

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*

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.*

CHAPEL BAR.

CHAPEL BAR was the old west gate into the walled enclosure of Nottingham and it was erected some time about 1154 (that is early in Henry II.'s reign). There are, of course, no traces of it left, but there are illustrations which show it to have been just an ordinary normal town gateway with two drum towers flanking an entrance passage which would be closed by a door possibly reinforced with a portcullis. Its appearance must have been very similar to that of the Castle Gateway which we know so well. Its name of "Bar" is interesting, for "bar," is a Scandinavian word for what we should call a gate, and it reflects the fact that Nottingham was an important Danish settlement. In addition to Chapel Bar there are other gateways in Nottingham. There was one at the end of Clumber Street, possibly another at the end of Broad Street and another at the bottom of Hollowstone. All these appear to have been protected by chains which could be quickly tightened and, stretching across the roadway, would prevent sudden rushes.

The origin of the name Chapel Bar is obscure. Some people think that it is derived from the fact that the northern bastion of the gatehouse was used as a chapel, while there are others who are of the opinion that the whole division of the town in which it stood and which included Angel Row, St. James's Street, Friar Lane and so forth, was called Chapel Ward because of the mysterious St. James's Chapel which stood within its bounds, and that Chapel Bar takes its name from this division of the town. As the public safety and the general internal peacefulness of the country grew the value of the walls and the gates of the town diminished, and by about 1700 Chapel Bar had become little better than a ruin, and in the space above the gateway was dumped a whole lot of earth which had to be got rid of when the Market Place was smartened up. A certain man called Armitage who lived in a house adjacent to the Bar on its south side and who traded as a gardener and seedsman used this earth for advertising purposes; planting in it great quantities of tulips which made a beautiful show in Spring, and constructed an arbour under a small sycamore tree upon the summit of the old arch where folk could regale themselves and enjoy a close view of the flowers. The old gateway was so much in the way of traffic that in 1743 it was entirely demolished, and two years later, in 1745, when Bonnie Prince Charlie had got as near to the town as Derby, the authorities wished very heartily that they had not pulled it down.

It marked the limit of the town in this direction although outside it there were a few rock dwellings which were destroyed in 1749, but it was not until 1729 that any house was erected outside it, which gives us a very good idea of the smallness of ancient Nottingham.

On the northern side of the site occupied by this ancient fortification stands a house at the corner of Chapel Bar and Parliament Street at present occupied as wine and spirit vaults, which was erected in 1714, the year in which George I. came to the throne. It seems to have been successor to an older inn which, under the name of "The Eagle and Child" was the inn of the Lords of Derby, but in 1745 this present house was occupied by Alderman Hawkesley, who was Mayor of Nottingham, but who was a firm Jacobite. He so allowed his feelings to run away with him that he drank the health of the Pretender upon his bare knees, an act of disloyalty which led to his deprivation and imprisonment. He instituted three actions against the legislators for imprisoning him and lost them all and this cost him £2,000. However, he became the hero of the local Jacobites, and the green bed-curtains which he used while in prison were made use of as rallying flags for the local partisans of the Stuarts.

Of course Tobias could not keep away from here and accordingly we find him stopping in this house in 1728. This time however, it does not seem to have been concerned with Turpin, but he made a deal with another highwayman called Barratt, well known about Newark. He paid Barratt £14 for goods which Coney was to sell at Derby. Barratt appears to have accepted the £14 with a bad grace which looks as if Tobias had driven a hard bargain, but eventually Tobias threw in a bottle of good wine and Barratt went away satisfied. The whole of this visit of Tobias to Nottingham seems to have been fraught with interest. He had proposed to stop at "The Dolphin" just outside Chapel Bar and which stood near where Messrs. Mitchell's garage is to-day. But the landlord of that inn had requested him

not to come to his house, for he was tired of Tobias' visits particularly of "the bedizened ladies from the fair," and so Tobias stopped elsewhere, and to get even, brought Martha disguised, as was her wont upon state occasions, as a parson's lady in a veil, a black mantilla and gloves to call upon the landlord of the Dolphin and his daughter.

