

An Itinerary of Nottingham.

Continued from the Transactions of 1928, p.p. 17-71.

*Being information as to the history of the Streets, Buildings, etc.,
of the City, collected from many sources by*

J. HOLLAND WALKER, F.S.A., F.R.HIST.S.

This itinerary was prepared before modern conditions altered the lay-out of the streets of Nottingham. It has been thought better to leave the itinerary as it was when written so as to preserve some record of many streets and houses now destroyed.

RETURNING to Weekday Cross we leave it by that short thoroughfare which is called Middle Pavement.

There is not much of interest left in this little street, perhaps the quaintest object in it is the curious little yard which leads off the western side to the rear of Messrs. Severn's wine and spirit stores, for by some curious freak of chance this has remained almost unaltered for centuries and still presents an ancient inn yard such as must have existed in plenty throughout the town when Nottingham was little more than a country market town. The district, however, is of interest for at the corner where Fletcher Gate enters Weekday Cross stood the house in which Philip James Bailey the author of "Festus" was born. The family of Bailey was of considerable note and a hundred years ago gave to the town two of its most prominent sons: Thomas Bailey, the historian and Philip James Bailey, the poet. Apparently the family was founded by Philip Bailey who was a stocking maker who at one time resided in Portland

Place, Coalpit Lane and then moved to Black Lion Court off Castle Gate where he had a workshop. He received the appointment of the town gaoler which was a position of considerable responsibility and honour and he moved to the house which stood in Week-day Cross and which has now disappeared, albeit its site is marked by a tablet. Philip was early associated with the stocking trade, but eventually he changed his business and became a wine merchant at the top of Low Pavement ; thence he removed to the Moot Hall at the corner of Friar Lane where his business prospered. Eventually he retired from the wine trade and became a journalist and established the weekly newspaper, " The Nottingham Mercury." He removed to Basford to the house which is still standing close to the church of St. Leodegarius where he died in 1856. He wrote a good many works, but the most important of these is his " Annals of Nottinghamshire " which is a standard work of reference even to our own day. His son Philip James Bailey was born in 1816 and his great poem " Festus " which I have heard it said, contains more words than the whole of Shakespeare's published works was mainly written at Basford although it was constantly added to and altered during the whole of the poet's long life.

Bridlesmith Gate is of extreme antiquity although it does not belong to the oldest road system in Nottingham. It was constructed as part of the Narrow Marsh—Drury Hill route which passed to the west of the ancient enclosure on St. Mary's Hill. The old defences of Edward the Elder's time, and possibly earlier, ran where the houses on the east side of Bridlesmith Gate now stand so that the road itself must have passed very close to the edge of the ditch, on its outer side, if there was a ditch. Even to-day it is an extremely narrow thorough-

fare and it is very difficult for us to realise that all through the middle ages and even down to a century ago it was the chief shopping street in Nottingham. This importance is interestingly reflected if we consider that in 1819 of the ten gas lamps which were considered sufficient to illuminate the whole of the town, five were allotted to Bridlesmith Gate.

Its name is very ancient. It was called Bridlesmith Gate or something very like it as long ago as 1304 and it reflects something of the importance of the smiths of Nottingham. Other streets of course show this importance, for we have also Gridlesmith Gate or Great Smith Gate which we now-a-days call Pelham Street and Smithy Row. Such a wide diffusion of names in so small a town as ancient Nottingham must have been, shows that the smithing industry must have occupied the attention of a great many people. And when one considers the history of Nottingham and realises that Nottingham Castle was one of the chief fortresses and Royal Palaces of England, to which the baronage was continually called for councils and parliaments, one realises that probably the smiths would find much occupation in making armour, although I know of no armour remaining in England which was made in Nottingham.

The armourers' craft was exceedingly skilled ; that is evident if one examines the articulation of the suits of ancient armour that have come down to our day, and consequently the armourers and the smiths associated with them must have been exceedingly skilled craftsmen. But the introduction of gunpowder and the suppression of private war dealt a fatal blow to their trade, and many of them must have found themselves out of employment so they devoted their attention to

the production of beautiful wrought ironwork which might be used for architectural purposes. By the 18th century it was the fashion for the better class houses to be set back a few feet from the roadway and the area in front of them to be enclosed by wrought iron palings of elaborate designs, sometimes also these palings would be pierced by exceedingly elaborate gateways. We have a few examples of these palings and gateways still remaining in Nottingham, noticeably that one by the side of the People's Hall in Heathcote Street. Another example of wrought iron craftsmanship may be studied on the sundial of Collin's Alms Houses in Spaniel Row the gnomon of which is an exceedingly beautiful specimen of ironwork. The names of these wonderful craftsmen have not survived except in one case, namely that of Huntingdon Shaw, who was possibly born in Red Lion Street and who was baptised in 1660 in St. Peter's Church. He was associated with the great French artist Jean Tigou in the construction of the magnificent gates at Hampton Court and it is very doubtful whether anything of his workmanship is to be found in the neighbourhood of Nottingham although the gates at Watnall Hall are attributed to him. At any rate his skill was so great that a little jingle "The little smith of Nottingham, He doth the work that no man can" was made about him and has survived to our own day which shows that he must have been skilled above his fellows otherwise no such rhyme could have possibly obtained sufficient celebrity to last for 200 years.

But wrought iron quickly oxidises and it was found that it was a very perishable material to leave exposed to the inclemencies of the weather and so cast iron was used in its place, for the skin formed by the casting of

iron acts as a protection against the weather and diminishes the rapidity of its weathering. Further, it was very much simpler and cheaper to adopt the mechanical process of casting palisades and other architectural details than to use the costly process of beating out by hammer and anvil elaborate patterns. The loss to the artistic world was very great indeed, the difference in the process being that of craftsmanship as against manufacturing.

In Bridlesmith Gate or somewhere near it on a site now lost was a mint in Saxon times which remained working down to the fire of Nottingham in the terrible reign of King Stephen at which time Sweyn the moneyer whose story we noted in Commerce Square was in charge. In 1810 the narrowness of Bridlesmith Gate had become intolerable for traffic could not circulate in it with any degree of comfort and so money was collected for the purpose of widening it and a start was made at High Pavement on the western side. But the money soon gave out and the proposed improvement had to be abandoned, but not before a hundred yards or so of the street had been widened so as to admit of the passage of two carriages. This widening still remains and accounts for the curious shape of Bridlesmith Gate at its juncture with Low Pavement. But in 1819 another attempt was made and although no widening took place the street was much tidied up and modernised. By a general agreement of all the inhabitants the old hanging signs which did so much to block up the thoroughfare were all taken down. The footway was paved, it must have been one of the earliest paved footways in Nottingham, and the carriage track was re-paved with boulders. Our forefathers were so pleased with this improvement that they changed the

name from the ancient one of Bridlesmith Gate to Bond Street, after the well-known Bond Street in London which was just then attracting general attention. Evidently this change did not meet with public approval and it was soon abandoned.

The northern end of Bridlesmith Gate was completely re-constructed and widened in 1852 when the modern St. Peter's Gate was formed out of the old mediæval thoroughfare and unfortunately in the course of this improvement it was found necessary to destroy several very beautiful timbered houses. But there remains one ancient house in Bridlesmith Gate and at its rear up Cave Chambers can be seen the decrepit remains of a half-timbered house of probably the 15th century.

This old house in Bridlesmith Gate is striking in many ways. Its upper stories overhang the footway in true mediæval fashion. From these overhanging stories we get the many strange irregularities which occur in the sides of the street of our ancient towns for when the rafters which were carrying these overhangings became insufficient for the weight that they had to carry, it was quite common to prop them up with posts from their outer end standing upon the public roads. It seems to have been nobody's business to see that these posts were removed and usually they were generally accepted although they must have been a terrible nuisance, and when the houses were pulled down and re-erected the site upon which these posts stood was taken as the boundary and so a few inches was stolen from the public thoroughfares. There is a good instance of this still going on in Nottingham for the upper stories of the "Flying Horse Hotel" are carried on posts of

this description and have been so carried for many centuries.

