

An Itinerary of Nottingham.

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

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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.

JUST as when we were considering St. Mary's Church we found that so much had already been written about its history and interest that the merest sketch of its story was all that was necessary to include in these notes, so it is with Nottingham Castle, for the work of Mr. T. C. Hine and Mr. H. Gill and others supply a wealth of detail and information for the student. All that it is necessary to do here is to give an outline of the fascinating story of the ancient site and to attempt to give a few pointers as to its development into its present condition.

It is uncertain whether there was a primeval fortress upon the Castle Cliff, but the commanding situation seems to be too powerful for it to have been overlooked. If there were such a fortress all trace of it has long since vanished. A "Strong Tower" is mentioned in Nottingham in the 8th century and no doubt that might be situate upon the cliff. Whatever fortifications may have occupied the site before the Conquest

they would be communal in their character, meant as a defence to the neighbourhood and not true castles which were a refuge for an invading force and its commander in the midst of a hostile country.

The first real date in the history of Nottingham Castle is 1068, in which year William Peveril was placed in charge of the newly-erected castle, which we are told was built "in a style that was hitherto unknown." What this castle was like we do not know. As the site was merely rock it would be impossible to throw up the usual Mound and Bailey Castle and I think it was probably a wooden palisade with lean-to buildings against its inner face. At any rate there is nothing whatever left of this castle.

During the tumultuous reign of King Stephen, Nottingham Castle was held for the King by Peveril, son of the original governor of William the Conqueror's time, and he defeated an attack upon him delivered by Matilda's followers under the Earl of Gloucester, but I think that the fortifications must have been pretty severely handled, for, soon after, during the Barons' Wars, it was captured by Robert, Earl of Ferrers.

When Henry II. came to the throne in 1154 he found it necessary to assist the townsfolk of Nottingham to repair their houses and to fortify their town, and apparently he remodelled and practically rebuilt Nottingham Castle. Judging from other castles erected about this time it is probable that a great square keep, similar to the one still remaining at Scarborough, would occupy the summit of the cliff and that attached to it would be a bailey surrounded by a wall or other defence. The whole would take up pretty much the site now occupied by the Museum buildings. One need not be surprised that so great a structure has disappeared, for

the site of Duffield Castle, a fortress nearly as large as the Tower of London, was completely lost for centuries.

After Henry II.'s alterations were completed Nottingham Castle was looked upon as too powerful and important to remain in a subject's hands and so it became a Royal Castle and to it Parliament was summoned in 1172. From this time the importance of Nottingham Castle grew until it became one of the most powerful and important fortress-palaces in the country. Its central situation, guarding the great ford over the Trent, made it accessible for all parts of the kingdom, while its proximity to Sherwood provided for Royal recreation. Practically nothing of this great structure remains unless it be a few fragments of sub-structure in the cellars shown nowadays as "the dungeons."

Richard I. created his brother John, Earl of Nottingham, and on his departure to the Holy Land he left Nottingham and seven other castles in John's hands and it is an interesting comment on contemporary conditions to reflect that the Nottingham Castle of this period was one of the four castles in England that possessed baths. John, as we know, abused his privileges and when Richard returned to England in 1193 he found John truculent and his kingdom in danger. He was obliged to attack Nottingham Castle, but seems to have found little difficulty in driving in the garrison and setting fire to the gate. Thereafter he spent one of the few remaining years of his life in residence in Nottingham.

John conceived a fondness for Nottingham and spent much time here. He granted certain privileges to the townsfolk, but I do not think that they can have compensated for the orgies of cruelty which everywhere

accompanied him. Geoffrey of Monmouth and others tell us sickening stories of his proceedings.

With Henry III. a new era begins for Nottingham Castle. New buildings were erected on the north side of the older castle and the Liberate Rolls speak of a Great Hall with a dais, Chambers of the King and of the Queen, and in addition to the Queen's Chapel, Chapels dedicated to St. Catharine and St. William and also we know of a Postern Gate of considerable size "towards Lenton." On the whole the precincts must have been of great size and in addition to the old area probably took in what is now the Castle Green and Standard Hill, right away to the corner of Postern Street and Park Row. The west side was defended by a dry moat, a considerable section of which still remains in the castle grounds and by a wall, of which all that remains is the angle turret on the right hand side of the carriage way from the entrance to the grounds to the museum, which must have been built about 1250 and which is the earliest known example of building with Bulwell stone. To this period belongs the bridge which still spans the moat and which must be pretty early in the 13th century. It is all that remains of the main entrance to the castle of Henry III.'s time. It is possible, also, though unlikely, that the excavation that forms the present castle area may have been made at this time.

With Edward III. we come to stirring times in Nottingham's history. Mortimer and Queen Isabella had usurped the power of the Council of Regency and Mortimer's unpopularity had been increased by his action in withdrawing the English claims to the Scottish crown and allowing Scotland to be set up as a separate kingdom. This unpopularity terminated in Mortimer's arrest in Nottingham Castle on the night of October 19th, 1330,

and subsequent execution at Tyburn, though whether the water-passage shown as "Mortimer's Hole" is the actual secret passage through which Sir William Eland conducted the adventurous Royal party, I am not prepared to say.

There is an unlikely tradition that in 1346 David, King of Scotland, after his defeat at Neville's Cross, commenced a weary imprisonment in Nottingham, but as we know him to have been in London three months after the battle, we may look upon his painful adventures as legendary.

Edward IV. was very partial to Nottingham and it was here that he was first proclaimed King in 1461. All through the Wars of the Roses, Nottingham remained Yorkist and the banner of the White Rose was displayed from the Castle. Edward IV. very much enlarged the castle. He took in the lower bailey, where now the bandstand is erected. All this was defended by an outer dry moat which is represented to-day by Castle Road and by walls and bastions, predecessors of the modern restorations. It was entered by the gateway which still remains in a restored condition and which was probably erected about 1470. In addition to all this Edward IV. commenced the great tower which was nicknamed "The Castle of Care" from the vast amount of care he took over it, and whose foundations are still visible in private grounds in Castle Grove. He had only carried this tower up for three stories when he died and was succeeded by Richard III. who was equally attached to Nottingham and who completed the Castle of Care, probably with wooden stories. Richard spent a considerable part of his short and stormy reign in Nottingham Castle and it was from it that he set forth in 1485 to Bosworth and death.

The Tudors realized that strongholds in private hands were a menace to the peace of the realm and so they set their faces against castles and they were gradually allowed to fall into disrepair and to become uninhabited. Nottingham Castle shared this fate to a great extent, for when Leland visited Nottingham in Henry VIII.'s reign, he found that the castle was in a state of disrepair.

Tradition has it that Cardinal Wolsey spent a night in Nottingham Castle on his way to Leicester after his arrest in 1530, but I think that if he slept in Nottingham at all it would be much more likely to be at Lenton Priory.

The castle had become so ruinous by James I.'s reign as to be of little military value and in 1603 it was granted by the King to Francis, Earl of Rutland. However, its stirring days were not yet over and in 1642 it was made the rendezvous of the Royal forces, although it was so ruinous that Charles I. was fain to sleep in Thurland Hall. On August 22nd, 1642, the Royal banner was unfurled on the top of the Castle of Care, but a violent gust of wind blew it down and it was re-erected just outside where St. James's Church now stands. Since Henry VIII. had established a standing army private banners had gone into disuse and the nation fought under the national banner made of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. As Charles's action divided the nation, he reverted to the ancient custom of a personal banner. These banners were usually formed from the livery colours of their owner, and in addition to the cross of St. George, they bore the War Cry, Arms, Supporters and Crest of the leader. There is a replica of King Charles's Banner shown in the castle. It is a large red streamer with cloven end.

Next the staff is a St. George's Cross, then the Royal Arms with a hand pointing to the crown and the legend "Give unto Caesar his due," then two other crowns each surmounted by a lion passant.

Charles left Nottingham on September 13th, 1642, and the castle was immediately occupied by Parliamentary forces. Mrs. Hutchinson describes it as being "very ruinous" and goes on to give details as to its condition. These details do not contain much of interest except the fact that there was a spring of water "on the top of all the rock." This seems an extraordinary statement and I can only suppose that she had a well in mind. Colonel Hutchinson and his men put the castle into some sort of repair and held it all through the Civil War, although they were never called upon to repel any very serious assault. Of their occupation few traces remain, but to them are probably due the reparations to the gatehouse carried out in red brick, which are still noticeable. The castle was dismantled in 1646, much to Cromwell's annoyance as he had apparently hoped to keep it in his own hands and use it for his own purposes, but was forestalled by Hutchinson's loyalty to the Parliament. Its strength, however, in some sort remained until 1651 when it was completely wrecked, probably with the assistance of gunpowder by Major Thomas Poulton acting under orders from Parliament.

