

## The Weekday Cross at Nottingham, and its Associations.<sup>1</sup>

BY MR. J. POTTER BRISCOE.

**A**T the outset it must be stated to avoid misunderstanding as to the scope of this paper that it is not restricted to the structures known as Weekday Cross, but that it extends to the immediate locality of the crosses.

This piece of land is situated about midway between the ancient parish churches dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and St. Peter respectively. It stands at an altitude of about sixty-three feet above the summer level of the Trent ; and about one hundred and twenty-nine feet above mean level of the sea at Liverpool. This elevated land sloping to the Marsh levels, south, east, and west, has been designated St. Mary's Mount, and St. Mary's Hill.

The district now under consideration is officially known as "Weekday Cross," and comprises areas which formerly bore names which have been, wholly or in part, merged into "Weekday Cross." The southern portion extends, west to east from Middle Pavement and Middle Hill to Garner's Hill and the commencement of High Pavement. From about the centre of this base, Weekday Cross extends northwards to the junction of three streets, now known as Pilcher Gate to the east, Fletcher Gate to the north, and Byard Lane to the west. The distances are 190 feet, and from south to north about 230

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(<sup>1</sup>) All the illustrations in this paper have been provided by the Author.

feet. The area of the open ground space is about 1348 square yards, or nearly a quarter of an acre. This is one of the most interesting areas in Nottingham, from an historical and antiquarian point of view, only surpassed probably, by the land of an equal area about the south-west corner of the Exchange in the Great Market Place.

Writing of Weekday Cross in his work entitled "Old Nottingham : its streets, people, &c." (1902) Mr. James Granger, says :—" I have often stood in that open space and wondered how in olden times they managed to carry on all the business and attend to numerous other matters upon that circumscribed spot with which they are accredited. For at least several centuries there can be no doubt that this was the busiest part of the town, and in that respect it must be ranked even before the Market Place, which to many persons in recent days will appear singular and almost impossible. Yet there can be no doubt that for hundreds of years in the past the Great Market Place, as regards business purposes was used on Saturday only, and, therefore, we find it referred to in the 'Records' as the *Forum Sabbati*, or Saturday Market, and to Weekday Cross as the *Forum Cotidianum*, translated literally the Daily Market."

The objects of interest to be dealt with in this paper will be the crosses, the Guild Hall with its Gaol, its Market and its Bull Ring, Well, and buildings, including a mediæval chapel ; its Charity School, its Town Ditch ; a Poet's birthplace, and other items which should be recorded.

#### THE WEEKDAY CROSS.

There were two or three erections known to us as the Weekday Cross, but they did not bear that name at the earliest period of their existence. It cannot be stated with definiteness when the earliest crosses on the site

were constructed, but it may be surmised with some reason, that one of these was erected about 1529-1530. At that period the Chamberlain's Accounts contained these items of expenditure :—

“Item payde for ij lod (es) ston that was okepyde (used) at the Markyt Crosse . . . . . xxd.”

“Item payde to John Mychyll for wyrkng the sam' ston . . . . . xd.”

Item payde for lyme and sande . . . . . ijd.”

Item for a pottyll Malse (Malvoisey) that was dro (n) ke at the Crosse on Cobcryste (Corpus Christi) day . . . . . Viiiid.”

Here then are entries of the purchase of stone, lime, and sand, and of the employment of labour for the working of the stone and probably the erection of the cross. At this stage the cross had probably not acquired a name. It has been conjectured that the last entry has reference to a celebration when the cross was completed.

The earliest of these erections of which we have definite information, was delineated in an unfinished drawing of the locality in which it was situated, by Thomas Sandby,<sup>1</sup> at the age of twenty-one. This was reproduced by photography in some copies of Hine's work<sup>2</sup> on Nottingham Castle and Town.

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(<sup>1</sup>) Thomas Sandby lived between 1721-1798. At the age of twenty-one he produced the sketch referred to, and two years later accompanied the Duke of Cumberland to Flanders as private secretary and draughtsman. From 1746 to 1798 he was Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park. In 1768 he assisted in the founding of the Royal Academy, and was appointed its first Professor of Architecture in 1770. Sandby built the Freemasons' Hall, and was joint architect with James Adam to the King. Thomas Sandby was the elder brother of Paul Sandby, the water-colour painter and engraver, who introduced the "aquatint" method of illustration into England.

(<sup>2</sup>) "Nottingham : its Castle, a military fortress, a Royal Palace, a Ducal Mansion, a blackened ruin, a Museum and Gallery of Art. With notes relating to the Borough of Nottingham," by Thomas Chambers Hine, F.S.A., 1876.

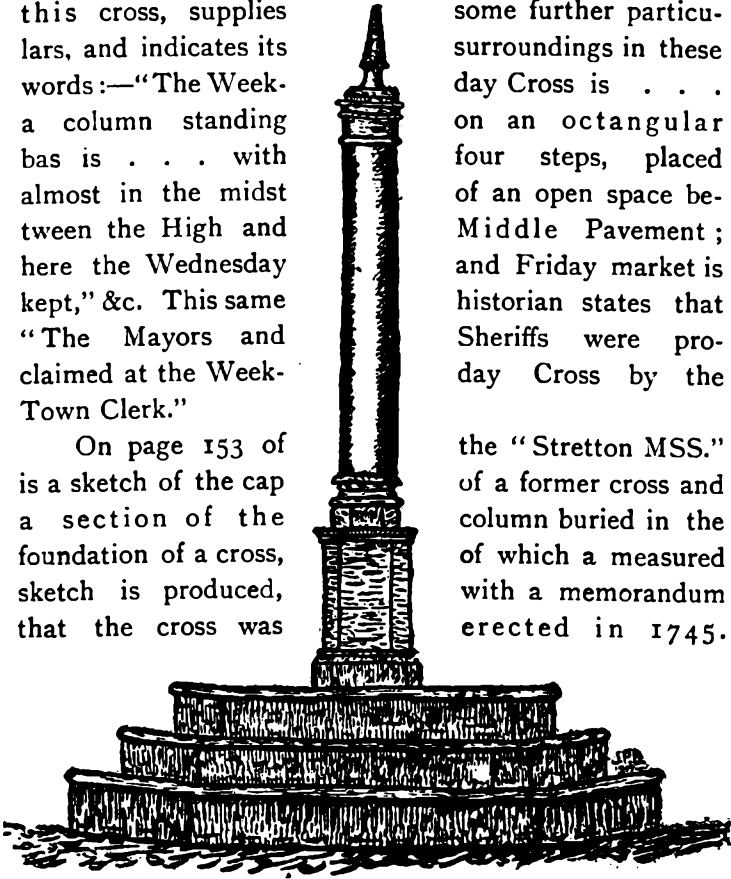
In the folding frontispiece to the work cited is a fanciful drawing of the cross, the head of which bears no resemblance to that depicted by Sandby.

Deering, who wrote about the time of the erection of this cross, supplies particulars, and indicates its words:—"The Week-a column standing bas is . . . with almost in the midst tween the High and here the Wednesday kept," &c. This same "The Mayors and claimed at the Week-Town Clerk."

On page 153 of is a sketch of the cap a section of the foundation of a cross, sketch is produced, that the cross was

some further particu- surroundings in these day Cross is . . . on an octangular four steps, placed of an open space be- Middle Pavement; and Friday market is historian states that Sheriffs were pro- day Cross by the

the "Stretton MSS." of a former cross and column buried in the of which a measured with a memorandum erected in 1745.



