenilworth Street, built by the late Mr. Councillor William Colley, was opened in 1872. At the time it met a great public want by providing excellent accommodation on most reasonable terms for classes, services, concerts, entertainments and meetings on a comparatively small scale, for which the other public rooms would have been too large or have entailed an expense beyond the means of the promoters. The three principal rooms respectively provided accommodation for one, two and four hundred persons, and besides there were comfortable and convenient committee rooms and offices. It was long a favourite building for gatherings such as have been mentioned, and though it cannot be said to have ever proved a rival to the Public Hall, the Music Hall or the Assembly Room, in its own way it contributed to the vivacity, the instruction and the prosperity of the town.

A Debating Society established in September, 1876, was extensively supported by the clergy, the ministers of the several denominations of Nonconformity, the members of the medical, legal and commercial professions, the tradespeople, etc. Few societies of the kind in Leamington have had a more successful career, nor has any one of the others arranged meetings the enjoy-

ments of which exceeded those of the Debating Society. Mr. William Willes was its president; the Rev. Dr. Wood, Headmaster of Leamington College, vice-president; and on the committee of management were Messrs. H. Allbutt, J. Ford, W. Wells, Ridley, Dr. F. H. Haynes, M.D., and the Rev. Dr. Nicholson. The inception of the Society was due to the vigorous efforts of Mr. Herbert Margetts, who was hon. treasurer, and Mr. Charles du Moulin, the hon. secretary. The meetings, to which the public were admitted free, were held in the Pump Room fortnightly, and there was scarcely a single occasion when the attendance betokened a lack of interest. Religious topics and local politics were excluded from discussion, but, happily, without reducing the harvest of controversial questions to a state of famine. The Society lasted several seasons and succeeded in making it very clear that there are two sides to every question, and that to some there are even more. It eventually succumbed to the divided interest caused by the commencement of another Debating Society in connection with the Leamington Institute, a cause which has too often operated disadvantageously in the cases of other local institutions.

What turned out to be one of those airy, unsubstantial castles which frequently float across the vision of public men, was the alluring scheme of 1876 for establishing in the Pump Room Ground a Royal Leamington Winter Garden and Aquarium. The project of a Winter Garden had been recommended by the eminent Dr. W. B. Richardson so far back as 1865, and there were not wanting local advocates, who by letters in the Press and other forms of public expression, kept goading the Corporation onward in this direction by suggesting that they were neglecting the highest interests of the town by not adopting instant measures for the attainment of such a desideratum. Inside the Council the plan had powerful supporters and opponents. As the expenditure of many thousands of pounds on an experiment, which might prove disastrous, could not be entertained, it was decided to lease for nine hundred and ninety-nine years a portion of the ground to Messrs. Hyde and Company at a rental of £450 per annum. The negotiations proceeded, after much wearisome discussion, as far as the preparation of the contract, when unforeseen differences

arose, and the project collapsed. Desirous of obtaining some fixed return for the money which had been expended; the Pump Room Committee advertised the property to let and invited tenders, none of which, however, would be entertained if the rent offered was less than £300 per annum. To this there were no satisfactory replies, and the idea of finding a tenant was at length regarded as impracticable and abandoned. A few years later Mr. R. Badger advocated the formation of a Limited Liability Company for erecting a Pavilion in the Jephson Gardens in which to hold concerts, assemblies, etc. In his opinion the Trustees would entertain such a proposal, and while the shareholders' dividends were certain to be large, the town would be greatly benefited by an influx of visitors. Notwithstanding these tempting attractions there was no response, and the scheme, with the Winter Garden and the Aquarium, thus became heirlooms for the enterprise of some future, and probably a very distant generation.

CHAPTER XLV.

"Spelling Bees"—Cycle Meets—the Skating Rinks—Hospital Sunday—Hospital Saturday—visit of General Grant—the Leamington Institute—the Philosophical Society—the Coffee Tavern—the Salvation Army—centenary celebration of Sunday Schools—the Mission Church of the Good Shepherd—Cricket—visit of the Sanitary Institute—improvement of the Mill Property—Queen Victoria's Statue—Bust of Edward VII.—the Indian and Colonial Visitors—concluding remarks.

"SPELLING Bees," forms of popular entertainment on behalf of which a great deal might be said, came into fashion in 1876, and were equally sources of amusement and education. The first was held in February, in the Public Hall, every seat of which, and even standing room, were occupied. Mr. W. Willes, of Newbold Comyn, presided; Mr. J. Hugh Hawley asked the words the candidates, of whom there were forty, had to spell, and the referees in cases of dispute were the Rev. Dr. Wood, Headmaster of the College, the Rev. F. S. Attenborough and Dr. Thursfield. The proceedings throughout were productive of much amusement.

The Cycle Meets on Whit-Mondays began in 1877, when several hundreds of wheelmen from the principal clubs in the country, assembled at noon in Hamilton Terrace and proceeded in procession down the Parade, along Bath Street, up High Street, *viâ* the Old Warwick Road to Warwick, returning by way of the New Warwick Road and down the Parade to the point from which they started, and after dismounting dined in a marquee in the upper part of the Jephson Gardens. Out of this demonstration came the South Warwickshire Cyclist Club, which lasted until 1903, at which time it was dissolved from a decline of interest in its proceedings. On the whole it had a successful career, and amongst its presidents were Mr. John Fell and the Rev. Canon Hook, Vicar.

A skating rink was opened at the Drill Hall near the Adelaide Bridge, in the early part of 1876, under the management of Mr.

H. C. Mitchell, professor of skating, who was succeeded in the office by Sergt.-Major Hodge, drill instructor of the local volunteers. The floor was laid with a specially prepared cement and only Plimpton's skates were allowed to be used. In December of the same year a rival rink was established in Priory Terrace, on a site of land on the north side extending from the waterway to Dr. Ellerton's residence. This was a speculation by the Rev. J. Craig, vicar. Both were fairly patronised for a time, but roller skating was too expensive a pastime for the general public, and the fashion soon died out.

With the view of augmenting the funds of the Warneford Hospital, a movement was started in 1875 for establishing a regular, and popularly recognised Hospital Sunday. Collections in Churches and Chapels for that institution had taken place for more than twenty years, but there was no system in the arrangements. In December a public meeting was held at the Pump Rooms to consider the proposal of a General Hospital Sunday. Alderman S. T. Wackrill Mayor, presided, and there was an excellent attendance of the clergymen and ministers of the Nonconformist places of worship. The Rev. Canon Young proposed "That it is desirable a Hospital Sunday be appointed, on which collections be made from all the congregations in Leamington and the neighbourhood, in aid of the Warneford, Leamington and South Warwickshire Hospital." Mr. R. Jones seconded the motion, and an amendment was moved and seconded in favour of including the Provident Dispensary in the benefit of such collections, but the Mayor ruled that it was not in accordance with the notice convening the meeting and consequently could not be entertained. Canon Young's motion was adopted with but one dissentient, and the last Sunday in January, 1876, appointed as the day for commencing the now time-honoured and most useful custom of Hospital Sunday.

