

their rights in forming the district, but that there were irregularities in the assessment which rendered it invalid, and he condemned the corporation in the costs of the action. Notices of appeal from that decision were given on both sides, but these were ultimately withdrawn on the corporation undertaking to make no further assessment on the property-owners for the cost of the sewer, but to bear it out of the general funds of the city.

### MODERN ECCLESIOLOGY.

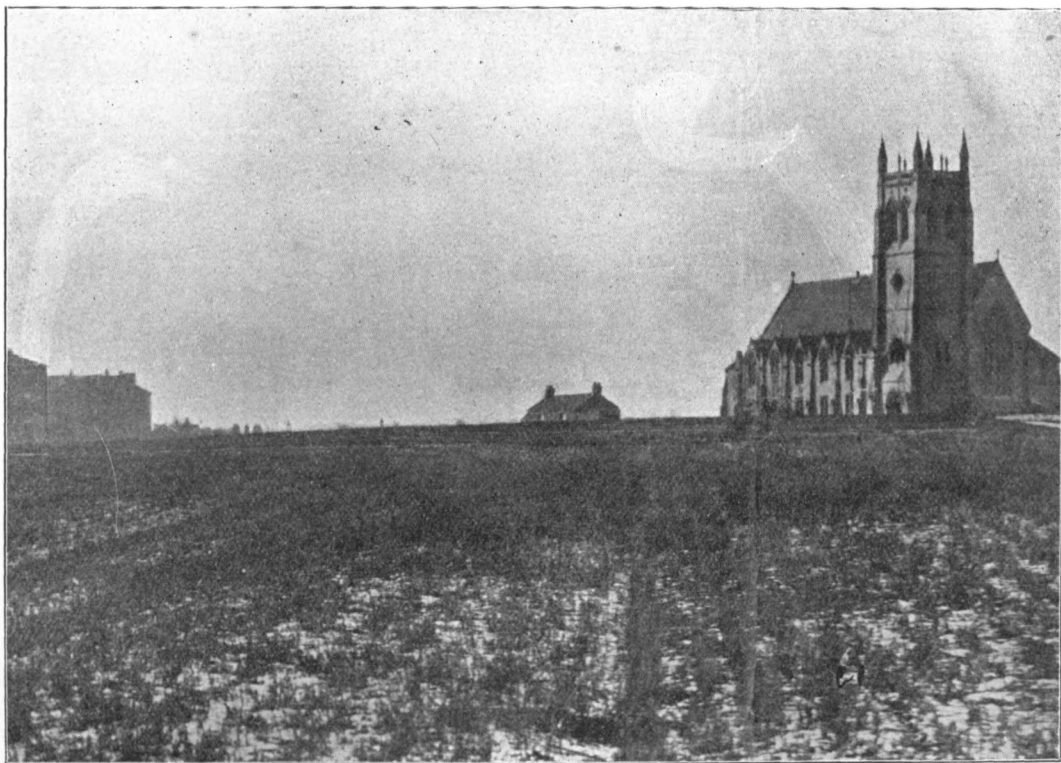
From the time of the Reformation, when St. Mary's Chapel was disendowed, down to 1861, no church existed in Jesmond. The inhabitants were baptized and married at the church of St. Andrew, Newcastle, of which parish Jesmond formed part, and many of the leading inhabitants chose their burial place in the yard of the adjoining country church at Gosforth. After the erection of St. Thomas's church at the Barras bridge, in 1830, that church became the nearest and the most convenient place of worship. On the death of the Rev. Richard Clayton, M.A., master of the Mary Magdalene Hospital and 'chaplain to the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr,' on the 8th October, 1856, the corporation filled up the vacancy by the appointment of the Rev. Clement Moody, vicar of Newcastle. This appointment was displeasing to many of the congregation of St. Thomas's Church and on the 20th November, 1856, a meeting was held at which it was resolved that a church should be erected in Jesmond as a lasting memorial to Mr. Richard Clayton, the late chaplain, and that the patronage should be vested in trustees nominated by subscribers of £50 and upwards. The sum of £1,250 was subscribed in the room for the contemplated building, and by August, 1857, the subscriptions had increased to nearly £5,000. It was subsequently resolved that the district of the church should be all Jesmond township and the south side of Sandyford Lane to Pandon Dene. A site on Jesmond Road was purchased from the corporation of Newcastle, the church was erected on it from designs by Mr. John Dobson and was consecrated

on the 14th January, 1861.<sup>5</sup> Canon Berkeley Addison, M.A., was the first vicar. He died on the 13th January, 1882, and was succeeded by Canon Somerset Edward Pennefather, who resigned on being appointed to the new church of St. George's, Jesmond. The subsequent vicars were the Reverend Theodore Charles Chapman, appointed in 1889; The Reverend Edward Sidney Savage, appointed in 1894, and the Reverend Thomas Brocas Waters, appointed in 1898.