The street now called Chapel Bar was known as Bar Gate until 1750, and as we have seen there was an orchard at its southern side, the trees of which stretched their branches over the thoroughfare and the fruit hanging therefrom must have been a sore temptation to the small boys of 18th century Nottingham. In 1832 a slice of this orchard was taken off, the road was materially widened and the present houses were built.

At No. 17 about 1842 was established the printing firm of Messrs. Ingram and Cook, and to Mr. Ingram occurred the idea of publishing illustrations in a newspaper. I believe that his first illustration was a fire at Hamburg, but at any rate the idea seemed to him excellent and he removed from Nottingham to London and started the *Illustrated London News* which was the first illustrated periodical in the world.

THE MARKET PLACE.

And now we come to the great open Market Place which is so prominent a feature of Nottingham. It is the largest open market in England and I have heard it said that it was possible to buy all domestic requirements within its borders. Its history is as interesting and diversified as the market itself and extends far back in the story of Nottingham. Its real name is the Saturday Market which differentiates it from the Week-day Market which was held as we have seen at Weekday

Cross and which is a far older institution than is the ordinary market of Nottingham. The Weekday Market was the daily market of the old English borough which was held upon every day of the week except Sunday right down to the Norman Conquest and at it all the local domestic requirements would be fulfilled. But the Saturday Market when it was established was of far wider range than this. The old Weekday Market was transferred to the Great Market Place on Saturday and to this Saturday Market resorted country folk from the whole district so that it might almost be called a wholesale market.

We have seen that ancient Nottingham consisted of two towns, there was the old English borough round about where St. Mary's Church stands and there was the new French borough formed mainly by the dependents of Peveril round about where the Castle stands. The inhabitants of these two towns were in a state of what might be called armed peace, ever ready to fly at each others throats. The men of Nottingham apparently fought against Tosti at Stamford Bridge and were pretty badly mauled in securing that victory. Whether this was so or not it is believed that the contingent from Nottingham did not arrive at Senlac in time to take part in Harold's battle against William I., and consequently they were not acquainted at first hand with the strength of the Norman arm, so that when Peveril took charge of Nottingham Castle he found that he had to deal with a very truculent native populace. He quickly found that if he allowed his followers to frequent the Weekday Market in the heart of the English borough at such a distance from his main body, the English were not overawed by his display of force and innumerable quarrels and bickerings took place ; and so,

possibly bethinking himself of the plan adopted by the ancient Romans when they established the Forum Romanum half way between their own settlement on the Palatine and the Sabine settlement on the Capitoline Hill, he decided to establish a market place that would be mutual to both towns. A site for such a market, was ready to his hands in the great, derelict, unbuilt-upon area situated between the two towns which has come down to our own day as the Great Market Place.

When we were considering the lay-out of the primitive roads of Nottingham in the opening pages of these notes we got some idea as to how the Market Place came to adopt its present shape, and saw that both its position and its curious plan was determined by the ancient road system. There was an ancient manorial division running right across the site which was coincident with the trackway which ran down the Poultry and Exchange Alley to Chapel Bar, and this boundary seems to have been emphasized by a wall. This wall gave Peveril exactly what he wanted. He established a market in the whole area and granted the northern or Long Row side to the English while he retained the remainder of the site for his French followers. The two nations would be able to traffic over the wall and certain passages were made through it to facilitate this traffic. It is interesting to remember that this manorial boundary was long used as a parish boundary, but it was found to be inconvenient and so in later years the parish boundary was moved forward so as to coincide with what we now call South Parade.

Another interesting point to remember is that this market was not a several, but a joint, market and, certainly, as part of it was included in the Royal Manor, that part at any rate would not need a charter.

We first definitely hear of this market in the reign of Henry II. (1154-1189), who in a charter granted to the town of Nottingham says "moreover the men of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire ought to go to the borough of Nottingham on Friday and Saturday with their wains and packhorses." This seems to visualise a market which would start at sunset on Friday and would not terminate until sunset on Saturday, and the reason that the Derbyshire men were called to Nottingham market is probably because in early days Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were under one sheriff and were so intimately associated in their government that they had but one prison which was on the site of the present Shire Hall in High Pavement.

But although this is the first direct reference we have to our Great Market Place it is manifest that it must be very much older than Henry II.'s time and I think we shall not be far wrong if we date its establishment some time between 1070 and 1080. It is interesting to remember that the difference in government between the English and the French boroughs remained until quite modern days as did also the crumbling remains of the dividing wall, both of the strange relics of the past were finally swept away in 1713.