Stretton states that the last cross "consists of a single Doric column fifteen inches in diameter, with its pedestal 16 feet 6 (inches) high, elevated on 3 stone steps." More detailed measurements are given in the sketch. This cross was demolished three or four years

after the discontinuance of the market on this area ; and on November 12th, 1804, the materials were sold by auction to Mr. Benjamin Stoney, a local joiner. These pieces of masonry and the remains of two others found in excavating were, in 1806, "lying together in Sneinton Field where the new village (is) building."

About the opening of the eighteenth century, this cross was probably known as the "Butchers' Cross." In support of this view it may be stated that in a minute of the Common Council of September 20th, 1703, reference is made to a lease of a house "near the Butchers' Crosse." This view is supported by Mr. E. L. Guilford, M.A., the editor of the sixth volume of the "Records of the Borough of Nottingham," who writes:—"At first sight this would appear to be the Butter Cross, situated at the east end of the Market Place, near the Shambles, but it has been suggested that the Weekday Cross may be intended to be referred to, and from the fact that there were also Shambles in the Weekday Market, the suggestion is worthy of consideration."

About 1711 the "Cross" was familiarly known as "The Pillar."

In 1736, the Nottingham Crosses were cleaned at a cost of one shilling and fourpence.

Proclamations were made at the Cross—national and local. In days gone by, Mayor-making Day' was on

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(<sup>1</sup>) Deering (1751) described the proceedings in this language:—"Divine Service ended, the whole Body goes into the Vestry, where the old Mayor seats himself in an elbow-chair, at a table covered with black cloth, the Mace being laid in the middle of it, covered with Rosemary and sprigs of Bay (which they term 'Burying the Mace'). Then the Mayor presents the person before nominated to the Body, and after it has gone through the Votes of all the 'Cloathing,' the late Mayor takes up the Mace, kisses it, and delivers it into the hand of the new Mayor with a compliment ; who proposes two persons for Sheriffs, and two for the office of Chamberlains. These having gone through the Votes, the Mayor and the rest go into the Chancel, where the senior Coroner

September 29th. After the ceremony and the curious custom of burying the mace, the company proceeded from St. Mary's Church to the Weekday Cross, from whence the Town Clerk proclaimed the Mayor and the two Sheriffs of the town.

#### THE GUILD HALL AND GAOL.<sup>1</sup>

The most imposing building in the area comprised in this paper, was the Guild Hall or Town Hall, which included the Gaol. The main front was on the south side of the Weekday Market Place. The building occupied an extensive triangular space, between what is now Middle Hall and Garner's Hill, and tapered off to the Marsh district.

We are told that the Burgesses of Nottingham "time out of mind and until the time of King John's Charter—and since, had a Gaol in the town for the custody of such as were taken therein as belonging to the town."

One Alan de Bekingham was charged with the death of one Peter de Dynington, in 1285. His case finally came before three of the King's Justices, at

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administered the oath to the new Mayor, in the presence of the old one. Next the Town Clerk gives to the Sheriffs and Chamberlains the oath of their office. The ceremony being thus ended they march in order to the New Hall, attended by such gentlemen and tradesmen as have been invited by the new Mayor and Sheriffs. In their way at the Week-day-Cross, over against the ancient Guild Hall, the Town Clerk proclaims the Mayor and the Sheriffs, and the next ensuing market-day they are again proclaimed in the face of the whole market, at the Malt Cross."

(<sup>1</sup>) Much has been written about this public building. To the pages of "Notts. & Derbyshire Notes and Queries, for 1895," I contributed three chapters, which, with the illustrations, were issued in a very limited edition under the title of "The Old Guild Hall and Prison of Nottingham." This material in a condensed form was reproduced thirteen years later in my "Chapters of Nottinghamshire History." As this data is thus readily accessible, and in consideration of space, it is omitted from this paper, but some fresh information is printed here, so as to make the story of the Guild Hall still more complete.

Nottingham. Alan then and there stated "that he was a Clerk and member of the Church, and therefore could not nor would not answer. The Justices took the Inquisition. He was declared guilty of murder, and therefore, he was put in the Gaol of Nottingham and there he died. His land was taken into the King's hand, and delivered to the vill of Bekingham to answer before the Justices on the next eyre."<sup>1</sup>

About 1327, the Sheriff was ordered to repair the Gaol.

In 1330 there was an Inquisition respecting the custody of the Gaol, by the burgesses, in which year the office of gaoler was conferred upon John Doket.

Thomas Copham, in 1355, received the custody of the Gaol and prisoners.

During the next year, 1356, John Brocar succeeded to the gaolership. This man, known as "John the Gaoler," for Richard Gedling, held a messuage by the service of hanging probators and taking the appellants in the counties of Nottingham and Derby. He was, probably, succeeded in his office by a son named John.

Near the close of the fifteenth century it became necessary to enlarge the prison. In 1479, John Pole, of Nottingham gave thirty-five feet of land near the "Guild Hall Gate." The Guild Hall about this period answered many requirements—legal, commercial, and otherwise. It occupied the first floor, and the ground floor was utilised as a armoury, as a barber's shop, and two drink shops. A room over the old hall was, in the seventeenth century, employed as a depôt for the "trained bands" of

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(<sup>1</sup>) As Mr. H. Hampton Copnall writes (Notts. County Records) :— "Privilege of Clergy consisted originally in the right claimed by the Clergy to be free of jurisdiction of the Lay Courts and to be subject to the Ecclesiastical Courts," but in this case the plea was not entertained.

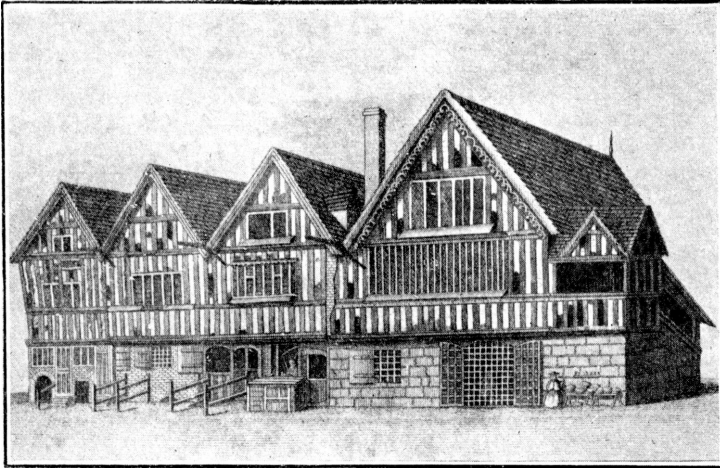


the county. In 1642, the Earl of Newcastle and Sir John Digby endeavoured to seize the stores for the use of the king, but their designs were frustrated by Mr. (afterwards Colonel) Hutchinson, who, as the representative of the people, urged them to abandon the idea of doing so.

Incidentally we learn from the accounts of the Chamberlains, that adjoining or part of the range of buildings was a building known as "Tresour Hous," with a joint gutter. This was repaired in 1485. This was not a residence as might be supposed, but was the treasure house of Nottingham.

