Relics of Old Leeds

Percy Robinson,
1896.


S. PETER'S
(PARISH) CHURCH
FROM KIRKGATE
PERCY ROBINSON

Relics of Old Leeds.

BY

PERCY ROBINSON.

ILLUSTRATED BY TWENTY FULL-PAGE PLATES AND NUMEROUS BLOCKS IN THE LETTERPRESS.
ALL REPRODUCED FROM DRAWINGS BY THE AUTHOR.

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PERCY ROBINSON, 72, ALBION STREET.
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1896.

TO

EDMUND WILSON, Esq., F.S.A.,

President and Founder

of the Leeds Thoresby Society,

this Work is

Respectfully Dedicated by the Author.

PREFACE.

> "The substance faded! All the pageant gone!
> Save frail memorials, which the votive hand
> Shall snatch, decaying from the hand of Time,
> And bid them live in record."

THIS volume is placed before the public in the hope that it may serve as a record of some of those relics of Old Leeds which, though they may not in all cases be of surpassing architectural or artistic merit, are yet interesting from their associations with the past history of the town. Year by year we see these relics disappearing before the ever advancing tide of modern improvement; the Mixed Cloth Hall and the Old Infirmary have recently disappeared, the former to make way for the improvement known as City Square and the new Post Office and the latter for the new premises of the Yorkshire Penny Bank. Others are doomed, and in a few years we shall have very little remaining of Old Leeds.

The drawings representing buildings now demolished, are from photographs or engravings which have been kindly lent for the purpose; all others have been drawn on the spot, at intervals, as opportunity offered, during the last few years.

I will here take the opportunity of thanking all those who have in any way rendered assistance or information during the progress of the work.

PERCY ROBINSON.

72, ALBION STREET, LEEDS.
1896.

SKETCH OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF LEEDS.

ALTHOUGH Leeds is, historically, of comparatively small note, deriving its importance more from its commercial prosperity and the rapid development of its many industries, than from its associations with the past; yet it is not by any means a town of modern origin, and if it cannot boast of a history teeming with stirring political events, like that of the neighbouring city of York, there is, nevertheless, much that is interesting in the record of its career and development, from an agricultural village to one of the greatest commercial centres in the Kingdom. It is worthy of note that while Manchester and Birmingham have been incorporated during the present century, Leeds can boast of two and a half centuries of incorporation, and a social foundation extending far back in the past—a foundation, in all probability, coeval with the dawn of Christianity in this country. It is, however, only in comparatively recent years that it has assumed its present position of importance. Perhaps the best index to the rate of development of the town, is the record of its population at different periods. At the Norman Conquest, the population is supposed to have been under 1,000. In seven hundred years the increase was not more than seventeenfold, the number being given in 1775 as 17,117.

Twenty-six years later the estimate was 30,000. In 1831 it had increased to 123,393, and the latest return of 1891 showed a total of 367,506. The area of the parish is 21,000 acres.

The earliest mention of the town of Leeds is made by Bede, the historian, who wrote in the seventh century. He describes the district of Leeds—which he calls Loidis*—as a place where Christianity existed before his day, so that this first record is a somewhat satisfactory one. Of its origin as a town we have no authentic record, and the matter is necessarily involved in obscurity; but from this allusion to it by Bede, we may conclude that it was a place of some importance in his day. Thoresby is of opinion that there was a town here in the time of the Romans, and though the vestiges of Roman antiquities, which have been discovered at various times, are sufficient proof that it was known to the Romans, the existence of a town is a matter of conjecture. Although we have no positive evidence of the existence of a Roman station at Leeds proper, we have sufficient evidence to warrant us in assuming that it was, at any rate, a position of some importance in that era. The Roman stations about here, which may be accepted as accurately fixed, are Danum (Doncaster), Legolium (Castleford), Calcaria (Tadcaster), Eboracum (York), Isurium (Aldborough), Burgodunum (Adel), and Cambodunum (Slack). If we take into consideration the close proximity of Burgodunum (Adel), and the relative positions of the other stations mentioned, it is apparent that Leeds must have been crossed by several important highways, and some evidences of this have been revealed accordingly. In May, 1819, while some labourers were excavating on the site of the present Dock Street, the remains of what is supposed to have been a Roman ford were laid bare. Since that time various other traces of Roman work have been discovered in the vicinity. So recently as January, 1896, a number of circular bell pits, from which ironstone had been extracted, were discovered in excavating the foundation of a new building on the site of the old Central Market, in Duncan Street, and it is stated that similar pits were discovered on the site of the Corn Exchange and other adjacent buildings.

* The name Loidis is said to have been derived from the British "Caer Loid Coit"—the town, or city in the wood.

From the time of Bede to the Norman Conquest, we have no record of the progress of Leeds, but the Domesday book, which was compiled in 1086, tells us that "In Ledes (Leeds) there are ten carucates and six bovates of land for geld. Land to six ploughs. Seven thanes held it for seven manors. Now, twenty seven villanes and four sokemen and four bordars have fourteen ploughs there. A priest is there and a church, and a mill of four shillings (annual value), and ten acres of meadow. It was worth six pounds, now seven pounds." From this we see the state of Leeds at the Conquest era, and, considering the period, it is a very satisfactory account, both as regards population and value, for it must be remembered that the district had suffered severely from the ravages of William, who, after the rebellions of 1068-9, laid waste the whole country from the Humber to the Tweed, spreading death and desolation on every side. It is said he left no town unburnt, and no village unsacked in the whole course of his march. When the Saxon lands were divided by William, Leeds was bestowed upon the powerful Norman baron, Ilbert de Laci, who consolidated all his Yorkshire estates in the great barony of Pontefract, but it does not appear to have remained long in his possession, for we learn that in 1089, the advowson of the Church of Leeds, along with the Chapel of Holbeck, dedicated to St. Helena, was given by Ralph Paynel, Lord of Leeds, to the Priory of Holy Trinity at York, from which it would appear that the Manor of Leeds had been granted to the Paynel family by De Laci.

From the Norman era to the reign of King John, Leeds appears to have progressed considerably and advanced in importance, for on the 11th November, 1207, Maurice Paynel, Lord of the Manor, granted a charter to the burgesses of the town, conferring upon them certain rights and privileges, amongst which were—the right to hold a toft (or homestead) and half an acre of land on payment of sixteen pence at Pentecost and the feast of Saint Martin, and to sell and convey the same to whom he will, subject to ordinary customs. A "Prætor," or mayor, was to be appointed by the lord, whose duties were to superintend the internal economy of the town, to preside at the trials of offenders, to receive fines from the tenants, to collect the annual revenues, and to render a proper account of the same to

the Lord of the borough at Pentecost. The "Prætor" was appointed annually, and the office seems to have been a coveted one, and must have carried with it some perquisites or privileges, for the charter expressly states that—"At Pentecost the lord shall remove him (the "Præotor"), and put in his place whomsoever he shall think proper, but the burgesses shall be more eligible, if only they be willing to pay as much as others (who are not burgesses)." If a burgess was impleaded of larceny, he was cleared from the charge on the testimony of thirty-six compurgators, but if impleaded a second time, he had either to purge himself—*i.e.*, prove his innocence—by the ordeal of water, or by single combat. Women were classed with goods and chattels, and those who were to be sold for slavery were freed from certain tolls. All persons were bound to bake in their lord's oven. The provisions of this charter, however barbaric and degrading they may appear at this day, were doubtless appreciated and valued by the burgesses as a great boon, and an advance on the previous customs of the time. About this time the use of the Aire was made available, and a certain amount of trade must have been done in the town, for the charter provides that the inhabitants might trade as they liked, subject to certain tolls and regulations and might convey their grain and merchandise by land or water.

From the granting of the first charter to the time of Charles the First, comparatively little is recorded of the history and government of the town, and, from the brief glimpses we do obtain, there does not appear to have been any very rapid development during that period. In the reign of Edward III., 1327, a new bridge was built across the Aire, with a chantry on the north side, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin.* Ten years later the King granted a charter for paving and reducing to order the streets of the town. About this time the population did not exceed fifty families of married persons, and it is interesting to note that many of the surrounding towns, in the matter of population and commercial importance, occupied a position almost the reverse of that which they occupy to-day. Pomfret, or Pontefract, was pre-eminent for commercial prosperity, having a population

* This chantry was removed when Leeds Bridge was widened in 1760.

more than six times as large as Leeds, while the now flourishing towns of Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, and Dewsbury were then mere villages. We have some interesting information regarding the value of money about this period, from the maximum prices in the King's writs fixed upon the following:—"An ox, stall or corn fed, 24/-; one grass fed, 16/-; a fat stalled cow, 12/-; any other fed cow, 10/-; a fat sheep, 1/8; ditto. shorn, 1/2; a fat hog, 2 years old, 3/4; a fat goose, 3d.; a fat capon, 2½d.; a fat hen, 1½d.; 24 eggs, 1d."

About the close of the fourteenth century the cloth trade appears to have developed considerably, and we find such towns as Halifax and Bradford coming rapidly to the front. From the Ulnager's accounts of the subsidies paid on cloths produced in the West Riding in 1469-70, we find Halifax is second only to Ripon, producing 853¼ cloths, while "Pountefret," which was formerly paramount, produces only 106½. This development in the clothing trade was no doubt due in a great measure to the sumptuary laws which were then in force, and by which all persons were compelled, under severe fines, to wear cloth of a quality according with their station or position, from "cloth of gold," to "good serge of 20d. the yard." The weight, width, quality, and price of all cloth was regulated by the government, and heavy penalties were inflicted on manufacturers making cloths which were not in accordance with the regulations.

From the time of Henry the Eighth to the beginning of the seventeenth century, the history of the town is a comparatively uneventful record. Leland, the antiquary who visited Leeds about 1533, gives a description of it in his Itinerary as follows:—"Ledis, two miles lower then Christal abbay, on Aire river, is a praty market, having one paroche chirche, reasonably well buildid, and as large as Bradeford, but not so quik as it."

The government of the town about this period was vested in a chief officer, or bailiff, acting for the Lord of the Manor, and this officer appears to have ruled much as he pleased, and regulated matters for his own convenience and benefit. We find, in 1620, an enquiry was held into the administration of certain public charities, when it was found that the Moot Hall, then lately erected in the town, was built out of money belonging

to the poor, upon the agreement that the rent derived from the same be devoted to the relief of the poor; but that John Metcalfe, the bailiff who collected this rent, appropriated it to his own use. It was also found that the toll which was collected upon all corn exposed for sale in the markets, and known as the "toll dish," was, by the decree which instituted the toll, to be divided as follows:—one-third to be given to the bailiff or chief magistrate of the town for his own use, one-third to be given to the poor, and the remainder to be given towards the expense of repairing the highways. This toll had been collected regularly by the said John Metcalfe, but no portion of it had been devoted either to the relief of the poor, or the repair of the highways, he having appropriated the whole amount for his own use. These and other irregularities led a number of the inhabitants to petition the King for a charter of rights for the borough, and, in accordance with this petition, the first Charter of Incorporation was granted by Charles I. on July 13th, 1626, constituting the town and parish a Municipal Borough, to be called the "Borough of Leedes in the County of York," to be governed by a Corporation consisting of an Alderman, nine Principal Burgesses, and twenty assistants. The first members of the Corporation were appointed by the charter as follows:—

Alderman:

SIR JOHN SAVILE, KNIGHT.

Principal Burgesses:

RALPH HOPTON.
SETH SKELTON.
JOHN HARRISON.
JOHN HODGSON.
SAMUEL CASSON.
RICHARD SIKES.
ROBERT BENSON.
THOMAS METCALFE.
JOSEPH HILLARY.

Assistants:

BENJAMIN WADE.
WILLIAM BUSFIELD.
GEORGE KILLINGBECKE.
WILLIAM MARSHALL.
ABRAHAM JENKINSON.
JAMES SIKES.
ROBERT PEASE.
GEORGE DIXON.

Ralph Cooke.	Ralph Crofte.
Edward Killingbecke.	Peter Jackson.
Francis Jackson.	William Stable.
Walter Haycocke.	John Jackson.
John Cowper.	Christopher Preston.
Henry Watkinson.	John Hargrave.

From this time the real commercial career of Leeds may be dated. The Charter had established the government of the town on a firm basis, and the state of affairs generally was very satisfactory. The population increased rapidly. Rents were low, materials cheap, and the cloth trade flourished apace. Cloth to the value of £200,000 was manufactured annually, chiefly for export to the continent. Leeds was then the only incorporated borough in the north where cloth was made, and its importance may be judged from the fact that the customs paid on cloths exported amounted to £10,000 per annum.

During the Civil Wars, like most other towns, Leeds had its share of troubles. When the war commenced the town was garrisoned and held for the King by Sir William Savile, until January 23rd, 1643, when it was stormed and taken by Sir Thomas Fairfax. The following account of the battle is extracted from General Fairfax's Journal :—

"On Monday, being the 23rd of January, 1643, I marched from Bradford with six troops of horse and three companies of dragoons, under the command of Sir Henry Fowles, my Commissary, or Lieutenant-General of Horse; and almost 1,000 musketeers and 2,000 clubmen, under the command of Sir William Fairfax, Colonel and Lieutenant-General of the foot, one company of these also being dragoons under Captain Mildmay, about 30 musketeers and 1,000 clubmen marched on the south side towards Wakefield, the rest on the north side towards Woodhouse Moor. On the west side we commended the cause to God by prayer: I dispatched a trumpeter to Sir William Savile, commander in chief, at Leeds, under the Earl of Newcastle, requiring, in writing, the town to be delivered to me for the King and Parliament, to which Sir William disdainfully answered immediately, and said he used not to give answer to such frivolous demands, and that he wondered Sir Thomas would be so uncivil as to come so near the town before he had acquainted them with it: and that there might be more virtue in his actions than that paper sent him: So confident he seemed to be with the strength he had in the town, he could well enough keep it, wherein were about 2,000 men, namely, 1,500 foot and 500 horse and dragoons, and two pieces of cannon: This summons

being refused, we approached nearer the south west side of the town with our forces, and being in view thereof with our banners displayed (being about thirty six colours), I sent another trumpeter to Sir William Savile, who shortly after by a trumpeter, assured us we should get nothing but by fight, whereupon we prepared for an assault, and instantly drew out of our companies five colours of our most expert soldiers, and appointed them to march down with Captains Forbes, Briggs, Lee, Frank, and Palmer with his dragoons on foot, towards the water along the trenches, near to and above which, about 100 musketeers were drawn out of the town on a hill, and about one o'clock in the afternoon, they gave fire from the inside of their works upon our musketeers, who approached nearer, shrouded themselves under a hill and let fly at the sentry, with no loss at all on either side, they within the trenches shooting too high, and the other at the trenches, and thus the fight began between them most fiercely.