For twenty years it remained a desolation and then in 1671 it was bought from the Duke of Buckingham who in 1664, four years after the Restoration, had inherited it in the right of his mother, sole heiress of the Earl of Rutland, by William Cavendish, first Duke of Newcastle and grandson of the famous Bess of Hardwick. Cavendish was a typical Renaissance nobleman, ostentatious and greedy of honours and yet cultured and

intensely loyal. At the outbreak of the Civil War he had been made commander of the King's northern forces and had met with considerable success, but after the defeat at Marston Moor he went into voluntary exile in Hamburg for eighteen years where he was much occupied by his favourite pastime of horsemanship, publishing in fact several treatises on the subject. He returned to England soon after the Restoration and immediately commenced the restoration of his ancestral home at Bolsover where, before his exile he had erected a series of magnificent buildings from the designs of the architects Smithson, father and son. Notwithstanding these great works and the fact that he was in his 83rd year, in 1674 he commenced the erection of a new palace on the site of Nottingham Castle which is virtually the building used nowadays as the Art Gallery. It is an extremely interesting and instructive study to compare Wollaton, Bolsover and Nottingham and note the progress in architectural development during the century that these buildings cover.

Nottingham Castle was built from the Duke's own designs and was completed in 1679 by his son Henry Cavendish, the second Duke of Newcastle. The chief clerk-of-the-works was Marsh, Richard Neale was steward, and the total cost was £14,002 17s. 9d. The internal arrangements of rooms were different from those which obtain to-day and the principal rooms were on the first floor. One of the main entrances was by means of a double flight of external stairs on the East Terrace. This door was surmounted by a large equestrian statue of the first Duke, carved by that disappointing sculptor Sir William Wilson. Mutilated remains of this statue still remain to remind us of the fondness of the founder of the present Nottingham Castle for horsemanship.

I always find it interesting to remember that the building of Nottingham Castle was contemporary with Wren's building of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Nottingham Castle was the occasional residence of its noble owner from this time onwards, but in 1688 it offered asylum to the Princess Anne. Affairs had become so difficult in her father's court that at last she took the step of leaving it and her departure was almost the last straw and had not a little to do with James II.'s flight. She was handsomely lodged in rooms situate about where gallery A now is. She seems to have liked Nottingham so much that it is believed that she visited the place on several occasions after her accession to the throne.

In spite of the fact that in 1776 a grand ball was given in Nottingham Castle by the Earl of Lincoln to mark his appointment to the Colonelcy of the Nottingham Militia, the importance of the building gradually declined until finally in 1795 its great rooms and galleries were divided by walls and the whole building was let off in separate tenements. Amongst the various tenants were Miss Greaves whose Sedan Chair as late as 1825 bore her each week to Friar Lane Chapel and Miss Kirby whose elaborate breakfast and supper parties and generous and cheerful hospitality so much rejoiced the hearts of the bon-ton of Nottingham at the close of the 18th century.

About 1809 Lenton Road—" Park Passage " as it was called—was formed. It passes over the ancient ditch just near the Gatehouse and Stretton says that this ditch was filled to a depth of twenty feet. To rivet the south side of this wall, the 13th century wall of Henry III.'s time sustaining the east side of what is now the Castle Green was taken down, a bank was substituted,

the moat disappeared and the stones of this wall used to form the wall on the south side of Lenton Road. It is interesting to bear in mind that considerable remains of the foundations of the walls of the medieval castle were found in 1924 when excavations were being made to provide the foundations for the Nurses' Home.

In 1831 the mansion was burnt by rioters amidst scenes of great tumult and disorder in the course of which much looting was carried out. It is stated that the costly tapestries of the castle were freely sold after these events by the rioters for 3/- per yard. Terrible damage was done and the whole place reduced to a mere shell. The Duke received £21,000 compensation for the outrage.

The castle remained derelict for forty years or so until finally it was let to the Corporation of Nottingham in 1875 on a 500 years' lease. Suitable alterations were made to the buildings and grounds and it was opened to the public on July 3rd, 1878, as a Museum of Fine Art.

Nottingham Park is a curious district and I believe that it is unique to find an area of anything like this size devoted to good class houses each with its own garden in the heart and centre of a great manufacturing city. It is the private property of the Duke of Newcastle and its history is interesting. In the reign of Henry II. Peveril had license to enclose ten "forest" acres of land *ad faciendum pomerium*. As these "forest" acres approximated to fifty statute acres, Peveril's orchard must have been about 500 acres. The Park to-day only measures about 130 acres, so a good deal of the original enclosure must have been disposed of since Peveril's time. All through the middle ages the Park seems to have formed a sports ground for the occupants of the castle and it is rather curious that it is

referred to by Geoffrey Kniveton, Constable of the Castle and Clerk of the Forest in 1508, as "The Coney Garth" or rabbit warren, while a totally different enclosure bears the title of "Castle Appleton" which seems to point to the ancient orchard. Anyway, by the 17th century there were no trees, apple or other, growing in it for Mrs. Hutchinson comments on the fact that in 1642 there was only one tree in the whole area and draws a fanciful parallel between its knarled appearance and the character of Richard III. who was supposed to have planted it. Some planting must have been done soon after her time for about 1760 we find Gilbert Wakefield learning Greek while pacing up and down a fine avenue of elms on the west side of the park, which were not felled till 1835.

The present leafy condition of the park dates from 1855 when Siberian Elms were freely planted along the newly laid out roads, the earliest to be planted being those in Tunnel Road which, as they were transplanted from the "Castle Nurseries," wherever they may have been, got a further start of their neighbours.

I do not know when deer were first introduced to the park, but the herd was sold in 1717, although carted stags were hunted in the park as late as 1798. It was the poaching of a particularly fine stag in Nottingham Park that brought Thomas Booth, whose tombstone dated 1752 we saw in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, into prominence. This stag couched about where the Park Offices are now built and was well-known to keeper and poachers alike. To get it Moore enlisted the assistance of a friend who discharged a gun in what is now Tattershall Drive and so drew off the keeper. Moore shot the stag in his absence and dragged the carcass into Brew House Yard where he was safe from arrest.

The whole aspect of the park must have been rather like what Annesley Park is to-day, but in the valleys there were packets of particularly good soil, noticeably about the fishpond and where Park Ravine, whose ancient name was "The Cow Drinks" is. In this soil was grown liquorice and considerable quantities of hemp which was made into whipcord. During the Princess Anne's sojourn in Nottingham a great oblong garden called "The Queen's Garden" which still remains as a private garden, comes into notice, and it is doubtful whether this has not something to do with pleasure grounds laid out for Queen Isabella about 1330.

When it was first decided to utilize the park for building purposes it was proposed to make the chief entrance into Tattershall Drive, and so in 1856 the tunnel was driven through from Derby Road. However, the gradient proved too steep, and so another lay-out of the ground provided by Mr. T. C. Hine and his assistant, Mr. R. Evans, was adopted, and the tunnel was allowed to sink into a mere footway. The first house in the park was built on Newcastle Terrace in 1827.

The cavalry barracks, some traces of which still remain at the end of Barrack Lane, were of considerable importance, being the Headquarters of the Command before its removal to Sheffield in 1855. The first stone was laid by the Officer Commanding the 7th Light Dragoons in 1792 and there must have been guns attached for in 1801 we have a note of artillery salutes in the park to commemorate the surrender of the Danish Fleet.

Park Steps excite admiration by their picturesqueness, but their history is even more interesting than their

appearance. The oldest road in this neighbourhood, whose age it is impossible to speak of in terms of years, was the track from east to west on the high land above the jungle of the Trent Valley. This road, after passing by, or through, the ancient enclosure of Nottingham. proceeded by Pepper Street, Houndsgate, Lenton Road and Cut Through Lane to the west. When the castle enclosure was constructed this thoroughfare was pushed northward and followed up Standard Hill, Postern Street, Park Row and finally struggled down the precipice in what is now known as Park Steps, at the foot of which it turned to the south along Park Valley and re-joined its ancient line at the junction of Castle Grove with Lenton Road. It could never have been more than a footpath or possibly a bridle road and to-day it is a public right of way and cannot be closed on one day each year as are the other roads in the park. This is the reason for the well-known " Posts " at the Lenton exit to the park—there is a public footway but no thoroughfare for wheeled traffic.

In 1828, as we have seen, Lenton Road was formed, and as far as Park Valley it is for the most part cut through the solid rock. In the course of excavations a great subterranean chamber was found which not only communicated with the park but was connected with the kitchen department of the castle. Of this some traces remain to-day. This appears to have been the larder of the castle and into it animals would be driven for slaughter. In olden times, before modern scientific winter feeding of animals obtained it was the custom to slaughter the bulk of the flocks and herds about Michaelmas and preserve their carcasses with salt in great pits. This formed the main supply of meat during the winter and as salt was both scarce and expensive

it is not surprising to find that the diet of half-putrid meat spread leprosy and other similar troubles throughout the land. A few animals were kept for breeding and these eked out a miserable existence till the spring brought herbage for their fodder once more.