Bridlesmith Gate was part of the coach route between London and Leeds. We have seen how Hollowstone was prepared for the accommodation of coaching traffic, and the coaches proceeded along High Pavement, Weekday Cross, Middle Pavement, Bridlesmith Gate and High Street where were situated a number of inns. One of the main businesses of the coaches was to carry the Royal Mail, and a few notes about the Post Offices of Nottingham may not be without interest. The earliest Post of which we know anything, which under Royal auspices ran between London and Nottingham in 1623 came up the Great North Road as far as Stoke, then across the river at Stoke Ferry and came coasting along the northern bank of the Trent on the track of the very ancient primeval route. It entered Nottingham by Barker Gate. This service gradually developed until the full postal service of coaching days arose out of it. The first Post Office in Nottingham was established in 1779 in the shop of John Raynor who was a seedsman on the west side of High Street. He was assisted in his business by a letter carrier called Tom Croft who used to go about the town with a bell night and morning and when the bell was heard people applied to him to see if there was a letter for them or to give him any mail matter that they might have. By 1833 the business had so much increased that the Post Office was moved to the other side of High Street, to High Street Place, where a building which is still standing was erected for their accommodation by the Duke of Newcastle, and four persons were engaged in dealing with the postal business of Nottingham. In 1834 the office was again moved,

this time to Bridlesmith Gate to the site until recently occupied by Lloyd's Bank. Although this was a great improvement, postal conditions were still extremely primitive as we can gather from the fact that there was a little ticket window where one took one's letters and either bought a stamp and stuck it on or else paid the appropriate postage and wrote "P.P." which stood for "post paid" upon the outside. Then in 1840 a great change came; the penny postage was introduced which enormously increased postal business. Up to that time a letter from London cost 10d., from Birmingham or Manchester 8d., from Leicester 6d., and from Mansfield or Derby 4d., so to deal with this increased business the Post Office was erected at the north east corner of the newly formed Albert Street and then in 1846 the Corporation provided what was for its time a really excellent office which is now used for the City Treasurer's department at the corner of St. Peter's Church Side and Albert Street. Here the Post Office remained until 1868 when the government provided a building at the top of Victoria Street which proved sufficient for Nottingham's postal business until the erection of the present Post Office in Queen Street in 1895.

It should be remembered that until quite recent times one had to take all one's small mail matter to the General Post Office which was the only receiving office in the whole town. It was not until 1857 that the convenience of pillar boxes was introduced into Nottingham and it is interesting to remember that on May 24th, 1858, letter carriers made their first appearance in uniform in Nottingham.

Half way between Pepper Street and St. Peter's Gate, Aiscough in 1708 set up the first printing press

in Nottingham and he prospered so that, as we have already seen, he had to transfer his business to Barker Gate to more commodious premises. During the 18th century there were two majestic old ladies living in Bridlesmith Gate—one of them, Mistress Marjory Middleton, died at the age of 100 and is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, and the other, Mistress Tempest, lies in St. Peter's. At her funeral six lady pall bearers officiated. It is interesting also to remember that the last sedan chair in use in Nottingham conveyed an old lady whose name I do not know from her house in Bridlesmith Gate to High Pavement Chapel for services, Sunday by Sunday, 100 years ago.

Leading out of Bridlesmith Gate is Pepper Street which is a portion of the most ancient route in the neighbourhood of Nottingham and its name is a mystery. It always seems to have been called Pepper Street or something near to it, but it is impossible to believe that pepper which was a very rare and costly luxury could have been sufficiently dealt in to necessitate a special quarter for the pepperers. I have often wondered if it is not a corruption of Paper Street. There is one interesting house in Pepper Street situated at its junction with St. Peter's Church Side and at present used as offices. Its architectural features are exceedingly good and typical of the time of its erection. It was occupied in 1815 by a certain Mr. Coates who was an attorney, but before that it was lived in by the Rev. Dr. Stainton who was Vicar of St. Peter's from 1797 to 1814, so I am rather inclined to think that it must have been originally the vicarage of St. Peter's Church.

Returning now to the end of Bridlesmith Gate we proceed down Low Pavement which was called by its

present name as early as 1348. It is of course a continuation of the paved way stretching from the Market Place and occasionally is referred to in ancient documents as Nether Pavement.

On the northern side of Drury Hill stood until quite recently a picturesque old inn which was called "The Old Postern Gate" and which occupied the site of the postern which we have already considered. Although a half timbered structure this inn was not as old as it looked. As a matter of fact it was built just before the Civil War and was then known as the "Bull's Head." By 1812 it had come to be called the "Golden Fleece" and I cannot trace when this name was changed to its more modern one of "The Old Postern Gate." It has completely disappeared together with the foundations of the guard-room under it but careful notes and drawings of this relic of the past were taken by Mr. Dobson.

On the other side of Drury Hill, No. 26, Low Pavement, is a beautiful house now divided up into offices which has a very interesting history. It stands upon the site of the old Vault Hall which at one time was the residence of the Plumtree family, and under it are very extensive rock cellars which in times past were used for the storage of wool and which during the terrible times of the religious persecutions in Stuart times were used as a secret meeting place for the body of earnest Christians who afterwards founded the High Pavement Chapel. In 1645, three years after Charles had raised his standard at Nottingham Castle, it was sold by Richard and John Martin to Alderman Drury for £103, probably worth about £1,000 now-a-days. His grandson very likely did some building here and he re-sold the house in 1733 to Mr. Gawthorne for £500. Mr. Gawthorne enlarged and partially re-built the house

leaving it pretty much in its present condition. Its details are really beautiful, particularly its doorways, while the crown glass in the windows presents a most beautiful iridescent effect. This crown glass is very interesting in its manufacture. Before the days of plate glass and modern methods the way that sheets of glass were obtained for windows was to heat the component parts of glass to a sticky mass by means of heat and then to plunge a rod into this mass and stir it about until a blob had attached itself to the end. The rod was then spun between the hands, just as one dries a mop, and centrifugal pressure caused the sticky glass to spread itself out into a more or less thin sheet. This was pressed against a flat surface, such as a stone, and the rod withdrawn and the whole was left to cool. When cool as large pieces of glass as were possible were cut from the roughly circular sheet of glass and the blob in the centre where the rod had been withdrawn was utilized for glazing out-houses and unimportant windows. These blobs, or bottle glass as we call them, are now much sought after. The waste pieces round the edge with their curious curved outer edges were of little use until somebody thought of making fan-lights, those delightful semi-circular windows above doorways. These fan-lights were filled with all sorts of elaborate and beautiful tracery and the openings in this tracery were glazed with these waste pieces. A great deal of pleasure can be found in Nottingham by walking about the older streets and noticing the great variety of the tracery of these ancient fan-lights, many of which are exceedingly beautiful.

The inside of this house is as beautiful as the outside, and its staircase and fireplaces and fittings are excellent

examples of what the 18th century architects could design when once the way had been pointed out to them by the brothers Adam. The ironwork which fronts Low Pavement is one of the finest runs of ironwork left to us in Nottingham and the main gateway is interesting in that upon it there is a small oval which bears the only iron coat of arms in Nottingham. It is the Gawthorne coat of arms impaled with that of Austin and is well worth studying. A little way down Drury Lane will be seen lead rain water heads with the initials F.G. and the Gawthorne crest which is of course different from the Gawthorne coat of arms.

The next house is Willoughby House, a perfectly magnificent structure built by the Hon. Rothwell Willoughby brother of Lord Middleton between the years 1730 and 1740. The Hon. Rothwell Willoughby was a bachelor when he built this beautiful house, and it is interesting to remember that he kept a pack of hounds in Nottingham for the benefit of all and sundry. I have no idea where he kennelled them, but should imagine somewhere in Broad Marsh. Underneath this house are extensive cellars cut out of the solid rock and described by Deering as the finest in the town. The roof of each chamber is supported by a central shaft and the workmanship is clear and clean cut. Two main features stand out in this house the first being the doorway with its broken pediment and magnificent Ionic columns and the second being the parapet which surrounds the roof. At the time that this house was built the view from the roof was regarded as a great asset and regular walks covered with lead were made round the edge of the roof, easy access to which was arranged by means of internal stairways. To prevent accidents, parapets, such as this one at Willoughby

House were set up and the good folk of the 18th century and even earlier used to spend a good deal of their leisure on these "leads" as they called them. Readers of Pepy's Diary will find references to evenings spent upon the leads engaged in singing and talking. The modern ironwork in front of Willoughby House is well worthy of attention. It is excellently designed and carried out in the true spirit of the old ironworkers.