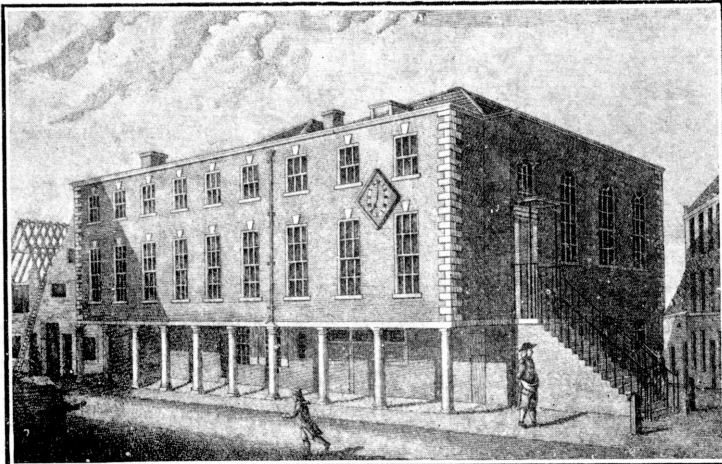
George Fox, the Quaker, spent "a pretty long time" in the Common Prison at Nottingham during 1649, for disturbing the service in St. Mary's Church, "the great steeple-house," as recorded in his journal of that year in these words:—"As I spoke thus amongst them, the officers came and took me away, and put me into a nasty stinking Prison; the smell whereof got so into my nose and throat that it very much annoyed me. At night they took me before the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs of the town. . . . They examined me at large. . . . After some discourse between them and me, they sent me back to Prison again; but some time after, the head Sheriff, whose name was John Reckless, sent for me to his house. . . . I lodged at the Sheriff's," and engaged in propagandist work. "Hereupon the Magistrates grew very angry, . . . and committed me to the common Prison. When the assize came on . . . I should have been brought before the Judge; the Sheriff's man being somewhat long in fetching me to the Sessions-house, the Judge was risen before I came. At which I understand, the Judge was somewhat offended. . . . So I was returned to prison again, and put into the common Gaol."

The Armoury of the town was located at the Guild Hall. When an inventory of the contents was prepared



TOWN HALL AND PRISON, 1741.

*Sandby.*



TOWN HALL AND PRISON, 1791.

*Wigley.*

for presentation to the Common Council in 1836, it was found to comprise the following items:—six blunderbusses with spring bayonets; six small pistols; six double-barrel pistols; four small horse pistols; nine horse pistols with spring bayonets; twelve horse pistols without bayonets; eight cutlasses; twelve pistol cases; six blunderbus cases; powder flask; shot flask; shot-ball and cartridges; 11in. lanthorns; twenty pairs of hand-cuffs,—verily a formidable Armoury!

On the 23rd January, 1729-1730, the council ordered that the messuage adjoining to the town's "Joal" be let to sheriffs. This was "intended to be an habitation for the 'Goaler' of the town, who is to have the use of the two rooms adjoining to the Council Room and the Garrett over the same, and Sellar under 'Goal' during pleasure, and if the said 'Goaler' shall lay out any money in or about the said rooms and garret, he shall have an allowance made him for the same, if any future Sheriffes shall not think fit to continue the said 'Goaler' in his place as shall be thought reasonable by the Hall."

On 1st August, 1729, there was "aide to Thomas Simpson for mending the 'Jalers Seale' and 1d. in pipes, 7d."

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(1) The Corporation afforded Dr. Charles Deering facilities for perusing various documents in their possession, under the supervision of committees specially appointed for this oversight. During 1740-1, the Common Council passed resolutions to this end. Thus, on 2nd April, 1740, a committee of two Aldermen, both Coroners, and two Councillors, were appointed "to attend the [Guild] Hall 'whilst' Doctor Deering inspects some writings and records of this Corporation, in the Repository." On the 27th of the following February, a committee of "five at least" were instructed "to search among the Records, and see into such matters as Doctor Deering desires to have inspection of, and to 'incert' into his History." A year later, on 2nd February, 1741-2, "papers were ordered for the perusal of Doctor Deering"; and ten days later "some grants and papers were delivered to Mr. Coroner Hornbuckle, with a note thereof, in order to lend or show the same to Doctor Deering." Biographical notices of Deering, who died in 1749 (two years before his great work was published), will be found in local historical works, by

## TOWN JAILORS.

Mr. Philip Bailey<sup>1</sup> succeeded Mr. Richard Bonington, in 1800,<sup>2</sup> as "Gaoler": the official title of the position at that time. He held that office for a period of twenty years: assuming the above date to be correct. Philip Bailey's grandson, Philip James Bailey, in Brown's *Worthies*, describes the official under notice as possessing "a somewhat puritanical severity of character, coupled with unbending purpose, activity, and vigilance," which "doubtless recommended him" for the post of Jailor of the Town Gaol. The same writer also states that his grandfather "was one of the principal manu-

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Bailey and others. The salient facts, however, in the life of Dr. Charles Deering were these:—He was supposed to be of German origin, but graduated M.D. at Leyden, Holland. Arriving in London he was appointed Secretary to the British Embassy at the Court of Russia. On returning to London he married there, but his wife shortly afterwards died there. He subsequently came to Nottingham, and practised medicine with some degree of success. "He became," Bailey says, "reserved, morose, and capricious," which "alienated from him his early friends and patrons, and hurried him rapidly into a condition approaching the most extreme poverty." He projected his "*Nottinghamia Vetus et Nova*," and submitted his scheme to Mr. John Plumtre. He approved of it; and furnished him with material for the work. His monetary condition, chagrin, and infirmity of temper ruined his health, and he died on 25th February, 1749, in lodgings on the south side of St. Peter's Square. He was buried in an unmarked grave in St. Peter's church-yard. Bailey says that the Corporation provided for his interment and also that Ayscough (Nottingham's earliest printer), and Mr. Willington, a druggist, defrayed the cost of the funeral. These two tradesmen became possessed of his manuscripts, administered his estate, and published the history in 1751. Deering also issued a "*Catalogus Stirpium*," and a treatise on small-pox issued in 1737.

(<sup>1</sup>) Philip Bailey was the father of Thomas Bailey (born 31st July, 1785), the future annalist of the shire who in early life was engaged in the hosiery manufacture, and subsequently became a hop, wine, and spirit merchant; editor and proprietor of a local newspaper; poet; and publicist. Thomas Bailey was the father of Philip James Bailey, the distinguished writer of "*Festus*," and of other books.

(<sup>2</sup>) Down to 1806, Bailey was still described as an "f.w.k."—framework-knitter, journeyman hosier, or stocking-maker.

facturers" of silk hosiery ; but Wylie' asserts that Philip Bailey, "was a stocking maker, and resided at one time in Portland Place, Coalpit Lane ; at another period his residence was in Black Lion Court, Castle Gate, where he had a shop of stocking frames. He simultaneously left Coalpit Lane and the loom, having received an appointment to the office of Town Jailor." As the status of that office is much misunderstood it should be stated, once for all, that the salary of "Gaoler of the Town," in 1800, was only £33 a year, out of which the turnkey was paid. Probably he had a suit of clothes and a hat annually, and rooms. The bread bill for felons and debtors amounted to £44, in 1800 ; bread selling at about one shilling and fourpence per quarter loaf at the time. The daily average number of prisoners was about twenty.