In the beginning, the whole of the area from High Street to Chapel Bar would be an open space. At the High Street end upon market days would be erected the shambles or stalls upon which the country butchers and the town butchers would display their meat, and this very word shambles gives us a confirmatory date for the establishment of the market, for it was a word used by Normans for the tradesmen whom our Saxon ancestors spoke of as Flesh Hewers and whose name, as

we have seen, has come down to us in a modified form in the name of Fletcher Gate. At first these stalls would be temporary and removable and would be cleared away at the conclusion of each weekly market, but by degrees they became permanent structures though at what date this change took place it is very difficult to say. We may perhaps get some idea of this date from considering the fact that the shambles allotted to the country people were spoken of as the Dunkirk shambles. Dunkirk was ceded to England in 1658 after Blake's victory at Santa Cruz and was sold to France upon the advice of Lord Clarendon in 1665. All readers of Pepys will remember what an outcry this surrender of Dunkirk caused and it is just possible that this name may give us an indication of the date of the old shambles which have now disappeared.

Just east of the shambles was another set of temporary structures which were called the Shoe Booths. These became permanent just as the shambles had done, but they were separated from the rest of the market by the ancient trackway running by the side of the manorial boundary and which was called down to 1926 Exchange Alley. There are a couple of interesting facts about these shoe booths which are worth recalling. One is that Abraham Booth whose shop was under the Exchange presumably at the corner of the shoe booths and the Exchange, in 1799 adopted the custom of stocking ready-made boots and was the first man in Nottingham to enter into this trade. The second shows us something of the grandmotherly interference with trade by the officials appointed by our ancestors, for in 1800 two hundred pairs of shoes were seized by the authorities in the town because they were adulterated and made of sheepskin instead of leather. So serious

was this fault considered that in addition to losing their shoes the owners of them were fined $3/4$ per pair for all that were found in their possession.

Facing Smithy Row and just west of the Shambles, being in fact over part of them, was a strange public chamber which was called the Spice Chamber because near it stood the tradesmen who dealt in pepper and other spices. It appears to have been used as a sort of Town Hall for a considerable time, but there is nothing very important to relate about it.

When the New Exchange came to be built in 1724 a great piece was taken off the Market Place to accommodate it. It was advanced its own depth westward and in order to give it a good facade it took in the site of the old Shoe Booths, but as Exchange Alley was an ancient public thoroughfare the new buildings were not allowed to interfere with it and it had to bridge over the old trackway.

Nowadays in addition to the Saturday Market we have a market on Wednesday and I have never been able to find when that Wednesday market was established. I think, however, that it is probably a relic of the old daily market and should probably be held at Weekday Cross, which of course, would be quite impracticable nowadays.

In 1654 John Evelyn, in the course of an extended tour through England, visited Nottingham, and he describes it as possessing "an ample Market Place with an open sough and pond in the centre, a mouldering stone wall down its midst, trees, saw-pits, stocks, pillory and ducking stool." This description is extremely interesting and illuminating, presenting to us the picture of a typical open country market such as may even to-day be found in certain small out-of-the-

way towns of our country, and before we consider the Market Place in detail let us try to elaborate Evelyn's description. We know that the slope from Long Row to South Parade was broken by a bank and that the sandy soil near this bank was spoken of as "The Sands," and was used as a horse market for the soft soil would be excellent for trying horses. The horse pond which Evelyn mentions disappeared at an early date, but it would be very convenient for ducking scolds by means of a ducking stool if for nothing else. The sough or drain in front of the Long Row was not filled in until 1826 and the soil for filling this hole was fetched all the way from the top of Mansfield Road near St. Andrew's Church.