The whole of this side of Low Pavement merits careful consideration as behind the modern fronts there still remain beautiful old houses, glimpses of whose stately bay windows and derelict gardens can be obtained by going up the various passages leading off Low Pavement. But above all, the beautiful entrance and the Venetian windows, three windows grouped together with a segmental arch over the middle one, presented by No. 18 is probably the best. I cannot give any account of the history of this house, but its architecture is beautiful. Of the north side there are one or two interesting things to relate. No. 5 was the second stuccoed house in Nottingham, Plumtree House being the first. It was built by a Mr. Allsop, Solicitor, in 1808 and was looked upon as a very fine construction.

No. 7, with its four fluted Corinthian columns is all that is left of the old Assembly Rooms of Nottingham. As early as 1739 there were monthly Assemblies held in Nottingham for cards and dancing, but these Assemblies became more frequent later on when this hall was built. The Assemblies held within it were called the "Ladies' Assembly" and were intended only for the gentry. There was another Assembly called the "Tradesmen's Assembly" which met every third Tuesday in Thurland Hall.

In 1807 the hall was repaired and enlarged at a cost of £1,545 and the building was then so handsome that it was enacted that henceforward no concerts should be held within it! The meetings were presided over by a mistress of ceremonies who was called a "Queen" probably in imitation of the King of Bath, Beau Nash. I am sorry that I cannot give the rules governing this select assembly, but a similar assembly in Derby in 1747 adopted these rules:—

1. No attorney's clerk shall be admitted.
2. No shop-keeper or any of his or her family shall be admitted except Mr. Francis.
3. No lady shall be allowed to dance in a long white apron.
4. All young ladies in mantuas shall pay—2/6.
5. No Miss in a coat shall dance without the leave of the lady of the assembly.
6. Whoever shall transgress these rules shall be turned out of the assembly.

It must have been a strange and pokey social life in Nottingham in the early days of the 19th century and it is interesting that we have an account of it from the cynical pen of G. M. Woodward, who in 1807 published his "Eccentric Excursions." The following extract from which book will show us very clearly the house that Woodward built "Nottingham is famed for its eminent exposure to rough winds and rich production of old maids." "As to the old maids of Nottingham they are in many respects a very harmless race of beings, remarkably partial to stiff stays, umbrellas and striped great coats and in general making

a tolerably old-fashioned appearance." "Cards engrossed the time of two thirds of the inhabitants and is the subject of their early thoughts and midnight slumbers."

The Savings Bank just above the old Assembly Rooms was originally built in 1838, but has been modernised of late years.

Church Gate the tiny street leading out of the north side of Low Pavement is really of remarkable historical interest, for in conjunction with St. Peter's Church Side it was the only exit from the south side of this part of the town until the formation of Albert Street in the middle of the 19th century. Narrow as these thoroughfares are, they were narrower still when they were thronged with traffic, for they were considerably widened even so late as 1884. Traffic from the market had to find its way down Wheeler Gate, then along St. Peter's Church Side, take a sharp turn to the right and so into Low Pavement and Lister Gate. There was barely room for one cart in this passage and constant disputes and wrangles as to precedence took place between travellers and waggoners which led to all sorts of disturbances. Upon one occasion the axle of a cart broke and the whole traffic of the town was completely held up until it could be cleared away. To reduce this chaos, in 1840 a policeman was placed on point duty to direct the traffic and he was, I believe, the first point man in Nottingham.

Somewhere about here stood the Jews' synagogue. The Jewish history of Nottingham is extremely obscure, but it seems probable that there was a synagogue in the town before the reign of Edward I. It is disputed whether it stood at the corner of Church Gate and Low Pavement or whether it stood in what is now Lister Gate

about opposite No. 4. In the Borough Records there is this reference " A.D. 1391 Cottage of Henry Plumtree formerly the Jews' synagogue (Schola Judæorum) in the street leading from the church of St. Peter's to the Friars Minor " and Mr. Granger was of the opinion that it referred to Church Gate.

At the foot of Low Pavement we come to Albert Street, a quite modern thoroughfare formed in 1846, but now of tremendous importance. In the course of its formation some ancient half-timbered houses with gabled roofs facing on to St. Peter's Square were pulled down in one of which Dr. Deering, the historian, died in poverty in 1749. Dr. Deering was a strange man. Believed to have been born in Germany, he came to England in 1735, settled in Nottingham as a medical practitioner, but he never seemed to succeed and quickly he sank into absolute poverty. He conceived the idea of writing a history of Nottingham and John Plumtree gave him a vast amount of assistance, but he did not live to see the publication of his work for he died while it was still in manuscript and it was published by Aiscough the printer a couple of years after his death. He appears to have been a somewhat touchy individual and difficult to help, probably this was largely due to the fact that he was a foreigner and did not thoroughly understand contemporary British manners and customs, but at any rate the history which he left is an exceedingly valuable book and when one considers that it is only the first draft of his work and that probably had he lived he would have made a good many alterations and corrections one realises even more its value.

Lister Gate is an old thoroughfare going back as far as 1303 when it was referred to as " Litster Gate " or Dyers Street, the dyers no doubt congregated here

in order to make use of the waters of the river Leen. It was of no great importance in ancient days and as late as 1641 it was a mere quagmire with an open sewer running down it and a plank pathway which had something of the nature of a bridge down its side to enable foot passengers to get about. In 1607 there were a set of stepping stones "near John Perry's door" leading from the bottom of Low Pavement to Castle Gate, but with the advent of railways and all that they meant, Lister Gate leaped into importance. Still for thirty years little seems to have been done to improve it and the area round about Grey Friar Gate seems to have been a bog and Lister Gate itself was a steep gradient leading down to it. This bog was called "The Sough" and in 1778 a woman named Shaw, daughter of the landlord of the Elephant and Castle in Hounds Gate fell into it one evening when in a state of partial intoxication. She remained there until the following morning when she was noticed by a labourer going to work. He endeavoured to extricate her, but while he was so engaged she heaved a deep sigh and died. In 1868 Lister Gate was widened, the bog was filled in and the gradient made easy. It is interesting to remember that at this date it was proposed to move Messrs. Jalland's wine and spirit vaults, presumably the modern "Weavers Arms," back en bloc, and plans were prepared for doing so by an American engineer. However, the scheme was abandoned and eventually the building was removed brick by brick and re-erected a dozen feet to the rear. However, to-day the street is none too wide for the traffic that it is called upon to bear.

In a yard behind No. 9, Lister Gate will be found a portion of the town wall of Henry II's time. It is apparently a buttress and must have helped to uphold

that portion of the defence which came down Low Pavement.

Carrington Street was formed in 1829 and terminates at Queen's Road. It gets its name from Lord Carrington who was a descendant of the founder of the Collin's Hospitals. Before he was raised to the Irish Peerage in 1796 he was Mr. Smith, M.P., the eminent banker and was a very valuable member of the community. Of Collin's Alms Houses we shall have an opportunity of saying more in another place, but the set of twenty tenements erected in Carrington Street between 1830 and 1840 are part of a very fine charity which is doing extraordinarily good work in the town and the obelisk at the corner of Grey Friar Gate with its inscription "Erected A.D. 1866 by the acting trustee of the charity to perpetuate the memory of Thomas Smith, Esquire, to whom as executor was entrusted the charge of founding Abel Collin's and Jonathan Labray's Alms Houses in this town, namely Collins A.D. 1709, Labray's A.D. 1726, a trust which he fulfilled with the strictest fidelity. He died January 8th, 1727, aged forty-five years, and is interred in St. Mary's Church in Nottingham. This estate originally purchased by him A.D. 1722, out of trust funds has, through the lapse of time, attained its present importance, and comprises within its limits one of the principal thoroughfares of the town of Nottingham," is worth noticing.

In front of this stands the Walter Fountain, a great Gothic structure erected in 1866 from the designs of Mr. Sutton to commemorate Mr. John Walters' association with Nottingham. Mr. Walters was a proprietor of *The Times* and in 1841 he stood as a Conservative candidate for Nottingham. The main question upon which the election hinged was the new

Poor Law which was extremely unpopular with the people. Great excitement prevailed and eventually Mr. Walters was elected by a majority of 238. After Mr. Walters' death his son, John Walters, Junior, also became M.P. for Nottingham and so the connection of the family with the town was maintained for some time.

