

Memorials of the Old Square : being some notices of the Priory of St. Thomas in Birmingham, and the lands appertaining thereto; also of the Square built upon the Priory Close, known in later times as the Old Square; with notes concerning the dwellers in the sixteen houses thereof, and of some notable persons associated therewith / by Joseph Hill and Robert K. Dent.

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MEMORIALS OF THE
OLD SQUARE: 

By Joseph Hill and Robert K. Dent.

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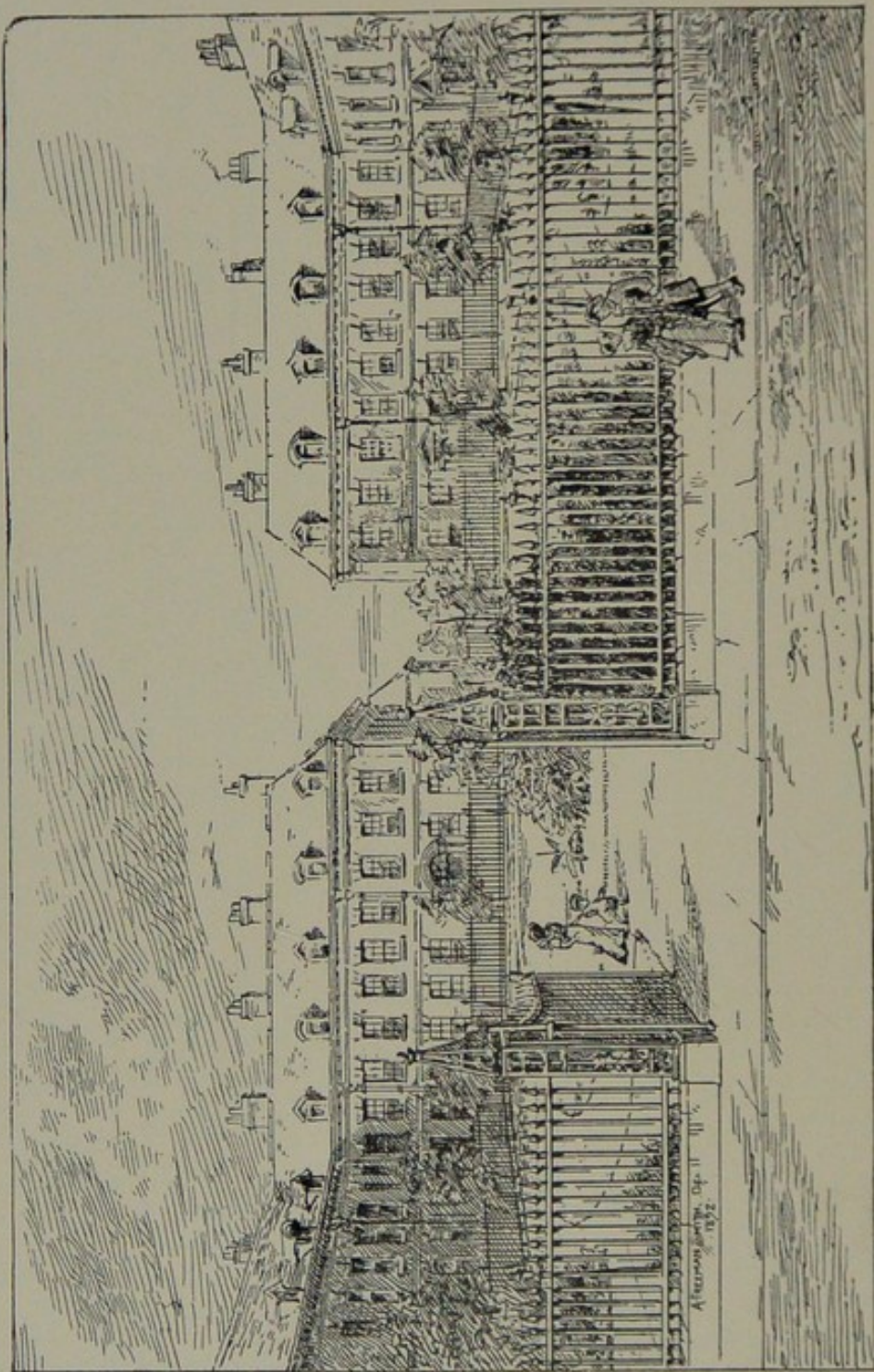




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




**MEMORIALS OF THE
OLD SQUARE:** 

*Being some Notices of the Priory of St. Thomas in Birmingham,
and the Lands appertaining thereto; also of THE SQUARE built upon
the PRIORY CLOSE, known in later times as THE OLD SQUARE; with
notes concerning the dwellers in the sixteen houses thereof, and of some
notable persons associated therewith.*

By Joseph Hill and Robert K. Dent.

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Preface.

WHEN, in July, 1896, the last surviving houses of the Old Square were taken down, it seemed desirable to perpetuate the memory of this once famous locality by recalling a few of its most important features, and placing on record such incidents of its history, and facts concerning its most notable residents, as were recoverable.

Upon the completion of our first draft, however, it became manifest that as a memorial it was inadequate and unsatisfactory, that to be worthy of its subject it must deal, not with a selection from, but with the whole of the houses in the Square, and comprise the whole of its residents during the one hundred and eighty years of its existence. This became still more obvious as our investigations progressed, and new sources of information were discovered.

In the record we now issue defects will doubtless be found; the enquiry and research covers so wide a field that this is inevitable. As a local record we have dealt with it in a local spirit, not disregarding the seemingly small matters, nor sparing pains to treat the more important in a comprehensive manner.

Although we have had to do with genealogical facts, this is not a genealogical work. Inferences, rather than strict proof, have often had to be relied upon; but when the importance seemed to demand it, we have endeavoured to make our enquiry exhaustive and complete.

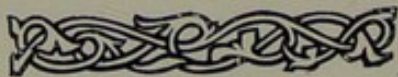
In the allusions to more modern occupants we have purposely been brief. That we have not ventured upon more than references to living persons

need not be stated. Our aim has been to place before the reader a history of the Square in its entirety, and we venture to hope that in great part this history may be new to those who peruse its pages.

In the preparation of this memorial our thanks are especially due to C. D. Sturge, Esq., and Mr. W. B. Bickley, not only for valuable information supplied, but for the encouraging and kindly help afforded; also to the Very Rev. Canon Greaney, Mr. J. C. Gell, Samuel Lloyd, Esq., T. A. C. Attwood, Esq., the Rev. Geo. Astbury, and others; to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Clerk and officials of the Guardians for courteous permission to examine the valuable records in their charge, and to R. B. Prosser, Esq., of H. M. Patent Office, we are indebted for information derived from his valuable contributions to the Local Notes and Queries, and his *Birmingham Inventors and Inventions*.

September, 1897.

J. H.
R. K. D.



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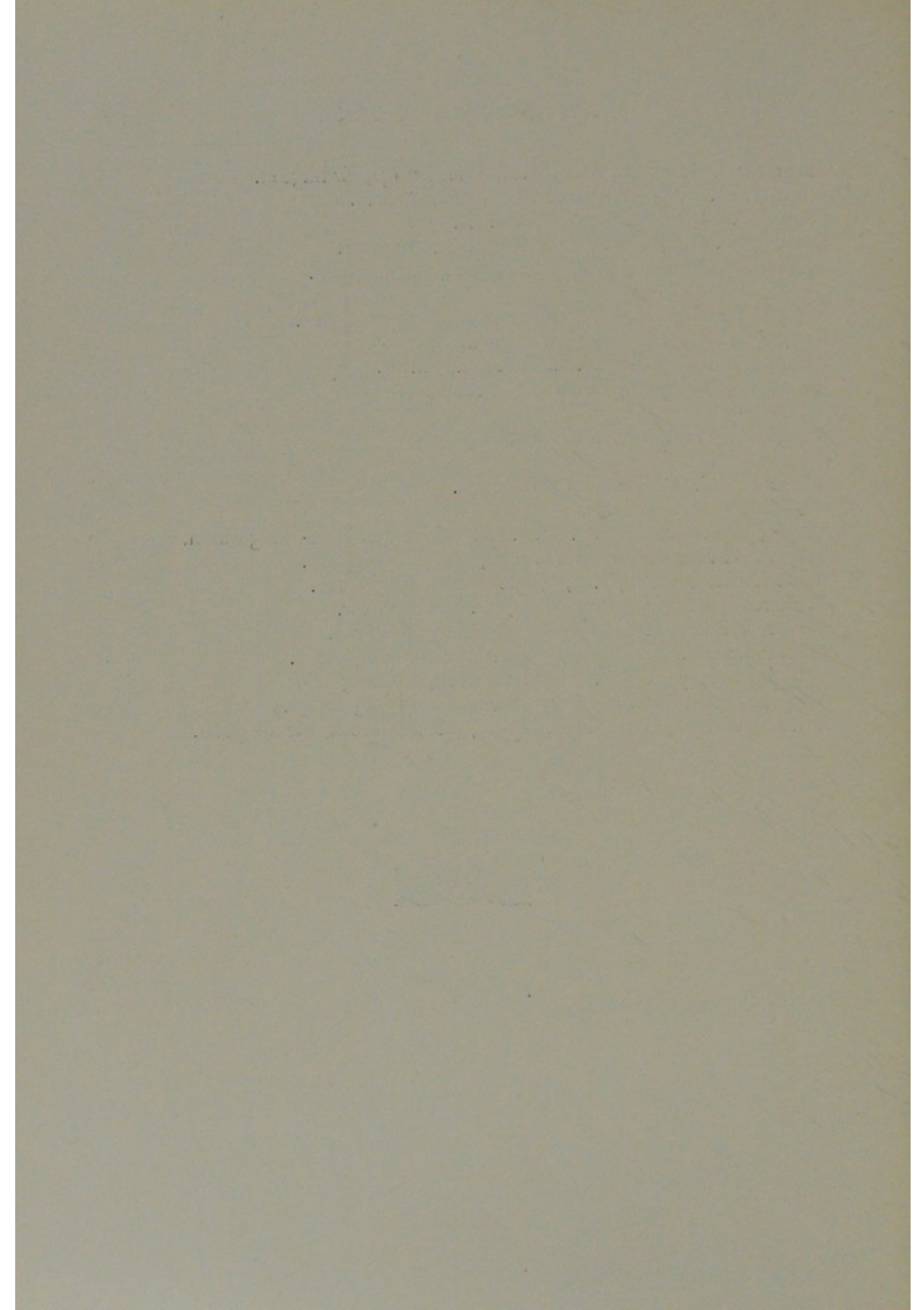
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The Priory.



The Priory.



THE last vestiges of the Old Square, with its Queen Anne and early Georgian houses, once the pride of Birmingham and the home of some of the most noteworthy people, have now been removed, and ere long its old familiar features will have become a shadowy memory, and its associations have faded and passed away. For nearly two centuries it has remained a prominent feature in our town's history, and its story is worth telling.

Rich in the memory of a host of worthies in the past, sacred in its association with the great classic Dr. Samuel Johnson, and memorable also as the cradle of men who have achieved honourable and lasting distinction, its destruction has removed one of the dearest spots in old Birmingham.

Happily (in a sense) it has been improved away before evil days had befallen it, and has thus been spared the degradation of outliving its respectability, and being divided into poor tenements—the fate of many fine houses left stranded in the midst of great cities. The buildings which remained to the last were among the earliest erected in the Square, yet were worthily occupied, and remained as strong and unimpaired as in their earliest days.

But the interest which attaches to its site is another and earlier claim to our regard. If Birmingham of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had not been a progressive town, if, like many other ancient cities and burgh towns, it had made but slow advances, or had remained stationary within its earlier limits, the extensive lands of its ancient priory of Augustinian Hermits, or Austin Friars as they were popularly called, would have acquired but little increased value, and the stone walls of their religious house and its little church or free chapel, might, perhaps, have survived

to modern times as a picturesque ruin within pleasant surroundings, telling of the wealth and importance of this thirteenth century foundation. Its woods and warren, with its brooklet and sacred well, might have formed an attractive resort for the townsfolk, and the ruined Priory have become an object of interest and veneration.

But Birmingham of the days of Henry VII., the whilom market town of the grazier and the agriculturalist, underwent a remarkable change, and in addition to its earlier trade in wools and skins, in weaving and tanning, its people adopted the working of iron, and their skill in manipulating metal brought trade and fame. Its population gradually but steadily increased. Its old streets and alleys became changed in character, new workshops and new buildings were required, and notwithstanding the checks of civil war and dire pestilence, the town's development progressed, until at length the leasows, closes, and meadows surrounding its ancient Priory, even to the ancient burial place, well filled with the burghers of past times and their families, were sold to speculators, and enterprising builders covered its erstwhile sacred precincts with a closely packed mass of buildings, in which the name of the Priory was preserved, whilst adjacent streets assumed the dedicatory names of St. Thomas and St. John.

For two and a half centuries the Augustinian Priory of St. Thomas the Apostle was a potent religious institution in our town. Originally endowed in 1285 with twenty acres of land in Aston (the value of which may be gathered from its description as brushwood) given jointly by the lords of Birmingham and Aston, and of three acres in Saltley, given by the lord of that manor, further and more valuable gifts were speedily added, of which John de Somery, the baron of Dudley and superior lord of all the manors around Birmingham, gave seven acres of land in Bordesley, the lord of Birmingham, William de Birmingham, twenty acres in his manor, and the lord of Aston, Thomas de Maydenhache, ten acres in Aston.

The Birmingham land was, of course, that upon which the Hospital or Priory was built, viz., extending from Chapel (now Bull) Street eastward along the whole length of Priors Conigree (now Steelhouse) Lane; but during the next twenty-five years many small gifts of land, cottages, and rents were made by Nicholas in the Dale, Roger the Moul, Alexander the Mercer, William of the Shawe, and about thirty other persons with equally primitive surnames.

Near to the religious house a small church was erected, and was dedicated,

not to the Apostle, but to St. Thomas the Martyr, i.e., Thomas Becket. To this was added a graveyard or cemetery, and a house for the clerk.*

The earliest known reference to the Priory is 1298, in which year brother Thomas, master of the house of St. Thomas of Birmingham, was sued for a sum of £10, apparently due from the lord of Birmingham, recently made a prisoner of war in France.

Like other religious communities the Priory had its abuses, but this was at a very early period of its existence when its black frocked friars were held in low esteem. In Bishop Langton's time (about 1320) Frater John de Appulton, of the Augustine house of St. Thomas, also described as of the household of Sir Thomas Birmingham, was excommunicated by that bishop for irregularities, but upon the accession of Bishop Roger Norbury he gave effect to the Pope's writ whereby the friar was absolved. In 1344, however, the same energetic bishop recorded that

"The Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr (*sic*) Burmyingham is found to be in a most deplorable plight, that vile reprobates assumed the Habit that they might continue their abominable lives under the religious garb, and then forsake it and call themselves hermits."



Augustinian Friar.

This, however, was in the early days of the foundation when the house was as yet in its infancy, and during the rule of Frater Robert Marmion, who was appointed by the Bishop in 1326; but a better state of things was in store. Whilst the Priory was at its worst, Fulk de Bermingham succeeded to the manor. He was an energetic man, who took especial interest in his estate. Then came the period of the Black Death, followed by a new and liberal endowment to the Priory by Fulk de Bermingham and Richard le Spencer with 100 acres of land, lying mainly between Priors Conigree Lane, Walmore Lane, and Sandy Lane, Snow Hill, for celebration of divine service daily at the altar of the blessed Mary in the Church of the Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr.

In 1353 Bishop Norbury appointed Friar or Brother John Nevill to the rule of the house, and

* In the subsidy roll of 1327, published by W. B. Bickley, is the entry: "Richard atte Chapelle 2s. 0," and in 1330 he is called "Richard the priours clerk at chapele."

there is every reason to believe that he was the last of the Order of Augustine Hermits—the fourth or last order of begging or mendicant friars.

Originally there were but two orders of friars, the Franciscans and the Dominicans. A third order, the Carmelites, was added by Pope Innocent the IV.; while the fourth and last order, the Augustinian Hermits, as distinct from the Canons (who were monks, not hermits), was the creation of Pope Alexander IV. All these orders of mendicant friars were recognized by the church law, had the right to beg, and moreover possessed certain privileges, faculties from the Holy See to dispense in certain cases and absolve from certain reserved sins. "Alle the orders foure" of Chaucer refers to the friars, who were very popular with the common people, but in the changes of time, when leprosy died out, the Hermits or begging friars lost most of their earlier characteristics, and, in connection with the Chantry, the Priory continued as a hospice, a spital, a God's house for the sick, the traveller, the benighted. The old name Priory would, of course, cling to it, and those who served the hospital would have some easy rule of life given to them by the Bishop of the diocese.*

Let us, therefore, conclude that ever after the holy men upheld the higher traditions of their office; that their misdeeds were of a venial kind, whilst their sacred duties were faithfully performed, and that whilst they shared with the priests of the chantries of St. Martin and St. John of Deritend, and with the clerical and lay officials of the Gild in New Street, in the pageantries, shows, and feast day processions through the narrow streets of the old town, their presence at other times, as in their sandal shoon and black cloaks they went on their errand of mercy among the houses of the poorer sort, administered to the sick, or weary traveller, or performed their office of sanctity at the altar, was alike welcome and comforting to the good folk whose welfare was committed to their charge.

The following list of priors, wardens, or head friars is obtained from Dugdale, Thomas, and other sources:

* Very remarkable proof of the late survival of the friars in Birmingham has recently been discovered. As the result of research in London Mr. W. B. Bickley has found that in the will (4th May, 1516) of Roger Bird, who lived next the Gildhall, in New Street, are bequests "To the three orders of freers that be within the lymytacons of Byrmyngham and every of them 10/- to syng at every house of them a trentall of S. Gregory;" and also in the will (1522) of Thomas Redhill of Birmingham, bequests "To repair the seven altars and to every order of the friars within the limitation;" whilst a subsequent search among the early wills at Lichfield has also discovered in the will (9th June, 1533) of William Sedgwick, the landlord of the Bull Tavern, opposite the Priory, a bequest "To the IIII orders of freers."

Thomas,	<i>Friar,</i>	1298	
John of Appulton,	<i>Friar,</i>	1320	
Robert Marmion,	<i>Friar,</i>	presented 1326	by the Bishop.
John Nevill,	<i>Confrater,</i>	1353	ditto.
Robert Cappe	<i>Chaplain,</i>	1361	Fulke de Bermyngham, Kt.
Hugh de Wolvesey,	<i>Priest,</i>	1369	ditto.
Thomas Edmund,	<i>Priest,</i>	1369	ditto.
John Frotheward,	<i>Priest,</i>	1390	John de Clinton, Kt.
John Cheyne,	<i>Priest,</i>	1393	ditto
Henry Bradley,	<i>Priest,</i>	1398	Lady Elizabeth de Clinton.
Thomas Salpyn,			
(Galpyn or Dalpyn)	<i>Priest,</i>	1403	John Russell, Kt.
Robert Browne,	<i>Chaplain,</i>	1407	Lady Elizabeth de Clinton.
John Port,		1412	ditto.
William Prestwood,	<i>Chaplain,</i>	1416	ditto.
<i>Dominus</i> Henry			
Drayton,		1421	ditto.
Henry Fullan,			William Bermingham, Kt.
William Gest,	<i>Priest,</i>	1464	ditto.
Fulk Bermingham		1467	ditto.
Thomas Smalwode		1467	ditto.
<i>Dominus</i> Edwd.			
Tofte,		1521	Edward Bermyngham, Esq.
Henry Hody	<i>Clerk,</i>	1538	King Henry VIII.
Henry Hindes,	<i>Chaplain</i>		At the suppression.

It will be observed that all presentations after that of Friar Nevill were made by the lords of the manor; that not one is called a friar, but nearly the whole are priests and chaplains; and it seems clear that after the endowment by Sir Fulke de Bermyngham, the presentation, not of the chaplain of the chantry, but of the prior or warden of the hospital, rested with the family of the lords; that in fact it gradually became a recognised benefice,* and eventually the whole of its possessions and revenues were treated as belonging to the free chapel, and thus escaped confiscation upon the suppression of the smaller priories and religious houses in 1537. Yet

* In 1529 the Commissioners reported "There ys a Fre Chapell in the same towne whereof the lorde of the towne ys patron and founder whyche ys endowed wt londe and rents to the yerely valewe above all charge of xij li, Sr. Edward Tofte ys now incumbent."

while this was so, to the popular mind the old foundation was still the Priory, and was also so designated in legal documents. In a lease alleged to have been granted in 1532 by Edward Bermingham to one John Pretty (see appendix A.) the advowson is described as the "Parsonage and benefyce of the Church of Sayncte Thomas the Martyr in Bremycham called the Parsonage of the Priory." In a lease of 1531 granted after the death of William Lench by his trustees, to one Roger Hawkes, a former servant of Lench, the land is described as "lying to ye Priory Counyngre and ye lane leyding to ye lane gowing to ye Pr'ere," and in a deed of 1455 a piece of land in Dale End is described as lying next to land of the Priory Chapel of St. Thomas, and extending at the back to the Orchard of the Priory.

The ancient buildings of the Priory stood on the Old Square side of Bull Street (then and long after called "Chappell" Street), the site of the Square being mainly upon the Priory Close. The church, or free chapel, with its endowed altar to the blessed Mary, reached to the Minories; part of its walls still remain buried under the shop on the south side of that street occupied by Mr. Berrill.

The cemetery or burial place lay between the Square, the Coach Yard, and Bull Street, and numerous skeletons were discovered and removed in 1786, and again in 1883-4 when Corporation Street was made*; these were widely dispersed, and one skeleton was found near the Minories, which appears to have lain within the walls of the chapel.†

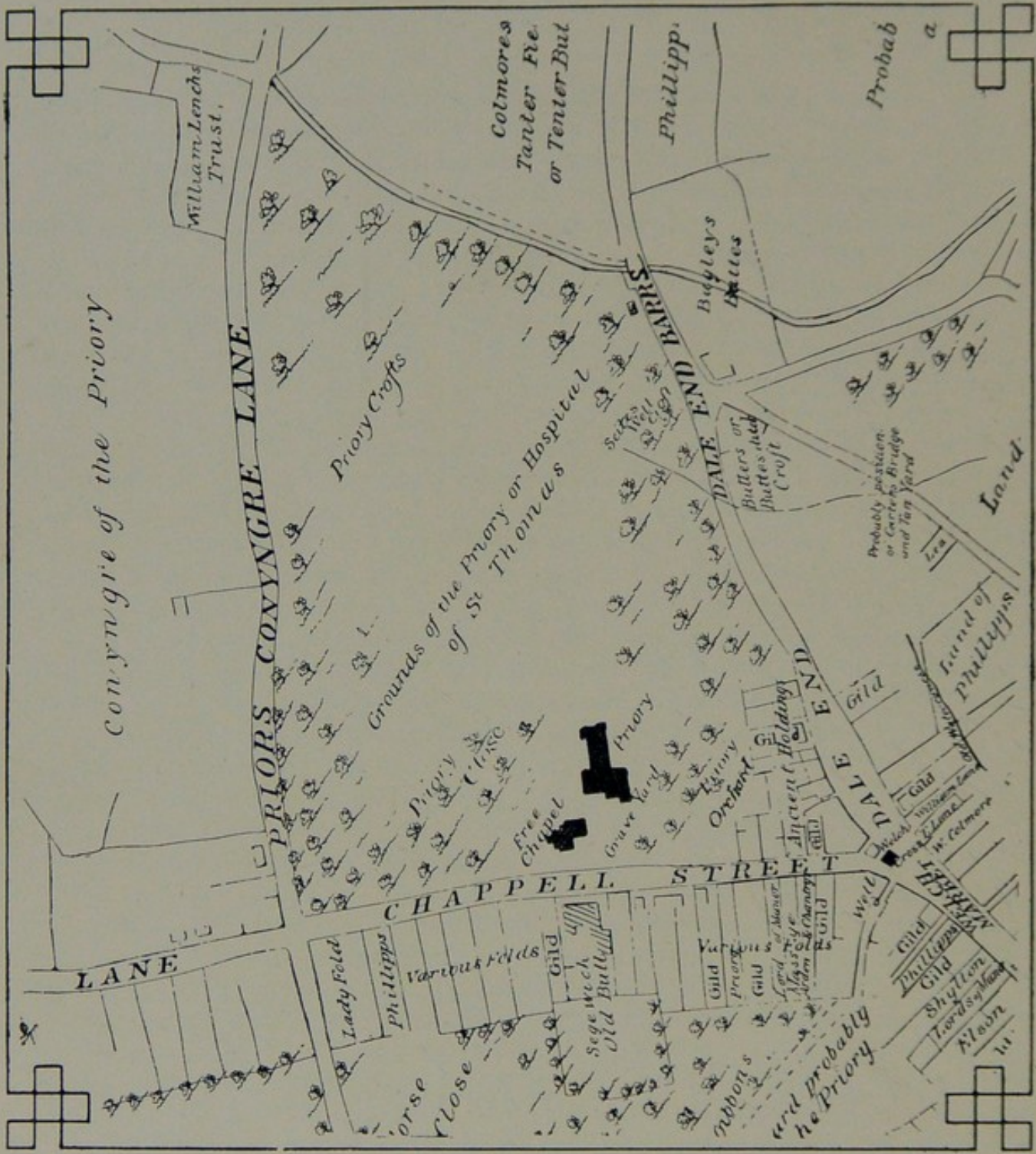
The Priory was built of the same red sandstone as the old Church of Aston, Saint Martin's, and the early Chapel of Deritend; it was of somewhat unequal quality, and when the rents and revenues were diverted from it, and the last aged priest, Henry Hindes‡, had chanted his last mass within its walls, the building, having lost its motive, suffered from neglect and fell into decay, and probably became a free quarry for all who cared to turn its carven stone to common uses. Hutton indeed tells us that in 1775, in taking down the old house in High Street, opposite New Street, which had

* When, about the year 1700, the site of the Priory became ripe for building purposes, the level of the land had to be considerably lowered to accord with the level of the street, which, being an ancient highway, was much worn. A very considerable removal of bodies must have then taken place. The buildings erected included the Saracen's Head posting and coaching house, which filled the gap caused by the removal of the old hostelry, the Bull Tavern opposite.

† The skull of this skeleton, apparently that of a female, was thinner and far more delicately formed than those disinterred from the south of the chapel, but was not so well preserved.

‡ One of the chantry certificates gives this name as Henricus Hindes, chaplin, aged lxxx. A pension was awarded him. And it is remarkable that as late as April, 1552, Sir Henry Hinde, "Parson of the Priory," is named in the will of Sir Symon Broke, Vicar of Aston.





CONJECTURAL PLAN OF THE PRIORY OF ST. THOMAS, BIRMINGHAM.—Temp. Henry VIII.

been built in 1567, he found the foundations to have been built chiefly with stones from the Priory, and also that (with more regard for economy than archæology) he re-used them in an underground kitchen.*

The Conigree or Rabbit Warren of the Priory lay on the St. Mary's side of the Priors Conigree Lane, long known as Whitehalls Lane, but now as Steelhouse Lane, and the Chapel Orchard of the Priory may also be identified in the Cherry Orchard of more recent times. The extent of the Priory enclosure is shown on the accompanying map, which, however, must be necessarily considered as conjectural in its detail.

When the fiat went forth that in addition to the priories already confiscated, the free chapels, chauntries, and gilds should also be swept away, the Chapel of the Priory, with its cemetery, was in full use, and in the report of the Visiting Commissioners, 1545 (one of whom was probably Thomas Holte of Duddeston), it is recorded that "The Towne of Byrmyngeham hathe but one Parisshe Churche and there is a great multytude of people whyche in tyme of plage the inhabitans of the same doe much resort to the same chapell for dyvyne servyce." The reasons deemed sufficient for the removal of a priory would not extend to the church, and the robbery is the more remarkable in the face of the confession that the church and graveyard of St. Martin were insufficient for the town's wants. Yet it was seized with all its endowments in the first year of the young King Edward, and two years later, 28th June, 1549, the whole was granted, with other estates which had shared in the general spoliation, to Hawkins of Warwick and Dabridgecourt of Langdon.

The notorious Thomas Hawkins, known as Fisher Hawkins, a creature of the Duke of Northumberland, was brother-in-law of Thomas Holte, one of the acting commissioners upon the supressions, who had died in 1546. Upon a division of the spoil Hawkins' share included the estates of the Deritend Gild and the Birmingham Free Chapel and Priory, the latter alone exceeding 150 acres, and these, among many others, were at once made over to his father-in-law, William Willington, who in his will of 1555 gave to his daughter, Margery Cave (Holte's widow, who had re-married), extensive lands in various townships, "which did of late belong unto the dissolved Chamber of Aston, and the Priory or Free Chapel of Birmingham,

* Another statement of Hutton that some remains of the old foundations were visible in the cellars of the modern buildings is borne out by the evidence of reliable persons familiar with several of the old houses.

with all those lands and tenements to the said Priory or Free Chapel belonging within Birmingham aforesaid, which (*inter alia*) I had and purchased of one Thomas Hawkins otherwise called Fyssher."

For one hundred and fifty years the ruins remained a conspicuous object from the well-frequented ancient tavern the Bull, which, with its bowling green, occupied a considerable space of land on the opposite side of the high road, Bull Street. In the year 1572, however, Edward Holte had sold to Thomas Rastell, a Birmingham draper, two pastures, "commonlie called Pryorie Croft," lying between other land of Holte, the lane called Pryors Conyngrey Lane, the Quenes hygheway, leadinge from Bymyngham towards Aston, and the croft called Scythewell Croft. As Scites Well (perhaps Saints' Well), was near Dale End and Thomas Street, these crofts were at the lower end of the Priory grounds. No evidence is known to exist showing when Holte or his successors parted with the remainder of the estate; but at the close of the seventeenth century it was the property of Richard Smalbroke, then a Master of Arts and Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and in 1697 the Priory Close, and in 1701 the Scites Well Close, passed by purchase to John Pemberton, of Birmingham, a leading member of the Society of Friends.



The Conversion of the Priory Close.



The Conversion of the Priory Close.



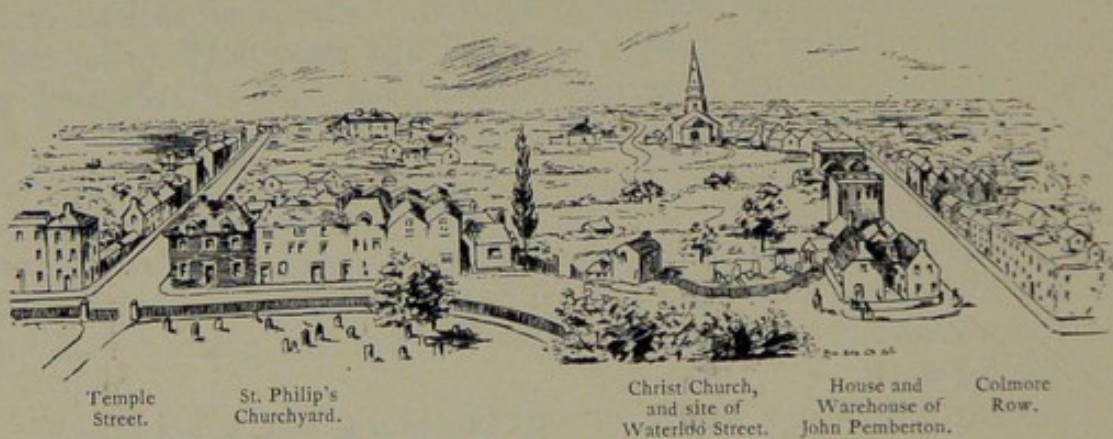
DURING the twenty-five years immediately preceding the conversion of the Priory Close into a building estate, Birmingham had undergone changes greater than those of any earlier period. The iron trade had long become the chief industry of the town. Ancient houses had been divided and sub-divided, barns and storehouses had become workshops, spare land had been built upon, and gradually the old town had become congested. The small smiths, nailors, and cutlers had achieved a prosperity which was steadily elbowing out the semi-pastoral occupations of the country town, and men of substance were seeking homes away from the crowded streets of the lower parts.

The erection of St. Philip's Church at the beginning of the 18th century was the crowning glory of the town's development, and houses of a character which even now attest their early importance arose about the edifice which crowned the heights above New Street, where but a few years before the ploughman had driven his team and the grazier had found pasture for his flock.

The ancient Bull tavern which, with its bowling green, stood opposite the Priory, had also yielded to the new order of things, and had been removed. When the black-hooded monks were amongst the customers who called for a flagon of gascoine or sack, the Sedgwicks were its landlords, but the Bull had probably flourished from the early days of the Priory. Its history is of great interest, and, like the Priory, it passed at length to the Holtes, and from that family to John Pemberton. Soon afterwards the roadside inn was replaced by a row of shops, and a new street invaded its green.

Temple Row (called at first Tory Row) developed from a gate-road into a highly respectable professional quarter, in which doctors, lawyers, clerics, and successful tradesmen found more congenial abodes within the new suburb upon the old hilly fields. Hitherto they had, perforce, been content to live with the surroundings of unsavoury tan pits, amid the smell of leather and the noise of the grindstone and the forge of the smith. The homes of substantial men of the town were still in Edgbaston Street or Park Street, varied by a limited choice near Deritend Chapel and Bridge, or in Moor Street and Dale End, or, for the more prosperous, beyond the gates of New Street end which led to the Bewdley Road. One wealthy ironmaster, John Jennens, had built himself a mansion in the Beast Market (High Street), but had just been driven away by the advancing tide of progress, and already his house was devoted to business purposes, and shops were reared upon his lawn.

That the rapid extension of the town's boundaries was unlooked for is shown by the fact that in 1698 Robert Phillips (the owner of the estates now belonging to the Inge family), whose ancestors had formerly resided in the town, granted a lease to one Hawkesford whereby three closes of land,



BIRMINGHAM FROM ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, *circa* 1814.

S. Lines.

now occupied by Bennetts Hill, Waterloo Street, and St. Philip's churchyard, and extending nearly to Bull Street, were tied up as agricultural land for 120 years. These fields were called Bennetts Hill, Banners Croft, and the Horse Close. The latter was speedily surrendered as a site for St.

Philip's Church, the churchyard the parsonage house, and the Blue Coat School; but the remainder became sub-divided, and the long term ran its course with the anomaly that during the present century a large tract of centrally situated land was unbuilt upon, and a considerable part was under cultivation, surrounded by a thickly populated urban area; and almost within living memory grain was garnered from the slopes above New Street, whilst around were barns and storehouses.

At the time when Birmingham was thus, as it were, breaking the bonds of its infancy and out-growing its ancient limits, Temple Street and Needless Alley were sparsely occupied; but from Cannon Street to Crooked Lane was still an orchard, with a bowling green in its centre, and Union Street was non-existent. A narrow passage called Corbett's Alley, in which stood an inn (another Hen and Chickens), was the sole means of access from the Beast Market, which had not yet come to be called High Street.

At this time also, when all traces of the ancient Priory of Birmingham were being effectually removed, two other interesting links with the ancient life of the town were blotted out. Not the remotest gleam of light remains as to the character of two important and historical buildings which for centuries marked the early importance of our busy town, viz., the Toll Bothe, the former seat of old English law and justice, and the Gild Hall, the early home of the corporate community and brotherhood of our forefathers. The first spanned the entrance into New Street. Until 1550 its cellarage served as the common prison of the town, whilst in its upper part the Manorial Court had its seat. Afterwards it became the Town Hall, and vulgarly, Leather Hall. Although a public hall in name, it was the private property of the lord, and was pulled down, and rent-producing shops built upon its site, thereby again blocking up the end of New Street so that the approach to this growing thoroughfare was by means of a covered gateway. The Gild Hall, until 1550 the Town Hall of Birmingham, had for a century and a half been used as the school house, and the reasons for its destruction and rebuilding are manifest.

At the dawn of the eighteenth century the tendency to extend was mainly towards Dale End, Moor Street, Bull Street, and the Wolverhampton Road, then called Sandy Lane. A barrier to further progress, however, was formed by the Priory lands, the New Hall, and the Phillips estates, and the Upper Cherry Orchard was only made available by the

opening of the road across the bowling green of the Bull Tavern to the New Church upon the Horse Close.

Such, then, was the character of the town whilst most of these changes were but projects, and when, with a shrewd prescience of the requirements and the capabilities of the growing community, John Pemberton, who lived at the highest point of Bennetts Hill overlooking the old town, embarked in a speculation which must have aroused the enthusiasm and admiration of his fellow townsmen, being no less than the conversion of the best portion of the Priory lands into a fine residential district by the formation of the Square and the neighbouring streets.

John Pemberton was a very prominent and important townsman. Doubtless possessed of ample means, he was not without experience in speculation, for his ancestors had long been foremost in the buying and selling of land. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had all been goldsmiths (another name for banker) in the Rother or Beast Market (High Street). All were land buyers and money lenders, but the father, Thomas Pemberton, had developed into an ironmaster or, as then called, an ironmonger, and John Pemberton adopted the same business. His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Lloyd, of Dolobran, who, with his sons, Charles and Sampson Lloyd, removed to Birmingham, and Charles, the father, died at John Pemberton's house, Bennetts Hill, in 1698.*

Upon completing his purchase of the Priory Close John Pemberton proceeded to sell the frontage to Bull Street, and one of the earliest buildings erected was the Saracen's Head Inn, a posting house, which may be considered the successor to the old Bull Tavern which had stood opposite. Immediately below, a passage was named Pemberton's yard, and there are many indications that this was an ancient road or stileway across the Priory grounds. The Bull Street frontage beyond this point and for some distance along Dale End had never belonged to the Priory, but was occupied by very ancient houses, with little or no depth of land in their rear, doubtless held by the lords' tenants before the foundation of the Priory.

Sales of land were then made to Kempsey, Newton, Wilson, Westley,

* Charles Lloyd may possibly have been arranging to settle and not have actually settled in Birmingham at this date. His second son, Sampson Lloyd, may, however, have removed here much earlier, for in 1704 he was an active townsman, and in 1708 he was buying and selling land and carrying on business in the iron trade at the Smallbrook Street end of Edgbaston Street. The elder son, Charles, removed here from Dolobran many years later.

Isaac Spooner, Merrix, and Perks, to the trustees for the new Meeting House of the Friends and others. The Minories was formed, but long remained without a name. Before any land was conveyed to a purchaser he had to erect and finish his building. Merrix and Perks, who were extensive purchasers, were exceptions from this rule, which, however, was followed in the case of several of the sub-sales by them. The Meeting House land, sold in 1702, was not conveyed until 1714, long after the building was completed. The descriptions of the various pieces gave the frontage only; thus, in 1702 was conveyed a piece of land with nine yards frontage to Bull Street, upon which the purchaser had already built a house and a boundary wall seven feet high, the purchase money being £18 10s. od., or one shilling and threepence per yard, which was the ruling price.