There was a row of seven elm trees which stretched across the market parallel to South Parade, which were rather famous because of their handsome appearance. Against them was stored the great baulks of timber and the planks that were brought to Nottingham Market Place for sale, and consequently South Parade got its ancient name of Timber Hill. These trees, whose shade must have been very grateful, remained until 1791 in which year they were felled. Of the saw-pits mentioned by Evelyn, I can only find mention of one and that was excavated just at the end of Peck Lane. It must have been a terrible danger for it would be left open, day and night, and one must remember that until the 17th century there was no attempt at lighting the town after dark. Of stocks the town had five sets, one of them stood in front of the Exchange opposite Exchange Walk and close to it was the pillory. When this ghastly instrument was first erected I cannot say, but in 1808 it was found to be worn out and a new one was erected on its site, but this new one did not remain long

in use for the last public exposure in pillory was that of a Scotchman called Calvin who suffered in 1808. The ducking-stool was kept on the Poultry which from 1332 to 1799 was spoken of as Cuckstool Row because of this ducking- or cucking-stool. What this unpleasant instrument looked like one can readily see by considering the one that is still preserved in the church at Leominster. It was a sort of see-saw at one end of which was fixed a chair into which the wretched victim was firmly fastened. She was let down into the water, presumably the horse pond in the middle of the market, again and again until she was so exhausted that sometimes she died from the effects. The punishment was really very severe and probably had quite as good an effect on curbing the tongues of voluble ladies as had the crank or scold's bridle which was used more generally. We have seen that we have a relic of this cucking-stool in the name of Poynton Street which was named after Widow Poynton, who in 1609 was ducked as a scold.

The whole of this great area was in its natural state for the greater part of its existence, it would be horribly muddy in winter and dusty in summer, and eventually it got into so unpleasant a condition that in 1720 it was paved with boulders which had an interesting history, for they were fetched from the Fosse Way in the neighbourhood of Willoughby-on-the-Wolds and had begun life as the pavement of that great Roman thoroughfare. To pay the expense of this paving it was decided to levy a tax upon all corn produced for sale in the market, which tax was much resented by the farmers who got round it with difficulty by bringing samples of their corn and not the corn itself, and of course the samples were not taxed. Eventually the whole market was levelled and its surface smoothed over, a decent pave-

ment put down and Long Row flagged in 1826. This was the first pavement in Nottingham to be flagged. Heretofore the pavements had been made of cobbles just as they remain to-day in some of the less important streets of Loughborough and other towns.

In addition to the many objects which we have already considered in the Market it was beautified by three crosses. The first was the Hen Cross which stood in the Poultry and round which was the women's market, where goods of feminine interest were disposed of. It is first mentioned in 1416 and what its early appearance was I cannot say. By the 18th century it was a column standing on four steps and was surmounted by a ball and was by no means an object of beauty. It was cleared away in 1801 and the stones were used to repair Trent Bridge. The Butter Cross which probably stood near the top of Exchange Walk is first mentioned in 1572, but there is a Cheese Cross mentioned in 1543 and this probably is the same as the Butter Cross. Unfortunately we have no knowledge of what the Butter Cross looked like and there are few references to it to be found. It was all cleared away in 1700.

The most important cross was the Malt Cross which stood about where Queen Victoria's statue now stands and which was first mentioned in 1495. It was the corn market for the whole neighbourhood and really seemed to have been the Market Cross of Nottingham. In its early days it stood upon ten steps and was born aloft by a long shaft, but in 1711 this early cross was replaced by a roofed structure surmounted by sundials carried on six columns which stood upon a base raised four steps above the common market place. It was pulled down in 1804. From this cross, upon occasion, Royal

proclamations and other public notices were given and round it gradually concentrated the earthenware and crockery trade of the market.

There were wells in the market and some of these were fitted with pumps. For example the pump outside the Exchange is mentioned in 1794, and right away down till 1870 pumps remained outside the Exchange and on Beastmarket Hill.

There was a bull ring in the market in 1750, but I am not sure where it was, I rather think opposite St. James's Street. In those days it was the custom for the Mayoress to provide the rope by which the bulls which were to be baited were attached to the ring, in return for which service each burgess who took up his freedom during her husband's year of office paid 1/- pin money to the Mayoress.

The sheep and cattle pens remained along Beastmarket Hill until about 1870 in which year they were moved to where the Guildhall now stands.