In or about the month of August, 1878, a number of working men took into consideration the desirability of starting a Hospital Saturday. A Committee of twenty-one members were appointed and the collection was made in the following month of September by means of boxes placed on tables and stands at the corners of streets, applications to the domestic servants at the villa residences

and to the workmen in the shops, etc. The total amount realised was £178 17s. 1d., and, after deducting £6 7s. 10d. expenses, the sum of £172 9s. 3d. was handed over to the Hospital. As an illustration of the old proverb that "many meikles make a muckle," we may say that from 1878 to 1903 these annual collections have produced a grand total of over £6,000.

General Grant, ex-President of America, honoured the Spa with a visit on September 29, 1877, on the invitation of Alderman H. Bright, who at the time was filling the office of Chief Magistrate. The principal streets were decorated for the occasion, and at the Pump Room the General was presented with an address of welcome signed by Mr. Bright, as Mayor, and Mr. H. C. Passman, as Town Clerk. In the evening Mr. Bright entertained General Grant and a number of the principal inhabitants at a banquet at the Regent Hotel, and the town was partially, but very prettily illuminated.

In 1878 the Leamington Institute, the most important organisation of the kind the borough has had, was inaugurated under auspices which seemed sufficient to guarantee its perpetuity. Lord Leigh was President, several other noblemen and individuals occupying positions of influence were Vice-presidents, the Managing Committee was unusually strong, and Mr. Frank Glover was Hon. Sec. Its object was to provide "some place of resort for the young men of the town and neighbourhood, without regard to social or religious distinctions—possessing many of the advantages of a club, and combining both mental and physical culture." Two hundred and three members were speedily enrolled, and rooms in the Lower Parade rented and suitably furnished. Classes, too numerous for enumeration in these pages, were formed, and arrangements made for high-class lectures, the study of archæology in the county by means of periodical excursions to places of interest. The machinery was extensive in every direction, and in its details perfect. It prospered greatly for a time, and eventually removed to larger premises a few doors below the Clarendon Hotel. Afterwards the public interest in its proceedings began to abate, and the

membership to decline. At a general meeting in July, 1887, after considering various proposals to revive its fortunes, a resolution was adopted to wind it up "absolutely and entirely."

Closely related to the Institute, in genius and object, though its platform provided less scope for action, was the Philosophical Society, founded in May, 1866, and continued into the seventies. The leading spirit of the movement was Dr. O'Callaghan, and with him in the heartiest co-operation were the Rev. Dr. Bickmore, Dr. Carter, Dr. Jephson, the Rev. J. H. Smith, J. O. Bacchus, J. Haddon, J. Fletcher, H. Mulliner, and a number of other local public men. At first the idea was to found a museum, for the consideration of which a preliminary meeting was held in the old Catholic Chapel, George Street, in June, 1865. The subject was referred to a representative committee who met frequently during the year without arriving at any definite conclusion. The difficulty—want of funds—seems to have been partially removed by a successful *conversazione* held in the Upper Assembly Rooms in April, 1866, and in the following month the Society was launched on a long and prosperous voyage. The lectures it introduced were among the best Leamington has been privileged to hear. Lord Leigh was the President, and the Hon. Secretaries in succession were Mr. A. Keene, Mr. Rowley Miller, and Dr. Thorne.

The Leamington Coffee Tavern Company, Limited, was formed in 1878 with a capital of £2,000 in shares of £1. On the Board of Directors were the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh (now Dean), vicar, Messrs. W. Harding, Mayor, H. Bright, T. Southorn, J. Fell, R. Leech, Handley Smith, G. Unett, J. Watson, E. Browne, the Rev. T. E. Franklyn and Dr. Slack. The Victoria Tavern, Regent Street, was opened on July 24 by Lord Leigh, in the unavoidable absence of the Duke of Westminster, K.G.; and the second, or Westminster Coffee Tavern, now in Bath Street, in Clemens Street, near the railway bridge, on May 14, 1880, by Lord Norton.

In 1879 a new religious movement, which afterwards developed into what is known as the 94th corps of the Salvation Army, was introduced into the town and for some time caused considerable

excitement. The first meetings—of the usual revivalist character—were held on Sunday evenings in the Public Hall. Processions through the streets followed, attended by hundreds of people, and at length a large room in Packington Place, which originally formed part of Mulliner's coach manufactory, was rented for services. Here the corps remained for several years, occasionally holding special services in the Circus, and once they were granted the use of the Parish Church by the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh, then vicar. Under the will of Miss Harvey, of Spencer Street, who died in January, 1880, they received nearly £4,000, in addition to £1,000 bequeathed to General Booth, and £300 with the house and furniture given to Captain Maycock. It was with this bequest that they were able to purchase the old Oak public house in Park Street, and erect on the site the present Barracks.

Thursday, June 30, 1880, was one of the most interesting days in the list of local general demonstrations, the occasion being the centenary of the Sunday School system of religious instruction for children. On the Sunday previous there were two special services in Spencer Street Congregational and Dale Street Wesleyan Churches, for the scholars in the Nonconformist Sunday Schools, both of which buildings were crowded to their utmost extent, and in the evening, after the usual service, there was a special united meeting. The proceedings on Thursday commenced with a gathering of the Church of England Sunday School children in the Parish Church, and a sermon to them by the Bishop of Sodor and Man. Before proceeding with his discourse he called on the juvenile congregation to promise that they would be very quiet, abstain from kicking their feet about, and try to be as attentive as possible. To these terms they agreed, though not without some signs of reluctance, and in return he pledged himself to be short, plain, and tell them as much as he could to do them good. A grand procession of the children of all the Sunday Schools (excepting the Roman Catholic) attended by the clergy and the ministers, with the respective superintendents and teachers, followed, the route being through the principal streets in the borough. On the conclusion of the march the schools filed off into the Pump Room Garden, where they were briefly addressed by the Hon. and Rev. J. W. Leigh,

vicar, from a platform erected in the centre. There were about 3,000 children present, and round the sides of the Garden thousands of spectators were assembled. There were hundreds of bright and beautiful banners and flags bearing appropriate passages, floating in the air in all directions, and these, with the scarlet uniforms of the Second Warwickshire Militia band, the blue tunics and caps of Mr. Sida's drum and fife band, the handsome dress of the St. John's drum and fife band, and the intelligent faces of the children filled up a picture which for variety of colour and delightful enthusiasm has never been surpassed. At the close of the Vicar's speech three ringing cheers for the Queen were given and the National Anthem was admirably sung, the Militia band accompanying. The Church of England Schools then proceeded to Stoneleigh Park, and those belonging to the Nonconformists to that at Warwick, the remainder of the day being spent by both in games and treats.