Philip Bailey, we are told by Wylie, "was held in high estimation ; and it is related that during the twenty years in which he discharged the duties of Jailor, so honourably vigilant were his habits that there was not a single instance of a prisoner having made his escape." George Vason having been deposed from the mastership of the Union Workhouse, by "the Justices of the shire, in the exercise of their newly-acquired power," Bailey voluntarily resigned his situation "for the purpose of allowing the town magistrates to confer the vacant office upon Vason. After retiring from his duties, he received a permanent annuity." His salary by this time had been considerably increased.

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(<sup>1</sup>) In support of Wylie's statement, we may say that Bailey was rated on a £3 rental, for his house in Portland Buildings (afterwards known as Portland Place), in 1800. This house was one of several dwellings specially built for working hosiers : the third story having windows extending the whole width of the houses. On the floor of each house were stocking-frames, which were generally rented at about a shilling per week by these "bag-hosiers." Portland Place extends from Coalpit Lane to Cur Lane, and formerly had small gardens in the middle of it.

Mr. George Vason was a native of Muskham, and was born about 1772. After completing his apprenticeship to a builder there, he removed to Nottingham. He joined the Baptist Church in Park Street ; and in 1796 proceeded as a missionary carpenter to the Southern Seas in the *Duff*. As John Frost Sutton wrote, "Vason, being located at some distance from his brethren, and becoming a bosom friend of one of the leading chiefs . . . he wholly abandoned himself to the manners and customs of the natives. . . . He adopted their mode of dress, was tattooed, cohabited with one of the chief's daughters, and acquired a small landed estate. . . . He took a second wife, acquired more land, and rose to considerable importance." He escaped, and landed in England in 1802. "Though he never regained his former position in religious society he conducted himself with great propriety, and moved in a respectable sphere. His benevolence and generosity were proverbial, and his chief failing was an occasional irascibility of temper. . . . His personal appearance was peculiar. An habitual gravity approximating to a melancholy thoughtfulness . . . marked his countenance." Vason became Master of the Union Workhouse, but owing to his electioneering activities he was dismissed from his office, although "no charge of incapacity or of inattention to duty was alleged." As previously stated, Phillip Bailey having voluntarily retired from his position at the Town Gaol, Mr. Vason was appointed to succeed him as Gaoler. This was in the spring of 1820. He retained his position until his death at the age of sixty-six years, on 23rd July, 1838. He was interred in the Baptist Burial Ground in Mount Street, but no stone marks the spot where he was buried.

## WEEKDAY MARKET.

Numerous and greatly varied in their character are the memoranda in the archives of the town, relating to the market at Weekday Cross—too many to produce here and now. A selected few between the years 1300 and 1750, must suffice for present purposes.

In 1308-9, two persons were charged by the Decanaries or Constables with stealing in the "Daily Market."

In 1375, a tavern was leased for ten years. This was described as "our tavern lying under our tenement in the" Daily Market, opposite the chapel. The rental was 13s. 4d., payable in two instalments. The lessees were Hugh de Spicer and his son William; and the tenant, Thomas le Taverner of Nottingham. This chapel, in honour of St. John, was erected in "Wykeday" Cross, in 1340, by John Baston. This Baston, ten years earlier, was made custodian of the waters, mills, meadows, and the rabbit warren in Nottingham.

In 1384-5 was leased to a butcher "a vacant piece of ground 16 feet in length and 12 in breadth, lying in the 'Wykday Market,' near the King's Highway, which leads from Flesshewergate to the Middle Pavement towards the south, at a rent of twelve pence in silver."

The Mickleton Jury,<sup>1</sup> in 1395, presented one William de Stapleton, for blocking up the common street with refuse, towards "Flexschamulles," in the "Wykeday merkeyth," on a street called Calvertonlayne, to the

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(<sup>1</sup>) As only a vague idea generally prevails as to the Mickleton Jury it is, therefore, desirable to call attention to the first series of "Old Nottinghamshire," in which there is a four-page paper on "The origin of the Mickleton or Mickleton Jury," by Mr. W. Henry Stevenson, the earliest editor of the Borough Records. He writes "This jury appears to be the Jury of the Court Leet under a different name, and is similar in its duties to the Manor Juries, which still exist." The Corporation, as lords of the manor, held a Court Leet, designated as above stated. One of its duties was to "present nuisances and impose fines thereupon."

“series detriment of the whole community, and the great obstruction of the water of Lene near Frerwater-gonge, &c.”

The records of 1406 refer to “a message which lies in the Flesh ameles in the Daily Market.”

The Mickleton Jury of 1553 reported two Butchers' shops as “being a nuisance.” The jury thought it “necessary that they should be removed to another part of the Market.”

The Chamberlains' Rentals for 1573-4, showed that one Richard Barret paid two shillings “for a chimney and two out castes or purpestures to his house agaynst Wekeday Crosse, taken of the common ground.”

The Churchwardens' books of St. Mary's parish for 1583, contain the names of seventeen residents in the Weekday Market. They are John Bayarde, Maister Dodson, Ellys Graterakes, Roger Lyne, Maister Stancyalle, Richard Barrett, John Ellys, Wydoe Buttrye, Rolphe Hamforthe, W. Wryghte, William Reason, Isaache Newbolde, John Tomson, Rycharde Goldryng, and Wydoe Lyne.

In the Churchwardens' books of St. Mary's, of 1582-3, is this entry :—“Harry Welche for a shop in ye Wekeday Shambelles, due at Candylmas. lxs.”

John Askew was in 1587, presented by the Mickleton Jury “for his shop standing upon the Weekday Crosse,” but the complaint was discharged by the Mayor and Justices.

Among the items of town expenditure associated with the Weekday Cross district, during the first half of the eighteenth century, were these :—

- 1726 Dec. 21—Cleaning about Weekday Cross and Munday Cross—6s. od.  
 1729 Nov. 7—“It is agreed that Thomas Smith shall sweep and carry away the dirt out of the Great



Market Place . . . Weekday Cross (&c.) which the Chamberlains used to cleanse" (&c.).

1733 Oct. 12—"This day Edward Collishaw and William Foulds agreed to clean all the streets, Market Places . . . which Thomas Smith lately did."

1745 Sep. 16—"The Corporation Debtor to Samuel Wheatcroft for paving by the Weekday Cross—5s. 3d.

In 1739 there were only fifteen houses in the restricted area then known as Weekday, with a population of fifty-seven, but in the northern extension of that space known then as Blowbladder Street (previously as Mont Hall Gate, and later as Market Street) there were nineteen houses and eighty-nine souls—in all thirty-four houses and 146 persons. These persons were residents, not stallholders.

The Monday Market in St. Peter's Square not having proved a success it was closed, as Stretton notes, and was removed back to the south end of Blowbladder Street, and a new cross erected there called the Weekday Cross on the site of an old one.

Writing near the middle of the eighteenth century, Deering records that at the Weekday Cross "the Wednesday and Friday Market is kept for Butter, Eggs, Pigeons, wild Fowl, and all kinds of Fruit in season ; besides on Fridays here are sold sea and river fish," and notes that "near this Cross stands other Shambles, placed north and south, where all the week, except on Saturdays, the Butchers sell all kinds of fleshmeat."

In 1773, on May 22nd, Mrs. Mary Collin died at the house of her brother, John Collin, a wealthy citizen of Nottingham, at Weekday Cross.