A good many interesting events have taken place in this market place, even if we refrain from going into the details of the old election riots. In 1485 Richard III. reviewed his army either in Nottingham Meadows or more probably in Nottingham Market Place before his departure to his defeat and death at Bosworth. In 1688 an event of the greatest importance occurred at the Malt Cross. Public feeling had been settling against James II. and his policy and at last it had come to a head. The Duke of Devonshire was the great leader in this neighbourhood and after a conference with the leading gentry of the Midlands, which had taken place probably in what is now the Oriental Café in Wheeler Gate, the Duke accompanied by Lord Delamere, Sir Scroop Howe, Mr. Hutchinson and others proceeded to the Malt

Cross where they read a declaration that they had decided to throw in their lot with William, Prince of Orange. The market folk gladly followed their lead and as far as the Midlands were concerned James's cause was lost.

During the Commonwealth, while the position of the Church was so very difficult, banns of marriage were, at any rate upon one occasion cried from the Malt Cross in face of the market and the entry which gives us this information leads us to believe that it was by no means an isolated instance. Then again in 1635 Charles I. slept at "The Great House in the Market" which was probably either the "Crown" or "The Feathers Inn."

In 1794 there is a very curious entry which, speaking of the celebration consequent upon the King's birthday, refers to "a double quantity of coal for the annual fire in the market." This is the only reference to the annual fire that I have come across and I am quite at a loss to understand it.

It seems almost incredible to think that in 1779 a man sold his wife and children in the Market Place. The woman was aged seventeen and she with her two children was put up for sale and sold for 27/6, but that is not the worst. In 1852, the year in which the Arboretum was opened, another similar sale took place. On April 25th a man named Stevenson living in Millstone Lane brought his wife into Nottingham Market Place with a new rope round her neck and standing near the sheep pens on Beastmarket Hill, offered her for sale: "Here is my wife for sale" he announced, "I shall put her up for 2/6, the rope is worth 6d." Ultimately she was bought for 1/- by a man named Burrows, and they all went to the Spread Eagle which was in the old Sheep Lane which is modernised in the Market Street to

sign the articles of agreement, the lady being the only member of the party who was able to sign her name.

Another curious episode in the market's history occurred in 1814. In the winter of that year there was a tremendous fall of snow and in order to clear the streets of the town this was all carted and dumped into the Market Place where it formed a huge stack forty yards long by twenty yards wide, so great a mass was there of this snow and ice that it lasted till the June of the following summer, and during the March Fair a great cavern was hollowed into it in which two abnormally large hogs were exhibited to an admiring public.

This seems to be a suitable opportunity to mention two curious crooks who amused our forefathers about 1790. One of them was called "Shelford Tommy" although his real name was James Burne. He was an itinerant ventriloquist and earned a precarious existence by giving exhibitions of his capabilities with an ill-made ventriloquial dummy. Many amusing stories are told of his powers, one of which was that seeing a waggoner with a load of straw he imitated the crying of a baby so naturally that the waggoner thought there was a child buried under his load and in all haste proceeded to unload his cart lest he should smother the child. Upon another occasion seeing a maid about to dress a fish he caused the fish to apparently call out "Don't cut my head off," which so alarmed the maid that she was seized with a fit and "Shelford Tommy" was seized by the constable and lodged in prison for his pains. "Whistling Charlie" was another strange character who used to dress himself up in all sorts of strange finery and attract the notice of charitably-minded folk by playing sometimes on the lute and sometimes on a horn and sometimes upon a whistle.

Another type of man who visited Nottingham Market Place during the 18th century was the great John Wesley who in 1741 and again in 1743 preached in the Market Place. His brother Charles Wesley preached there in 1743 and 1744, while John Nelson, surely one of the most heroic evangelists whom the Christian Church has ever produced and whose autobiography is as fascinating a book as it is possible to come across, was here in 1743 and 1745 ; while George Whitfield himself preached here in 1749 and 1750.

The first regular cab stand in Nottingham was set up on the Long Row in 1845, and it was not until 1908 that the first taxi which appeared in Nottingham had started operations by joining the rank on Long Row on the morning of February 17th in that year. Of modern events in the Market Place, electric light was first used in 1894 and Queen Victoria's statue was unveiled in 1905.

And now let us consider in detail some of the buildings which flank the Great Market Place. The Exchange was, until 1926, of course, the most noticeable of these. It has now all disappeared and we shall have nothing in the future to show us its appearance or to remind us of its history. That history is not particularly absorbing, and as Nottingham's story goes, is not of any very great importance.

