

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.

CHEAPSIDE.

IT is no good crying over spilt milk or regretting that the march of progress has swept away the whole of this beautiful and interesting row. But it is impossible not to regret the passing of the beautiful old houses which formed Cheapside down to a few years ago. There was Babbington House with its gables, the delightful Georgian house occupied for so many years by Messrs. Thraves and there was also the last ancient bow-window shop in Nottingham situated upon this row.

Its name of Cheapside is not very ancient for it was called Rotten Row or Ratten Row in 1543 and appears to have changed its name to Cheapside some time in the 18th century. Cheapside was of course a most appropriate name, for "cheap" was the old name for barter, and Cheapside indeed formed a side of Nottingham Market Place. Its continuation towards the west was Exchange Alley, that curious little thoroughfare which separated the shoe booths from the rest of the Exchange, and whose historical associations we have already seen.

LONG ROW.

Long Row is one of the oldest districts in the town as is shown by its lay-out. It consists of a number of very narrow sites fronting on to Long Row and extending to a great depth until they reached Parliament Street or the Back Side as it was anciently called. The sites were thus set out because of the great value of the frontage to Long Row and they were divided by paths many of which have come down to our own day in the form of those curious little passages which join Long Row with Parliament Street. In number one, now occupied by Messrs. Skinner & Rook, lived in the early days of the 19th century, Lord Lyndhurst, who was at one time Lord Chancellor of England, and as we shall see he was not the only Lord Chancellor to live on Long Row.

Not very far away is the Maypole Yard which commemorates the old Maypole Inn which was of such importance in the early part of last century when coaching was at its zenith. The Maypole had many coaches running from it, but seems to have specialised in coaches to Derby. It was in the Maypole Yard in 1825 that the tragedy took place whereby the "White Lady of Newstead" lost her life. This good lady's real name was Sophia Pyatt and in her old age she became an enthusiastic admirer of Byron. Nobody knows from whence she came or who were her connections, but for some years she spent the bulk of her time in pensive solitude amongst the gardens and ruins of Newstead Abbey. She was very deaf, and on September 21st, 1825, whilst on a visit to Nottingham she was knocked down and killed by a carrier's cart in the Maypole Yard, and to carry out her wishes her remains were interred in Hucknall Church as close as possible to the grave which held Lord Byron's remains.

The Black Boy Hotel is much modernised and its history, albeit associated to a certain extent with coaching, is not particularly fascinating, but in front of it, high up in a gable will be seen a modern statue representing Samuel Brunts, which reminds us that the land upon which it stands was part of the estate left for charitable use by this worthy when he died in 1711. He stated in his will that he wanted to benefit poor people in or near Mansfield, who "had been industrious and of sober life and conversation and feared the Lord." The estate which he vested in trustees has become extremely valuable so that the income from it is, I believe, over £6,000 per annum. There are some 250 pensioners receiving support from it each week while 300 scholars are receiving secondary education at Brunts' School, Mansfield, which is largely paid for by the charity. No. 17, which until a few years ago was noticeable because of the curious twisted columns which ornamented a window on the first floor and which were strangely reminiscent of the porch of St. Mary's at Oxford, was erected, I believe, about 1715 by Marshall Tallard. In it in 1793 lived Alderman Oldknow who was Mayor at the time and a riot took place in front of this house which is worth remembering as giving us some idea of the conditions under which our forefathers existed. It appears that a number of democrats who sympathised with the French Revolution had been permitted to drill in the fields of Nottingham, using dummy guns. This very much exercised the minds of the Tory party which felt that this drilling might be extremely dangerous, for the Jacobite troubles were still remembered and the horrors of the French Revolution were so close as to rouse suspicions where perhaps they were unjustified. At any rate the Tory mob attacked

Oldknow's house, smashed his windows and generally damaged his property. As Alderman Oldknow was Mayor, one would have thought that he could have found sufficient protection in the police, but evidently that body was thoroughly inefficient. Alderman Oldknow after threatening the crowd and after discharging a blank shot over their heads, shot off a blunderbus heavily charged with shot into the midst of the crowd, killing one man and severely wounding five others. This action effectually dispersed the mob, and it is interesting to find that Blackner in his *History of Nottingham*, published in 1815, not only commends the action of Alderman Oldknow in thus taking the law into his own hands, but claims as an inalienable right of all Englishmen the right to defend their own property even if it comes to killing people who may be presumed to be attacking it.