From a Poor Rate Book for 1784, we learn that the

following persons were rated for premises in Weekday Cross:—Mrs. Greasley, Mrs. Wordsworth, John Linaker, W. Wright, Rd. Smith, Mrs. Partridge, H. Worrall, Mr. Severn, Jas. Thorman, Mrs. Hooper, Francis Crosland, Mrs. Dodd, Mr. Hill, Jas. Greenfield, Mrs. Else (probably at the “Crown and Cushion”), John Calvert, Mr. Faulkner, W. Viezie, Mrs. Deverall, Rev. Mr. Launder, Mrs. Dale (widow of Councillor Richard Dale, druggist), Robt. Frost, W. Taylor, Caunt and Hill, S. Morley (“Shepherd and Shepherdess”) Miss Stanhope, and J. Chapman.

In the 1799 directory, the names and callings of fifteen householders in “Weekday Cross” and nine in Blowbladder Street were given. They are as follows:—

WEEK-DAY-CROSS—James Bigsby, Wine Merchant, &c. ; Rd. Bonington, Keeper of the Town Gaol ; Rev. Brown, Charity School ; Ald. Thos. Caunt, Hosier ; J. Dale, Druggist ; Robt. and Rd. Gresham, Pawnbrokers ; John Holt (“Barley-mow”) ; Sam Morley, Victualler (“Shepherd and Shepherdess”) ; Wharton Partridge, Apothecary ; Benj. Stoney, Joiner ; John Taylor, Gent. ; John Tomlinson, Wine and Liquor Merchant ; Stephen Weston, Joiner, &c. ; Rev. Robt. Wood, Curate of St. Mary’s Church ; Mrs. Worrell, Widow, and Benjamin Stoney, Joiner, who purchased the cross, and whose premises were near the eastern end of the Town Hall.

BLOWBLADDER STREET—Sam. Beardsley ; William Cook, Plumber and Glazier ; Mrs. Else, Victualler (“Crown and Cushion”) ; Thos. Hill, Hosier ; Rev. Launder ; John Levers, Victualler (“Cross Keys”) ; John Timms, Victualler (“Crown and Cushion”) ; Chas. Twells, Attorney, and Mrs. Williamson, Butcher.

A Poor Rate Book for 1800 gives the following list of ratepayers, without specifying any occupations:—Mrs. Raynor, Alex. Strachan, Stephen Weston, Robt.

Whitaker, Mr. Partridge, Mrs. Hornbuckle, Jas. Severn (Shopkeeper), W. Simon, Jos. Mayfield, Francis Crossland, Samuel Blighton, G. Robinson, John Timms ("Crown and Cushion"), Thomas Hill, Job Leaver, S. Beardsley, Mrs. Else (before John Timms at the "Crown and Cushion"), Mr. Cook, Chas. Tirells, Widow Williamson, Jas. Yeomans, Rev. Mr. Launder, Chatteris & Co., Jas. Dale (house, stable, and tenants), Mr. Greesham (was a Pawnbroker), Mr. Taylor, Thomas Caunt, Samuel Morley ("Shepherd and Shepherdess"), and Ben Stoney (Joiner, &c.)

The Wednesday Market continued to be held at the Weekday Cross until 1800, when, at the instigation of Alderman Samuel Worthington, it was finally closed, and its business transferred to the Great Market Place. At this time the population of Nottingham was nearly 29,000 inhabitants.

Although the market of Weekday Cross had now become "a thing of the past" yet the shopkeepers were energetic and enterprising and maintained "a place in the sun." For instance, during the famous Coke-Birch Parliamentary Election in 1803, Coke's supporters displayed flags in several public-houses in the town. Among these houses was the "Barley-Mow." The flag is thus described "Ornamented with a deep border of blue Persian, *Device*—A large barley-mow with men on the top, in the act of stacking; a waggon and horses below, the waggon loaded, and men forking up the corn. *Mottoes*—'Church, King, and Coke.'" "Bond, Protection, and Freedom of Elections." Mr. Bond, M.P., "spoke strongly in favour of Mr. Coke's Petition."

When the Treaty of Peace with France was declared in 1814, Weekday Cross was well to the front. Mr. Dale, a druggist, displayed a transparency at his place of business there. This was a representation of

Napoleon with the English lion and the Russian bear.

On 22nd January, 1817, in support of a petition for Parliamentary Reform "an immense meeting was held in Weekday Cross. The speakers stood on the Town Hall steps. The Petition, which prayed for Retrenchment and Reform, Universal Suffrage, Annual Parliaments, &c. was unanimously adopted, and subsequently received the the signatures of six thousand male inhabitants" of the town.

During his stay at Shardlow, in 1826, as a strolling-player, Christopher Thomson ("Autobiography of an Artisan"), walked to Nottingham. At the shop of Mr. Gresham, the pawnbroker of Weekday Cross, he was supplied with "a new second-hand olive green surtout coat for twelve shillings—made a gentleman."

#### THE WEEKDAY MARKET WELL.

Among the common wells of old Nottingham, numbering more than a dozen, was the Weekday Market Well." This was located on the south-west corner of the market, near the Guild Hall. The site is occupied by a pillar post-box near the S.E. corner of Holland & Webb's warehouse. On this site, over the well, was a pump which was near a greengrocer's little shop until it was demolished, about which more later.

The Corporation Records contain many references to these wells, generally and specifically, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1575-6 the constables reported at the sessions that "ye comen well at ye Weke Daye Cross be in dyecaye for want of reparation."

They further reported that "we have presente manye tymys and no amendment." Two years later the Mickle-ton Jury reported that "the common well att Wyckeday Crosse, and the common well at Sente Marie Church yarde" were "in dekey for lacke of mendyng." In 1578

the Chamberlains paid twenty pence "for mendyng of the turnyll (or windlass) of the welle at Wekeday Crosse." Five shillings and sixpence was the amount expended "for mendinge the well at Weekeday Crosse, and lead and sauder."

#### THE MARKET PUMP.

This interesting item is extracted from the Minute Book of the Common Council, for February, 1633-4 :—

"Weekeday-cross : for ye pompe. This Companie having heard the Mocians of the inhabitants aboute the Weeke-day cross, touchinge a pompe to be made where the leadon well nowe stands, they are of oppynion, thatt one cannott conveniently be made to hould longe, or to be kepte sweete ; therefor doe not allowe of theire Mocion, butt are content thatt the well shalbe sufficiently repayred by the newe Chamberlaynes, butt nott otherwise to be altered."

In 1731 the Common Council issued this notice :—

"Pump at Weekday Cross.—Leave is hereby given to the neighbourhood about the Weekday Cross that they may at their own Charge Set down a Pump in the Leaden Well there and thie Corporation towards effecting the same do hereby give to the said neighbourhood the Frame of the said Well and other materiall about the same So as they fix a pump in the said Well and maintain the same for 21 years, from this day (July 26th, 1731), and otherwise the Corporation shall have the said Frame Lead and other Material again."

Two years later (in 1733) the Chamberlains were

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(<sup>1</sup>) The "Common Wells of the town during several centuries, were located at or near Chapel Bar, Cow Lane, Goose Gate, Narrow Marsh, St. Mary's Gate, St. Ann's, St. Nicholas', Church Stile, St. Peter's Church, the Shambles, Spice Chamber (Exchange), Warser Gate and Weekday Cross." There is mention of these in the printed town records.

instructed to "sell the Materialls of the Leaden Well, and Cover the Well securely by a good arch out of the money arising of it."