There is an interesting note in the "Farringdon Diary" about the profits of *The Times* for under July 25th, 1796 it is recorded that "*The Times* earned £24,000 in three years. It was divided in sixteen shares of which Mr. Walters had eleven. Harris the proprietor of the Covent Garden Theatre paid Mr. Walters £100 per annum that his theatre should be well recommended in *The Times*."

The site of Collin's Alms Houses was called the Cherry Orchard right down to the beginning of last century. There is nothing of great interest in Carrington Street. Its importance is almost entirely due to its connection with the railways and to afford ready access to the station, in 1841, a bridge was thrown over the canal. Before that time the route to the station had been down Grey Friar Gate over the Navigation Bridge in Wilford Road and then sharply to the left down a street called Locomotive Street which has now disappeared and seems to be absorbed in the L.M. & S. Goods Yard. It is interesting to record that when Queen Adelaide visited Nottingham on her journey to Harewood the first part of her journey was taken by carriage and she took up the train at Nottingham. Her route through Nottingham was up what we now call London Road, along Leenside and then over the Navigation Bridge.

The original Carrington Street Bridge was designed

by Mr. Moses Wood and was erected by Messrs. Court & Company whose foundry was at the corner of Granby Street and Friar Lane. It cost roughly £6,000 and of such importance was it to the railway company that the directors of the Midland Railway paid half the cost. After a series of vicissitudes it was finally widened and put into its present form in 1902.

The first railway to reach Nottingham was the Midland Railway and a branch from Nottingham to Derby was opened on May 30th, 1839, about six years before the Railway Mania. The first train, which carried directors and their friends only, started from Nottingham and the site of the original station is at present occupied by the Goods Offices. In fact I believe that this building incorporates the old station. Tremendous public interest was aroused by the new means of locomotion and soon after the railway started running a special excursion train proceeded from Nottingham to Derby. It surely must be a record in length, for it consisted of no less than eighty coaches, though the coaches of those days were very much smaller than those to which we are accustomed.

In 1846 the line was extended to Lincoln and consequently a level crossing was necessary for the passage of Carrington Street, and a new station was built in Station Street. This station is still well remembered and its main entrance was about opposite the end of Trent Street. It remained in use until 1904 when the present station was opened. The level crossing in Carrington Street was a terrible nuisance and in order to facilitate the passage of foot passengers a wooden up and down bridge was constructed which was so ugly that it called forth comment and satire on all hands. Eventually it was pulled down and a viaduct was erected

over the crossing in 1866 from the designs of Mr. Tarbottom, the borough engineer who was also responsible as we have seen, for the erection of Trent Bridge. One gets a reflection of Railway management in an old account of an unfortunate railway accident which occurred between Nottingham and Beeston in 1844 during the prevalence of a fog by which three people lost their lives. This was looked upon as a terrible disaster and very minute inquiries were made as to the responsibility for its occurrence. In the light of our own days the evidence given at this inquiry is really most astonishing and the most extraordinary feature of it seems to be the indignation expressed by the witnesses that one train was proceeding at "the reckless speed of thirty miles per hour."

Queen's Walk is part of an ancient track or footway which led from Wilford Ferry to the town wharfs on the Leen and is the westward branch, which may be compared to the more easterly, Trent Bridge Footway, which led from the same point on the Leen down to Trent Bridge. It was formed into a promenade road in 1855, but it was soon found to be very subject to floods and so in 1862 it was raised above flood level. It remained a pleasant footway bordered with trees until 1926 when the exigencies of modern traffic have made it necessary to form it into a thoroughfare capable of bearing heavy traffic. It is well worth noticing that from about half way down it there is a very beautiful view of St. Mary's Church and the acropolis of ancient Nottingham.

Arkwright Street is quite a modern thoroughfare, formed after the enclosures of the Meadows about 1865 in which work Mr. Patchitt was so much concerned. At first it was called Trent Bridge Road, but the more

modern name commemorating one of Nottingham's greatest celebrities is much more suitable. Being so modern there is little of interest in it. St. Saviour's Church takes the place of an old Mission Chapel which was built in 1869, otherwise there is nothing of antiquarian interest to mention in its whole route. It has drawn by far the greater part of the traffic away from the old London Road and is one of the busiest and most important thoroughfares in modern Nottingham.

Returning to the foot of Low Pavement we find ourselves face to face with Castle Gate the most beautiful and dignified street in the whole city. Its splendid Georgian houses with their beautiful details and exquisite brickwork, the historical associations of many of its houses and above all the great balloon of the chestnut tree which peeps out from St. Nicholas Churchyard render it a perfect delight to walk up. It is not a very old street, as streets go in Nottingham, and is first mentioned in 1315. Its early name was French Gate which shows it to have been constructed in connection with the new town formed soon after the Conquest for the French followers of Peveril. There is a tradition that Ralph Bugge lived somewhere in Castle Gate before settling in St. Mary's Gate, but the site of his residence is lost, if it be true that he lived in this street.

As we are now in the heart of the fashionable quarter of the 18th century of Nottingham a few notes about 18th century houses in general may not be out of place. To begin with the kitchen and servants' quarters and so forth were almost invariably placed in the basement while the servants' sleeping quarters were in the attics. Very often an open area was left between the house and the street which area was excavated and

let light and air into the basement. Although such areas are very general in London there are few, if any, examples remaining in Nottingham. But the houses were generally set back a few feet and divided from the roadway by means of iron palisades of which various examples still remain in our midst. Great attention was paid to the doorways which were generally very narrow and a good deal higher than our more modern doorways and were enriched by fan-lights. Under the influence of the work of the brothers Adam very beautiful classic decoration was introduced into the jambs and lintels of these doors and almost invariably a projecting hood was provided to act as a defence against the weather. These hoods were carried on consols which gave opportunity for the display of much enrichment. They were often of wood, sometimes of stone, and in Castle Gate one remains made of wrought iron. The doors themselves and their fittings are of great interest. From the Restoration to Queen Anne they were usually framed in four panels, but by Georgian days six panel doors that is two panels wide and three high had come into fashion. The hinges were at first large and L shaped, but by degrees they became secret. The door knobs and knockers were objects of great attention, some of the latter being of great beauty. Often they take the form of a hand, or of a closed hand holding a wreath and this form has rather an interesting origin being eastern in its provenance and representing the hand of Allah protecting the house. Nottingham is also noticeable for a number of the beautiful Juno-Head knockers which gradually, by the middle of the 19th century emerged into a portrait of Queen Alexandra. The windows also are interesting. The old type of window which was used right down to Stuart

times was a casement opening like a door and glazed with small panes of glass. The sash came into use, probably from the Low Countries, by the time of Charles I. but it was not generally used until William and Mary were on the throne, by which time its convenience had been thoroughly appreciated and many of the windows in the more important rooms were changed from the old casement into sashes. The panes of glass in these sashes were much larger than those used for the ancient casements, but the glazing bars were heavy and thick and made of wood and interfered a good deal with the passage of light.

A very charming type of window was the Venetian Window of which there is an excellent example on the first floor of the house at the corner of Stanford Street and Castle Gate. It consists of grouping three square headed windows together and surmounting the group by an enlarged fan-light. In this combination it is interesting to observe the return to the older Gothic methods, for it was by grouping 13th century Lancet windows together and binding them into one whole by means of a hood-moulding that all the wonderful Decorated and Perpendicular tracery of the later Gothic windows was developed.

Castle Gate Chapel has been called the "Nonconformist Cathedral of the Midlands" and its history is extremely interesting. It stands upon the site of the first Nonconformist Chapel built in Nottingham. It was not an impressive building being a galleried structure roughly square of about fifty feet each way. It was opened on May 29th, 1689, and had a graveyard attached to it, and seems to have entered upon its career by doing very useful work. In the middle of the 18th century the congregation at High Pavement adopted certain

theological views which did not meet with the approval of a considerable portion of the congregation who seceded and joined the congregation worshipping in Castle Gate, leading of course to a considerable augmentation of their members. The present Chapel was built in 1863 from the designs of Mr. Sutton, and the schoolrooms attached to it are singularly complete.