Among the covenants enforced was one "that no building for a butcher, or a baker, or a smith, should be erected, except the shop fronting Bull Street at the corner of the Minories, which lately was a smith's shop and might be again used as such" This is now the shop of Mr. Wilson, book-seller.

The land of Merrix and Perks included a portion of the Square and the Upper Priory, possibly including a large piece sold subsequently to Isaac Spooner, whilst that sold to Stephen Newton extended to Newton Street.

Several of the houses in the Old Square were completed and occupied before 1713. The builder of some of the houses was Thomas Kemsey the timberman, whilst the designer may have been William Westley, whose plan and prospective views of Birmingham are so well known.

Part of the design of the Square was its garden, a trim, formal square plot of grass, with trim walks and about twenty Noah's Ark-like trees, the whole enclosed with iron palisadoes, whilst palisadoes of uniform pattern were placed in front of each house, as expressed in some of the conveyances "that boys should not creep in or through the same." The central garden of the Square was at a later date somewhat reduced in size, and its form altered to a circle, and again subsequently to a smaller space, and about 1828 was finally removed altogether. The general effect is depicted in Westley's print of St. Philip's Church of 1731, a print which would seem to have been inspired by the remarkable development of the town, as the artist presents in one view in his chosen prospect from New Hall Lane, the new church, of which the town was justly proud, the terrace of

houses in Temple Row, the Blue Coat School, then recently built, and the "Prospect of ye Square." That Westley was a considerable sharer in the building transactions is shown by the accommodation road known in later years as the Coach Yard and London Prentice Street, being originally named Westley's Row.*

Although so desirable a place of residence naturally attracted doctors, lawyers, and other professional men, it was not until 1713 that some of the corner houses were conveyed to purchasers, whilst some of the smaller or angle houses were probably erected still later. In the arrangement of the sixteen houses the order adopted in after years as to the street numbers has been followed, viz., from the south corner of the Minories to the Lower Priory; but about the year 1799 Nos. 3 and 4 were converted into a tavern, and No. 15 was made into two houses; thenceforth all the intermediate numbers were altered, but the original numbers, as shown in the following table, in which the names of the first known occupiers are given, have nevertheless been retained throughout:

South West Angle.

- 1 John Pemberton, ironmonger.
- 2 John Pemberton, gentleman.
- 3 Dr. Samuel Swynfen.
- 4 Daniel Whalley.

South East Angle.

- 5 Mrs. Wall.
- 6 Mr. Samuel Stewart.
- 7 W. Accock, junr.
- 8 Richard Baddily.

North East Angle.

- 9 John Wilkes.
- 10 Henry Bradford.
- 11 Mrs. Beal.
- 12 Joseph Farmer.

North West Angle.

- 13 John Fidoe.
- 14 Mr. Eborall.
- 15 James Billingsley.
- 16 Randle Bradburn.

* There are reasons for assuming that this road formed an ancient right of way across the Priory land to the end of the Butts leading to the Wall Moors, and it is to be deplored that the old name should have been discarded for "Dalton Street," a designation altogether meaningless and unsuitable.

The South Angle.



The South Angle.

In order to present in the clearest form the record of the various changes in the occupation of the houses in the Square, it is proposed to devote a chapter to each angle, beginning, in the order of numbering, with the South Angle, viz., that which extends from the corner of the Minories to the Lower Priory.



OF No. 1, familiarly known as "Hector's House," the first occupier was John Pemberton, the Quaker, the purchaser of the Priory lands and the originator of the Square, whilst the next house, No. 2, was tenanted by John Pemberton, described in the early rate books as "Gentleman." The contemporaneous existence in the town of two John Pembertons, both landowners and opulent men, has long been a source of difficulty in treating of this very important Birmingham family. The difficulty was increased when it was found that they were living next door to each other in the Square, and that the name disappeared from No. 2, at the period of the death of John Pemberton, of No. 1, whilst it continued on the rate books for No. 1, until after the death of John, of No. 2.

Number One,
John Pemberton,
Ironmonger.

The subject will be more fully explained in the appendix. Suffice here to say that both were descendents of Roger Pemberton, the goldsmith, of Queen Elizabeth's time, and their descent is now very clearly traced. Their grandfather, Thomas Pemberton, goldsmith, son of Roger, died in 1640, leaving, among other children, sons and daughters, three sons, viz.:

John, the eldest son, born 1623, who died in 1676, leaving, besides daughters, a son, John, the John Pemberton, gentleman, occupier of No. 2.

Thomas, the second son, born 1625, the father of John Pemberton, ironmonger, of No. 1.

Nathaniel, the fourth son, born 1634, from whom, it is said, the present Pemberton family of Birmingham is descended.

By his father's will, Thomas was intended to continue the old goldsmith's business in which he had been trained, but he became an ironmonger, or ironmaster, the most lucrative business then followed in the town, and was one of the earliest disciples of George Fox in Birmingham. In 1663 he was living in the Rother Market, that is to say, High Street,* in a house which was afterwards destroyed to form Union Street, and in 1665 was taxed for the large number of seven hearths. He may have been a goldsmith at that time, but in 1680 he built the mansion at the summit of Bennett's Hill, near the New Hall gate, and in 1691 made his will, being described therein as an ironmonger, and died in 1693, leaving, with two daughters, a son, John, the John Pemberton, ironmonger, occupier of No. 1.

In 1693 John Pemberton, as previously mentioned, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Charles Lloyd, of Dolobran. She died in 1711, leaving two children, Rebecca, aged 16, and Thomas, aged 12.

It has been assumed that John Pemberton lived at Bennett's Hill until his death, in 1736; this, however, was not so. He appears to have quitted it shortly after the death of his wife, but at what period is uncertain. In 1713 he took a second wife, one Hannah James, of Bristol. Short as was his widowhood, however, he had made overtures of marriage to his cousin, Miss Crowley, of Stourbridge, from whom he had to procure a discharge, according to the custom of the Friends. His second marriage took place at the period of the erection of the houses in the Square, and he probably found it desirable to reside on the spot where he had so considerable an interest, and in the midst of the estate he was developing.

About this time Richard Parkes, the wealthy ironmaster, of Wednesbury, removed to Birmingham. He was a very prominent Quaker, and his settling here had considerable influence with the Lloyd and Pemberton families. Upon John Pemberton giving up the house, in New Hall Lane, which had a warehouse at the corner of the lane by the new church,† Parkes appears to have entered into possession. The very interesting old rate books, which happily have been preserved, show this clearly in the

* The Rother, or Beast Market, was also called the *English Market*, to distinguish it from the *Welsh Market*, at the Welsh End, the junction of Dale End, High Street, and Bull Street.

† Now Temple Row West.

entries: "Mr. Parkes at New Hall Gate 1/4," and "Parks at New Hall Gate 2/8," an unusually high rental, being double that of the houses in the Square.

By the Allegiance Rolls of 1723, which are preserved in the Reference Library, we find that the Friends, in lieu of taking the oath, simply affirmed their allegiance, but were subject to special expense in so doing; and John



FORMER MEETING HOUSE OF THE FRIENDS.

Pemberton was treasurer of a fund raised to pay this expense for Friends coming from a distance.* Upon the Roll he is referred to as John Pemberton, in the Square, Birmingham.

Further testimony of the prominent position of Richard Parkes and

* Stabling for thirty-three "travelling Friends' " horses was paid for by the Birmingham Friends in 1723. *Friends in Warwickshire, by William White.*

John Pemberton among the Friends is afforded by the Journal of Thomas Story, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, printed in 1747 :

- 1715. To Birmingham, and lodged with John Pemberton.
- 1718. To Birmingham, at Richard Park's.
- 1732. 12th December, from Coventry to Birmingham, and lodged at John Pemberton's. Meeting not large by reason of an epidemical distemper then in the town.
- 1734. 20th March, to Birmingham, dined at John Pemberton's, and to Warwick same evening.
- 1739. 8th July, from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, to the widow Pemberton. Well accommodated after a fatiguing journey; remained till the 11th.

John Pemberton, who died in 1736, made his will in 1730. It was witnessed by Cornelius Whitehouse, of Lichfield Street, and John Bradburn, of the Old Square. By his second wife, who survived him, he had an only son, John, born 1714, died after 1742 (probably in 1746), to whom he left property in Bristol. His son by the first marriage, Thomas Pemberton, had a house in Temple Street; he continued in the iron trade, and in 1727 married Jane, the younger of four daughters of Richard Parkes, one of her sisters having married Sampson Lloyd. After the death of his father-in-law, Thomas Pemberton returned to the old family house,* where he died in 1757, leaving a son, Thomas, who was twice married, and eventually removed to Balby, Yorkshire, his daughter (and only child) marrying John Fowler, of London and Coventry.

In 1770 Thomas Pemberton's affairs were somewhat involved, and he conveyed the whole of his estates to Sampson Lloyd, junr., and Dr. Ash, who, having sold sufficient to clear his debts, reconveyed to him the remainder.

* A very remarkable detailed description of the surroundings of this house, and a briefer one of the old town, has been preserved by one R. P., of London, who, on Saturday evening, July 26th, 1755, arrived on a visit to his worthy friend, Thomas Pemberton :

"The Manner in which we spent our Time after our Arrival at this Place on Saturday last. After salutations and enquiries and a Dish of tea which set my Companions Head quite to rights we walked in Mr. Pembertons Garden which consists of two parts—a handsome flower-garden about half an acre square, and walled in, neatly laid out and as neatly kept. On the Left hand stands a convenient Summer-house opposite to which is a Gate opening to a long Grass-walk having a Row of Fan Elms on each side with Borders of various kinds of Plants and Flowering-shrubs. This walk parts the Fruit and Kitchen Garden. At the End is another Walk on the Left-hand with Rows of tall Fir-trees, &c. The House stands at the extreme End and on the highest Ground of the Town, over which the Garden commands a good View of the Country on that side for Some Miles. Being destined to abide here we spent the evening with Mr. P. and his son, Mr. Sampson Lloyd, junr., Mr. T. K., of Newberry and another Gentleman who was till then a stranger to us, but of that agreeable sort with whom one soon grows acquainted. Our supper was elegant, our wine good, and the evening we spent very cheerfully. The next morning, Sunday, we employed like good Christians, and after dining with our kind host reconnoitred the Town, which is another London in Miniature. It stands upon the side of a hill forming nearly a Half-moon, the lower part is filled with the Workshops and Warehouses of the Manufacturers, and consists chiefly of old Buildings, the upper Part of the Town, like St. James', contains a number of new regular streets and a handsome square, all well built and well inhabited."

In 1747, presumably after the death of John, the younger son of the founder of the Square, No. 1 passed into the possession of Edmund Hector, surgeon. About the year 1731 Mr. Hector had left his native city of Lichfield, where his father's family held a high reputation. Edmund Hector. He had been schoolfellow and intimate companion of Samuel Johnson, the son of the roving but learned bookseller, Michael Johnson, of the Market Place. Educated as a surgeon, Hector chose the prosperous manufacturing town as the scene of his professional career in preference to the dull and lifeless cathedral city, and in doing so he but followed the example set by many of his fellow-citizens, among others, Richard Boylston, apothecary, Digbeth; Dr. Samuel Swynfen, of the Square; the Rev. John Williams, the curate of St. Philip's, whose wife was Robina, the widow of Mr. Whitby,* of Lichfield, gentleman, and who held the messuage of St. John's Hospital, within the Bars, in that city; Zachariah Dyott, of the Corn Market, mercer; Simon Dyott, of Spicer Street; Matthew Boulton, senr., Snow Hill, and his brother, Richard Boulton, the peruke maker. Besides these, the Rev. William Higgs, the first rector of St. Philip's, Harry Porter, the draper, whose sister had married Hunter (Hector's schoolmaster), Thomas Luthner, Daniel Whally, of the Square, and others, had very intimate connections with Lichfield and its neighbourhood, whilst Andrew Johnson, the bookseller, brother of Michael Johnson, of Lichfield, had but a year or two previously given up his business of printer and bookseller, in High Street, nearly opposite the Swan.

At first, Hector lodged and boarded with Thomas Warren, printer and bookseller, at his house, "over against the Swan," a house very near to, if not the same house, which had recently been held by Andrew Johnson, Warren having previously been a bookseller (but, apparently, not a publisher,) at the side of the churchyard.

Here, in 1732, Hector was followed by his friend, Sam Johnson, with whom he had maintained a correspondence, and who had but recently thrown up an appointment as usher at Market Bosworth in disgust, and walked home. Johnson was no stranger to Birmingham. That he had attended Birmingham Market with or for his father † will not be doubted;

* In 1732 or 1733 Samuel Johnson was, for a few months, tutor in the house of Mr. Whitby, of Cresswell Hall, near Stafford.

† It must have been whilst attending the Birmingham Market that Michael Johnson first met with his wife, Sara Ford, of Kings Norton, whom he married at Packwood Church, 19th June, 1706.

that he had visited his uncle Andrew, the bookseller, is also a comparative certainty, and that he had frequently sought advice from his godfather, friend, and patron, Dr. Samuel Swynfen, is well known; and Dr. Swynfen lived in the Square.

Like many others, Johnson realized that a prosperous life was not attainable in Lichfield; he, therefore, removed to Birmingham, and took up his abode with his friend, and remained under Warren's roof for six months, chiefly, it would appear, in his bed.

Hector was just emerging as a surgeon, and Warren, as a printer. It is an oft-told tale. Hector knew the capacity of his slothful friend, and with the help of Warren, and by alternate driving and coaxing, the production of Johnson's first book, an abridged translation of Lobo's "Voyage to Abyssinia," was achieved.* Its conception and production unquestionably belong entirely to Hector and Warren. Without their help Johnson might have besieged the gate of literary success in vain for a much longer period, or perchance have remained, as he had hitherto proved, a failure. Johnson now went to live with one Jervis, and at this time made the acquaintance of Harry Porter, woollen draper, and his wife, in Bull Street.†

Mrs. Porter (formerly Jervis) was of a very good Leicestershire family, and was possibly the sister of the Jervis with whom Johnson lodged, although a family of that name had been long settled in Birmingham. Her daughter, Lucy, must have been known to both Hector and Johnson in Lichfield, where she sometimes visited her aunt Lucy (Porter), the second wife of the Rev. John Hunter, head master of the school; there is a story told that Johnson gave grievous offence to the schoolmaster by inditing amatory stanzas to Miss Porter, and although the story is wanting in accuracy, it may have a foundation in truth.‡ Johnson was an adept at this kind of composition, and although he avowed his first love was Hector's sister, Anne, yet he was captivated also by the pretty Birmingham Quakeress, Olivia Lloyd, afterwards by the charming Molly Aston, and finally married Lucy Porter's mother.

In 1734, after leaving Warren's house, Hector was rated for a house in

* A large part of the MSS. was written by Hector from the dictation of his indolent friend as he lay in bed.

† This house has been destroyed in the recent town improvements. Harry Porter had previously lived in the High Street, two or three doors below the house of Andrew Johnson. Mr. Hector said that in 1733 he introduced Johnson to the Porters, from whom he bought his clothes.

‡ See Appendix.

the New Street Quarter, and probably in or near to New Street, and in 1740 he married Miss Power, of Kenilworth. In 1741 he was living in the Bull Street Quarter, apparently in Bull Street, near to Temple Row.* Here he lost his wife, and in 1742 (August 17th) married at St. Philip's Church, Mary Gibbons, whose father, Joseph Gibbons, died in 1714, and his widow had, in 1718, become the second wife of Richard Careless, a Birmingham lawyer of large practice and possessed of considerable property.

Meanwhile, up to 1735, Johnson had wandered between Lichfield and Birmingham. At some period after 1732 he was tutor in the Whitby family. In November, 1734, he commenced a correspondence with Mr. Cave, of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and his letters were to be sent to Birmingham. At this period he made the acquaintance of John Taylor, then amassing his fortune in the workshop, afterwards with Sampson Lloyd, the founder of Lloyd's Bank. He also "knew" an Irish painter, from whom he learned "the art of living in a garret on eighteen pence a week." Nor does it seem possible that during his long stay he was unacquainted with Mainwaring, Lowe, and Weardon, the masters of the New Street School, and possibly Desmoulines, the writing master, the future husband of Dr. Swynfen's daughter, who, although his name is unrecorded, was assuredly on the staff of the Birmingham School. It must also be mentioned that in 1732-3 John Wyatt was living in Birmingham, engaged upon his new machines for file cutting and cotton spinning. He belonged to Dr. Swynfen's parish, and a few years later Johnson, Warren, and Cave were all concerned in the spinning machine venture, with Lewis Paul, whose father, like Desmoulines, was a refugee.

Long before these first and second marriages of Hector, Harry Porter, the mercer and draper, had died, and Samuel Johnson had courted and married his widow, and taken her to Lichfield, and thence to London, and although he is not known to have visited his Birmingham friends for many years, it is scarcely possible that he would pass through the town on his way to and from Lichfield without doing so. Meanwhile he was in correspondence with Warren and Hector, and the latter, with whom his friendship increased with years, also saw him in London.

* In 1742 the next house was occupied by ——— Careless, and a former Clerk to the Guardians was led by the accidental connection of the two names to print them, as proving the date of Hector's removal to the Square.

Dr. Johnson was not the man to forget that Warren had given him his first lift on the highway of letters, and in writing to Hector, had said of him, "I have not lost all my kindness for him."

All this was, however, previous to Hector's taking up his abode in the square, where he was first rated to the poor in 1748. His career was long and prosperous, yet comparatively uneventful. The instances in which his life touched the surface of public affairs are but few. He was certainly made an overseer, and very frequently chosen to act as a trustee by his patients; *Aris's Gazette* of 1751 reported a fire upon his premises; but save that in 1770 he purchased from Pemberton's trustee (for the sum of £605) the house he had so long occupied, and that in later years he was spoken of by Dr. Withering, the botanist, in terms of warm regard, little else is known of him, and it is as the lifelong friend of the learned Doctor that he chiefly lives in our memory. From a letter to Boswell, August 27th, 1775, Johnson wrote: "I am just returned from the *annual* ramble into the midland counties." Boswell is silent as to this journey, but from other sources it is known that he passed through Birmingham and visited the Square on June 10th, in going to Lichfield, and also in August, when he spent a day with his friend Hector and his sister in returning.

It was not, however, until the 22nd March, 1776, that Johnson, now LL.D., and the foremost man of letters of his time, paid his visit to the Square, of which such full and interesting details are preserved, when he again met Mrs. Anne Carless, now the widow of the Rev. Walter Carless, a son of the lawyer, Richard Carless, by his first wife.*

In 1770 Mrs. Carless's only child, Anne, had married George Hopper, a surgeon, and, as Hector had lost his wife the previous year, his widowed sister had again returned to his roof, where Johnson had met her the previous year. He was accompanied in this visit by his *fidus achates*, James Boswell, and in the early morning ride from Henley-in-Arden to Birmingham he had said: "You will see at Mr. Hector's his sister, Mrs. Carless, a clergyman's widow; she was the first woman with whom I was in love. It dropt out of my head imperceptibly, but she and I shall always have a kindness for each other."

* Much confusion has arisen from the circumstance that the first child of the second marriage of Richard Carless, with Mrs. Hector's mother, was also named Anne, and that she also married a Joseph Carless, who was also a clergyman.



HECTOR'S HOUSE.



Through the absence from home of Mr. Hector, Johnson and Boswell became the guests of Mr. Sampson Lloyd, the banker, at No. 13, but in the afternoon the Doctor declined accompanying his friends to Soho, preferring to spend the time with Mrs. Carless in uninterrupted quiet. Boswell, happy in the society of Hector, so fruitful of information as to the early life of his hero, desired to prolong their stay in the Square, but Johnson wanted to reach Lichfield, and they drove there in the dark. The Doctor was pensive and silent, yet, says Boswell, "he talked of Mrs. Carless; he seemed to have his affection revived, and said, 'If I had married her it might have been as happy for me.'"

Five years later Johnson was again with Hector, and early in November, 1784, the Doctor paid his last visit to the Square, which he extended to several days, apparently from the 6th to the 10th or 12th. He had been at Lichfield and Ashbourne from the 14th July, and was at Lichfield on Monday, the 5th November, and it is probable that he would stay over Sunday at Birmingham. Much of this visit was spent in serious talk, and in recalling memories of his early and youthful days. From Hector's windows he would see the house where, fifty-five years before, at a period of restlessness and distress of mind, he had sought the professional advice of Dr. Swynfen. In the next street was the house endeared to him by the memory of his dead wife. Across the Square was the house associated with the cotton spinning venture, in which he, with Cave, Warren, and Dr. James, was interested; whilst at No. 13 still resided his Quaker friend, Sampson Lloyd, who, upon a former visit, had entertained him and his now temporarily estranged friend, Boswell. During his stay his visit was made enjoyable by the society of his life-long friend, and his early love, Mrs. Carless.

Before leaving he obtained a promise that Hector should send him, in writing, particulars of their early life and associations, a promise duly kept, which afforded much trustworthy material for Boswell's great Biography.

On the 10th or 12th the Doctor left for a few days' stay at Oxford, and on Friday, the 17th, he reached London, whereupon he wrote an affectionate letter to Hector and Mrs. Carless, and on the 13th December he died.

Dr. Hector survived until the 2nd September, 1794. At the time of his death he had lived 47 years in this house. He was buried in St. Philip's Church, where, on one of the pillars is a tablet inscribed:

M S

EDMUNDI HECTOR

LICHFIELDIE NATUS

Die XXX Jan M·DCC·VIII

BIRMINGHAMÆ

ARTEM CHIRURGICAM

Per annos Senaginta Quinque

Multa cum Laude

EXERCUIT

Denatus die II Sept. M·DCC·XCIV

Ætatis sui LXXXVI

Edmund Hector, it should be mentioned, was not the only one of the name in Birmingham, for in 1797 a Thomas Hector was landlord of the White Hart Inn, Digbeth, a house belonging to the Carless family.

In the year following Hector's death, the house, No. 1, was occupied by William Carless Hopper,* the only child of Mrs. Walter Carless's daughter, and the inheritor not only of the property of his great-uncle, Hector, but also of the valuable estate of the Carless family at the Five Ways, subsequently sold to Miss Ryland. In 1796 he sold the house in the Square to Clement Cotterill, and removed to Durham, and the entry in the rate books became "W. C. Hopper now Clement Cottrell."

Clement Cotterill, who appears to have belonged to an old family of Birmingham and Deritend, began life as a leather seller in Edgbaston Street, developed into a merchant in Bull Street and Freeman Street, and occupied premises in the Minories at the time he acquired Hector's House, but on taking possession he erected the warehouse and other buildings upon the land which had been the garden, and in early times formed part of the graveyard of the Priory, and it was an old tradition of Mr. Cotterill's decendants, that in digging the foundations many skeleton remains were found.

Thus was established the great mercantile firm which successively became

* Walter Carless Hopper obtained a scholarship in the Birmingham Free School in 1790, and from an advertisement in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette* it appears that his parents were living in 1793 with Mr. Hector, in the Square. In 1812 his mother, then a widow, was living in a house upon the Five Ways land.

Cotterill and Sons; William and Thomas Cotterill; Scholefield, Redfern, and Taylor; Joshua Scholefield and Sons; Joshua Scholefield, Sons, and Goodman; and latterly, Scholefield, Goodman and Sons.

Clement Cotterill died in December, 1812, and was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard. Besides the two sons, William and Thomas, he had three daughters, of whom Mary, about 1800, became the wife of Joshua Scholefield, and Ann, subsequently, of Mr. Redfern. The sons gave up the business at an early date to Mr. Scholefield, and Thomas, it will be remembered, attained a great age. He died in Camden Street, some thirty-five years ago, leaving a fortune exceeding a million sterling.

Upon a change in the partnership, in the year 1830, the house and premises, which, in 1713, were worth £270, and in 1770 were sold for £605, became the property of Joshua Scholefield at £3,000.

The name of Joshua Scholefield will always take a high rank in Birmingham. He came, when young, from Sheffield, the town of his birth, to Birmingham, and, after his marriage with Miss Cotterill, lived in the Square (No. 1), and here his elder children were born. His wife died in 1823, and he afterwards married Maria, another daughter of Clement Cotterill, but she, too, died, in 1833. During this period he lived in the Church Road, Edgbaston Grove, since called Wyddrington, and subsequently he married a third time.

Joshua
Scholefield.

Having participated in the work of the Birmingham Political Union, of which he was vice-president, Joshua Scholefield was, on the 12th December, 1832, returned with Thomas Attwood as one of the members of the reformed Parliament, at the first election for the new Borough, and a medal, with portraits of Thomas Attwood and Joshua Scholefield, was struck in commemoration of the event. Mr. Scholefield was again elected member in 1835, 1837, and 1841, and died on the 4th July, 1844.

In 1829 the house, No. 1, was occupied by Thomas Freer, who belonged to a well-known family of surgeons, and for many years, between 1830 and 1850, it was held by Clement Cotterill Scholefield, the son and partner of Joshua Scholefield, and who was probably born in the house. He died in 1853.

Another son and partner, William Scholefield, joined the firm about 1832. His name is distinguished in our annals as the first Mayor of Birmingham. This honour was conferred upon him by the unanimous

vote of the Council. Holding the ancient office of High Bailiff, he was, by the Charter of Incorporation, constituted Returning Officer, and, on the 26th December, 1838, was elected Councillor for St. Peter's Ward, and the next day, presiding at the first meeting of the Council, he was made Alderman, and afterwards the first Mayor of the New Borough.

Upon the death of his father, in 1844, Mr. William Scholefield was a candidate for the membership of the Borough, but owing to party divisions, and some irritation caused by the introduction of the "new police" to Birmingham, was unsuccessful. In 1847, however, he was the successful candidate, and in connection with George Frederick Muntz until 1857, and afterwards with John Bright, he remained the popular and respected member until his death, in 1867, when he was succeeded by George Dixon, a bust to his memory being subsequently placed in the Art Gallery.

Mr. John Dent Goodman, who had joined the firm in 1842, was now the sole surviving partner, and the possessor of the historical house.

At this time the house was occupied by Charles Townsend, surgeon, but afterwards by Mr. Scriven, of the Stork, into which hotel it became merged.

In 1878 the whole of the property was sold by Mr. Goodman to the Corporation for removal under the Improvement scheme, and the old firm removed to Edmund Street.

Mr. Goodman's three sons, Frederick, Charles, and Edward, have long been included in the firm, and Mr. Goodman, who came to Birmingham in 1826, still remains at the head, after a long connection of 66 years, during fifty-five years of which he has been a partner in the house.

Hector's house, around which so many interesting associations are entwined, has always held a place in the affections of Birmingham folk, and in 1865 the Birmingham Shakespeare Society, with a meritorious desire to perpetuate its early associations fixed upon its front a granite slab, bearing an inscription, penned by the late George Dawson, and when in 1882, this part of the Square was removed, the new building line was too much altered to permit of the tablet being appropriately re-erected, it was, therefore, together with the wainscotting, the door, and the mantelpiece of one of the rooms, set up in Aston Hall, in a room thenceforth to be known as the "Johnson Memorial Room," wherein are preserved several early editions of Johnson's works, and other relics.

The tablet is thus inscribed :

HERE IN THIS HOUSE
SAMUEL JOHNSON
WAS THE GUEST
EDMUND HECTOR
WAS THE HOST.

OF THIS HOST THIS GUEST HAS WRITTEN,
'HECTOR WAS LIKEWISE AN OLD FRIEND, THE ONLY
COMPANION OF MY CHILDHOOD THAT PASSED
THROUGH THE SCHOOL WITH ME. WE HAVE
ALWAYS LOVED ONE ANOTHER.'

THIS STONE, BY LEAVE OF THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD, ESQ., M.P., WAS PUT UP BY THE
MEMBERS OF 'OUR SHAKESPERE CLUB,' OF
BIRMINGHAM, A.D. 1865.



As before explained, the father of John Pemberton, gentleman, was John, the eldest son of, and heir to, the bulk of the property of Thomas, the goldsmith, who died 1640 and thus he became possessed of the Angell in High Street, the Dolphin, in the Bull Ring, property in Well Street (Digbeth), afterwards part of the White Hart, other property in Park Street, and a considerable tract of land extending from Snow Hill to Walmer Lane.

Number Two,
John Pemberton,
Gentleman.

Like his brother, John was a nonconformist, but did not join the Friends. In the reign of Charles II. he was one of several persons who had licence to preach in their houses. He had married Mary, the daughter of Richard Featherston, a cutler, in Digbeth, of ancient Birmingham stock.

In 1676 John Pemberton made his will, wherein he is described as gentleman. He was then dwelling with his father-in-law, in Well Street, now Digbeth, but in his own house. His household effects, books and plate, were such as marked a man holding a very good position. His three children were then all under age. The Dolphin Inn, occupied by his uncle, Nathaniel, with other properties, passed to his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and the Angell Inn, occupied by Thomas Rogers, to his only son, John, who was to pay to his two sisters three score pounds apiece.

This was the old family house in the Rother Market. It was called in the will of Thomas Pemberton, of 1640: "All my said Inn in Birmingham, called the Angel, now in the tenure of Humphrey Ranne;" but even at that time the great house had been divided, and part was held by "Dorothie Jury, widdowe." The houses of all goldsmiths who kept running cashes, who were virtually the bankers of the community, had emblematic signs. The houses of two of these primitive bankers in London bore the sign of "The Angell," and this old burgage was so called when held by Roger Pemberton, the goldsmith, in the sixteenth century; nor is it improbable that Roger then used it as an inn, in addition to his ordinary avocation*. In the earlier part of Elizabeth's reign, however, the Angell appears to have belonged to the Colmores.

After the death of John Pemberton, 1676, his widow, the daughter of Richard Featherston, married Joseph Carles (of the Carles family, of Moor

* William Jennens, the pioneer of the Birmingham iron trade, kept an inn in 1595, and the Smith family also early ironworkers, were vintners on the spot now occupied by Hutton House.

Street), who died 1697, leaving a son, Joseph, the half brother of John Pemberton, gentleman, of the Square.

John Pemberton, gentleman, was rated as the occupier of the house, No. 2, from 1728 to 1735. There is nothing to show that he was the owner. He was rated for the Angell until the time of his death, but a Francis Cox kept the inn in 1743. It had then become the Angel and Hen and Chickens, a name it bore until the end of the century. The estate extending from Snow Hill to Walmer Lane was eventually partitioned between the Carless and Prinsep families by casting lots, the portion of the latter being sold about thirty years since.

Upon quitting the Square, John Pemberton appears to have removed to Great Barr. In his will, made the 8th October, 1738, he is styled, of Great Barr, gentleman. At the time of his death his age would be about seventy-eight. Although it is probable that he is the John Pemberton who, in 1683, married Ales Fowler, at St. Martin's church, he left no children, and by his will devised his considerable estates to the children of his half-brother, Joseph Carless, from whom descended Joseph Carless, the Justice (see appendix), hereafter referred to as living in No. 5.

Although the junior branch of the family had, from an early period, been staunch Friends, it is manifest neither John Pemberton, of No. 2. or his father, ever joined that body, nor does it appear that he ever took an active part in public affairs.

For a few years after the removal of John Pemberton, a John Roach occupied the house, No. 2, with the warehouses at the rear; his name first appears in 1736. Fifty years later a John Roach, timber merchant, of Bristol and Birmingham, held land of Matthew Boulton, at the Worcester wharf; and it may be that about 1739 John Roach removed to Bristol, which at that period was the chief port for Birmingham, and the business relations and the interchange of inhabitants between the two places was very considerable.

From the year 1739 the names of Henry Jackson, Thomas Newnham, and one Cooper, successively appeared upon the rate book for the house and warehouse, the latter probably behind No. 3, and in 1744 both were taken by Samuel Bradburn, merchant.

This gentleman was the son of Randle Bradburn, the owner and occupier of No. 16, and he was born in that house in December, 1716. He had

recently married Miss Sarah Hughes, the daughter of Thomas Hughes, apothecary, Worcester. In 1746 his father died, and the following year he lost his young wife. She left three children, all of whom died young.

In 1755 he removed into No. 16, the house of his birth, and his widowed mother, with her two sons, Randle and John, came into No. 2. Mrs. Bradburn died in 1759, and her son Randle remained tenant until his death in 1768, when Theodosia Bradburn and Mrs. Bradburn are the alternate entries in the rate books, but whether of the wife, sister, or daughter of Randle is not clear.

In 1786 the name changes to Stanbridge, and in 1791 to that of Elias Waltin, but save that Waltin had been a toy maker at No. 9, New Hall Street, was constable of the town in 1765, and afterwards one of the town commissioners, little is known of these gentlemen.

The next tenant, George Bott, had some little celebrity. He was known as the Quaker dentist, and is referred to by Mrs. Schimmelpenninck in her remarkable book. In 1797 Bott had left, and for many years afterwards the house was marked, 'late Bott.' It was, however, acquired by Mr. Bingham, of the Stork Tavern, but for many years was used as a private residence for his family. It was so used in 1826 by his daughter, Miss Martha Bingham. A most interesting letter, written by Mr. J. D. Goodman when, in that year, he first arrived in Birmingham, has been preserved. It says: "I arrived in Birmingham quite safe on Wednesday night, and then we took a hackney coach to Miss Bingham's (No. 2 in the Square), where we drank tea, and then we went to Mrs. Redfern's in Miss Bingham's little pony chaise." Mrs. Redfern was the widow of the member of the firm of Scholefield, Redfern, and Taylor, and daughter of Clement Cotterill.

The house subsequently became merged in the Stork Tavern, but to the last bore the appearance of a private residence.



FROM 1728, the year of the earliest existing rate book, until 1736, Dr. Samuel Swynfen was assessed as the occupier of No. 3. He came of the ancient family of Swynfen of Swynfen, then represented by his elder brother Richard Swynfen, M.P. for Tamworth, and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber. In 1709, at the age of twenty-seven, Dr. Swynfen, who had commenced practice as a physician at Lichfield, was lodging at the house of Michael Johnson, the bookseller, and on the seventh September, Johnson's eldest son was born, and Dr. Swynfen became his godfather. Thus the eminent Dr. Johnson, Lichfield's greatest son, received the name of Samuel, and during his life cherished a grateful affection for Dr. Swynfen and his family.

Number Three,
Dr. Samuel
Swynfen.

In the following year, 18th November, 1710, Dr. Swynfen was married, at Weeford, to Mabella Fretwell, of Hallaby, Yorkshire, by whom he had eleven children.

At what period he removed to Birmingham is not recorded. Although a physician of skill, he evidently found Lichfield unfavourable to success, and possibly, before venturing upon so large a house in Birmingham, he would make trial of a less pretentious one. That, however, he was living in the Square during a part of 1727 admits of little doubt. The rate book was made out and formally certified at the beginning of each year, and in the earliest book, that of 1728, the Doctor is fully rated.*

Dr. Swynfen was a member of Pembroke College, Oxford, and on the 31st October, 1728, his godson, Samuel Johnson, was entered a commoner in that college, and, as shown by Dr. Birkbeck Hill, remained as an actual member to the end of December, 1729; and it has been suggested that Dr. Swynfen bore at least a portion of his expenses at Oxford.

It was, according to Boswell, during the College vacation of 1729, when at Lichfield, that Samuel Johnson was overwhelmed with a horrible hypochondria, and, says his biographer :

“Johnson, upon the first violent attack of the disorder, strove to overcome it by forcible exertions. He frequently walked to Birmingham and back again, and tried many other expedients, but all in vain. His expression concerning it to me was, ‘I did not then know how to manage it.’ His

* That Dr. Swynfen's children were baptized at Lichfield Cathedral is but consistent with the custom of the period even if several of the younger children were born in Birmingham. The baptisms ranged 1711 to 1727.

distress became so intolerable that he applied to Dr. Swynfen, physician, in Lichfield, his godfather, and put into his hands a state of his case written in Latin. Dr. Swynfen was so much struck with the extraordinary acuteness, research, and eloquence of this paper, that in his zeal for his godson he showed it to several people. His daughter, Mrs. Desmoulins, who was many years humanely supported in Dr. Johnson's house in London, told me that upon his discovering that Dr. Swynfen had communicated his case, he was so much offended that he was never afterwards fully reconciled to him.*

As Dr. Swynfen had, for a considerable period, been resident in the Square, the reason for Johnson's frequent walks to Birmingham and back is manifest, and that this was the family residence of Dr. Swynfen and his family is shown by the fact that his wife, Mabella Swynfen, witnessed the signatures of their next neighbours, John Pemberton and his wife, Hannah, to a deed of conveyance in the 24th August, 1730. Thus it is practically certain that Johnson was familiar with the Square long before taking up his quarters at Thomas Warren's house, in the Birmingham Market-place.

Boswell further tells us that "Johnson used to be frequently at the house of Dr. Swynfen, a gentleman of very ancient family, from which he inherited a very good estate. He was, besides, a physician of very extensive practice, but from want of due attention to his domestic concerns, left a very large family in indigence, and one of his daughters afterwards found an asylum in the house of Dr. Johnson." He does not tell us, however, that the very good estate which he inherited was saddled with debts to the extent of £6,700, or that Dr. Swynfen had settled £1,500 upon his wife on his marriage.

At the death of Dr. Swynfen, in 1736, his daughter, Elizabeth, was only twenty years old, and while very young she had married M. Desmoulins, a Huguenot refugee and a writing master, most probably engaged at the Birmingham Free Grammar School, the staff of which school always consisted of two masters, two assistants, and a writing master, but the names of the latter are not preserved in the records of the school.† Their married

* It has been very conclusively shown by Dr. Birkbeck Hill that the walks from Lichfield to Birmingham and back took place not during the long vacation of 1729, but either before 31st October, 1728, or after December 12th, 1729. Boswell's authority was Dr. Swynfen's daughter, Mrs. Desmoulins, who, born June, 1716, was nearly seven years Johnson's junior, and Johnson's walk to Birmingham, and his being received as a friend of the family, made a lasting impression upon her memory.

† In 1742 a writing master was elected by the School Governors in the place of a Mr. James who had died.

life was of short duration, for in a few years she was in London, a widow, maintaining herself and her children by working at a machine for stamping crape, the invention of Lewis Paul. Subsequently she kept a boarding school, but was rescued from drudgery and toil by Dr. Johnson, in whose house she found an asylum in which she remained until his death, although her ill-temper went far towards destroying his comfort. Nor did this conclude the generosity of the worthy doctor, for he also exercised his powerful influence on behalf of her children, and at his death bequeathed £200 to her son, John Desmoulins, who, Johnson told Mrs. Piozzi, was "an under-something at Drury Lane."