The Mission Church of the Good Shepherd in Satchwell Street, the youngest of the numerous edifices in Leamington for public worship, was designed and erected in 1890 by Mr Harbrow, of Bermondsey, London. It cost altogether £650, provides sitting accommodation for nearly five hundred persons, and besides being arranged with due regard to the convenience of the congregation, has some oak fittings of special value and interest. These are the choir stalls, lectern, etc., bearing the date 1699, which originally were in the Chapel of St. Alban's Hall, Oxford, and the woodwork of the pulpit, richly carved with quaint and antiquated fittings, formerly belonging to Worcester College, Oxford, and not less than a hundred and fifty years old. The adaptation of them to their present use was entrusted to Mr. J. Osborne, Farley Street, whose workmanship has given general satisfaction. The opening sermon was preached on March 13, by the Rev. Dr. Cosens, Vicar of Dudley, to a large congregation, including many of the local clergy. At first the services were conducted by the Parish Church clerical staff, but on Easter Day the Rev. Barton W. Allen, now Vicar of Foleshill, took over the work as curate-in-charge. Under the influence of his earnest service and exceptional preaching power overflowing congregations were attracted. His successor was the Rev. E. A.

Johnstone, one of the Curates at the Parish Church, who was in 1895 followed by the Rev. A. Prior Roberts. He continued in office for seven years, discharging his duties with great zeal. On being appointed to the living at Oldbury, he was followed by the Rev. A. D. Burnett.

The services at the Mission Church have always been of an advanced type in ritual, and here vestments were first worn locally, and a choral celebration rendered every Sunday. All the services are designed to be congregational. For the first choral celebration, which was on August 4, 1890, the services of Mr. W. Piercy Watson were requisitioned, and on September 2, he accepted the post of organist and choirmaster, a position he still fills. This is the only church in Leamington where Gregorian music is always used. Lately some improvements have been introduced into the interior of the church which are highly appreciated. Excepting the stipend of the curate-in-charge, the Mission is entirely self-supporting. The property, which at first was owned by the Rev. W. C. Furneaux, a former vicar, a few years ago was conveyed to the Rev. Canon Hook for the Parish Church. It is situated in one of the poorest districts in Leamington, and is said to be doing much good among the residents in the immediate locality.

The cricket history of Leamington is extensive and goes back into the pre-railway days of the last century. There was a succession of grand matches on Parr and Wisden's ground—now part of the Victoria Park—in which some notable clubs and players were engaged. In August, 1845, the North and South England teams were there and decided a contest which had been opened a few weeks previously at Lords, and in 1848 the Eleven of All England met the Twenty-two of the Leamington District and played a famous game on the same ground. A new Royal Leamington Cricket Club was formed in that year at a meeting at the Bath Hotel. The ground was greatly improved in 1849, named the Cricket Field, and became so popular that it acquired the celebrity of being the provincial "Lords." Numerous matches were arranged, one of which was between the Zingari and the Leamington Club. In more recent times the national game has been locally represented by various clubs.

On two occasions the importance of sanitary science in relation to the comfort and health of communities has been impressed on the town by authorities of the highest standing. In October, 1877, the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain held their Autumn Congress here, when for three days sections sat at the Pump Room and Drill Hall for the consideration of papers and addresses, specially prepared, on the preservation of health and prevention of disease. An exhibition of sanitary appliances in the Drill Hall greatly added to the utilitarian character of the meeting, which was secured for Leamington largely through the instrumentality of Alderman H. Bright, who was Mayor at the time. Mr. G. Kirk was an efficient local secretary throughout the Congress. A somewhat similar event took place in May, 1890, the visiting institution this time being the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors in Great Britain. Mr. John Fell, who was then Chief Magistrate, gave the Association a hearty welcome. The presidential address which had been prepared by Sir Edwin Chadwick, was read by Sir Douglas Galton, who also contributed a paper on the duties of Sanitary Inspectors under recent legislation, and Mr. de Normanville, the Borough Surveyor, one on Sanitation in Leamington. The members were entertained at luncheon in the Municipal Buildings by the Mayor.

At the close of the Nineteenth Century a movement which had exercised the time and attention of the local authorities off and on for nearly fifty years, was revived and carried forward to a satisfactory conclusion. Some time in the forties Dr. Leitch, then on a visit to Leamington, perceiving the improvement of which the old Mill property was capable, prepared two lithographic sketches showing views—one from the Victoria Bridge to the Willes Road, and the other from the Willes Road back to the Victoria Bridge—of the changes he considered desirable. His proposal was to demolish and remove the Mill, to excavate the meadows deep enough to form a large lake with the river as far as the Victoria Bridge, to connect Leam Terrace and the Mill Walk with an elegant suspension bridge, to store the lake with water fowl, adorn it with islands beautified with plants and flowers, place arbours round its banks, and on its surface small boats light and graceful as a Venetian gondola. The scheme was

greatly admired and voted utterly impracticable, firstly, on account of the cost, and secondly, because an expensive system of town drainage demanded first consideration. A few years after, the desirability of buying the property for the town was again discussed, and at the instance of the Local Board of Health, Mr. Fox Sharpe, the Surveyor, prepared a plan for ornamenting the ground in the event of the Board becoming the owners. This was laid aside because of the expense, and the matter remained in abeyance until after the incorporation of the town, when Mr. Councillor John Fell availed himself of an early opportunity of directing the attention of the Council to its importance, and advocated the construction of a public promenade on the south side of the river, the whole distance from the Willes Road to the Adelaide Bridge. The Corporation were then engaged in numerous improvements which rendered it necessary to defer what was becoming more and more desirable.

In July, 1897, the lease of the property having expired and the Mill being void, an opportunity for purchasing on terms more reasonable than had ever before been within reach of the Council, arose, and of this, Mr. Councillor J. Heath Stubbs, Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee, took advantage by proposing that enquiries should be made whether Lady Aylesford was disposed to sell, and if so at what price? It should here be mentioned that in reply to a similar application about ten years ago the price named was £10,000, but at that time the very considerable sum of £1,500 was asked by the tenant for compensation. As the lease was now determined that claim was disposed of, and there was every prospect of being able to buy at a much lower sum. The motion of Mr. Heath Stubbs was unanimously adopted, with the result that negotiations were opened, and the Mill with the meadow were acquired for the town at the reasonable figure of £4,085. The way was now clear for proceeding with one of the most attractive works of the century and for realising a long cherished ambition.

In November, 1898, the property came into the possession of the Town Council, and in April, 1899, the demolition of the Mill, around which clustered the oldest traditions of the borough, commenced. The engine, boiler, large tank, and iron work were

disposed of to Mr. Evans, of Wolverhampton. Messrs. R. Bowen and Son had the contract for removing the brickwork; Messrs. G. F. Smith and Sons that for the construction of the Weir, the Corporation labourers being employed in filling up the filtering beds, making the embankment, levelling the meadow, etc. The work, the most extensive which has yet been carried out in Leamington, necessarily occupied considerable time, and having regard to its liability to interruptions by the inclemencies of the weather, it is not surprising to find that it was in hand three years and seven months. During this protracted period Mr. Heath Stubbs, to whom as has been shown must be awarded the credit of initiating this last phase of the movement, was indefatigable in his exertions to bring it to a successful issue, and by his constant attendance and valuable suggestions, aided in securing a result which is the delight of every resident, wins praise from every visitor, and for generations to come will be looked upon as an appropriate climax to the energy and progress of Leamington in the Nineteenth Century.