Lord Brougham lived in this house some time about 1820. He was Lord Chancellor of England and was associated with Mr. Denman, afterwards Lord Denman, as advocate for Queen Caroline in her celebrated trial. Finally Mr. Hind says that William and Mary Howitt, the Quaker poets, lived in this house for a short time, but I have never been able to find any confirmation of this fact.

In Greyhound Yard, which is named after the Greyhound Inn which has long since disappeared, took place a tragedy in 1808 when Mr. Joseph Hill was attacked and bitten by a dog. The wounds seemed to heal and Mr. Hill seemed no worse for his adventure for a time, but eventually the worst symptoms set in and hydrophobia developed and Mr. Hill died an agonising death. In reading old notices of Nottingham

one is constantly reminded of the awful danger which was ever present in times past from mad dogs.

King Street and Queen Street represent that curious V-shaped slice of slum property which was called the "Condemned Area" and which was all swept away about the year 1888. It was a most unhygienic and immoral neighbourhood and nothing good could be said for it. It took about three years to clear and King Street was formed upon it and opened on June 22nd, 1892. But while clearing away so much that was undesirable, certain interesting features also disappeared; for example, the modern General Post Office stands on the site of Mellor's bell foundry where the fortune was made which was so nobly expended in founding the High School.

In Manning's Yard, which has also disappeared, lived Sandby the artist for some years, and Pennels Passage was so named from the Alderman Pennel who was sometime Mayor of Nottingham and was the architect of the original Exchange.

Another curious place that has disappeared is Crown Court which probably got its name from the Crown Inn which was a somewhat celebrated hostelry in times past and was a great rendezvous of the aristocracy. In 1815 there died in this court a certain Thomas Rippon who was a very curious character, but his chief claim to notoriety rested in the fact that he was a dwarf. He was only thirty-four inches in height, but in spite of his infirmity he was not only well-known but was highly respected. He lived to the advanced age of seventy-five and a few days before his death he ordered his own coffin to be made. This, according to his instructions, was to be six feet long and when it was

brought home he got into it and laid down and expressed the highest satisfaction with it.

Another old landmark which disappeared in these alterations was the Union Inn, a house celebrated for the strength of the beer which it supplied. This was so exceedingly popular that in 1850 or thereabouts it was the rendezvous of an extremely curious club which met in the morning at four o'clock and one of whose standing rules provided that every man who had not finished his quart pot of strong ale before six o'clock struck should forfeit a gallon for the benefit of those present. It seems an extraordinary occupation to get up early in the morning for the express purpose of drinking this powerful compound.

On the site where the Picture House now stands stood a shop occupied by Messrs. Cooke & Foster, where, in 1838, was set up the first plate glass windows in Nottingham. Heretofore the advertising of goods by means of display in shop windows had been of a very elementary description for the glass which formed the windows was very rough and distorted, being made in small panes after the manner that we discussed when we were considering the origin of fan-lights. We are informed that Messrs. Cooke & Foster, the drapers who first attempted to use plate glass were not served with great sheets such as those with which we are familiar, but their panes were comparatively small, at any rate they possessed the merit of complete transparency and were such a success that Messrs. Shepperley & Pearce, the jewellers, whose premises were about where Messrs. Pearson the ironmongers now have their business, very quickly followed the fashion.

Market Street is a completely modern street. In ancient days one of the passages which joined Long

Row with Parliament Street was not quite so constricted as the others and was used as a sort of thoroughfare. As it led directly to the Sand Field of the town, which was where the Theatre Royal and the *Guardian* Office are now situated, and which, from its sandy nature, produced herbage suitable for the pasturage of sheep, it was called Sheep Lane. This name was applied to it as early as 1573 and it appears to have been a continuation inside the walls of Shaw's Lane, a secondary road which has come down to us under the name of Sherwood Street. But before this time it had the strange name of Organ Lane, whose derivation I am at a loss to explain unless it derives from the old meaning of organ signifying "a communication," for undoubtedly this thoroughfare would act as a communication between Long Row and the Backside, at any rate, it was so called as early as 1395 in the reign of Richard II.

In the early part of last century this road was taken in hand and was formed into the modern thoroughfare. In 1865 on the opening day of Goose Fair, Alderman Page, the then Mayor of Nottingham, while making his preliminary perambulation of the fair paused at the foot of the new street and declared that its name was and should be known as "Theatre Street." This name, however, was regarded as very unsatisfactory and quickly changed into Market Street, notwithstanding the fact that at that time there was already a Market Street in existence in Nottingham which had to be changed as we have seen into Fletcher Gate.