Somewhere about here there used to run a brook in ancient days called the Rowell. It seems to have taken its rise in the high ground about where Park Street now stands and to have trickled down the slope and eventually found its way into the Leen. It was a bit of a nuisance to our forefathers and we are constantly coming across references to it and to its misdemeanours in the Borough Records and I have often wondered whether that marshy place in Truswell's Yard whose pavement never seems to remain in a satisfactory condition for very long is not a modern descendant of this brook.

Stanford Street on the south side of Castle Gate is quite a modern thoroughfare and was not formed until 1853. In certain old documents and maps it is referred to as Stamford Street, but it really gets its name from a certain Mr. Stanford, a wealthy silk merchant who lived at its corner. This gentleman was an extreme Royalist and in 1789 when George III. recovered from his mental malady and the town was illuminated Mr. Stanford's house was noticeable for the gorgeousness of its decorations, and further than this Mr. Stanford gave half a hogshead of ale to the neighbouring populace in which to drink the King's health. His house still stands and is one of the most magnificent houses in the whole of Nottingham, but its history goes back much further than Mr. Stanford's time for it was the

town house of the celebrated family of Howe of Langar of which notable family the most prominent member was Richard, Admiral Howe, who, on June 1st, 1794 gained the great victory over the French fleet off Brest which victory we celebrate under the name of "The Glorious First of June."

The exact date of the erection of this wonderful house I cannot tell, but apparently it was sometime about 1775, and its details both inside and out are beautiful in the extreme. We have already noticed the Venetian Window over the portal ; it is quite the finest in the town, but the portal itself is well worthy of attention. It consists of four pilasters crowned by curious capitals of a type very much used by the school of the brothers Adam. These pilasters support an architrave and over the entrance is a very curious stuccoed enrichment formed out of an ox's skull and two swags of drapery and flowers. This enrichment is an imitation of the decoration of the altars of Greek and Roman times, for after a sacrifice had been offered the skull of the victim was hanged upon the corner of the altar together with the garlands and ribbons which had decorated it when led to the altar, as a sort of tally to show the popularity of the god. It will be noticed that instead of the parapet which surrounds the leads at Willoughby House and other similar residences Lord Howe's house is materially lightened by pleasant balustrades round its edge which answer the same purpose, but are far more decorative than the solid parapets that we have already noticed.

Higher up Castle Gate we come to the Women's Hospital No. 29-31. This excellent institution was founded by the late Miss Catherine Wood and the house

in which it carries out its good work is of very considerable interest. I do not know by whom it was built, but it is nearly contemporary with Lord Howe's house and its doorways are of great beauty. It was used as a barracks during the early part of the 19th century and there is a story that the high-spirited young officers of the cavalry regiment who were on duty in Nottingham and who were billeted in this house upon one occasion rode a horse up the staircase still remaining in the house on to the first floor. This building was the original home of the Nottingham County Club before its removal to its present premises in Bridlesmith Gate.

One of the strangest things about St. Nicholas Church is its dedication. St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus as we call him now-a-days was bishop of Myra in Lycia and suffered persecution under Diocletian. He is the patron of youth, of merchants and of sailors and travellers. It is possible that, as St. Nicholas is the nearest church to the Leen, whose waters may be said to have been in some sort navigable as far as Maltmill Lane, there is some connection with sailors or bargemen. It must have been very slight and the dedication is the more remarkable on that account.

The church seems to have been founded soon after the Conquest and its appearance must have been very like St. Peter's Church for the only contemporary view of it, a small picture included in Speede's map published in 1610 shows it to have possessed a western tower and spire and possibly aisles. Of this Gothic building nothing remains although a few fragments of its foundations were discovered in a spot, now unknown, in Rosemary Lane by the Sexton of the parish while digging about the year 1800.

Its destruction is due to the Parliamentary Wars. In 1643 the gallant Newarkers made an onslaught on to Nottingham and very nearly captured the Castle. Mrs. Hutchinson says that they were admitted into the town by the treachery of Alderman Toplady, but as no action was taken against him and as in the course of a few years he became Mayor of Nottingham, the statement is of very doubtful accuracy. At any rate their attack was so far successful that they seized upon St. Nicholas Church and used its tower as a battery from which to bombard the Castle, with such effect that the Castle garrison were hard put to to stand to their guns. Eventually the Newarkers retired and the Church once more passed into Parliamentary hands. Colonel Hutchinson was not going to expose his garrison to such a danger a second time and so the old Church was completely pulled down and its materials carted away and used for other purposes. The congregation was accommodated in a loft built over the old chancel of St. Peter's Church and the site of St. Nicholas Church remained void and desolate for twenty-five years. In 1672, after King Charles II. had been for some years restored to the throne of his fathers, a start was made in the re-building of the Church and a plain brick edifice with stone dressings was put up. It was cruciform in plan and its nave lacked aisles, but it is interesting as a typical Church of the period. The brickwork showing strange and irregular coursing is curious. The tower is debased, but the tracery of the belfry openings show Gothic influence and I am always doubtful as to whether or no they are a survival from the old Church.

In the Castle is preserved an architectural fragment which was found in Low Pavement and which is said to be a portion of the Churchyard Cross from St.

Nicholas Church, though upon what authority I know not.

The paucity of detail and enrichment of the fabric speaks volumes for the poverty of the times consequent upon the Civil War.

The south aisle was added to the Church in 1756, and the north aisle, at a cost of £500, in 1783, whilst in 1714 a curious and hidden inscription was found on one of the rafters saying " This Church was burnt and pulled down in 1647 and begun again in 1671." Although this was signed by the Rector and Sexton, the date 1647 is manifestly wrong.

Early in the 18th century as so much room was required for the voluminous skirts of the ladies, a gallery was added at the west end of the north aisle and in 1811 a small organ was placed in the Church which was replaced in 1848 by one purchased from the Roman Catholic Chapel in George Street. This organ, modernised and rebuilt still remains, I believe, incorporated in the modern organ of the Church.

Without being at all beautiful the present St. Nicholas Church presents a singularly interesting and instructive interior. Its black and white gabled roof, built in 1848 seems sadly out of keeping with the round headed windows so typical of the Georgian period. Surely a flat ceiling must have been the original design. The round columns carrying the roof have a strange appearance and one misses the arches which one would have expected to see borne by such columns. But there is no doubt as to the beauty of the three-centred chancel arch and the elaborate moulding of the flat ceiling of the chancel is of fine workmanship.

The fittings of the Church are curious and the seating retains some trace of the old family pews while

the arrangements of these seats are singularly inconvenient for traffic in the Church. The chancel rails are excellent and display the twisted balustrade so typical of 18th century woodwork. The inlaid wooden pulpit is startling and may be assigned to the early days of the 18th century and the whole Church seems to very well live up to its nickname of "The Drawing Room Church."

The Royal Arms over the north door and the Newdigate Achievement in the gallery are of considerable interest to students of heraldry while the somewhat dull series of monuments are of importance as telling the tale of the humdrum life of the town in the 18th century. In fact the only monuments of general interest are the series of gravestones to Lawrence Collin and his descendants in the north aisle.

The Church has two bells, the larger of which was cast in 1726 by Hedderley for a cotton mill in Broad Marsh.

As for the Churchyard, it is a dreary and desolate space which was much enlarged by the addition of a lower lying area in 1791. The first interment in this new addition was that of Jonathan Pearson, the mathematician. He was a schoolmaster in Nottingham and a man of some moment in his day and for many years edited "Poor Robin's Almanack." Thomas Booth, the eminent poacher whose unpleasant epitaph will be found on the south side of the Church lies in the older portion of the churchyard. His principal exploit seems to have been the poaching, about 1750, of a very fine deer from under the eyes of the Park Ranger at the point where the Park Offices are now situate. In this connection it is interesting to remember that the last wild

deer near Nottingham was shot in 1800 by a man named Morley on the site now occupied by Sneinton Elements.

The Sundial on the south side of St. Nicholas Church is well worth study as is the beautiful lettering of many of the Swithland Slate tombs in the Churchyard. But, on the whole it is a depressing place and it is strange to think that Throsby writing about 1800 eulogised the beautiful prospect to be obtained from this Churchyard and said that he often resorted thither to enjoy the extensive view.