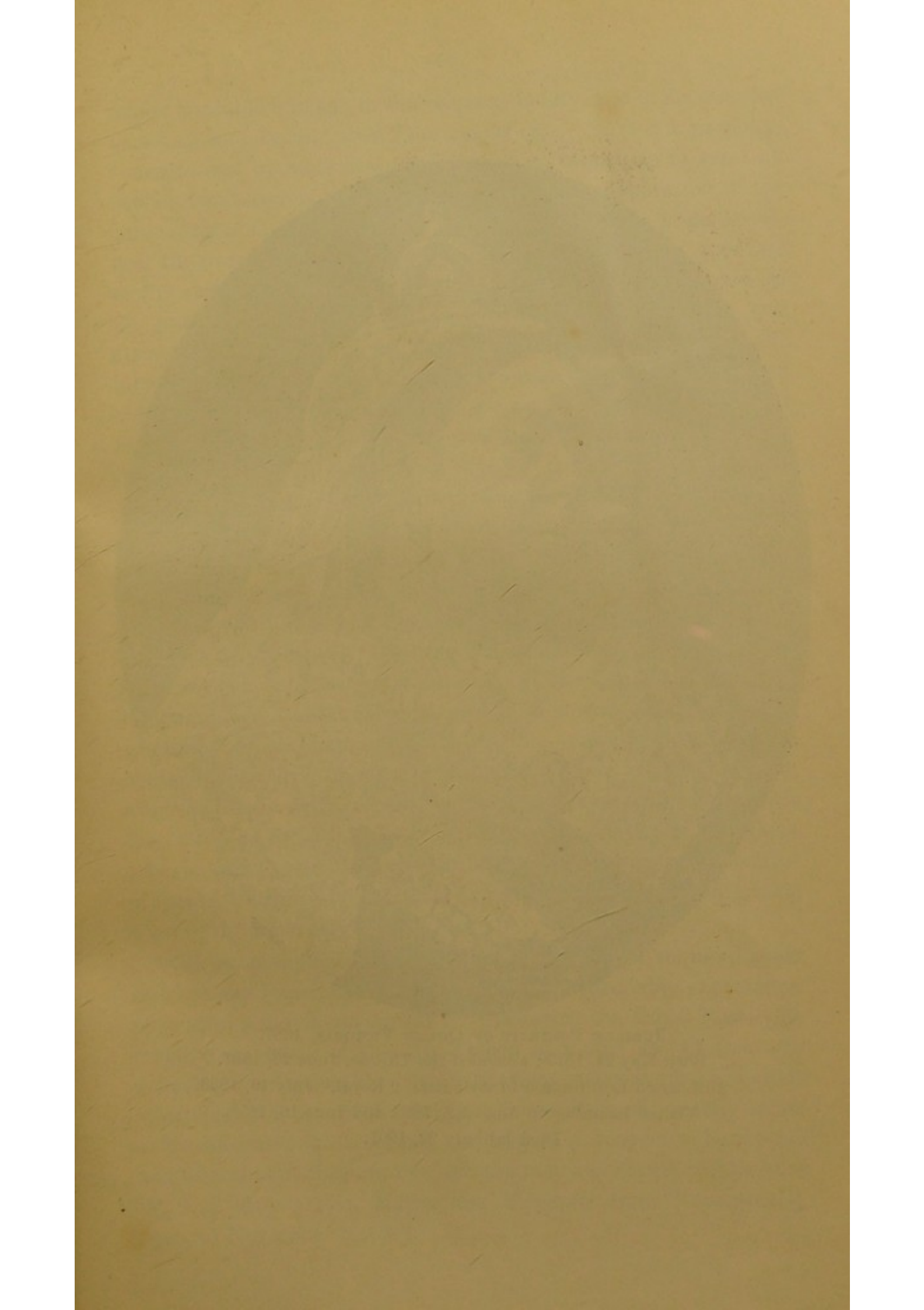
Mr. Heath Stubbs, after having filled the office of Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee for six years, retired from the Council in October, 1902, the improvements at the Mill being then practically complete. His withdrawal from public life was referred to by the Mayor, Alderman W. Davis, and several members as a distinct loss to the borough, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted and entered on the minutes: "That this Council regrets very much to lose the services of Councillor Heath Stubbs, and hereby place on record its appreciation of the great work he has done during the six years of his chairmanship of the Parks and Gardens Committee." A suggestion that he should be presented with some recognition of a more substantial character he respectfully declined to entertain as being out of place.

Early in the morning of December 10, 1902, an experimental test took place of the overflow at the weir, and everything being found satisfactory, a few days afterwards the pent-up stream of the upper part of the river was freed and Leam's Cataract of Lodore become an accomplished fact, the water

" Rising and leaping,
 Sinking and creeping,
 Swelling and flinging,
 Showering and springing,
 Eddying and whisking,
 Spouting and frisking,
 Twining and twisting,
 Around and around,
 Collecting, disjecting,
 With endless rebound ;
 Smiting and fighting,
 A sight to delight in ;
 Confounding, astounding,
 Dizzing and deafening the air with its sound.

From the engineering point of view the works are a valuable testimonial to the professional ability of Mr. de Normanville, the borough surveyor, and in addition to forming an attractive picture in the centre of the town, enlarging the area of the extensive pleasure grounds previously open to the public, and greatly improving the boating system ; their value in preventing floods by passing off immediately the large volume of water which comes down in wet seasons from the upper reaches of the Leam, is an important gain in sanitation. The cost, which has been greatly exaggerated by common rumour, will be just over £12,500, an admittedly moderate outlay, when all the advantages gained are fairly considered. Or, to put the matter in another way, the Corporation by adopting the wise policy of "hastening slowly" have effected this splendid improvement at an outlay of about £3,000 in excess of the sum which was asked for the site and buildings only ten or a dozen years ago.

As the important improvements just described fittingly crowned the successive developments of Leamington through the Nineteenth Century—the first hundred years of its modern history—the fine marble statue in front of the Municipal Buildings in memory of Queen Victoria may be taken as a bright augury of a corresponding measure of success in the second—a "good send off" for the borough into the coming years of the twentieth. Independently of its superior artistic merits and adornment of a central spot which, in a loyal town, could not have been more appropriately utilised, it represents four attempts at the Spa to





JUBILEE PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA, 1887.

Born May 24, 1819; ascended the Throne, June 20, 1837.