At the top of Market Street is the Morley statue, which was erected in 1888 and commemorates Samuel Morley, the well-known philanthropist. He was zealous in all manner of philanthropic work and was one of the

men whose life honours Nottingham. It is interesting to remember that long before any form of old age pension for industrial workers was discussed, the firm of which Mr. Morley was the head adopted a system which he had devised for his aged workpeople, allowing them 6/- per week retiring allowance, and 6/- a week in those days was an ample subsistence.

At the south-east corner of Market Street stood the Unicorn Inn which according to Mr. T. C. Hine was the first house to be roofed with tiles in Nottingham, and the date of this adventure was 1501. It is only fair to add that Mr. J. J. Bird has told me that in his opinion the "Derby Arms" which stood on the site of the extensions of the piazza on the west side of Messrs. Foster & Cooper was the first house in Nottingham to be tiled.

The "Talbot Inn" which bears on its sign the year 1380, the year in which *Piers Ploughman* was published, was the Inn of the Talbots, the great family who afterwards became the Earls of Shrewsbury. They would use this Inn, I think, for their own accommodation when summoned to Councils at Nottingham, just as the Earls of Derby used the "Eagle and Child," which stood at the junction of Parliament Street and Chapel Bar. It was rebuilt about 1600 and again in modern times, and it still bears the great Talbot or hunting dog which was the family badge of the Shrewsburys.

Talbot Passage which has been swept away, but which stood near by, is interesting because in 1840 a certain Mr. Shaw tried to ride a horse down it and got killed for his pains. He appears to have been a curious half-witted character who lived in a house in the north-east corner of the modern Circus Street. He became

gradually more and more ridiculous in his proceedings and one of his escapades was the purchase of a large quantity of new mown grass which he endeavoured to turn into hay by spreading it out on the public roads round about his house to the great annoyance and discomfort of his neighbours. However, he cannot always have been feeble-minded for he was founder of the well-known firm of tanners which bears his name and which still trades, I believe, in Grantham.

In 1834, in the house now occupied by Messrs. Calverts, lived Thomas Tollington, who was the last man in Nottingham who habitually wore a pigtail. He persisted in this fashion, a relic of bygone days, right down to the day of his death. In connection with pigtails it is rather interesting to remember that the fashion of wearing one's hair in this manner gave rise to the modern collar worn by sailors. The ratings of the Royal Navy wore their hair gathered into a pigtail which they mixed with a good deal of tar and pitch in order to hold it in place. This soiled the back of their jackets, to obviate which an order was issued that they should wear a washable collar of such a size that the pigtail should rub against it and so save their jackets.

A few doors further along Long Row stands the "George and Dragon," which is a modern building upon the site of an old inn which was the first building in modern Nottingham to be built of brick. Heretofore stone for the better-class houses or half-timbered work for the less expensive was the vogue in Nottingham. Bricks were well known throughout the Roman Empire and were very freely used, but somehow during the Early Middle Ages they fell into disuse as far as England in general was concerned although in certain stoneless

districts such as Essex, there is a brick-building tradition extending right through the Middle Ages. This tradition did not obtain in Nottingham, and this first brick "George and Dragon" was erected in 1615.

There are very many curious and entertaining stories to be told about Long Row, but two only must serve as examples. In 1788 a certain Lieutenant Bright, who was a recruiting officer in the town retired to bed one night in his lodgings on the Long Row and soon after it was discovered that his room was on fire. Efforts were made to enter the room, but they were not successful until the fire had got so firm a hold that when Lieutenant Bright was reached life was found to be extinct. A Coroner's inquest was held and evidence was produced showing that he had introduced into the town the hitherto unknown custom of wearing braces. It was assumed that in endeavouring to take the dangerous things off he had upset his candle which had set fire to his bed-hangings and he had become so entangled in his braces that he was unable to escape and had died a martyr to progress.

Another story about Long Row concerns a certain Mr. George Burbage who lived hereabouts in 1807. He was an extraordinarily polite gentleman and for a number of years had been the proprietor of the *Journal*. His affable and courteous demeanour was so well known that it became a sort of standing joke in the town and folk tried all sorts of ways to ruffle him. These jokes culminated in a bet which was laid by one gentleman that it was impossible to irritate Mr. Burbage. This bet was taken, and one dark and cold night the layer of the bet went, between one and two o'clock in the morning and hammered at Mr. Burbage's door. Mr.