In September, 1735, Dr. Swynfen (in conjunction with the Rev. Richard Dovey and the Rev. William Vyse the new rectors of St. Martin and St. Philip's, the latter coming from Lichfield to succeed the Rev. Wm. Higgs) was made a governor of the Birmingham Free Grammar School, but did not live to take an active part. On February 27th, 1735, Samuel Swynfen, of Birmingham, addressed a letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, in which he "thanks him for his goodness to him and the neighbourhood in giving warning of the danger they are in from this new sort of Irish invasion. At this moment he is setting out to consult how the storm may be guarded against."

The purport of this letter is best explained by a quotation from another letter, written four days previously by Heneage Legge to the Earl of Dartmouth, which remarks "on the number of housebreakers about, who began in Essex and are now making attempts in London. About two hundred lately came out of Ireland who are associated with them, many of whom are dispersed in and about Birmingham." Both letters are taken from the MS. of the Earl of Dartmouth *Historical MS. Commission*.

Dr. Swynfen, who is thus shown to have taken some interest in public affairs, died in the Square 10th May, 1736, and the house was rated for the year 1737 in the name of Dr. John Turton.

It is somewhat remarkable that Mabella, the second daughter of Dr. Swynfen, born 1712, became after 1740 the third wife of John Turton, of Alrewas,* but the John Turton who succeeded to the house and practice of

* She was the mother of three children: John Turton, of Sugnall, a friend of Dr. Withering; Mabella, who married the Rev. Thomas Whitby; and Elizabeth, wife of George Parker, second son of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

Dr. Swynfen was a Birmingham physician who had previously practised in Temple Street. He was the son of Dr. John Turton, of Wolverhampton,* and father of Dr. Turton, physician to George IV.

Dr. Turton's career in Birmingham was not an important one. He was elected a Governor of the Free Grammar School, in place of Dr. Swynfen, in April, 1742, and in 1753 his son (presumably the future Royal physician) obtained a Foundation Scholarship there. Dr. Turton's name is found in legal documents until April, 1762, when he last signed the school minutes, although he left the Square in 1743.

The Turtons, of the Oak House, West Bromwich, and of Rowley, became numerous and widely distributed. Robert Turton, the Birmingham Parliamentary Captain, the Rev. William Turton, the first minister of the Old Meeting, and the Turtons of Alrewas, of Sugnall, and of Wolverhampton, were all collateral, and respecting the family Shaw in his *Staffordshire* (under West Bromwich) says:

"The first I find mentioned in this parish was John Turton, in the Freeholders Book 1653. Either from this John or from another of the name, of Rowley Regis, is descended the present Dr. Turton, a very eminent physician in London, whose ancestors have resided at the Old Hall at Wolverhampton since 1663."

It seems clear, therefore, that John Turton of Birmingham was born in the old moated house of the Levisons of Wolverhampton, built by the wealthy woolstaplers, and called the *Great Hall*, but afterwards known as *Turton's Hall*. Eventually it became Walton's Japan Manufactory, and was commonly known as the *Old Hall*.

In 1744 the house, No. 3, was divided, the rate book entry being "Thomas Price for part of Dr. Turton's House other part by Mr. Moreton." Little is known of Thomas Price, he certainly was not the Thomas Price subsequently the master of the Free School; but Moreton was the prominent attorney, Slaney Moreton, successor, and probably the son of Moreton Slaney of Birmingham, whose mother was a Moreton of Shropshire.

Moreton Slaney was the well-known fighting lawyer of 1680-1720, who, with Sir Charles Holte, of Aston Hall, appears to have been answerable for the bitter and costly litigation concerning the control and government of the Free Grammar School. He was made, or made himself, receiver, ousted

* The writer of a Medical Commonplace book, kept by Dr. John Turton, of Wolverhampton, continued by John Turton of Birmingham, father to Dr. Turton, physician to George IV.—R. B. Prosser in *Local Notes and Queries*.

the old governors, procured from King James a new charter, and ejected the schoolmaster, but upon the accession of William III. his party was routed, and the old charter restored, although he ^{Slaney Moreton.} was subsequently re-appointed governor by his old enemies.

Moreton Slaney was descended of a Lord Mayor of London, 1595, and lived at Hay Hall, Yardley. He married a daughter of the ancient house of Aglionby, of Knowle, his eldest son, Robert Aglionby Slaney, at one time lived at Knowle, and when, soon after 1760, Slaney Moreton retired from practice, and from his offices in the Square he, too, lived at Knowle, where, in 1764, after his death, his library was sold.

At this time Thomas Price appears to have occupied No. 6 for a few years, and Henry Henn, a merchant, to have taken No. 3, with the warehouses behind. In 1667 he was succeeded by John Oseland, who, with Henry Henn and John Bingham, had previously occupied the merchants' warehouses at the rear, warehouses which would appear to be sometimes let with No. 2, and sometimes with No. 3. In the Birmingham Directory of 1770 the firm of Oseland, Stuhlmann, and Bingham are described as merchants, No. 3, The Square.

John Oseland was descended from Henry Oasland, M.A., the ejected minister of Bewdley. As far back as 1684 this minister was well known in Birmingham, and, on the 6th November in that year, one George Dod, who appears to have been an active spy in Birmingham upon those who had refused to conform, reported that "there is only five nonconformists now resident in Birmingham. We have others which come to o^r towne often, as one Sweetman, who lives 2 miles off at Moseley, and one Turton, a very dangerous nonconformist, and it is said will suddenly be Resident in Birmingham. As for Mr. Oseland, I am informed that he comes often in these parts. I know not the man. I am told he lives in Wor'shire, hard by Bewdley."

The mercantile business was continued by John Bingham until about 1798. This was a period of universal calamity, for two years ^{John Bingham.} previously the successes of Napoleon had brought gloom, distress, and ruin, and the Bank of England suspended cash payments. By the capture of two vessels by the enemy, Bingham was completely ruined.

The victories of Nelson were, however, mitigating the gloom; it was a time for sympathy, and John Bingham's character and standing in the town

was such that he was generously met by his creditors. He was the owner of the houses Nos. 3 and 4; these he was allowed to retain, and converting them into a commercial and private hotel, known as "The Stork Tavern," he thus recommenced life as a hotel keeper. The venture was successful, and the Stork became a well-known private posting house. About 1812 the whole was stone-fronted, and became the "Stork Hotel."*

At an early period of its history, May, 1802, the stableyard was utilised for a circus, and the following announcement appeared in *Aris's Gazette*:

"The Ladies and Gentlemen of Birmingham are respectfully informed that a very commodious portable Amphitheatre is fitting up on the premises of the *Stork Hotel*, and will open on Monday, the 31st May, with the greatest variety of Equestrian Feats ever exhibited in Birmingham by the most select Horsemen from Astley's and Jones' Amphitheatres in London."

Four years later a new Burletta, Feats of Horsemanship and new Comic Pantomime and other attractions were announced for every evening until further notice, at the Amphitheatre, Stork Tavern Yard.† Lectures were also frequently announced at the Stork Tavern. In 1805 Dr. Birkbeck gave there a course of lectures on Electricity, Galvanism, and Pneumatic Chemistry.

In 1819 Mr. W. Field, of Mary Ann Street, introduced a new velocipede or patent curricule, and by advertisement informed the gentry and inhabitants that he would display their evolutions and changes of motion at the Stork Hotel, at an admission fee of one shilling.

The name of John Bingham was connected with the house until 1828, about sixty years, and that of Mrs. Martha Bingham until 1839, the house retaining the same semi-private character which was its original feature.

Subsequently No. 2, and finally No. 1, as previously stated, were absorbed in the hotel, which ultimately formed a complete angle of the Square. Mr. Thomas Smith, The Misses Smith, Mr. Benjamin Scriven, and Mr. Tailby, were successively landlords, and upon its demolition a new Stork Hotel was erected as near as practicable to the old site.

* In Charles Pye's *Excursion Round the Town*, 1818, p. 72, he says: "There is near the centre of the town what is called the Square; the buildings which surround it were uniform, but one-eighth part was, some years back, fronted with stone and converted into a tavern, which is denominated the Stork. This house of entertainment, from its private situation, and being near the centre of the town, is much resorted to by travellers, there being capacious stabling behind, and in front there are some shrubs, inclosed by iron palisades. For those who are at leisure there is an excellent Billiard Table."

† Langford's *Century of Birmingham Life*.

DANIEL Whalley is the first recorded tenant of this the last house of the South Angle. On the 20th April, 1721, he married, at St. Philip's Church, Mary Wright, of St. Martin's Parish, and he was living here until 1735, when he removed to the top of Snow Hill. The connection of the Whalley family with Birmingham and with Shenstone is somewhat obscure. Daniel Whalley owned a somewhat important property at the corner of Snow Hill and Steelhouse Lane, whereon formerly stood an old decayed messuage in the possession of Robert Roston, besides considerable land in Walmore Lane. These descended to his son, Samuel Whalley, of Fotherly, who, in 1786, also held a house in St. Martin's Lane and Moat Row, which house he leased to Zachariah Parkes.

Number Four.
Daniel Whalley.

In 1735 Daniel Whalley was succeeded by a Mrs. Burton, who occupied the house for a period of forty years.*

From 1763 a Mrs. Walford's name appears as joint occupier with Mrs. Burton. The widow of William Burton, ironmonger, had a great-niece, Felicia, who was the widow of Symon Walford, but afterwards the wife of Cornelius Chattock. In 1772 Mrs. Burton (or a daughter, as the entry is once "Miss Burton") had removed to No. 5, and the entry for No. 4 is "Widow Weardon."

This lady, Letitia Holden, of the ancient family of Holdens of Erdington, was born in 1722. She was also descended, in the female line, from Sir Henry Goodyear, of Polesworth, and allied to Samuel Hildersham, Samuel Roper, the antiquary, and Sir Francis Nethersole. Her husband, the Rev. Thomas Weardon, shortly after the marriage was appointed one of the masters of the Free School, in 1759, and he would appear to be the son of a former assistant master, Thomas Weardon, appointed in 1729,† but the relationship is not quite certain.

* There were three families of this name to which Mrs. Burton may have belonged. A John Burton, who at the end of the preceding century was a maker of ropes upon land at the back of Bull Street (the site of the Great Western Arcade); Abraham Burton, whose wife, Jane, was a legatee under the will of John Pemberton, of No. 1, the Square; her name also appears among those who affirmed their allegiance upon the rolls of 1723 and William Burton, ironmonger, who had recently died—and it appears most probable she was the widow of the last-named.

† In 1737 this Thomas Weardon transcribed the School Charter, and made a catalogue of the books in the Library. The Rev. Thomas Weardon, assistant master until 1759, and then appointed second master, was succeeded by John Gaunt in 1771.

Mrs. Weardon and her sister were deprived of their patrimonial estates through their brother (a man of very weak intellect) devising them to strangers.* She was buried with her ancestors at Aston Church, 1787. Of two daughters, Letitia, died in 1792. The painted window by Eginton, in Aston Church, is to their memory. The other daughter, Catherine, in 1793 became the wife of Dr. Edward Johnstone, of Edgbaston Hall, and of the Square, she died at an early age, leaving an only daughter, Catherine Letitia Weardon, who died in March, 1860.

Before 1777 Mrs. Weardon had removed to Solihull, and No. 4 was taken by Harry Hunt, merchant and button maker, who had
 Harry Hunt. but recently married Sarah, the daughter of the Rev. William Brailsford, the Head Master of the New Street School, and also Rector of Middleton, who died November 20th, 1775.†

Harry Hunt was born about 1754, at No. 12 in the Square, where his father died about 1760, and where his mother continued to live until 1794. His elder brother, William Hunt, also occupied No. 8; all three were corner houses. The brothers were partners until 1781 with Charles Birch and Thomas Jones, in a somewhat extensive business carried on at the rear of Nos. 4, 5, and 6, whilst each partner appears to have had a business independent of the firm.

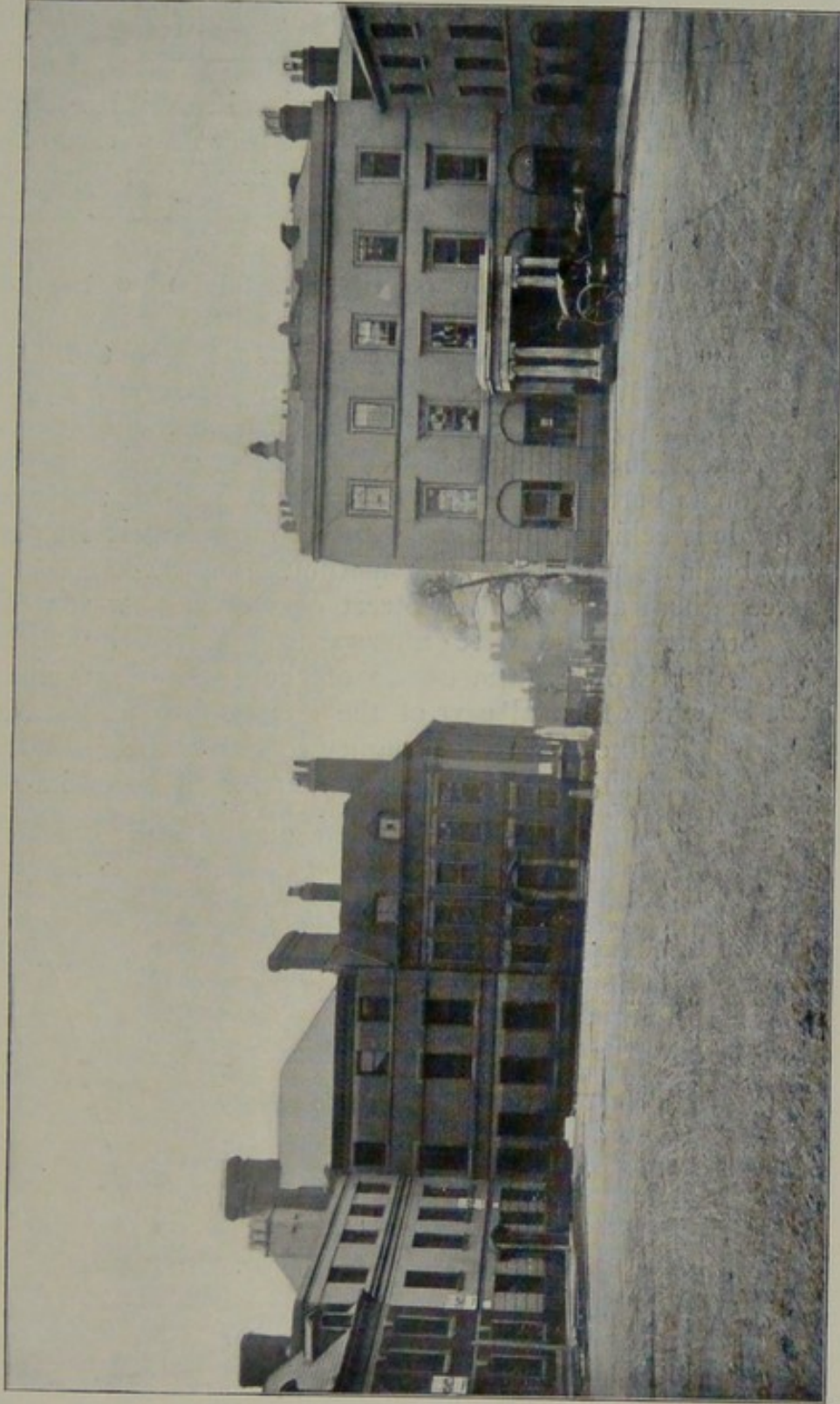
The three children of Harry Hunt, born in this house, were, first, Lydia, who married John Richards, of Bristol; second, Harry Hunt, at first a merchant, but afterwards studied for the law, and for several years was member of the firm of Lee, Son, and Hunt, in New Hall Street, and afterwards lived in retirement at Calthorpe Fields, where he died in 1856; and third, John, a merchant, who was detained a prisoner in France by Napoleon I., and afterwards died in London.

Harry Hunt, senior, retired in 1790 to Ladywood, where he died in 1798, leaving by his will bequests to his mother-in-law, Mary Brailsford, and his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Brailsford.

From 1790 to 1796 the house was occupied by Thomas Vickers, surgeon;

* In 1684, Sir William Dugdale, as Garter King of Arms, deduced and testified the pedigree of the Holden or Holwyne family, of Pipe Manor, now Wood End, Erdington, where it had been seated from *temp.* King Stephen, and descended in an unbroken line. Among the alliances were the ancient families of Erdington, Maunsell, Pipe, Harecourt, and Massey.

† Among the collection of portraits preserved at the school is one of Mr. Brailsford, bequeathed by his grandson, Harry Hunt, of Calthorpe Fields, in 1856.



THE OLD SQUARE.
South-East View, showing Lower Priory.

he then removed to No. 13, and this house remained void until it shared in the changes caused by Mr. Bingham's failure, and became a part of the Stork Tavern, and the back premises, extending to the Coach Yard, were cleared away for the posting yard.

Before proceeding to describe the houses in the East Angle, the intervening thoroughfare demands a brief notice. This bore the name of the Lower Priory from the time of its foundation, as did also the Upper Priory, but the Minories remained unnamed for many years, and Lichfield Street, at an early date, was divided in nomenclature as the Upper and Lower Lichfield Street. The gardens at the rear of Nos. 2 and 3 extended nearly to Pemberton's Yard, which was afterwards named the Lower Minories. The gardens behind Nos. 4 and 5 were more restricted, and at their rear not only business premises, but a malthouse and two small tenements stood between them and Westleys Street or Row, afterwards called London Prentice Street. These were afterwards acquired by Messrs. Wilkes. In 1733, Ann Crowley, the owner of the two houses, charged them with an annuity, which formed part of the income of Ann Crowley's Charity, and Mr. A. S. Wilkes paid this annuity to the trustees for many years. Below Pemberton's Yard the street yet retains much of its early appearance.

The East Angle.



The East Angle.



OF the four houses forming this block, which extended from the Lower Priory to Lichfield Street, the first two being Nos. 5 and 6, with somewhat extensive premises in the Lower Priory, were, during a very considerable part of their existence, connected with the great businesses of Samuel Birch, Charles Birch, Birch and Hunt, Birch and Villers, Villers and Wilkes, and Wilkes and Sons. The earliest known occupier, however, of the corner house, No. 5, was a Mrs. Wall, and she remained until about 1740. But shortly afterwards, Samuel Birch, junr., who for some years previously had been assessed in respect of manufacturing premises in the rear, succeeded to the front house, and, during a lengthened occupation, was sometimes separately assessed for warehouses, shopping, and "late a malt-house," and also for "Whalleys Land"—an estate in Walmer Lane, which he may have recently acquired from Daniel Whalley.

Number Five,
Mrs. Wall.

In 1751, Samuel Birch, with Samuel Bradbury, signed the rate book as churchwarden, and in 1753 the former was appointed Constable of the town. In 1770 the rate book entry becomes "Birch & Hunt," and the Directory of that year has "Birch & Hunt, Button makers, and slit and sell Rolled Iron and Steel."

Birch and
Hunt.

The partners were Charles Birch, William Hunt (afterwards of No. 8), and Harry Hunt (afterwards of No. 4), sons of Henry Hunt, who died in 1763, at No. 12, where their mother resided until her death, in 1794. As both sons, according to the family pedigree, were, as yet, under age, it may be that a partnership had existed with their father, who was engaged in the iron and steel trade. The slitting and rolling must have been carried on at a mill at Halesowen, belonging to Birch, and in after years William Hunt

acquired the Brades Estate, and re-established the business there, at first in partnership with Wastel Cliffe, but afterwards with four of his sons.

Charles Birch, who was possessed of considerable estates, was owner of both houses, Nos. 5 and 6, and his aunt, Jane Brandwood (to whom he left the bulk of his property for life), was long resident in the latter house. Besides the firm in the Square, which became "Birch, Hunt & Jones," he appears to have been connected with that of Birch and Villers, brassfounders, pewterers, and braziers, in Moor Street. Although he lived partially at Halesowen, yet, in his will, 1781, he is described as Charles Birch, of Birmingham, merchant, and therein he bequeathed 100*l.* each to his partners, William Hunt, Harry Hunt, and Thomas Jones, 50*l.* to his clerk at Halesowen, and 1,000*l.* to his friend, James Woolley, merchant, 80*l.* to "the General Hospital near Birmingham," and his estates in Birmingham, Aston, Yardley, and Halesowen, to his aunt, Jane Brandwood, of Little Bromwich, for life, and afterwards to William Ward, of the Bull Ring, mercer and draper, eldest son of William Ward, of Birmingham, mercer and draper,* subject to the payment of a further legacy to the General Hospital of 500*l.*

From the rate book entries the house, No. 5, appears to have been occupied for a brief period by Mrs. Burton, or perhaps a daughter, as one entry is "Miss Burton." In the year 1785, however, Mr. James Woolley. Woolley was rated, and his name remained until 1792. The name, Birch, remained on the books for the business premises, and sometimes recurred for the house, No. 6.

Mr. Woolley, merchant, and one of our earliest bankers, is chiefly known in connection with the banking houses of Coales, Woolley and Co., 1800, and Woolley, Moilliet, and Gordon, 1808, and also with the gun and sword business of Woolley, Deakin, and Dutton, of the same period, but afterwards Woolley and Sargent, of Edmund Street.

In 1792 Woolley was followed by Joseph Carles, Esquire, who represented a branch of the old Carless family, being descended from Samuel and Benjamin Carless, of Moor Street, and also from Joseph Carless, who married the Widow Pemberton, mother of John Pemberton, of Great Barr,

* This would appear to be the William Ward, mercer, in Birmingham, who took over the business of Harry Porter, in Bull Street and the Bull Ring, and who was referred to in a letter from Samuel Johnson to Mr. Levett, of Lichfield, in January, 1744, as to winding up the affairs of Mrs. Johnson's first husband. William Ward, the son, was Bailiff of the Birmingham Free School in 1793.

and to whose children, the half-brothers and sisters of John Pemberton, was devised the whole of his estate.

This Carles was a Justice of the Peace and a man of considerable notoriety, particularly in connection with the riots of 1791. He and one Brookes, an attorney of Temple Row, were responsible for the destruction of the meeting houses, and it was owing to their action that the idle and curious crowd which gathered about the doors of the hotel on the occasion of the famous "revolution dinner" became transformed into a mob of lawless desperadoes.

Joseph Carles.

The following references to these men, by William Hutton, are explicit and accurate :

"With all these occurrences, I believe the riots would not have taken place had it not been for two men of desperate fortunes, a hungry attorney and a leading justice. The first succeeded, and was appointed Barrack Master. To patch up a shattered fortune he drew accommodation bills. He became a bankrupt, ruined many persons, died about the year 1794, many thousand pounds in debt, and his corpse, if I remember right, was arrested. I have been informed that his effects paid eighteenpence in the pound."

"The justice had succeeded to an estate of about £600 a year. He soon became poor, and was often arrested. He died a year or two after the attorney, and in March, 1810, his effects paid twopence in the pound."—*Life of Hutton*, p. 233.

Many of Carles's later days were spent in the debtors' prison at Lichfield, and in several existing title deeds he is described as of the City of Lichfield.

In 1795, Samuel Rogers, button maker and factor, formerly of Moor Street, became occupier and also owner of the house. He remained until after 1810, and removed to Hagley Row. He was succeeded in its occupation by Mary Wilcox, milliner and dealer in British lace, who remained many years; but before 1828 the Rev. Edward Bristow was part occupier of the house with her, having removed his academy from Coleshill Street. This gentleman had quite a celebrity as a classical scholar and teacher, and many public and distinguished men of the town during the past half century were among his scholars. He was also well known as a preacher, but not as a successful one. Following him in 1860, Dr. Alfred Hill, the present City Analyst, occupied this house, being followed, in June, 1865, by Dr. (now Sir Walter) Foster, M.P., who remained until March, 1871. Mr. G. Alexander Craig was the next tenant, and the Misses Lane also had a school here before the final removal of this part of the Square.

Rev. Edward
Bristow.



HE second house of this angle, No. 6, was occupied, as early as the year 1727, by Samuel Stewart. The name was frequently spelt Stuart, and that form was adopted by his descendants. He was one of eleven children of Francis Stewart, of Codsall, and was born in 1680. Early in the century he settled in Birmingham, and practiced as an attorney. He probably occupied this house from its erection. In 1734 he was employed by the Overseers of the Poor

Number Six.
Samuel
Stewart.

upon the purchase of land for the erection of the Workhouse in Lichfield Street. He had ten children, of whom the eldest son settled in Wolverhampton, and married a daughter of Sir John Wrottesley. The second son was a surgeon in the Royal Navy. The third son, Charles (who adopted Stuart as the spelling of the name), was the successor to his father's practice, and held the office of Steward of the Manor of Birmingham. After 1754 he removed from the Square to Cannon Street, and died in 1768. His son, Charles Stuart, continued the practice in Temple Row for several years. Sarah, the youngest surviving daughter of Samuel Stewart, married a Thomas Steward, of Birmingham, and they were the parents of Samuel Steward, who married the daughter of Henry Carver, a considerable landowner in the town,* and their son, Lieut.-Colonel Edward Samuel Steward, of Winson Green, died in 1853, aged 75.

For a few years after 1758 the house was held by Thomas Price, but in 1766 the entry had become "Richard Wood Ward," and in 1767, "Woodward." A Rev. Mr. Ward had been living in No. 7 for some years, but both were gone in 1770. This Richard Woodward was probably the well-known attorney who died about this time. If so, he must have been a very old man, for his name is met with upon deeds of the Holte family as early as 1720. He was succeeded by Charles Woodward, attorney, of Steelhouse Lane.

Richard
Woodward.

In 1770, Miss Brandwood, the lady previously referred to, was the occupier, and though her name continued until 1799, it was only intermittent with that of Charles Birch, her nephew; indeed, the button firm of Birch and Hunt appears in the Directory of 1777 as in No. 6. In 1781 Miss Brandwood is described in Birch's will as of

Miss Brandwood.

* The Carvers acquired a fortune in the brass trade. About 1698, Henry Carver, brass caster, was frequently amerced for digging sand in the Manor of Bordesley, on the road from Birmingham to Sparkbrook.

Little Bromwich, which connects her with the Brandwood family of Ward End Hall. After the steel firm had departed from the Square, and Miss Brandwood had died, or removed, Mr. John Wilkes Unett, in 1798, took possession. Mr. Unett was the son of the Rev. ^{John Wilkes} Thomas Unett, rector of Stafford and Coppenhall, and prebendary of Lichfield, and was born in the Close of that City. Following a common custom, he was sent to Birmingham to start in life, and was articled to Mr. Geo. Hollington Barker, of No. 7, in the Square. In 1797 he appears to have lived in Whittal Street, but being taken into partnership, the business, from 1800, was conducted at No. 6. In that year was born in the house the distinguished soldier, Colonel Thomas Unett, of the 19th Regiment of Foot, who was killed in the siege of Sebastopol, 1855.



Memorial Obelisk to Colonel Thos. Unett, C.B., St. Philip's Churchyard.

task, and in the hour of victory and triumph, he met a hero's death.

Colonel Unett was one of those officers who, when the time came for the final assault upon the Redan fort, tossed for the honour of leading his regiment. The venture for life or death was with Colonel Wyndham, and Colonel Unett won. The memorable events attending the close of the long siege of Sebastopol lasted from the 5th to the 8th September, 1855. On the latter day, the hoisting of the flag of the victorious French upon the Malakoff fort was the signal for the final attack on the Redan. The distance from the most advanced parallel to the outworks of the fort was very great, amply sufficient to bring upon the assailants a murderous fire of cannon, musketry, and rifles. The officers became a prominent mark to the defenders, and Colonel Unett was one of the first to fall. Thus, after the long and laborious

A granite column was erected shortly after his death in the churchyard of St. Phillip's, as a tribute to his memory. It bears the following inscription :

ALMA.
INKERMAN.
SEBASTOPOL.

THOMAS UNETT, C.B.,

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL OF THE 19TH FOOT.

BORN IN BIRMINGHAM

ON THE 12TH OF NOVEMBER, 1800.

WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED

AT THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL

WHILE LEADING THE BRITISH COLUMN

TO THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE REDAN

ON THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1855.

HIS FRIENDS AND FELLOW TOWNSMEN

DEDICATE THIS OBELISK

TO HIS MEMORY.

AS A RECORD OF THE NOBLE EXAMPLE

OF ONE WHO CHOSE THE FOREMOST PLACE

IN THE PATH OF DUTY

WITH THE CALM UNDAUNTED SPIRIT

OF A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER.

During his practice Mr. Unett acquired a very considerable landed property, and attained a most honourable position in the town of his adoption. Some of his younger children, including Walter Unett, Colonel and Commander of the 3rd Hussars, were born at the Woodlands, Smethwick, which became Mr. Unett's residence until he retired, in 1854, to Leamington, where he died in 1856.

The business of the firm of Barker and Unett comprised much of considerable and public importance. In October, 1808, the residents of the Square were alarmed by threats of impending evils. It was publicly announced that "upon every Thursday a Corn Market would be held in the Square." This proposal, made by the corn dealers upon their own authority, was an outrage upon the respectability of the Square. A meeting of the inhabitants was therefore held at the Stork, on Saturday, the 8th, and Messrs. Barker and Unett were retained to prevent so dire an evil. The active spirits of the opposition were John Phillips, chairman, Robert Ward, Samuel Rogers, Thomas Vickers, Thomas Cresshull, and J. W. Unett, and the aggressors were speedily discomfited. Not so, however, another invasion. This was the more general proposal of some anonymous person (he subsequently proved to be a Mr. Dod), who gave notice of an application to Parliament for powers to establish waterworks in the town, the main for which was to be laid through the garden in the centre of the Square.* The whole scheme was crude and immature, and the principal inhabitants forthwith assembled raised a large subscription fund to oppose the application, and appointed Barker and Unett solicitors. The sanguine Mr. Dod went to Parliament in April, and his application was refused. Nothing daunted, he contrived to get his Bill before the House, but in March, 1811, he was finally defeated.

The costs of opposition were heavy, and in 1815 a balance of the law costs, amounting to £433, was still owing. By way of inducing a settlement Messrs. Barker and Unett told the Committee that "at the present time many of the streets of London are rendered almost impassable by the breaking up of the pavement to lay down pipes, but neither this inconvenience nor any other having been felt by the town of Birmingham, our services appear to be entirely forgotten."

* A curious feature of the scheme was to establish a huge cistern, or central supply store, in Temple Row West, upon the highest land in Birmingham, then occupied only by stage coaches and waggons.

After the dissolution of the partnership, about 1820, the old offices were retained by Mr. Unett, and the firm became Unett and Son; Unett, Son, and Harding*; and Unett and Sons, until 1854, when Mr. J. W. Unett and his son, Mr. George Unett, retired, and Mr. John Unett was joined by Mr. George Page, the confidential clerk of the firm. About 1864 the business of Unett and Page was removed to 17, Temple Row, where it still remains, the present title of the firm being Unett, Moore Bailey and Co.

Soon after this removal, Mr. Alfred Salt Wilkes, of the great firm of coppersmiths in the Lower Priory, and the owner of Nos 5 and 6, re-constructed No. 6, and removed to it from New Street. Until this time it had undergone but little change, and its original appearance had been well preserved.

Alfred Salt
Wilkes.

When, in the last century, the firm of Birch and Son, and Birch and Hunt, occupied the Lower Priory premises, the firm of Birch and Villers carried on a large business in Moor Street as brassfounders, pewterers, braziers, and coppersmiths, which eventually devolved upon William Villers, a magistrate and high bailiff, and a man of considerable activity and wealth. In 1818 the business firm had become Villers and Wilkes, and somewhat later, Edward Villers Wilkes.

About 1825 this gentleman purchased the Old Square and Priory property from Ward, to whom Charles Birch had devised it. He re-built the Lower Priory portion, and removed the trade from Moor Street. For some years he also held the Government post of stamp distributor, at his house, 103, New Street, near Temple Street. In this appointment he appears to have followed a namesake, the printer and stamp distributor whose shop was in the same street, opposite the Free School. He died in 1835, in New Street, where his widow continued until her death, in 1864.

In addition to a son, Villers, who died abroad, he had two sons, Edward Tertius Wilkes and Alfred Salt Wilkes, who succeeded to the business in the Priory, and two daughters, one of whom married the Rev. Joseph Ray, a popular curate of St. Philip's church.

The eldest son died in 1862, at the early age of 46, and the wealth of the family passed to Mr. Alfred Salt Wilkes, who continued to live in the

* Mr. William Sextus Harding, who practiced for half a century in Waterloo Street, died at Harborne in 1895.

re-constructed house in the Square until his death, in 1881. His noble bequest to the General Hospital and Midland Institute, payable at the death of his sisters, and then amounting to nearly £100,000, will long perpetuate the name of Wilkes in Birmingham.

Upon the removal of the works under the improvement scheme, the business of the firm, one of the oldest in Birmingham, was carried on by Mr. Harrold and Mr. Bown, near New Town Row, where it still flourishes.





THE earliest rate book entry for the third house in this angle, No. 7, shows Mr. Accock, junr., to have been its original occupier. For a few years after 1727, however, it remained void, when it was taken by John Baddeley, probably a relative of Richard Baddeley, who had long occupied the adjoining house, No. 8. He remained here until 1747, in which year a John Baddeley, jun., had entered into possession of No. 10; both names will be referred to hereafter. For two years, the Stewarts occupied and were rated for, Nos. 6 and 7, the latter, probably, as business premises. In 1749 the Rev. Mr. Ward was in possession, but, although he remained 20 years, we have failed to learn anything respecting him.

Number Seven.
John
Baddeley.

He was followed in 1769 by George Hollington Barker, attorney, who had practised in the town for a few years previously. Mr. Barker was the founder of the old legal business, with one exception the oldest in Birmingham, and which is still in full vigour and prosperity. From his earliest period he was lawyer to the Colmore family, of New Hall, and the legal business connected with the extensive Colmore Estate (an estate accumulated in the days of Henry VII., Henry VIII., and Elizabeth, by the prosperous burghers of the Bull Ring) is still conducted by his successors. Perhaps no other instance exists in the kingdom of a connection so long continued.

George
Hollington
Barker.

Not only was Mr. Barker eminent as a lawyer, but he was also a local numismatist of some fame. In 1803 his collection was sold by Leigh Sotheby and Son. The tokens were then described in the catalogue as "the most complete series of Town Pieces and Tradesmens' Tokens ever offered to the public.* Nor was he content with merely collecting, for he and his son, George, had various tokens struck, some of which bore the arms and crest of the family, and were doubtless serviceable in his office of receiver at a period when the supply of copper coins was so inadequate.

Among the tokens of George Barker were some remarkable ones executed by John Gregory Hancock—the son of Hancock the engraver, of Moat Row,—who was but nine years of age. In Mr. Davis's excellent book will be found particulars of all, and photographic facsimiles of several of these very interesting tokens.

* *The Token Coinage of Warwickshire.* By W. J. Davis, Birmingham, 1895.

In the year 1800 Mr. Barker's son was joined by Mr. J. W. Unett, and the offices were removed to No. 5. No. 6 was, however, retained for some years as his private residence, and subsequently by Mrs. Barker, whilst Mr. George Barker was living first in New Hall Street, and afterwards at the suburban mansion, Springfield, Monument Lane.

Upon the dissolution of partnership, about 1820, Mr. Barker removed to 101, New Street, near Lower Temple Street, and it was whilst residing here that Mr. Barker connived at the proposal for placing the body of John Baskerville in the catacombs beneath Christ Church. Upon the opening of the new streets across the Inge Estate, the firm of Barker and Son removed to new offices in Bennetts Hill.

At this time, Mr. George Barker, living at Springfield, obtained considerable celebrity as an orchid grower. It will doubtless come as a surprise to many that sixty years ago we had a townsman so zealous in the pursuit of these beautiful exotics as to send out a special messenger to the West Indies, with letters of credit and of introduction, to travel and search for two years for specimens. Yet a voluminous correspondence has recently come to light which proves that Mr. Barker, in March, 1836, despatched one John Ross, by the ship "Opossum," from Falmouth, fully equipped, and provided with minutely scheduled particulars of these quaint blooms which have gained so great a vogue in recent years,* and of their character and habitat, with descriptions of bulb, flower, and root, and the trees or soil upon which they flourished, and with a clearly defined route by which the messenger Ross was to travel from the Mexican coast across the Jesus del Monte and several other mountains, to Honduras. Moreover, amid the strain of business in London, and in Birmingham, Mr. Barker kept up a correspondence with his agent, giving him encouragement and advice in his quest, during the whole period of his absence. Many cases of specimens were lost, or the contents arrived dead, but sufficient came to hand in a healthy state to give Mr. Barker more than a local fame, and by our older horticulturists he is still regarded with enthusiastic admiration.

Fifty years ago another member of the family, Mr. G. M. Barker, had a

* Curiously enough the orchids fell completely out of public favour afterwards, owing to the want of success attending their cultivation in England. Orchids were in those early days treated all alike to the dry hot air of the English greenhouse, so that to quote the words of an early writer on this subject: "Mr. Barker's importations from Mexico almost evaporated in course of a few years," and as a result of the disfavour which arose from the supposed difficulty of cultivating them, orchids worth their weight in gold were sold for the price of a bouquet.

local reputation as a cricketer, sharing, with Charles Burt (who still lives honoured amongst us), the honour of being one of the premier batsmen of the district.

The legal firm, about 1840, became Barker and Griffiths. Shortly afterwards the old name disappeared, and as Griffiths and Bloxham, and Bloxham, Smythe, and Etches, it has continued, and has recently occupied the finest suite of rooms on the Colmore Estate.

When, after an occupancy of half a century, the Barkers removed to New Street, Edward Cope, wine merchant, of the corner of Temple Row and Bull Street, and afterwards of 133, New Street, became occupier and owner of No. 7. He was succeeded in 1829 by Mr. Thomas Chavasse, surgeon, previously of New Street, a man who came to occupy the highest position and reputation in his profession.

At this time, owing to the frequent recurrence of accidents, the enclosed central space in the Square, which for more than a century had been planted with shrubs, and in which every occupant of the Square had an interest, was doomed, and under the Improvement Act of 1828 the names of the owners and occupiers were scheduled with a view to its removal. The proposed improvement, however, like many of those scheduled in the Act, would probably have lapsed, but it happened that Mr. Chavasse, who drove a gig with a fast horse, met with a hair-breadth escape. His horse, running away with him, making for home, dashed into the iron railings. The whole space was shortly afterwards cleared.

Thomas
Chavasse.

Mr. Skerrett, surgeon, who in 1839 was at No. 2, afterwards joined Mr. Chavasse in his practice, the firm changing in a few years to Chavasse, Amphlett, and Blake. Mr. Chavasse retired to Wellington Road, Edgbaston, and finally to Wylde Green, and Messrs. Blake and Farncombe, and Mr. Valentine Blake, continued the old house, which eventually was held by Dr. Walker when required for street improvements..