"Every commander in their several stations gave charges and commands, and riding from place to place encouraged their men to fall resolutely, who being mightily emboldened by their valiant leaders, performed the same with admirable courage; and although most of them were but unexperienced fresh water-men, taken up about Bradford and Halifax upon the Saturday before, yet they came on most resolutely and violently, especially the musketeers under Sir William Fairfax, commander of the foot, who most courageously at the head of his regiment and in the face of the enemy, stormed the town most furiously, whereupon began very hot service: Capt. Forbes behaved himself most valiantly about the enemy's trenches and outworks, from whence they played very sharply against our men, but were as hotly answered by us with admirable courage and fearless resolution, under the conduct of this noble captain; in so much that notwithstanding the enemy's endeavour to oppose us, together with the assistance of their cannon, which were often discharged upon our men, yet they soon killed their cannoneers, and after a furious fight of two hours, our men most bravely beat them quite from their works: When bullets flew about our men's ears as thick as hail, yet myself, Sir William Fairfax, and Sir Henry Fowles, on one side, and the resolute Capt. Forbes with his brave company on the other side, made way into the town most furiously sword in hand, and violent force of arms, being closely followed by the dauntless club-men, and so with much difficulty got possession thereof within the space of two hours, wherein were found two brass cannon, and good store of arms and ammunition, which we presently seized; we took also four colours, and 500 prisoners, among whom were six commanders, most of the rest were common soldiers, who, upon taking an oath never to fight in this cause against the King and Parliament, were set at liberty, and suffered to depart, but unarmed. There were not above forty slain, whereof ten or twelve at the most on our side, the rest on theirs: Sergeant-Major Beaumont, in his flight endeavouring to cross the river to save his life, lost it by being drowned therein; and Sir William Savile, their General, in his flight also crossing the same river, hardly escaped the same fate."

The following memorandum occurs in the register of burials at the Parish Church:—

"23 January, 1643. This was the day when Leedes was taken by Sir Thomas Fairfax. Eleven soldiers slayne, buried 24th January, ten unpaid for; five more slain two or three days after; six more died of their wounds."

The same register contains the following:—

"Buried 1st April, 1643. Captain Boswell slain at Seacroft battel, and six soldiers. A gentleman and two common soldiers slain in Robert Williamson's house, of Hunslet: buried 13th April, 1643. Five more soldiers slain—nine more in May; sixteen more in June; twelve more in July. 26 soldiers buried July and August, 1644."

Hardly had the plague of war passed away ere the town was ravaged by a yet more terrible plague of disease, which, according to Whitaker, swept away over a fifth part of the entire population. The epidemic broke out in 1644 and spread rapidly, raging most fiercely in Vicar Lane, Marsh Lane, The Calls, Lower Briggate, and Mill Hill, where the insanitary and over-crowded state of the dwellings and surroundings fostered the disease. The town was so neglected that the streets were grass-grown, the markets were removed to Woodhouse Moor, and Divine service was suspended in the churches. The whole town was in a state of demoralisation and terror, and all who were able fled from the scene of contamination and death. "The air in June, when the greatest number died, was very warm, and so infectious that dogs and cats, rats and mice, died; also several birds in their flight over the town dropped dead." The register of burials in the Parish Church could not be kept during the plague, and the following note occurs explaining the reason:—"These were all the names which came to our notice since the ould church doores were shut up for all the rest have died in plague time. You may take them in general, as they are brought in weekly to Major Carter, governor of the town." Here follows the weekly returns from March 12th to December 25th, making a total of 1,325 deaths. Many of the victims were buried in Vicar's Croft and the fields thereabouts. In November, 1790, as some workmen were digging clay in a field, now George Street, they discovered fifty oak coffins containing human bones, supposed to be the remains of the plague-stricken.

On the accession of Charles the Second, steps were immediately taken to remedy the removals from corporate offices and other appointments which had been made during the existence of the Commonwealth, and to restore

the Royalists to the positions they had formerly occupied. A petition was presented to the King by a number of the wealthiest and most influential merchants in the town, praying for an enquiry into the present form of government, which they alleged was unsatisfactory, and suggesting that a new charter should be conferred on the town. This petition, after some opposition from the party who were then in office, had the desired result, and on November 2nd, 1661, the second charter was granted and the former one abrogated. By this charter the corporation was to consist, first, of a mayor, to be elected annually by the mayor, aldermen, and assistants for the time being. Secondly, twelve aldermen, twenty-four assistants, one recorder, and one town clerk, who were to hold office for life unless by their "evil behaviour or for some other reasonable cause" they might be removed by the mayor and the rest of the common council of the borough. The provisions of the charter were very comprehensive, and the council were empowered to make and enforce such laws as might be necessary for the regulation of trade, and for the good government of the town generally. This charter has formed the basis of our municipal legislation, and its provisions have, with some few exceptions, continued in force up to the present day.

In 1684, the charter of 1661 was superseded by another one, the tendency of which was to subject the corporate body entirely to the authority of the Crown. This charter, however, only remained in force five years, the former one being restored on the accession of William and Mary, 1689.

During this reign the hearth tax was also repealed. This tax, which was commonly known as "chimney money," had long been a grievance with the public. It was instituted in 1663, or rather revived, for it is really as old as the Conquest, when it was called "fumage." The amount of the tax was two shillings on every hearth, or stove, in houses paying to the church and the poor, and from the survey which was made when the tax was imposed, it appears that there were 1,431 inhabitants and 2,845 hearths, or stoves, in the borough.

In the transactions of the Corporation about this period, we find many interesting and amusing items. On the 3rd of February, 1662, the

Corporation ordered that an "eight fold assessment" should be laid, in order to reimburse the churchwardens "severall great summes of money" which they had "expended and laid out about the repayres of the Parish Church of the said Town and about the Erecting of a Font for the more Reverent administring of the holy Sacrament of Baptisme." On the 26th of March, in the same year, they appointed Thomas Gorst to be the cook to the Mayor and Aldermen of the borough, "that he may, from tyme to tyme, upon any publique occasion, dresse, or order to be dressed, the severall dishes appoynted for any such meeting or solemnitye." On the 11th of March, 1674, the Corporation issued an order for the better regulation of the market, and also to prevent forestalling. This order states that no corn shall be sold in the market until after the ringing of the "Markett Bell," which bell shall be rung at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LEEDS.

OF the aspect of Leeds in the early part of the eighteenth century, a lively picture may be drawn from an old map (1720) in the possession of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. This curious old print not only shows the plan of the town, but the principal buildings, and even the bridges are shown in elevation, while the "beautiful Aire" is depicted with several vessels in full sail riding majestically on its bosom. The principal residences illustrated were situated in Briggate, Boar Lane, Call Lane, Kirkgate, Hunslet Lane, and Meadow Lane. A few of these are still standing, having been converted into shops or other business premises. What may be termed the town proper was comprised in a very small area. South of the river were very few buildings, except farmsteads or country houses. To the east the buildings extended as far as the Parish Church and Marsh Lane. The Calls was an open space with orchards, and a pleasant footpath along the river side to the church. From the Leylands, along the foot of Lady Lane and Mill Garth to Timble Bridge, were fields and gardens bordering the Shipscar Beck. From Briggate to Mill Hill Lane (now Basinghall Street) were long, narrow crofts, or gardens, extending from Upperhead Row to Boar Lane. Albion Street was Mr. Sleigh's garden. The Red Hall gardens, then the property of Mr. Colverley, occupied King Charles Croft, while at the foot of these grounds, on the site of Albion Place, was a large bowling green, approached from Lands Lane. The road to Bradford was up Briggate, along Upperhead Row and Park Lane, through Burley and Kirkstall. Burley was then a remote village, and Park Lane a country road with very few houses in

its vicinity. Briggate was a continuously built street with many residences, some of which had flower gardens in front and orchards at the back, or tenters where cloth was woven. (Even up to the beginning of the present century, cloth was woven in the yards off Briggate.) Nobility then lived in the town—the last was Lady Lowther, who occupied a house in Kirkgate, nearly opposite the Vicar's Croft. Thoresby also, in his "Ducatus Leodiensis," which was published 1715, has left us some quaint descriptions of the town as it existed in his day. The following is his description of Briggate :—

"In this spacious street, which from the Bridge at the Foot of it, is called Bridge-Gate, or, in our Northern Dialect, which retains much of the Saxon, Briggate stood many of the ancient Borough-Houses, which to this Day pay a certain Burgage-Rent to the Lords of the Mannor of Leedes. The famous Cloth-Market, the Life not of the Town alone, but these Parts of England, is held in this street, *sub dio*, twice every Week, *viz.*, upon Tuesdays and Saturdays, early in the Mornings. The *Brig-end-shots* have made as great a Noise amongst the Vulgar, where the Clothier may, together with his Pot of Ale, have a *Noggin-o'porage*, and a Trencher of either Boil'd or Roast-Meal for Two-pence, as the Market itself, amongst the more Judicious, where several thousand Pounds worth of Broad-Cloth are bought, and, generally speaking, paid for (except the Water-lengths, which cannot then be determined) in a few Hours Time, and this with so profound a Silence as is surprising to Strangers, who from the adjoining Galleries, &c., can hear no more Noise than the lowly Murmur of the Merchant upon the Exchange at London. After the Signal is given by the Bell at the old Chapel by the Bridge, the Cloth and Benches are removed, so that the Street is at Liberty for the Market People of other Professions, as the Country Linen-Drapers, Shoo-makers, Hard-ware-Men, and the Sellers of Wood-Vessels, Wicker-Baskets, Wanded-Chairs, Flakes, &c. Fruit of all Sorts are bought in so vast Quantities, that Hallifax, and other considerable Markets, are frequently supplied from hence, the Mayor's Officers have number'd five hundred Loads of Apples only, upon one Day. Avove the Market for the Milk-Cows, is the Ichthyopolium, which, notwithstanding its great Distance from the Sea, is weekly twice or thrice, if not oftener, plentifully furnished with great Variety of Fish, though short, I confess, of Preston in Amounderness, where the Fish-Toll at 1d. a Horse-Load, and 4d. a cart, has sometimes amounted to six Shillings a Day, as I am informed by a neighbouring Justice of the Peace. A little avove this is the Moot-Hall in the Front of the Middle-Row, on one Side of which is the best furnished Flesh-Shambles in the North of England; on the other the Wool-Market for Broad-Cloth, which is the All in All, From the Cross, which is well stocked with Poultry, and other proper Appurtenances, to the New-Street, is the Corn-Market, which is very considerable; and the more so, because the Populousness of the Places makes it yield greater profit to the Husband-men than other Markets do. In the Upper-Head-Row is the Horse-Fair, and in the Lower the Forum-Suarium;"

A little above Kirkgate end stood the Moot Hall, in front of which were the stocks and pillory. The date of the first erection is not known, but it had fallen somewhat into decay at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and in the Corporation records we find the following :—" 5th June, 1710. Whereas there is a design to repair and alter the Moot Hall for the conveniency of the reception of the West Riding Justices, who have agreed to keep the General Quarter Sessions for the West Riding here. It is agreed by this Court that half the charge of altering and enlarging the hall shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Corporation Stock, providing the half do not exceed the sum of £70 ; and that Mr. Mayor, eleven aldermen, and five assistants, be managers and inspectors of the repairs on the part of the Corporation, and make their report at the first Court after the finishing of the repairs." This building was further graced, in 1713, by a white marble statue of Queen Anne, which was erected at the expense of Alderman Milner. The following inscription, in letters of gold on black marble, was subsequently placed under it by the Corporation :—

"ECCE! INSIGNEM STATUAM LONDINENSI (ULTRA IPSAM PAULINUM LONDINENSEM) INSIGNISSIMÆ REGINÆ ANNÆ OMNI LICET IMAGINE LONGE MAJORI PIC CONSECRATUM. ET A GULIELMO MILNER, ARMIGERO, PRUDENTI JUSTICIARIO, FIDELE SUBITO GENEROSO CIVE OPULENTO MERCATORE, PENITUS EXTRUCTAM."

Translation of the above, inscribed upon the statue, 1840.

"MARK THIS ELEGANT STATUE (SUPERIOR EVEN TO THAT OF ST. PAUL'S IN LONDON) PIOUSLY CONSECRATED TO OUR MOST ILLUSTRIOUS QUEEN ANNE, (THOUGH FAR SURPASSING EVERY REPRESENTATION;) AND ERECTED AT THE SOLE EXPENSE OF WILLIAM MILNER, KNIGHT, A PRUDENT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, A FAITHFUL SUBJECT, A NOBLE CITIZEN, AND AN OPULENT MERCHANT."

This statue, on the demolition of the Moot Hall in 1825, was removed to the Corn Exchange, at the top of Briggate. It has now found a permanent resting-place in the City Art Gallery.