Castle Grove represents the western moat of the castle and in the garden behind number 2 are very extensive and instructive remains of the lowest floor of Edward IV.'s Castle of Care. These remains include a well, a typical 15th century doorway and a portion of a spiral stair. These remains are not open to the public.

The Park Bowling Green behind the house at the corner of Hermitage Walk and Lenton Road was formed in 1807. How old the game of bowls is, I cannot say, but it seems to have been played all through the Middle Ages, while the presence of many bowling greens in Nottingham at the close of the 18th century points to its great popularity.

The curious rock habitations in the gardens of the "Hermitage" have exercised the minds of generations of antiquaries. They have been assigned to Druids and to Romans and all sorts of strange explanations have been suggested. The one tangible fact about them is that they are continually referred to during the Middle Ages as the "Chapel of St. Mary le Rock." In 1474 they were in the hands of the Prior of Lenton who exchanged them with Edward IV. for a chapel at Tickhill. I think that they were probably an hermitage and their age is hoary, for when the course of the Leen was altered its new flow had to be diverted so as not to disturb them, showing their importance even in those far off days.

Many other objects of interest may be found in the Park such as the curious sculptures in quite modern

caves in the gardens of the houses on the Rope Walk, but one of the least known facts is that the gateposts of the North Road Gate are those which carried the toll bar on Derby Road until the early days of the 19th century while the magnificent view from "The Bay of Biscay" on Newcastle Promenade is worth a long journey to see.

Houndsgate is of extreme antiquity, being a section of the earliest primeval track in this neighbourhood, which, as we have already seen, was pushed northwards by the castle enclosure. When it first received its name I cannot say, but the suffix "gate" points to Danish times, possibly in the 9th century.

Anyway it was called "Hungate" in 1326 so that its name has altered little during the last six centuries, and as the castle gateway is set directly for it, it is obvious that it must have been an important thoroughfare—far more important than Friar Lane and Park Street—all through the Middle Ages. Its importance is reflected in the fact that it was a paved road in ancient times, for when excavations were being made at its western end in 1797 an ancient paved carriage-way was found fourteen feet below the present street level. Its narrowness gives us some idea of the difficulties and inconveniences that our forefathers had to contend with in dealing with traffic in medieval streets.

The most interesting building in the street is undoubtedly the "Salutation" Inn at the corner of St. Nicholas Street and Houndsgate. Although masked by rough-cast it is a half-timbered structure dating from the 15th century, possibly about the time of the Battle of Agincourt, and its delightful gables and drop-shutters have a true medieval flavour. The "Salutation" to which the sign refers is the *ave Maria plena*

gratia whereby the Archangel Gabriel saluted the Blessed Virgin Mary, and was a sign not infrequently used on guest houses associated with religious establishments. It may be purely fortuitous, but this inn is situated half-way between the establishment of the Carmelites in Friar Yard and the Franciscans in Grey Friar Gate. There appears to be no documentary connection between "The Salutation" and either of these friaries, but it is just possible that it represents the guest house of one or the other. It was a place of considerable importance in time past and in it have been held many banquets of a public and quasi-public nature, for example on November 4th, 1788, a banquet was held here to commemorate the Revolution of 1688, which was attended by a large and influential company. The toast-list has been preserved by Sutton in his Date Book and certainly is sufficiently loyal. "The King, and may he ever follow the example of his royal ancestors, and glory in the name of Briton" is a specimen.

The tragedy of the house occurred in 1820. A quantity of arsenic was procured for the destruction of rats and this somehow got mixed with the domestic supply of oatmeal. The whole household were poisoned but all recovered with the exception of John Green, the landlord.

Of course, Tobias could not keep away from such quarters as "The Salutation" and accordingly in 1729 we find him stopping here. Coney was in jail at Newark and Martha was in great financial straits. She had sold goods to Tobias on many occasions and evidently must have applied to him for assistance for there is a note in his journal that he gave her £2 because of her wretched circumstances.

There are many curious little yards leading off

Houndsgate, and many of them are really picturesque : particularly so is Risdale's Yard which takes its name from a certain John Risdale who was a baker and lived here in 1799. The curious old-world houses in this yard are really well worth study apart from their picturesqueness.

Of the tragic death of the daughter of Shaw the landlord of the Elephant and Castle we have already seen something when considering Grey Friar Gate, but the name of the Elephant and Castle is not without interest for it is a corruption of *A L'enfant de Castile*, the beloved Eleanor, wife of Edward I. who died at Harby in 1290 and whose heart is interred in Lincoln Cathedral and the pauses in whose stately funeral procession to Westminster are marked by the Eleanor Crosses which are so well-known to antiquaries. By degrees the origin of this name became lost and it was colloquialised into "The Elephant and Castle" and eventually that strange combination was adopted as the badge of the Cutlers Company, of London.

But the tragedy of Shaw's daughter is not the only one associated with Houndsgate, for in 1788 a most ghastly discovery was made in a wool warehouse occupied by one Jowitt in Houndsgate when the practically mummified body of a certain Mr. Rogers was discovered amongst the wool sacks in his warehouse. It was surmised that the unfortunate gentleman had laid down to rest upon some of these sacks and whilst asleep had slipped into the interstices between the packages and being unable to extricate himself had perished miserably by suffocation. There is a haunted house also in Houndsgate at present occupied by Messrs. Marsh and Creassey, the ghosts in which seem to have

a penchant for playing billiards, for while the house was occupied by the late Mr. Alfred Page the click of billiard balls was continually heard in certain rooms. Beyond this harmless diversion and the somewhat futile proceeding of opening and closing doors the ghosts seem to have done nothing and I think probably that the real explanation lies in the fact that there are innumerable underground cellars and passages in this neighbourhood which would convey sounds in a strange manner and give rise to mysterious results.

The streamlet of the Rowell whose lower courses we noticed in Castle Gate must have been something of a nuisance to our forefathers for in 1587 we find that it was necessary to place a bridge across it in Houndsgate and to provide rails for the safety of passengers, and this Rowell with its overflow may have had something to do with the insalubrious condition into which the lower end of Houndsgate got and which led to the White Rents which as we have seen were situated near the bottom end of Houndsgate becoming almost derelict and used as a resort by evil characters.

It is interesting to remember that the first town steward, John Collishaw, who was appointed in 1787 lived in Houndsgate and he only died so recently as 1809. The spectacular Bridge of Sighs, which connects the two portions of a great soft-goods warehouse and which spans Houndsgate in really rather a charming manner was erected in 1923.

It should be borne in mind that these notes were written before the recent alterations to the neighbourhood were contemplated. Friar Lane is now (1931) completely changed.

Park Street and Friar Lane may be taken as one and the same thoroughfare for they are indeed merely

names for the two ends of the same street. It is an extension westward of the secondary road which skirted the northern rampart of the primitive enclosure of Nottingham and after passing along South Parade forced its way through until it joined the ancient Houndsgate route at the bottom of what is now Standard Hill. The history of its names is obscure and somewhat difficult to understand, apparently in 1336 it was called Moot Hall Gate from the fact that somewhere in it was situated the Moot Hall of the French borough. Where this hall was is not clear. Traditionally it is said to have stood upon the site of the Old Moot Hall public house at the corner of Wheeler Gate and Park Street, but there is a strong body of antiquarian opinion in favour of the Friary in Friary Yard being the position that this ancient building occupied.

Apparently this name was applied to Friar Lane right down to Thoroton's time, but towards the end of the 17th century it was changed into Wooler Lane, while the northern half of the street was called Friar Lane. For some mysterious reason the name of Wooler Lane has disappeared, the southern half has become Friar Lane while the northern half is called by the perfectly modern name of Park Street.

Up till the early part of the 18th century it was not extensively built upon at its northern end for pictures of Collin's Alms Houses made directly after their erection show it to have been little more than a country lane, while the well-known plan of Nottingham dated 1744 shows a few buildings in the quadrant at present forming Castle Place and a field and paddocks from about where the Friends' Meeting House now stands onwards. This is all the more difficult to explain because in 1926, while the southern side of the road was being set back,

several cellars, some of which contained medieval pottery, were discovered under the old houses.

There is a great deal of interest in the street although its widening has destroyed a very great deal of its antiquarian interest. Number 46 was the first home of the Institute for the Blind in Nottingham. Early in the 19th century a certain Mary Chambers who was afflicted with blindness, but who nevertheless had succeeded in obtaining a complete education and who was extremely charitably-minded towards her fellow sufferers, established in this house a Training School and Home for the Blind. Her work progressed exceedingly and by her death in 1848 it had grown to be of such dimensions that in later years it germinated and formed a nucleus for the Midland Royal Institute for the Blind which does such noble work nowadays in Chaucer Street.