Burbage got up, dressed and came down stairs to see what all the noise was about and when he opened his front door his tormentor said that he had come to buy a halfpenny sheet of notepaper, Mr. Burbage led the way into his shop laboriously lighting a candle by means of his tinder box and served his annoying customer with a halfpenny sheet of notepaper, the customer paid the halfpenny and Mr. Burbage bowed him out of the shop with a smile and with the words, " I am much obliged to you, sir." Surely affableness never stood a greater strain than this.

ANGEL ROW.

Angel Row probably derives its name from a public house of the name of " The Angel " which has now vanished. Its traditions are largely residential and it does not appear to have been a trading district until the 18th century was well advanced. It was at his mansion on Angel Row that Samuel Peak died in 1763. He was a very well-known philanthropist in his day and was treasurer and benefactor of the Bluecoat School. Again in 1799 a certain Mr. Thomas Hall lived at his mansion which still remains as No. 6 Angel Row. It will be noticed that the picture shop in front of this house is only one storey high and behind it are manifold remains of the old mansion which was occupied by this gentleman. The gardens appertaining to this house stretched up towards the castle grounds. They were built over soon after Mr. Hall's death and have formed Bromley Place and other thoroughfares in that neighbourhood.

There is a curious yard which runs up just hereabouts called Hind's Yard. At its further end are some

derelict houses which were evidently built in early Tudor days, but about which I have never been able to find any gossip.

Bromley House of course is the great library of this neighbourhood and an excellent example it is of a town house belonging to a great family erected during the 18th century. The early history of the site is exceedingly obscure. There is a certain Red Hall which flits through early references to Nottingham and which appears to have been the Manor House of one of the three ancient manors of Nottingham. It is somewhat muddled up with references to the equally mysterious St. James's Chapel, and I think that the best explanation that one can give of these very fugitive references is that St. James's Chapel was the private chapel attached to this manor and Red Hall, probably the fact that Chapel Bar was erected in the manor which possessed this St. James's Chapel is the real explanation of the meaning of the much-discussed Chapel Bar. It is, I think, pretty generally agreed that Bromley House stands upon the site of this Red Hall.

The present building was erected by Taylor for Sir George Smith. Sir George Smith was a scion of the great family of Smith whom we shall consider when we are thinking about South Parade, and he took the name of Bromley and became ancestor of Sir Robert Howe Bromley of East Stoke. Sir George Smith used Bromley House as a town residence for some years and later its lower floors were used as banking premises, it seems to have fallen somewhat from its high estate, for in 1819 four companies of foot soldiers were lodged in it during the troublous times which the town was then going through. Then it was used as a draper's shop, and it will

be observed that the present windows on the ground floor are quite modern and are of no artistic interest whatever. Finally, in 1820 it was purchased by the Nottingham Subscription Library for £2,750.

The Nottingham Subscription Library is one of the many similar institutions established throughout the kingdom. In the early part of the 19th century the taste for good literature and for scientific research was rapidly spreading and the old circulating libraries were quite unable to cope with the demand for good books and so in innumerable towns these literary and philosophical societies sprang up. The Nottingham Subscription Library was founded in 1816 and appears to have held its meetings in the premises which afterwards became Messrs. Wrights Bank, in Carlton Street. It began life as a book club, the members of which passed the books from one to another after perusing them, but this was found quite inadequate and so Bromley House was purchased by a company formed for the purpose with a very curious constitution. Subscriptions were raised which were capitalised and the capital thus procured was expended in the purchase of premises and books. The shareholders who had provided the capital became members of the library and were entitled to the use of the premises and the books upon the payment of an annual subscription. Bromley House Library has an extraordinarily fine collection of books to-day, many of which are extremely valuable, while the rooms in which it is housed are dignified and interesting in the extreme.