The original trustees of the church were, Andrew McLeod, Matthew Clayton, Hugh Lee Pattinson, John Bennett Alexander and Jonathan Longstaff Forster. Subsequent trustees were Thomas Young Thornton, James Sillick, Robert Gurney Hoare and Abel Henry Chapman; and the present trustees are William John Sanderson, George B. Saunders, Edward Downing, Canon William Lefroy, dean of Norwich, and Joseph Grey.<sup>6</sup> The accompanying

<sup>5</sup> The church is not dedicated to any saint and the opponents of the movement for its erection nicknamed it St. Spite.

<sup>6</sup> By deed dated 10th July, 1859, the Newcastle Corporation, with the consent of the Treasury Commissioners, conveyed to the Trustees 2,140 square yards for £535. By deed dated 28th December, 1860, the Trustees conveyed the land to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as the site of 'Jesmond Church.' By deed poll dated 10th January, 1861, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners declared that the patronage should vest in the trustees and their successors on consideration that 270 sittings should be free. By order dated 14th January, 1861, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners declared that baptisms, marriages, burials and churchings might be solemnized in the church, thus making it a parish church and a vicarage under the Church Building Acts, and by the same order a district was assigned to it, which included the township of Jesmond and 'so much of the land in St. Andrew's parish to the south of Jesmond township as lay to the east of an imaginary line which lay along the middle of the fence which formed the eastern boundary of the enclosed grounds on which the church dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr was erected.' This line extends the district of Jesmond parish southward of the township boundary to the streets between Sandymoor Lane and Lovaine Crescent to the west of the railway and to Harrison Place, Gladstone Terrace, Chester Street, Byron Street, Franklin Street, Milton Street, and Gladstone Street east of the railway below Sandymoor Lane. By deed dated 11th May, 1863, the house 14, Victoria Square, was conveyed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £825 as a parsonage for Jesmond Church.



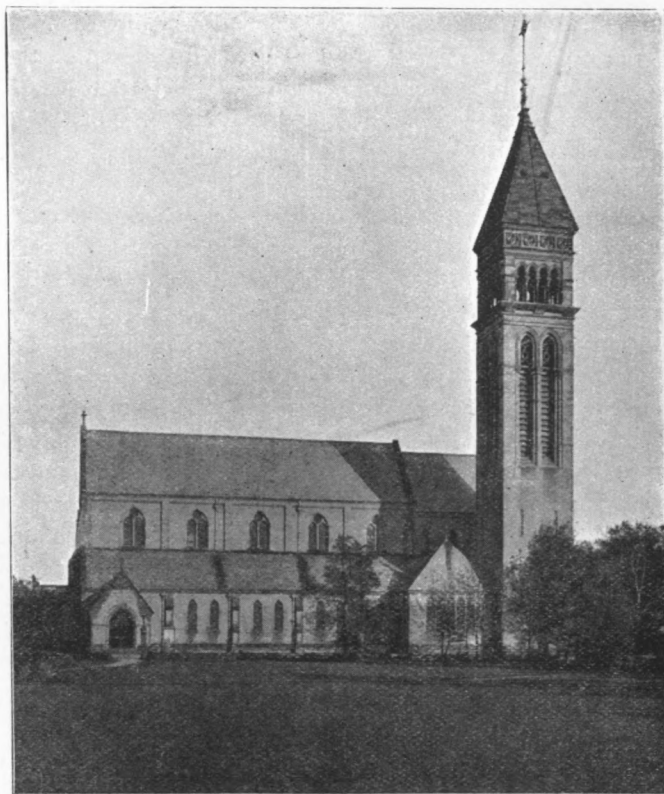
JESMOND PARISH CHURCH, *circa* 1860.

reproduction of an early photograph shews the church soon after it was built, with the fields in front, on which Carlton Villas now stand, and the nursery garden in the background, on the site of which Windsor Crescent has since been erected.

Owing to the rapid extension and growth of the population northwards, after that opening up of the Burdon Sanderson estate by Mr. William Temple which took place between 1875 and 1885, the want of a church in the north end of the township became pressing. For some time the church-going inhabitants worshipped in an iron church on a site at the north end of Osborne Road, and on the 16th November, 1888, a handsome new church, dedicated to St. George and built almost on the same site, at the sole expense of Dr. Charles Mitchell of Jesmond Towers (who provided everything from the land to the hymn books), was consecrated and opened by the then bishop of Newcastle. A new parish, known as the parish of St. George's, Jesmond, was created by order in Council. It comprises the whole of the northern half of Jesmond township. The boundary to the southward is a line from the Newcastle Town Moor, between the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Orphan Institution, to Tankerville Terrace, then down Tankerville Terrace and past the east end of Burdon Terrace to Clayton Road, then along Clayton Road to its eastern extremity, then along the line of what was the north wall of All Saints' cemetery and across the ground at the end of the site of that former wall to Jesmond Road, immediately to the eastward of the Cradle Well public-house, and then along Jesmond Road to Benton Bridge. The architect of St. George's Church was Mr. T. R. Spence, formerly of Newcastle but now of London, and most of the work in the stained-glass windows was designed and executed by Mr. John W. Brown of Stoke Newington, also a native of Newcastle.