In 1782, a pump was made available here. Upon it was screwed an oval brass plate, measuring 8½in. broad by 6¾in. deep. Upon this was engraved the following words:—"Erected For Public Use MDCCLXXXII. John Carruthers, Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor John Fellows Jun<sup>r</sup> John Hancock Sheriffs." This pump was demolished in 1878. Through the instrumentality of Mr. George Fellows, J.P., Honorary Secretary of the Thoroton Society, and cousin of the lender, this plate, mounted on an oval oak plaque was exhibited to the members who attended the meeting on November 13th, 1917. On the back of this tablet was a soiled and partly illegible paper label on which was written the following:—"Nottingham 1878. This brass plate was given to me by the Town Surveyor, when the Pump to which it was attached on the Middle Pavement was taken down. The Pump was erected to counteract (? if correct) the intoxicating effects of the Michaelmas (or Goose) Fair. John Fellows, Junr., was my Father's Father.—Charles Francis Fellows."

Some of us well remember this pump, which stood close by a greengrocer's shop, near the Middle Pavement corner.

#### FLOGGING AT THE CART-TAIL.

During the extended period when public flagellation was a regular mode of punishment for both males and females, the Cross was frequently a starting place, owing to its close proximity to the police court at the Guild Hall. The offenders (and victims of this brutal mode of punishment), were tied to the tails of carts, stripped to the waist in all cases, and whipped during the journey, from one point to another. The crimes thus treated were

thefts, assaults on females, immorality, &c.<sup>1</sup> Here are two typical instances so far as flogging relates to our area :—

On 12th January 1770, a young woman detected stealing at a draper's shop, was on this market-day "fastened to a cart, and whipped all the way from the Week-day Cross to the Malt Cross, in the Market Place ; three months later, a man for theft was whipped in the same manner from Weekday Cross to the Malt Cross, and thence to the Hen Cross where he was liberated, a sadder and sorer man than before he started on his ignominious journey." The degrading practice of public whipping in Nottingham was observed until 1830.<sup>2</sup>

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(<sup>1</sup>) Edward Ash was a constable who was in favour, being a general utility man. In 1745, he was paid five shillings "for extraordinary service" ; and at various times he was recompensed for doing odd jobs. He superintended the public flagellations ; for instance he received two shillings on 14th July, 1753. Here is a copy of "Edward Ashes Bell, for whipping Sarah Belsher, publicly, March 8th, 1757 :—

Allowed to Edward Ash	...	3 0
,, to the Whipper	...	2 6
,, to 2 Constables	...	2 0
		7 6"

It might be added that the form of sentence was, that the offender "be stripped naked from his or her waist upwards, and whipt by the Constable until his or her body be bloody." Sometimes culprits were whipped at the door of the prison.

(<sup>2</sup>) 6th April, 1808, was the last occasion on which anyone was exposed to public ridicule in a pillory, in Nottingham. This defiler of children, named Calvin, was, after conviction, escorted from the Town Gaol to the Market Place. Having ascended the slope of the pillory, which was situated near the south-west corner of the Exchange, the fellow impudently bowed to the immense crowd assembled, and was "affixed with his head and arms in the Pillory." He did not evince any sense of shame at his condition. After an hour's exposure he was released, placed in the cart which conveyed him to the pillory, and was driven back to Gaol to undergo the remainder of his sentence. There had been no similar public punishment for upwards of sixty years.

## EXECUTION TRAGEDIES.

To the younger generations, aged people related some of the incidents which were attendant upon a public execution at the County Hall. William Saville had been hanged on 8th August, 1844, for the murder of his wife and three children, in Colwick Wood, on 21st May, 1844. The crowd was immense. Immediately after the man had been launched into eternity, the crowd broke up in great disorder. Twelve people were killed and more than a hundred severely injured. As Sutton says:—“heaps of victims were thrown down and trampled upon on the Pavement, and then the pent-up tide found an outlet at Garner’s Hill, down which it rolled with destructive velocity. Some fell in their involuntary descent of the steps, others became entangled with them and overthrown, and in a few seconds the steep and narrow thoroughfare was completely choked up. There the struggling mass lay—men, women, and children—promiscuously heaped together, and each moment receiving additions to its number. The shrieks of the female sufferers were fearful but not protracted, for a brief interval brought on either insensibility or the silence of death. Seldom has the eye beheld a sadder spectacle. The mass were literally writhing with agony. Groans, mingled with hurried prayers and curses, resounded on every side.”

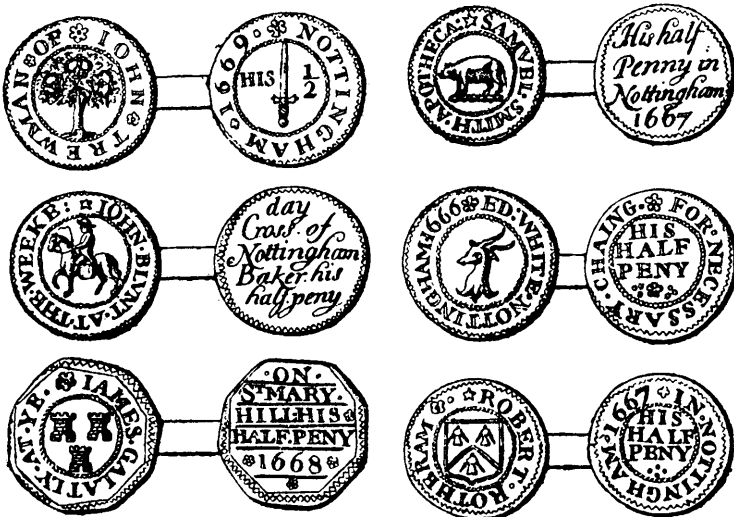
## CHAPEL, 14TH CENTURY.

In the possession of the Nottingham Corporation is a lease, dated May 7th, 1375, from which we gather that there existed at that time a chapel in the Forum Cotidianum or Daily Market. This was situated opposite a tavern lying under a tenement belonging to Hugh le Spicer and William, his son, and by them “granted and at ferm demised to Thomas le Taverner of Nottingham for ten years.”



TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

Availing themselves of the privilege granted by the law to issue their own small tokens, between 1648 and 1672, about fifty-six were placed in circulation by Nottingham tradesmen ; and about sixty-five were issued by others in different parts of the county. Among the Nottingham tradesmen who circulated halfpenny tokens was one John Blunt, who carried on the business of a baker, in Weekday Cross. He had two varieties of tokens. The striking feature of these was a representation of a man on horseback, with panniers. These bear



NOTTINGHAM TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

no date, but give the name of the issuer, his occupation, address, and the value of the token. The two known varieties differ in style and quality of workmanship. One of them gives "Derross" instead of "Day Cross," and the other "Half-penny" instead of "Halfe-penny."<sup>1</sup>

(1) Those who would pursue the subject further are referred to the late Mr. John Toplis's paper in "Old Nottinghamshire," on "Nottingham-

## BULL BAITING.

That the baiting of bulls was practised in the Weekday Market admits of no doubt. Various references to this degrading sport and the accessories are to be found in the Chamberlain's accounts.