THE last house of the angle was, from its earliest days, held by Richard Baddeley, Birmingham's first patentee. In a town which has produced far more inventors and patentees than any other in the kingdom, which was, in fact, the nursery of invention, and had almost a monopoly of patents, this fact entitles Baddeley to a prominent and distinguished local position. It is upon the high authority of Mr. R. B. Prosser, of the Patent Office, we learn that on the 22nd May, 1722, a patent was granted to Richard Baddeley, ironmonger, for "a new invention for making streaks (iron binding) for heavy cart and wagon wheels," and that this was the first patent issued to a Birmingham man.

Number Eight.
Richard
Baddeley.

Baddeley was a true type of the Birmingham mechanic of his time. In 1722 he used the general addition of "ironmonger," in his will he called himself "gunsmith," by general repute he was a button maker, and whilst he was all these, he owned a furnace at Rushall.

By his will, dated 12th March, 1742, "being now become weak in body," he gave to his two daughters, Elizabeth Dean and Anna Baddeley, three messuages in the Upper Priory, and other two (one of which he then inhabited) in the Square, and also his Furnace, &c., at Rushall. Upon the will is a large heraldic seal with quarterings, probably that of his attorney, Illege Maddox; but coats of arms were much affected by Birmingham tradesmen at that period.

The local fame of Richard Baddeley was not of short duration. A writer of some pretensions, Samuel Jackson Pratt, who was born at St. Ives, but died 1814 in apartments in Colmore Row, Birmingham, published in his *Gleaner*, 1805-6, many particulars relating to Birmingham, perhaps communicated to him by Mr. Morfitt, a local barrister and collector, who proposed to write a history of Birmingham. In reference to the button trade, he remarks: "Buttons are produced at 4½d. per gross to those of polished steel at Soho at 1 Gua each," and proceeds, "I have been informed that a Mr. Baddeley, who lived in the Square, was one of our oldest button makers. He distinguished himself by inventing the oval lathe,* and other

* The "oval" lathe is also attributed to John Wyatt and William Murdock. Thus two of its reputed inventors were connected with the Old Square. It is not, however, certain that the credit of these inventions belongs entirely to Richard Baddeley, and that John Baddeley was not also an inventor, and either alone or in connection with Richard, carried on the button trade.

curious engines, and retired from business on a genteel competency about 1739."

Richard Baddeley died 1744, and in July, 1746, the house (with the workshops, and stable for the horses) was announced as to let, "application to be made to Mrs. Baddeley, at the same house, by whom is to be sold all sorts of cast metal weights." The name continued upon the rate books until 1747, in which year John Baddeley, junr., who probably continued the business, had removed to No. 10, then vacated by Lewis Paul. From 1748 the house and manufactory were held by John Turner, but in 1763 the name is replaced by that of George Anderton, saw maker. A part, at least, of the front house, however, was held until 1777 by Edward Turner, merchant and factor, and Anderton's holding included the shops, &c., in Lichfield Street.

Possibly the Turners may be the men who were developing the brass works in Coleshill Street, but this is uncertain. The name of Anderton, however, is clearly that of an old Birmingham Family, the first of any note of which was George, son of Robert, born March, 1629. He became a prosperous cutler, and acquired property at the Sand Pits, and also four old houses in Bull Street, where he lived. Some of the descendants (one of whom, George Anderton, was, in 1728, in Digbeth) developed from makers of small articles to brassfounders and merchants in Weaman and Whittall Streets, and eventually acquired a considerable landed estate, which in recent years has realized high values.

In 1777 a William Hunt, button maker, had become holder of the manufactory, late Anderton's. He was son of Henry, late of No. 12, a brother of Harry, of No. 4, and was also a partner in the firm of Birch and Hunt. In 1778 he was living in No. 8 (late Edward Turner's). Although young, the two brothers must have been possessed of considerable wealth by the death of their father, and in 1781, the Brades Estate being in the market, was purchased by the wealthy John Finch, of Dudley, who, in 1782, conveyed it to William Hunt, of Birmingham, merchant, the real purchaser. The Brades Estate had long previously belonged to another branch of the Hunt family, but in 1763 was sold to John Turton, of the Brades, merchant, who, in 1781, had removed to Bristol, and become bankrupt. In after years the Brades Steel Works, as developed by William Hunt, Thomas Yate Hunt, of Oldbury,

James Hunt, of Lime Grove, Edgbaston, and Samuel Hunt, of the Rookery, children of the Birmingham button maker, became famous, and their town warehouse, in Colmore Row (which was carried on, as "Hunt and Cliffe" as early as 1797, and in later years in Ann Street) had a great popularity.

William Hunt quitted the Square in 1794, and died 1808, leaving, besides the before-named sons, and two daughters, two other sons, Henry Hunt, of West Bromwich, and Robert Gee Hunt, of Liverpool, and a son of the latter, long resident at Edgbaston, died very recently at Dulwich.

In the years 1795 and '96, a Mr. Whateley held the house and coach house, but in 1797 gave place to Dr. Bree. We learn from the valuable and very interesting history of the General Hospital and its Medical Officers, by Mr. J. T. Bunce, that Dr. Bree was the author of a work on Asthma, which passed through three editions, that, like Sir John Floyer, the medical knight of Lichfield, he was a martyr to that complaint, which, strangely, he describes as being worse whenever he came from Leicester to Birmingham, owing to its higher level. This was long before he settled here, and his complaint continuing, he became a Captain of Militia, and removed to Cambridgeshire; subsequently he quite recovered, and settled to practice in Birmingham, at first in Edmund Street, but in 1797 removed to the Square. In 1801 he was appointed Physician to the General Hospital, and in 1803 to the General Dispensary. In the latter year, in connection with Dr. Edward Johnstone, Mr. Meredith, and Mr. George Barker, he became one of the originators of the Loyal Volunteers in the town, but having attained a high repute for his cures of asthma, and being commissioned to attend the Duke of Sussex, he, in 1806, finally removed from Birmingham and settled in London.

John Phillips, a timber merchant in a large way of business, having mills at Aston, and carrying on wood turning extensively, became tenant in succession to Dr. Bree. Mr. Phillips, who is also described as a maker of printing presses, and also an oval wood turner,* was one of the moving spirits who successfully opposed the corn dealers' attempted invasion of the Square and establishing their market there in

* Sixty years previously, Richard Baddeley, the first reputed inventor of the "oval lathe," was occupier of the same premises.

1808. He remained in the house until 1840, his prolonged tenancy of 36 years exceeding even that of Richard Baddeley.

The succeeding occupant was Dr. Jonathan Waddy, who for several years had lived at 21, Whittall Street, and afterwards at the large white house at the corner of Edmund and Congreve Streets, facetiously termed
 Dr. Waddy. Congreve Castle, and during a part of this time he had been in partnership with Mr. Cartwright, at Steelhouse Lane.

Dr. Waddy was the brother of the Rev. Samuel D. Waddy, President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1859, and uncle to the present Judge Waddy. He is credited with being the founder of the Lying-in Hospital. Whilst living in the Square he was seized with an illness which compelled his retirement for many years, and upon his return to practice, lived for some years in Broad Street. He died in 1872, in the house at the Five Ways, now Lloyds Bank.

Following the Doctor in No. 8, in 1849, was a Mrs. Smith, a milliner, but before 1860 another physician, Dr. G. V. Blunt, entered into possession.

Here he became well known as a specialist, although unconnected with any of our great public institutions, and remained
 Dr. Blunt. to see the tall buildings of the new line of Corporation Street impede the view from his back windows, and then retired to Edgbaston, where he still resides.

Of all the houses in the Square, none had undergone less change in appearance during the 170 years of their existence than No. 8. When destroyed, as will be seen in the illustration, it retained the exact appearance it bore when first built, and when occupied by Richard Baddeley.

A brief reference may here be made to the street which intersected the Square at this point, and which has now been entirely blotted out of the map of Birmingham. The south-western end of Lichfield Street was laid out with the Square, and extended to Newton Street; and somewhere about 1720 it was extended to the junction of the Lichfield Road with Walmer Lane. The Workhouse was built in the lower part. Prior to this extension Cornelius Whitehouse built two houses upon land he had purchased from the owners of the land upon which part of the Square was formed, and twenty-five years afterwards he purchased the adjoining house from the Stewart family, of the Square. The latter was occupied by Michael Broome, a man of local celebrity in the last century. He there established the first

music shop in Birmingham, and published music bearing the inscription,*

"Engraved and printed by Michael Broome, the Purcells Head, in Lichfield Street, Birmingham."

Broome, who was known as the father of the Birmingham Musical Society, was the clerk of St. Philip's Church, and a stone on the north side of the church marks his place of burial. This stone is about to be restored.

Cornelius Whitehouse, who, in 1730, was a witness to the will of John Pemberton, of No. 1, appears to have been a representative ironworker. Beginning as a nailer, he and his son, Cornelius, are variously called smiths, blacksmiths, whitesmiths, and platers. The latter amassed considerable property, and eventually erected a substantial house in Snow Hill, which afterwards became the residence and works of Charles Ellis and Son.

Another property, the exact position of which cannot be defined, deserves a passing notice. From an original letter still existing, written by Mr. Simpson, attorney, Lichfield, in May, 1733, addressed to Mr. Priest, attorney, in Parke Street, Birmingham, it appears that two houses in Birmingham Square had belonged to a Mr. Samuel Grace, then deceased, and that his representatives were then selling the same. At this time there were living in Birmingham a Sylvester Grace, in Digbeth quarter, and Francis Grace, the latter a hosier and stocking maker, at "The Gates," under the old Tolbooth at New Street End, to whom the runaway apprentice, William Hutton, in 1741, applied for work.† Fourteen years later Hutton married the niece of Francis Grace, who, like Hutton, was a native of Derby. Upon losing his housekeeper, Grace, the next year, 1756, married one Mary Henman, and died three months later. His widow survived him one year, and Hutton succeeded to the greater part of his property, whereby his position in the town was greatly changed.

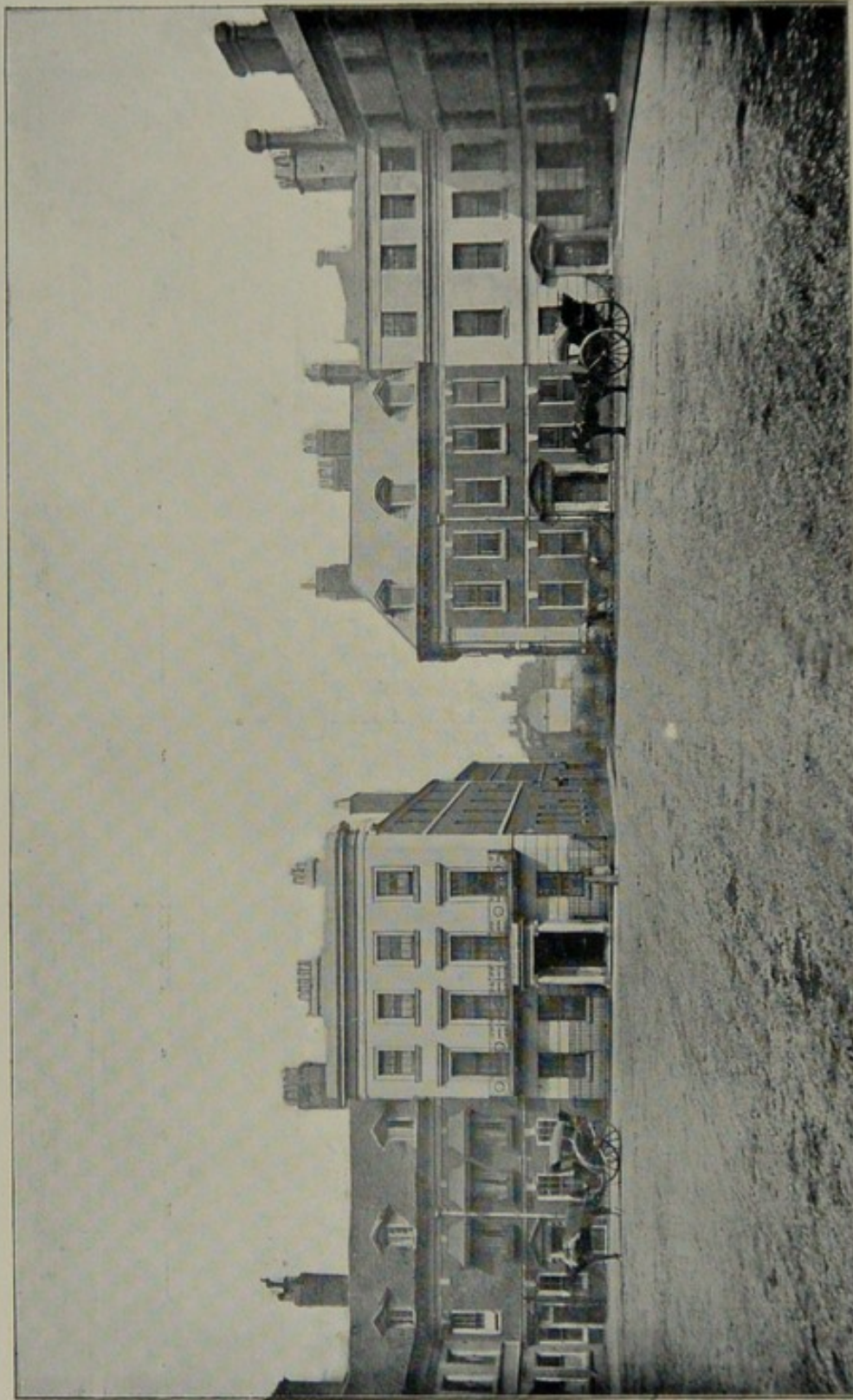
By the will of Samuel Grace, made in March, 1711, it appears that he was originally a coppersmith, but had then retired to Shenstone. He had lately built the two houses, which are described as near Birmingham Square, but this shows how early the Priory Close was being built over. One of his legatees was a daughter of his brother, Sylvester Grace.

* The following works, edited and published by *Michael Broome*, are recorded in the catalogue of the Birmingham Reference Library: *The Catch-Club, or Pleasant Musical Companion*, 1757. *Collections for Morning and Evening Service*, 1760, 4to. *Collection of Psalm Tunes*, 1753, 8vo. *Collection of Psalm Tunes*, 1756, 8vo. *Collection of Psalm Tunes (?)*, 1770, 8vo. *Divine Harmony*, 1758. *Divine Harmony, Six Cathedral Anthems (?)* 1770.

† Hutton, then a lad of 17, tells us there were three stocking makers who had frames then left in Birmingham.



The North Angle.



THE OLD SQUARE.
North-East View, showing Lichfield Street.

The North Angle.



ETWEEN the years 1713 and 1734 the first house of the north angle, No. 9, was held and occupied by John Wilkes and his widow. We search in vain for any mention of this name among records of the older Birmingham families, and although somewhat common in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton, but little success has attended the endeavour to trace the origin and early career of John Wilkes. In 1658 a Samuel Wilkes was married at St. Martin's Church to Mrs. Hannah Haw, of Walsall, but it is not clear that he was living in Birmingham. Whether the John who, with Elizabeth Wilkes, took the oath of allegiance in Birmingham, in 1723, was the tenant of No. 9, in the Square is not certain.

It is, however, most desirable to put on record as much as can be recovered concerning a man who devoted to the craft of a locksmith artistic qualities worthy to be ranked with the achievements of the great ironworkers of the continent, and whose work has been deemed worthy to be placed side by side with theirs in the National Museum.

Number Nine.
John Wilkes,
Lock Maker.

In Throckmorton's mansion at Weston Underwood, Northampton, is a room once occupied by the poet Cowper, upon the door of which is a brass lock inscribed with its maker's name, "*Johannes Wilkes, fecit Birmingham.*" The ornamentation of this lock is described as consisting of "a figure in mezzo-relief of a man clad in a jerkin and cavaliero hat, and holding a gun in the act of watching against surprise. By means of a small pin one of the legs of the figure is made to move, disclosing the keyhole, and towards

the right hand is a dial face closely studded with double rows of figures, the whole being described as a meritorious specimen of the craft.”*

In the South Kensington Museum is another remarkably fine lock, which, with a very ornamental key in cut steel, has been copied by photography, and published in the *Building News* of November 26th, 1896. The lock is of brass, 11 inches by 6, of very elaborate workmanship, and inscribed, “*Richard Bickford, Londini Fecit,*” but the key, which is not stated to belong to the lock, is by John Wilkes, of Birmingham. Exhaustive search has failed to discover any Richard Bickford, a maker of locks in London, at the period ascribed to the lock. It is well known that the custom prevailed of marking the London dealer’s name on goods supplied by provincial makers, and from the similarity of workmanship and design, from its period and inscription, little doubt can exist that John Wilkes was the maker, and that it was probably a show lock for the window of a London tradesman.

A third lock of similar beauty and workmanship, although somewhat smaller, is now in the Birmingham Art Gallery, on loan from the South Kensington Museum. It is of steel, with brass case, pierced with foliage, and measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by five. The inscription, in deeply cut italic letters with flourished capitals, is “*Johannes Wilkes, Fecit de Birmingham.*”

The Athenæum for 1847, p. 863, in a report of the meeting of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, held at Norwich in that year, thus refers to another of John Wilkes’ locks:

“A small brass lock, a curious specimen of Birmingham workmanship of the 17th century, the maker’s name was John Wilkes, and in the front was a figure in high relief whose spur and boot acted as a cover and tell-tale to the keyhole. I copied the inscription because I thought it extremely curious:”

“If I had ye gift of tongue
I would declare and do no wrong
Who they are yt come by stealth,
To impare my lady’s wealth.”

John Wilkes de Birmingham fecit.†

The few lock makers in Birmingham, late in the 17th century, were mostly of the old town. Charles Pye, however, in his *Modern Birmingham*, 1819, has the following: “Opposite the Quakers’ Meeting, in Bull Street,

* J. C. Tildesley on locks, *Birmingham and Midland Hardware District*, 1866.

† Enquiries have been made of Mr. James Reeve, the keeper of the Castle Museum at Norwich, with reference to this lock, and he states that “The lock was amongst the antiquities lent for exhibition during the meeting of the Archæological Institute in 1847. The then owner Mr. George Carthen, of East Dereham, has long since been dead, and his collection sold, and I have no idea where the lock went to.”

there is in front of the house occupied by Mr. Standley a most admirable piece of brickwork (the lockmakers' arms, under a most beautiful arch), such as is very seldom seen, and does infinite credit to who executed it. This exquisite performance appears to have been done about one hundred and fifty years, the house having been invariably in the possession of a person eminent as a lockmaker during the above period.*"

In the year 1715 John Wilkes purchased from Richard Dolphin, baker, a house in Bull Street, opposite the locksmith's premises, and adjoining the Friends' Meeting House, but he sold the same in 1722 to Thomas Ashwell. In 1727 John Wilkes was examined before a Parliamentary committee, with William Twamley and James Forrest, in support of a petition from several gentlemen living in and near Birmingham as to repairing the road to Great Bridge and Coseley, for better carrying on the iron trade in Birmingham.

Whilst these facts show the social position acquired by John Wilkes, more interesting particulars of a personal nature have fortunately been preserved. It appears from a contribution made in 1881 to the Local Notes and Queries,† that this house, described as in or near the Square, was conveyed to Wilkes by Dorothy Parkes, spinster,‡ Richard Pinley, bricklayer, and Isaac Spooner, ironmonger, in May, 1713, and that upon his death, in 1733, he devised "my messuage wherein I now dwell, lying in the Square, in Birmingham, to my nephew, Edward Dolphin." Furthermore, after a bequest of £50 to the new Blue Coat Charity School, he devised to his friend, Thomas Wood, in trust for his brother, Joseph Wilkes, "several pieces or parcels of land lying together near a place called the Salutation, then in the tenure of Edward Newey;" he also appointed Wood and his nephew executors.

It is, therefore, clear that John Wilkes had become a very prosperous man, and also that he died childless.

After the lapse of two years, during which the widow Wilkes was assessed, the house was occupied by one William Billingsley; as, however,

* The houses on this spot were erected on land of George Birch shortly before 1694. The locksmith's shop, described by Pye, was afterwards held by Standley and Blockley, both locksmiths. They were concerned with John Wyatt and his weighing machine in 1744, and part of the premises was afterwards assessed as "the engine house."

† John Wilkes, Locksmith, *Weekly Post Local Notes and Queries*, No. 1,038, by George Price.

‡ Miss Dorothy Parkes was the founder of Smethwick Chapel.

a Mr. and Mrs. Billingsley had at an earlier period purchased and lived in the house, No. 15, a fuller reference to this old Birmingham name will be made under that number.

In the year 1744, Edward Dolphin, attorney, the nephew of John Wilkes, was rated as the occupier. For many years the family of Dolphin has been associated with the neighbourhood of Birmingham.

Edward Dolphin, Originally they were of Swanshurst, Yardley, and in Yardley
Attorney. Church are numerous ancient records of the name. An important branch settled in Bordesley and Camp Hill. By inter-marriages, however, with the important families of Stanley and Vernon, very valuable estates at Shenstone, and elsewhere, were acquired by another branch of the Dolphins, who became known as of Shenstone. Several members of this family practiced as lawyers at various places, and Edward Dolphin appears to have practiced in Temple Street before his removal to the Square.

From a multiplicity of old documents bearing the autograph of Edward Dolphin it is clear that he commanded an extensive practice in Birmingham, and although he died before 1760, and the connection of the name with the Square ended (presumably by the death of his widow) before 1769, yet the Dolphins were in the Law List until comparatively recent times. In 1770 the offices of a James Dolphin were at 32, New Street, in 1797 in Cannon Street, and in 1823 at 105, New Street, and until after 1830 the firm of Webb and Dolphin practiced at Jamaica Row, and Robert Dolphin in Temple Street many years later.

It should be mentioned that in 1766, upon the establishment of the General Hospital, the committee agreed to purchase from Mrs. Dolphin eight acres of land near the Salutation, lying between Summer Lane and Walmer Lane, at a cost of 120*l.* per acre.* This was the land formerly belonging to John Wilkes, and should a new street be made through the land after the removal of the hospital, the memory of this worthy may fitly be perpetuated by naming it John Wilkes Street.†

Following the widow Dolphin, in the year 1769, is the name of William

* *Birmingham General Hospital*, 1856. By J. Thackray Bunce.

† The Salutation Inn was a famous ancient roadside tavern, with two bowling greens. The water of Bourne Brook from the Sand Pits and the lower New Hall fields crossing Snow Hill, where it was forded, ran at its side. Wilkes' land lay alongside one of the Salutation greens, and was divided by the Bourne from the estate of John Pemberton, gentleman, which he devised to the Carles family.

Hodgkins, whose business of a cabinet maker was continued on the premises for more than twenty years, but Joseph Payton, brush maker, appraiser, and auctioneer, was part occupier for a year or two previous to 1793, at which time William Wallis entered upon a tenancy which lasted more than thirty years.

William
Hodgkins.

William Wallis was a well-known merchant, the son of John Wallis, the carrier, of the White Hart yard, Digbeth, who also held the ancient Moat House of the lords of Birmingham, and is said to have lived there. Wallis had two married sisters in the Square, viz., Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Phillips, who occupied the corner house, No. 8, and Susannah, the wife of James Cresshull, of the Assembly Room, No. 11, where she and a niece taught dancing.

In 1792 William Wallis held the office of Constable, succeeding his namesake, John Wallis, who had been Constable for three years preceding.* He was a prominent American merchant, and lived at Church Hill, Handsworth. He possessed many fine horses, and had their names painted over their stalls. He was famous for his dress, wearing, like an old English squire, a blue or green coat, and powdered hair, being familiarly called Beau Wallis, and equally well known from his well-groomed horses, upon which he rode into town. He was one of the leading men of Handsworth, and had a large pew in the Parish Church. About 1825 he took Hamstead Hall, but in the mercantile crisis of that time his business collapsed, and his failure caused considerable sensation. He died shortly afterwards, and was buried at St. Philip's, his family removing to Summerfield Park.

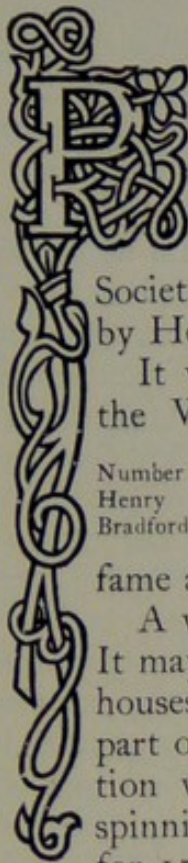
Although in 1828 the house was scheduled as the property of the administratrix of William Wallis, it remained void for several years, and is said to have gained the character of being haunted. It was during the occupancy of Mr. Wallis, or in the early days of his successor, that the house underwent alteration, the front being cemented and painted, its windows altered, and its doorway modernized by the erection of a small portico, with pillars. This gave it a very conspicuous appearance, especially when contrasted with the brickwork of Lichfield Street, which was becoming somewhat dingy.

* This was the Constable who, accompanied by his eldest son, and Bruce, the thief taker, effected the capture of the sham Duke of Ormond, at Vauxhall. In this dramatic incident Wallis junr. was shot through the mouth by Hubard, alias Griffin, the sham duke, and the elder Wallis was only saved by the pistol missing fire.

It was not until 1831 or '32 that William Robertson, the surgeon dentist who had for some time been living at No. 12, entered into possession. He remained about thirty years, when an unsuccessful attempt was made to establish another hotel in the Square, under the name of *The Midland*. It had, however, but a brief existence, and in 1872 the house had resumed its former use, and Messrs. Bartlett and Clayton, surgeons, removed here from Colmore Row.

Dr. Malins then had a brief residence here, but soon changed to No. 13, vacated by Dr. Savage.

In its last days, when marked for speedy extinction, the old house was converted to a temperance hotel, and finally became the offices of the Central Tramways Company. It disappeared only when the ground was cleared for the erection of a huge timber building for public exhibitions, a proposal to build the Assize Courts upon the land being changed in favour of the the new Post Office occupying the site, but this intention was eventually abandoned. A subsequent scheme for a permanent exhibition hall and first-class hotel also proved abortive, and the present block of business premises of Messrs. Lunt, with a range of front shops, of which that of Mr. Achilles Taylor forms part, worthily occupies one of the finest sites of the city.



PROBABLY no house in the Square had more interesting associations than the quiet and secluded one in the corner, No. 10, with its quaint venetian-like window-covering and general air of retirement. Its first recorded occupier was Henry Bradford, the timberman, who was a prominent member of the Friends' Society. Many of the early certificates of the Quakers were signed by Henry, John, Samuel, and Elizabeth Bradford.

It was to this Henry Bradford that Fentham, the tanner, devised the Warner Fields Estate, adjoining the Ravenhurst Estate, now identified by Warner Street, and he it was who subsequently created Bradford Street. He died at an advanced age in 1774, having enjoyed a considerable share of public fame and respect.

A warehouse, called Mason's warehouse, was held with this house. It may have stood at the rear of No. 9, or one of the other adjacent houses, and they were held together by Henry Bradford until 1736 or part of 1737, when he was succeeded by Lewis Paul, who, in connection with John Wyatt, was engaged in perfecting the first cotton spinning machine. The name of Paul first appears on the rate book for 1738. As every reader of Birmingham history knows, the invention of spinning by rollers, in which the spindle was changed from the horizontal to the vertical form (whereby the hand wheel was dispensed

with), is claimed for John Wyatt, of Birmingham and Weeford.

The principle was the one subsequently brought to perfection by Arkwright, and was of the first importance. The story is of the greatest interest, but too long to be dealt with here with proper detail.

Although born at Weeford, near Sutton, Wyatt was by reputation a Birmingham man, and he was probably descended from a family of the name who flourished as tanners on the banks of the old Rhea, Digbeth, from the reign of Edward IV. to that of Henry VIII. The mother of John Rogers the martyr, was one of the older family of Wyatt, and a Thomas, a Job, and a Samuel, Wyatt were living in Birmingham from the year 1700. At the age of thirty Wyatt invented a machine for cutting files, which necessitated his being constantly in Birmingham. The invention was taken up by Richard Heeley, a gunsmith, but Heeley became involved

in 1732, and his interest in the invention was transferred to Lewis Paul, who was the son of Dr. Paul, a druggist, of St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and a French refugee.

At this period Samuel Johnson (not as yet "Dr. Johnson") was living in Birmingham. On his mother's side he was related to Wyatt, and it should be noted that all the principal persons afterwards connected with the cotton spinning patent—Thomas Warren, Dr. James, and Edward Cave—were Johnson's associates. Dr. Swynfen, who belonged to the same parish as Wyatt, died in the Square whilst the invention was being perfected, and his daughter, who became the wife of Desmoulines, the French refugee and writing master, was, a few years later, employed by Lewis Paul in the working of his crape machine in London.

In 1733 Paul transferred back to Wyatt his interest in the file cutting invention, at a time when Wyatt was deep upon a new "Gymcrack." For ages the weavers had been thwarted and troubled in procuring for their looms a supply of thread from the spinners, a difficulty which Wyatt's invention promised to surmount. His plan was said to be to employ a pair of rollers for delivering, at any required speed, a sliver of cotton to the bobbin and fly-spindle, as in a flax wheel, and he produced the first thread ever spun by machinery, in 1733, by a model of about two feet square, in a small building near Sutton Coldfield.

It is not necessary here to examine at any length the respective shares of Paul and Wyatt in this invention. Both were ingenious men, and Wyatt acknowledged that some very important principles of the invention were Paul's but in a letter to Sir Lister Holte he speaks of himself as the principal agent in compiling the spinning engine, and Mr. Baines, in his history of the cotton manufacture, strongly advocated Wyatt's claim, not alone upon the evidence of the Wyatt family, but also on that of Matthew Boulton.

About 1733 Wyatt wrote to his brother that he intended residing in or near Birmingham, as he had a *Gymcrack* there of some consequence, yet it was not until April, 1735, that he entered into an agreement with Paul whereby the latter virtually assumed control.

Wyatt was absolutely without money, and for a long time all expenses were borne by Paul, who removed to Birmingham, and, apparently in 1737, took an under-lease of the house in the Square, with a warehouse and great

garden in the rear, and Wyatt, who was alternately in Birmingham and Spitalfields, was receiving a small weekly wage, a larger fixed sum accumulating as capital in the concern.

In 1738 the invention was so far perfected that the patent was procured—of course in Paul's name—he being described as “of Birmingham, Gentleman,” and Wyatt witnessed the specification. From this time until 1745 he retained the house and furniture, and employed a gardener to see to the garden, but only lived occasionally in Birmingham.* Wyatt, too, was much in London, and all business matters connected with the invention, as also with the house, were transacted by Thomas Warren, who was not only finding him all the money he could spare, but borrowing on security for the purpose.

As early as July, 1738, Warren was trying to let or to sell the lease of the house to a Mr. Rogers, a linen draper from Warwick, who was settling in the town, and on the 10th of that month wrote to Paul, “I think ye have altered your resolution of living in Birmingham in a very little time.”

Three months later, Dr. Robert James, the friend and schoolfellow of Dr. Johnson, and who became famous and wealthy from his valuable medicine, “James' Fever Powders,” was arranging to take over the house and furniture, and, with the help of Mrs. Farmer, the lady residing at No. 12, was having every article appraised, Warren reporting to Paul every particular, including the remarks of Madam Beal, who lived at No. 11, and the offer of the gardener “to lay the girl a wager yt ye Dr. comes to lives in the house at Christmas.”

In 1739, March, 12s. 2d. was allowed by the gardener “for things sold out of the garden,” and the rate book now bore the entry: “Mr. Warren for Paul, 1s. 2d.”

The burden of all Warren's letters at this time was concerning his troubles about money, and arrangements with creditors, his own and Paul's. In March, 1741, he wrote of his impending ruin, and that he must shut up his shop, and in the following year his fears were realized, and he became bankrupt†; yet his interest in the spinning venture showed

* The letters from Edward Cave to Paul show that he was living here during a great part of 1740-41-42, and on the 14th August, 1742, Wyatt wrote a letter from London to “Mr. Paul in the Square.”

† After this bankruptcy Warren removed to the lower corner of Moor Street, where he published several books.

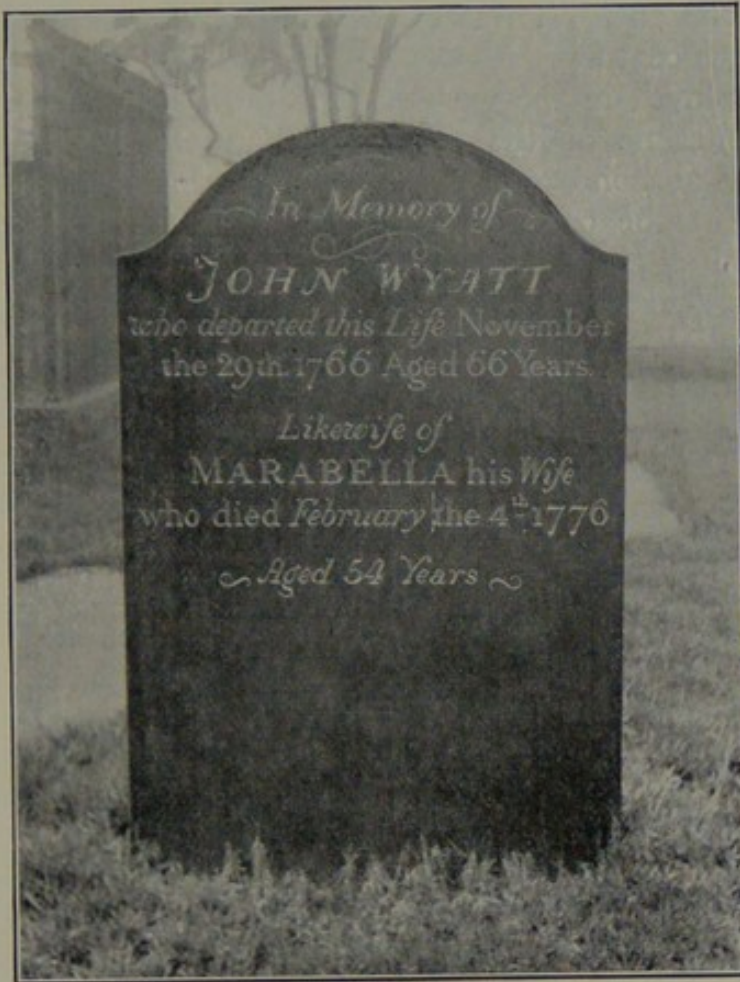
no diminution, whilst during the years 1743 and 1744 his negotiations for disposing of the house were renewed. The lease under which it was held was from a Mr. Baddeley, senr., whose son was treating for the place, and in March, 1745, obtained direct from Paul his sanction to take possession, whereupon Warren was obliged hurriedly to remove all Paul's effects yet remaining there into a shop, let to Wheeley, the coach maker, at the bottom of the yard. The lease was then cancelled, but this did not end the business, and for another year poor Warren was worried about Paul's effects, and also the rent still due to Baddeley.* In these letters Wyatt refers to Greaves, the clockmaker, Meredith, of the new Tavern, corner of Temple Row, Mrs. Duncombe, and Mr. Rann, also Wheeley, Mrs. Farmer, and Madame Beal. Writing December 11th, 1745, he says: "Wollaston, the Constable, was with me to-day to tell me they wanted the warehouse a few days to put the soldiers' baggage in; that he had been to Mr. Pemberton, who told him he should not hinder him, but yt they had not any possession; he said my lord would pay for it, he said he would then billet it, which he had power to do. You must let me know if I must take anything for it, and what, provided my lord offers it."†

Long and arduous were the efforts to perfect the spinning invention, and many prominent men were drawn into the venture, even Dr. James, who, it is said, had practised in Birmingham, and Samuel Garbett, a well-known chemist, who was assessed for his *aqua fortis* shops in Steelhouse Lane, were to some extent involved. Warren, although ruined by his connection, retained an interest, for which, eventually, he accepted a licence to work 50 spindles. Edward Cave, the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, similarly had licence to work 250 spindles, and James Johnson, of Spital-fields, 150, whilst Wyatt, who in the early days of the patent had undergone great privation, and had even been driven to pawn his clothes,

* It is clear that the landlord, Baddeley senr., was not Richard Baddeley of No. 8, who died before May, 1744, whilst Warren's letters refer to the Baddeleys, father and son, a year later. John Baddeley, of No. 7, may, therefore, be the Baddeley senr. Warren calls him "a shekening impertinent coxcomb."

† On Saturday, the 7th December, 1745, the Duke of Cumberland, on the advance of the Scotch army of the young Pretender, had fallen back upon Meriden Heath, where he encamped, and on Sunday, the 8th, he set out with his cavalry in pursuit of the chevalier. On the 9th he was at Lichfield, and his advanced forces passed on the 10th through Leek. A portion of the rear forces therefore passed through Birmingham on Wednesday, the 11th, and horses were said to have been liberally provided by the town to mount the soldiers. The two Constables at the time were Josh. Wollaston and John Turner. The Mr. Pemberton mentioned, who presumably was the son of the late John Pemberton, of No. 1, may, perhaps, have been acting for the owner of the houses, Nos. 10 and 11, possibly Bradford.

accepted a licence to work 300 spindles, in satisfaction of his claim of £820. Of this number, he started 50 spindles about 1741, in a warehouse near the well in the Upper Priory, where he employed asses to turn the



Wyatt's Grave, St. Philip's Churchyard.

even while a prisoner in the Fleet, Wyatt was perfecting plans for a new

machines,* but he was over-weighted by debt, was speedily a prisoner in the Fleet, and became bankrupt, his spindles being sold for his creditors and removed to Northampton. There, as also in a mill in Fazeley Street, persistent but vain endeavours were made to bring the promising invention to success. In 1758, Paul took out a further patent comprising various improvements, but his death, in the following year, put an end to his struggles. Ten years later the principle embodied in Wyatt and Paul's patents was successfully brought into use by Richard Arkwright at Cromford, and so Birmingham lost its great opportunity of becoming the cottonopolis of England.

Whilst yet engaged upon the spinning machine, and

* Two hanks of cotton spun in the Upper Priory are still preserved, and are now in the Corporation Art Gallery and Museum, and with them a memorandum of verification written by John Wyatt June 3rd, 1756, as follows: "The inclosed Yarn, spun (without hands) about 1741. The movement was at that time turn'd by two Ases walking round an axis in a large warehouse near the Well in the Upper Priory. It owed the condition it was then in to the superintendence of John Wyatt."

machine for weighing heavy loads.* In this, although the invention was not patented, he was very successful, and among many weighing machines produced by him, one was erected near to the works of Matthew Boulton, on Snow Hill. This superseded an old machine which stood at the top of Snow Hill, at the corner of Bull Lane. It was called the Bridge machine, and did duty until the end of the century.