Authorised Leamington to style itself "Royal," July 19, 1838.

Visited Leamington August 3, 1830, and June 16, 1858.

Died January 22, 1901.

render laudable homage to the reigning family, and is the only one on which may be inscribed *Finis coronat opus*. In 1822 a proposal, characterised by more zeal than discretion, was made to erect an obelisk two hundred and fifty feet high in commemoration of the coronation of George IV. The site suggested was in High Street, near the present railway bridges, and there was to be a staircase to the summit from which a grand view would be obtainable of the panorama of the surrounding country. The scheme was attractive enough on paper, but the Parish Committee and the inhabitants, entertaining views not quite so high as the projected column was to be, considered the town could do well without it and apply the money to a much better purpose. After the lamented death of the Prince Consort in December, 1861, a movement was started for perpetuating his memory by erecting a public memorial in some prominent position, and for a time it really appeared that a successful issue was certain. The late Mr. W. Gascoyne was one of its foremost advocates, the "Courier" lent its powerful aid, and the Local Board of Health received the proposal with favour. All the circumstances of the time—the crowded In Memoriam services at the places of worship, the heavy bereavement the Queen had to sustain, and the wave of sympathy which passed over the country—conspired to make the occasion singularly opportune for such a tribute. But the public were apathetic with regard to subscriptions, and the scheme therefore had to be laid aside. Besides these two failures there was the effort to erect a grand drinking fountain commemorative of Queen Victoria's visit to the Spa in 1858, which lapsed for the want of the necessary funds.

With so many futile endeavours in the past it required great courage and hopefulness to start with any reasonable expectation of success a fourth movement for honouring the Royal Family by erecting a statue of the late Queen at a cost of £1,400. In defiance of unfavourable prognostications, many doubts and much misgiving, this splendid result has been obtained; wholly so far as the initiative is concerned, and largely in respect to hard work and liberal contribution, through the instrumentality of Alderman W. and Mrs. Davis, Mayor and Mayoress from November 9, 1900, to November 9, 1903.

It is the work of Mr. Albert Toft, of South Kensington, an artist of acknowledged eminence, and represents Her Majesty in a standing position with her head turned slightly towards the right shoulder, and wearing a veil richly ornamented and embroidered. In the right hand she holds the sceptre, and in the left the orb. She is clad in her robes of State, the cloak being enriched with ermine. In the skirt, which is a pannelled one, is shown an elaborate treatment of lace work with a plain piece on either side by way of contrast. Across her breast she wears the Order of the Garter, with the Star of India and other decorations. By an ingenious artistic contrivance the cloak falls in massy folds over the base of the pedestal, the effect being to enhance the height of the figure, which is nine feet six inches. The statue is in the finest Sicilian marble, and rests on a pedestal of red Aberdeen granite eleven feet high.

In the execution of his commission the sculptor has produced a work on which it is impossible to bestow too much praise. The pose is easy, dignified and queenly; the drapery flowing and free, the expression is pleasing and suggests firmness and strength of character, with an adequate recognition of the regal duties and privileges of exalted office, the cares of State, and the extensive responsibility of Empire. As a public ornament the statue has greatly improved the appearance of the Spa, and it is certain to win unqualified admiration from posterity as it has already done from the present generation. It was unveiled by Lord Leigh on October 11, 1902, in the presence of thousands of enthusiastic spectators, but full reports of the ceremony having appeared so recently in the local Press, it is unnecessary to refer to the proceedings here further than to say that the Mayor gave the credit of the project to Mrs. Davis, who was the first to propose it, and also mentioned how deeply he was indebted to Mr. A. Turner, the hon. secretary, for his arduous services. The inscription on the front of the pedestal is "Victoria, Queen, Empress, 1837-1901." "She wrought her people lasting good." And on the back, "Erected by the people of Leamington, October 11, 1902," W. Davis, Mayor.

Another tribute to royalty is the exquisitely beautiful bust of Edward VII., by the same artist, presented to the borough

by Alderman S. T. Wackrill, and placed in the corridor at the Municipal Buildings. In fidelity of expression, delicacy of workmanship and refinement, even in the smallest details, the artist has achieved all that may well be conceived as possible to sculpture. A richly painted canopy by T. Sharpe, of Warwick Street, gives it a grand appearance. Beneath the bust is the following inscription: "Edward VII., Coronation Memorial, June 26, 1902." And on a brass plate beneath; "Presented by Alderman Wackrill, J.P., first Mayor of Leamington."

The Indian and Colonial visitors to Leamington in June, 1886, attracted almost as much attention as would have been bestowed in the case of royalty. They were a section of the first covey who alighted on our shores from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other dependencies, together with dusky and turbanned potentates from Her Majesty's Asiatic dominions, preparatory to taking part in the great Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria's fiftieth monarchical year, appointed to be held in 1887. Alderman S. T. Wackrill was then filling the office of Chief Magistrate for the fourth time, and on receipt of communications from the Duke of Abercorn and Sir Arthur Hodgson on behalf of the Reception Committee in London, he at once commenced making every arrangement necessary to receive them in a manner suited to their rank, and to their individual and representative importance. The cost of entertaining so many guests being heavy, it was resolved to vote the Mayor £500 as a temporary salary, and in the event of the expenditure exceeding that amount to open a subscription list for Lillington and Milverton residents to contribute. There was an opposition to this, not that anyone thought for a moment that the Mayor ought to pay the expenses out of his own pocket, but it was feared a precedent might be established the effect of which it would be difficult to resist on future occasions.

The distinguished guests, of whom there was a large number, arrived in Leamington on Monday evening, June 28th, and were conveyed from the Great Western Railway Station to their respective hotels in carriages which were engaged for that purpose. Along the line of route, the tradespeople had effectively decorated their establishments, in compliance with the

Mayor's suggestion, and thousands collected in the streets and gave the occupants of the several carriages the heartiest of cheers as they drove past. In the evening the visitors were entertained at a banquet in the Town Hall, which had been splendidly decorated for the occasion. The Mayor and Miss Wackrill (the Mayoress) received them in the Mayor's Parlour. Among those present were His Highness the Rajah of Narsinghar, Moulvi Kermit Hussim, Sir Samuel Davenport, Sir Peter Starke Lumsden, G.C.H., C.I.S., Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, K.C.B., the Hon. Malcolm Frazer, C.M.G., etc., etc.; the Mayor and Mayoress, the Hon. A. W. Peel (Speaker), several Mayors from the neighbouring towns, including the genial Sir Arthur Hodgson, who was then Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon, etc., etc. The whole of the approaches to the Town Hall, the wide staircase, the corridors and the rooms were magnificently decorated. After dinner there were numerous speeches, and two finely illuminated addresses, the artistic work of Mr. W. H. Smith, of the Parade, were presented, one to Sir Samuel Davenport and the Colonials, and the other to Major-General P. S. Lumsden and his Indian colleagues. On Tuesday there was a half-holiday, music in the Gardens, and illuminations in the evening in honour of the event, and on Wednesday evening the Mayor gave a *conversazione* in the Town Hall, at which there were present upwards of five hundred guests. The visitors during the few days they were in Warwickshire paid visits to Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth, Warwick and other places of interest, at each of which they were welcomed and entertained by the local authorities.