Briggate was the scene of all the great public festivals and rejoicings, and such occasions were not few, for the inhabitants appear to have been always ready to avail themselves of any excuse for a feast. Many of these celebrations are chronicled, and it is interesting to compare them with our ideas of public rejoicing at the present day. For instance, on the 26th

THE MOOT HALL
BRIGGATE

November, 1702, the Corporation make the following order, relative to the success of the British Army abroad:—"Ordered that the sume of twelve pounds be allowed out of the publick Stock, to be expended at a treat at Mr. Blaiks, upon Thursday the 3rd of December next, being the day appointed for publick thankesgiveing for the success of her Maj^{ties} army and her allyes ag^{t} Vigo, and that whoever Stayes to Spend above that, they shall pay it out of their own pocketts." And, again, on a similar occasion—November 22nd, 1709—we are told, the Corporation attended divine service at the Parish Church, and, as the day was set apart for a public festival, they agreed "to meete againe att Mrs. Owens att 5 of the clocke in the evening to Drinck to her Maj^{ties} health and further good success; the expenses of the evening to be att the Corporac'ons charge." On these occasions bonfires were lighted in Briggate, casks of ale were broached on the grassy slopes of the footways, on either side of the street, and Bacchus reigned supreme. Briggate was also the arena of all spectacular displays and pageants; there the troops were paraded, and volleys fired, on occasions of public rejoicing; there the menageries and other itinerant exhibitions pitched, in the centre of the street. On market days, the before mentioned grassy slopes would be crowded with sheep, pigs, horses and carts, and agricultural implements, while auctioneer Thomas Stooks, whose head-quarters were at the King's Arms, would be mounted on his rostrum conducting his weekly auction sale, surrounded by a crowd of eager country people. Briggate was, indeed, the great centre of life and business in the town, and the scene of all the most interesting events of the last century.

In 1720, the Corporation passed a resolution that no more money should be expended out of their funds upon any public or common treat; but in spite of this we find an order made on June 19th, 1727, for proclaiming the accession to the throne of George II., as follows: "Ordered that the Aldermen and Assistants of this Burrough, do waite upon Mr. Mayor to-morrow, at twelve of the Clock, at his own house, in their Gowns and on horseback, to go from thence in procession up the Back of the Shambles to the Markett Cross, and there Proclaim the Mighty Prince, George Prince of Wales, to be lawfull and Rightfull King of Great Brittaine, &c., and from thence to go down the Shambles, and to make the like Proclamac'on at Kirkgate end, at the

Vicaridge, at the North end of the Bridge, and at Boar Lane end, and from Boar lane to adjourn to the house of Mr. James Wainman's to Solemp-nize the day, where an entertainment is to be prepared at the Corporac'on charge, but the same is not to exceed the sume of fifteen pounds. The method to be observed in the procession is to be as follows; vizt., the Constables for the Burrough are to lead the Van two by two, and are to be followed by the Musicians; then the two youngest Assistants are to go in a breast, and are to be followed by the other Assistants, two by two, in point of Seniority, until the Aldermen fall in their ranks, who are to observe the like method till they come to the Mayor, who is to be preceded first by the Two Maces and then by the Com'on Clerk."

With the rapid increase of the town arose necessity for other places of worship than the Parish Church and St. John's, which were becoming inadequate to meet the wants of so large a population. Accordingly, in 1722, the building of Trinity Church was commenced. The church was endowed by the Rev. Henry Robinson, son of Henry Robinson, Vicar of Leeds, with lands to the annual value of £80. The site—"Widow Sleigh's Kidstack garth"—was purchased for £175. The foundation stone was laid by the Rev. Henry Robinson, August 23rd, 1722, and it was consecrated August 27th, 1727. The entire cost of the building was £4,563 9s. 6d., and of this sum, £3,731 19s. 6d. was raised by subscription. The sale of the pews realized

the remainder. The patrons of Trinity Church are the Vicar and Recorder of Leeds, and the Vicar of St. John's.

From the time of the Parliamentary Wars, nothing of importance occurred to disturb the peace and quietness of the district, until the rebellion of 1745, which threw the town into a state of alarm. A letter was sent by one of the Secretaries of State to the Corporation, informing them of the Pretender's scheme for invading the country; in reply to this an address was sent to the King assuring him of their unshaken loyalty, and their readiness to support his cause. Many of the inhabitants fled, and others hid their most valuable effects. John Wesley, who arrived in Leeds on the 5th November, in this year, states in his journal that he found the streets "full of bonfires, accompanied by the discharge of firearms." Wesley, however, having come from the North, was able to inform them that the Pretender's army was directing its march towards Manchester, and on the receipt of this news the excitement soon subsided. Marshal Wade's army, to the number of about thirteen thousand, with twenty pieces of cannon, were encamped at this time in the fields between Leeds, Shipscar, and Woodhouse. Wade himself is said to have been quartered in the old house, now known as Wade Hall, opposite the top end of Merrion Street. On the subsequent defeat of the Pretender's army at Culloden, by the Duke of Cumberland, the Corporation presented a congratulatory address to the King, and, as usual, voted a sum of money out of the Corporation funds, "To drinck his Majesty's good Health, and to express their Joy upon the late glorious Victory obtained by his Royall Highness the Duke of Cumberland over the Rebells."

On two occasions, during the last century, did the population of Leeds show their disapproval of certain legislative measures by demonstrations of violence. The first occasion was in 1735. Owing to the great exportation of corn, on which there appears to have been a bounty, the price of bread and other provisions advanced so much that the indignation of the public was roused, and riots took place in various parts of the country. In Leeds the conduct of the rioters was so violent that the troops were compelled to fire upon them, when eight or nine were killed. The second riot occurred in 1753, and arose in consequence of the exactions of the Turnpike Act. The

public objected strongly to the payment of the tolls, and eventually decided to shew their disapproval by demolishing the gates and houses of the collectors. In the attempt against the bar at Harewood Bridge, the mob were defeated and driven back by Mr. Lascelles, who was assisted by a number of his tenants and workmen. In other cases they were more successful, the bar between Leeds and Bradford, and those at Halton Dial and Beeston, were demolished. At Beeston three of the rioters were arrested and taken before the magistrates at the King's Arms. On the following day the mob assembled in Briggate, with the object of rescuing the prisoners, and proceeded to make an assault on the King's Arms, demolishing the windows and shutters with stones. The magistrates, finding the civil powers inadequate to cope with the rioters, called out the Dragoons, who were then stationed in the town, but this, instead of intimidating them, aroused their fury to a greater pitch, and they even tore up the stones in the street to use as missiles. The military then received orders to fire upon the mob, which they did, first with powder, but as this produced no effect, a second volley was fired with ball, by which thirty-seven were killed and wounded.

In 1755, an Act of Parliament was obtained for lighting the streets and regulating the pavements of the town. The preamble to this Act states that "The Town of Leeds, in the County of York, is a Place of great trade and large extent, consisting of many Streets, narrow Lanes, and Alleys, inhabited by great numbers of Tradesmen, Manufacturers, Artificers, and others, who in the prosecution and carrying on their respective Trades and Manufactures, are obliged to pass and repass through the same, as well in the night as in the day time:" and that "several Burglaries, Robberies, and other Outrages and Disorders have lately been committed, and many more attempted within the said Town, and the Streets, Lanes, Alleys, and passages thereof, and the enlightening the said Streets and Lanes, and regulating the Pavements thereof, would be of great advantage, and tend not only to the security and preservation of the Person and Properties of the Inhabitants of the said Town, but to the benefit and convenience of strangers and persons resorting to the several markets kept within the said Town, and to others whose affairs may oblige them to pass and repass through the same, and also to prevent the many mischiefs which might


PERCY ROBINSON DEL
OLD LEEDS BRIDGE

happen as well from Fires, as Burglaries, Robberies, and other Outrages and Disorders." The system of lighting was by oil lamps, which were in use up to 1819, when they were superseded by gas.

In 1760, an Act of Parliament was passed entitled, "An act for raising money for finishing and completing the repairs of Leeds Bridge, in the County of York; and for the purchasing and taking down the houses and buildings which straiten and obstruct the passage to and over the said Bridge." The Act authorized the erection of "a stone arch over that part of the mill stream or goit passing under one arch of Leeds Bridge aforesaid, which runs between Master Green's house and the old school." The old school was formerly the Chantry of St. Mary.

In 1790, an Act was passed "for better supplying the town and neighbourhood of Leeds, in the County of York, with water, and for more effectually lighting and cleansing the streets and other places within the said town and neighbourhood, and removing and preventing nuisances, annoyances, encroachments and obstructions therein." Up to this date Leeds had been supplied by private enterprise, in the first instance, of one George Sorocold, an engineer of Derby, who, in 1689, laid down an engine for pumping water from the river, at Pitfall Mills, to a reservoir near St. John's Church, whence the town was supplied. By this Act of 1790, these works were taken over by the Corporation, and commissioners were appointed to carry out the necessary extensions and alterations.

There are few things in which greater changes have taken place during the last century, than our methods of travelling and conveyance, and it is most interesting to look back to the old coaching days of a century ago, and see, in imagination, the stage waggons with their loads of merchandise lumbering up Briggate to the Golden Lion, or the New Inn, perhaps, or the stage coach rattling up to the King's Arms, with its load of inside and outside passengers. Some of the principal hotels in Briggate were in those days posting houses. The Bull and Mouth was then known as the Red Bear; the Royal Hotel was the New Inn; the Rose and Crown, another famous posting house, occupied the site of the Queen's Arcade. The King's Arms, where royalty was entertained, stood immediately above Duncan

Street. The White Horse in Boar Lane was another noted posting house in the latter part of the century. In 1780 is advertised:—

"Leeds to Scarborough in one day! A diligence sets out from the White Horse, in Boar Lane, every morning, about seven o'clock, in the Scarborough season, and arrives there about seven in the evening. Fare thirteen shillings for each passenger."

A journey to London in those days was very different to the travelling of to-day, as will be seen from the following advertisement in 1764:—

"Safe and expeditious travelling with Machines on Steel Springs in 4 days to London, from the Old Kings Arms, in Leeds, every Monday and Wednesday."

A few years later, considerable improvement seems to have been made in the service, for we find the following:—

"London, Leeds, Wakefield, Barnfley, Sheffield, Chefterfield, Mansfield, and Nottingham

NEW FLY,

in Two Days and a Half to Leeds and London, for the Winter Seafon,

"WILL fet out from the Crofs-Keys Inn, Wood-Street, three Doors from Cheapfide, London, every Monday and Wednefday Morning, at Twelve o'Clock, breakfaft at the Swan, Margate-Street; dine at the Angel, Northampton, and lie at Leicefter; Breakfaft the fecond Morning, at the Feathers, Nottingham; dine at the Three Cranes, Chefterfield, and lie at the Angel, Sheffield; dine the next day at Leeds. And fets out from Mr. Myers's the New-Inn, Leeds, every Tuefday and Thurfday Noon; lie at firft Night at the Angel, Sheffield; dine the fecond Day at the Feathers, Nottingham, and lie at Leicefter; dine the third Day at the Swan, Margate-ftreet, and will be early in London that night.

Alfo Sheffield, Chefterfield, Mansfield, Nottingham, and Leicefter NEW FLY, to Sheffield in Two Days, will fet out from the above Crofs-Keys Inn, every Monday, Wednefday, and Friday Morning, at Twelve o'Clock, and from the Angel, Sheffield, every Monday, Wednefday, and Friday Morning at Three o'Clock. Meet and lie at Leicefter both up and down.

Paffengers and Parcels will be carefully book'd gratis, by James Richardfon, in the Saddle Yard, at the Bottom of Briggate, Leeds, and fafely convey'd at moderate prices. Allow'd 14lb. of Luggage, all

OLD GEORGE HOTEL
BRIGGATE

above from Leeds to London 3d. per Pound, and fo in Proportion to any Part of the faid Road.

Perform'd by

S. GLANVILL, Sheffield, and Co.

*** A very genteel Vehicle behind for Outfide Paffengers, guarded againft the Inclemency of fevere weather.—The Proprietors will not be accountable for Gold, Plate, Jewels, or Writings, except enter'd as fuch, and paid for accordingly."

Leeds to London in two days and a half! and now the journey can be accomplished in four hours, while a cyclist can cover the distance in a day.

Towards the latter end of the eighteenth century, several public buildings were erected which are worthy of note. In 1771, the old Theatre Royal in Hunslet Lane was opened. In 1777, the Assembly Rooms, near the Corn Exchange, which will be alluded to later, were opened. In 1791, St. Paul's Church, Park Square, was commenced, and was consecrated by Dr. Markham, Archbishop of York, on September 10th, 1793. The building cost £10,000, and contains 1,500 sittings. In 1792, the Music Hall, in Albion Street, was erected. This building, which stood at the corner of Albion Walk, was for many years a very popular place of amusement. It is now converted into a carpet warehouse.

NINETEENTH CENTURY LEEDS.