Just beyond the curious 17th century building now used as a parish room for St. Nicholas Church is the last remaining Vista in Nottingham. These Vistas were ordinary gardens and were provided in order to secure an extensive view into the open country from houses that were situated upon the opposite side of the road. They were generally laid out as formal gardens and this particular Vista contains one of the very few mulberry trees to be found in Nottingham. Its delightful 17th century gateway with reeded pilasters and urns forms a very pleasant object upon which to rest one's eye.

Almost opposite St. Nicholas Church is St. Nicholas Street which was known in 1255 as Venella Judæorum or Jew Lane a name which clung to it right down to modern times, for it was the ghetto or dwelling place of the Jews in Nottingham.

Mention is made of Jews in England as early as 740 when they are noted on in the Ecclesiastical constitutions of Archbishop Egbert of York. The time of their entry into Nottingham is unknown, but as many of them followed the Conqueror's army it is probable that they arrived here in the 11th century. They were denied many rights which other people enjoyed, perhaps

the most striking being that of burial, for they were only allowed to bury their dead in one graveyard in England, that being in London. However they were congregated together in Jewries or Ghettos. In 1181, that is in Henry II's time they were forbidden to possess mail or hawberk, but in spite of all this until the close of the 12th century the Jews in Nottingham lived on good terms with their Christian neighbours. However, during the reign of Richard I. relationships changed and the Jews gradually got into bad odour. In 1253 they were forbidden to have synagogues or meeting places anywhere unless they had existed during the reign of King John. They were taxed to the uttermost and in the 13th century every Jew above ten years of age was taxed. These taxes were probably levied in the aggregate and the synagogue officials were made responsible for the collection. Their costume up to this time was either that of their native land or a great black garment representing them as "mourners of Zion." In 1222 a statute was passed by which the local authorities were instructed to see that each Jew wore a badge the size, shape and colour of which was to be decided by the local authorities. Generally it was an oval badge in white, two inches wide by four inches long. Edward I. changed this colour from white to yellow and in 1275 they were compelled to wear a drab tabard to commemorate the tablets of stone. About 1278 the Jews had given great trouble to the government by clipping the coin of the realm which led to many executions throughout the country. There is a tradition that local Jews were involved in this massacre and that many of them were executed upon the Jews' gallows which stood in Shakespeare Street, but I have never been able to verify this tradition. Finally, on July 27th,

1290 all the Jews in England, some 1,600 were banished. There is a wonderful collection of Nottingham contracts or "sheteroths" preserved in the Record Office ranging from 1230 to 1290 which, if published and edited would probably throw a great deal of light upon early Nottingham history.

At the corner of St. Nicholas Street and Castle Gate stands the "Royal Children" public house and above its doorway will be seen the shoulder-blade of a whale which has probably been presented by some whaling captain either as a curio or an advertisement of his wares, in the days when whale oil was the principal illuminant for both public and private lighting. In 1688 just about the time that King James II's throne was tottering to its fall his daughter the Princess Anne finding the situation in Court intolerable fled from her father and took refuge in Nottingham bringing with her her children. She was lodged at the charges of the Earl of Devonshire and it is interesting to remember that Colley Cibber acted as an emergency waiter upon her Royal Highness and the Princess's popularity was only equalled by that of her children. I have heard it said that this house, now called the "Royal Children" was used as a lodging place and nursery for these youngsters, at any rate it gets its name from its connection with them. Directly opposite this inn is the modern vicarage of St. Nicholas Church which occupies the site of the old vicarage in which Gilbert Wakefield was born in 1756. This wonderful genius carried all before him in his early years being something of a preacher and was ordained as a clergyman of the Church of England; however, he resigned his office on doctrinal grounds and after various vicissitudes devoted himself to literary work, but in 1798 he wrote a pamphlet on the conduct

of the French War which offended the government and he was imprisoned for two years in Dorchester gaol. His output of literature was abnormal and his speaking was eloquent to a degree. However, his use of violent language militated against the value of his advocacy.

Just by the side of this vicarage is the little passage known as St. Nicholas Church Walk, it is not of great importance now-a-days, but in reality is of considerable antiquity being the southern continuation of St. Nicholas Street.

Proceeding up Castle Gate, a little entrance, No.41, gives access to a beautiful and quiet little backwater with a most charming house built of moulded bricks and bearing high up on its wall a lozenge bearing the inscription ^C
L.A. and the date 1664. This is a house

that was built by Lawrence Collin after the cessation of the Civil War. He had been the gunner in Nottingham Castle and at the conclusion of hostilities he desired to remain in Nottingham as a tradesman, but some difficulties were made by the Corporation, which were quickly dispelled by a peremptory order from Lord Protector Cromwell and Collin was allowed to settle down and trade in peace. Well it was for the town that he was allowed to do so. He laid the foundations of the family fortune and his son Abel Collin carried the family affairs to higher planes. He took an interest in the management of Smith's Bank and eventually upon his death he directed his nephew Thomas Smith to establish the charity which is known as Collin's Alms Houses which are still doing noble and increasing work in our midst. Lawrence Collin died in 1704 at the age of 91 and was buried in St. Nicholas Church, and as his daughter Fortune married into the banking family

of Smith his blood may be said to be still actuating the business enterprises of Nottingham.

The little entry is one of the most beautiful spots in the whole of Nottingham, particularly in the Autumn when the gardens at the back are a blaze of nasturtiums, and to the sympathetic eye the details of the architecture are full of interest, while the tradition still lingers that the room illuminated by the window with a drop shutter was used as headquarters by Cromwell when he visited Nottingham in 1650.

Exactly opposite this entrance are two ancient houses probably built in Stuart times, one with a pointed gable and the other with a curved gable fronting on to Castle Gate. These houses were built in the true Gothic spirit for the straight edged gable is one of the hall marks of the latest phase of Gothic architecture while the curved gable shows the influence of the buildings of the Low Countries which was beginning to make itself felt.

Next door to these two ancient houses is Newdigate House which appears to have been erected sometime about 1675 or contemporary with the Castle. It cannot be very much younger than the two houses next door to it and it is extremely instructive to watch the development from the Gothic straight gabled house to this purely classic house with all its details carefully worked out as a true Renaissance building. Particularly interesting is it to note the treatment of the dormer windows. The outer walls are encased with stucco and all the window and the door openings are heavily emphasized. A heavy cornice marks the juncture of the roof with the walls and the corners are further emphasized by the introduction of great blocks. We notice that the value of the leads as a promenade had

not been discovered when this house was built. The most important inhabitant of this house was Marshal Tallard who spent many years of his captivity in it. He was defeated by Marlborough at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 and Marlborough's despatch announcing his victory in the words "Tallard and the other generals are in my coach" is surely one of the most striking of military despatches. Marshal Tallard was a cultured gentleman and he decided to make the best of his captivity and so he settled down in Nottingham and soon found a way of living a normal life and making himself popular and useful to his erstwhile enemies, and he introduced a good deal of the courtesy of French manners to our uncouth forefathers. He taught our housewives how to make French rolls and salads. He made gardening extremely popular for he was a great gardener, and above all he introduced celery which he cultivated from the wild celery that he found growing on the banks of the Leen into England. He seems to have quite settled down in England for it is believed that he built two houses in the Market Place the twisted columns of one of which on the Long Row only disappeared in 1925. Portions of his garden attached to Newdigate House still remain behind the high brick wall fronting on to Castle Gate.

Almost opposite to Newdigate House are two or three broad shouldered 18th century houses which give very typical examples of the architecture of the times. Beyond the fact that on their rear wall facing Walnut Tree Lane there is a date stone ^L 1788 I C.M. can find nothing more, but they are of great beauty and dignity.

A little higher up than Newdigate House on the

other side of the road is the most beautiful doorway in the whole of Nottingham. It leads into a quite unimportant house, but it is an object of extreme beauty and interest. Fluted pilasters carry a heavy pediment and the doorway is crowned by a fan-light of the most delightful design.

Walnut Tree Lane is a sunken road whose rocky sides have been cut away to accommodate the erection of buildings, the original ground level being shown by Castle Terrace and St. Nicholas Churchyard. In the course of ages the name of Walnut Tree Lane seems somehow or other to have become exchanged with Fink Hill Street which is its continuation in an easterly direction. At the upper end of Walnut Tree Lane looking towards Castle Gate may be seen numerous remains of delightful Stuart buildings with their high pitched straight edged gables and even in one or two cases the ancient casements still remaining in use. In fact I know of nowhere in the town where this type of building can be better studied than just here. On the western side of the street is a derelict site which is the old burial ground of the Quakers. It was much disturbed and altered in 1903 and its future seems uncertain.