Subsequently Wyatt was employed in the workshop of the Boulton's on Snow Hill, doubtless in the lifetime of the elder Matthew Boulton, or before 1759, and subsequently at Soho after 1762, and at this time he is credited with the invention of the oval or double-headed lathe.† He survived Paul seven years, and dying in 1766, was buried opposite the present Rectory in St. Philip's churchyard. Matthew Boulton, and John Baskerville the famous typefounder and printer, both attended his funeral, the latter characteristically wearing a gold-laced coat "as a protest against superstitious custom."

It was not until 1747 that the name of Paul was changed for that of "Baddeley, jun.," and the following year the house, together with No. 11, was advertised for sale. As previously mentioned it would seem probable that John, jun., was son of John of No. 7, and, perhaps, nephew of Richard of No. 8.‡ He remained here until 1756, and on the 2nd May 1757, the following advertisement appeared in the *Gazette*:—

To be let and entered upon immediately, a good house, late in the possession of Mr. Baddeley, in the Square, Birmingham, five rooms first floor, wainscotted, two back Chambers, and large Dining room to the front, with six Garrets, and all the back windows sashed. Apply Samuel Wheeley, Coachmaker, in the Square.

In 1758 Samuel Wheeley had himself entered into occupation, and he also held a croft and shops, being the premises which he had previously

* Wyatt appears to have realized as early as 1736 that in parting with his spinning machine rights he had made it advisable to seek another road to fortune, for in that year he was a competitor for the erection of a new Westminster Bridge, to be constructed of timber upon stone supports. The proposal, however, was changed, and a stone bridge was built.

† John Wyatt occupied a house on Snow Hill, the seventh down on the right hand side, and in the Directory of 1770 is the following entry, which refers to his widow: "Marrabelle Wyatt, Ivory and Button Mould Turner, 7, Snow Hill."

‡ Shaw, in his *History of Staffordshire*, gives a long and eulogistic notice of a John Baddeley, an ingenious optician and clockmaker, who purchased a moiety of the Manor of Smethwick. He was born at Tong in 1727, brought up as a blacksmith, and became an eminent optician and clockmaker. He had some connection with Birmingham, and worked for Dr. Withering. In the local directory of 1777 are the names William Baddeley, Clockmaker, 17, Lower Priory, and John Baddeley, Button Maker, 13, Exeter Row.

occupied in his trade, and which were in after years occupied by his son Francis.

In the year 1672 the house of a William Weeley in Birmingham was licenced for preaching, and in the early days of the Square one of the Wheeley family was living in Edgbaston Street. Later in the century another was a grinder, and held a grinding mill at Edgbaston; and Wheelleys Lane derived its name from John Wheeley's farm there, which in 1810 was attacked and damaged by a body of rioters in the "potato riots" of that year.

Samuel
Wheeley.

The Wheelleys were of good local standing, and must have been people of superior culture. Ample evidence exists that they were on terms of intimacy with some of the best men of the town, and especially so with the famous Dr. Withering. This house was the doctor's first home in Birmingham, for when, in May, 1775, through the urgency of Erasmus Darwin and the influence of Matthew Boulton, he was induced to give up his position at Stafford to settle in Birmingham, he left his young wife at Tettenhall, and came alone to prepare a house. His delicate and loving letters to his "dear Nelly" were dated from "my lodgings at Mr. Wheeley's, coachmaker, in the Square." These letters, as also others addressed to him at "Mr. Wheeley's, in the Square," from Erasmus Darwin, are still preserved. Twenty years later, in the evening of his life, when he had built up a fortune and made a great name, cordial messages were sent by him from Lisbon to the Wheelleys, who continued to live here long after he was laid at rest.

Although occupying the coachmaker's premises in Lichfield Street for a considerable period before 1759, the stay of the Wheelleys in the Square was prolonged for more than half a century, and was not terminated until after 1812, the coachmaking business being for several years longer continued in Lichfield Street and in Ashted Row.

After this long occupation the old house of Henry Bradford and Lewis Paul passed to John Meredith, attorney. From a period before 1767 John Meredith, or his father, had practised as an attorney in Edmund Street, Temple Street, and other places. Not only was he the first solicitor to the Canal Navigation, but also, in conjunction with his partner, William Smith, was clerk to the Town Commissioners and law agent to the Gooch Estates. These latter appointments were retained by

John Meredith.

Mr. Smith when the partnership was dissolved, and joining John Arnold in New Street, their firm was appointed stewards of the lord of the Manor. These honourable offices were held by them and their successors, Smith, Arnold, and Haines, and Arnold, Haines, and Arnold, until the powers of the Street Commissioners and the more ancient rights of the lords, consisting chiefly of the market tolls, were merged in the Corporation of the

Borough, but the firm has survived and still flourishes.

John Meredith continued in No. 10 until some time after 1830, and after a brief holding by Hebbert

and Wheeler, the house was taken about 1835 as the residence of Dr. James Johnstone, who had recently married Miss Webster, of Penns. This gentleman belonged to a family of ancient Scottish lineage, and distinguished as physicians. He was the son of Dr. Edward Johnstone, of Edgbaston Hall, and grandson of James Johnstone, a Worcestershire physician of considerable celebrity, whose three sons, James, of Worcester, and Edward and John, of Birmingham, were all physicians. The last-named lived at Monument House, and is best known as the friend of the learned Dr. Parr.



Major-General Sir J. Johnstone, K.C.S.I.

Edward Johnstone, of Lincoln's Inn, the eldest son of Dr. Edward, was a claimant to the Earldom of Annandale. Major-General Sir James

Johnstone, K.C.S.I., was the eldest son of Dr. James, and was born in this house, on the 9th February, 1841, being educated at the Birmingham Grammar School. His distinguished career in India with the 73rd, or Queen's Regiment, the honours bestowed on him for his brilliant services, his experiences in Manipur during the risings in 1879 and 1885-86, which formed the subject of a book written by him, and the sad ending of his life at Fulford Hall, in June, 1895, are all fresh in our memories. In May, 1872, Colonel James Johnstone married Emma Mary, daughter of Sampson Samuel Lloyd. She accompanied him to India, and died 11th December, 1883. For his services in 1879 he was created C.S.I. He returned home wounded, in April, 1886, was knighted the following year, and attained the rank of Major-General in 1894. With his death, and that of his brother Richard, vicar of Yoxall, in 1894, the name of Johnstone is severed from the town of his birth, and of the family associations of three generations.

Dr. James Johnstone, in 1833, succeeded his uncle, Dr. John Johnstone, as Physician to the General Hospital, and was for many years a Governor of the Birmingham Grammar School and a Trustee of Lench's Charity, besides holding other public offices, and when, about thirty years ago, he removed to Leamington, the old house was taken by Mr. Arthur Oakes, surgeon, who, with his partner, Mr. Macpherson, occupied it for a long period, and until it passed out of existence in 1890.

Like the house of Dr. Blunt, No. 10 retained much of its early appearance unaltered, and, in the garden behind, trees, the growth of long years, flourished with a suburban luxuriance.

IN the year 1723 one "Magdenla Beal" (as the name is entered on the rolls) took the oaths of allegiance in Birmingham, and there appears little doubt of the identity of this lady with the Mrs. Beal rated for No. 11 in 1728, and with the "Mdm. Beal" mentioned in the letters of Thomas Warren in 1738. In the middle of last century the house was notable on account of the large room attached thereto, which at that time was the largest assembly room of the town. In earlier years this was called a school room, and it may be that Madame Beal was a French refugee, and supported herself by teaching, and may not improbably have been known to Desmoulins and Paul. In 1740 Mrs. Beal was succeeded by Mr. William Sawyer.

Number Eleven.
Madame Beal.

Writing in 1781 William Hutton says: "In 1750 we had two Assembly Rooms, one at No. 11, in the Square, the other at 85, in Bull Street."

This date refers to the period Hutton came to Birmingham. The room may therefore have been erected by Sawyer when he entered, but more probably was acquired by him from Mrs. Beal. The assembly room in Bull Street, referred to by Hutton, was at the Hart's Head, below the present intersection of that thoroughfare by Corporation Street, and had satisfied the requirements of Birmingham from the year 1646, when that house was rebuilt after being burnt down by Prince Rupert's troops.*

William
Sawyer.

In 1748 the two houses, Nos. 10 and 11 in the Square, were for sale, and the room is called a school room in the following advertisement:

"To be Sold two handsome Messuages with a School Room, Warehouse, and other Back-buildings, in good repair, with good Gardens, and a large Piece of Land lying behind the said Messuages situated in the Squar in Birmingham in the Holding of Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Baddeley. Enquire of Mr. Fisher, Attorney in Birmingham, or of Mr. Calcutt, Attorney in Daventry."

The columns of the *Gazette* subsequently contain many allusions to the room:

"On November 17, 1756, a Concert will be held at Mr. Sawyer's Great Room in the Square, Birmingham, for the benefit of Mr. Hobbs. After which will be a Ball. Tickets to be obtained at the Castle, the Swan, the Dolphin, and the Hen and Chickens."

"The Subscription Assembly at Mr. Sawyer's Great Room in the Square, Birmingham, begins on Thursday next, the 11th of November (1756)."

* There seems to have been another Assembly Room in Birmingham; an advertisement in *Aris's Gazette* in 1751 refers to "Mrs. Fullwood's Assembly House" in Colmore Row.

"On Thursday, April 23, 1757, for the benefit of Mr. Eversmann, of Colmore Row, at Mr. Sawyer's Great Room in the Square, a Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Musick. After which there will be a Ball. Tickets 2s. 6d. each."

"On Wednesday, 20th July, 1757, being the day of the Bean Feast for the benefit of Mr. Hobbs, at Mr. Sawyer's Great Room in the Square, a Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, after which will be a Ball. Tickets 2s. 6d. each. To begin at 7 a'clock."

"On Thursday, September 1st, 1757, for the benefit of William Wilcox, the poor bellows blower of the new church organ, a Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, at Mr. Sawyer's Great Room in the Square."

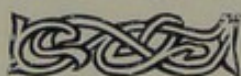
Although another subscription concert room existed at Mr. Cooke's, in the Cherry Orchard, it is evident that Sawyer's Room was the best the town afforded by the fact that the ball in honour of the visit of the Royal Duke (of York) was held here, on Monday, the 21st October, 1765. On this occasion, according to Hutton, the Duke remarked "that a town of such magnitude as Birmingham, and adorned with so much beauty, deserved a superior accommodation. That the room itself was mean, but the entrance still meaner." Written sixteen years after the event, from hearsay, this may only express Hutton's pleasant way of accounting for the erection, seven years later, of a larger room at "The Hotel."

When the first musical festival was held, in September, 1768, this assembly room was again brought into requisition. It was announced that "on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings, after the Oratorios, will be a Ball, at Mrs. Sawyer's, in the Square." It was further announced that "the streets will be lighted from the Play-house to the Ball Room." By the time the first of the triennial festivals was held, in 1778, the Royal Hotel had taken the place of Mrs. Sawyer's Rooms, and the festival ball was held there.

Whilst Mr. Sawyer was a teacher of dancing, his mother and sister conducted a school, and William Hutton's daughter, Catherine, whose letters and reminiscences were published by her cousin, Mrs. Beale, in 1891, went to this school from the age of seven. She has recorded that Mrs. Sawyer was a kindhearted old woman, that Miss Sawyer was, (1763) "about thirty years of age, very handsome, very lady-like, and very good-humoured." The school—the first in Birmingham—had been then conducted for more than twenty years. In spite of its new rival, the room was continued by the Sawyers until 1779, and in 1780 it was taken over by James Cresshull, and was conducted by him, and by his son, and grandson, for seventy-five years, after which it enjoyed a further spell of popularity under Mr. Robbins. James Cresshull.

Meanwhile the premises fronting the Square had, in the thirties, passed into the possession of William Malone, tailor and draper, from Whittall Street, who remained here for the long period of forty years.

In 1872 it was occupied as the offices of the then recently established British Workmen Assurance Company, now of Broad Street Corner, and in more recent years by the late Mr. Adams Parker, Mr. G. A. Craig, and a host of professional men too numerous to particularise.





JOSEPH FARMER, the first known occupant of No. 12, was connected with the Square from its formation. In 1702 the shop at the corner of Bull Street and the Minories* was in the occupation of Joseph Farmer, and as early as 1701 his name is alluded to in the records of the Society of Friends. In after years he was the treasurer, and among the most opulent of that body. In the year 1711 he married Sarah Abrahams, of Bromsgrove or Grafton, and among the names of the affirming Friends upon the allegiance rolls of 1723 are those of Joseph and Sarah Farmer.

Number Twelve.
Joseph Farmer.

Whilst Farmer was one of several ironworkers of the town who became gunsmiths, he was also one of the few who did so upon a liberal scale and became prosperous. It is most probable that his gun-making business was carried on in the lower town, and perhaps the barrel-welding part at the mill near Digbeth, afterwards held by Messrs. Lloyd as their slitting mill. From the time of his marriage, however, he probably lived in the Square until 1735, by which time he had removed, as it would appear, to the house in Whitehall's Lane, otherwise Steelhouse Lane, afterwards known as Farmer and Galton's house, and subsequently Galton's Bank. Over the doorway of this house is the monogram of the double initials, *J.F.*, reversed and entwined.

In 1741 Joseph Farmer died, leaving a son, James, and a daughter, Mary. The former, who continued the business, was, in 1746, one of the Overseers of the Poor. In the same year his sister Mary was married to Samuel Galton, and they went to live in No. 13, the house at the opposite corner of the Priory. Shortly afterwards, probably in 1748, James Farmer removed to London, and Galton, who would take entire management of the Birmingham business in that year, left the Square to live in Farmer's house.

In London, Farmer met with serious reverses, caused by the calamitous earthquake in Lisbon in 1755. He suffered heavy losses, and became seriously involved, but retrieved his position, and again became prosperous. In 1765 he returned to Birmingham, and resided in the mansion then fronting the lane leading to Halesowen, now Broad Street, and known as

* It was in respect of Farmer's shop that the covenant was inserted in the early conveyances of land upon the Close specially exempting it from the penalty imposed for carrying on certain trades, "it having been a Smith's shop and might be again."

Bingley House,* where he died in 1773, his widow, the "great-aunt Farmer" of Mrs. Schimmelpenninck, surviving him until 1796. In 1774 their only child, Mary, married Charles Lloyd, of the firm of Sampson, Nehemiah, and Charles Lloyd, the ironmasters, of Edgbaston Street. The whole of the children of this marriage, eleven in number, were born in Edgbaston Street, but upon the death of the widow Farmer, in 1796, the family removed to Bingley House. Charles Lloyd died there in 1828, and his wife in 1821.

Of their children, Charles, the eldest, the "poet Lloyd," distinguished as the friend of Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey, and Lamb, and the producer of a volume of poems jointly with the last-named†, married, in 1799, at Edgbaston, Sophia, daughter of Samuel Pemberton, and had several children. His brother James, the second son of Charles, after his father's death, lived at Bingley House, and had many children, the only survivor of whom was the late Thomas Lloyd, of the Priory, Warwick, whose only daughter married her cousin, Sampson Samuel Lloyd, junr., now of the Priory. Of the daughters of Charles and Mary Lloyd, Priscilla married Dr. Christopher Wordsworth, brother of the poet Wordsworth, and was the mother of Charles, Bishop of St. Andrew's, and Christopher, Bishop of Lincoln. Olivia, the second daughter, married Paul Moon James, the partner in Galton's Bank, and Agatha, the 7th daughter, married James Pearson, of Birmingham.‡

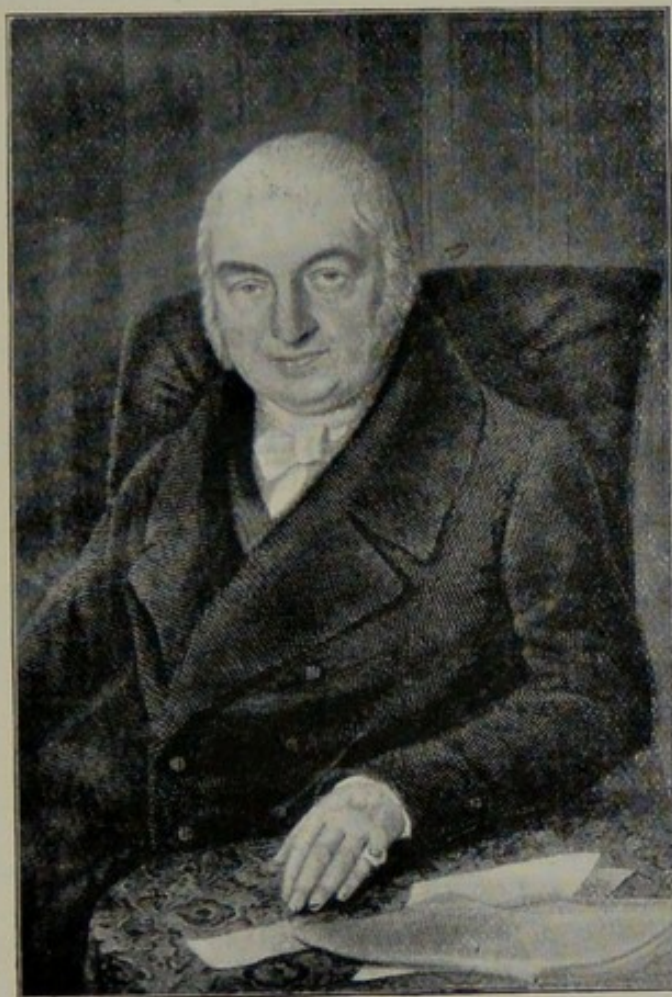
For eight years after 1735, the widow Freeth was living in the house No. 12, when she removed into No. 15, and her name was replaced by that of Henry Hunt. Meanwhile the name of Farmer remained connected with the Square in respect only of a piece of land in the Priory.

* Bingley House was held under the Birmingham Grammar School, and occupied the present site of Bingley Hall. An important and ancient mansion had long previously stood upon the site, and was held in the 16th century by John Shilton, in the middle of the 17th century by Captain Robert Turton, and in 1696 by George Fentham. The name of Farmer has been preserved in Farmer Street, near the Crescent, and in a bridge over the canal, called Farmer's Bridge.

† Charles Lloyd also published several other volumes of poetry, among others, *Desultory Thoughts in London*, of which Talfourd, the author of *Ion* and the biographer of Lamb, spoke in very high terms. "In this power of discriminating and distinguishing," says Talfourd, "Lloyd has scarcely been equalled, and his poems, though rugged in point of versification, will be found replete with critical and moral suggestions of the highest value." Recently a mass of correspondence between Lloyd and distinguished associates has been discovered.

‡ At the expiration of the lease Bingley House was taken down, but in 1849 an exhibition of manufactures was held there, and was visited by Prince Albert. The great exhibition of 1851 was the conception of the Prince after this visit.

Henry Hunt had been assessed for some years previously for a warehouse near the Square, the precise location of which is not clear.* In the Hunt family pedigree this Henry is called a nail merchant, and is supposed to have come from West Bromwich. Another Henry



Dr. Edward Johnstone.

Henry Hunt, prominent in Birmingham about 1720, was a maltster, and in an old family of Hunts, of Digbeth, there were several generations of Henrys, and a younger son of this stock settled, about 1650, in West Bromwich. Another important family of Hunt, of the Ruck of Stones, Smethwick, has been supposed to have been allied. Henry Hunt married, about 1752, Lydia Gee, whose mother belonged to the somewhat important family of Yate, of Whitchurch. William Hunt, of No. 8, and Harry Hunt, of No. 4, were their only children.

After the death of Henry Hunt, about 1760, his widow lived in the house until her death in 1794, when it was held by James Welch, surgeon, until 1807. At this time the house was owned, and in part occupied, by a William Fisher, and the other part by one Williams, an attorney, yet in 1808 Dr. Edward Johnstone, of Edgbaston Hall, became occupier of the whole or part of the house, and remained so until after 1823.

* It was probably a former malthouse near the corner of Steelhouse Lane and the Priory. The malting industry, formerly an important one in Birmingham, was rapidly declining, and malthouses were adapted to other trades. This particular one was, a century ago, given by its owner, Ann Scott, to Lench's trust, and after the erection of the Children's Hospital thereon, the site of the old malthouse was sold to the Corporation.

Born in 1757, Dr. Johnstone had but just taken his degree, and settled in Birmingham in June, 1779, when he was chosen one of the first four physicians of the New Hospital, with Drs. Ash, Smith, and Withering. At first practising in Temple Row, he married Miss Catherine Weardon, whose mother, the widow of the Rev. Thomas Weardon, of Birmingham, had lived in the Square. On the death of Dr. Withering he took Edgbaston Hall, where he passed the remainder of his long life. After the early death of his first wife he married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Pearson, of Tettenhall. She died in 1823, leaving three sons—Charles, who died in 1832, Edward, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and James, the well-known physician, long resident in No. 10.

In 1801 Dr. Johnstone resigned his Hospital appointment, but survived for fifty years, and after a long and active public life, died 4th September, 1851, his age being twenty-two days short of ninety-four years, and was buried at Edgbaston Church.

After No. 12 had been vacated by Dr. Johnstone, he was followed by William Robertson, surgeon dentist, and upon his subsequent removal to No. 9, about 1832, it became the first permanent home of the Birmingham Water Works Company.

The Water Company, formed under an act of 1825, had, during the period of its development, occupied temporary offices in Cherry Street, but for nearly ten years its rapidly increasing business was carried on in the old house of Joseph Farmer, and it was possibly during this time that the premises became changed in appearance as shown in the north-west view. Shortly after 1840 the Company removed to Paradise Street, on the site now occupied by the Midland Institute, whence, under the Corporation, the offices were removed to Broad Street. Meanwhile Mr. George Elkington, surgeon, previously of Jennens Row, and afterwards of Frederick Road, Edgbaston, occupied No. 12 for a short period, which then became Tainsh's Private Hotel. In the succeeding years this house was occupied in succession by the Misses Allen, and the Royal Assurance Company, and for many years subsequently became the early home of the Homœopathic Hospital, of which Dr. Craig was its resident surgeon. After due growth the Hospital was removed to its present home in Easy Row, and Dr. Craig, as we have seen, went into the

Dr. Edward
Johnstone.

Birmingham
Water Works.

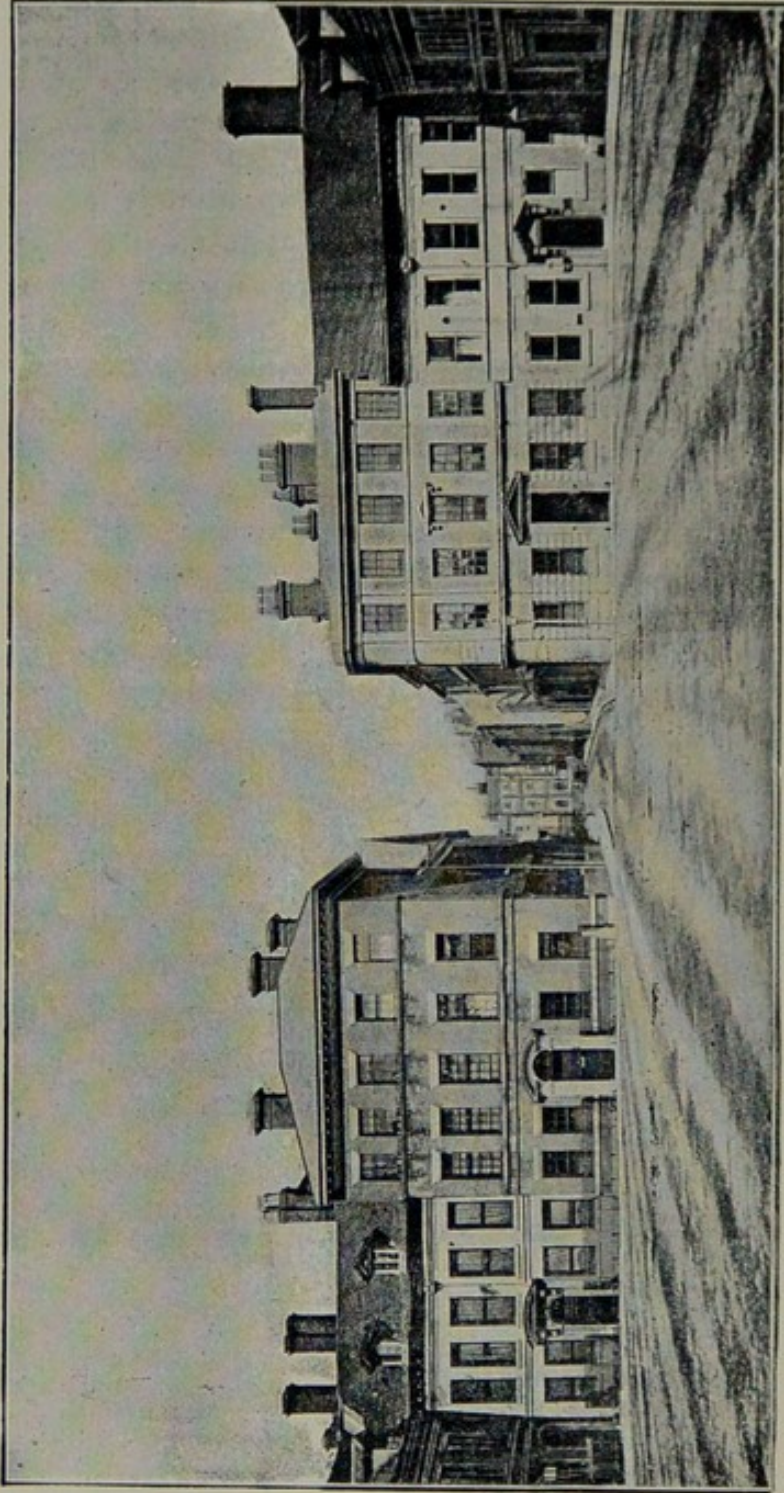
next house, No. 11. In its later days the house had many occupants, among these, W. H. Thompson and Emery Davies.

The Upper Priory, lying between the north and west angles, is chiefly noted for its connection with the warehouse near the Well, which John Wyatt converted into the first cotton mill. The tradition that this was on the west side of the street, and that it abutted upon the burial ground of the Society of Friends, is too strong to admit of doubt, but of scarcely less interest is the fact that near the same spot was located the Birmingham Library, now in Union Street. In June, 1794, the Committee of the Old Library resolved: "That the Library do subscribe One Guinea per year to the Night Watch belonging to the Square." After the Library was removed to its more central position, the Library of the Friends was founded, and this still remains near the same spot. A Miss Talkington kept a school in the Upper Priory in 1818, and a Samuel Talkington lived in the Square, but in which house is uncertain. The changes in the appearance of the Upper Priory were inconsiderable until recent years.





The West Angle.



THE OLD SQUARE.
North-West View, showing Upper Priory.

The West Angle.

LAST in its destruction, the west angle of the Old Square will long remain the most familiar quarter in the memories of Birmingham people, and of this portion the early history is most complete. Previous to the building of the Square, the land extending towards Bull Street and Whitehalls Lane was parcelled out to various purchasers and sub-purchasers, and of these Thomas Kempsey, Stephen Newton, Samuel Harrison, Isaac Spooner, Thomas Lane, Thomas Merrix, Josiah Perkes, Richard Pinley, and John Henn, are the most prominent. Some of these, however, were interested as mortgagees only, and most of the subsales were of very small pieces.

On the 19th November, 1707, Isaac Spooner, the ironmonger, of Edgbaston Street, purchased a large piece of land "situate in or neare a certaine place in Birmingham, formerly called the Priory (but now is or late was called the Square);" this appears to include the site of Nos. 13 and 14, and to extend along the Upper Priory.

That a member of the old family of Spooner, then engaged in building up a fortune in Edgbaston Street, in the heart of the old town, should join the speculation, is but another illustration of the attractiveness of the new suburb. The Spooners in many respects resembled the Pembertons and the Lloyds. Ostensibly factors and ironmongers, they were also money lenders and scriveners, and buyers of property, affording accommodation of a banking nature to their customers, and, in fact, kept a *banking shop* without the name. Although destined to take a high position among the wealthy families of Birmingham, they were as yet but sharing in the prosperity of the iron industry. The Jennings family had amassed a colossal fortune, and left the town; others were following their example on a smaller scale, and what had been done by the Sheldons and Clodshales, by the Phillips and

Colmores, the Lenchs, Kings, and Smallbrokes, in the tanning, weaving, spinning, and grazing, in the earlier days, was still to be done by the conversion of iron. Isaac Spooner, the son of Abraham Spooner, was born in 1665; his wife was Elizabeth Brandwood, but he died without children. He was succeeded by his half-brother, Abraham, who became very wealthy, and whose eldest son, Isaac, married Barbara, the daughter of Sir Henry Gough, of Edgbaston Hall. Many of the houses in the Square were originally occupied by Quakers. The new Meeting House of the Friends, then recently built, in Bull Street, was an inducement for the richer members of that body to settle near it, and the allegiance Rolls of 1723 show that John and Hannah Pemberton, John and Rebecca Fidoe, Francis Bradford, Samuel Fidoe, Thomas Pemberton, Joseph and Sarah Farmer, Charles Lloyd, Margaret Freeth, and Jane Burton, all affirmed in the order here given, and it will be seen that many of them lived in the Square.

No. 13 was occupied by John Fidoe, who assumedly built, or purchased from Spooner, the two houses, Nos. 13 and 14, about 1716. It has been shown (page 22) that after John Pemberton's second marriage, Richard Parkes, a very wealthy Friend, of Wednesbury, came to Birmingham, and lived in the large house at Bennetts Hill. His wife was Sarah, daughter of Henry Fidoe, of Wednesbury, ironmonger, and they had four daughters. In 1727 the two youngest of these were married, viz., Sarah, to Sampson Lloyd, of Edgbaston Street, and Jane, to Thomas Pemberton, son of John. But long before the Quaker belles of Bennett's Hill were courted by Lloyd and Pemberton, their cousin, John Fidoe, an ironmonger, had married Pemberton's sister, Rebecca, the only daughter of John Pemberton, ironmonger. This was in 1716, and they appear to have lived in the Square from their marriage. As a near relative of the wife of Richard Parkes, he may reasonably be assumed to have come with him from Wednesbury, and was connected with him in his trade.

Down to 1737 John Fidoe was assessed for No. 13; in 1738 the entry is "Widow Fidoe, 1s. 6d., and for land, 8d.," and is changed in 1742 to "Fisher for Fidoe."

This was doubtless Thomas Fisher, an attorney,* much employed by the

* By his will of 1755, Thomas Fisher, of Birmingham, Gentleman, left a legacy of £40 to Thomas Johnson, of Coventry (son of Andrew Johnson, formerly of Birmingham, Bookseller), whose mother's name was Fisher, and his father's cousin, Thomas Johnson, was first cousin to Dr. Samuel Johnson, and often assisted by him.—*Local Notes and Queries*, W. B. Bickley, 1886.

Friends, possibly a son of Clement Fisher. Earlier in the century Clement Fisher and Thomas Perks were acting as clerks to the steward of the manor, Edward Hare, of the old house in Park Street. Both were attorneys, and after Hare's death, in 1723, Perks having married Miss Jesson, of Langley, practised in Temple Street, and died insolvent in 1739. A list of his creditors—seventy-two in number—includes many Quakers, among others, Rebecca Fidoe, administratrix of John Fidoe, ironmonger*.

Fisher appears to have acted as agent, and not to have occupied No. 13. Mrs. Fidoe removed to Bristol,† where she died in 1759. She evidently retained No. 13, in the Square, until 1746, in which year Samuel Galton settled in the house.

Samuel Galton, who is said to have come from Somersetshire, was born in 1719. From an early period he was connected with the gun business of Joseph Farmer, whose daughter, Mary, he married at Broms-
grove, on the 10th July, 1746, five years after her father's death. Samuel Galton.

Some difficulty arose as to this marriage, from the fact that Miss Farmer had had a former lover, one Joseph White, of Birmingham, who was reluctant to give her up. The rules of the Friends were stringent in such cases, but White had not behaved well. He had got back his letters and kept those of the lady, and upon investigation by Henry Bradford and another, Joseph White was completely discomfited, and the marriage between Mr. Galton and Miss Farmer took place.

In 1748 Galton doubtless removed to the house of the Farmers, in Steelhouse Lane, where he lived many years, subsequently retiring to the famous house at Duddeston,‡ where he died in 1799, at the age of 80, having amassed a fortune of £200,000.

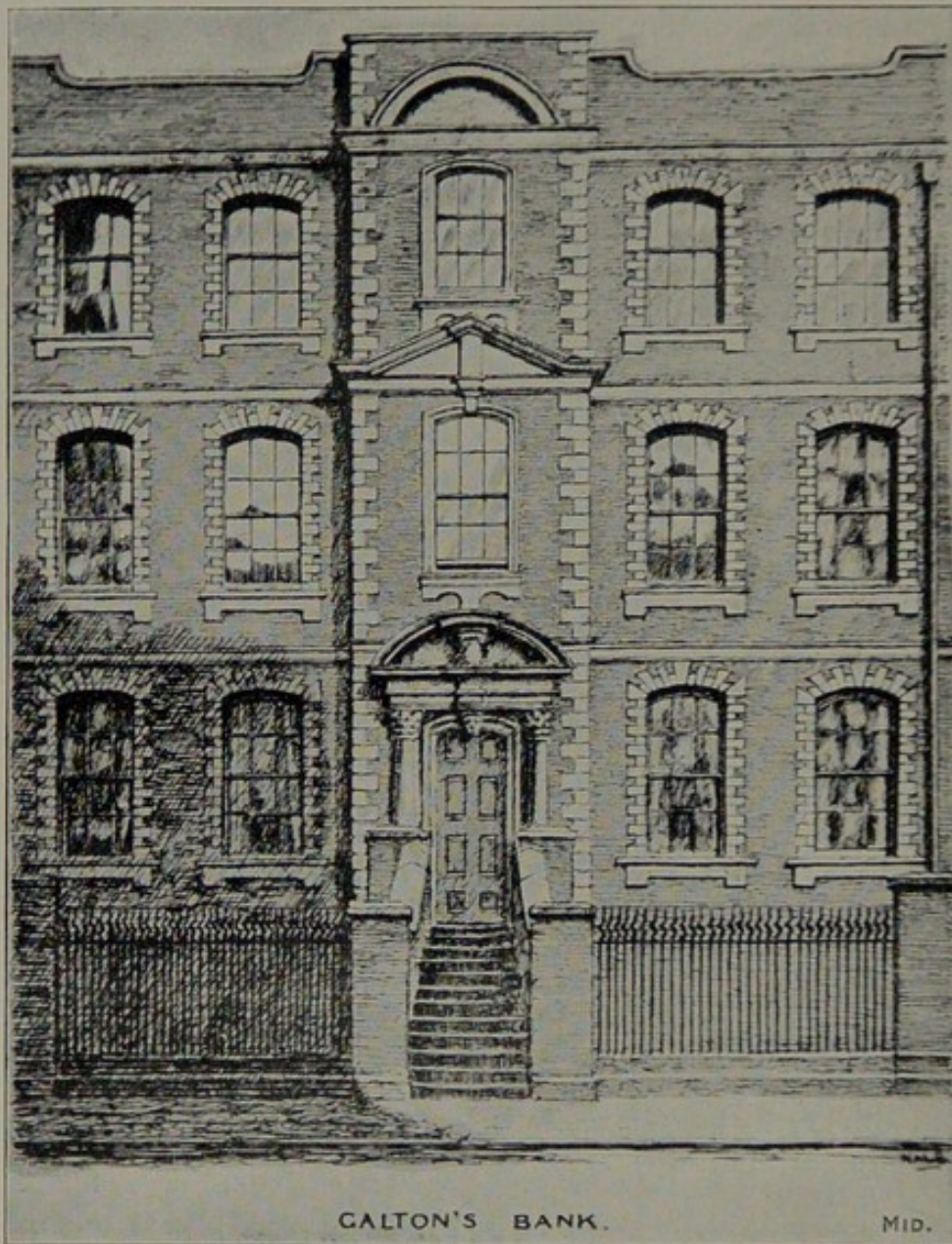
His son, Samuel, of whom many particulars will be found in the auto-

* Among the creditors' names were "Samuel Johnson, Gent, and Elizabeth, his wife, executrix of the last will and testament of Harry Porter, late of Birmingham, woollen draper, deceased. They were creditors for £100, all Porter's affairs having been placed in Perks' hands, and in January, 1744, Samuel Johnson wrote to Mr. Levett, of Lichfield (who was also a creditor), directing him to procure from Miss Porter, in Lichfield, the papers proving the debt, and send a messenger to Mr. Ward, the mercer, in Birmingham, to obtain the dividend, which was 7s. 4d. in the pound.

† The migrations between Bristol and Birmingham were very considerable, particularly among persons engaged in the timber trade. The principal waterway to the sea was by the Severn from Bewdley or Worcester, and later, by Stourport.

‡ Of Duddeston, Rickman says "that much as he has seen of the romantic scenery of Britain, he knows no spot of the same extent comparable in the variety and richness of its plantations, and in the occasional scenes of perfect and luxuriant solitude, as Duddeston."

biography of the latter's daughter, was, perhaps, born in the Square. He



Farmer's House, Steelhouse Lane.

occupied an important position in the town throughout his life. He was

the only survivor of eight children, and was educated chiefly at the Warrington Academy, where the professors were the celebrated Joseph Priestley, and Doctors Enfield and Aitken.. He succeeded to the business of Farmer and Galton, married Lucy Barclay, of the great banking family of London, her grandfather being the Quaker friend of George III., and afterwards founded the bank of Galton and James. He was a votary of science, and became F.R.S. and F.L.S., a member of the famous Lunar Society, and a friend of Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Priestley, and Dr. Erasmus Darwin. About 1781 he removed to Hagley Row, and in 1784 to Great Barr Hall, the seat of Sir Joseph Scott, then abroad, and eventually, after his father's death, to Duddeston.

In 1796 Samuel Galton was disowned by the Society of Friends as a member, after several years agitation upon the objectionable trade in which he was engaged. His attitude throughout this unpleasant episode was very dignified, and he entirely disregarded the disownment, continuing his attendance at the meetings until his death, in 1832, and, moreover, succeeded in getting his contributions accepted. He was certainly not a Quaker of the old school. He wore a powdered wig and pigtail, and was fully conscious of the dignity which wealth and ability conferred.*

The bank of Galton and James had a prosperous career. In 1808 the partners were Samuel and Samuel Tertius Galton, and Paul Moon James, but in later years the name of Hubert Galton was added. Paul Moon James came from Bristol. He married a daughter of Charles Lloyd, of Bingley House, and after the Birmingham Banking Company was established, in 1831, he accepted the position of manager, whereupon the Galtons finally retired from all business connection with Birmingham. Subsequently Mr. James quarrelled with two of his directors, and left Birmingham for Manchester. The interesting house in Steelhouse Lane was, in after years, the home of the Polytechnic Institution, and later, of the Children's Hospital, and is now held by Dr. G. Craig.