The practice of bull-baiting was a very general British sport during a long period—perhaps seven centuries. It was stopped by law in 1835, but was carried on for nearly a score of years after that date as an illicit pastime. As an excuse for continuing the sport it was enacted that bulls were to be baited in order to make the prospective beef more digestible than unbaited bulls flesh.

Misson, the French Advocate, who visited this country during the reign of William III., gave a vivid description of "The manner of these bull baitings" in England. He informs us that the baiters "tie a rope to the root of the horns of the bull, and fasten the other end of the cord to an iron ring fixed to a stake driven into the ground, so that by the cord, being about fifteen feet long, the bull is confined to a space about thirty feet diameter." The bull was baited by one dog at a time, but often several in succession. These bull-dogs were

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shire Tradesmen's Tokens of the seventeenth century," in the second series, pages 10-22; and for illustrations in Throsby, engraved by Wigley, page 56, and to the Stretton Collection of forty-eight examples, engraved by J. Carr, and unpublished. These examples were of the face value of a halfpenny and a farthing; were round and octagonal in shape, and struck on copper and brass. The earliest local dated specimen is of 1657 and the latest 1671. The Nottinghamshire examples of these eighteenth century tokens were issued by tradesmen at Newark, twenty-two examples, Mansfield, fifteen; Retford, five; Worksop, three; two each at Bingham, Blyth, Collingham, Cossall, Mansfield Woodhouse, and Tuxford; and one each at Brinsley Laneham, and Southwell. The trades named on these tokens are these:—Apothecary, Baker, Blacksmith, Brewer, Carver, Chandler, Cordwainer, Draper, Grocer, Innkeeper, Ironmonger, Mercer, Milliner, Saddler, Salter, Shoemaker, Tailor, Tallow Chandler, and Tollkeeper. The Nottingham Chamberlains issued a token.

trained to seize the bull by the nose, the practice being known as "pinning the bull." The bull lowered his head to the ground, and received the dogs on his horns, frequently tossing them a considerable distance. These tossed dogs had their fall broken by the spectators, some of whom bent their backs to receive the tossed dogs, and "others with long poles, which they offer him slantways." Chambers gives a full description of bull-baiting in his "Book of Days" (11. 57-59).

Speed indicates the position of the Weekday Market Bull-ring in his map of 1610.

Among the items in the Borough Records are these:—

(1571-2)—"Item gevyn to Wyle of Wymscolde at Maister Mairs commandement for pastyme in beytting of a bulle. ijd." (1580) "Item payd to Lorence Worth for mendyng the Bull Ryng at Wekeday Cross end," &c. iijs. vid.

(1587)—"Item we present the Bull Ringe to want raylinge."

(1720)—"Delivered a Roape for beating the Bull. 7s. 6d."

(1720) "I payde for the bulls coller and a swizzle. 4s. 2d."

#### STOCKS.

Restricted as was the area of the market, yet room was provided for stocks. These from time to time required repairing. Here is an entry in the Corporation books in point:—

(1541)—For "Reparacions necessarye. Item to John Worthyngton for mendyng of the stockes at the Wekeday Cross. ijd."

Whether or not a Pillory existed alongside the stocks cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. No specific mention is to be found in the published records of the town of such an erection on this spot, although the Pillory figures in the accounts.

## SUBTERRANEAN.

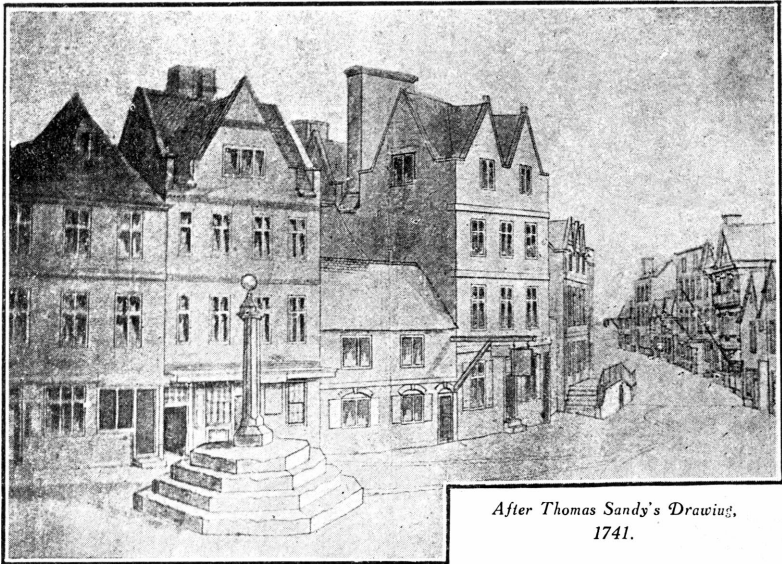
Deering in "Nottinghamia Vetus et Nova" (1751) related the existence of a subterranean passage and building under the Weekday Cross, in these words:—"One, Edward Goddard, a Bricklayer yet living, assures me that when he was an Apprentice, being at work on the East side of the Weekday Cross, he there got into one of these suterranean fabricks. which he found supported and adorned with Pillars . . . and that he made his way . . . as far as the upper end of Pilcher Gate."

## TOWN DITCH AND WALL.

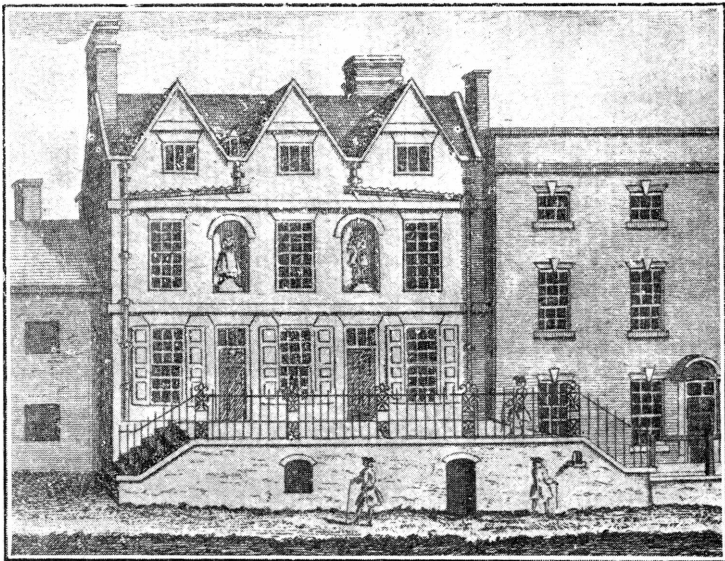
In the carefully prepared monograph on the Town Wall,<sup>1</sup> my lamented friend, James Shipman, gives some interesting information about the locality of the Weekday Cross. He records that in 1896, a portion of the old Town Wall was exposed. During the excavations on the site of the Guild Hall a dry ditch was discovered, which was on the southern edge of Middle Pavement." "The first and oldest town wall at this spot was evidently built along the edge of the escarpment or town cliff, at the top of Middle Hill, and the ditch just mentioned was on the outer edge of this wall. It was only at a later period that the wall was carried down Middle Hill, returning by Garner's Hill to Middle Pavement, forming an acute angle or ravelin. The stone used in both cases was Bulwell stone, and not either the local sand-stone, or Mapperley Hill stone. . . . It is obvious that this ditch on the site of the old town wall down the slope between Middle Hill and Garner's Hill was added, in order, to enclose and protect the Town Hall. What became of the wall, to the east of Weekday Cross, remains a still

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(<sup>1</sup>) "The 'Notes' on the Nottingham Town Wall, were written at the request of Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., for the 'Notts and Derbyshire Notes and Queries,' of which he was the Editor."