The solicitors' offices, number 34, are built upon the vista of a fine old late 18th century or early 19th century house on the other side of the road which until its demolition in 1926 was used as a boarding house. This is the last but one of the vistas in Nottingham the latest of course being that in Castle Gate.

Carey's Chapel, at present used as the Theosophical Hall, is not a beautiful structure, but it is one of extreme religious historical value. It was built in 1724 by Cornelius Launder who sold it to the Anabaptists for £100.

This chapel then, having been built in 1724 and being the oldest Baptist chapel in this neighbourhood, was sold in 1815 to the Scotch Baptists, but not before, on May 30th and 31st, 1792, William Carey had preached his marvellous sermon which led to the foundation of the Baptist Missionary Society. The Rev. William Carey, D.D., was born in 1761 and was of very humble origin.

He became a local preacher, a village pastor and later a minister at Leicester. He went as a missionary to India where he spent forty years in missionary work and in educational work amongst the natives, but in 1792 he attended a conference of seventeen ministers in Nottingham in the course of which he preached this wonderful sermon which is an epoch marking the event in religious history.

Collin's Alms Houses are undoubtedly one of the finest architectural compositions of the city and it is a thousand pities that they are to be shorn of a portion of their forecourt and so lose the beauty of their setting. This architectural success is obtained by very simple means and is much enhanced by the delightful pitch of the roof. What little ornament is used is concentrated on the exquisite work of the date-stone facing Park Street, the armorial achievement facing Friar Lane and the beautiful sundial towards Houndsgate, and the delightful way in which the whole block of buildings is bound together by its string course will at once be noticed. The block of buildings was built in 1709 by T. Smith the great banker who was acting as trustee under the will of Abel Collin. Originally the charity was for twenty-four tenants and in addition to a house, each beneficiary was provided with a small pension and a supply of coals. So well has the trust been managed that not only have the number of houses in Park Street been increased by a second block facing Houndsgate, but other alms houses have been erected in Carrington Street, and many other charities have been established with the increased and ever increasing income from the estate.

Granby Street is only of interest for its name, for it, together with Rutland Street, represents very

nearly the last land held in Nottingham by the great Rutland family. How they came into possession of this land we shall see when studying the Friary, but meanwhile it is well to remember that Granby was one of the names of the family.

It was in Granby Street that in 1841 stood Messrs. Court & Company's foundry. It has completely disappeared, but in its day it was of very great importance. Messrs. Court made the first of the Carrington Street bridges and they did a great deal of iron work about the town such as the palings round Wellington Circus, but perhaps the chief reason why we should remember this foundry is that in the house attached to it, Mrs. Gilbert who has told us much of daily life in Nottingham from seventy to a hundred years ago, spent her girlhood at the western end of Granby Street and the corner of Park Street is a tumble down tenement which I understand was used as the Jews' synagogue of Nottingham before they erected their present premises.

Spaniel Row is a queer little street which has a certain amount of interest. It always seems to have been called Spaniel Row and the popular belief is that in conjunction with Houndsgate it was the kennels for the castle: whether this is so or not I am not prepared to say. Only recently an old house of about King Charles I.'s time numbered No. 1 stood at the corner of Spaniel Row and Friar Lane. In Spaniel Row is a red brick house called the Sheriff's House because in it during the 17th century lived a certain John Reckless who was sometime Sheriff of Nottingham. George Fox the founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers as we most usually call them, was born at Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, in 1624. In 1649 when the spirit moved him to wander about the Vale of

Belvoir he arrived at Nottingham, where he proceeded to interrupt the service in St. Mary's Church, as we have already seen. Through this misdemeanour he was cast into prison, which he describes as "a nasty stinking place," but it so chanced that Mrs. Reckless was present at St. Mary's on the occasion of this interruption and was so influenced by Fox's testimony that she so arranged matters that he was removed from the gaol to custody in the Sheriff's house, and both she and her husband soon afterwards accepted the Quaker faith and Reckless himself preached in Nottingham Market Place.

The first woman preacher amongst the Quakers was a certain Elizabeth Hooton of Hucknall who visited America and was a terrible sufferer at the hands of the Puritans. Probably the first Quaker meeting-room would be erected in the garden behind Reckless's house, and we have a note that a room was licenced for their worship in 1689 which would probably be this room. At any rate Reckless it is believed was interred in his own garden as burials in consecrated cemeteries were distasteful to the Quaker faith and there was as yet no Quaker burial ground in Nottingham.

A Meeting House was built in Spaniel Row in 1737 which still stands, but which was sold about 1850 to the Catholic Apostolic Church under curious circumstances. It appears that the Quakers proposed to enlarge their Meeting House, but Miss Burton, of whose story we heard something when considering her alms houses on London Road and who lived next door in the house still standing and numbered 3, eventually bought the building from the Society of Friends and re-sold it to the Catholic Apostolic Church who proceeded to provide it with a new façade and otherwise modernize it. However, eventually they removed to Northumberland

Street and the chapel is now used as a bleaching house by Messrs. Copestake.

Returning to Friar Lane, the Friends' Meeting House was built in 1847 and next door to it stands their adult school which was removed from East Street in 1869 and which is I believe, the oldest adult school in the kingdom. In front of this meeting house stood until 1926 a small cemetery which contained a fine tree which was an object of great delight showing its great balloon of greenery even in the midst of its turmoil of the busy city, but its beauty and restfulness could not save it and it was all swept away in order to straighten out the road.

Behind the premises of the wholesale Co-operative Society is a Gothic Chapel which was built in 1828 from the designs of a certain Mr. Waller of London. It was used by the Baptist community and later on considerable schools were attached to it. It is noteworthy because of the fact that in addition to two galleries there were underneath it catacombs calculated to hold 500 bodies. Its congregation played an important part in Nottingham, but they seem to have irritated their neighbours, for in 1846 an attempt was made to burn down their premises.

An extraordinary occurrence took place in Friar Lane in 1755. At that time the Mayor of Nottingham lived at a house at the corner of Beastmarket Hill and Friar Lane—the site would be about the middle of the present road—and he was wont to hang up in his front room the town mace, which was a valuable and important piece of workmanship. This raised the cupidity of certain evilly-disposed persons and in due course it was stolen. The thieves were caught and one of them by name of James Shipley was sentenced to seven years

transportation to Nova Scotia, but he managed to escape from the coach that was conveying him to the port and after very many adventures and the passage of several years he returned to Nottingham where he remained unmolested and lived respected for the rest of his life.

Friar Yard is undoubtedly the most interesting object in this neighbourhood. It is a quiet backwater and the red brick house directly facing the entrance was the old stamp office of Nottingham. But the chief object of interest is the long row of two-storied houses with dormers which forms the eastern side of this backwater for this is all that remains of the great Carmelite or White Friars' House of Nottingham. The White Friars were one of those many bodies into which the great order of Friars were sundered and they were called White Friars from the colour of the cloak of their habit. They are first heard of in the 12th century and tradition has it that when the Crusaders got through to Mount Carmel they found a body of religious living there who said that they were descendants of Elisha and who wore a white cloak in memory of Elijah's mantle. The order was introduced into England by John Vessey and Richard Grey and they established their first house at Alnwick in Northumberland, and Ailsford in Kent sometime about 1245. They were established in Nottingham in 1276 by Reginald Lord Gray of Wilton and property was given to them which gradually increased until it covered a wide area. It had its boundary wall along Beastmarket Hill and the foundations of this wall were discovered in 1923 as were also many remains of the daily life of the Friars. But the building incorporated in the present edifice has probably a much older history than that connected with the Friars, for all through the early Middle Ages there is constantly

mentioned a mysterious chapel of St. James's which stood hereabouts. Its foundation is older than St. Peter's and St. Nicholas's Churches and it appears to have been an appendage of St. Mary's Church. It was used or it is thought to have been used as the Moot Hall of the French Borough after the Conquest and it is firmly believed by a number of antiquarians that this mysterious chapel remains embedded within the later walls of the building we now call The Friary.

At any rate, this building fell into the hands of the Carmelites and there is no doubt that it was used by them as their church, for it is to be noticed that this orientation is exactly right.

The Carmelites pursued their normal course in Nottingham. From time to time there are stories as to their proceedings and as the years rolled on they seem to have degenerated. At any rate in 1532 their Prior killed one of his brethren in a drunken brawl, and we have another note giving an account of an attempted murder at a convivial party held within the Friary in the year 1515. We know that Henry VIII. made offerings in this chapel and it is quite possible that Wolsey spent the night within the walls of the Friary as he was on his way to Leicester in 1530. It was dissolved about that time and the lands were granted to Humphrey Strelley and eventually it was bought by John Manners the younger son of the Earl of Rutland and so the connection between the Rutland family and the property commenced, which terminated as we have seen when considering Granby Street. This John Manners married Dorothy Vernon the daughter of Sir George Vernon, the King of the Peak, and he modernized the Friary into a house suitable for the accommodation of his bride. Much of his work remains embedded in the

present edifice and in the strange rooms within the house, and with the garden which still exists at its rear Dorothy Vernon must have been quite familiar. She did not elope with John Manners, the marriage was highly approved by both families, and the romance of her elopement is a pure fiction which was invented by a novelist of the 18th century.