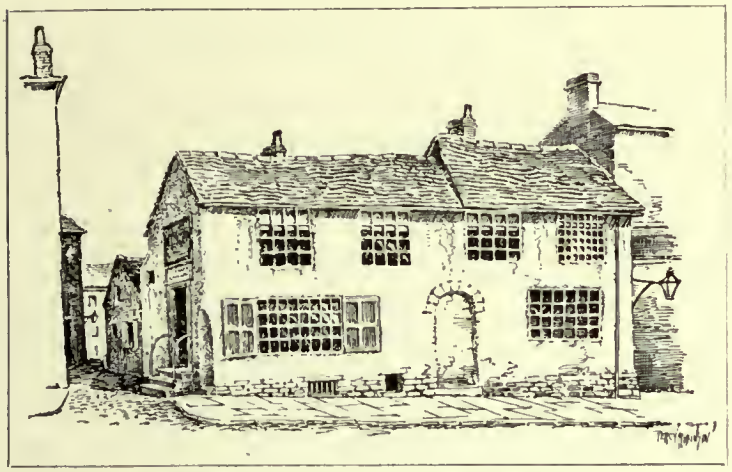
THE greatest and most sudden rise in the population of Leeds, as before mentioned, has taken place during the present century. At the beginning of the century the population was estimated at 50,000, and in 1891 the census gives the number at 367,506, which is truly an enormous increase. We have formed a tolerably accurate idea of the state of the town at the beginning of the eighteenth century; we will now look at its condition at the beginning of the present century, and if we compare the Leeds of that date with the Leeds of to-day, we shall find a most astonishing transformation has taken place. Fortunately, we have again a very reliable authority in the shape of an old map, dated 1815; from this we see exactly the extent of the town. The population was concentrated in the centre, Briggate, Kirkgate, Boar Lane, and Swinegate being the principal streets; beyond this area no part of the town was closely built. From Park Square to the river, and from School Close to Park Mills, near Wellington Bridge, was an expanse of fields, unbroken save for a solitary group of cottages known as Park Buildings, in the Bean Ings; not a single building abutted upon the river on either side. What a transformation! Nothing but pleasant hedgerows and flower-spangled meadows stretching down to the river's brink, where now huge factories and forests of chimneys rear their lofty heads, and pour forth their polluting filth into the atmosphere above, and into the once pellucid stream below. Northwards, from Park Square, were very few buildings, except in Woodhouse Lane and St. James'


27
LOWLEYS
BOOT & SHOE DEPOT
A. PICKARD WINE & SPIRIT MERCHA
30
DANIEL PICKARD & CO.
JOHN T BEER
PERCY ROBINSON DEL.
OLD BRIGGATE

OLD BUILDINGS
IN YARD OFF BRIGGATE

PERCY ROBINSON DEL.

Street, where some good houses had been erected. St. James' Street is described as "extremely pleasant, and from its elevation, the air of it is remarkably salutary and bracing, from which circumstance, it was preferred by invalids to any part of the town." The site on which the Town Hall is built was occupied by Park House, the property of the Calverley family, and for many years their residence. It was sold to the Corporation, in 1851, for £9,500. At that time the house was occupied by Dr. Richard Hobson. Park Lane was the main road to Bradford, and to the west of the Green Dragon (formerly the Duncan Inn) very few buildings abutted upon it. North Hall and Spring Gardens* were almost entirely in the country; the latter was a famous resort of holiday makers. Some light is thrown upon the state of this now populous district by the following occurrence, in 1815. "In the tempestuous night of Friday, 15th December, as Mr. Fitzgerald, of the Union Inn, was returning from Kirkstall, having spent the evening with some friends, he fell into a small rivulet at the bottom of St. Peter's Hill, and was drowned. The body was not found till noon next day." Near St. Peter's Hill there was a medicinal spring, known as St. Peter's Well, the water of which was intensely cold, and supposed to be efficacious in rheumatic disorders. There were also two other noted springs in this district, viz. :—Eyebright Well, near the Monk Pits, supposed to afford a sovereign remedy for soreness of the eyes, and the Canker Well, a chalybeate spring near the

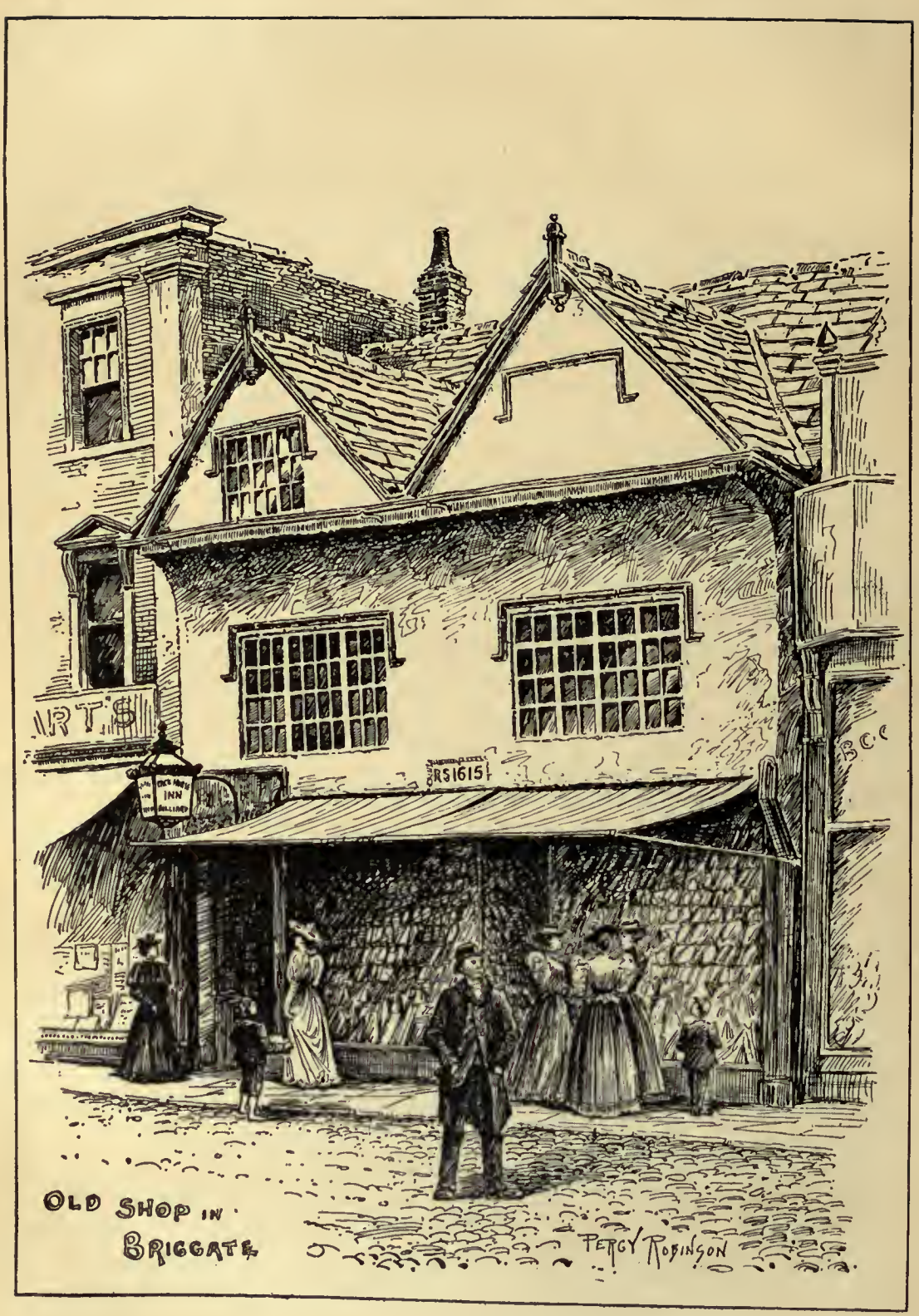


The Duncan Inn, Burley Bar (now Green Dragon Hotel).

* The first house at North Hall was built by George Banister, the first Town Clerk of Leeds, in the reign of Charles I. The house of entertainment known as Spring Gardens, was built by his son about the end of the 17th century.

present Cankerwell Lane, the water of which was reputed to be a cure for cancer. Camp Road was known as Long Balk Lane, and wore quite a rural aspect, the few houses in existence being the homesteads of the farmer-clothiers. Shipscar Lane (now North Street) was not much different, and the district known as the Leylands was just being developed. The following property is announced for sale in 1803:—"To be sold, a freehold water mill with five large rooms on the ground floor (one holding two water wheels, each 10 ft. diameter, the one 3 ft., and the other 4 ft. wide) and two large chambers over part of the same. Also a reservoir, nearly one acre, with gardens and grass land adjoining, containing about another acre. The buildings suit different purposes, and at a small expense may be converted for scrubbing and carding wool, cotton spinning, manufacturing tobacco and snuff, paper making, or rasping and chopping of dyewoods; they are on Shipscar Beck, about a quarter of a mile from Leeds, and with a right on the north and east sides, to two good adjoining carriage roads, direct to Leeds; on the north road is land 105 yards long, on the east 87 yards long, both plots suitable for buildings of any kind, will be sold either with or without two cottages or four acres of grass land, all adjoining the mill. Apply to Mr. Matthew Wilkinson, of Leeds, the owner." This property was situated on the beck near the bottom of Lady Lane.

Commercial Street was only projected as far as Lands Lane in 1803-4, and in 1807 it was carried through to Briggate, a block of old buildings being removed to effect the improvement. Until that time access to the Lands Lane district could only be obtained through some of the narrow ginnels, up which the inns were—and still are—situated. One of the oldest of these road easements is the Pack Horse, or Slippin Yard,



OLD SHOP IN BRIGGATE

PERCY ROBINSON

which for many years was the principal outlet on the west side of Briggate, between Boar Lane and the Head Row. The Pack Horse itself (formerly called the Nag's Head) is one of the oldest of Leeds' hostelries, dating back, in all probability, to the reign of "Good Queen Bess." The Slippin has also other interesting associations. In the early Georgian days it was the rendezvous of fashionable Leeds; all kinds of social and festive gatherings were held in its precincts. In April, 1750, a fashionable dancing academy was opened by "Mr. Joseph Baker, of London, in a large room in the Nag's Head Yard commonly called the Slippin, where ladies and gentlemen may depend upon being instructed in the best manner."

Boar Lane, in the early part of the century, was only half its present width, and was a very irregular thoroughfare. There are people living at the present day who can remember houses there with gardens in front. The land upon which the Pygmalion stands, adjoining Trinity Church, was sold about forty years ago for £3 per yard, it was then an open space or garden, with a fence around, and was frequently occupied by travelling exhibitions, menageries, etc. At the back of this land, fronting into Bank Street, stood the Old Bank, a low, dingy-looking building, with a bay window overlooking Boar Lane. The Griffin Hotel was a low, old-fashioned hostelry, nearly opposite the bottom of Basinghall Street. In the thirties it was kept by one Ann Birch, and was a great Tory haunt.

In 1809, an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled: "An Act to amend and enlarge the Powers of an Act passed in the Thirtieth Year of His present Majesty, for better supplying the Town and Neighbourhood of Leeds, in the County of York, with Water; and for more effectually lighting and cleansing the Streets and other Places within the said Town and Neighbourhood, and for removing and preventing Nuisances and Annoyances therein; and for erecting a Court House and Prison for the Borough of Leeds, and for widening and improving the Streets and Passages in the said Town." In pursuance of this Act the Court House in Park Row was erected, and opened in 1813. This building, after being enlarged in 1844 at a cost of £9,000, continued to serve the requirements of the borough until 1859, when all business was removed to the Town Hall. The building was then purchased by the Government for £6,000, and converted into a

post office. For this purpose it was used up to May 18th, 1896, when the palatial pile of buildings in the City Square were first thrown open to the public.

In 1815, a further Act was passed, entitled: "An Act to amend and enlarge the Powers and Provisions of an Act of His present Majesty, for erecting a Court house and Prison for the Borough of Leeds, in the County of York, and other purposes; to provide for the Expense of the Prosecution of Felons in certain Cases; and to establish a Police and Nightly Watch in the Town, Borough and Neighbourhood of Leeds aforesaid." After providing for the continuance of the special Court House rate until the expenses incurred in connection with the building should be paid off, the Act authorized the Justices of the Peace for the Borough to establish regulations for the government of the Court House, Prison, and prisoners; to appoint a gaoler, chief constable, and other subordinate officers, including an adequate body of watchmen and patrols for the town and suburbs, within one mile of the bars; and to levy a "Watch Rate," not to exceed 6d. in the pound in any one year, all property under the annual value of £4 to be exempt.

Another important Act of Parliament was passed in 1824, which still further extended the provisions of the previous measures. It was under this Act that the Middle Row and Moot Hall, in Briggate, were removed. This pile of buildings extended along the centre of Briggate, from near Kirkgate end to a little above Wood Street, contracting the roadways on either side so much as to be dangerous to vehicular traffic. The expense of this improvement was estimated at £12,000, it ultimately cost £15,097 4s. 2d., which amount was raised by five annual rates of 5d. in the pound, and one rate of 2d. in the pound. The demolition was completed May 30th, 1825.

One of the most notable reforms in the government of the town was effected by the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835. Up to this time the Corporation had been a self-elective body, the burgesses having no voice in their appointment. This state of affairs was contrary to the prevailing spirit of the age, and caused great dissatisfaction amongst the burgesses. In 1834, a Royal Commission was instituted to inquire into the condition of the Municipal Corporations throughout the Kingdom, and on

the 19th December, one of the Commissioners appointed attended at the Court House, Leeds, to inquire into the constitution of the Corporation. Before the proceedings commenced, James Nicholson, then Town Clerk, read a resolution passed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, protesting against the legality of the Commission, and the power of the Commissioners to compel the attendance of any member or officer of the Corporation before them; but stating, that as the Commission had been issued under the King's authority, they were disposed to pay all proper respect to it; and in consequence thereof had directed him to attend and answer the questions put to him on the queries transmitted to the Mayor and himself, provided such questions were put by the Commissioner only. Mr. Nicholson then replied to the questions put to him, describing the extent of the Borough, the constitution of the Corporation and methods of election, the various public officials, their salaries and duties, the sources of income and expenditure, and the general state of the town. The following extracts are taken from the Commissioner's report:—

"The close constitution of the Corporation is obvious; all vacancies in each branch of it being filled by the select body, gives to that body absolute and uncontrolled self election." * * * * *

"The great respectability of the present members of the Corporation and their impartial conduct as Justices, were universally acknowledged; but the restricted system and want of a more popular method of election were loudly complained of, and it was said that it would be satisfactory to a great majority of the Town, that there should be such more open course as the Legislature in its wisdom should think best."

The result of this Commission was the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, which, after much opposition, received the Royal assent on September 9th, 1835. In pursuance of this Act the lists of Burgesses were revised, the Borough was divided into Wards, and the number of councillors assigned to each Ward as follows:—

Leeds Township:—1, Mill Hill Ward; 2, West Ward; 3, North West Ward; 4, North Ward; 5, North East Ward; 6, East Ward (Hamlets of Osmondthorpe, Skelton, and Thornes); 7, Kirkgate Ward; 8, South Ward.