WEEKDAY CROSS.



BLUE COAT SCHOOL.

unsolved problem. Mr. Shipman occupied considerable space to the Weekday Cross excavations (pp. 23-43), in his work alluded to, and gave several illustrations.

#### THE CHARITY SCHOOL.

The most eastern building in the Weekday Cross area is that which is partly occupied as the Archdeaconry Offices, which is situated opposite Garner's Hill. This was formerly the site of the "Charity" or "Bluecoat" School—not to be confounded with the "Free" or "Grammar" School. It was occupied from about 1723 until its removal to its present location on Mansfield Road in 1853. Parenthetically it should be stated that the location of the school, from 1706 to 1723, has not been determined by students of local history.

Thomas Sandby in his sketch of the locality, taken in 1741, gives a small perspective view of this building, and Deering a front elevation in his well known history of Nottingham.

This building was of three gables, with dormer windows, and three on each of the two lower storeys. Over each of the two doorways, in niches, were the two statues of a boy and a girl in the costume of the school, which were transferred to the present building. The building was approached by sets of steps at each end of the railed platform landing. It occupied the whole of the site frontage. The schoolhouse is depicted in Deering. Orange informs us that the school premises consisted of "a house, containing two schoolrooms, and apartments for a schoolmaster and his wife, who is the schoolmistress, and a yard behind."

Built into the front of the school about 1755, or later, was a stone tablet with this inscription incised:—

*"Blue Coat Charity School, Founded A.D. 1706, by voluntary contributions, and further endowed with*

land and tenements by Charles Harvey, A.D. 1711, Jonathan Labray, 1718, William Thorp, A.D. 1720, Gilbert Beresford, A.D. 1747, Joseph Peake, A.D. 1755." This was removed, in 1853, from the schoolhouse on the High Pavement to the present Building. Deering stated that in the early part of the 18th century, the school was "maintained by the voluntary contributions of several worthy gentlemen and substantial tradesmen of this town, for the instruction of fifty poor children in the principles of religion, spelling and reading. Forty of these are clothed in blue."

In 1788 there was a division among the supporters of the Charity School which resulted in the foundation of "The Unitarian Charity School" in the High Pavement Chapel, for the education of thirty boys and twenty-four girls, about half of whom were clothed ; with Mr. John Malbon as Master.

An elaborate series of "Rules and Orders" were published in 1793. These relate to the number of scholars, their clothing, mode of election, conditions of admission, the qualifications and duties of the master and mistress, the duties of parents in respect to the scholars, &c. They are informative and interesting, but too lengthy for use here and now.

The projecting steps of the school were removed in 1804. Beneath these was found a brass plate. This bore the following inscription :—"Nottingham Charity School, founded in 1706, and supported by the contributions of the Corporation and others, and was in 1723 removed to this building, which was erected for the use of, and benefit of such school, at the charge of many benefactors, in and nigh this town, upon a piece of ground given by Mr. William Thorpe for that purpose."

The Charity Commissioners reported on this trust in 1828.

To quote Bailey, "the ancient school-house and premises on the High Pavement being utterly devoid of any recreation ground for the children of the institution, as well as of almost every other convenience for advantageously and comfortably carrying on the education and training of a considerable number of children, it was resolved at a meeting of Trustees in 1852, to dispose of the premises and erect others of a more suitable character, on a piece of ground, in a fine, open, airy situation on the Mansfield Road, which had been obtained by exchange for a small field belonging to the charity, left under the will of Gilbert Beresford (in 1747), which edifice and arrangements have been completed at a cost of about £2,000."<sup>1</sup>

The following is an abstract of Conveyance, in 1720, of the site for the Bluecoat School located in that portion of Weekday Cross, then known as the High Pavement. This has been kindly prepared by Mr. F. A. Wadsworth for me.

"20th. Decr. 1720. BY INDENTURE of Bargain and sale enrolled in the Court of Chancery between William Thorpe of the Town of Nottingham, Gent., of the one part, and John Plumtre, Esquire, Francis Newdigate, Esq., Heyrick Athorpe, Esq., Thomas Smith,

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(<sup>1</sup>) The scheme for the Charity School was formulated in 1706. The Common Council was approached by Messrs. Jenner and Clark, who sought that body's financial support for the school in the event of "the setting up and founding a Charity School in the town of Nottingham, for the bringing up and educating of poor children." The Council resolved "That the Chamberlains for the time being do allow five pounds per annum to be paid as other subscriptions are, during the pleasure of the Council." As the early history of the school does not come within the scope of this paper it is not further mentioned, interesting as it is.

The Common Council, September 11th, 1724, "ordered that this Corporation do pay £5 in arrear to the Charity School, and £5 a year for the future, during pleasure provided that this Corporation may have the privilege of nominating a boy and a girl yearly into the said school."



Esq., Samuel Berdmore, Clerk, Timothy Fenton, Clerk, John Abson, Clerk, William Jackson, William Drury, John Town, Philip Launder, Mathew Hoyland, Benjamin Beilby, and John Else, Gentleman, of the other part the said William Thorpe in Consideration of the sum of 5 shillings to him paid by Plumtre and others DID grant (&c.) ALL that Messuage, Cottage, or Tenement, situate in the Town of Nottingham In a certain Street there called Middle pavement on the East or South East side of a certain Messuage belonging to Edmund Whitacre and all that piece of Ground, yard, or garden belonging to the same between the Lands of Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe, Widow, on the East or South East and the sd. Messuages with the Lands of the said Edmund Whitacre on the West or North West which said Premises contained in the front 39 feet, the Middle<sup>F</sup> 14.10. and at the upper end 6 feet and in length 79 feet and Two Inches and all that Arch and the ground under it lying next the said Street Southward and containing in in Length 37 feet and in Breadth 8 feet All which said Premises were formerly the Estate of George Woodward and were then in the Tenure of William Thorpe and Walter Hornbukle TO HOLD unto and to the use and behoofe of the said John Plumtre, Francis Newdigate, Herick Athorpe, Thomas Smith, Samuel Berdmore, Timothy Fenton, John Abson, William Jackson, William Drury, John Town, Philip Launder, Mathew Hoyland, Benjamin Beilby, and John Else their heirs and afore-said for ever."

AUTHOR OF "FESTUS."

On the south wall of Holland & Webb's warehouse (the west limit of "Weekday Cross"), has been placed a Holbrook Bequest Memorial tablet of white marble,

enclosed in a metal frame, on which is incised, in five lines of sans serif letters, these words :—

ON THIS SITE  
STOOD THE HOUSE IN WHICH  
PHILIP JAMES BAILEY,  
AUTHOR OF "FESTUS,"  
WAS BORN APRIL 22nd. 1816.

This building was the residence of the poet's grandfather, Mr. Philip Bailey. He was the "Keeper of the Town Jail," from 1800 to 1820. The house was demolished several years ago to make way for commercial purposes.