The house is beautifully built. There is a tradition that in order to be sure that it would be water-tight each of the facing bricks was emersed for a fortnight in water

before being used, the detail of the house is wonderful and one would have to seek far before discovering a more beautiful staircase than the one which leads to the first floor. It is most easy of ascent, and its decoration, particularly its banisters, is most remarkable. The late Mr. Harry Gill once told me that he had occasion to get a price for a copy of these banisters and the lowest quotation that he could get was £5 a spill. The paneling round some of the rooms is very beautiful and rather instructive, for it so much differs from the old panelling which one would have found in any house built a hundred years earlier than Bromley House. It is so arranged that it forms compartments which could be conveniently used for the display of family portraits which were coming into fashion in the middle of the 18th century. Its fireplaces also are extremely elaborate, one on the ground floor being an enormous, almost monumental construction. Although their workmanship is extremely fine I think that they are rather decadent for they are over-elaborate and are not to be compared with some of the earlier fireplaces of the Adams school which can still be found here and there in the town, and whose better treatment and more sparing use of detail is really very much more restful than these elaborate fireplaces of Bromley House.

There are one or two excellent pictures to be found in Bromley House as for example the Duke of Richmond which is attributed to Kneller, and most pleasing of all the charming prospect of Clifton Grove, by Rawson Walker which is surely one of the best examples of his art. There are some curious fitments in the house which speak of the interest in scientific observation which was evinced by its early owner. For example, a weather vane which surmounts the roof is traced right

through the building and connects with a dial by the fireplace in the main room of the library so that one can very conveniently tell the direction of the wind without venturing outside, and then in one of the rear rooms of the building is an elaborate system for checking the time of clocks. A ray of light at exactly mid-day pierces a hole in a shutter and throws a beam along a brass mark which still remains in the floor under the oilcloth of the room. By means of laboured calculations this ray of light was used to regulate the library clock and some of these calculations have been discovered thrust away in the case of the clock. Apparently it was one of the functions of the library to keep this clock accurate for the benefit of the town.

The garden at the rear with its asphalt paths, sundial and antiquated lawn is a pathetic reminder of the days of crinolines, knee-breeches and powdered wigs, and when it was first laid out must indeed have been a delightful place. It is shaded by great plane trees, and the glimpse through the doors of Bromley House from the busy Market Place to this quiet tree-shaded oasis is really most refreshing, the plane trees are of no great antiquity, for in 1875 six of them were planted by members of the Committee, but most of these have now disappeared and those that are left have been drawn up by surrounding buildings in a very remarkable manner.

The "Bell Inn," just below Bromley House is an imposing looking building which is first mentioned, as far as I am aware, in 1638, although the present building is much later than that date. It is curious, because in the year 1638 it belonged to a certain Robert Sherwin, presumably one of the Sherwins whose house still remains as we have seen at the upper end of Pilcher

Gate. He bequeathed the revenues of a half-part of this inn to be divided amongst the three parishes of Nottingham. This led to all sorts of difficulties and eventually the inn was sold in 1923 for £22,000. It was outside this inn that in 1816 occurred the accident to the Derby coach, whereby Mr. Owen of Derby lost his life. This accident throws a very sinister light upon the condition of traffic in Nottingham 110 years ago, for as the coach was proceeding across the Market Place it struck a rut of such dimensions as to completely overturn it and killed Mr. Owen in its fall.

BEASTMARKET HILL.

Beastmarket Hill derives its name from the fact that the cattle market of the town was held hereabouts, but in earlier days it was called Friar Row because along it ran the boundary wall of the White Friars or Carmelites whose story we considered when we were discussing Friar Lane. I think it is probable that an entrance to the Friary would be situated somewhere on Friar Row, but of this nothing definite is known. The foundations of this wall have been disturbed from time to time during building excavations. The last time upon which they were seen, being when Friar Lane was widened in 1923, when at a depth of some five to six feet below the present ground level very considerable remains were discovered. They consisted of foundation walling made of soft local sandstone set in puddled clay and possessed no architectural features which could in any way date them. Associated with this wall and in the area which in ancient times would be occupied by the Friary were traces of various interments, which point to the fact that this area was the burial ground of the

Friary, which tends to confirm the opinion that the present building was the church of the establishment. There were also discovered various relics of the daily life of the Friary such as potsherds, tiles and so forth, but unfortunately these have been dispersed and I do not know in whose possession they now are.

It was at the corner of Friar Lane and Beastmarket Hill that stood the mayor's house from which in 1788 the town mace was stolen. Our modern mace was made in 1787, the year after the trial of Warren Hastings, and bears the inscription "Johanne Carruthas Armigero Praside Nottinghamiae."