Out Townships:—9, Hunslet Ward (Township of Hunslet); 10, Holbeck Ward (Townships of Holbeck and Wortley); 11, Bramley Ward (Townships of Bramley, Armley, Farnley, and Beeston); 12, Headingley Ward (Townships of Headingley-cum-Burley, Chapel Allerton, and Potternewton).

The Mill Hill, West, Holbeck, and Bramley Wards were to have six councillors each, and the remaining Wards four councillors each.

The trade and progress of Leeds was naturally greatly influenced by the introduction of railways, and the increased facilities for the carriage of goods. One of the first locomotives was constructed at Leeds, in 1811, and ran on a railway extending from Middleton Collieries to Brandling's Staith, near Leeds Bridge. This curious engine, which pulled as many as thirty waggons at a rate of about three miles an hour, was propelled by a cogged wheel working on a racked rail. It was for many years an object of curiosity, and was visited by people from all parts. In 1834, the Leeds and Selby Railway was opened, the station being in Marsh Lane. The Midland was opened in 1842; Leeds and Bradford, 1846; Leeds, Dewsbury, and Manchester, 1848; Great Northern, 1848. We have now no end of branch lines and extensions in all directions still progressing.

With the advent of the new system of Municipal government came many changes in the aspect of the town. The new body were imbued with the spirit of progress, and soon began to make improvements in every direction. In 1843, a new Borough Prison was commenced, which, when completed, cost £60,000. The arrangements for the relief of the poor were very bad, and to remedy this Industrial Schools were erected in 1848, at a cost of £14,000; and a new Poor House, with chapel adjoining, at Burmantofts, in 1861, at a cost of over £31,000. In 1845, a House of Recovery was built at Burmantofts, costing about £7,000. The old House of Recovery was in Vicar Lane, and is now the Greyhound Inn. The burial grounds of the town were very much overcrowded, and cemeteries at Burmantofts, Hunslet, Holbeck, and Armley had to be provided, at a cost of £25,000. The water supply was bad, not more than two-thirds of the inhabitants having a regular supply, and that from the river, which was polluted with dye wares and sewage. In 1837, a company obtained powers to purchase the old waterworks, and commenced new works at Adel and Eccup; these were purchased in 1852 by the Corporation. In 1856, they extended to the river Wharfe at Arthington, and, when this supply became insufficient, the reservoirs at Lindley Wood, Swinsty, and Fewston were constructed. The supply is now one of the finest in the Kingdom. The next great improvement was the

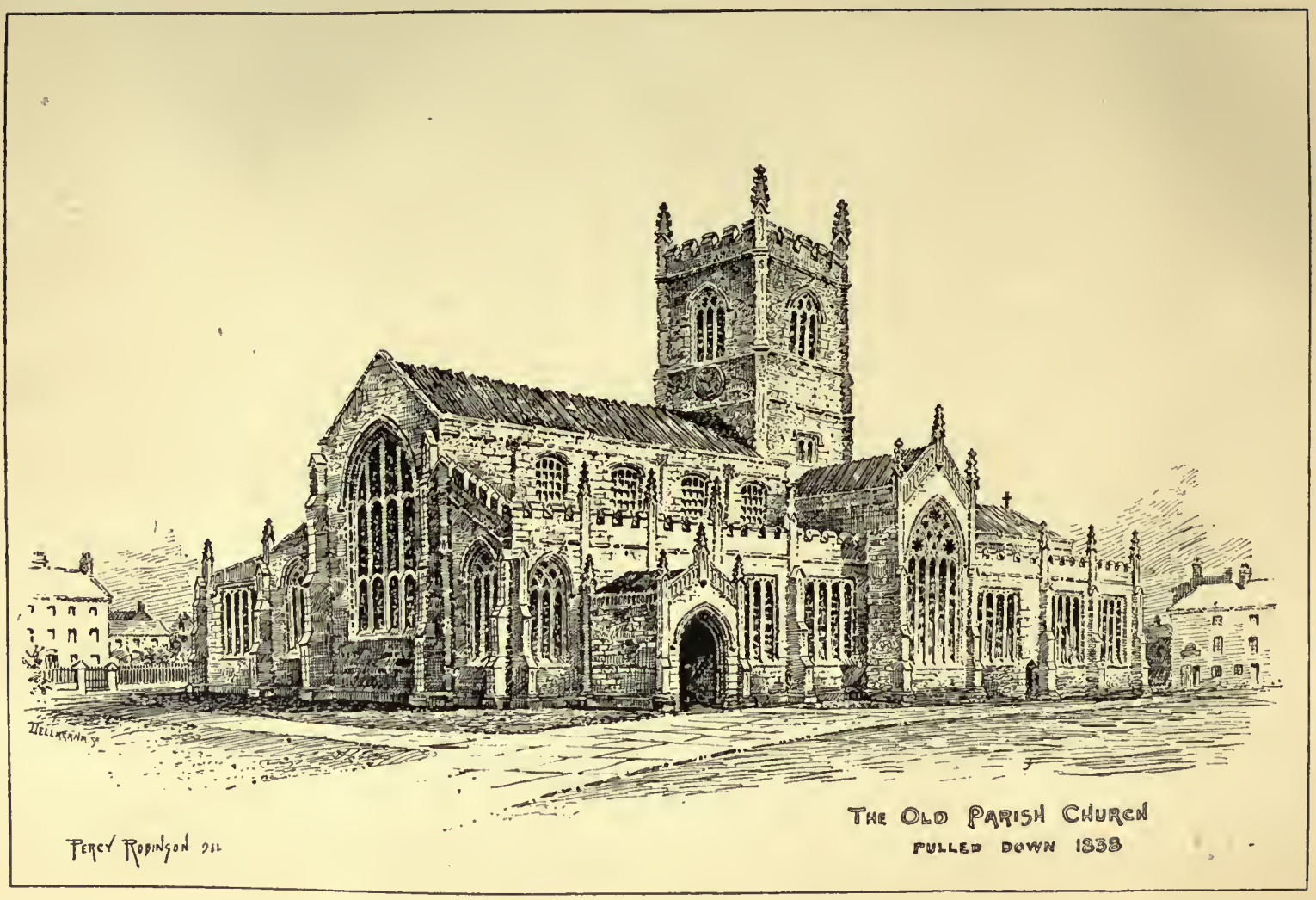
sewerage scheme, which was commenced in 1852. In 1857, Vicar's Croft was enclosed and covered in, at a cost of over £14,000. The Cattle Market was begun in 1853, and cost, in the first instance, £5,200. On July 17th, 1853, the foundation stone of the Town Hall was laid, and the building was opened by the Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert, on September 7th, 1858. The total cost was upwards of £140,000. During the last forty years wonderful improvements have been made in all directions. Sanitary, building, and other bye-laws and regulations have been instituted. Miles of new streets have been formed. Old streets have been widened and obstructions removed. Public buildings of all kinds have sprung up. Trade has flourished and the population has increased at an enormous rate, causing the town to extend on every side, gradually absorbing the once remote country districts. Some idea of this increase may be formed from the fact that the population and rateable value of the Borough has more than doubled in less that 50 years.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

ALTHOUGH the existing Church of St. Peter is a modern building, being erected during the present century, it stands upon a site which has been occupied by successive churches from very early times. Of the beginning we have very little information, but we may assume that the first church in Leeds was a Saxon structure, in all probability erected during the days of Paulinus, the Northumbrian Apostle. Thoresby suggests that this original church was destroyed by the Danes when they burned York Minster, and this suggestion is not improbable. However, in "Domesday," we have certain evidence of a church being in existence, though what the structure was like can only be a matter of conjecture. It would probably be one of those rude Saxon edifices which were rebuilt by the Normans during the great era of church building in the twelfth century, when they adapted the old churches of the Saxons to their own more extended ideas of propriety and magnificence.

The first mention of a priest of Leeds occurs in one of the Kirkstall Charters as early as the reign of Stephen: it alludes to one "Ailsa, persona de Leedes" (*i.e.*, parson of Leeds). Also in 1177 there is mentioned "Paulinus, priest of Leeds."

In the year 1089, the advowson of the church was given by Ralph Paynel, Lord of Leeds, to the Priory of Holy Trinity, at York, which monastery he founded. The monks appear to have been able to take care of themselves, for we learn that they appropriated two-thirds of the tithes and altarage to their own use, leaving the remaining third for the secular clergy.

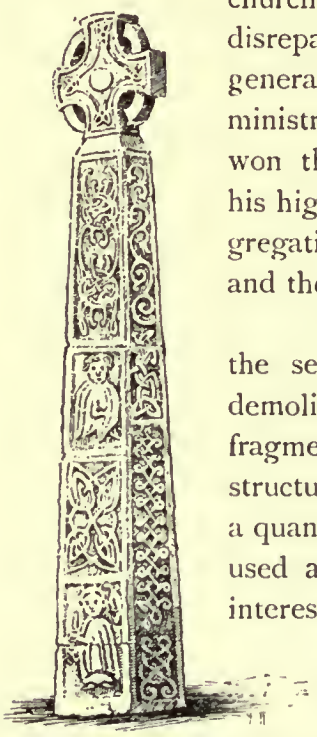

Percy Robinson del
The Old Parish Church
pulled down 1838

When the Priory of Holy Trinity was dissolved, in 1538, the advowson of St. Peter's was granted by Henry the Eighth to Thomas Culpepper, by letters patent given at Westminster, on the 15th day of October, 1538. This curious old document is still in existence, and attached to it by a cord is the Seal of Henry the Eighth. From the time of Culpepper, the advowson changed hands many times, until it was ultimately purchased by a number of parishioners from one Oliver Darnelly, of London, for the sum of £130. The patronage was then vested in five trustees.

The church which was pulled down in 1838, to make way for the present structure, has been described by Thoresby and others as an ancient fabric, chiefly in the Perpendicular style of architecture, but with some traces of Norman and Early English work. It was built in the form of a cross, with a somewhat plain, square, battlemented tower over the transept crossing. The plan was chiefly remarkable for its two north aisles, an unusual feature, which gave the church an extraordinary width. Originally, the building seems to have consisted of nave, chancel, and transepts only, the north aisle being added in the time of Henry the Eighth, and the south aisle about the end of the fifteenth century. The south wall was pulled down and rebuilt in 1809, when many fragments of an older building were discovered, amongst which was a stone coffin containing a complete skeleton, with portions of two others placed in a contrary direction, and supposed to be those of a woman and child. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries many alterations were made to the building. The side altars disappeared, and the choir ceased to be used except for the celebration of Holy Communion. The east window was blocked up with a heavy screen of Italian design, on the inside, and a large ugly vestry outside. In 1714 the organ took possession of the chancel arch, the ugly and cumbersome oak galleries began to make their appearance, darkening the interior and giving it a gloomy and dismal aspect. The roof was painted in fresco by Parmentier, an artist of some repute who lived in Thoresby's time, and who painted that worthy's portrait.

Leeds was constituted a vicarage in 1242, the first vicar being Alanus de Sherburn, who was appointed by the Prior of Holy Trinity. From

that time to the present day the church has been fortunate in having an almost unbroken succession of illustrious preachers. One of the most noted vicars before the days of the Reformation was Thomas Clarel, who was appointed in 1430. He was an energetic worker, and introduced many reforms and improvements during his vicariate. We are told that he beautified his church in many ways, and decorated the chancel with pictures. Clarel was buried in the church, and his grave was marked by a memorial brass, which has now been removed from its original position to the wall of the church for better preservation. Another pre-Reformation vicar, who is not mentioned in either Thoresby's or Whitaker's list, was John Thompson. By his will, which is dated 1419, he bequeaths the sum of £5 3s. 4d. for the maintenance of the fabric of St. Peter's Church at Leeds. In later days there are many names which have become famous, but there is perhaps none more conspicuous than that of Walter Farquhar Hook, who was inducted to the living on the 15th April, 1837. When Dr. Hook came to Leeds he found the church in a bad way; the building itself had fallen into disrepair; the attendance was meagre, and the state of affairs generally was very unsatisfactory. Under Dr. Hook's zealous ministry, however, improvements soon began to appear. He won the confidence and respect of his parishioners through his high moral character and powerful preaching. The congregation increased rapidly, until the church was overcrowded, and then, through his efforts, the present structure was raised.


Runic Cross in Parish Church.

The old church was pulled down in March, 1838; the service being transferred to St. John's. During the demolition many interesting relics were found—sculptured fragments, bases and caps of pillars, portions of former structures, which had been used as wallstones or fillings, also a quantity of stained glass of very early date, which had been used as packing to the courses of the stonework. The most interesting and important find was an old Runic cross, supposed to have been a sepulchral monument erected in memory of King Onlaf, or Olaf the Dane, who reigned in the north about 939, and whose Villa

Regia is said to have been at Osmundthorpe. The fragments of the cross were found buried in the masonry of the fourteenth century tower, and were fitted together by Mr. Chantrell, the architect of the building, who claimed the relic under the terms of the contract. For many years this interesting relic was lost sight of, but it was eventually discovered in the possession of a grocer at Rottingdean, who had acquired it along with other property of Chantrell's; from him it was purchased by Dr. Gott for the sum of £25. It was then brought back and re-erected in its present position.

Under the chancel was found the mutilated effigy of a knight in chain mail, of the period of Edward II., or thereabouts, supposed, from the armorial bearings on the shield, to have belonged to the family of Stainton, or Manston.

Effigy of Knight.