* Samuel Galton had seven children—Samuel Tertius, who married Frances Violetta, daughter of Erasmus Darwin, and was the father of Darwin Galton, of Claverdon, and of Francis Galton, the distinguished author; Theodore, who died abroad; Hubert, who married Mary Barclay, and lived at Smethwick, and John Howard, who married Isabella Strutt, and was the father of Captain Sir Douglas Galton, K.C.B. His daughters were Mary Ann (Mrs. Schimmelpenninck), Sophia (Mrs. Brewin), and Adele, the wife of Dr. Kaye Booth, of the Square. Mrs. Schimmelpenninck, who gossips of everyone else she meets, singularly enough avoids referring to her brothers and sisters.

The house in the Square, which had business premises attached thereto, was occupied next in succession to Mr. Galton by a John Walker, but in 1754 he had given place to Joseph Duncombe, merchant, who not only occupied the house until 1767, but was connected with the firm of Ingram and Davies, merchants, whose names followed his. The Duncombe family was of some note locally. When Tory Row (or Temple Row) was made, a Thomas Duncombe, inn-holder, had erected two houses there near the new church, they were used as one, and he was assessed for both; subsequently they were held by Mrs. Duncombe, the Postmistress of Birmingham.*

Among other land with which the name of Duncombe was connected in the rate books was the Duddal pits, a vulgarised name for some excavations upon the site of the present post office, being the edge of the ancient Dudwalls estate.

After the last of the Pembertons had left the Bennetts Hill house, in 1770, Joseph Duncombe appears to have removed there. In 1773 the firm of Duncombe and Co., merchants, were described as of 34, Colmore Row. The *Town Act* of that year obtained powers to widen the road by the side of St. Philip's churchyard, and to take part of the land of Messrs. Duncombe and Co. to make the same thirty feet wide; and further, to widen Mount Pleasant (Ann Street), to take part of the land of Messrs. Duncombe and Co. to make same forty-eight feet wide. The firm was Duncombe, Davies and Co. in 1787, when Ingram held premises adjoining their warehouse and shops.†

After Duncombe's removal to Colmore Row, viz., in 1771, Joseph Rann was assessed for the house in the Square, and in 1774 Sampson Lloyd made it his residence. The Ranns had a long connection with the town. Originally butchers and graziers, and having a holding in the shambles, they amassed a considerable property, and the family

* This lady was often alluded to in the correspondence between Warren and Lewis Paul. After her death the houses passed to Duncombe's nephew, John Ireland, of Birmingham, distiller, and were held as one house in 1753 by John Roe, and in 1767 by Henry Venour, both drapers, the adjoining houses being those of Dr. Roebuck and Mr. Bloomer.

† Several references to a Joseph Duncombe of Sutton, will be found in the Rev. W. K. Riland Bedford's *History of the Rilands, of Sutton Coldfield*, and in 1757, Joseph Duncombe, with one Homer, had a grant from the Corporation for forty-two years to make a dam and pool at Blackroot. This, in 1772, they passed to one Ingram. In Sutton Church is a tablet inscribed "Joseph Duncombe, Esq., died 1793, aged 76, descendant of the family of Duncomb, of Beds." Whether these refer to Joseph Duncombe of the Square, or whether he was related to Thomas Duncombe, of Temple Row, is uncertain.

eventually included doctors, clergymen, and men of business. One of the Ranns had a proclivity for developing local clay pits, and is said to have started a pottery works near Lancaster Street, whence originated the name of Potter Street.

It will be remembered that the owners of the house were the representatives of Sampson Lloyd's relation, Mrs. Fidoe, a lady whose memory was venerated by his family. It will not be possible to do more than briefly refer to the long and close connection of the Lloyd family with our town. The whole of our pages would not suffice to do justice to the subject, the scope of which will be seen by the pedigree in the appendix.

Sampson Lloyd, of the Square, was the eldest son of the second Sampson Lloyd (the only son by his first wife, Sarah, daughter of Richard Parkes, of Bennetts Hill). He was born in 1728, presumably in Edgbaston Street, where his grandfather, the first Sampson, was living, with his wife, Mary Crowley, of Stourbridge, from about 1700 until his death, in 1724, and was succeeded by Sampson Lloyd the second, born (possibly in Edgbaston Street) in 1699. In 1742, Charles, the elder brother of the first Sampson, then aged 80, came from Wales, and also lived in Edgbaston Street. His nephew, the second Sampson, having, in 1732, married a second wife, Rachel Champion, of Bristol, they had taken a house in Park Street, not, as has been stated, the large house erroneously ^{Sampson Lloyd.} called the old Park House, which was held then by lawyer Priest, and afterwards by George Humphreys, but at No. 18, higher up the Street, a house belonging to the Carless family.

In 1742 Sampson Lloyd (the second) purchased the estate at Sparkbrook called Owen Farm. Here, in 1745, he planted the avenue of elms, and a few years later built the family house of the Lloyds, then and still called by the simple name "Farm."

Sampson Lloyd (the third), of the Square, married, on the 11th November, 1762, when thirty-four, Rachel Barnes, of London, her age being sixteen only. The business premises in Edgbaston Street it may be were unsuitable for a residence, and they would appear to have lived in Park Street.* In 1765, Sampson Lloyd (the third), in conjunction with John Taylor,

* Forty years later a deed relating to the house of Carless, in Park Street, says, "formerly in the occupation of Sampson Lloyd, the younger, afterwards of Edward Cairns, but then late of Henry Flavell." Cairns was in possession in 1783.

opened the first regular banking house in the town.* The business began in a substantial house, No. 7, in Dale End, at the corner of a passage called Carey's Court, afterwards Bank Alley. Previously several of the leading men, and some of less credit, had acted as bankers. A few years later, 1770, as the bank began to pay, Sampson Lloyd and Oswald Hanbury, in conjunction with John Taylor and William Bowman, started a bank in Lombard Street, London. In 1814 this had become Hanbury, Taylor, and Lloyds, and in 1864 it joined Barnett, Hoare and Co. About 1845 the Dale End Bank removed to High Street. In 1866 it became a Limited Liability Company, and absorbed Moillet's Bank. The London Bank having, in 1887, absorbed Bosanquet's and Salt's Banks, an amalgamation took place with the Birmingham house, and in 1889 the whole were comprised under the shortened title of "Lloyds Bank, Limited."

It was immediately after the founding of the London bank, ten years after his marriage, when he had seven children, and whilst still engaged with his half brothers in the lucrative business in Edgbaston Street that Sampson Lloyd settled in the Square.† Hitherto the new Bank in Dale End had made little or no profit, but it was just beginning to prosper, and the convenience of living so near is manifest.

In 1776 (Friday, March 22nd), occurred the remarkable visit of the great Dr. Samuel Johnson, which gave this house a local fame. According to Boswell, the pair travelled from Henley very early, breakfasted about nine o'clock at their inn, High Street, and proceeded to the Square. Hector had gone into the country, and the maid servant was unimpressed by the importance of the Doctor's name, which, says Boswell, he roared at her, and he departed in a Johnsonian rage, proceeding to Mr. Sampson Lloyd's house. Mr. Lloyd was, of course, at the Bank, and Mrs. Lloyd invited them to dinner. This restored the Doctor to good temper, and they walked about the town. In the street they were joined by Mr. Lloyd, the result, doubtless, of a message from Mrs. Lloyd to the Bank, and in a little while *Friend Hector* was met, to their mutual joy. Lloyd and Boswell left them together, and visited some of the manufactures. They all met at dinner at

* Mr. Taylor, whose house was in High Street, now Lloyds Bank, and his manufactory behind in Crooked Lane, died in 1775, aged 64, having amassed a fortune of £200,000.

† Sampson Lloyd is the Sampson Lloyd, junr., mentioned in the foot note, page 23. In 1770-71 he was realising the estate of his cousin, Thomas Pemberton, and therefore had but recently let or sold the Bennett Hill house to Joseph Duncombe, whom he succeeded at No. 13.

Lloyd's. After dinner, Boswell had a desire to see the edition of Barclay's Apology, printed by John Baskerville. Johnson laid hold of it, and commenced a controversy, during which, according to tradition, he threw down the volume and placed his foot upon it, but continued the debate with so much anger as to frighten the children, of whom there were then ten, the eldest aged thirteen.

In the afternoon, as stated on page 29, Hector took Boswell to Soho, where they met Matthew Boulton. "I wished," says Boswell, Johnson had been with us." But Johnson was otherwise engaged. A story is preserved that in the afternoon he went down to the bank in Dale end and called out in stentorian tones, "I say, Lloyd, I'm the best theologian, but you are the best Christian."

During their ride to and from Soho, Boswell took the opportunity of extracting from Hector all he could of Johnson's early life, and when they returned to Hector's house, says Boswell, "they found Johnson sitting placidly at tea with his *first love*, who, though now advanced in years, was a very genteel woman, very agreeable and well-bred."

After an arduous day's toil, for a man of sixty-seven, Johnson travelled with Boswell to Lichfield, as has been previously stated, after dark the same night.

From a period shortly after Johnson's visit Mr. Lloyd was rated for, and probable occupied nearly the whole of, the two houses, Nos. 13 and 14, and although in 1779 he succeeded to the Sparkbrook mansion, "Farm," he continued No. 13 as his town house until 1795, in which year the rate book has the significant note, "at the Bank."

Sixteen children of the Lloyds were reared in the house, and a romantic elopement of one of his many daughters (in 1794) may have taken place from the Square. For a year or two longer the premises were retained in the name of Samuel Lloyd (the second son and fifth child, Samuel Lloyd. born 1768, who, upon the death of his eldest brother, Sampson, in 1800, became the head of the family), but it was in part used as the Library of the Friends, and was so assessed.

Sampson Lloyd, the third, and founder of the bank, was always an active and prominent public man. In conjunction with his brother Charles and Mr. Russell he originated the movement in Birmingham for the abolition of the slave trade. He ended a worthy and eventful life 27th December,

1807, being then in his eightieth year,* and was interred in the old burial ground in Bull Lane. Nos. 13 and 14 had, it is said, been devised by the representatives of the Fidoes to a Dr. Burr, for his faithful and valuable services as a physician. This gentleman lived at Ware, Hertfordshire, and in the year 1800 he, in consideration of the regard he had for Mr. Jeremiah Vaux, surgeon, of Moor Street, and of a life annuity, conveyed to him the two houses.

Mr. Jeremiah Vaux, surgeon, who, like Dr. Burr, was a Quaker, originally resided in Colmore Row, although best known as of Moor Street. He was one of the members of the Jacobin Club, held at poet Freeth's coffee house, and his portrait will be found in Eckstein's well-known tontine picture. He was one of the first four surgeons to the General Hospital, also surgeon to the Militia, and a very experienced practitioner. He was a somewhat eccentric character, and, for a Friend, not too abstemious in his habits, and many amusing stories regarding him are preserved. Mr. Vaux contemplated at first removing from Moor Street

to his new acquisition, but this was deferred, and Thomas Vickers, surgeon, who, about 1796, removed here from No. 4 (which had become part of the Stork Tavern), remained until 1812.

Jeremiah Vaux resigned his hospital appointment in 1807, but his practice remained at 92, Moor Street. In 1812 the elder Vaux was living in a house upon Hopper's land, at the Five Ways, and in that year his son, Bowyer Vaux, succeeded Vickers in the Square, but practised as Vaux and Son.

Upon his father's resignation, in 1807, Bowyer Vaux sought the appointment of surgeon to the hospital, and had for an opponent Samuel Dickenson, of Union Street. The fight was the keenest on record—and all the election contests of that time were as bitter and severe as for a seat in Parliament. Bowyer Vaux, backed by the Galton family and all the wealthy Friends, created new governors pretty freely, but Mr. Dickenson's friends secretly adopted the same tactics on a far more extensive scale, to the great benefit of the hospital funds, and turned the election. Six months later, however, another contest resulted in a victory for Mr. Vaux.

* His son, Samuel, died in 1849, aged eighty-one, and was succeeded by his son, George Braithwaite Lloyd, the eldest of many children, who died in 1857, leaving two sons, Sampson Samuel and George Braithwaite, surviving. Sampson Samuel Lloyd, formerly M.P. for Plymouth, lived at Farm until 1870. It is now held by his cousin, Samuel Lloyd, who removed there from The Hollies, Wednesbury.

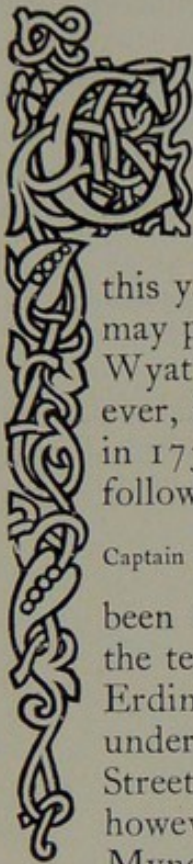
Jeremiah Vaux died in 1829, and a few years later the two houses were sold by his executor, James Pearson the share broker, originally a merchant, afterwards of the firm of Moillet, Smith, and Pearson, and subsequently manager of the Bank of Birmingham, to Pye Henry Chavasse, surgeon, whereupon Mr. Bowyer Vaux removed (before 1835) to New Hall Street.

The fame of Pye Chavasse is of too recent a date to need recalling. His series of popular works, written for wives and mothers, had a world-wide circulation. Before the year 1870 he was joined by the late Charles James Bracy, who subsequently removed to the Hagley Road, where he died at a comparatively early age.

Pye Henry
Chavasse.

Dr. Savage, and still later Dr. Malins, previously of No. 9, subsequently occupied the old house made famous by Dr. Johnson. The former is now of New Edmund Street, and the latter only removed to New Hall Street upon the recent destruction of the last quarter of the Square.





CONCERNING the other house of John Fidoe, No. 14, the name of the first tenant in 1723 is obtained from a conveyance of No. 15, where a right is reserved to "fetch water at the well standing in the yard neare to Mr. Fidoe's house, now in Mr. Ebrall's holding." As

Number
Fourteen.
Mr. Eborall.

this yard was approached also by a passage from the Upper Priory, it may possibly be the well so often referred to in connection with John Wyatt's cotton mill. In the first rate book of 1728 the entry, however, is "Mr. Eborall void." Whether Henry Eborall, an overseer in 1736 and a mercer in 1745, is the same man is not material. The following year the house was taken by a Mrs. Lowe, who remained

for fifteen years, and in 1745 a Captain Crosby had succeeded her, but of neither of these names has anything been learned. In 1747 Michael Giles, apothecary and surgeon, was the tenant. He was the medical attendant of Thomas Holden, of Erdington, who disinherited his sister, Mrs. Weardon, and legatee under his will for £100. About 1767 he removed to 58, Edgbaston Street, and a Mr. Dutton became the occupant, followed immediately, however, by Robert Mynors, surgeon and man midwife. Robert Mynors was not only the author of a work on Trepanning, which he

dedicated to Dr. Withering, and of an essay on Amputation, but was also a successful operator and an authority on improved surgical methods. He belonged to the ancient family of Mynors of

Uttoxeter, and his descendants have long resided at Weatheroak. About 1780 Robert Mynors removed to Snow Hill, whereupon Sampson Lloyd's assessment was extended to include No. 14, yet in 1783 a part at least of

the house was let off to James Millar, an artist and portrait painter of considerable repute, who in 1777 was living in Colmore Row, and afterwards at Hagley Row in the house next door to that of Samuel Galton, junr., whose daughter, Mrs. Schimmelpenninck, says she often watched him whilst painting, and that when he went away he gave her a human skull, which she long prized.

Subsequently Millar removed to Hall Street, and the late Samuel Lines, who was apprenticed in Great Hampton Street, has left us a warm tribute

Robert Mynors.

James Millar.

to his memory.* He is also mentioned in Dr. Withering's letters sent home from Portugal.

When Christ Church was about to be built James Millar was delighted with the proposal, and volunteered to paint a new altar piece value £100. In accepting the offer he is termed, "the able and ingenious artist, a native of this place." Mr. Millar, however, did not live to perform the work.†

About 1783 also Messrs. Moul and Dadley, drapers, had, for a brief period, a shop in the Square. This was probably in No. 14. It was, however, only a branch of their shop in the Bull Ring. After Millar's removal, viz., from 1795 to 1798, Joseph Rutter was tenant, possibly the partner of Richard Cadbury, and from 1798, for a few years, one Harris, whose Christian name we cannot trace. Miss Parry was rated in 1806. The name of Kidder then occurs, and shortly afterwards, Edward Newbold, a dancing master, removed here from Coleshill Street, but speedily removed into No. 16, at the corner, and in 1813 the rate book became "Dr. Booth vice Newbold."

Dr. Kaye Booth was a very young man when, in 1812, he was elected physician to the General Hospital. A learned and accomplished physician, Dr. Booth was not merely skilled in ancient literature, but had a more than ordinary acquaintance with the best modern writers, both British and Continental.‡ He married Adele, the youngest daughter of Samuel Galton, of Duddeston, his attentions to whom were at first resented by the dignified banker. In 1821 Dr. Booth was still the tenant of Jeremiah Vaux, but shortly afterwards removed to 20, Temple Row,§ and resigned his appointment to the Hospital in 1835. In 1840 he was President of the old Library, but a few years later he left the town.

* "James Millar was the portrait painter of the day. He lived at the top of Hall Street, nearly opposite Warstone Lane. His pictures, both finished and in progress, were placed round his room so as to allow of their being seen by those who thought it worth while to gratify their curiosity. I almost daily visited that window, and I never pass it without calling to mind the many delightful half-hours I have spent there. He sometimes attempted historical subjects. I have seen his *Christ Preaching to the Multitude*, and *St. Peter Released from Prison*. His representation of the angel I thought better than I had ever before seen.—*Autobiography of Samuel Lines, senr.*, 1862."

† About 1812 a son of James Millar applied to the old Library Committee for permission to hang one of his father's pictures in the Library for six months.

‡ *History of the General Hospital and its Medical Officers.*—J. T. Bunce.

§ In 1823 a Miss Booth conducted a seminary for young ladies, in the Square. It is not probable that she was related to the Doctor.

Dr. Booth was succeeded in the Square before 1823 by William Sabin, musical instrument and music seller. This appears to have been his first music warehouse. Before 1833 he had removed to 82, Bull Street, and subsequently to 25, on the site of the old Saracen's Head. He was succeeded in the Square by Richard Wilcox, linen draper, previously of 14, Bull Street, who continued to reside here for many years. In 1859 Joseph Price, valuer, and T. A. Price, shipping agent, and 1864 E. P. Warren, surgeon dentist, were occupiers, following whom, among many others, were Gilbert Barling, surgeon, and J. W. Phillips, solicitor, the latter departing only when the roof had been removed from the house, thus being the last occupant of the last house of the Old Square.

Sabin's Music
Warehouse.





NO. 15, generally known as the Angle house, was, in 1723, occupied by Miss Porter, and, on the 2nd August in that year, was purchased from Merrix and Perkes by James Billingsley, of Birmingham, gentleman. It had a frontage of ten yards, and lay between the houses and land of Randolph Bradburn and John Fidoe, with the right to use the well in the yard near Mr. Fidoe's house, occupied by Mr. Ebrall. Before 1728 Miss Porter had given up possession to Billingsley. There seems little doubt that all the Porters in Birmingham of any standing were descended from the Porters who in Queen Elizabeth's time lived at Edgbaston, one of whom married Ann Colmore in 1594; and were also of the family of Robert Porter, the sword cutler, whose mill in Digbeth was destroyed in the civil wars.* The branches of the family, however, became numerous, too numerous to follow in detail. In later years, Edward, Henry, and Harry Porter were drapers, and a Richard, the owner of considerable property, was a baker, and lived in Bull Street, opposite the shop of Harry Porter, draper, and Miss Porter was possibly Harry's sister Lucy.

Number Fifteen.
Miss Porter.

The house No. 15, purchased by James Billingsley, was only occupied by him for a few years, as both he and his widow must have died before 1733, when it passed to their daughter, Sarah Billingsley.

James Billingsley.

For a century and a half the Billingsleys had held a very prominent place in Birmingham. In 1599, Richard Billingsley, *pedagogus*, one of the earliest masters of the Grammar School, married Elizabeth Cooper; and a William Billingsley was at the same period schoolmaster at Yardley. In 1610, John Billingsley, tanner, was making considerable purchases of land at Bordesley. When he died, in 1629, he founded a weekly dole of bread on every Lord's day, in the Church of St. Martin and in St. John's Chapel, Deritend. He also left a croft of land, now St. Martin's Place, Broad Street, to "find bell ropes for St. Martin's Church" for ever. In 1669 this Bell Rope Croft was joined with Lench's Trust, but has recently been vested in separate trustees. In 1663, Richard Billingsley, another substantial tanner of Deritend, died, leaving to his family various properties, including the ancient half-timbered tenement in which he lived, and which is alleged to have been the Gildhall of the Gild of Deritend. The

* Whilst Robert Porter, of Birmingham, was a strong Parliamentarian, the Edgbaston landowner of the name was illegally oppressed by Tinker Fox, the Captain of the Edgbaston Garrison for the Parliament.

house, which is still standing near Deritend Chapel, has long been known as the Golden Lion Inn.

Another Richard Billingsley, also a tanner, by his will, 4th May, 1668, left to a somewhat numerous family considerable property, including the King's Head and the Birchalls Estate, Deritend, tanhouses in Digbeth, and lands in Yardley, Bordesley, etc. One of his daughters, Mary, had recently married Richard Carless, the younger, an ironmonger.* Another of this numerous family of tanners, William Billingsley, of Deritend, died in 1678, but the James Billingsley, gent, of the Square, as also William, of No. 9, appear to be of the family of the last-named Richard.

In 1733, Sarah, the daughter of James vacated the house, No. 15, upon her marriage with John Walter, sadlers' ironmonger, but made a settlement of it, and thirty-seven years afterwards her husband was rated as the occupier. For ten years, however, from 1733, a Mrs. Willes was the tenant, whilst in 1743 Mrs. Freeth had removed here from No. 12.

Several members of the numerous family of Freeth, who were principally maltsters and malt mill makers, were Friends, and the widow Freeth was probably Margaret, the widow of Jonathan Freeth. She was a member of that Society in 1740. In 1751 she had been succeeded in the occupation of No. 15 by William Welch, and in 1756 Robert Bloomer was tenant, but six years later the name of Mrs. Murray was upon the rate book.

Robert Bloomer was an attorney, and in 1747 succeeded to the practice of Charles Bloomer. Before 1763 he had removed to No. 5, Temple Row, and about 1780 the office of Bloomer and Son was in Cannon Street. The register of Halesowen Church has the following entries:

1789. Buried Mr. Robert Bloomer, junior, attorney.
 1791. „ Mrs. Jane, wife of Mr. Bloomer, attorney, Birmingham.
 1792. „ Mr. Robert Bloomer, senior, attorney.

Mrs. Murray, the name being most rare in Birmingham, may have been the widow of Archibald Murray, rated about 1878 in middle town quarter, and mother of James Murray, who, in 1776, entered into business at 22, Moor Street, as button maker and draper. He became a F.S.A. of Scotland, and was one of the "twelve apostles" in Eckstein's well-known picture.

* The settlement made upon this marriage included a house near the Grammar School in New Street, the croft behind, called Carless's Croft, and several pastures at the Five Ways, all of which ultimately came to Walter, the son of Richard Carless, the Attorney.

From 1770 to 1777, John Walter, the owner of the house, was the occupier. When married, in 1733, he was described as a saddlers' ironmonger. He was one of the churchwardens of St. Philip's at the time of the presentation of the communion plate.* In 1773 the property was settled, upon the marriage of his son, Richard Walter, with Ann Maria Burnaby, of Ashfordby, Leicestershire. John Walter.

In 1778 the house was void, but in 1779 and 1780 the name upon the rate book was John Jago, a name so rare in this locality as to suggest the possibility of his being a son of Richard Jago, John Jago. Vicar of Beaudesert, and brother of the poet who died at Snitterfield.

In 1782 John Ladbury, attorney, had removed here from Sand Street, and remained until 1787. His business was not extensive, and a few years later, John Ladbury, attorney, announced to his friends and the public, in *Aris's Gazette*, that he had opened a boarding school upon a most liberal plan, at the Manor House, Barn Green, near the Lickey Hills, terms, £12 12s. per annum, with £1 1s. entrance, and that "He will attend on market days at the Unicorn, in Digbeth, in his professional line of business, and hopes for a continuance of their favours."

In 1787, Dr. Withering, who had taken Edgbaston Hall from Sir Henry Gough, advertised his house and stable in Temple Row to let, having taken No. 15, the Square, as a town house. The Doctor had then been in Birmingham twelve years. Until 1775 he had been in practice at Stafford. The following letter from the eminent physician, Erasmus Darwin, sent by a messenger, will explain the circumstances of his settling in Birmingham:

Lichfield, Feb. 25, '75.

Dear Doctor,

I am this moment returned from a melancholy scene, the death of a friend who was most dear to me. Dr. Small, of Birmingham, whose strength of Reasoning, quickness of Invention, Learning in the Discoveries of other men, and Integrity of Heart (which is worth them all), had no equal. Mr. Boulton suffers an inconceivable loss from the Doctor's mechanical as well as medical abilities.

A person at Birmingham desired I would acquaint you with Dr. Small's death as soon as I could, but would not permit his name to be mentioned, least he might disoblige some whom he did not wish to disoblige. It was said that Dr. Smith, who has been there a few months, had no chance at all of succeeding in that place from his defect in hearing. Now it occurred to me that if you should choose that situation *your philosophical Taste would gain you the Friendship of Mr. Boulton, which would operate all that for you which it did for Dr. Small.* I saw by Dr. Small's papers that he had gain'd about £500 a year at an average taking the whole time he had been at Birmingham, and above £600 on the last years. Now as this was chiefly in the town, *without the Expense and Fatigue of Travelling and Horse-keeping,* and without being troubled with visiting the people, for he lived quite a recluse studious Life. It appears to me a very eligible situation. Add to this that he had increased his Fortune

* The Communion plate was a bequest under the will of Mawley Bakewell, deceased. He was an apothecary in High Street, near the old Tolbothe. His executor, Joseph Scott, linen draper, presented it in the presence of Edward Burton, and William Priest the lawyer.

by some other circumstance of manufacture or Schemes which such a town affords. If you should think this Prospect worth your going over to see Mr. Boulton at Soho to inquire further into, I will take care to leave at Home a proper letter for you to him if I should not see you.

I was very fortunate in recommending Dr. Bates to Aylesbury, and Dr. Wright to Newark, but think in my own mind this of the internal Business of Birmingham to be, all put together, *the most eligible of any country situation*, but I think no one who has not some philosophical acquirements as well as medical is likely to succeed in it.

I shall not mention having wrote this Letter to you, but shall be glad of a line in answer, and please to put *private* on the internal cover.

For Dr. Withering.
Private.

Adieu,
E. Darwin.

Further correspondence resulted in the removal, in May, of Dr. Withering to Birmingham, temporarily at Mr. Wheeley's, in the Square, and afterwards



at No. 9, Temple Row, the house previously occupied by Dr. Ash and Dr. Small. By the former, whose address was changed to No. 10, and whose early retirement from practice was anticipated, he was received with cordiality. Here he rapidly acquired a large and lucrative practice, and he speedily became prosperous. He purchased a valuable estate extending backwards from High Street nearly to Cannon Street, which had remained undeveloped, although entirely surrounded by buildings. This comprised a considerable part of the Cherry Orchard, and the sites of Union Street, Union Passage, the Birmingham Fire Office, the Union Inn, and the Old Library. Here he erected a house called the Stone House, which afterwards became the banking house of Smith, Gray, and Cooper, afterwards Gibbons, Smith, and Goode, a bank ruined by the failure, in 1825, of

William Wallis, of the Old Square. It was afterwards the first Birmingham Branch Bank of England, and subsequently, the Birmingham Gas Company's offices. It was built for the Doctor's residence, but his health failing, he retired in 1786 to Edgbaston Hall, and took up his town quarters in the Square, where he remained during the period of the riots of 1791.

On the night of the dinner at the hotel, which preceded the riots, 14th July, the Doctor had been dining at Birches Green, and in a letter to Sir Henry Gough Calthorpe, of the 21st, he states that on his road home, about eight o'clock, he saw the crowd collected in the street, in front of the hotel. His road lay through these people, and he passed on. When in the midst of them, many pulled off their hats and set up a huzza, to which he answered by bowing. Yet in two days the mob had marked his home for destruction, and three cart and two wagon loads of furniture were removed. Subsequently a mob had arrived and had twice taken possession, yet by the resolute action of his friends and the men got together by the Vicar—Mr. Alcock, the butcher, Mr. Southerne, clerk to Boulton and Watt, Mr. Wheeley, the coachmaker, Mr. Theophilus Richards, Mr. Mainwaring and his sons, and a crowd of other helpers, including a party of grinders and some "famous" fighters from Birmingham levied on purpose, the rioters were well thrashed after hard fighting, and some of them carried away nearly dead, and by the opportune arrival of the military—the house (now completely denuded of its furniture, the last portion being carried into the church on the Sunday), was saved from destruction.

During these anxious hours the Doctor, whose health was most delicate, was in safety in the Square, as the following letter from his butler will show :

Edgbaston Hall, Sunday Morning.

Most honoured Sir,

I am very sorry I have such news to tell you, But I am afraid we are in more danger than I expected, tha begin to come again as fast as ever, and depend upon it I am afraid you will never see it in prosperity again, and please to send me word if I shall remove any of the drawing room furniture into the church. Please to send me word immediately.

Your humble servt.,
W. Harper.

Dr. Withering,
Square,
Birmingham.

Failing health necessitated the Doctor's withdrawing from his arduous practice. His illness really began in 1783, thus he had good health in Birmingham for eight years only; and yet he had converted his small

income of Stafford to one of over £2,000 yearly. From a physician comparatively obscure he had become famous, and during the remainder of his life he was in correspondence with or was visited by the principal scientific men of the world. To Matthew Boulton he owed much. The mansion at Soho, with its beautiful surroundings, was his home whilst its owner was in Cornwall. The warm friendship between Boulton, Watt, Priestley, and Withering, is perhaps one of the most pleasing incidents in our local history of that period.*

In 1792 Dr. Withering was ordered to winter in Portugal, and he left home on the 15th September, sailed from Falmouth on the 20th October, and reached Lisbon November 10th. His letters home are still preserved. "This account of myself," he wrote to his wife, "you will be kind enough to communicate to Mr. Hector, Mr. Boulton, and Mr. Watt." "I did not get the letter Mr. Watt left at Truro." "Mr. Boulton is entitled to my thanks for his offer of an introduction to the Duke of Northumberland."

Dr. Withering. And again in March, "Remember me to the friends in the Square," also "I particularly feel the kind attentions of Mr. Hector." In April he wrote "I pray that Mr. Hector will remember me kindly to Mr. Hopper, who is one of the few young men that are never inattentive to their friends."

The following winter was again spent in Portugal. Altogether, Dr. Withering lived twenty-four years in Birmingham, during the last ten of which he was slowly dying of consumption. Finally he took the house formerly occupied by his friend, Dr. Priestley, at Sparkbrook—destroyed by the rioters in 1791,† which he restored in the hope of benefit, and removed there on the 28th September, 1799, but only for eight days. He had written to Lord Calthorpe that he should not spend another winter in Edgbaston unless in the churchyard, and there he was laid on the 10th October.

* The Diary of William Withering, junr., shows how complete was the friendship existing between the three families. It was no uncommon thing for him to breakfast at Heathfield or Soho, and for "Mr. and Mrs. Watt and Gregory," or "Mr. Boulton, Mr. M. B. and Miss B.," to spend the same evening at Edgbaston, generally upon the water.

† This estate, Fair Hill or The Larches, had been purchased by Mr. Sampson Lloyd, the banker, in 1776, for £2,385. It had long before belonged to Josiah Foster, a blacksmith next the churchyard of St. Martin. Upon his death, 1703, his son, the Rev. Josiah Foster, second master of the Grammar School and curate of Aston Church, succeeded to it, and in 1743 it was sold to John Darbyshire, brazier, in 1776 to Sampson Lloyd, junr., and 1785 to William Humphreys. It was in the occupation of Sampson Lloyd previous to 1780, when Dr. Priestley came to Birmingham.

We have not ascertained the date of the death of Richard Walter, but towards the close of Dr. Withering's tenancy, Mrs. Anna Maria Walter, formerly Burnaby, now a widow, of Handsworth, contracted to sell the house to Joseph Shipton, attorney, who was a Quaker, for £420,* and immediately afterwards, December, 1791, he entered into partnership with the firm of Lee and Son, New Hall Street, and the offices were at once removed to the Square.

For some years prior to 1760, Thomas Lee, senr., the founder of the business, had practised as an attorney at Market Harborough, in which neighbourhood, at East Farndon, his family had lived for many generations. Upon coming to Birmingham his first office was at the Johnson's Head, Friday Street, now Congreve Street,† but shortly afterwards at Shut Lane, Moor Street, and in 1763 he was addressed "Attorney at law, Colmore Row," and also "take these to Mr. Lee, near the new church." A year or two later he purchased the newly-built house in New Hall Street, and this, in 1791, was the residence of Thomas Lee, junr.

In 1777, Thomas Lee, senr., was appointed Steward of Birmingham manor by Lord Archer. At his death, in 1791, the Archer co-heiresses, or rather their husbands, gave the appointment to Mr. Brooke, the somewhat notorious leader of the Church and King party. In consequence of the riots in July of that year, party spirit ran high; costly litigation, in which Lee and Son were prosecuting attorneys, was pending, and the new Steward, in disregard of ancient custom, refused to accept the Low Bailiff's jury, and chose all the officers from his own party.‡ The leading dissenters met, and at once raised a fund of between two and three thousand pounds,

* The conveyance, dated 2nd October, 1791, describes the message, then in the occupation of William Withering, doctor of physic, as between the houses occupied by Samuel Bradburn and John Millar. The only Richard Walter in Birmingham between 1770 and 1785 was an attorney, at 51, New Street, and he had followed a John Walter, attorney, at that address, in 1770. John Walter was a Governor of the Grammar School from 1740 to 1773, and it is possible that the sadlers' ironmonger of 1733 changed his vocation and became a lawyer. In 1777 and in 1781 Richard Walter was acting on behalf of the school.

† A younger brother John Lee, button maker and merchant, of Snow Hill, had been living in Birmingham for more than ten years, and probably Thomas Lee lived partially in Birmingham for some time before taking a permanent office and quitting Market Harborough in 1760.

‡ This question had been settled in 1723, when Thomas Perks, previously mentioned (p. 97), acting for the Steward, Edward Hare, held the Court and ousted every dissenter, a proceeding promptly reversed in the Law Courts, and the ancient system, under which a churchman was customarily the High Bailiff, and a dissenter the Low Bailiff, was re-established.

and further suits were commenced, which resulted in Brooke's nominees being ousted. Upon entering their new offices, Lee and Shipton were acting for nearly the whole of the sufferers in the riots,* Dr. Priestley's claim being conducted by their London agents by arrangement.

The firm of Lee and Shipton was dissolved at Christmas, 1797, and Joseph Shipton retired to Ketley, but returned to Birmingham and practised in 1808 in Camden Street, and later, until 1823, in Cherry Street, whilst Thomas Lee took as partner Josiah Corrie, and removed to Temple Street. About 1804 Lee and Corrie removed to the old offices in New Hall Street, and in 1815 dissolved partnership, Corrie settling at 117, New Street, where, in conjunction with Samuel Carter, he remained until after 1835. In 1813 Thomas Eyre Lee joined his father, and in 1820 the firm changed from Lee and Son to Lee, Son, and Hunt, the new partner being Harry Hunt, who was born at No. 4 in the Square (see page 44). After many changes the firm now consists of the great-great-grandsons of the founder, T. Grosvenor Lee and E. Henry Lee with T. Hawkes Russell, and occupies the same offices it did more than a hundred and thirty years ago.†

In the year 1798 the house in the Square was divided, and thereafter became separate tenements, and as, shortly afterwards, the Square, by reason of Nos. 3 and 4 being converted into one house (the Stork Tavern), was re-numbered throughout, No. 15 became Nos. 14 and 15, we must call it 15A and 15B. This division had perhaps taken place in 1791, one part forming the offices of Lee and Shipton, and the other the residence of the junior partner. In 1798, Richard Cadbury, the draper, of Bull Street, entered upon one 15A, and Peter Bowen Jones, shortly afterwards, the other. Richard Cadbury, the first of the name which has become so distinguished in Birmingham, was not only a Quaker, but was one of the earliest advocates of temperance. There is a tradition that when that movement commenced he proposed the purchase of the corner house, No. 16, for conversion into a temperance hall, but that the

Richard
Cadbury.

* The whole of the legal papers connected with these suits were some years since deposited in the Reference Library of the town, and destroyed in the holocaust of January, 1879.

† Thomas Lee, senr., retired in 1825, and died at his house in the Hagley Road 1840. From Lee and Hunt the firm became Lee, Hunt and Adams, 1832; Thomas Eyre Lee, 1838; Lee, Pinson, and Best, 1844; Charles Best, 1859; Best and Horton, 1861; Best, Horton, and Lee, 1876; Horton, Lee, and Lee, 1878; Horton, Lee, and Co., 1893; Lee, Russell, and Terry, 1894; Lee and Russell, 1896. T. Eyre Lee died 1852, and Harry Hunt 1856. Charles Best retired in 1878, and is still living. Thomas Horton died 1894. For more than a century the firm has represented Lench's Trust, and many other old charities of the town.

title of the representatives of the late owner, Samuel Bradburn, being faulty, his scheme fell through.

In 1803 his name had given place to that of a John Ryland—possibly the sufferer in the 1791 riots, thereby connecting with the Square a name which has long held and still holds important association with our town, although we have not succeeded in proving the John Ryland. identity. Many changes now took place in the tenancies of the two houses, the names of Maullin and John Maudesley being the most conspicuous. The latter was tenant in the house, 15A, and also in No. 16. He was an attorney, who removed to Temple Street, where he remained until about the year 1850, being then a very old man, and was succeeded by his son, who was in the Law List until his death a few years since. In 1805, the tenant, Peter Bowen Jones, purchased the house, as divided, for £970. Peter Bowen Jones. He was a factor in the Upper Priory, and appears to have changed from the 15B to 15A upon his marriage, in 1810, it being then described as theretofore in the occupation of Mr. Porter. Edward Newbold occupied 15B for a short period about 1813, as he did also No. 14 earlier. In 1816 Mrs. Phipson had succeeded him, and he had removed to No. 16. The Phipson and Ryland families were closely allied, but it is not clear which Mrs. Phipson was the tenant.