Standard Hill and Postern Street may be taken as being part of one and the same thoroughfare and represent an ancient trackway through the park and so out westward. This trackway was pushed northward to Park Steps when the castle enclosure was made as we have already seen. So long ago as 1446 this neighbourhood is mentioned under the name of the Castle Hills, but Standard Hill itself appears to have been called The Hollows as late as 1844. It was a more or less derelict neighbourhood and there were no houses between Park Street and St. James's Street until 1750. The district to the east where Rutland Street and its tributaries now stand was spoken of as Rutland Gardens and remained in the hands of the Rutland family as descendants of the John Manners who acquired property of the Carmelite Friars about 1573.

In 1808, 9,000 square yards of land, being part of the castle estate, was sold by the Duke of Newcastle for 15/- per yard. He imposed certain conditions amongst which was the fact that no houses were to be erected upon it of a less annual value than £25 and that no factory was to be erected in the neighbourhood. This land being part of the Castle estate was, like Brew House Yard, extra parochial, and so remained until about 1910. This is a point which is well worth remembering when we come to consider the events leading to the construction of St. James's Church.

It was on this land at a point marked by a stone in the roadway at the corner of King Charles Street and Standard Hill just by the west door of St. James's Church that King Charles I. is traditionally said to have raised his standard on August 22nd, 1642, at the commencement of the terrible Civil War between the King and the Parliament. Of the events which led up to this occasion this is hardly the place to speak, but the standard appears to have been originally set up upon the summit of Richard III.'s Castle of Care whose foundations as we have seen still remain in Castle Grove, but as the standard attracted few recruits it was decided to move it outside the castle area for it was thought that recruits were deterred from coming forward by the fact that the standard stood within the castle area and so it was set up on this rocky knoll which in those days was called Hill Close which name was changed to Standard Close in memory of the occasion.

St. James's Church is not a particularly beautiful structure, but the history of the events leading to its erection is not without interest. About 1805 it was felt that the ministrations of the three parish churches of Nottingham, St. Mary's, St. Peter's and St. Nicholas's, did not meet the spiritual requirements of the day and so an effort was made to establish a fourth church, the religious views of whose incumbent should be more in keeping with those accepted by the promoters of this scheme. But great difficulties were encountered, for the three parish clergy were very much averse to the introduction of another clergyman of whose views they might disapprove and which might possibly affect them very materially by taking from them altar dues, and so they strongly opposed the erection of a church in any of their three parishes and the scheme had to be abandoned.

However, it was revived two years later, and in 1807 an Act of Parliament was obtained which sanctioned the erection of a new church, and land was acquired in the extra-parochial district of Standard Hill over which none of the clergy in question could have any jurisdiction. Although they were unable to prevent the establishment of this church the three clergymen succeeded in clogging its usefulness by imposing a good many conditions upon it. For example it had no parish whatever, a disadvantage under which it laboured until quite recent times and, further than this, marriages could not be celebrated in it during the first years of its existence. However, the scheme was proceeded with and in 1808 a corner stone was laid. The Rev. J. H. Maddock acted as Chaplain and a brass plate was laid in a cavity under the corner stone bearing the names of Thomas Hill, Edmund Wright, Richard Eaton and Benjamin Maddock, the principal movers in the scheme. The building proceeded and in 1809 the edifice was consecrated and dedicated to St. James by the Archbishop of York. The dedication was probably chosen to preserve the memory of the mysterious chapel of St. James which existed in pre-Conquest days somewhere in this neighbourhood, but one curious fact arose out of the extraordinary conditions of the founding of this church was that the ground floor pews were freehold and carried with them a vote in elections. This rendered them exceedingly valuable and led to all sorts of difficulties in modern times.

The exterior architecture of the church is contemptible although the design is from no less a person than Mr. Stretton. It speaks, I think, of the lowest depth to which the church architecture sunk. The bell which hangs in the tower was cast in 1791 by Hedderley

for a cotton mill in Broad Marsh. But although the exterior is so deplorable the interior is substantial, comfortable and striking, and really if considered properly is rather impressive. It has huge galleries and the treatment of the front of these galleries in different woods produces a very striking effect. It is perhaps a little unfortunate that the homogeneity of the style is marred by the Gothic screen and organ case and pulpit, for although each of these are good modern work they rather clash with the rest of the building. The position of the pulpit, by the way, has always been a great difficulty for the church authorities and it seems almost impossible so to place it that the preacher may be seen from the galleries and yet to prevent it blocking the view of the east end. There is nothing of particular interest in the furniture of the church except perhaps the Royal Coat of Arms, which is affixed to the front of the western gallery. The church has a particularly interesting musical history and it is well to remember that the first organ was not placed in the church until 1815, six years after the church had been consecrated

The General Hospital which is the most successfully managed voluntary hospital in the whole of England takes its origin from the last quarter of the 18th century. The foundation stone was laid on February 12th, 1781, by John Smelley who was then Mayor of Nottingham and it is rather amusing to remember that in his address to the crowd upon that occasion he found it necessary to implore them to mark their approval of the good work which was to be done in the hospital by preserving order and not rioting upon the occasion of the stone laying. Half the ground upon which the hospital was to be erected was provided by the Duke of Newcastle and the

other half by the Corporation of Nottingham which is probably why the Mayor figured so highly on the occasion. An elaborate procession was formed at the Shire Hall consisting of all the noteworthies of the district, this proceeded to the Town Hall where it was joined by the Civic Authorities, and so wended its way to the site of the function. The architect of the original building was John Simpson and Blackner preserved an extremely interesting list of benefactors and donors to the original cost of the building. The hospital was opened to receive patients on September 28th, 1782, and the occasion was one of much rejoicing. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and in the forenoon a service was held in St. Mary's Church and in the evening a great public dinner was given in Thurland Hall, after which a concert and ball was held at the Assembly Room.

The ninth patient to be treated in the hospital was Kitty Hudson and her case was surely one of the most extraordinary ones which has ever been treated in the institution. As a child she was wont to assist in the cleaning of St. Mary's Church and she contracted the strange habit of picking up pins and needles and chewing them. To such an extent had she carried this extraordinary practice that she wore her teeth away and swallowed innumerable pins and needles. For many years she felt no ill effects, but gradually she began to complain of numbness here and there in her body and pins and needles began to work out of various parts of her person. Her condition gradually became worse and worse and for a long time she was detained in the hospital undergoing countless operations and passing through great agonies in getting rid of these strange articles. Eventually she was cured and became the

post woman carrying the mail between Nottingham and Arnold and lived to be the happy mother of a healthy family.

This is not the place to tell of the wonderful history of the Nottingham General Hospital or speak of the marvellous work of its doctors, but it is very pleasant to think that this modern hospital with all its marvellous character and skill and devotion to afflicted humanity should stand so close to the Bog Holes, the ancient hospitals of Nottingham, where plague stricken patients were left to die or get well as best they could under the tender mercies of the Town Pavior.

The site upon which the hospital and its grounds stands is not without its historical interest. In olden times there were two hillocks one on either side of the present Postern Street. These have completely disappeared, but it is believed by antiquaries that they may have been pre-historic tumuli. That at the western side where the hospital now stands was called Derry Mount and it was dug down in 1777. In the course of the excavations human remains were discovered one of which was a skull with a bullet hole in it and associated with these remains were a silver coin and a copper token which bore the legend " Thomas Cheshire at the King's Head, Fore Street, 1669, his halfpenny." Probably these were burials intruded upon the ancient tumulus and may perhaps be associated with the fighting during the Civil Wars. The other hill, on the eastern side of Postern Street was called Windmill Hill and carried a mill during Jacobean times which accounts for the old name of Windmill Passage which was applied to Postern Street until about 150 years ago.

The foundations of an ancient guard house were discovered in 1818 and still remain, I believe, beneath

the modern sanitary tower of the hospital, while in 1899 when great excavations were undertaken in preparation for the erection of the Jubilee Wing of the hospital this guard house was again seen and very extensive subterranean passages were discovered which seemed to connect Standard Hill with the old ditch of the castle facing northwards. These antiquities were carefully plotted and a paper was published by Mr. James Shipman who gives us a very full account of what he saw. I must frankly confess that a study both of Mr. Shipman's paper and of his plan has left me that no very clear idea as to what the use of these passages could have been.