CONCLUSION.

In bringing these pages to a close, the author has to acknowledge his obligation to the public for extending to the second edition the patronage so generously bestowed on the first. Altogether, nearly one thousand copies of the two issues have been sold, and considering that historical works, however carefully they may be compiled and written, appeal only to a

minority of the reading public, such a result cannot be viewed as wholly unsatisfactory. Several letters received from distant subscribers, expressing warm appreciation of the work, and numerous verbal communications to the same effect by residents in Warwick and Leamington, have been encouraging ; especially under circumstances not the most favourable to rapid production, and difficulties known to those only whose pens have been employed in similar undertakings. Thanks are due to Messrs. Burgis and Colbourne, Ltd., for many of the old illustrations, to Mr. Frank Glover, of the "The Leamington Spa Courier," for the views of Bath Street, Clemens Street, and High Street, in 1822, and to Mr. W. Timms, printer, Warwick Street, for the extremely interesting wood-cut engraving of the Primitive Methodist Church, High Street, now published for the first time in a work devoted to the history of the borough.

The following paragraphs relating to the Pump Rooms ; Clemens Street Congregational Church, and the Court Leet and Baron, inadvertently omitted from earlier pages, are supplied here, the first two, to complete the subjects with which they are connected, and the latter as a phase in the history of the town tending to show that Leamington is much older than it looks, and that one of its former institutions descended from Feudal times.

In the early years the Pump Rooms were extensively patronised, but at the commencement of the second half of the last century, their fortunes declined. An announcement by the Hon. Charles Bertie Percy, in 1860, of his intention to close the institution, led to the formation in 1861 of the Royal Pump Room Company, Ltd., and the purchase by them of the property for the sum of £8,500, an amount considerably below that at which it had been valued. The company entered into possession in October, 1861, and improvements on a large scale were at once begun, bringing the total outlay to £17,361 4s. 8d. at the close of 1863. After carrying on business for several years without realising any dividends, the shareholders, in 1868, sold the whole of the extensive property to the Local Board of Health for £15,000. In 1886, the Corporation greatly extended the improvements by the company and spent nearly £3,000 in renovations and additions. A section of this work, of the value of £1,556, was carried out by Messrs. Jenkins and Sons. On June

1, 1887, the Pump Rooms and Baths were officially re-opened by the Right Hon. A. W. Peel (now Viscount Peel), M.P., and Speaker, in the presence of a distinguished company, among whom were some of the highest medical authorities in the kingdom. Since then, numerous other developments have taken place, and the establishment may now be regarded as thoroughly efficient; space will not allow us to mention all, who, in the crisis of the history of the property in 1860, united to avert its loss to the town, but among them the late Mr. Joseph Glover was distinguished by his zeal and perseverance. The Pump Room is of noble proportions and its walls are adorned with three portraits of great local interest; Dr. Jephson and Mr. John Haddon, painted by W. Gill, and presented by the town; and that of the Rev. Dr. Marsh, by Taylor, of Leicester, the gift of Mr. J. Glover. Mr. Ravenhill is the capable manager of the institution.

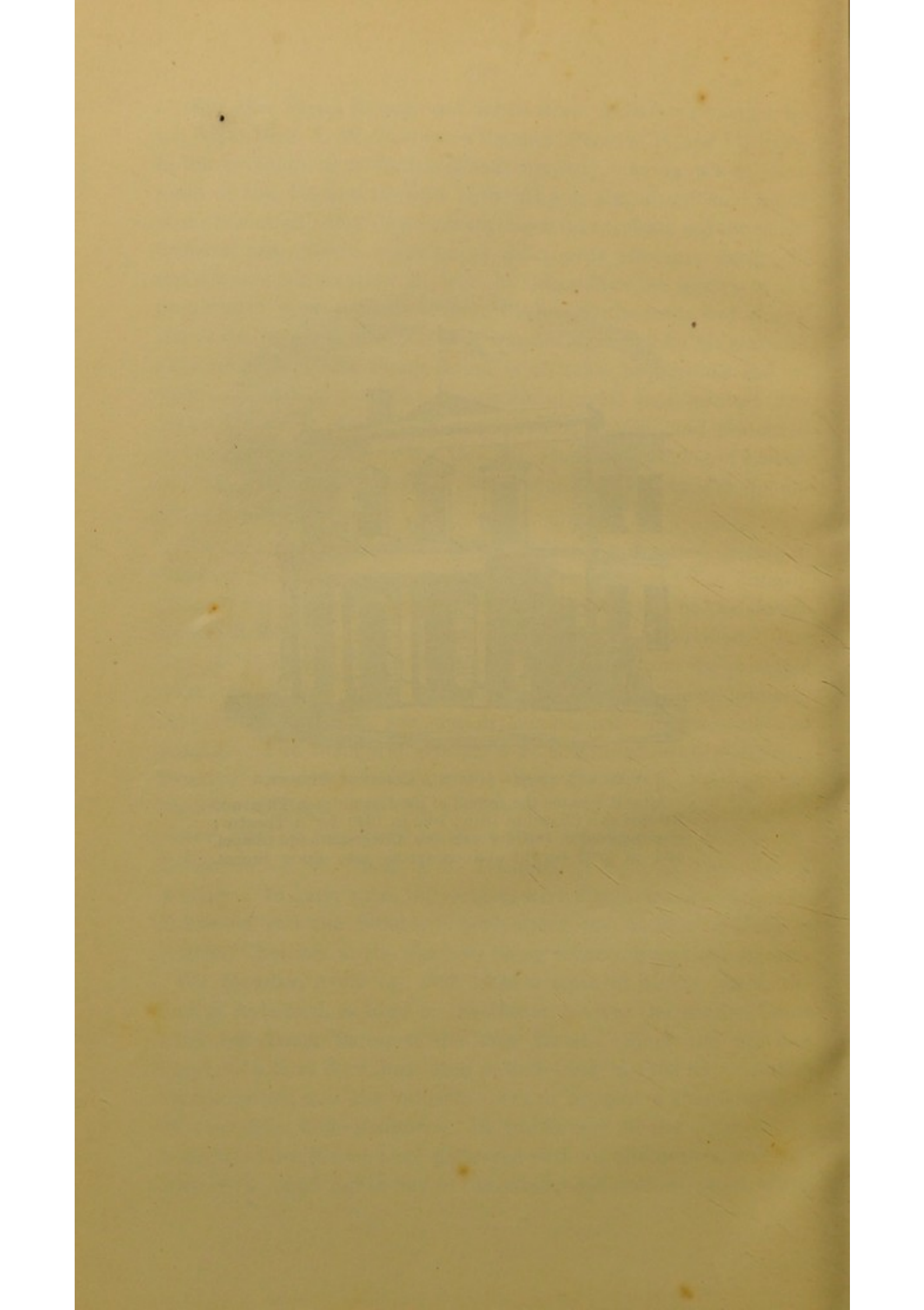
Through the energy of the Rev. J. Sibree the deserted theatre in Clemens Street was re-opened on April 24, 1866, as "The Congregational Free Church," when sermons were preached by the Revds. Enoch Mellor, of Liverpool, and Clement Dukes, of London. The Rev. J. W. Percy, then in his eighty-second year, and the principal promoter of the original building of 1816, and Mr. Jesse Johnson, aged ninety, and who was one of the original trustees, were also present. The inaugural services were continued on the following Sunday, on which occasion the Rev. S. McAll, President of Hackney College, was the preacher. Mr. Sibree was the first pastor, and his successors in the office have been the Revds. W. Robertson, J. W. Bain, J. S. Beamish, J. Perkins, and Mr. G. Astbury. In July, 1900, the services were discontinued, the church disbanded, and the Sunday School closed, the number of Congregational Churches at the Spa now being reduced from three to one.