In 1713 the last vestige of the difference between the English borough and the French borough had been swept away and the authorities doubtless felt that it would set a seal upon the union of the two towns if instead of having to support two Moot Halls, the one on High Pavement and the other in Friar Lane, they constructed a single hall and set of offices which would accommodate the whole town, consequently in 1724 the New Exchange, as it was called, was commenced.

Up till that time as we have seen the shambles and other buildings extended westward into the market to about where the entrance to the old Exchange Hall stood until 1926. The dark shambles were towards the Poultry, the light shambles towards Smithy Row, and the Spice Chamber was over the latter. Mr. Marmaduke Pennel who was Mayor of Nottingham at the time and who was also an architect was in charge of the building which cost £2,400. In order to accommodate it a slice was cut off the Market Place extending to the full width of the New Exchange westward, and in order to provide an imposing façade the Shoe Booths were included in its total length as we have already seen. It was a plain brick structure of no great architectural merit, but typical of the times. In the course of its demolition it has been found that it was not particularly solidly built, but at any rate it lasted for a couple of hundred years. Its main front facing the market was 123 feet long. Its ground floor was formed by a piazza 17 feet deep which matched the other piazzas round the Market Place. Above this were three niches which were intended to carry statues of George I. and the Prince and Princess of Wales, but these were never completed. There was a clock made by a man called Woolley of Codnor in its gable. Woolley has a curious story. In his early youth he was extremely fond of shooting, but in those days the use of firearms was forbidden to anybody of a lesser estate than £100 per annum. Being arrested with a gun in his possession he got into trouble, which so much annoyed him that he decided that he would never stop work, except when prevented by natural causes, until he had accumulated sufficient fortune to entitle him to carry firearms. Accordingly he set to work with feverish eagerness,

snatching at his meals as he worked and only allowing himself to sleep when nature refused to allow him to remain awake. For years he persisted in this cause until at last he was of sufficient fortune to fulfil his cherished desire, and then to his dismay he found that his love of sport had completely evaporated and the only thing in the world that interested him was his work, while the idea of a holiday in any shape or form was utterly distasteful to him.

The great bell upon which this clock struck was of interest, for not only did it act as an hour bell but it was used as an alarm, and its clangour called together the townsmen of Nottingham in times of stress upon more than one occasion when it was rung by the order of authorities to summon the folk to the Market Place. It seems to have originally come from a disused chapel at Gunthorpe though its date is an unknown quantity. Above the clock stood a figure of Astrea or Justice which has come down to our own days. It was the custom to dress this figure in commemoration of events of local importance. For example, in 1794 she was dressed in a robe of "True Blue" to signify public rejoicings in celebration of the King's birthday.

As the building has all disappeared there is little object in describing its arrangements which were quite convenient. In 1814 alterations were taken in hand and were entrusted to Messrs. Adams and Wyatt, architects, who completed their work in 1815. They took in the piazza so as to include it in the shops under the Exchange. They stuccoed the whole front and they added the great Venetian window which still remains in the memories of most of us. In 1836 the building was pretty nearly gutted by a fire which originated in the illuminated clock, but it was soon re-edified, and in

1843 it was used for an Art Exhibition in aid of the Mechanics Institution. The Council Chamber was lengthened by a wooden building carried upon struts which extended for a considerable distance over the Market Place so that a room of 180 feet in length was provided. It really seems to have been quite an important exhibition for those days and is described as consisting of "a superb collection of paintings, statuary, antiquities, architectural models and specimens of natural history, the whole presenting, especially when illuminated, a most entertaining sight."

The opening ceremony was a most dignified business in which the Mayor and Corporation with their gold and silver medals, the band of the Dragoon Guards, the Officers of the Mechanics Institute and a number of gentlemen all seem to have been mixed up. At any rate it was open from June to November and was visited by 125,000 persons and raised nearly £3,000.

There was another exhibition in the Exchange in 1865, and the Thoroton Society held an exhibition there in 1899.

One gets some idea of the smallness of Nottingham and its tiny outlook 150 years ago when one realises that in 1799 a shop on the south side of Exchange Alley was made into the main fire station of Nottingham. "The Feathers Inn" underneath the Exchange is not without its interest for in 1818, during a very strenuous election, it was Mr. Denman's headquarters. Mr. Denman was really an important man who afterwards became Thomas, Lord Denman. He was Chief Justice of England and died in 1854, he first came into popularity in 1817 when he made a magnificent plea for Jeremiah Brandreth, one of the men associated with the Pentrich Rising. He, together with Lord Brougham, was advocate for Queen Caroline.