There are many curious passages leading off Beastmarket Hill, one of which after various twists and turns passes close to the disused Baptist Chapel of St. James and then emerges into St. James's Street. These crooked twisted passages are very characteristic of old Nottingham and show the difficulties under which our forefathers existed. The town was surrounded by a great belt of common land upon which no building was allowed and as the population grew the town itself became more and more congested. Houses were built upon every practicable site and the width of streets and thoroughfares was perforce reduced to a minimum. This is one of the chief factors which led to the erection of so many undesirable houses in the town and which has left to us a legacy of slums and narrow streets and courts so much opposed to modern ideas of sanitation.

In 1800 Mr. John Attenborough lived somewhere on Beastmarket Hill. I do not think that the site of his house has been identified. Mr. Attenborough was the leading medical man of his time in the town. He was

one of the prime movers in the hospital and did a tremendous amount of good work. He amply fulfilled the traditions of his profession and did a great deal of work amongst the poor people of the district without any charge, and one of the great benefactions that he conferred upon the town was that he vaccinated free of charge a very great many people and thus saved them from the terrible scourge of smallpox which was so rife in his day.

WHEELER GATE.

Wheeler Gate should really be called Wheel Wright Gate, meaning, of course, the street where the wheel makers lived, but in earlier times it had another name for in 1313 it is referred to as Baxter Gate, and it is quite possible that the Baxter House or bake house of the town was situated hereabouts during the 14th century. In this reference of 1313 mention is made of a vine that was growing over one of the houses, the fruit of which was regarded as of considerable value. Outdoor grown vines are by no means common in England nowadays although there are still one or two within the confines of the City of Nottingham, but in times past vines were grown in England with comparative freedom and wine of a sort was made from their grapes. One is frequently reminded of this fact in old documents and plans, and even to-day the well-known house of Compton Winyats, not very far from Stratford-on-Avon, derives its name from the "vinyats" or vineyards attached to it. And again in the great Cistercian Abbey of Beaulieu in Hampshire there is an area attached to the ruins which is called vineyard, while a ruin which stands upon it is called the "Wine Press" and one could multiply these references if it were advisable.

Wheeler Gate has always been an important thoroughfare and has carried the traffic from the Market Place to the south of the town. We have seen how down to about 1846 the traffic which had proceeded down Wheeler Gate had to find its way round St. Peter's Church Side and Church Street into Low Pavement and as the street was extraordinarily narrow, not in fact very much wider than Houndsgate, it must have been terribly congested. It was widened in 1885 and again in 1892 when it was put into its present condition, all the demolition being on its eastern side so that the courts and alleys leading towards the west are left pretty much in their ancient condition. It contains some very interesting houses and the site where the Moot Hall public house stands is traditionally said to be the site of the Moot Hall of the French Borough, but I do not think that the evidence for this is conclusive. I think it is more probable that the "Feathers" public house which is so frequently referred to in the Annals of Nottingham stood at this important corner. This "Feathers Inn" reached the climax of its importance in 1688, for it was within its walls that the meeting of the nobility and gentry of the district was held which decided to throw in its lot with William of Orange and his wife Mary, daughter of James II., and so settled for ever the fate of the Stuarts in Nottingham. It was from this meeting that the gentry proceeded to the Malt Cross and made the proclamation which we have already considered.

In 1688 also the Princess Anne came to Nottingham and was entertained in the "Feathers Inn" before her final settlement in Nottingham Castle. Upon that occasion as the waiting staff of the inn was found to be inadequate the great Colley Cibber acted in the capacity

of a voluntary waiter and was so much impressed with the beauty and wit of the Princess as to be almost overcome. When asked afterwards what his impressions of the gracious lady were, he replied that he was too confused by the honour of waiting upon her to have any clear idea of what she looked like nor could he concentrate himself sufficiently to hear what her conversation was about, in fact all that he remembered of the proceedings was that she turned to him and in a very sweet voice said " a little more wine and water "