The present building was erected by voluntary subscriptions, at a cost of £29,770, and was opened on Thursday, September 2nd, 1841, in the presence of the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Ripon, Ross, Argyll, and New Jersey, and a large concourse of clergy and laity from all parts of the kingdom. The church stands upon the old site as nearly as possible, a portion of the old south wall being left standing and included in the present structure. The plan is also similar in general arrangement to the old church, the chief difference being that the tower, instead of being over the transept crossing, is placed at the extremity of the north transept. The double north aisle is retained, but the portion east of the tower is screened off and forms an ante-chapel. The principal entrance is through the tower, the basement of which forms a porch. Over the rich canopied arch, in the inner porch, is placed a full-sized statue of Saint Peter, the patron saint, which formerly stood on the top of the old organ. Immediately opposite the central doorway is the organ, which occupies the whole of the south transept, but which is not visible, being placed behind a richly carved oak screen. The nave and chancel arcades have pointed arches on clustered

columns. The chancel, which is approached by seven steps, terminates with a hexagonal apse. Over the altar, in the angles of the apse, are four figures of the evangelists in canopied niches. The cover of the 14th century piscina is on the south-east wall of the chancel, and is converted into a monument to Thoresby, the antiquary. The tower contains a fine peal of bells, thirteen in number. Altogether, there are three thousand sittings in the church, and of these eighteen hundred are free.

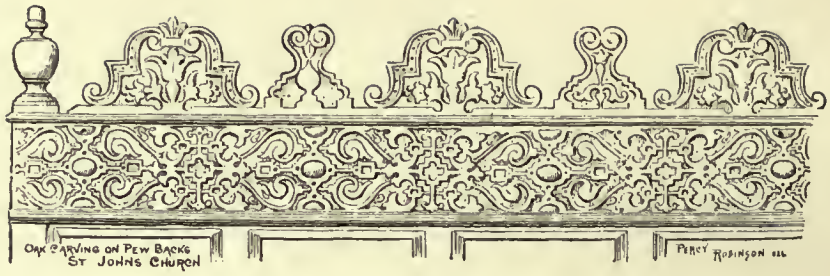
One of the most beneficial reforms during the present century was the commutation of the tithes in 1823. This system of levying money for church purposes had long been a nuisance to all concerned, and was quite unsuitable in the altered state of the town. To give some idea of the difficulties experienced in this system, the following brief description of the tithes the vicar was entitled to exact, is quoted:—"The tithes or agistement of herbage of turnips sown and eaten upon the ground by barren and unprofitable cattle, and which, if sold, the tithes were to be paid by the occupier of the ground after the rate of one-tenth of the money the turnips were sold for—the agistement of barren and unprofitable cattle, and the tithe of potatoes grown and gathered, and turnips pulled from the ground—the payment of threepence yearly from each householder residing within the bars of the town in respect of his dwelling-house, and one penny annually for an Easter offering—the payment of twopence annually in lieu of the tithes of an ancient garden, and a customary payment of twopence annually in lieu of tithes of an ancient orchard—the payment of a penny in respect of each "plow" kept upon every tenement in the parish, and the payment of twopence in lieu of tithes of each calf dropt, and of the milk of each cow, and of one halfpenny in lieu of eggs of each duck, and twopence annually in lieu of tithe of hen's eggs laid upon each tenement—an offering annually for each person above the age of sixteen years resident in the family of each householder in the parish—the tithe of rapeseed, common and other modern gardens—the annual payment of six shillings in lieu of tithe milk whenever a parishioner kept twelve cows, for six cows two shillings, for six calves dropt in one tenement in one year six shillings, five calves one shilling and fourpence, and four calves tenpence—the payment of twopence annually from each householder residing within the bars, one penny for the tithe agistment


S. Peter's (Parish) Church from the River
PERCY ROBINSON DEL. 1894

of one dry and unprofitable cow, one penny in lieu of tithes of bees, except where six swarms are had in one year, in which case one swarm is due, one penny in lieu of tithes of eggs laid by each turkey, and sixpence in lieu of each foal dropt within the parish. And the Vicar was also entitled to all tithes, offerings, and other ecclesiastical dues within the parish, except the tithes of corn, grain, and hay, and of the King's Mills." It was arranged that these tithes should be commuted upon the payment of £500 per annum to the vicar, and a capital sum of £14,000 was raised for this purpose by public subscription.

The first Leeds Vicarage was founded in 1453, when William Scott, of Potternewton, granted for the use of the church a house and garden in Kirkgate. Here the vicarage stood until 1823, when, at a public meeting of the inhabitants, it was unanimously resolved that the vicarage house, with the outbuildings, garden, and croft, including altogether about 9,758 square yards of land, should be purchased for the purpose of widening the adjoining streets and providing a new public market.

There were formerly several chantries in connection with the church, but all traces of these have long ago disappeared. At the north-west corner of Briggate stood the chantry of St. Mary Magdalen, founded by William Evers, vicar of Leeds, A.D. 1370. Near the old north bar stood the chantry of Our Lady. There was another chantry in Kirkgate, founded by Thomas Clarel, vicar of Leeds, in 1430. There was also the chantry at the north end of the bridge, and others at Holbeck, Farnley, and Whitkirk.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

THE Church of St. John the Evangelist, in New Briggate, is the oldest ecclesiastical edifice of which Leeds can boast. Built in the time of Charles I., when Gothic art was at its lowest ebb, it possesses none of that grace and elegance of design which characterises some of the earlier churches, though Thoresby, in his enthusiastic way, speaks of it as being "so noble and stately a structure as scarcely to be paralleled in England." The plan is somewhat unusual, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a porch on the south side and a square tower at the west end, having an embattled parapet and crocketted pinnacles. The nave and south aisle are of the same size, and are divided by an arcade of seven pointed arches on octagonal pillars.

The most interesting feature in the interior is the richly carved oak screen which stretches across the entire width of the church, separating the nave from the chancel (there being no chancel arch). This is a remarkably fine example of Jacobean woodwork. The pulpit is in the corner, formed by the junction of the screen with the north wall, it is of the most elaborate execution, octagonal in shape, and has a ponderous sounding board. The pews with which the church is fitted throughout are, like the pulpit and screen, of oak, darkened by age, with carved panels and moulded terminals. The roof is an open timbered one, the oaken tie beams being supported by corbels formed of curiously carved figures. The ceiling is plastered, and enriched by panels filled in with arabesque work.


S. Johns Church
PERCY ROBINSON DEL.
1899

The general effect is formal and sombre, but impressive, and eminently characteristic of the period when the building was erected.

In the Parish Church register there is a record of a baptism in 1579, as follows:—"John Harrysonn, of Paudmire, had a child christened, 16th Aug., named John." To this entry the clerk has added:—"This is that Mr. John Harrison, who of his sole cost and charges built the New Church, with a little Chapel, and the almshouses near adjoining, and the Free School of Leedes."

Harrison was a man of the middle class, and for nearly forty years carried on the business of a clothier in Briggate, amassing a considerable fortune, which he devoted to various charitable purposes. At that time, with the exception of the chantry chapels—one in Kirkgate, one in Lady Lane, and one at the top of Briggate, on the west side—the only place of worship was the Parish Church, where the accommodation was altogether insufficient for the numerous and rapidly increasing population. As Fuller says, "The church could scarce hold half the inhabitants till this worthy gentleman provided them with another, so that now the men of Leeds may say, with Isaac 'Rehoboth,' for now the Lord hath made room for us. He (Mr. Harrison) accepted of no assistance in the building of that fair fabric but what he fully paid for, so that he may be owned the sole founder thereof."

By a deed of settlement, dated September 14th, 1638, there is vested in certain trustees, to the use of the minister for the time being, a glebe of seventy-one acres, together with a house and garden, then valued at £11 per annum. The right of nomination is vested in "the vicar of the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Leeds, the mayor and the three senior aldermen of the corporation for the time being, or any three of them."

The building was begun in 1631, and was consecrated on September 21st, 1634. The first minister was Robert Todd, who was suspended on the very day he entered on his duties. The consecration ceremony was performed by Archbishop Neale, who appointed his own chaplain, Dr. Cosen, afterwards Bishop of Durham, to preach the sermon. Mr. Todd preached in the afternoon, and by some unguarded remark, which was thought to

reflect on the sermon preached by Dr. Cosen in the morning, gave so much offence that he was suspended for one year. He was afterwards restored to his station, which he occupied until 1662.

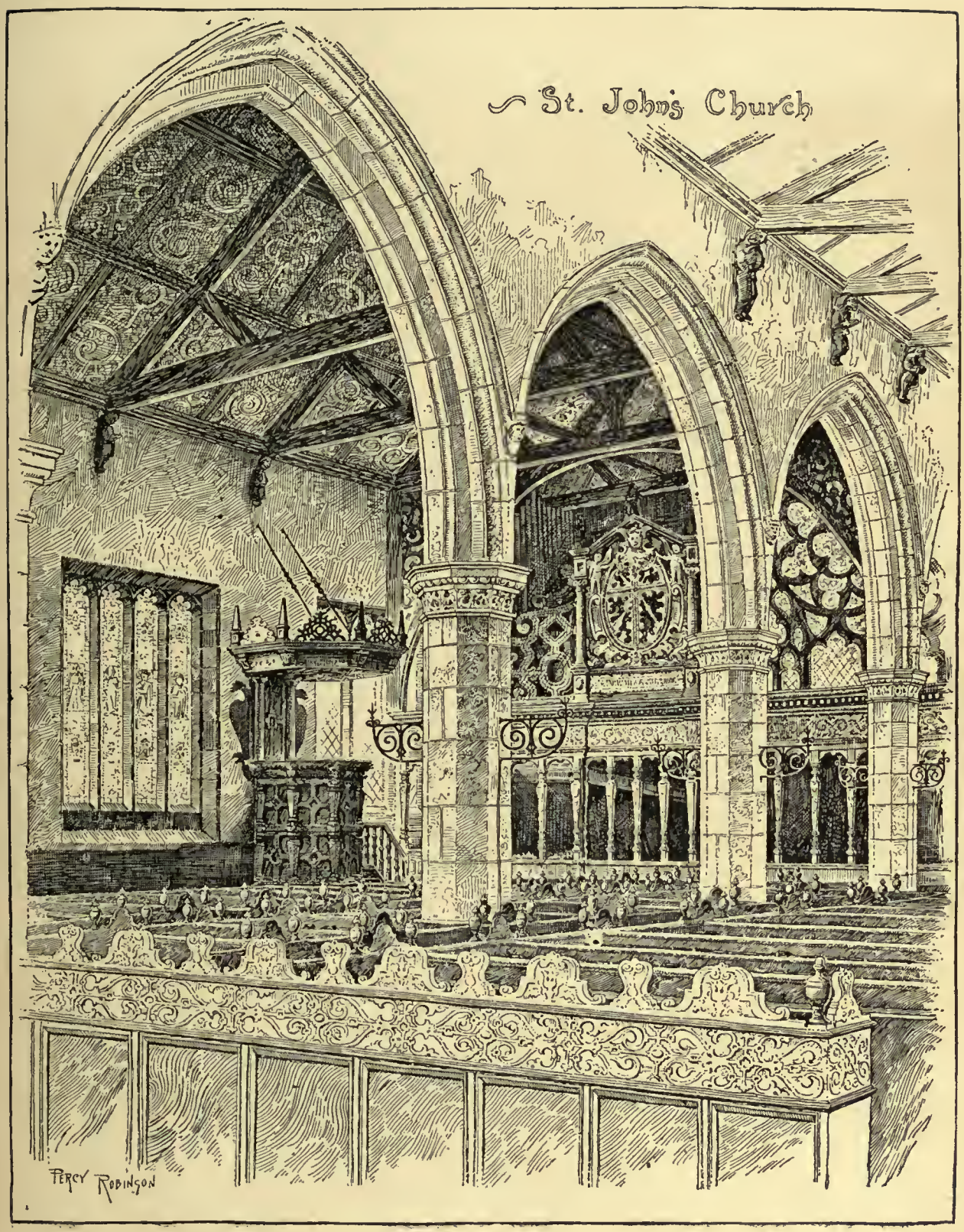
The original value of the benefice was £80 per annum, but this soon increased, and in 1768, Richard Fawcett, A.M., then incumbent, filed a bill in chancery against the trustees for withholding from the minister all the increased rents and profits above £80, and obtained a decree in his favour, so that the benefice was increased to about six times its original value.

The hill, upon the edge of which the church is built, was formerly known as the Town Cliff, and this, along with other properties, comprising Rockley Hall in Lowerhead Row, the group of houses and gardens in the vicinity of what is now New Briggate and Upperhead Row, and the fields beyond towards Sheepscar, were purchased by Mr. Harrison from the Rockleys and Falkinghams, to whom they originally belonged.

Cottages, S. John's Court.

The hospital for sixty poor widows was founded in 1653, and was rebuilt in 1850. By an indenture dated August 21st, 1653, John Harrison, Esq., conveyed to trustees therein named certain estates for the endowment of an hospital, consisting of several messuages, erected in a yard on the west side of St. John's Church, and two other buildings south of the yard, the undivided moiety of three fulling mills and one redwood mill, two acres of land adjoining with the buildings thereon, and also several houses and gardens in New Street.

John Harrison died October 29th, 1652, just eight years before the


St. John's Church
PERCY ROBINSON

Restoration, which the staunch old loyalist would have been so glad to see. He was buried in his own orchard in Kirkgate, but was afterwards removed to St. John's Church, where a monument of black marble was erected to his memory. The inscription was composed by Dr. Lake, then Vicar of Leeds, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, and runs as follows:—"Here resteth the body of Mr. John Harrison, the wonder of his own, and pattern of succeeding ages. Eminent for prudence, piety, loyalty, charity, who (beside other works of a pious munificence, and many great instances of an excellent vertue), founded an hospital for the relief of indigent persons of good conversation, and formerly industrious. Built the free school of this town for the encouragement of learning, together with a chappell; this church (which most may envie) for the exercise of religion, and endowed it with eighty pounds per annum. Also that he might do good in all his capacities, he erected a stately cross for convenience of the market, and having given these pledges of a joyful resurrection fell asleep, Oct. 29th, Anno. Dom. 1656. Ætatis suæ 77."