Postern Street was called by our grandfathers Boston Bridge. About 1260 a postern was erected by Henry III. in the defences of Nottingham Castle of such width that two horsemen carrying lances could pass through it abreast. I think that this postern probably stood somewhere near the site of the present entrance to the hospital enclosure and faced down the Ropewalk, at any rate, Postern Street originally came out about in that position and the Ropewalk formed its direct continuance without the unfortunate angles which now mar the thoroughfare in that direction. A deep ditch as we shall see presently further protected the castle in this neighbourhood and ran down Park Row and to get across this ditch a bridge would be necessary. This was called the Postern Bridge which was gradually colloquialised into Boston Bridge. A small portion of this ditch still remains as a hollow in the grounds of the hospital.

The most striking building in Postern Street is of course the old Children's Hospital, on its eastern side.

This was founded in 1869 by a lady under the auspices of a Church of England Sisterhood and she was dedicated to her work in the now disused chapel of the hospital by the then Bishop of Lincoln. The wooden outer gateway of this hospital facing into Postern Street is interesting. It is enriched with 14th century moulding and quatrefoils and it is made out of four rafters from the roof of Alfreton Church. Alfreton Church was being restored about the time that the hospital was erected and it was found necessary to replace its ancient roof by a modern one. Four of the old rafters were preserved and so arranged as to form a dignified arch of entrance into the premises of the new Children's Hospital. The water tower which serves as a support for the bridge connecting this hospital with the General Hospital was erected by the Corporation. This building is no longer used as a children's hospital, but is part and parcel of the greater General Hospital.

Of Rutland Street there is little to say. It is rather a dreary neighbourhood and the only building of interest in it is an old school which was built in 1808 as a School of Industry. It has long since been abandoned and is now used as a factory. The most interesting thing about the street is its name which as we have seen reflects the association of this district with the great Rutland family.

St. James's Street on the other hand is full both of beauty and interest. It is a thoroughfare of very great age and in 1395 we find it referred to as "Jamgate" and it was not until 1800 that it received its modern name. The last house on its north west side which is nowadays called Newstead House was the residence of Lord Byron when a boy. It was while living here that he perpetrated the well-known squib

upon his *bête noire*, a relative living in Swine Green. This person had the misfortune to greatly offend the childish poet by reference to his lameness and probably to some of his many other childish faults. He was brought home in a state of high dudgeon and remained quiet and morose for some time. At last he burst out with the couplet :—

“ I wish such a person never had been,
As the odious old woman who lives in Swine Green.”

This outburst seemed to comfort him and it is curious that it has come down to our own day and is probably more frequently quoted than any other of the poet's utterances.

It was to this house that Leigh Hunt used to come to solace himself “ with the singing of birds, the humming of bees and the whetting of the mower's scythe.” He was an extraordinary character with considerable pretension to literary abilities. At Shelley's invitation he went out to Italy and arrived at Pisa just a week before Shelley was drowned. He had, however, contracted an acquaintance with Byron who was living in Pisa at the time, and together they attempted to found a journal called *The Liberal*, but it was not a success and soon became extinct. However, Hunt made shift with his literary abilities to live and although he and Byron never seemed to get on very well together, yet when they were apart they seem to have been extremely fond of each other and eventually Hunt wrote the life of Byron under the title of *Lord Byron and his Contemporaries*.

There is a great deal of delightful 18th century architecture in St. James's Street and the fan lights alone are worthy of most careful study. The Thoroton Press stands upon the vista of one of the delightful

houses which line the northern side of the street and perhaps the most beautiful of all these houses is number 64. At one time in its career it was used as a hospital for the blind with a certain Mrs. Shipstone as Matron, but its chief claim to our attention is the extreme beauty of its details. Its staircase, whether for the ease of its ascent or the beauty of its enrichment, is noticeable even in a city of fine staircases such as is Nottingham, while the panelling, cornice and fireplace of the room at present used by the Medico-Chirurgical Society is worth a long journey to see.

The premises near the junction of Granby Street and St. James's Street occupied by Messrs. Hardy are the original home of the Mechanics Institute and also (but this is disputed) of the Society which afterwards became the Derby Road Baptist Church.

Hidden away amongst the houses and yards on the south side of the street stands St. James's Street Chapel. Even if one knows where to look for it, it is very difficult to find, but it still stands there. Its foundation stone was laid in 1823 and it belonged to a Society of Independents who in after years migrated to the Park Hill Chapel on Derby Road.

That curious and rather unpleasant thoroughfare known as Thoroughfare Yard is of extreme antiquity for it is mentioned as early as 1315. When one remembers its convenience it is rather surprising that it has never developed into something more important than the grubby little footway which we now know.

There are many great names associated with St. James's Street, none of them perhaps so important as that of Richard Parkes Bonnington, the most marvellous artist that Nottingham ever produced. He lived in a house in St. James's Street after his father had removed

from Arnold and before the family migrated to France, but as far as I know the house has never been identified. Then again Cornelius Launder, that mysterious High Sheriff of Nottingham whose name constantly occurs in Nottingham history but about whom so little is known, is said to have lived in St. James's Street in 1775, and in that same year St. James's Street was the scene of a most unfortunate riot of hosiery workers. The times appear to have been very difficult and a certain Mr. Huish was regarded as the leader of the hosiery employers a deputation consisting of a violent mob attempted to wait upon Mr. Huish at his house and explain their views upon the situation, but their explanation proved to be of such a nature that it was necessary to call in the military to answer it and eventually the mob were dispersed. The conduct of the military on this occasion calls forth one of Blackner's characteristic diatribes. Finally, there is a tradition that the original tombstone of Lawrence Collins does duty as a hearthstone for a house in St. James's Street, but whether this be true or not I have no means of knowing.

Mount Street was only so called about 1800. Its ancient name was Bearward Lane, reflecting the inhuman sport of bear baiting which was so popular right down to Puritan times. In this connection it is interesting to remember that we know that the name of the Nottingham bearward in 1577 was Ward and quite a little is known about his avocation.

Probably Mount Street derives its name from either Derry Mount or Windmill Hill and although there is nothing particularly pleasant in the street nowadays it is not without its memories of the past. In 1811 in a room up a yard off Mount Street were situated the

premises of Chambers, Wilson and Morley, from which firm sprang the great hosiery firm of Messrs. I. & R. Morley who have done so much for the development of the hosiery industry throughout the world.

It is appropriate that the Lace Makers' Union should have their central office in Mount Street, for it was here that the lace machine had its birth. In 1775, Crane, of Edmonston, invented the warp machine and he sold the secret to Marsh for £100. Subsequently Joshua Tarratt of Mount Street developed it into the lace machine.

A business of quite a different character was carried on in Mount Street about the same time or a little earlier, for in 1749 William Hutton the well-known historian established himself as a bookseller in this street. Although extremely intellectual he does not seem to have been at all prosperous and in the course of his business he found it necessary to visit London with a certain frequency presumably to purchase stock. He was reduced to performing the journey on foot. This was an extremely hazardous proceeding as he experienced great dangers from footpads and highwaymen. He was wont to frustrate these gentry by carrying the bulk of his money sewn up in his shirt collar and other unlikely portions of his attire and carried a few odd coins in his pockets wherewith to satisfy his assailants should he fall into their hands. The street is also associated with the well-known Nottingham family Oldknow. In 1774 Oldknow was Mayor of Nottingham, and he must either have been extremely industrious or he must have neglected his duties as chief magistrate, for during his year of office he found time to lay siege to the heart of a lady in London with such assiduity that she capitulated and they were married during his year

of office. This was looked upon as such a triumph by his contemporaries that upon his return to Nottingham after the ceremony he and his bride were conducted to their home in Mount Street by a civic procession.

In a yard at the north side of Mount Street will be found the entrance to the old Baptist burial ground which was founded in 1724 immediately after the establishment of the Baptist Church in Friar Lane. It is a dreary enough place nowadays, it can be well seen from the premises of the Cripples' Guild in Park Row, but amongst its antiquated gravestones is one to the memory of George Vason whose life story is as romantic as anything that even Defoe conceived. He began life as a godly young man and his religious susceptibilities were such that he went out to the Friendly Isles as an artisan with a party of missionaries under the auspices of the London Missionary Society. For some time all went well, but as Vason was stationed at some distance away from his European confrères he gradually got into native habits until he had so far adopted the customs of the country as to forget his own tongue and to settle down practically as a chieftain amongst the savages by whom he was surrounded. He even went so far as to adopt polygamy and had two wives. He lived happily as the bosom friend of the local chief for some time, but a native war shook his position and he fell from his high estate and was subjected to all sorts of dangers. After a series of hairbreadth escapes, his account of which is most fascinating, he succeeded in making his escape and was carried by a chance ship to Canton, from whence he worked his passage as an ordinary seaman to New York and from thence he made his way back to Nottingham. As his story excited great interest and as he was without means of subsistence, Mr. Bailey resigned his office of

town gaoler in his favour and he was established in the gaoler's house attached to the old Town Hall in Weekday Cross. He seems to have made an ideal gaoler and occupied that position from 1820 until his death in 1838. He was very much respected in the town and he was buried with much sorrow and honour in this burial ground which has now become little more than a cat run.