Almost opposite the end of Mortimer Street will be found certain old stones used as a footing for a garden wall which I believe are further relics of the old Plantagenet Wall round the town of Nottingham, though I do not think that they are *in situ*.

Fink Hill Street which gets its name from the word " Finch " has a history associated with the water supply of Nottingham as we have already seen when considering the neighbourhood of Trent Bridge, for it was at the foot of Fink Hill Street that in 1695 the Water Company

took supplies of water from the River Leen and pumped it by means of a hydraulic engine into their reservoir at the top of Park Row. The river Leen rises near Newstead Abbey and used to join the Trent somewhere at the end of Trent Lane in Lenton, in fact traces of its ancient bed can still be distinguished in that neighbourhood, but sometime about the Conquest, possibly by Peveril, its course was diverted to Nottingham in order to bring water, both for drinking and power purposes, for the accommodation of the fortress upon the Castle Cliff. The new course ran along the foot of the old cliff to the south of the Park and as far as the Hermitage only one bank was required for this new bed. At the Hermitage the stream had to leave the rock side and for the rest of its course it was held in position by two banks. It was passed along, more or less where Castle Boulevard now runs and at the foot of the Castle Rock, somewhere near the junction of Wilford Road with the Boulevard, it was utilised to turn the Castle Mill. It then flowed along Canal Street and Leenside, turning in its course sundry other mills for the accommodation of the town and eventually found its way into the Trent. It remained open to the skies until 1829 when the portion of it that flowed through the town was arched over. Nowadays of course, all this is abandoned and the Leen enters the canal at Lenton. It is interesting to remember that so long ago as 1346 we find that the Castle Mill was not in royal hands, but was leased to a certain Geoffrey Kniverton.

Mortimer, Isabella, March, Edward and Eland streets remind us of the arrest of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, under such dramatic circumstances by Edward III. in Nottingham Castle on October 19th,

1330, and in Mortimer Street there is a curious arrangement of houses to be noticed. Castle Terrace is very much higher than Mortimer Street and at one or two places the houses in Castle Terrace are actually built upon those in Mortimer Street. But by far the most interesting objects in this neighbourhood are a series of caves some of which are used for the storage of wine and spirits. They were anciently called "The Bug Holes," a name which clung to them so late as 1744. This name may be a reflection of the fact that the family of Ralph Bugge held property hereabouts, but it is more likely to be a corruption of "Bog Holes" for the banked up Leen had made the whole district marshy and boggy. Whatever the origin of their name, the use to which they were put is extremely interesting for they were the plague hospital of early Nottingham.

Although the first allusion to the visitation of the plague in Nottingham does not occur until 1510, it is extremely likely that for centuries before that date it had been a terror to our forefathers. There were no bye-laws to deal with the terrible visitations and beyond the fact that it was advisable to isolate patients, our forefathers had made little progress in combating the disease. The folk thus isolated were housed in these caves, while county cases were deposited in similar caves in Brew House Yard, for Brew House Yard being outside the borough was a suitable place for depositing stricken people from the neighbouring Wapentakes. As time went on a more humane method of dealing with these unfortunates prevailed and huts for their accommodation were built upon Gorsey Close, where Gorsey Road now joins Mapperley Road and Woodborough Road

Mr. Stevenson has collected quite a number of

references to the plague in Nottingham from which I cull the following information. In 1541 Richard Dawson sued Mark Fredence for not curing him of the plague, while in 1541 Thomas Guymer was paid 2/- by the order of the Mayor for visiting folk in the Bog Holes. In 1582 a man who was suspected of being afflicted was paid 10d. to leave the town. In 1603 after in vain attempting to isolate the town and put it in quarantine, plague broke out and a collection was made for nine weeks for the support of the stricken for whose accommodation cabins were then first erected on Gorse Close. Six years later in 1609 the plague again broke out, but the cabins were erected this time in Trough Close, the lower part of Sycamore Road, but almost at the same time, namely 1610, Robert Rotherham objected to his children who had died of the plague being buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard, which looks very much as if the Bog Holes were still being used for the parish of St. Nicholas. At the same time (1610) Rushcliffe, Bingham, Thurgarton and Broxtowe made contributions for the relief of people isolated with the plague in Brew House Yard. Numerous references are made in the records as to the harbouring of strangers and at last in 1647 animals came under suspicion and it was enacted that all swine, dogs and cats should be kept up.

Just at the foot of Fink Hill Street is White Rent Street whose name is all that is left of the White Rent Hospitals which were standing in the open area at the end of Castle Boulevard down to the last quarter of the 19th century. These alms houses have a curious history, in 1613 William Gregory the Town Clerk of Nottingham died and left eleven tenements on the south side and at the bottom of Hounds Gate for the benefit of the poor of the town. These tenements were amongst

the last which paid the quit rent to the Peveril family as the lords of the Manor. This quit rent was usually paid in silver or white money and so the name of White Rents was gradually substituted for Quit Rents. As the whole town was to benefit from this charity the Corporation were appointed as trustees and guardians, but for some reason or other they proceeded to divide the tenements into three portions and allotted one portion to each of the three parishes of the town. St. Peter's Parish used their share as a workhouse and by degrees the others fell into disrepair for there appears to have been no funds for their upkeep, and gradually the whole habitation became a rendezvous of evil doers and a veritable thieves' kitchen. Eventually, it became such a nuisance that in 1788 the whole site was sold and the proceeds divided amongst the three parishes. St. Mary's built twelve single-roomed tenements in York Street, St. Peter's procured a site in Broad Marsh upon which to erect their workhouse and St. Nicholas erected eight single-roomed tenements which retained the ancient name of White Rent and which stood upon the site that we are now considering.

Wilford Road is not a very ancient thoroughfare in its present form although all through the middle ages there appears to have been a footway leading across the Meadows from the town to Wilford Ferry, which footway was marked by white posts to guide passengers during flood times. It was a very popular excursion for our forefathers and after they had crossed the ferry at Wilford they regaled themselves at the Coffee House which has come down to our own day as the Ferry Inn, and the Cherry Feasts at Wilford were a very popular form of entertainment. The ferry was one of the old fashioned chain ferries like that which

still exists in Mesopotamia at Oxford and unfortunately it was the scene of several disasters. Eventually it was replaced by Wilford Bridge which was built by the Clifton family as an investment and was opened as a public toll bridge in 1870. Although rather out of our ground, it is interesting to note that the first experimental sinkings after coal in this neighbourhood were made just at the foot of Wilford Hill and the spot is marked by a small coppice to-day.

The Meadows across which this footway meandered went by the name of the King's Meadows and were associated with the Royal Castle of Nottingham. They have many stories to tell and their most dramatic moment occurred in 1485 when it is probable that Richard III. mustered his force on them previous to his departure to Bosworth, while again in 1487 they were used as a camp and rendezvous for Henry VII's. army just before the battle of East Stoke.

The road was formed as far as the Navigation Inn by 1829 and after that was a stile and gates and open track which was improved into a made road in 1853, but even then it was not complete and the bridge over the railway was not constructed until 1863.

The Navigation Inn upon Wilford Road has an interesting story to tell for in 1797 the house which stood upon this site was something of a station, for it was then occupied by a certain Mr. Maddock who acted as agent for Mr. Redfern who ran a line of packet boats on the canal for the conveyance of passengers twice a week, between Nottingham and Cromford, which was in those days an important manufacturing centre. The fare was 5/- first class and 3/- second class. A similar boat also ran to Leicester the fare being 5/- first class and 2/6 second class. I have never been able

to find any details as to the length of time occupied in the journey or as to the route taken, but in any case it must have been a swifter and more comfortable means of transport than the vile roads of that period.