On Monday, April 14, 1828, after a lapse of ninety years, the Earl of Aylesford, as Lord of the Manor, revived the ancient Court Leet and Court Baron at the Bath Hotel. Since the previous Court, two local Acts, had been passed—one in 1768 for enclosing the Commons, and the other in 1825 to appoint a Board of local Improvement Commissioners. In the former all the rights of the lordship of the Manor were preserved without diminution, and neither in the latter nor in any of the subsequent statutes, under which



CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, CLEMENS STREET,

After it became the second of the Leamington Theatres. Erected as a Chapel in 1816; sold in 1849 for a Theatre; re-purchased in 1866 for use as a Congregational Chapel, and in 1902 bought and converted into Corn Stores.



Leamington is governed, is there anything prejudicial to the ancient manorial dignity and privileges of his lordship. The Court Leet Baron, may, therefore, as we understand, be re-established at any time. At the Court in 1828, upwards of nine hundred householders answered to their names, paid their fines, and several town officers were chosen and sworn in.

During the publication of this work in serial form a few changes have taken place, which require notice, the descriptions in the text being no longer applicable.

The Midland Counties District Bank, Limited, mentioned on page 253, as occupying the premises number 55, Upper Parade, is removed to the fine new buildings forming part of the Central Chambers, 150, Lower Parade. The name of the manager, given by a Press error as Anton William, is William J. Anton.

In Bath Street the old chemist's shop of Mr. J. Price is now—April, 1904,—being absorbed by the adjoining premises of Francis and Sons, Mr. Price removing his business to the opposite corner. The chief point of interest in this alteration lies in the fact of the vacated premises having been the first banking establishment in Leamington. In 1823, a branch of the Warwick Old Bank was opened here and until 1835, it was the focus of the principal commercial transactions of the town.

With this addition the premises of Francis and Sons become in their lineal associations, far and away the most historic house of business at the Spa. Beside having been the site of the earliest local bank, the north-east corner is the place where Abbotts founded the original baths in 1786, and on the side in Smith Street, the Leamington salts were first manufactured. "The Leamington Chronicle" respecting which, as one of the local organs of public opinion, a brief sketch is due, found its birth-place there in 1865.

That journal was started by Messrs. Vincent and Jones, two journalists from Coventry, with a fund amounting to upwards of four figures, subscribed by the Liberal party in South Warwickshire. The line of the building was different from what it is now, the central part standing back from the street and having in front a small, ornamental garden. In the early days this was neatly kept and had a most attractive appearance. The rooms not being suffi-

ciently commodious, the paper in about twelve months' time was removed to the then untenanted Vicar's Grammar School, in Priory Terrace. It was printed on a good quality of paper, sold at two-pence, and had a respectable circulation. Mr. Jones retired in a few years, leaving Mr. Vincent sole proprietor. In February, 1872, the agitation among the farm labourers broke out at Wellesbourne, and in that great movement, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent embarked with remarkable zeal, and to their invaluable services must be attributed much of the undoubted success which crowned the work for several years. To aid the cause, he started "The Labourers' Chronicle," which was printed at the works in Priory Terrace, and at one time had a circulation of about 40,000 copies weekly. In a few years disputes occurring in the ranks of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, Mr. Vincent sold both papers to Messrs. Curtis and Beamish, printers, Coventry, who re-sold the Labour organ to the Union and the "Chronicle" to the Rev. F. S. Attenborough, pastor at the Holly Walk Congregational Church. His death occurring in 1879 the paper became the property of his widow, Mrs. Attenborough, who, after carrying it on for several years, disposed of it to Messrs. P. and W. E. Linaker, the present proprietors. The work of the paper from its commencement has been that of steadfast loyalty to the Liberal cause, the principles of which it has advocated with undoubted ability and unabated perseverance. Under the management of Mr. Vincent it was, conspicuously, the friend of the farm labourers, to their great advantage and its own financial detriment, but though his advocacy of their interests entailed some loss of local support, it earned for him the title of having been one of the earliest, and foremost of their sympathisers. The "Chronicle" is an excellent family journal, carefully edited, and in addition to good reports, from time to time it publishes special articles which are always perused with interest.

The statement made on page 152 that Bisset was a total abstainer requires considerable modification. He claimed to be, habitually, a water-drinker and has stated that all the domestic servants in his family, from the force of Mrs. Bisset's and his own example, were voluntarily, partakers of "Adam's ale" only. But though a very moderate drinker as regards quantity, he was not, strictly speaking, a teetotaller. He eschewed wines, ale, and porter, but he had a

strong fancy for a "night-cap" in the shape of a tumbler of weak punch or "toddy" as it would be called in Scotland, his native land.

Since the publication of our notes on the musical history of the Spa, "The Leamington Harmonic Society," referred to on page 219, has given its last performance and withdrawn from public life. Established in 1897 by the amalgamation of two numerically strong and popular associations, it seems strange that in 1903, its career should have been abruptly closed. Financial considerations are believed to have contributed somewhat to the disappointing results, but probably the amalgamation from the first, lacked the cordial support of the members. Anyhow, its disappearance, is a loss, the effect of which can be adequately appreciated alone by that section of the community whose musical preferences are singing with full and proper orchestral accompaniments.