There is nothing particularly interesting about the upper end of Mount Street, which appears to have been completely remodelled about 1838.

The Ropewalk bears in its name a story of its history. It was the Ropewalk of 18th century Nottingham and there is really little of interest to say about it. The reservoir at its junction with Park Row was completed in 1831. Up to the seventies or eighties of last century it used to be extremely picturesque and was surrounded by trees, but it was concreted over in order that the water stored within it might be kept free from contamination. It does not appear to have been a great success and in 1924 it was granted on very favourable terms to the governors of the General Hospital and upon its site has been erected the out-patients department.

The Eye Hospital next door is an exceedingly well managed and successful institution which never seems to be in financial straits and which was erected in 1912. The old pumping station nearer to Derby Road had to be disused because it was found that the water which it was supplying was contaminated by the General Cemetery. It however, marks the site of an old windmill which stood there until 1832 or thereabouts.

The open space at the top of Derby Road just outside the entrance to the General Cemetery was anciently called the Sandhills and it is really a very

important road junction. The ancient trackway had struggled up the hollow sandy way leading up Derby Road and at this point it forked into three different roads. The most easterly being Alfreton Road, the centre road being Ilkeston Road and the western one being Derby Road. All these are ancient trackways, but to them have been added other modern roads so that the traffic at this point is exceedingly difficult and congested.

Of the thousands of people who daily pass over this area either on foot or on wheels there are very few who realise that in times passed the site was used as a suitable place in which to bury suicides, the ceremony usually taking place at night without any form of religious office. There are many notes in the records of Nottingham of these unfortunate people, thus in 1764 John Higgins, in 1772 Thomas Smith, in 1800 George Caunt are noted as being disposed of here. But the most interesting of all perhaps is Thomas Morris who was the first paid Sunday School Teacher in Nottingham and who deceased in 1787. Perhaps the good that he had wrought spoke for him at his latter end, at any rate the restrictions were so far relaxed that he was allowed a coffin, and this coffin together with his remains were discovered in 1840. This custom of burying suicides at a cross road is really a very ancient custom which still survives amongst certain savage tribes who are in a very lowly state of intellectual development. According to the idea underlying the custom as soon as a spirit leaves a body it is filled with a desire to get back to its old haunts and associations and as long as the body remains amongst the surroundings which it was accustomed the spirit is more or less content, but when the body is removed for sepulture the spirit gets lost and

becomes irritated with those who have moved its body away from its ancient home. In order to escape the evil effects of this irritation, it is necessary for the relatives to disguise themselves as much as possible and so prevent their recognition by the departed spirit. To this end they were wont to dress themselves in a different manner to that which they had been accustomed, which gives rise to our modern custom of wearing mourning which is a conventionalisation of the disguising adopted by our primitive forefathers. But further than this the departed spirit must have been visualised as extremely simple for it was believed that if in returning from the burial place to the home the mourners pursued a devious way with as many turnings and branches in it as possible the spirit would be confused and get lost and be unable to find its way back to the abode of its relatives, whom it was intent to harm. Cross roads were, of course, points much sought after in those hurried retreats from funerals and from this forgotten origin sprang the ghastly custom of burying suicides at the cross roads where they would find it difficult to know which way to go in order to reach their ancient homes.

There were three windmills in the neighbourhood of this open space in the early days of the 19th century. There was one at the corner of the Ropewalk which was occupied by a certain Mr. Chumley, a second one stood where the garage now stands at the corner of Wollaton Street and Talbot Street and worked only one pair of stones. It was pulled down and taken to Ashover, where I believe it was working only a few years ago, and I am not at all sure where the third mill stood, but I rather fancy it was above the site now occupied by Messrs. Clower's taxi office.

The General Cemetery originated in the year 1836 in which year the Royal assent was given to a bill authorising its establishment. It was commenced in 1837 and in that year the first burial took place, being that of the wife of the landlord of "The Strugglers" a public house which stood about where the Albert Hall was afterwards erected. There are many interesting monuments in the cemetery commemorating departed worthies. In 1839 Robert Millhouse the weaver poet was buried here. He was a man of humble origin and his whole life was a struggle against poverty and ill-health, but he produced some excellent verses which seem to be forgotten nowadays, though perhaps we should all of us be better if we read such works as his *Destinies of Man* and *Sherwood Forest* and the *Song of the Patriot*, all of which were much admired in their day.

There is a great obelisk to the memory of Daft Smith Churchill who was drowned in the wreck of the "Forfarshire" off the Farne Islands in 1838 in spite of Grace Darling's heroic efforts to save him. An elaborate memorial is also to be found to the memory of "The Old General" but his body is not interred here. But the most extraordinary story about the cemetery concerns John Wheatley of Lincoln Street. He was an eccentric character who seemed to take a delight in the contemplation of his own decease for he kept a coffin in his house which he stored well with wine. In 1838 he purchased a square plot in the General Cemetery in which he eventually proposed to be buried, but meanwhile he had a summer house erected upon it and a grave dug by its side and proposed that he should spend many hours of delightful contemplation in this extraordinary paradise. However, the sight of the open grave and the use to which the plot was proposed to be

put so much upset the directors of the cemetery that they somehow or other managed to get rid of Wheatley and terminated the exhibition. After all these preparations it is rather hard to record that he was buried in quite an ordinary manner in Barker Gate. The cemetery was closed for burials in 1925, but by its entrance are a row of half a dozen houses the architecture of which, and of the entrance gate, is really quite good.

Of Derby Road itself from this point westward there is nothing very much of interest to say. Park Hill Chapel, which is a re-incarnation of the old Independent Chapel in St. James's Street, is a perfectly modern building, while the Drill Hall was opened in 1912. Zion Hill with its water works belonged to Messrs. S. J. Walker, who received £5,000 from the Water Works Company to terminate the supply, we have already considered to a certain extent when we were concerned with the supply of water to ancient Nottingham. The most interesting street in the neighbourhood is the little St. Helens Street where lived James Hargreaves, the inventor of the spinning jenny. He was driven from his home in Blackburn by a mob of his fellow weavers who feared that his invention would take away their livelihood, and in 1767 he fled to Nottingham, where in conjunction with Thomas James he built a small mill in a little street off Wollaton Street. It was in this house in St. Helens Street that he perfected his models which led to such a revolution in industry.

It is always worth while going to the top of Derby Road on a clear day for the view across Wollaton Park and Wollaton Hall, although the outlook in other directions has been sadly marred by the erection of factories and mean streets.

Ilkeston Road is nowadays a sufficiently dreary

thoroughfare, but it was a country lane until 1796 with a style where "The Sir John Borlace Warren" now stands. This worthy, by the way, was an Admiral, an owner of celebrated racehorses and a country gentleman who settled down on his family estate at Stapleford during the third quarter of the 18th century. In 1796 a certain Benjamin Darker built the first house in New Radford round about the top of Ilkeston Road. The district was then spoken of as the "New Buildings" and there was nothing whatever between them and St. Peter's Church, Old Radford except open fields. To-day there is nothing that one can say in favour of this industrial neighbourhood, for Christ Church which serves the district was built in 1847 when architecture was at its lowest ebb and when beauty was at a discount.

Alfreton Road is chiefly interesting for the fact that there was a toll chain across it just about Thackeray's Mill which remained in existence until about the middle of last century. What the toll rights were and under what conditions they were levied I have been unable to discover. Further down Alfreton Road on the western side is "The Spread Eagle Hotel" where Herbert Spencer, the great thinker and philosopher, who was born in Derby in 1820 and who did not die until 1903, resided for some years.

Talbot Street is another rather uninteresting thoroughfare in spite of the attempt to cheer it by the architecture of Lambert's factory. Upon the façade of number 53 is painted "High Holborn" but it is almost weathered away and it represents the old name of the Terrace. St. Matthew's Church was built in 1853 and it is a decided improvement on Christ's Church, but still a far from lovely building. It is interesting to note the intrusion of the Leicestershire type of building

which occurs in the construction of its schoolroom. The Victoria Hall which has had a strenuous career, being used for all sorts of entertainments began life as a skating rink in 1876.

Wollaton Street is a thoroughfare with some history. It was called Back Lane until 1852 and is a continuation of Parliament Street or Back Side as it was anciently called because it was on the back of the town defences. This route, however, connects up with Coalpit Lane so I think we may assume that Wollaton Street came into general use about the same time that Coalpit Lane was adopted as the main route of traffic by which the coal from Wollaton pits was taken to the town wharfs in the 17th century. The gradient of this route when compared with any other way is distinctly easier and even to-day Wollaton Street is generally chosen in preference to Derby Road for this very purpose. It must have carried a great deal of traffic even before this date for it is a deeply sunken road as is shown by the height of St. Matthew's Vicarage and other houses in its neighbourhood above the road surface and this sinking could only be accounted for by the wear and tear of very ancient traffic. In 1852 it was very much modernised, a great deal of rock was cut away from its northern side and it was re-christened Wollaton Street.