The tower of St. George's Church forms a land-mark for many miles over the surrounding country and can be seen from the hills above Rothbury. The exterior of the church is handsome, there are many beautiful features in its internal decoration, and its

stained-glass windows are of unusual excellence. The altar and reredos are made of Pavonazza marble. The two top steps of the sanctuary are of the same material, the third step of rouge jasper and the fourth and fifth of Sienna marble. The dado was originally formed of dark English marble (now replaced by glass mosaic), and is surmounted by specially designed emblematical tiles. Above the reredos is some fine stonework enshrining three figures



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, JESMOND.

in mosaic (one of our Lord, the others archangels) and terminating in a cross. At the west end of the church is a handsome bronze figure of St. George and on the north wall a memorial tablet of great artistic merit placed there in memory of the founder of the church—Dr. Charles Mitchell, who died in 1895. The tablet was designed and executed by Mr. G. J. Frampton, R.A. By a statutory agreement dated 29th September, 1888, the patronage of the living was vested in Dr. Charles Mitchell for life, then in Mr. Charles William Mitchell for life, and then in the bishop of Newcastle. Under that agreement Canon Somerset Edward Pennefather was appointed vicar on the 9th February, 1889, by Dr. Charles Mitchell, and on his resignation Canon Alfred Boot, the present vicar, was appointed on the 1st of May, 1897, by Mr. Charles William Mitchell, who died on the 28th of February, 1903.

The foundation stone of a new church dedicated to St. Barnabas, on the Sandyford estate at the corner of Goldspink Lane and Helmsley Road, was laid by the bishop of Newcastle on the 2nd November, 1901. The building is now completed, and was consecrated on the 23rd March, 1904. It is a chapel of ease to Jesmond Church. St. Hilda's Church is being built at the corner of Thornleigh Road and Forsyth Road as a chapel of ease to St. George's Church. Its foundation stone was laid by the bishop of Newcastle on the 21st November, 1903. The present intention is to build the chancel, nave and north aisle, leaving the south aisle to be added at a later date. Subscriptions have also been raised for a new church to be erected on the Jesmond Park estate in memory of the late Mr. R. G. Hoare.

The Wesleyan Church at the corner of Eslington Terrace and Clayton Road was the first of the permanent Nonconformist churches in Jesmond. It was erected from designs by Mr. Lish at a cost of about £6,000. It affords seats for about 850 persons and was opened for public worship in March, 1883.<sup>7</sup> In 1887 a Baptist

<sup>7</sup> 'A more eccentric preacher than Beecher was Peter Mackenzie, who used to make the congregation laugh outright. When Peter occupied the pulpit at



INTERIOR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Church was erected in Osborne Road at a cost, exclusive of the site, of £6,000. It affords sitting accommodation for 700 persons and was opened for public worship on the 19th December, 1887. The Presbyterian Church was erected at Burdon Terrace in 1888, and was opened by the Rev. Dr. Seward Dykes on the 4th September, 1888. Mr. W. L. Newcombe was the architect of the building. On the 18th January, 1903, a Roman Catholic church, dedicated to the Holy Name, was opened on the West Jesmond estate opposite St. George's Terrace. It is an iron church, which is intended to be replaced in time by a more permanent structure. The first service, a solemn high mass, was held on the above date. The Methodist Free Church have also erected schools on the same estate, opposite the same terrace, and contemplate erecting a church on the adjoining site.

### JESMOND DENE PARK.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the first Lord Armstrong, who lived at the house called Jesmond Dean, had acquired from its prior owners the dene or river valley of the Ouseburn, opposite his house and extending from Sir Andrew Noble's residence, Jesmond Dene House, on the north, as far south as Benton Bridge on the east side and as far south as Jesmond Terrace on the west side of the stream. He closed in the dene, planted it with shrubs and trees, laid out walks along the banks on either side, threw bridges across the stream, and in 1862 built in the dene, from designs by John Dobson, a spacious banquet hall fitted for public entertainments, and adorned it with statuary and pictures.<sup>8</sup>

Jesmond Wesleyan Church, Newcastle, the performance was almost as good as a play. It was less a sermon than an entertainment. All the same the preacher was terribly in earnest, for he perspired like a racehorse.'—*Memoirs of a Social Atom*, by W. E. Adams, vol. ii. p. 621.

<sup>8</sup> The first entertainment in the banquet hall was given by the then Sir William George Armstrong to the members of the Elswick Engine Works