The establishment of a motor car service, in connection with the Warwick and Leamington Post Offices, is an event of more than ordinary interest, and also a tribute to one of the many great triumphs of science which are taking place in these modern days. It must also be considered in the light of a new starting point for future developments certain to occur before the present century closes—advances in improvements which would be as surprising to us, were we permitted to see them, as the present car would prove to Satchwell. It began running on the evening of February 1, 1904, from Warwick, shortly before nine o'clock, calling at Leamington, and after loading, proceeding to Kenilworth, Coventry and Birmingham, from whence it returned between four and five in the morning. It carries only parcels for which it has large accommodation. The institution of the motor, makes little or no difference to the public, the transit by rail being equally rapid and convenient, but there is a saving of labour at the Post Offices in being able to deposit the parcels in the car, without sending them to the railway station, and the cost of transmission is materially less than what would have to be paid to the railway companies. It is in this respect that the motor car system is likely to bring about a great reduction in the general expenditure of the Postal department. So far, the working of the new motor has been satisfactory, and its evening arrivals and departures, both in Warwick and Leamington, have been watched with great interest.

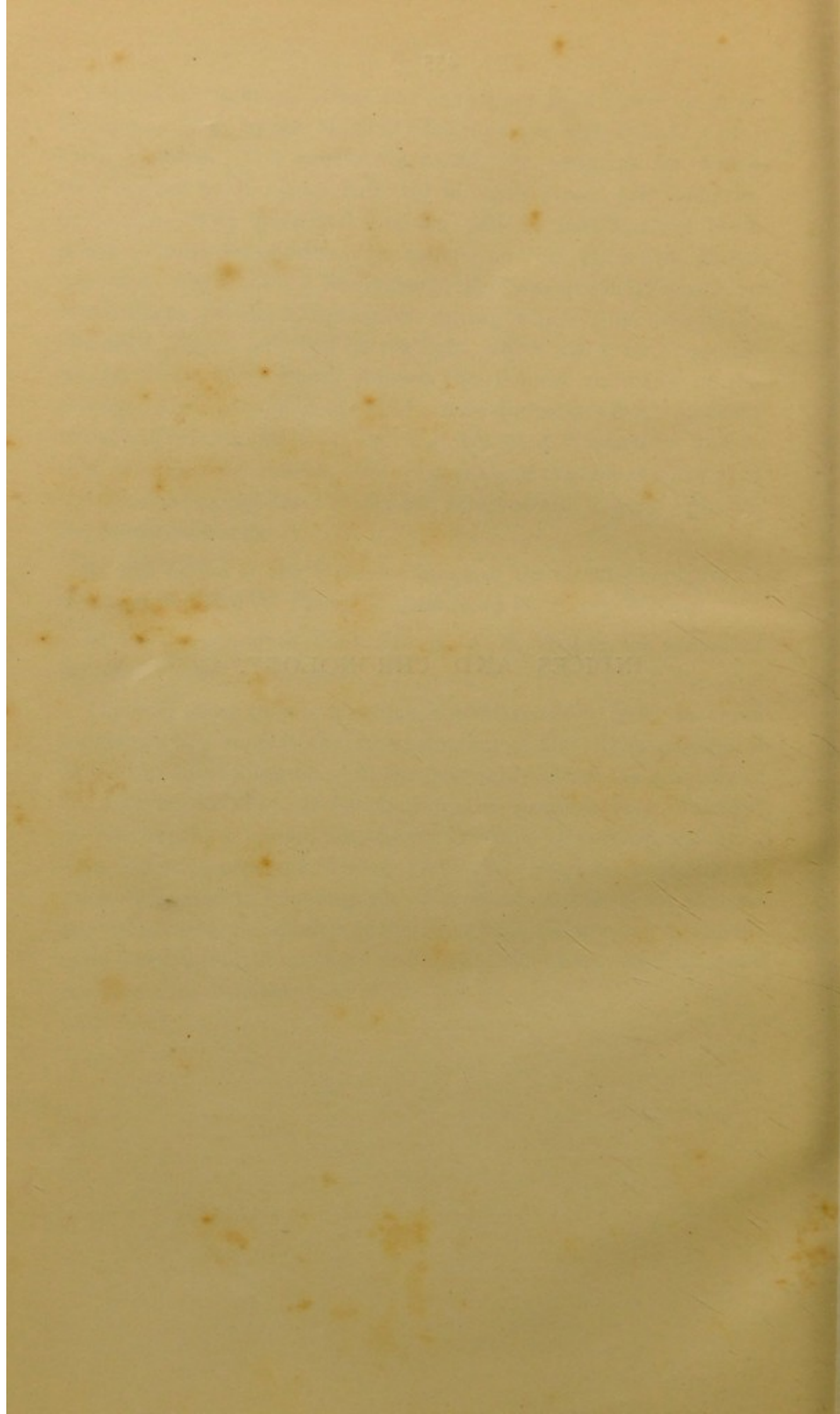
The electric lighting system was introduced into Leamington in November. 1887, by the Midland Electric Light and Power Company, Limited. The generating works, the buildings for which were erected by Mr. John Fell, are in Wise Street, and comprise three pairs of horizontal engines, each of two hundred horse power ; three locomotive-type boilers, and six Hookham patent dynamos. On Tuesday, November 8, there was an official inspection of the works by the Corporation, during which Alderman S. T. Wackrill, Mayor, switched on the light, which was at once supplied to the Town Hall, Pump Rooms, the Parade, to many of the principal tradesmen, and the residents in numerous villas. In every respect, excepting the street lighting, it proved satisfactory, and in that case, the Corporation, after a lengthened experiment, reverted to the use of gas for the Parade, but retained the electric light for the public buildings.

In the notice of the Mission Church of the Good Shepherd, on page 440, for Mr. W. Piercy Watson, read H. Piercy Watson.

At the Metropolitan Bank, Mr. A. A. B. Wilson has succeeded Mr. G. C. Lake, as manager.

The only other subject to which it is necessary to refer in these supplementary notes is the amalgamation of the urban portion of Milverton and Lillington with the borough. After the granting of the Charter in 1875, at which time the parishes were successful in resisting the proposed absorption, agitation was abandoned for a time, but it was revived in 1890, and an Act obtained annexing the parts mentioned to Leamington. The effect on the Town Council was to increase the number of members from twenty-four to thirty-two—twenty-four Councillors and eight Alderman,—and to make the incoming districts a new ward.

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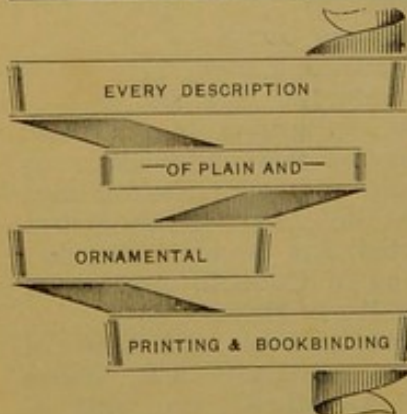
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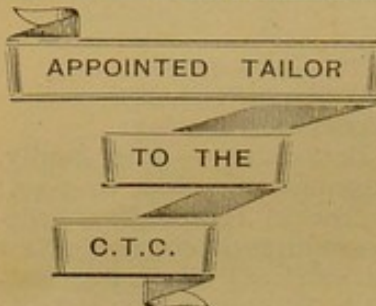
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