Just at the corner of Shepperson Street are the Wollaton Street alms houses of which the Mayor has disposal and whose inmates although they get no pension receive a load of coal at Christmas. Further down on the south side will be found a little street called Bow Street which was known to our forefathers as Mill Street for in it was erected Hargreaves' mill, the first cotton mill in the world. Some fragments of this mill still remain and there is a notice board over it giving some

slight account of its history. It was erected in 1767 by Hargreaves and his partner, James, and within it they traded with more or less success until Hargreaves' death, but circumstances were against Nottingham and the cotton spinning industry has moved away to Lancashire leaving this mill entirely derelict.

In Hanley Street, just by the Electricity Works are the modern Hanley Street Hospitals which are the successors of alms houses erected in Barker Gate under the will of Henry Handley. The ancient date-stone is preserved and is built into the modern buildings, and it gives a long account of the wishes of the founder and concludes by saying that Handley died on the 10th day of June, 1650.

Derby Road itself, in spite of its heavy gradient is one of the busiest streets in the city. In early days a toll house was erected at the bottom of the hill, probably about opposite the present Toll Street, hence the name, and Derby Road itself was called Toll House Hill until 1855.

It is an ancient road pushed to the north in order to avoid the steep valley of the park and down to 1740 it was, like Back Lane, a deep sunken road with soft sandstone cliffs on either side. Its condition was so deplorable that in 1740 it was taken in hand by Lord Middleton who, at his own expense threw down these sandstone cliffs and with the debris thus obtained, filled up the hollow way and made some sort of a road surface. In the course of these operations certain caves and antiquities were discovered which contemporary antiquaries described either as ancient British or Druid. Unfortunately no accurate plan seems to have been made of them and the curios, which included a stone celt, have disappeared, so that nothing definite

can be said upon this subject. On the north side about where number 96 now stands was erected the Lancasterian School. These schools which were set up all over the country mainly under the auspices of the British and Foreign School Society were conducted on a system introduced by Joseph Lancaster, a member of the Society of Friends. His system was somewhat akin to the monitorial system familiar to us all nowadays and under its use was made of the service of more advanced pupils in teaching the beginners. Lancaster himself had a flourishing school on this system in his father's premises in the Borough Road, London, and so enthusiastic did he become that he spent a considerable time travelling the country advocating the introduction of schools, but unfortunately in 1811 he became insolvent and soon afterwards he was obliged to migrate to America where he died in 1838.

Labray's hospital which is familiarly known as "Labourers Hospital" stands at the corner of Vernon Street. It is a modern building which has taken the place of an older construction which was founded under the will of a certain Jonathan Labray who was a frame-work knitter at Calverton. He removed to Nottingham and entered upon the hosiery business and accumulated a certain fortune. He died a bachelor and left the bulk of this fortune to Thomas Smith who acted as executor under the will of Abel Collins for him to erect and endow a hospital in Nottingham for poor and aged frame-work knitters.

Derby Road Baptist Church on the south side of the road is rather a striking structure, and contains an excellent four-manual organ. The church was erected in 1850 at a cost of £5,000 by a section of the congregation which had originally worshipped in George

Street. In 1847 this party seceded from the parent church and took a room in Clinton Street wherein to conduct their worship, from where they migrated to the Friends' Chapel in Spaniel Row and from thence it is believed to the old Mechanics premises in St. James's Street. The Chapel suffered a disastrous fire in 1893, but it was completely restored and re-opened for worship in the following year.

St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Cathedral which is the finest modern Gothic building in the city, was founded in 1841 and was consecrated in 1844. It was built from the designs of Augustus Welby Pugin, the brilliant architect who did so much for the Gothic revival. It is of the revived Early English style and its proportions and details are really very beautiful. The best time to see it is on a moonlight night when its silhouette stands out in a most striking manner.

The original Albert Hall was built in 1876 from designs by Mr. Watson Fothergill, and in 1900 it was bought by the Wesleyan Methodists for £8,450 in order to establish a mission therein. Six years later it was completely burned to the ground and it was not until 1909 that the present building, which is the best public hall in the city, was opened.

Two points of interest of this thoroughfare remain to be mentioned, the first being that that curious little thoroughfare just by number 2 Derby Road which is called officially Poynton Street, although not so marked, is named after a certain widow Poynton who, in 1619 was ducked for a scold, and the second point is that in 1335, five years after the arrest of Mortimer, William de Amyas had a mill at the foot of Derby Road. Whether this mill was a windmill or

a horse mill is not known, but it is interesting to remember that in 1339 he founded a Chantry in St. Mary's Church with two chaplains. It is rather interesting to copy from Mr. Hood's book on St. Mary's Church the actual words of the foundation of this chantry :—

“ I make this chartre with al my wille

Godde's service for to fulfil

Therefore shall he have no lesse

Than Godde's curse that disturbs this Messe.”

Park Row is a thoroughfare of very considerable interest for it occupies the site of the ditch which in ancient times protected the outer face of the town walls of Nottingham. We saw how this wall came to be erected when we were considering the small fragment of it which still remains in White Cow Yard. The ditch which protected the outer face must have been of considerable size and has been frequently cut through of recent years during the progress of building operations. In the Park Row district it appears to have been cut out of the solid rock with its outer edge overhanging a little, so as to make it difficult to scale. Its depth is indicated by the area just east of the Cripples' Guild (number 17a, Park Row). It was filled up in 1777 and there are indications that in order to ease the gradient of the upper part of Park Row which was made at that time, the hollow round about its junction with Circus Street was carried on arches. In 1925 a very considerable section of the ancient wall was discovered in excavating for the Cripples' Guild and as it was found impossible to preserve this relic, a portion of it was taken down and carefully re-built for preservation in the garden of number 15 Park Valley. Careful drawings and measurements were made and an account by Mr. Heazell was published in the 1925 volume of the Thoroton Society's

Transactions. But although the road was made into a thoroughfare about 1797 it was still extremely congested and rural in its nature. As a matter of fact it was called the Butt Dykes and in it archery seems to have been practised in early days. Down to 1866 it was only about five yards wide in the portion between Chapel Bar and Circus Street. On the east side it had a narrow causeway and on the west side there was a row of posts to protect the property. However, all this was altered about 1866. The lower end was widened and a decent road was made right through to the Rope-walk with its gradient eased as we have already seen. There is a good deal of interest still left in this thoroughfare. Down to 1750 there was a large orchard between Park Row and Mount Street whose upper end was bounded by the Baptist burial ground. Of this land a portion seems to have been let on a 999 year building lease in 1724 to the parish of St. Peter's for the erection of a Poor House. This institution stood at the corner of Park Row and Chapel Bar and its site is to a large extent absorbed in the present roadway of Chapel Bar. In 1815, St. Nicholas's Parish erected their workhouse in this neighbourhood about where Messrs. Woolley's premises now stand and transferred their inmates from Jessamine Cottages thither.

This house is very interesting for it contains a good deal of old work, for example, the two great 16th century Gothic windows above the shop windows have rather a romantic story. It appears that the present house was being erected sometime about 1834 by a private individual who had bought the site after the workhouse was abandoned. Just before this a great fire had occurred in London which had so seriously damaged the old Houses of Parliament that it was decided to clear

the debris away and erect entirely new buildings. The old building material was sold for what it would fetch and certain portions of it, including these windows were purchased by the gentleman who was building this house and included in his new erection so that one has the pleasure each time one goes up and down Park Row of looking at windows which in ancient times must have illuminated the home of the mother of Parliaments. This house and the one adjoining it were occupied as barracks by a rifle brigade during the stormy days of 1840 and later on a Line Regiment was billeted there.

St. Thomas's Church which is now closed as a place of worship was erected by a certain Mr. Mercer and it was used as a meeting place for "the Free and Independent Methodists." In 1875 it was converted into an Episcopal church. Its chancel and aisles were added and it was decorated by its churchwarden, Mr. G. Sparrow.

At the upper end of Park Row are memories of two reservoirs. On the north side, where one of the departments of the hospital now stands, was the old reservoir made out of a portion of the town ditch leased to the old Water Company in 1695 and used as we saw when we studied the ancient water supply of the town. On the other side of the road, where the new out-patient department now stands, was until 1925 the reservoir which has already been mentioned.

There is nothing of very great interest in the streets immediately off Park Row, those to the north are filled with the architecture of the late Mr. T. C. Hine, which although perhaps not in accordance with modern ideas has a certain dignity and interest of its own.

(To be continued.)