Just about the town end of Wilford Road upon the site now occupied by a great factory were situated the Duke's Wharfs which belonged to the Newcastle Estate and were of considerable importance, while close to them where the factory at the corner of Peveril Drive now stands was the well known Spa Close, so called from the Chalybeate spring which we have already noticed in the opening chapters of this itinerary. Close to this spring was situated the old fishpond of the Castle. Fish, of course, played a very important part in the dietary of the middle ages and our forefathers knew a very great deal indeed about fish culture. Their fishing rods and other tackle were kept in the little rock-hewn house at the foot of the Castle cliff which is so well known a feature nowadays, and the fishpond itself must have provided a considerable amount of food for the garrison of the Castle, for it was of very considerable extent. As we have already seen it was leased to the Water Company who allowed it to become choked with weeds and finally it was filled in in 1792 with soil excavated from the site of the barracks on the upper side of Nottingham Park and the whole area was leased as market gardens. They were exceedingly prolific and their produce was a great boon to the town. It seems to have attracted the attention of garden robbers just as gardens in the Park nowadays seem fair game for everybody, at any rate we have a note that in 1808 a certain Tomlin was flogged in a cart in the Park for robbing these gardens.

Brew House Yard is a strange little area lying between the Castle Rock and the old bed of the Leen. It is about two acres in extent and originally was part of the Castle precincts. All through the middle ages it was spoken of as "The Rockyard" and it remained extra-parochial right down to our own times and was a jurisdiction by itself possessing something of the rights and privileges of a sanctuary, such as the notorious St. Martins Le Grand and other sanctuaries in London and elsewhere.

The name of Brew House Yard did not become attached to it until after 1680 and it doubtless arises from the fact that the caves which are situated in it were used for maturing the ale brewed for the use of the Castle garrison in houses situated in the yard which have now completely disappeared. The dovecot of the Castle was situated in this area, probably just above the lower entrance to the water passage which is now shown as Mortimer's Hole and this dovecot would be of very considerable importance to the garrison for upon it would depend to a large extent the supply of fresh meat during the winter months. The Castle Mill, as we have seen was upon the banks of the Leen just within the area. In 1621 the Rockyard was sold by King James I. to two London merchants and I am not at all sure what they did with it, at any rate in Speed's map published in 1610 there is only one house in it, while Thoroton in his map published about 1677 shows a row of thirteen houses which still exist on the north side. As the area was extra-parochial and had its own constable it rapidly became somewhat vicious and was looked upon as a pretty bad district, being the resort of thieves and footpads and other evil characters because the restrictions which were imposed upon the

rest of the town did not extend to this little area, with the result that public houses sprang up within it which were not subjected to the somewhat rigorous inspection which obtained elsewhere. At the end of the yard is a gabled house about half way up the Castle Rock which was anciently called "Gibraltar" and was built about 1687 by John Collin, the grandson of Lawrence Collin the founder of the Collin family whose home we saw off Castle Gate. This house in due course became a public house and was well known as a recruiting centre and associated with it are stories of mutinies and other disorders, whose interest has now almost completely passed away. Curiously enough it is completely isolated from Brew House Yard nowadays and is entered from Castle Boulevard.

The row of red brick houses which we have seen were first shown in Thoroton's map published in 1677 have been very much knocked about and restored, but in spite of their drastic reparations they are still a very charming spectacle. They appear to have been built by the first Duke of Newcastle about the same time that he erected the present Castle Buildings and they were probably used as dwelling places for some of the servants of the household in the Castle.

But undoubtedly the most interesting building in the yard is the "Trip to Jerusalem" the date on the sign is 1190 and this no doubt refers to the original foundation of some older house which has now disappeared for the present house is merely a front to the very interesting rock chambers in the rear. Its name is extremely difficult to account for and appears to be quite modern. The earliest reference that I have been able to trace is in 1760 when it appears to have been referred to as "The Pilgrim." Thoroton speaks of

Brew House Yard as a "receptacle for fanatics" and amongst these fanatics was a sect calling themselves the "Philadelphians" or "Family of Love" and referring to each other as "pilgrims." It is possible that this body may have met in this house and so got its name of "The Pilgrim" which name was gradually colloquialised to "The Trip to Jerusalem." But whatever was the origin of the name there is no doubt about it that the cellars and the Brewhouse cut out of the solid rock, and the upstairs room with its shaft driven through the rock up to the level of the Castle platform are extremely interesting features.

Anciently there was a curious court held at Cotgrave under the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem and styled "The Master of St. John's Court of Shelford." It had jurisdiction over a large number of widely scattered places including "The extra parochial liberty of Brew House Yard" it would be interesting to trace the association of the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, with this ancient "Pilgrim Inn."

Next to it stood an Inn with the curious sign of "The Gate Hangs Well" and the somewhat frequently used motto:—

" This gate hangs well and hinders none,
Refresh and pay and travel on."

painted upon it, but this inn has now completely disappeared and it does not seem to have any interesting history.

Castle Road was known as "The Hollows" to our forefathers and is made out of a secondary road which connected the early primitive road, now represented by Hounds Gate, with the footpath which led over the Meadows to Wilford Bridge. It seems to occupy more or less the position of part of the great dry moat which

in Edwardian times was constructed to surround the final outer bailey of Nottingham Castle and even to-day it remains very deeply sunk between the cliffs upon which Jessamine Cottages stand and the original level of the Castle platform. The walls and bastions defending the Castle still frown down upon Castle Road, but they are not particularly interesting as they were so tremendously restored as to amount almost to a re-building about 1900 under the late Mr. T. G. Jackson, moreover they are not actually upon the mediæval foundations for a portion of the wall was taken down in 1798 to make room for the Riding School which has now disappeared. There are, however, a few ancient stones and foundations here and there from which it is possible to make an imaginative picture of the importance of this great fortification.

The Riding School itself which was pulled down in 1926 was a somewhat ugly structure which very much impeded the view of the Castle. It was originally a comparatively small building being merely 35 yards by 15 yards and it was opened in 1799 and was used as the Riding School and Drill Hall for the Yeomanry who played so important a part both in the civil and military life of the period.

The building was opened with considerable ceremony and a great function was made of the presentation of colours to both cavalry and infantry volunteers. At the conclusion of the parade a great public dinner was held in the course of which a good many speeches were made and it is interesting to note that in his remarks the Rev. Beaumont who was the Chaplain to the Yeomanry said that there had been seventeen riots in Nottingham in seventeen years and that he hoped that

the formation of the Yeomanry would have something to do with the suppression of these riots.

The building was enlarged in 1874 and a somewhat elaborate front of Bulwell stone was set up facing north. These alterations were made under the direction of the late Mr. R. F. Evans and the building was then used as a drill hall for the Robin Hood Rifles. It gradually however, fell into disuse and became unsafe and decrepit and was completely destroyed. During its history it seems to have been put to a good many uses in ways not contemplated by its founders. For example, during the 18th century we find complaints that it was used as a sort of circus for the exhibition of horsemanship by wandering bands of performers, who in addition to their activities as entertainers, were very prone to act as distributors of debased coin and after their departure the town was frequently found to be left in possession of a good deal of this undesirable money. It was useful for the Post Office during the latter years of its existence as it was used as an extra sorting station during Christmas and other periods of severe postal traffic while towards the end of the Great War it was used as a sort of dump for considerable quantities of food.

There is a curious note that in 1815 while some stables were being constructed at the rear of the Riding School, a public house of Charles I's time which had been erected within the ditch and the yard south of the Castle gatehouse was pulled down and that Mr. Stretton, the well known antiquary, descended into the cellars. There seems to be no trace whatever of this nowadays.

In 1825 the house now used as Vicarage for St. Mary's and St. Peter's Church was occupied by a certain Mrs. Youle who is interesting as being one of the last

ladies in Nottingham to keep a private sedan chair. She was carried about the town by two footmen and the portion of their livery of which she was most proud were their spotlessly white stockings which seem to have afforded her a tremendous amount of satisfaction.

On the east side of Castle Road is that charming little yard and terrace nowadays called Jessamine Cottages, but known to our forefathers as "Old Workhouse Yard." In 1725 the land was leased to the parish of St. Nicholas for a period of 999 years for the purpose of erecting a workhouse upon it, but the building was not commenced until 1729 when the present edifice was constructed. It remained the parish workhouse until about 1815 when a new workhouse was erected for the parish at the corner of Chapel Bar and Park Row and the old workhouse was divided up into tenements and after receiving other alterations was let out as cottages. It is an extremely beautiful and peaceful little area and is very well seen from the grounds of the Castle.

(To be continued.)