The church was restored in 1867, under the care of Mr. Norman Shaw, when the pulpit was removed from its original position and the galleries were abolished.

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE first Free Grammar School at Leeds was founded in 1552, by Sir William Sheffield, priest, who, by his will, dated 6th of March in that year, vested in Sir John Neville, Kt., and sixteen others as co-feofees, certain copyhold lands situate near Sheepscar Bridge "for finding sustentation and living for one honest, substantial and learned man to be a schoole-maister, to teach and instruct freely for ever all such young scholars, youths and children as shall come and resorte to him from time to time to be taught, instructed and informed in such a school-house as shall be founded, erected and builded by the parishoners of the said town and parish of Leeds; upon condition that if the parishoners should not find a school-house, and also purchase with the school-master for the time being, a sufficient living of other lands together with his gift, to the clear yearly value of £10 for ever, within four years after his decease, then the feofees should stand seized to the use of the poor inhabitants of Leeds." The nomination, election, and appointment of the school-master was to be in the hands of the feofees and their heirs for ever, and power was given them to remove him for reasonable cause at their discretion, "the best man's voice to take no more place than the honest poorest man of them." In 1554 certain copyhold premises were surrendered by Richard Bank—lessee of King's Mills—and his wife, for the use and support of the school. In 1555 a further feoffment


THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PERCY ROBINSON DEL.

was made by Sir William Armistead, Canon of St. Paul's, London, with this curious clause attached to it:—"The feofees should employ the profits towards the finding of one priest, sufficiently learned to teach a free Grammar School within the town of Leeds, for ever, for all such as should repair thereto, without taking any money more or less, for teaching of the said children or scholars, saving of one penny of every scholar, to mention his name in the master's book, if the scholar have a penny, and if not, to enter and continue freely without any paying." In 1595 certain copyhold premises were surrendered by John Moore and others, for the use of the school; and Christopher Hopton and others also granted a close, denominated the Calls, containing three acres, for the same purpose.

The first edifice used as a school, under the terms of Sir William Sheffield's will, was an inconvenient structure on the site which was occupied later by the pinfold. In 1558 the "New Chapel" was purchased of Queen Elizabeth and converted into a Grammar School, which purpose it served until 1624, when a new school was erected in North Street by John Harrison. The following reference to this benefaction is contained in his will:—"Whereas I have of my own charge, and upon my own land, erected and builded one new house, now used and employed for a Grammar School, and walled the yard thereunto belonging with a stone wall, as the same abutteth upon the land of Henry Royds, upon the north and upon my own lands, the south, east, and west—my mind and will is that the same shall be for a master and ushers to teach scholars for ever, and for that end and purpose I do give the said house, garth and wall, &c."

This building was a long, one-story structure of stone, containing one large schoolroom and a porch. Over the door was the following inscription:—"Free Grammar School for teaching the learned languages, founded by William Sheffield, A.D. 1552. This school-house was built at the expense of John Harrison, A.D. 1664, and enlarged by the trustees A.D. 1822."

In 1692, a new wing was erected by Godfrey Lawson, Esq., Mayor and Alderman of Leeds, to be used as a library. This

addition was two stories high, with a battlemented parapet, and was similar in style to the original building. Further extensions were made by the trustees in 1822, and in 1856, when necessity again arose for alterations, it was decided that the building had become obsolete and, in view of the altered state of its surroundings, unsuitable for the purpose it had to serve. A meeting of the trustees was held to consider the question of providing a new school, with the result that the present edifice near Woodhouse Moor was erected, upon land belonging to the Pious Uses Trust. The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Ripon, on April 6th, 1858, and the opening ceremony took place on June 27th, 1859.

When the new school was opened, the old building, in North Street, was sold to Messrs. Samuel Denison and Sons, and is now used by them as a foundry.


THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PERCY ROBINSON

THE WHITE AND COLOURED CLOTH HALLS.

UNTIL the beginning of the eighteenth century, the cloth market was held in the open-air on the bridge at the foot of Briggate, but as the trade prospered and the number of manufacturers and merchants increased, it became an annoyance and an impediment to traffic and business generally. A cloth hall was erected in Kirkgate, on the site of an ancient hospital, in 1710, but this soon proved inadequate, and the two buildings known as the "White" and "Coloured Cloth Halls" were erected. In these halls the principal sales of cloth took place from the manufacturer to the merchant.

The coloured or mixed Cloth Hall, at the junction of Park Row and Wellington Street, was built by subscription in 1758. The building was in the form of a quadrangle, 127 yards long and 66 yards broad. This quadrangle was divided into six streets, each having rows of stands on either side. The total number of stands was 1,800. In the year 1810, another story was added on the north side, devoted chiefly to the sale of ladies' cloths.

The White Cloth Hall in the Calls was built in 1775 on a similar plan, and of about the same extent as the Mixed Cloth Hall, the total number of stands being 1,210. Over one end of this hall was the New Assembly Room, which was opened on June 9th, 1777, "with a minuet by Lady Effingham and Sir George Saville, Bart., when upwards of two hundred and twenty of the nobility and gentry were present; the appearance of the ladies and gentlemen was more brilliant than ever remembered."

The regulations in both cloth halls were very similar. The markets were held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and were opened by the ringing of a bell. Immediately the bell rung, the manufacturers took their places at the stands and the sales would commence. At the end of an hour the bell was rung announcing the close of the market, and very soon the hall would be entirely cleared of merchants, there being a penalty of five shillings for every five minutes a merchant was found in the hall after the last bell had rung. Thus transactions amounting to the extent of from twenty to forty thousand pounds were completed in a little over an hour.

The White Cloth Hall was, on the construction of the North Eastern Railway, removed to King Street, where a new building was erected at a cost of £20,000. and was opened on July 18th, 1868. This building, which has not been used as a cloth hall for many years, was sold by the trustees, in 1895, for £40,000, and is shortly to be removed, the site having been purchased by a company for the erection of a large Commercial Hotel.

The Coloured Cloth Hall was sold to the Corporation in 1889 for the sum of £66,000, and was soon afterwards demolished to make way for the new Post Office and City Square.

The two Cloth Halls have seen some of the most important political events that have occurred in the town during the last century, and many exciting scenes have taken place within their walls in the old election days, when political feeling ran high and extreme partisans invariably allowed their bad blood to boil over. On one occasion, when a meeting was held in the Mixed Cloth Hall for the purpose of electing two members to represent the borough in Parliament, a most disgraceful scene took place. The candidates were Thomas Babington Macauley, Esq., John Marshall, jun., Esq., and Michael Thomas Sadler, Esq. A platform had been erected in the open area, and, when Mr. Marshall came forward to speak, a banner was hoisted by his opponents, with a picture representing a view of Messrs. Marshall's mill, Holbeck, in a snow-storm, with a number of half-dressed, half-starved children trudging miserably through the snow; underneath were the words :—"A scene in Water Lane at five o'clock in the morning." As soon as Marshall's supporters saw this, they made a rush and obtained

THE COLOURED CLOTH HALL.

possession of the offending banner, which they quickly destroyed—then commenced a regular battle between the two parties, sticks, stones, and all kinds of weapons were freely used, many people were thrown down or trampled upon, and sustained serious injuries. Eventually, order was obtained by a number of constables stationing themselves in a line between the two parties. On another election occasion a similar disturbance took place, when a number of extreme partisans clambered on to the roof and commenced throwing slates upon their opponents below, who, of course, were powerless to retaliate. After this, it was deemed safest for these political meetings to be held in some more open place, and they were afterwards held on Woodhouse Moor.

THE OLD INFIRMARY.

THE remains of the first Leeds Infirmary may still be seen in a court, off Kirkgate, known as the Old Infirmary Yard. The building looks, at the present day, about as unfit for such a purpose as it is possible to imagine, being cramped up in a narrow, dingy court; but it would, no doubt, present a very different aspect in the middle of last century, when the surrounding area was more open.

The institution was first established in 1767. Subscriptions were raised for the purpose, and the building in Kirkgate was rented, and converted into a temporary Infirmary, until a more suitable and permanent structure could be raised. In the following year, a piece of land was obtained adjoining the Burial Ground, near the Coloured Cloth Hall, upon which a new Infirmary was erected and opened in March, 1771. The building was of brick, and was originally only two stories high; an additional wing was added in 1782, and another in 1786, when the main portion of the building was raised to the same elevation. When completed it contained 143 beds, and relief was given to upwards of 2,000 *in*-, and 3,000 *out*-patients annually. In 1817, the supporters of the institution purchased a quantity of land on the south front of the building, in order to protect it from the too close proximity of other buildings, and in the same year a further piece of land, containing about 4,000 square yards, valued at £1,500, was

THE OLD INFIRMARY

PERCY ROBINSON DEL.

presented by Richard Fountain Wilson, Esq., of Ingmanthorpe, thus extending the boundary down to Wellington Road. This land was tastefully laid out as a garden, or airing ground. In later days it was frequently used for Public Fêtes, Flower Shows, &c.

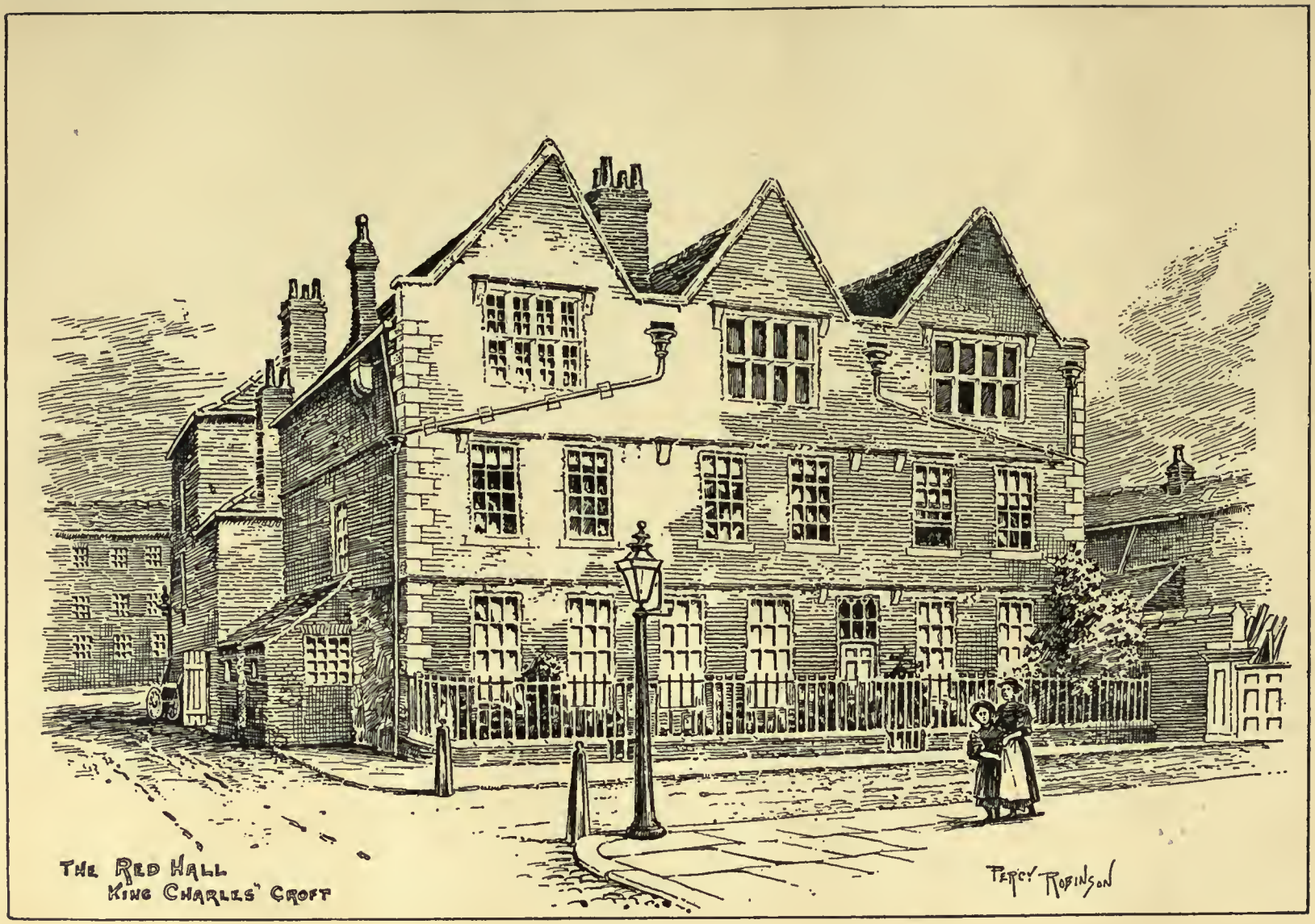
The present Infirmary, in Great George Street, was opened in 1868, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. It was erected from designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A., at a cost of £120,000. Since that time it has been very much enlarged to meet the increased requirements.

Since the New Infirmary was opened, the old building has served many purposes. For some years, prior to the erection of the Municipal Buildings, it was the Public Library. In 1893, a large portion of it was demolished to make room for the new premises of the Yorkshire Penny Bank. The remainder is now let off, in sections, for various business purposes.

THE RED HALL.

ONE of the most interesting relics of the domestic architecture of Old Leeds is the Red Hall in Guildford Street. In its early days it was no doubt the finest residence in the town, and occupied one of the choicest sites. In those days it would be quite suburban, very few buildings being in existence west of it, while southwards to Boar Lane were fields and orchards. Barely sixty years ago it had poplar trees growing in front of it, and a large garden behind—now King Charles' Croft. The house was built in 1628 by John Metcalfe, under-bailiff of Leeds—the same who plundered the "toll dish" and robbed the poor of their revenues—and it is said to have derived its name from being the first house built of brick in Leeds.