Smithy Row has lost all its antiquarian interest by the complete demolition in 1926 of the last remains of the ancient houses which stood along it. It derives its name of course from the fact that hereabouts stood the blacksmiths' shops, which fact was confirmed in 1853, when excavations were being made for the laying of a sewer, by the discovery of a great bed of cinders and other debris extending all the way along Smithy Row. Further than this, in 1926 a curious find was made by Mr. H. G. Watkins consisting of two great jars of the 15th century ware full of bones which had been sawn into about three-inch lengths. These were obviously prepared to make the hafts of knives, and as there were several hundreds of them it is obvious that manufacturing of knives on a considerable scale must have taken place on the site now occupied by the National Provincial Bank of England.

During the terrible trade stagnation of 1811, land here was sold at 9/- a square yard. In 1840 from January 10th to January 17th the Mayor and the Magistrates, because a rebellion was expected, remained in constant attendance at the police office which had been built in 1810 on Smithy Row. Trade was very bad, poverty stalked abroad in the streets of the town and there was terrible distress on all hands. The Dragoons and the Rifle Brigade were under arms, but whether it was due to these preparations or no I cannot say, at any rate, no outbreak took place.

The mention of the Police Offices leads one to consider the history of the policing in Nottingham, and, without going back to medieval times and all the details of the "Midsummer Watch" which really was little more than a pageant, and the other primitive methods of dealing with criminals, a few notes upon the

police history of the town may not be without interest. About 1788 there were no night watchmen in the town, apparently there were some sort of policemen on duty during the day who went off duty at sunset having carefully given notice of their withdrawal from their avocations before they departed. This, of course, was splendid for the burglars who knew exactly when they could go to work without any interference from the custodians of the peace. In order to combat this state of affairs the shopkeepers in the Market Place held a meeting in 1788 in which they decided to watch in turn either in person or by deputy, but this voluntary policing was not at all satisfactory and so it gave place to a system of watchmen and watchmen's boxes, which were subscribed for by anybody who wished to have their property watched. The watchmen were mostly old and decrepit and were not in the least bit concerned with any property other than that belonging to the people who subscribed for their wages, and there are stories told of them looking on whilst thieves were breaking into houses other than those belonging to their employers. In 1808 a town meeting at the Exchange decided that each Alderman should call a ward meeting to decide how they might increase the efficiency and the pay of the watchmen and turn them from private employees into public servants. Further than this the ward meetings were to appoint voluntary superintendents who were to go round the watchmen during the night to see that they were awake and doing their duty. Of course that system did not work, and in 1816 the Watch and Ward Act was adopted, by which all male inhabitants above the age of 17 and subject to the poor-rate were called out in parties of twenty-five. These parties perambulated the town all night, headed

by the constable of the parish and the fine for refusing to go on duty varied at the discretion of the magistrates from 40/- to £10. I don't think that the tramping about of parties of twenty-five men in the middle of the night would add to the quietness of the streets or to the comfort and repose of the townsmen. Whether it was from this cause or not I do not know, but at any rate the custom was discontinued in the following summer. In 1820 we still find that the police were on duty during the day only, and that during the night the whole property of the town was in charge of twelve drowsy old men who like their predecessors of the 18th century were only concerned with the property of a few folk who subscribed for their upkeep. A town meeting was called and Alderman Parker proposed that the police force should be so much augmented that they should be able to remain on duty day and night, but this proposal was heavily defeated on the ground of expense. Eventually by 1850 the force numbered fifty-eight men, but they were all able-bodied and they remained on duty day and night.

Mrs. Gilbert in her delightful reminiscences of old Nottingham tells how each parish in her youth supplied its own constable and that their doors were marked "Constable No. 1" etc. Standard Hill being an extra-parochial district provided its own constable and she tells how, when she was a child lying in bed, she used to hear this dreary old man crying the hours during the night, and as his English was not of the most cultured he reduced 11 o'clock to the strange cry of "Hell-heaven o'clock."

(To be continued.)