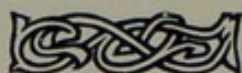
Peter Bowen Jones died in 1821, and his widow occupied for probably a few years afterwards. In 1818 Dr. Eccles and a T. Jurdission, factor, were in the Square, possibly in 15 or 16, although the latter, in 1816, was in No. 11. Dr. Eccles remained until about 1825, but in which house is uncertain, and then changed to New Street, and subsequently to New Hall Street. From 1823 to 1829, John Baker, gent., in 1828 Mrs. Sarah Smith, and 1829, Thomas Morris, accountant and appraiser, were occupying 15A, followed by Samuel Hudson, surgeon, from Prospect Row, for some years, whilst before 1823 James Coleman, portrait painter, formerly of Bordesley, had become the tenant of 15B. In 1831 he was succeeded by his son, Edward Coleman, who was also called a portrait painter, but was a few years later better known as a painter of still life. One of his pictures, "Dead Game," was the first picture acquired for the Birmingham Corporation Art Gallery, and is now in Aston Hall; he is said to have been born in the old house in Temple Row, at the corner of Temple Street—distinctly shown in the view on page 14. Before 1846 he removed to

Islington, and afterwards to No. 2, the Crescent, and Richard Thomason, surgeon, had become occupier of 15B.

In 1839 Samuel Hudson had given place in 15A to Henry Ryley, surgeon, formerly of Belmont Row, and this gentleman, in 1843, purchased the divided house of the widow Jones for £1,530, an advance in price in thirty-eight years of £360, in fifty years £910, and tenfold its value in 1723. Mr. Ryley remained until 1853, but a portion of 15A had been previously sub-let to Geo. Chilwell and J. S. Bond, both solicitors, and others. In 1853 the whole of the house Nos. 15A and 15B was sold to the Society of Friends upon the re-building of the meeting house in Bull Street. It was intended, upon this re-building, to provide the entrance to the meeting house from the Square. The intention, however, was abandoned, and No.

15A was retained, and became for many years the home of the Friends' Library. Friends' Library. Friends' Library, but eventually was let for the offices of the Aston Tramway Company, and so remained to the end.

In 1858, upon the establishment of District Courts of Probate, No. 15B became the first District Registry for Birmingham, and the late James Rabnett was the resident deputy registrar. His son, George Rabnett, succeeded him, and has been one of the officials to the present court from 1858. When, in 1896, the old Angle house was marked for destruction, the Court was removed to the present office at the rear of the old Post Office.



WHEN, in 1714, No. 16, the last house in the North Angle, was erected and completed upon land sold in 1710 by John Pemberton, it was conveyed, at the price of £260, to Randle Bradburn, described as an ironmonger. One of the vendors, Thomas Merrix, a thread maker in the lower town, was a governor of the Free School. Far back from the house, on the site, in part, of the Friends' meeting house, was a large garden, surrounded by land belonging to Isaac Spooner, Thomas Lane, Thomas Merrix, Josiah Perkes, John Henn, Samuel Broughton, John Wheeler, Jacob Austin, deceased, Colmore, deceased, and the Meeting House Yard.

Randle (or Randolph) Bradburn, was a very prominent man, and as early as 1714-15 was appointed Constable of the town. He had come from Smethwick, and was one of the trustees appointed in 1719 by Dorothy Parkes on the foundation of Smethwick Chapel, and the family vault, called by his son Samuel in 1795 "the burial place of my ancestors," is there.

Number Sixteen.
Randle
Bradburn.

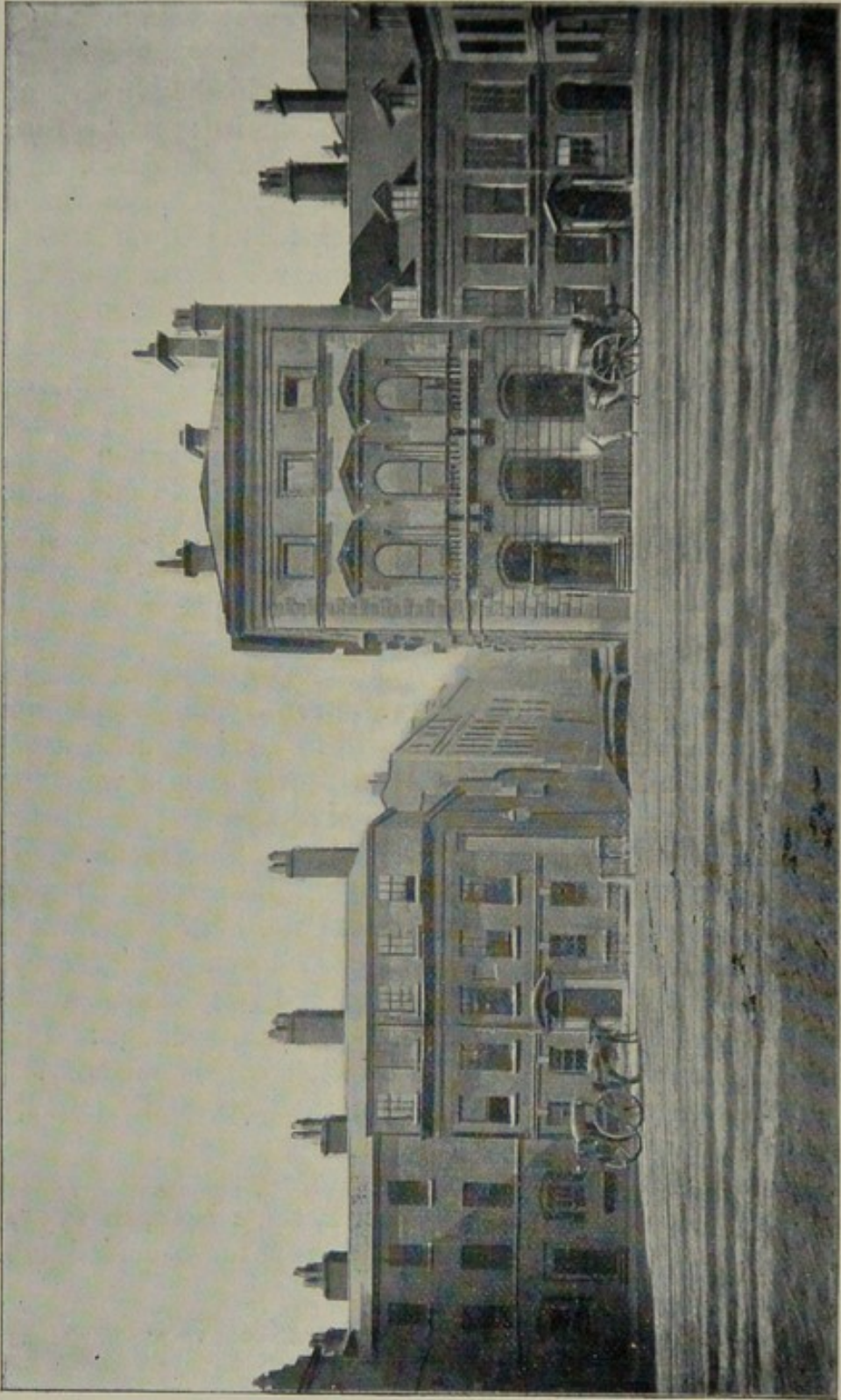
In 1727 Randle Bradburn appears by the old town book* to have given the metal for a bell for the belfry of St. Philip's, and Joseph Smith was authorised, at a town meeting on April 3rd, to receive such metal, and to cast the bell. Before the 13th June two bells towards eight were completed and ready for hanging. This seems conclusive that the first bells of the peal were cast at the foundry at Good Knaves End, Edgbaston.

Of the children of Randle Bradburn, John was born 1709, Thomas 1710, a Samuel was buried at St. Philip's in 1715, and another Samuel was baptized there 1716, and Randle 1718, three younger children were Henry, Theodosia, and Mary. Thomas Bradburn, the second son, became a Master of Arts of Kings College, Cambridge, and died 1742, aged 32. His tomb, at Smethwick Chapel, bears a Latin inscription to his memory. Randle junr. died 1768, aged 50, John died 1779, aged 70, and Samuel, the last survivor of the family, in 1796, aged 80.

Randle Bradburn senr. died December 8th, 1746, aged 67. His son Samuel, who in 1744 had removed to No. 2, came back, in 1755, to No. 16. His mother and brothers for many years after occupied No. 2 (see page 36).

Samuel Bradburn was born in No. 16, in April, 1716. He died there

* J. T. Bunce's *History of St. Martin's*.



THE OLD SQUARE.
South-West View, showing Minorities.

September 9th, 1796, or, as stated in *Aris's Gazette* of September 12th, 1796, "early on Friday morning, aged 80." Thus he had passed the whole of his life in the Square, and nearly the whole in the house of his birth. Such a long connection is worthy of record. As a schoolboy he had played in the garden of the Square when Samuel Johnson sought the advice of Dr. Swynfen. Both the Pembertons were his near neighbours. He had lived next door to Edmund Hector for fifty years, and was familiar in after years with the burly form of Hector's visitor, the great lexicographer, in his perambulations around the Square. He had met from day to day the Quakers of sober garb, the Farmers, Bradfords, Fidoes, Burtons, Freeths, Galtons, and Lloyds, known Lewis Paul and John Wyatt, and watched the asses working the mill near the well; had known the king's physician ere he had obtained his Free School scholarship, had played with the Stuarts, the Swynfens, Farmers, and Baddeleys, and danced in Sawyer's room, seen Cumberland's recruits in '45, and the Duke of York in '65. Lawyers, doctors, and merchants had come and gone, time had tinged the brand-new brickwork and necessity had altered the palisades of the garden, yet he survived to enjoy the friendship of Dr. Withering at the end of the century. Even then structural changes in the Square had not commenced, nor had public companies invaded its privacy.

Samuel
Bradburn.

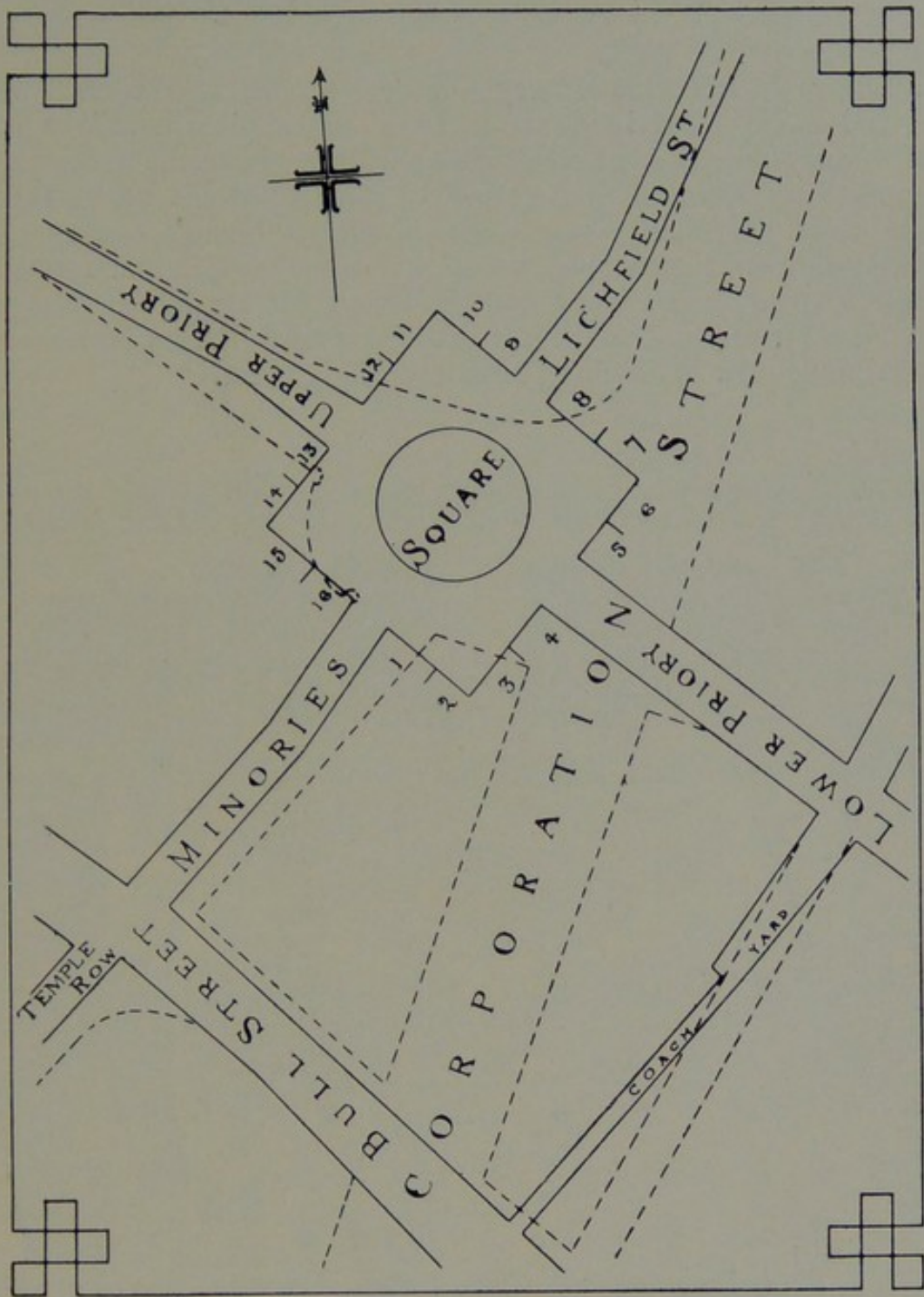
By his will of 17th November, 1795, he bequeathed a small annuity to repair the tomb, vault, and burial place of his ancestors at Smethwick Chapel, and left all his property to his niece, Mary Webb, and his executor was Samuel Galton.

After being duly advertised, the house and warehouse were let, the former to George Swinson, surgeon, and the latter to Blood and Harwood. Swinson remained about fourteen years, and removed to Dale End, and about 1820 to No. 94, High Street. Blood and Co. probably removed previous to 1804, when the garden and land in the rear were sold to the Society of Friends for £420, and the premises were let to the Birmingham Mining and Copper Company. This company was established in 1790 to meet the increasing demand of the brassfounders for copper, and a well-known token was issued by the Company in that year. Although the copper warehouse remained near the Square until about 1813, the offices were removed to Cherry Street somewhat earlier, and ultimately to Temple

Row West. In 1815, Ralph Sutton, who previously had lived at Camp Hill, was assessed for the house previously Swinson's, and in 1816 Edward Newbold, the dancing master, was the occupier, and it may be that Dr. Eccles was subsequently tenant.

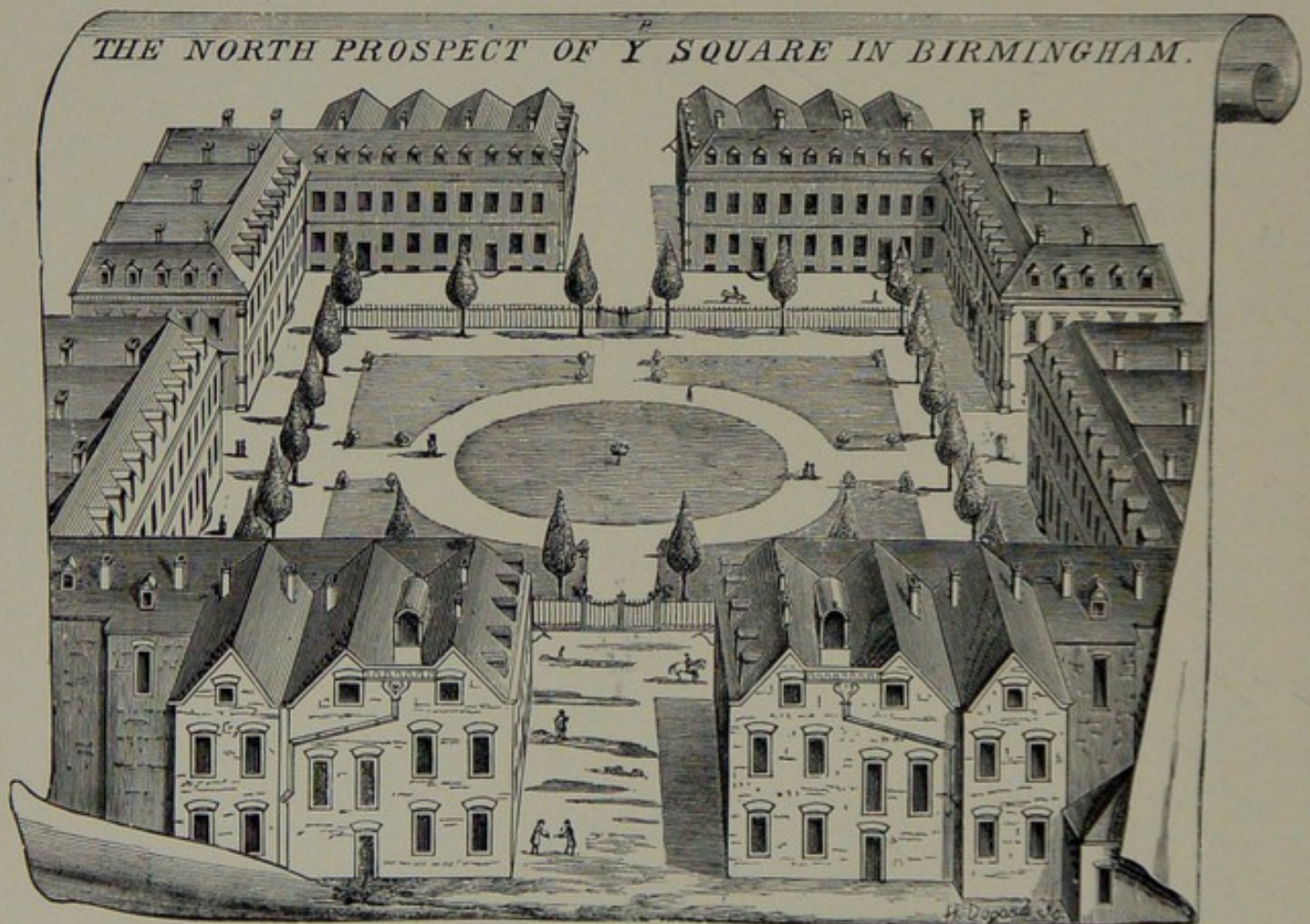
In 1825 a second gas company was established, The Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas-light Company being its title. The Birmingham Gas Company had been established about six years, its works in Gas Street and its offices in Cherry Street. The new Company fixed upon the Square for its offices, and after many years of prosperity it destroyed the old house and erected in its place a massive stone building, as appears in the south-west view, and when, in 1875, the Corporation acquired the business of both companies, and appointed Edwin Smith its manager, the business was carried on here until the removal to the Edmund Street Offices. The premises were thereupon acquired by C. J. Newbury, and converted to a drapery establishment. A further conversion is now in progress, which on completion promises to be the most extensive structure of its kind in the town, occupying the whole of the west angle in the form of a crescent, and blotting out the last trace of the Square, every line of which, as shown in the plan, has been effaced. The north and part of the east angle have become a straight line. The rest of the east angle is merged in the roadway, and the south angle, with the site of the historic Hector's house, is lost in the premises of Jevons and Mellor.

The thoroughfare between the south and west angles, although extremely narrow, and for twenty years without a name, has been from its formation in 1702 of considerable importance. In 1715 the advisability of continuing this road as an approach to St. Philip's Churchyard was recognized. Previously the only approaches were by Temple Street on the one side, and New Hall Lane and Bull Lane on the other. A right of way across the Cherry Orchard near Cherry Street and Needless Alley had no doubt existed for ages; it led to a well at the bottom of Crooked Lane, near the Welsh Cross. In that year, 1715, however, the purchase was ordered of some houses built upon the bowling green of the Bull Tavern, and the new approach was made and called Tory Row, giving residents of the new and fashionable quarter the advantage of a promenade upon the highest spot in the town, and commanding a view of the country of considerable extent and beauty.

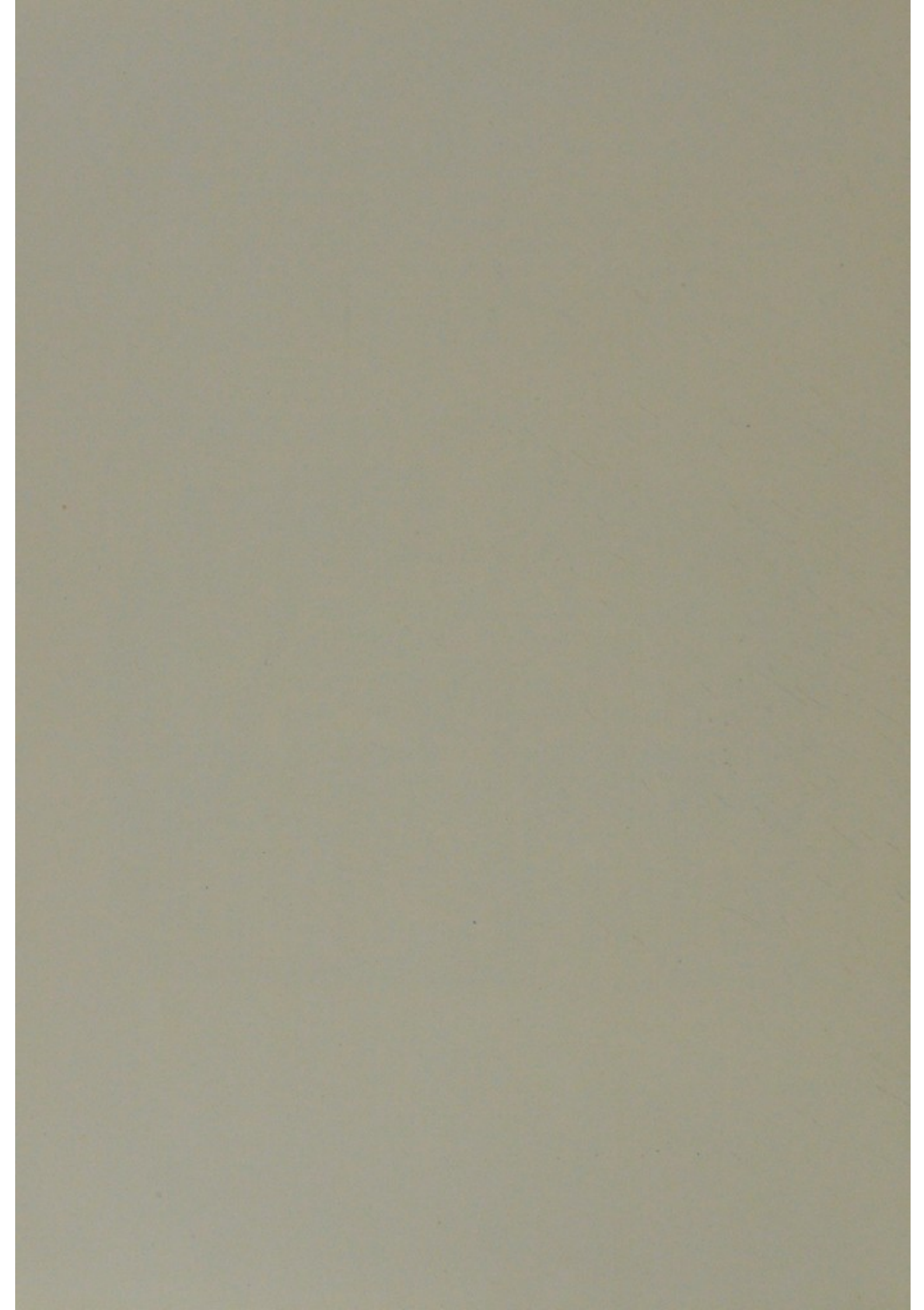


THE OLD SQUARE, 1797 and 1897.

Fifteen years later, the Cherry Orchard, known as Walker's, was laid open, and as expressed in deeds of 1733, sold "piece meal," and a new street, Cherry Street, was made, leading from a place called Temple Row, otherwise Tory Row, into and through a place called the Lamb Yard, near a place called the Welch Cross. The owners of Guest's Cherry Orchard speedily followed this example by taking down a summer house, and laying out a new street, to be called Cannon Street, leading into another street, called New Street; and sixty years elapsed before Cherry Street was continued through Dr. Withering's land into High Street.



Appendix.



Appendix A.

THE PRIORY.

Note 1. Page 8. *Lease to John Pretty.*

John Pretty (or Pratty) was, in 1526, appointed keeper of the park of Birmingham called "Roton Parke." Edward Byrmyingham, esquire, the lord of the manor, was, a few years afterwards, arrested upon a charge of felony, a charge which appears to have originated in a feud between the lords of Dudley and Birmingham, and a *fracas* between the parties. Lord Sutton of Dudley, however, was powerful enough to cause young Byrmyingham to be imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he was detained several years, and ultimately was deprived of his manor by a special Act of Parliament in 1536.

The late Mr. Toulmin Smith, in *Men and Names of Old Birmingham*, p. 89, gives a transcript of a remarkable lease granted to Pretty by Edward Byrmyingham, of large tracts of land in Birmingham, estimated in various documents at from 147 to 320 acres, together with a water corn mill, the rent reserved being £14 13s. 4d.; and also, for a fine of £20, the advowson of the Parsonage and Benefice of the Church of St. Thomas the Martyr, called the Parsonage of the Priory; the whole for a term of ninety-nine years.

The lease is alleged to have been made on the 11th October, 1532, whilst Edward Byrmyingham was a prisoner in the Tower, and to be witnessed by four or five men of Yardley.

Byrmyingham died in 1538, and in 1545 the manor was made over to John Dudley. A survey was then taken, wherein this lease is duly set forth. Pretty died shortly afterwards, and in 1553, upon the attainder of John Dudley (now Duke of Northumberland), another survey was made, and this lease was entirely disregarded, and Edward (afterwards Sir Edward) Littelton, a cousin of Edward Byrmyingham's widow, held the land under a deed sealed in the Court of Exchequer, or about to be sealed, for it was undated.

The explanation of all this seems to be that the survey of 1553 was not completed until 1556, that in the meantime a law suit, in which Pretty's wife and children disputed Littelton's title, had been tried, and that the lease of 1532 had been found to be a forgery, or invalid from some other cause.

This view has some confirmation in the fact that the genuine lease of the Keepership of Roton Park, made in 1526 is set forth in the 1553 survey as "now exemplified by the Barons of the Exchequer the 12th February, 1555," showing, it would seem, that it, too, had been suspected.

In the appendix to *Old and New Birmingham* two long documents are printed, which contain the story told by each side in the litigation; and both appear equal in wicked and unblushing falsehood. Notwithstanding the questionable character of Pretty's lease, so far as concerned the advowson of the Priory Chapel he found it marketable; this was granted by him to Clement Throkmorton, gent, and a suspicion naturally arises that Pretty may have been a tool of George Throkmorton, the father of Clement, who had manifested a covetous disposition as regards Edward Byrmyingham's fine manor a few years earlier.

Note 2. Page 10. *The lands and tenements of the Priory or Free Chapel.*

Besides the lands and meadows surrounding the Priory, as shown in the map, the possessions of the Priory were very extensive, and comprised:

Various closes, lands, and a moor, including the round hills lying between Walmer Lane and Aston Road: these were all speedily enclosed by Edward Holte when he became owner, and were sold to various Birmingham land buyers, including Roger Pemberton, the goldsmith, in 1696. Pritchett Street and New John Street are now cut through the land, and the hill at the bottom of these streets is still prominent.

Another valuable estate, the Crossfields, lay between the last and Gosty Green. About 20 acres, now crossed by Fisher, Moland, and other Streets, was retained by the Holtes until 1668, and then sold by Sir Robert Holte to Robert Whittall, yeoman.

Of much larger extent was the Conigree or Rabbit Warren of the Priory, which lay between Steelhouse Lane and the Bourne Brook, but did not include all the frontage to Snow Hill or Walmer Lane. Near or adjacent was a tenement, with three closes and a meadow, "near unto a certayne ryver or brooke comonlie called borne brooke;" this was sold in 1584 by Edward Holte to William Colmore, mercer.

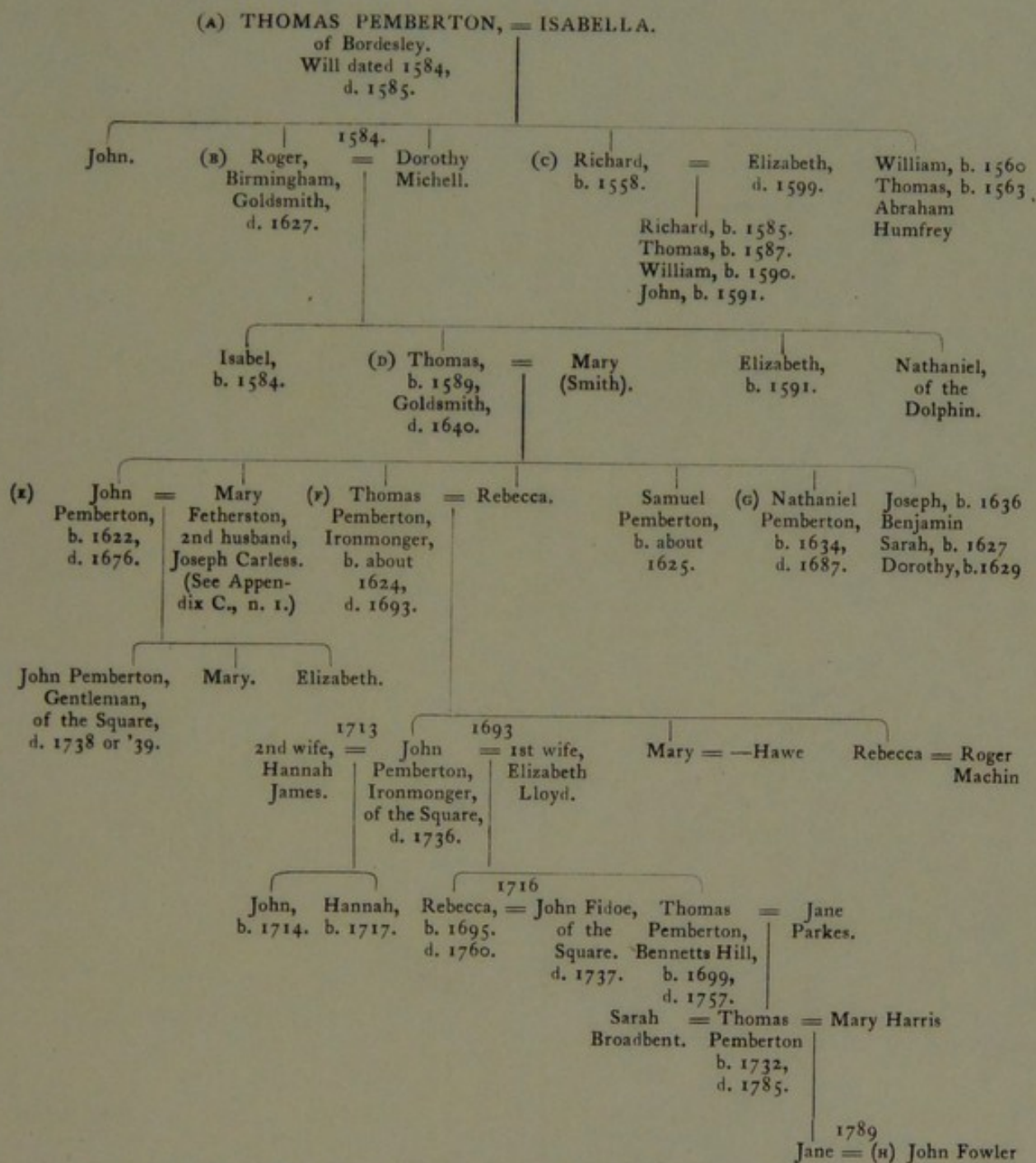
There were also houses and gardens in New Street, Moor Street, and Bull Street, one of the latter being near the burial ground of the Priory. Some of the Bull Street lands were called "folds," but other land there, the Horse Close, passed to the Phillipps family, and is now occupied by St. Philip's churchyard. There were also other closes and meadows, not now traceable, in Birmingham, Duddeston, and Saltley, but the present value of the Priory possessions, the whole of which fell into the hands of the Holte family and were converted into money, would, owing to their enormous acreage, exceed that of the possessions of the Grammar School.



Appendix B.

THE CONVERSION.

Note 1. Page 16. *The Family of Pemberton.*

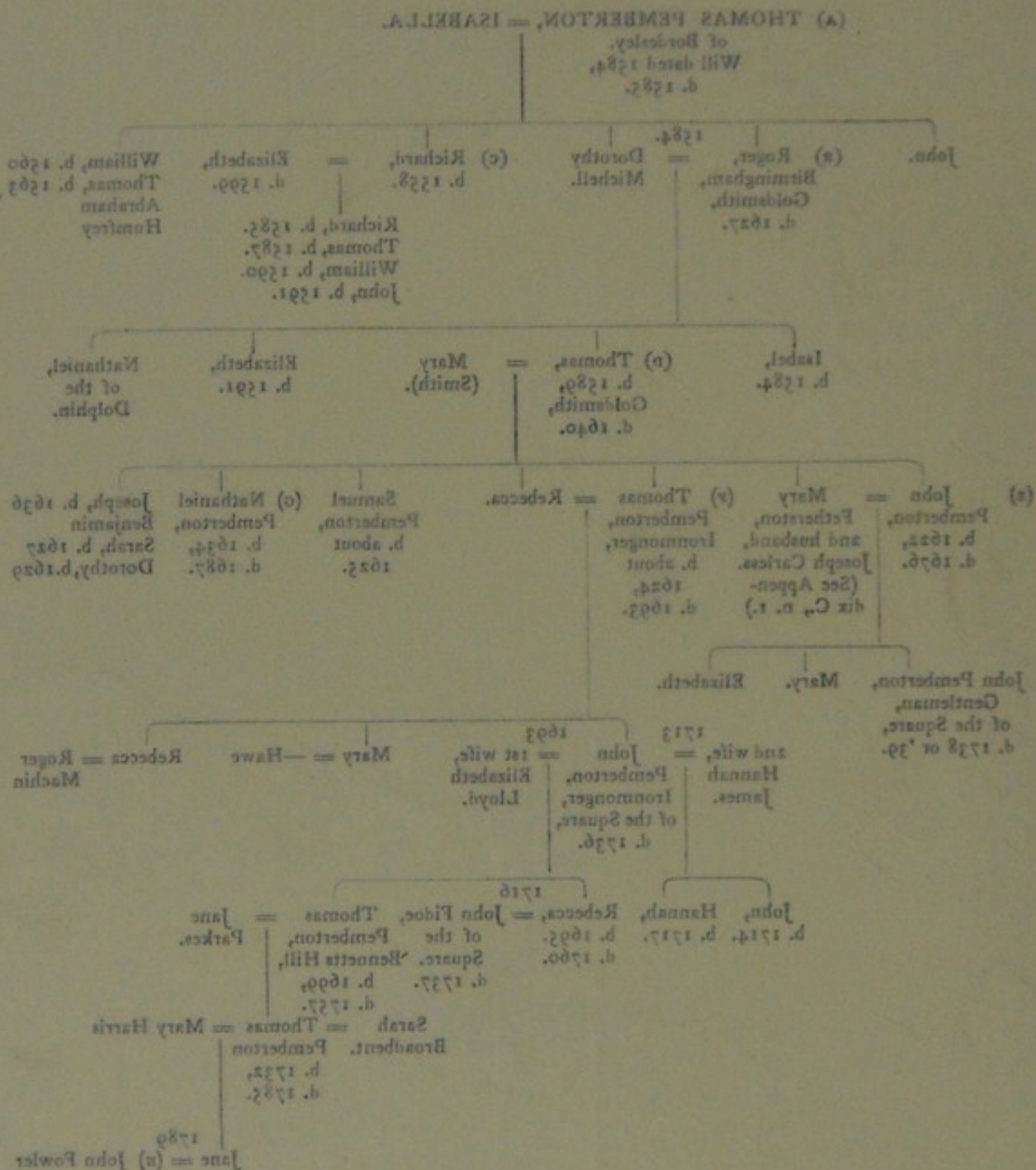


- (A) Although this Thomas, who was a yeoman and grazier, is the first Pemberton found in Birmingham, there was a Roger and also a Martyn and a Thomas Pemberton in Walsall nearly a century before, and a Christopher in Solihull in 1533.
- (B) and (C) Roger Pemberton, goldsmith, was a Trustee of Lench's Charity. He purchased, in 1596, part of the Round Hills, his brother Richard, a mercer, being a trustee in the purchase deed.
- (D) A goldsmith in Rother Market, was also a Trustee of Lench's Charity. By his will, dated June, 1640, he left extensive lands, and the Angell Inn, to his son John.
- (E) By his will, 5th January, 1676, left the Angell, the Dolphin, and property in Park Street and Well Street, Digbeth.
- (F) Thomas joined the Friends. Brought up as a goldsmith, he became an ironmonger, and built the Bennetts Hill house in 1680.
- (G) From Nathaniel descended the Pembertons connected with the Old Meeting House during last century.
- (H) Jane, the daughter of John and Jane Fowler, married Jonathan Fardon, and her only son, Henry Fowler, died unmarried, at Hampton, 1886.

Appendix B.

THE CONVERSION.

Note 1. Page 16. The Family of Pemberton.



(*) Although this Thomas, who was a yeoman and grazier, is the first Pemberton found in Birmingham, there was a Roger and also a Mary and a Thomas Pemberton in Walsall nearly a century before, and a Christian in Solihull in 1277.

(v) and (c) Roger Pemberton, Goldsmith, was a Trustee of Leech's Charity. He purchased, in 1596, part of the Round Hill, his brother Richard, a mercer, being a trustee in the purchase deed.

(n) A Goldsmith in Rother Market, was also a Trustee of Leech's Charity. By his will, dated June, 1640, he left extensive lands, and the Angel Inn, to his son John.

(x) By his will, 1627, left the Angel, the Dolphin, and property in Park Street and Well Street, Digbeth.

(y) Thomas joined the Friends. Brought up as a Goldsmith, he became an Ironmonger, and built the Bennetts Hill house in 1680.