The house which is now divided into tenements, the lower of which is occupied by Messrs. Armitage as the Oriental Cafe, is of extreme interest to the architectural student for it forms a link which connects the old Gothic traditions of building with the Renaissance type of house. Its upper stories were illuminated by what are perhaps the earliest sash windows in Nottingham and it has very many other features which are of great interest to the antiquary. The wonderful ceiling in the shop is an excellent example of the plaster work of the 17th century and it is more or less contemporary with the publication of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. As far as I know there is no documentary evidence of the date when this house was built, but I think it is probable that it was erected in the closing years of Charles I.'s reign, and it is believed to have been the town house of the Earl of Mansfield. There seems no proof of this fact, but at any rate, it was firmly held by the late Mr. Harry Gill who knew more about these matters than most people. It has a later association which is extremely interesting for during the terrible times of the Chartist riots, about 1810, it was occupied by a Mrs. King who in addition to being a grocer added to her income by letting rooms, and these rooms above her

shop were occupied by the great Sir Charles Napier, the conqueror of Sind. Although he saw a tremendous amount of service his name will be for ever associated with his work in India where he rose to the height of being Commander-in-Chief. Whilst stopping in Mrs. King's rooms he occupied the humbler post of Commander of the troops brought into Nottingham and the neighbourhood to deal with the civil commotions consequent upon the Chartist riots.

Eldon Chambers is another of those queer little backwaters for which Nottingham is noteworthy. It still exhibits certain old houses, some of them with most curious 17th-and 18th-century features, and one of them that is now occupied as the headquarters of the Tramway Department of the Corporation possesses another of those beautiful carved staircases which ought to make Nottingham famous. This staircase is well worthy to be put upon the same plane as that at Bromley House or at Peoples' Hall and it is not very generally known. I think there must have been quite a school of carpenters in Nottingham who made a speciality of staircases, for although differing in detail, they all have a family likeness and their workmanship is exquisite. I have never been able to find out the name of the artist who designed them or who was the craftsman who constructed them.

In 1764 there was a great cheese riot in Nottingham, the populace being of the opinion that the country folk were endeavouring to charge too much for their cheese and so they proceeded to destroy as many of the cheeses brought into the market for sale as they could, a proceeding which seems to me to savour of the conduct of the Wise Men of Gotham. As these cheeses were made

wheel shape it was found a delightful occupation to bowl them down hills leading out of the Market Place and Peck Lane and Wheeler Gate were found to be very suitable gradients for this purpose. Mr. Mayor, as in duty bound, endeavoured to interfere and stop the riot and unfortunately, somehow or other he got in the way of one of these cheeses which was bowling along Wheeler Gate at a good pace with a result that he and all his civic dignity was bowled over and brought into the terrible mud which graced Wheeler Gate right through the 18th century.

Nowadays the most noticeable thing in Wheeler Gate seems to be the tram cars and crossing the thoroughfare is a very perilous undertaking so that an account of Wheeler Gate hardly seems complete without some reference to the tramway system of Nottingham. Public omnibuses took their origin about the year 1825 when a cumbrous vehicle known as " La Dame Blanche " started to ply about the streets of Nantes. The idea soon caught on and the first 'bus in London started to ply between Paddington and the Bank in 1829. It was drawn by three horses abreast and pursued a somewhat leisurely course, the fare for the whole distance being 1/- per person. The next development was to provide a long bench down the centre of the roof on which passengers might sit and then the London General Omnibus Company came into being in 1856, tickets for fares being introduced by the London Road Car Company soon after. So early as 1833 attempts at mechanical traction had been made in London and a steam vehicle which was called the Automatum was run between London and Islington. However, this was regarded as a very dangerous step and an Act of Parliament was passed under which it was incumbent that

all mechanical propelled vehicles should be preceded by a man carrying a red flag. This, of course, killed mechanical traction and as it remained in force until 1900, motors, either steam or otherwise, had no chance until that date.

The first section of trams to be started in Nottingham were those which ran from St. Peter's Church to Trent Bridge. They were, of course, drawn by horses and in summer a curious low hung vehicle with rows of seats facing the horses and which some of us will remember as the " Toast Racks " were put into operation.

This section of the tramway system commenced operations on September 17th, 1878, and a year later, in 1879, another section was started which ran to Basford, and the struggles of the wretched horses dragging heavy cars up Derby Road must have been very painful to witness, in fact so painful were they that on May 13th, 1880, a steam tram was started to work this route which was found to be exceedingly noisy and dirty, although probably it was by no means as noisy as the modern trams. Other routes followed, such as the Mansfield Road route, Forest Road route, etc., and they were all worked by the old Tramways Company which had to meet the competition of a good many horse-drawn buses of which the best remembered will be those which ran from St. Peter's Church to Bridgford, and the older amongst us will have pleasant recollections of at any rate one cheery-faced, healthy-looking elderly driver, Bertie Wainwright, who used to smile at the world from behind his huge coachman's bouquet which somehow or other he managed to obtain throughout the year. In 1897 the disputes as to who was to keep the roadway on either side of the tramway tracks in order, which had

gone on for years betwixt the Tramway Company and the Corporation, culminated in the purchase by the town of the rights of the old company for a sum of £80,000 and immediately preparations were made for the introduction of electric traction. Electric cars were first introduced on the Sherwood route and date from the year 1901. The cars were at first open at the top, but the present pattern of car with a closed upper deck was soon introduced.

