

ART. XI.—*A Leicester Artist in our District.* By T. CANN HUGHES, M.A., F.S.A.

IN a recent catalogue of Mr. Bernard Halliday, of 1, King Richard's Road, Leicester, I noticed the following:—

- (a) *Egremont*—clever original pencil drawing of bridge over the river and adjoining houses with the Castle in background, by John Flower, Leicester artist (1795-1861). Size 9" × 15". (10/-).
- (b) *Whitehaven*—original pencil drawing of fishermen's cottages at Paton, Whitehaven, with boats, etc., in the foreground, by John Flower the Leicester artist (1795-1861). Size 6½" × 13". (6/-).
- (c) *Ambleside*—very clever original pencil drawing of the village of Ambleside with trees and figures in the foreground, by John Flower, Leicester artist (1795-1861). Size 7" × 9½". (12/6).
- (d) *Brathay*—clever original pencil drawing of the village of Brathay from the river with bridge and figures in the foreground, by John Flower, the Leicester artist (1795-1861). Size 11" × 14". (12/6).
- (e) *Rydal*—clever original pencil drawing of cottages in the village of Rydal by John Flower, Leicester artist (1795-1861). Size 11" × 15". (10/-).

By the courtesy of Dr. Lowe, the Chief Librarian of Leicester, I have been favoured with the following extract from the Leicester Archaeological Society *Transactions*, 1927-8, Volume 15:

“John Flower, known to his contemporaries as ‘John Flower the limner,’ was born in 1795 and died

in 1861. He married a lady named Frances Clarke and by her had three children, two of whom died when they were quite young. The third, Elizabeth, was married twice, first to William Bayes Marshall, a clerk in Paget's Bank and secondly to the late Mr. William Kempson, to whose son, Mr. Charles Kempson, I am indebted for these particulars.

As a young man, with the assistance of friends drawn to him by his talent and his engaging disposition, John Flower went to study in London under De Wint, whose influence is apparent in Flower's water colours. After his return to Leicester, he taught drawing at his house on the New Walk, and also at the Ratcliffe College and a school in Ullesthorpe. In 1851, in conjunction with Henry Goddard, he designed an excellent house on Regent Road, which he occupied until his death. He was very fond of sketching in North Wales, whither, in the earlier years of their life together, he and Mrs. Flower used to travel in a cab chartered at Leicester. These pleasant excursions generally lasted about six weeks, and it was noted that the horse was always in much better fettle at the end of them than at the start.

Flower's well known Leicestershire views, especially those of the streets and buildings of old Leicester, in addition to their value as topographical records, have a quiet charm that makes them a fitting memorial of a kindly and accomplished man."