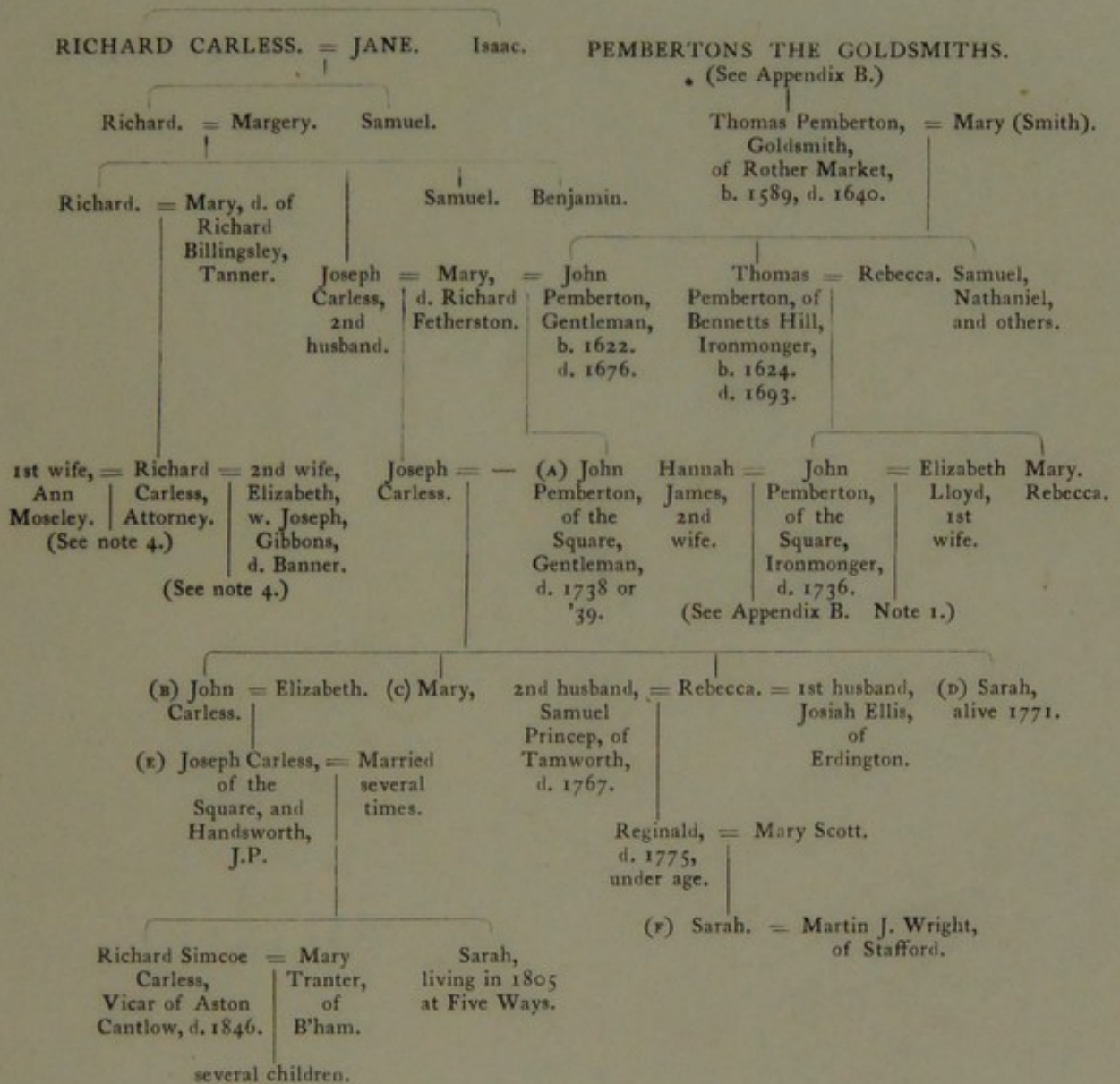
(o) From Nathaniel descended the Pembertons connected with the Old Meeting House during last century.

(w) Jane, the daughter of John and Jane Fowler, married Jonathan Parson, and her only son, Henry Fowler, died unmarried, at Hampton, 1886.

Appendix C.

THE SQUARE.

Note 1. Pages 21 and 35. *John Pemberton, Gentleman, and the Carless Family.*

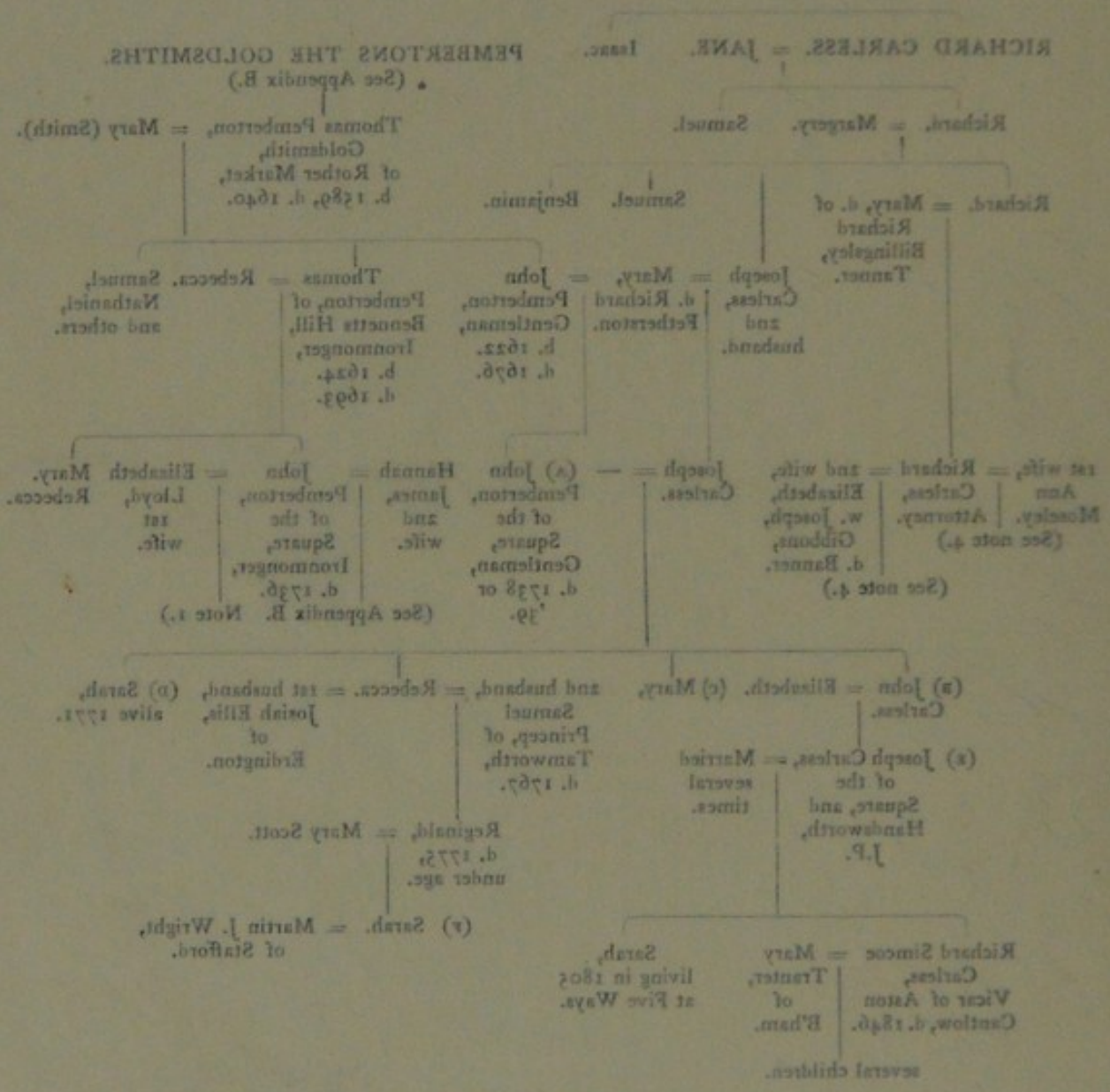


- (A) Described in his will, October, 1738, as of Great Barr, gentleman, devised all the Pemberton's estates to children of half-brother, Joseph Carless.
- (B) Sold his interest in estates to his father, Joseph Carless, in 1745, for £650.
- (C) Presented altar plate to St. Bartholomew's Church, and by her will, 1761, left her shares of estates to sister Sarah.
- (D) In 1771 settled her share of estates upon her nephew, Joseph Carless.
- (E) A spendthrift, died 1796, and his estates sold.
- (F) Left her estate to Rev. E. J. Rathbone, whose representatives sold same.

Appendix C.

THE SQUARE.

Note 1. Pages 21 and 32. John Pemberton, Gentleman, and the Carless Family.



- (a) Described in his will, October, 1738, as of Great Barr, gentleman, devised all the Pemberton's estates to children of half-brother, Joseph Carless.
- (b) Sold his interest in estates to his father, Joseph Carless, in 1742, for £620.
- (c) Presented altar plate to St. Bartholomew's Church, and by her will, 1761, left her share of estates to sister Sarah.
- (d) In 1771 settled her share of estates upon her nephew, Joseph Carless.
- (e) A spendthrift, died 1796, and his estates sold.
- (f) Left her estate to Rev. E. J. Ralston, whose representatives sold same.

Appendix C.

THE SQUARE.

Note 2. Page 25. *Andrew Johnson.*

This brother of Michael Johnson is best known by the statements of Murphy, Boswell, and other biographers of Dr. Johnson. "He had a brother of the name of Andrew, who for some years kept the ring in Smithfield appropriated to wrestlers and boxers. Our author used to say that he was never thrown or conquered." Dr. Johnson did not delight in talking of his relatives, but he not only assisted his cousins, the sons of Andrew, but left them the bulk of his property at his death.

Some years ago Mr. W. B. Bickley discovered a small book of discourses preached in Birmingham in 1701 by Abraham Jeacocke, dedicated "To his loving Friends and Parishioners the Inhabitants of Birmingham," printed by J. Downing, London, for Andrew Johnson, bookseller, in Birmingham, 1702. At that time William Dagget was Rector of Birmingham, and Jeacocke was Minister of Deritend Chapel. Previously (1694 to 1697) he was Assistant Master of Birmingham School, and in 1712 was appointed the Second Master; he afterwards removed to, and died at, Gnosall, Staffordshire, leaving Richard Banner, of Birmingham, his executor. Mr. Bickley, in his subsequent research, discovered that Andrew Johnson's wife belonged to the Fishers, of Birmingham, and reference to footnote, p. 96, will show how clear is the identity. Michael, the father of Samuel Johnson, was born 1655, and Andrew was probably nearly the same age, and about forty-six or forty-eight in 1702; consequently he was over seventy years of age when, in 1728, he was rated for a substantial house and shop in the High Street, having been in business there before Michael Johnson married Sara Ford, and until after Samuel Johnson went to Pembroke College. The children of Andrew Johnson were, Thomas Johnson, of Coventry, and Fisher Johnson, of Leicester, and to their children Dr. Johnson left his property at Lichfield.

The house occupied by Andrew Johnson in 1721 was about twelve houses above Moor Street. The old houses of that period have been replaced by houses of less frontage, consequently it was considerably higher in the street than the present numbers would indicate. It was apparently three doors above the house of Harry Porter, which was the

same house that Thomas Warren removed into from Spicceal Street, and was among the best business shops in the town. His next-door neighbour was the Josiah Perkes so often mentioned in these pages in connection with Thomas Merrix, the thread man, in dealings with the land in the Square. Perkes was a baker, and one of the Governors of the Free School, and the houses of Grier, Vaughton, Gisbornes, Austin, and Daniel Gill the peruke maker, all lay between his shop and Moor Street.

Note 3. *Pages 26 and 40. Samuel Johnson's love verses.*

When fifteen, Johnson went for a year to the school at Stourbridge, staying with his cousin, Cornelius Ford. He was, it is stated by Boswell, admitted to the best company of the place, and became much enamoured of Olivia Lloyd, to whom he indited some verses, the incident is recorded by Johnson's biographer. Olivia Lloyd was the youngest child of the first Sampson Lloyd and Mary Crowley (his second wife), daughter of the wealthy Ambrose Crowley, who died in 1721, consequently Olivia was aunt to Sampson Lloyd of



Dr. Johnson's Room, Aston Hall (from the Square).

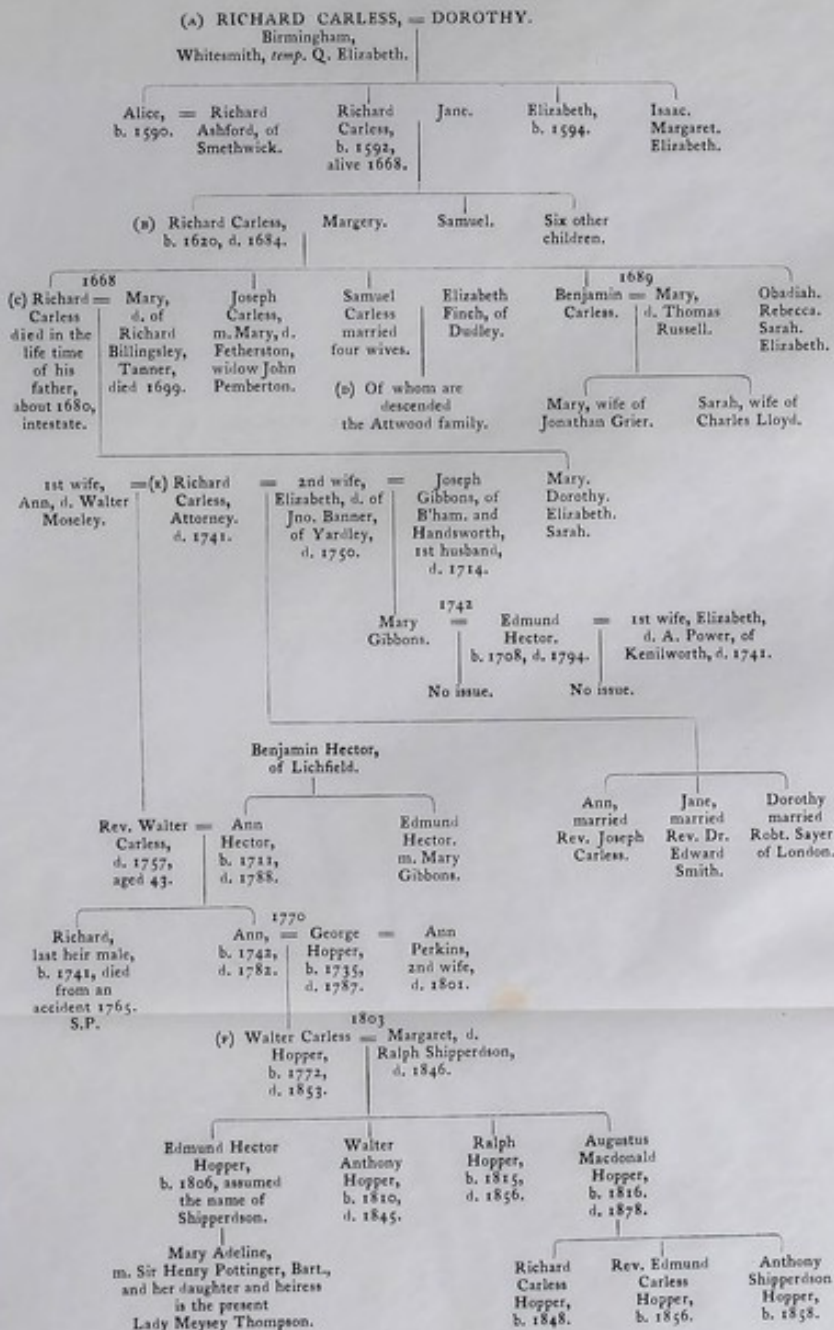
the Square. One of Crowley's daughters was Judith. She was executrix of her father with Olivia's father and a Joseph Ford, of Oldswinford; and in 1724, Cornelius Ford, of Pedmore, Oldswinford, age 30, married Judith Crowley, of Halesowen, maiden, age 43.

Appendix C.

THE SQUARE.

Note 4. Pages 28 and 30. *Edmund Hector and his Sister and the Carless Family.*

The Carless family has been connected with Birmingham from *temp.* Elizabeth. Previous to 1590, however, no baptisms or marriages of females are recorded. In 1591 a Richard Carless was buried at St. Martin's; he was probably father of the Richard Carless at the head of this pedigree. The name, however, is found at Harborne much earlier, the burial there of Henry Carless being recorded as early as 1538. A branch of the family is found subsequently in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton and Brewood.



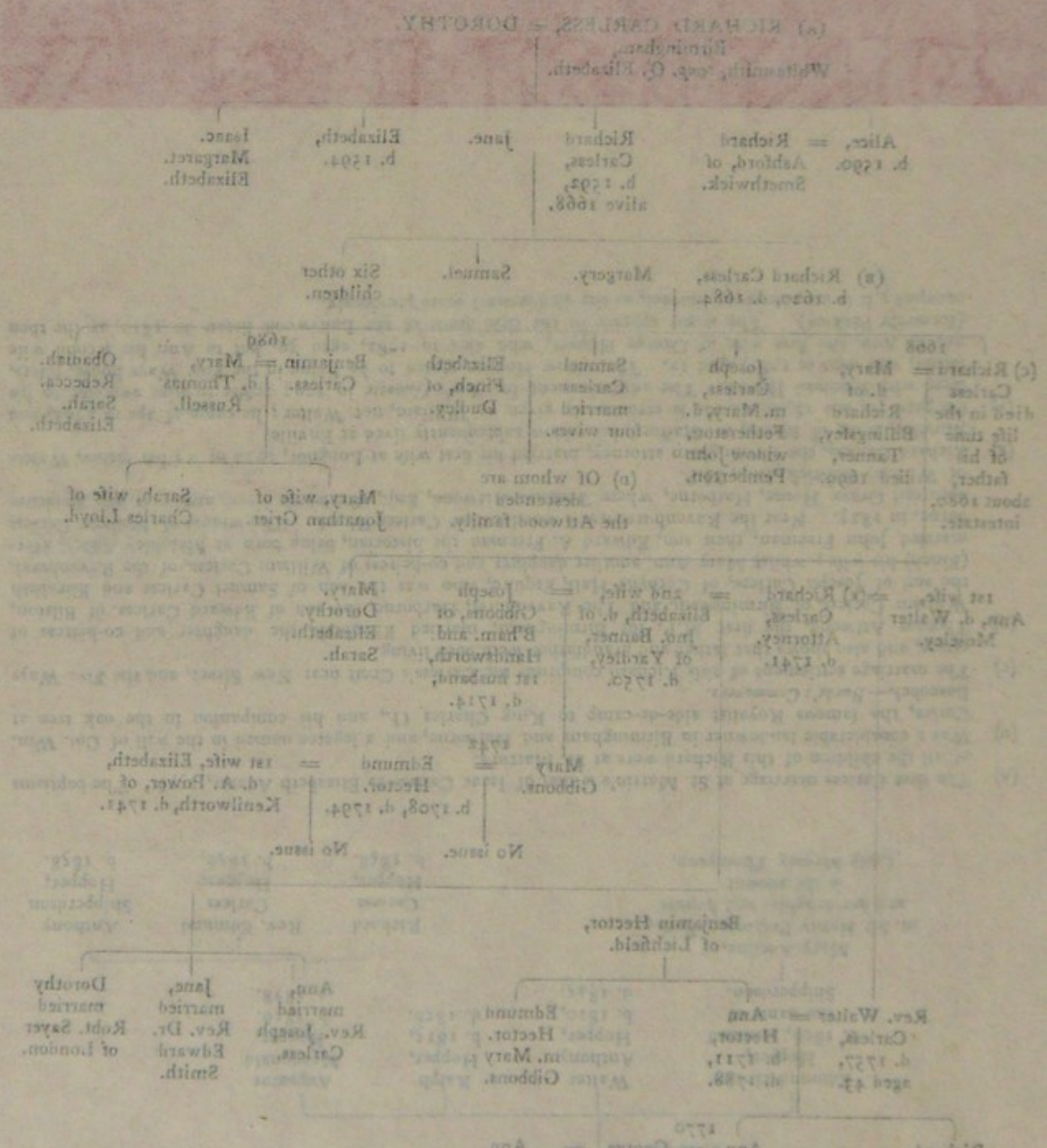
- (A) The first Carless marriage at St. Martin's is that of Isaac Carless to Elizabeth Adams, 1576. The baptisms of all the children of this Richard were at St. Martin's.
- (B) Was a considerable landowner in Birmingham and Harborne, and a legatee named in the will of Col. Wm. Carless, the famous Royalist aide-de-camp to King Charles II., and his companion in the oak tree at Boscobel.—*Barle's Commentaries.*
- (C) The marriage settlement of this Richard comprises the Carless's Croft near New Street, and the Five Ways estate, and also shows that father and grandfather were both living.
- (D) Thomas Attwood, the first M.P. for Birmingham, married Elizabeth, the daughter and co-heiress of Bilston, William Carless, of Birmingham, and The Ravenhurst, Harborne, the son of Samuel Carless and Elizabeth the son of Joseph Carless, of Corbyns Hall, Esquire, who was the son of Samuel Carless and Elizabeth (Finch) his wife; whilst Mary Ann, another daughter and co-heiress of William Carless, of the Ravenhurst, married John Freeman, their son, Edward A. Freeman the historian, being born at Metchley Abbey, Harborne, in 1823. Near the Ravenhurst was a wood called Carless Wood. The widow of William Carless occupied Grove House, Harborne, where Thomas Attwood, Esq., afterwards lived, and now the residence of William Kenrick, Esq., M.P.
- (E) Richard Carless, the Birmingham attorney, married his first wife at Longnor, 1712 or '13 her father, Walter Moseley, being of Meere, co. Stafford, his widow subsequently lived at Enville.
- (F) On page 30, line 16, this name is erroneously given as William, not Walter; he came of age in 1792, and lived with Edmund Hector. The advertisement in *Asi's Gazette* in 1793 refers to him and not to his father, who died in 1787, aged 42. The widow Hopper, stated to be living in the Five Ways house, refers, not to Ann, the first wife of George Hopper, who died in 1782, aged 59, but to Ann his second wife (formerly Perkins). The name appears in the title deeds of the Ladywood Estate in 1812, as the then occupier; it is not, however, correct, as she died several years previously.

Appendix C

THE SQUARE

Note 4. Pages 28 and 30. Edmund Hector and his sister and the Carless Family.

The Carless family has been connected with Birmingham from time immemorial. Previous to 1700, however, no pedigree or marriage of families are recorded. In 1701 Richard Carless was joined at St Martin's, he was probably father of the Richard Carless at the head of this pedigree. The name, however, is found at Harborne much earlier, the burial there of Henry Carless being recorded as early as 1558. A branch of the family is found subsequently in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton and Rowood.



In 1735 Olivia married Thomas Kirton, of Brimton, Berks., but she died in Birmingham, and was buried in Friends' ground in Bull Lane.

Some *Verses to a Lady on receiving from her a Sprig of Myrtle*, although unimportant in themselves, aroused in after years a war of words between Boswell and Miss Seward, which has at least considerable local interest.

Mrs. Piozzi, upon Dr. Johnson's own information, stated that the lines were written for Edmund Hector for a friend. Boswell threw doubt upon the statement, upon the strength of a letter to him from Miss Seward, of Lichfield, which said: "I *know* those verses were addressed to Lucy Porter when he was enamoured of her in his boyish days, two or three years before he had seen her mother, his future wife. He wrote them at my grandfather's, and gave them to Lucy in the presence of my mother, to whom she showed them on the instant. She used to speak them to me when I asked her for *the verses Dr. Johnson gave her 'On a Sprig of Myrtle' which he had stolen or begged from her bosom.*"

Mrs. Seward's grandfather, the Rev. John Hunter, the master of Lichfield, married for a second wife, June, 1726, Lucy Porter, sister of Harry Porter, of Birmingham, and aunt of Lucy Porter referred to in Miss Seward's letter. Miss Seward's mother, Elizabeth Hunter, was, in 1731, aged seventeen, Lucy Porter, the niece, scarcely sixteen, and Samuel Johnson, nearly twenty-two. Dr. Johnson told Mrs. Piozzi the lines had been promised by him to Hector, but forgotten, and that when he called for them he (Johnson) said "Sit still a moment, dear Mund, and I will fetch them," "so stepped aside for five minutes and wrote the nonsense." All controversy was ended by Edmund Hector finding the original manuscript, in January, 1794, shortly before his death. It bore the date 1731, and was written, Hector said, for his friend, W. Morgan Graves, who had been presented by a lady in this neighbourhood with the myrtle at parting. "To convince this obstinate woman," says Hector, "make what use you please of this statement."

Still further verses of a like character, written by Samuel Johnson to a Miss Hickman, having considerable local interest, have also been preserved. They are "addressed to Miss Hickman playing on the Spinnet," and bear the following endorsement: "Written by the late Dr. Samuel Johnson on my mother, then Miss Hickman, playing on the Spinnet. J. Turton." The writer, Dr. Turton, was born 1735 and died 1806.

John Turton, son of Dr. John Turton, of the Square, obtained his scholarship in New Street in 1753. May not these lines have been penned about 1732-3 in Dr. Swynfen's house in the Square? a house which, in 1736, became the home of Miss Hickman as the wife of Dr. Turton, who succeeded to Dr. Swynfen's practice.

Note 5. Page 58. *George Hollington Barker.*

We have referred to George Hollington Barker as a famous collector of coins and tokens, and it is of interest to associate with his name that of Mark Noble, the numismatist. That Noble, the lawyer, antiquary, parson, historian, and author of the *Memoirs of Cromwell* and of the *House of Stuart*, and of various works of heraldry and numismatics, was the articulated pupil of Mr. Barker, appears undoubted. In the biographical notices of him, it is true he is said to have been articulated to Mr. Barber, attorney, Birmingham; but there appears

to have been no such attorney; and the doubt as to the name being an error for Barker is so slight, that we need not hesitate to include the name of Noble as one who in early life was associated with the Square. He was the third son of Edward Heatley Noble, who was in business in Digbeth; but he was probably born in a house near Deritend Bridge. Upon the expiration of his articles, he commenced practice as an attorney, in Birmingham; but very early in his career he forsook the law and entered the church, becoming, in 1781, curate of Baddesley Clinton and Packwood. On the death of the incumbent, shortly afterwards, Noble became possessed of the two meagre livings, and five years later, was presented by Lord Thurlow to the valuable rectory of Barming, in Kent, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1827. He was a somewhat voluminous writer, and several of his works were printed and published in Birmingham, among them, his *Lives of the Regicides*, 1798. The first edition of his *Memoirs of Cromwell* contains a very juvenile portrait of Noble, engraved by R. Hancock. This adds weight to the supposition that he was articled to Mr. G. H. Barker, as Hancock was employed by Barker in the production of his tokens.

Many unpublished papers by Mark Noble were sold after his death; one of these, *Some Particulars of the Life of Jane Shore*, was afterwards printed in the *Graphic Illustrator*, 1834, with a facsimile of his autograph.

Note 6. Page 71. *John Wilkes.*

The surmise that John Wilkes, the eminent lockmaker, may have been connected with the house in Bull Street, opposite the Meeting House of the Friends, which was adorned with the lockmaker's arms, receives confirmation from further search in the rate books. A house upon the spot indicated was, in 1728, occupied by a William Handsom; a year or two later the additional entry is made: "and for Mr. Wilks' land," afterwards it is "Widow Handsom and for Mrs. Wilks' land," and later, "Newey for Wilks' land." The inference is that Handsom and Newey were the successors of Wilkes in the locksmith's business, and were succeeded by Standley. Pye states that "the house had been *invariably* in the possession of a person eminent as a lockmaker."

Note 8. Page 103. *Library of the Friends.*

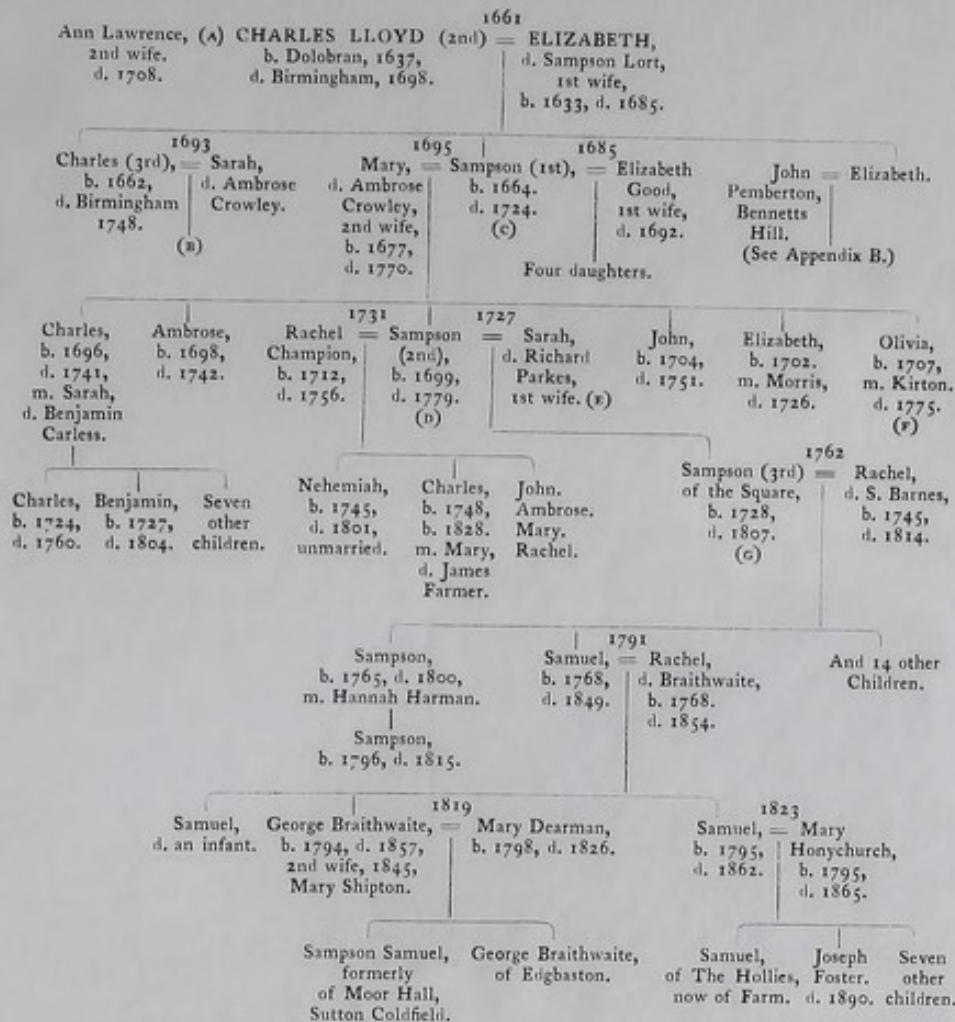
For a year or two after the house, No. 13, was vacated by Sampson Lloyd, the banker, in 1895, the name was replaced on the rate book by that of Samuel Lloyd, with the additional entry, "Library, 9/-," and inasmuch as the Birmingham Library had been located in the Upper Priory for a few years previously (see page 91), it was assumed that the new entry must refer to the Library of the Friends. Mr. C. D. Sturge, however, states that the Friends' Library was not founded for many years afterwards, therefore the small assessment probably refers to a temporary letting to the Committee of the Birmingham Library; but some time during 1797 Thomas Vickers entered into possession of the house.

Appendix C.

THE SQUARE.

Note 7. Page 101. *The Lloyds of Birmingham.*

Charles Lloyd (the second Charles), of Dolobran, Montgomeryshire, who died at Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, 1698, was the sixth in descent from Owen, the first to assume the name of Lloyd, and he was the son of Ivan Teg, the son of David, of Dolobran, the son of Llewellyn ap Enion, the son of Enion ap Celynin, of Llwydiarth, about 1300.



- (A) The first Charles Lloyd connected with Birmingham, known in the family pedigree as the second Charles, was the first in the family who became a follower of George Fox, and in his earlier days underwent great persecution in consequence. Both he and his widow were buried at Bull Lane.
- (B) The third Charles Lloyd settled in Birmingham more than forty years after his younger brother, Sampson, viz., in 1742, when eighty years of age. He had three children, viz., Charles (the fourth), b. 1697, Sarah, and Elizabeth. His son Charles had seven children, viz., Charles (fifth), James, and four daughters. Charles died in France, and James sold Dolobran, which in 1878 was re-purchased by Sampson S. Lloyd.
- (C) Sampson Lloyd (first), shortly after his second marriage, removed to Birmingham and settled in Edgbaston Street, near the Rectory. He and his sons were extensively engaged in the iron trade, having forges at Powick and Burton-on-Trent, and slitting mills in Digbeth.
- (D) The second Sampson Lloyd was assessed in Edgbaston Street in 1728. He subsequently removed to Park Street (No. 18), and in 1745 purchased the Sparkbrook Estate, and built the mansion house (Farm) 1758. By his second marriage (with Rachel Champion) he had four sons and two daughters, viz., first, Nehemiah, born 1745, died unmarried 1801; second, Charles, born 1848, married Mary, daughter of James Farmer, of Birmingham, by whom he had eleven children; the eldest was Charles Lloyd, the poet, born 1775, married 1799 Sophia, daughter of Samuel Pemberton, and had nine children. The next son, James, succeeded to Bingley House, and of his seven children, of whom James Lloyd, born 1806, died at Sparkbrook, 1865; and the late Thomas Lloyd, of the Priory, Warwick, born 1814, was the last survivor, dying in 1890.
- (E) Richard Parkes, in 1713, whilst living at Wednesbury, purchased from William Turner, blacksmith, and William Scattergood, nailer, a farm, called Fearnley Fields, comprising eight fields, occupying nearly the whole N.E. side of the present Great Hampton Street.
- (F) The Olivia Lloyd to whom Samuel Johnson wrote love verses in 1725. He was then staying with his cousin, Cornelius Ford, who had just been married to Judith Crowley, the aunt of Olivia.
- (G) At the birth of the third Sampson Lloyd his father was assessed for the Edgbaston Street house, and his uncle Charles for the house at the slitting mill, where his widow, Sarah Lloyd, was living in 1745. When the Dale End bank was started, 1765, he was living, probably, in Park Street, and settled in the Square after the London bank was originated. Subsequently he bought and lived in the Sparkbrook house, which was afterwards occupied by Drs. Priestley and Withering, and finally removed to Farm.

Appendix C

THE SQUARE

Note 7. Page 101. The Lloyd of Birmingham.

Charles Lloyd (the second Charles) of Dolobran, Montgomeryshire, who died at Beccles Hill, Birmingham, 1808, was the sixth in descent from Owen, the first to assume the name of Lloyd and he was the son of Ivan, i.e. the son of David, of Dolobran, the son of Ithelwlad ap Ithion, the son of Ithion ap Celydd, of Llwydharth, about 1100.

1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801
Charles Lloyd b. 1808 m. Sarah d. 1808	Mary Lloyd b. 1807 m. George d. 1807	Elizabeth Lloyd b. 1806 m. John d. 1806	John Lloyd b. 1805 m. Sarah d. 1805	George Lloyd b. 1804 m. Mary d. 1804	Sarah Lloyd b. 1803 m. Charles d. 1803	Charles Lloyd b. 1802 m. Elizabeth d. 1802	Owen Lloyd b. 1801 m. Sarah d. 1801

1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793
Charles Lloyd b. 1800 m. Sarah d. 1800	John Lloyd b. 1799 m. Elizabeth d. 1799	George Lloyd b. 1798 m. Mary d. 1798	Sarah Lloyd b. 1797 m. Charles d. 1797	Charles Lloyd b. 1796 m. Elizabeth d. 1796	Owen Lloyd b. 1795 m. Sarah d. 1795	Charles Lloyd b. 1794 m. Elizabeth d. 1794	Owen Lloyd b. 1793 m. Sarah d. 1793

The first Charles Lloyd connected with Birmingham, known in the family pedigree as the second Charles, was the first in the family who became a follower of George Fox, and in an earlier day was named after his father in consequence. Both he and his widow were buried at Bull Lane.

The first Charles Lloyd settled in Birmingham more than forty years after the younger brother, Sampson, died in 1772, when eighty years of age. He had three children, viz. Charles (the fourth), b. 1767, James, and four daughters, viz. Elizabeth, b. 1768, and James and James both Dolobran, which in 1825 was re-purchased by Sampson St. Lloyd.

Charles died in 1793, and James both Dolobran, which in 1825 was re-purchased by Sampson St. Lloyd.

Note 9. Page 117. *Edward Coleman.*

The name of Edward Coleman appears in the Catalogue of the first exhibition of the Birmingham Society of Artists, 1827, as contributing six portraits, including those of Sir Christopher Sydney Smith, Bart., Lady Smith, and Dr. Booth, and a painting of "Dead Game." In the same catalogue are two views of Bolton Abbey, by William Roberts, whose address is also given as the Square.

Note 10. Page 119. *Randle Bradburn.*

Randle Bradburn, junr., who was born in No. 16, died in 1768, and, like his brother Samuel, passed the whole of his life in No. 16 and No. 2. By will, he left the lease of the house in which he lived to his sister Theodosia, a messuage at Wall, Lichfield, to his brother John, whilst his residue, after payment of some large legacies, he bequeathed to his brother Samuel. This comprised, among other properties, a house in Colmore Row, which, in 1764, he had let to William Hutton, of Birmingham, bookseller. Possibly William Hutton opened a book shop there, but if so, it was a very temporary occupation, and is not mentioned in the *Life of Hutton*.

Note 11. Page 119. *St. Philip's Bells.*

The two first bells of St. Philip's must have been re-cast. Six bells of the existing peal, bearing the date 1750, were cast by Thomas Lester, of London, whilst the others (Pack and Chapman, London) are dated 1772, 1796, and 1823.

Note 12. *Remains of the Priory.*

As stated on page 8, a portion of the wall of the Free Chapel of the Priory remains buried beneath the shop floor of Mr. Berrell, in the Minories, and it should be mentioned that this preservation is due to the care of Mr. William Jenkins, the architect, and to the builder, who were engaged in the reconstruction of the premises.

Note 13. *The "Town Quarters."*

A word of explanation appears desirable with regard to the quarters into which the town was formerly divided by the authorities, for rating and other purposes. This was but the continuation of a plan adopted before the establishment of the parochial system, when charitable relief to the poor was privately administered. There were originally five quarters, viz., Edgbaston Street, Digbeth, Middle Town, Dale End, and the Foreign; and these were at first continued by the overseers of the poor. Speedily, however, other districts, called New Street and Bull Street quarters, were formed; and these were again added to as the town grew. Thus the boundaries of each quarter were periodically re-arranged.

Note 14. *Projected Nelson Column in the Square.*

We have omitted to record that in 1806, after the sea fight of Trafalgar, when the question of erecting some memorial to do honour to the memory of Lord Nelson was being discussed, the Old Square was publicly advocated as the site for the erection of a Naval Pillar, "because there is already existing in this Town a place where a Pillar may be erected with every advantage of uniformity of building and elevation of ground . . . and whatever may be erected in the centre thereof will not only be seen from the Grand Avenue of the Town, but at the greatest distance from the place, it being *many Feet more* elevated than any spot where such a Building can with any Propriety be placed."

Perhaps it is not even yet too late for some public memorial to be erected, which would undoubtedly add dignity to the "grand avenue" of Birmingham of to-day.



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