It was here that King Charles was lodged when passing through Leeds on his march northwards to Newcastle, after surrendering himself to the Scots in 1646. In connection with this event two interesting episodes are related:—A maid-servant of the house, named Crosby, entreated the King to make his escape, offering to lend him her clothes in which to disguise himself, and assuring him she would conduct him in the dark out of the garden door, into a back alley called Lands Lane, and thence to a friend's house, whence he might escape to France. The King, however, declined the woman's offer, but with many thanks, and gave her for a token "the garter," saying, that if it were never in his power, on sight of that token, his son would reward her. After the


THE RED HALL
KING CHARLES' CROFT
PERCY ROBINSON

Restoration the woman presented the token to the King, and told him the story. The King enquired from whence she came? She said from Leeds, in Yorkshire. Whether she had a husband? She replied yes. What was his calling? She said an under-bailiff. Then, said the King, he shall be chief bailiff in Yorkshire. The man afterwards built Crosby House in Upperhead Row.

The other anecdote relates to John Harrison, who, it is said, obtained permission to present to the King, during his stay at the Red Hall, a tankard of excellent ale, but on the King opening the lid of the tankard he found, instead of the expected beverage, that the vessel was filled with gold, which he contrived to hide about his person.

The house has had other noted occupants besides Royalty. John Wesley was a guest there when visiting Leeds. In Thoresby's time it was the residence of Richard Thornton, the Recorder of Leeds. It is now converted into offices, and occupied by Messrs. Newstead and Wilson.

OLD HOUSE, LOW ROAD, HUNSLET.

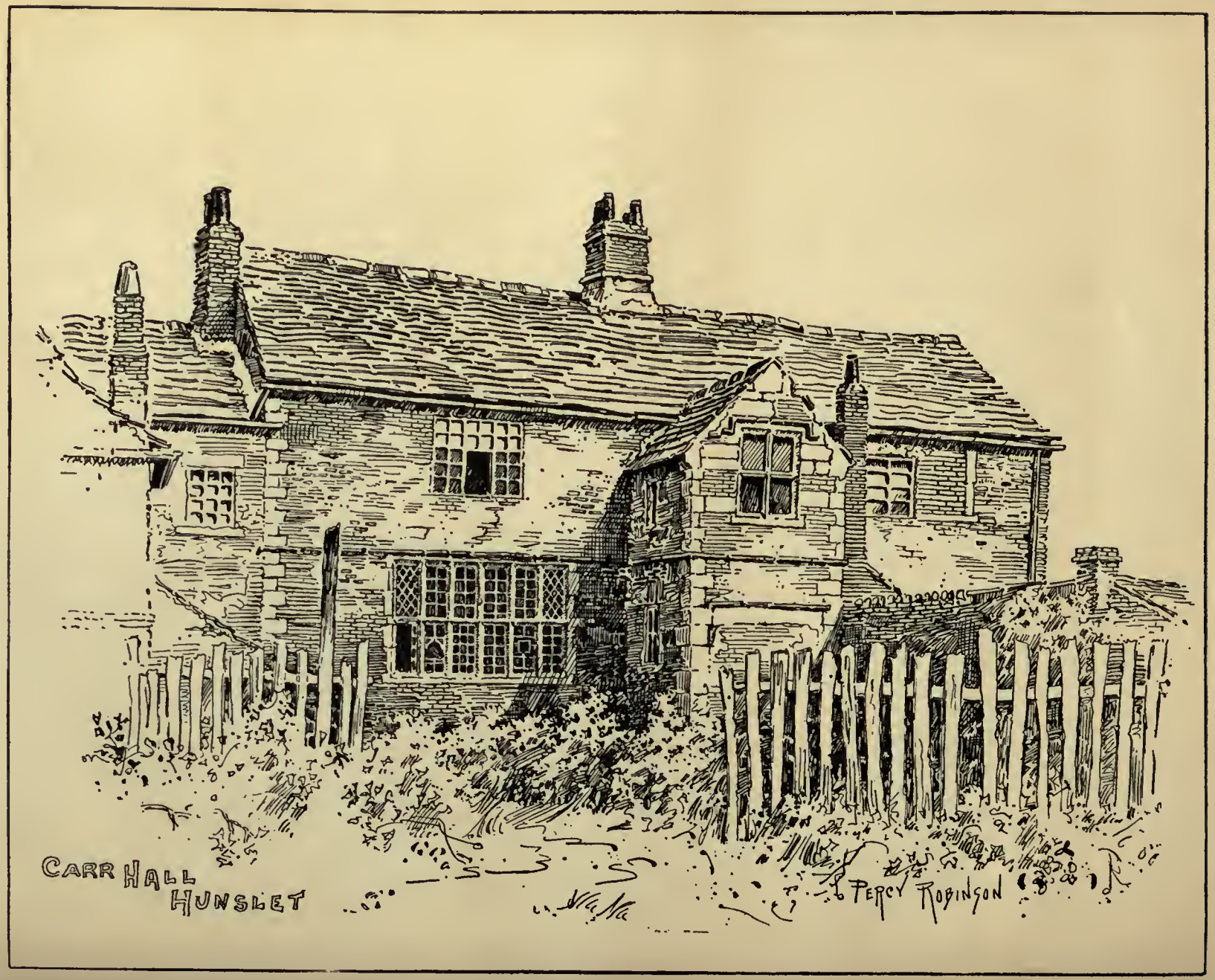
NEAR the bottom of Church Street, in Low Road, Hunslet, stands a fine old house of the pre-Jacobean era, about the early history of which very little is known. It is evidently of the same date as the Red Hall in Guildford Street, and is very similar in appearance, being built of brick with stone dressings. It has been suggested that it was the Holms Hall which Thoresby mentions as having been purchased by Ralph Spencer,* merchant, late in the 17th century, from the co-heirs of Mr. Child; but this can hardly be correct, because Holms Hall was purchased by a Mr. John Graves about the close of last century, while the building here illustrated came into the possession of the Varleys, wireworkers, about 1740, and has, from that date to recently, been occupied by successive members of the family as a wireworks. The late occupiers—Messrs. Varley and Sedgwick—give the date of the establishment of the firm as 1740. It was more probably the seat of the Fletchers, whom Thoresby mentions as residing at Hunslet upon an estate they had purchased from the Jacksons, or it may possibly have been the residence of some of the Kitchenman family.

The present owner is E. H. Lamplugh, Esq., who has inherited the property from the Varleys.

The house is now divided into two tenements, one portion being rented as a lodging-house.

* Ralph Spencer was a member of the Corporation in 1666, from which he was ejected as a non-juror in 1673, and died in May, 1707.


PERCY ROBINSON del.
OLD HOUSE
LOW ROAD, HUNSLET


CARR HALL
HUNSLET
PERCY ROBINSON

CARR HALL, HUNSLET.

CARR HALL was probably first erected by some of the Fenton family, who were early settled in this district. Thoresby mentions that the first marriage of the ancient family of Legh, of Middleton (of which they were Lords of the Manor), after coming to Yorkshire, was with Clarier, daughter of Mr. Thomas Fenton, 1332. Of the same family was Sir Geoffrey Fenton, Kt., Secretary of State, who died in 1608. His son, Wm. Fenton, served the office of Mayor of Leeds in the two years immediately preceding the Restoration. The Hall and its estates are said to have been acquired by Sir Edward Carey in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

At the beginning of the present century, the Hall was occupied by a notable character—Mr. Armitage, the last of the old hand-spun and hand-worked cloth manufacturers. He was very eccentric and penurious, but died very rich, leaving upwards of a million of money. He used, himself, to go to London on horseback, to buy wool, the journey generally occupying four days and three nights, if the roads were in good condition. He then delivered out the wool, to be spun by hand, in the surrounding district, had it woven in his tenants' houses, dyed and finished on his own premises, and then he would, himself, attend the various markets and dispose of it.

The house is now owned and occupied by a relative of a Mr. Carter, who purchased it and the estates along with it, which included

the Middleton Company's property, which property Mr. Carter afterwards sold to Mr. Armitage, of Farnley Hall.

In the large mullioned window, shown in the illustration, there is some fine old stained glass, including a coat of arms, but this has probably been introduced from some other building, as the arms do not appear to be those of any of the former owners.


Percy Robinson del.
Old House in
South Brook Street

OLD HOUSE IN SOUTH BROOK STREET.

AT the corner of South Brook Street and Hunslet Lane stands a fine old house, built of red brick, which in its palmy days has been an imposing structure, but times and surroundings have changed, and it has outlived its day. It has been a house of considerable extent, but is now, like most other houses of this class, divided into several tenements.

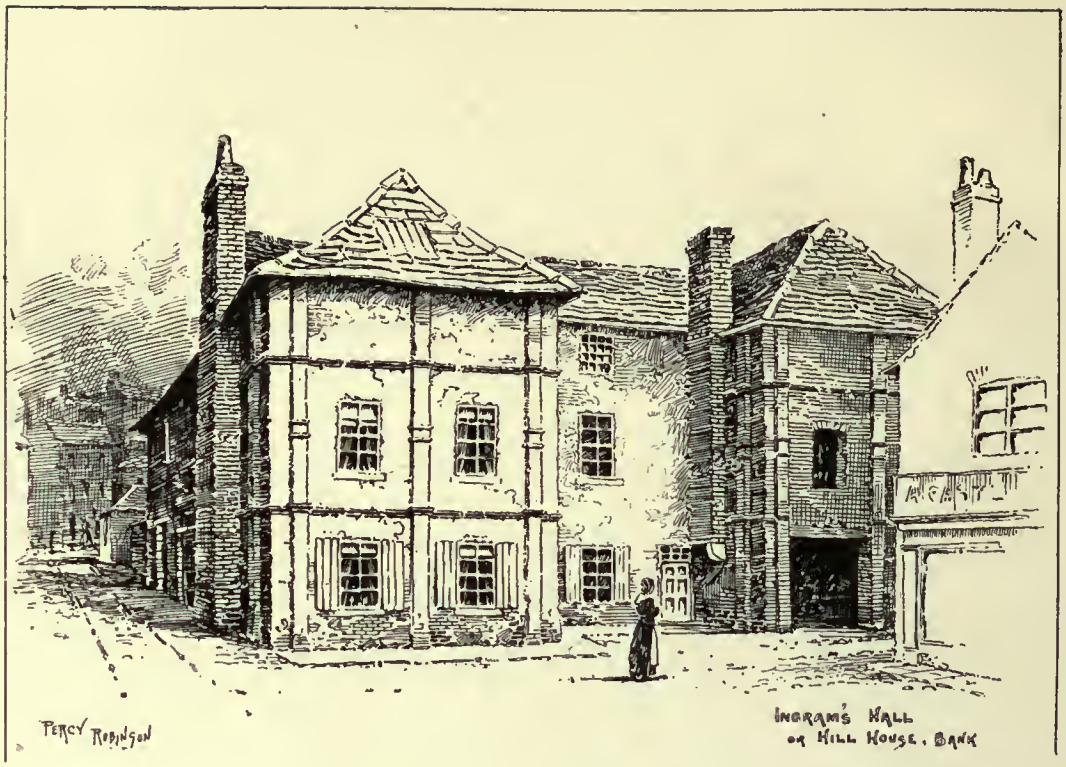
Eighty years ago South Brook Street and Hunslet New Road were not in existence ; the house then had a large garden in front, and on the east side it was skirted by a footpath known as Grey Walk, which started at Salem Chapel and ran from there almost parallel to the present Hunslet New Road.

The house was probably erected by some of the Brook's family, at any rate it was in their possession in the early part of last century. It was the residence of Alderman John Brook, a merchant, who was Mayor of Leeds in 1736. Other members of this family served the office of Mayor in 1754, 1800, and 1814. Shortly after this date the family left Leeds and went to live near Halifax.

This part of Leeds was an early settlement of the clothiers, and the remains of several other good houses may be seen in the district.

The old oak staircase still remains intact, and is a good example of the woodwork of the period.

About twenty years ago, the late Mr. Atkinson Grimshaw, the well-known artist, became the tenant, and here he found a congenial home and a fruitful source of inspiration. Many fragments from his poetic pencil can be recognised in the ivy-clad walls, mullioned and transomed windows, and picturesque gables, covered with that rime of age which he loved to depict.



INGRAM'S HALL, OR HILL HOUSE, BANK.

HILLHOUSE Bank is described in 1785 as about half-a-mile from Leeds and "an eligible situation for building upon, as the delightful views from it are equal to, if not exceeding, any about Leeds." The district has degenerated somewhat since that description was penned. It is now one of the most congested and insanitary parts of the city, crowded with squalid tenements redolent of poverty and decay.

The building known as Ingram's Hall, or Hill House, is situated at the corner of Bow Street and Richmond Road. Whitaker describes it as "a fair large house and makes a good appearance." It is said to have been built by one of the Ingrams of Templenewsam, but this is incorrect. It was built by one William Ingheram, who was in no way related to the family at Templenewsam. The name of the Hillhouse family frequently occurs in the Parish Church registers, but always spelt Ingheram, or Ignerham, and never Ingram.

BURLEY GROVE.

THE house known as Burley Grove was built in the Georgian times, and is interesting as a type of the suburban house of those days. It was formerly occupied by the Birchall family, clothiers, but, in 1872, it came into the possession of Mr. James Midgley, solicitor, by whom it is occupied at the present time.

Although Burley is now a thickly populated residential district, and no longer the "remote village" of a century ago, approached from Leeds by a footpath across the "Park Steele," Burley Grove still retains its rural aspect, being shut in from the outer world by a high wall, and sheltered by the fine old trees—elms, chestnuts, mountain ash, and acacia, by which it is surrounded, and which still flourish in the charming old-world garden. In the centre of the

Burley Grove.

lawn stands the fast decaying remains of a fine old mulberry tree, one of the few existing in these parts. When Lord Brougham visited Leeds as the guest of Mr. John Botterill, then Mayor of the town, a dish of mulberries from this tree was sent to him by Mr. Birchall.

During the last few years extensive building operations have been carried on all around, and the house and gardens are now destined to demolition, to make way for a proposed new street.

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