ALBERT STREET.

Albert Street is a modern thoroughfare. It was not formed until 1846 and is named in honour of the Prince Consort. In clearing its site it was found necessary to destroy a great deal of old property including a half-timbered house fronting on to St. Peter's Square in which, in 1749, Dr. Deering, the eminent historian, died in absolute poverty, which poverty was largely attributed to his furious temper and warped outlook upon life, probably he was much soured by the fact that he was a foreigner living amongst people who were incapable of appreciating his worth, but however unpleasant he may have been to his contemporaries, modern antiquaries are very much indebted to him for his *History of Nottingham*.

We have seen how the building once used as the City Treasurer's Office was erected in 1846 as a Post Office from the designs of a certain Mr. Wood. This building was regarded as the *ne plus ultra* of its day, and one has only to enter it and see how inconveniently planned it is from a modern standpoint to realise what vast strides have been made in office planning during the last eighty years.

ST. PETER'S SQUARE.

St. Peter's Square is a comparatively modern name for the area in front of St. Peter's Church and it was first used as far as I know in 1787. It seems to have been a very unpleasant neighbourhood during the 17th century, for it was so muddy and foundrous that in 1641 we have a reference to a plank causeway for the accommodation of foot passengers from St. Peter's Church to Lister Gate, and as this would have to go round the narrow St. Peter's Church Side and Church Street it must have added very much to the gaiety of the traffic in that neighbourhood. The churchyard remained unfenced until 1641, and in those days it was very much larger than it is nowadays and it is quite likely that it became the receptacle of all manner of debris and unpleasant objects.

When the Butter Cross was taken down in the Great Market in the year 1700, an attempt was made to bring the butter market into St. Peter's Square and by 1750 a market for the sale of country produce was established here on Mondays. Cattle and sheep were also sold here on Wednesdays and Saturdays so what with one thing and another the already muddy area must have been churned up in a very unpleasant manner. To do away with some of this traffic the sheep and cattle market was moved to Beastmarket Hill as we have seen, in 1808, where the cattle market had been in ancient times.

There was a cross called Monday Cross mentioned here about the year 1700. It appears to have been a roofed structure standing upon four pillars and was used to house the fire engine till 1787, then it was taken down and its place was occupied by a great obelisk which

was railed round and which carried four lamps. We are carefully told that this obelisk was intended "as an ornament for the main sewer." In 1819, when gas was introduced for public lighting into Nottingham, this obelisk was illuminated by gas lamps and a very ingenious device was employed for lighting these lamps which were a considerable height above the roadway. A long pipe carrying the gas was run up to the lamps and this pipe was perforated by many small holes. When the gas was turned on, of course it escaped through these holes and the lamplighter applied his flambar to the lowest of these escapes which immediately took fire and passed the flame along from escape to escape until it climbed up to the lamps which it lighted, they being served from a separate pipe and as soon as they were lighted the "climbing light" was turned off. The whole proceeding must have been of very doubtful efficiency on a wet or stormy night.

But the Monday Market was never a great success in spite of this elaborate illumination, and in 1836 the obelisk was pulled down and the Monday Market abandoned.

One of the inns "The Eight Bells" facing into St. Peter's Square has an interesting recruiting history, and in 1778 we find an advertisement for recruits which says "they will be welcome to a good English ordinary of roast beef and plum pudding and a ticket for the play at night, will be paid a handsome bounty and be quartered in the delightful town of Kingston-upon-Hull where excellent ale is sold at 3d. a full quart."

There are many of these old recruiting posters preserved in books about Nottingham, the strangest

of which, I imagine, must have been satirical and read thus, "I will lead you into a country where the rivers consist of fine nut brown ale, where the houses are built of hot roast beef and the wainscots papered with pancakes, there it rains plum pudding every Sunday morning and the streets are paved with quartern loaves."

(To be continued.)