

Reminiscences
of
Launceston
In the
County of Cornwall
From 1820 to 1830 and upwards
By
R Robbins.

Presented to A.F. Robbins
for any use he might be
pleased to make of it

R. Robbins

May 1895

Index

Introduction
The Corporation, Officers, Attendants and Patronage
Markets, with the Names of use.
The Butchers that attended the Market
Bankers
Solicitors
Ministers of Religion
Doctors of Medicine
Chemists
Veterinary Surgeons
School Masters
Wool Staplers, and Fellmongers
Spinning Factories
Furriers
Tallow Chandlers
Dairy Keepers
Shoe Makers

Leather Dressers, and Tanners
Pig Dealers
Curriers
Saddlers
Woolen Drapers
Frutriers
Tailors
Barbers
Bakers
Grocers
Licensed Victulers
Beer House Keepers
Bakers
Distress in Argiculture
Coin Market
Watch Makers
Printers and Stationers
Haberdashers
Painters
Coopers
Patten Makers
Dyers
Glasiers, and Tin Men
Ironmongers
Hatters
Blacksmiths
Letting Houses, on Hire
Ropers
Basket Makers
Millers
Malsters
Weavers
Worsted and Yearne Spinners
Nursery, and Seeds Men
Turners of Ivory, Bone and Woods
Cabinet Makers
Weelwrights
Curriers
Coaches
Post Office
Town Water Supply
Sanation of the Town
Recovery of Small Debts
Sports
Cock Fighting
Skittle Playing
Pugulism, or Fighting
Wrestling
Horse Racing
Hunting
Two old Ballads, or Songs
Misalenous of the Old School

Reminiscences of Launceston Town 1820 to 1830, By Mr Richard Robbins. I was Born 1817. My First impression was the Funeral of Mr John Hender, Husband of Mrs Wilmot Hender, of St Thomas Hamlet, 1820, my parents lived two Houses above them.

[St Thomas Hamlet or St Thomas Street was the name given to the rural part of the parish of St Thomas by Launceston.]

My next impression was the Coronation of George the Fourth, 1821, when with my Parents and Sisters took Luncheon in the middle Walk. The Mayor, Corporation, Gentry, Tradespeople and the Working Classes of the Town were present.

I who have a good recollection of the orchard that was turned into a Wesleyan Cemetery, 1822, when the Apple Trees were cutting down. Boylike I went in and jumped over the Trunks of the Trees. The First Funeral that took place there was 1823, and my impression it was Mrs Dingley, Wife of Mr Richard Dingley, of Broad Street, Grocer and Watchmaker

*[The Wesleyan Cemetery on St Thomas Hill, now largely obliterated.
Richard Dingley: see below under Grocers.]*

This was a period that when few or if any Improvements took place. For Centuries men had lived and also passed away without seeing any sign of Improvements, and if there should be a chance to leave home if it was for a long period, there was not a House Built, no, not even a Cattle Shed, and the Place and the People were pretty much the same as when they left it.

This was a period of great trial to the Industrious Classes, a four pound Loaf was 10^d, Sugar one shilling the pound, Raisins and Currants about the same price as the latter, Salt 4/- per pound, there having been a Duty of Four pence in the pound, Candles Nine pence the pound, Soap about the same price as the latter.

Outside Garments were very expensive. The Principal or most of the Labouring People had to fall back on Second hand Clothing, and at the same time work was Scarce and Wages low so low, so low indeed were Wages, at this time, not only of Agricultural Labourers but Artisans, as well, that the great bulk of the Working Classes were in a state of some Papurism

To the Agricultural and Working Classes the condition of Life was so hard that it is a wonder they managed to live at all

Most of the Artisans and Labourers in the Town kept a pig, in order when Fat, to sell it to the Butcher. The Money to go For Payments of their Yearly Rent and in the Spring of the Year took from a Neighbouring Farmer 20 or 30 Yards of Potato Ground, For their Winters Supply, and generally two would Club together and Buy a Bag of Wheat on the Market Day and send it to the Grist Miller, to be ground and the Husk only to be taken from it, so the Bread they had to Eat was of a very coarse Kind. The Agricultural Labourer similarly kept a Pig, To Feed for his yearly Family Consumption, for the year, his Wages Averaging Eight Shillings a Week, and in some Parishes so low as Seven Shillings a Week, these scanty earnings. they seldom or ever could Buy Fresh Meat from the Market (except at Christmas, or at Whitesuntide) and his Employer compelled him to take his Corn and Barley from him. The Price all the Year round he had to Pay for it was For Wheat 16^s the Bag, For Barley 6^s the Bag, whatever the Market Price was.

The Dwellings of the Working Classes was Deplorable in many Cases, in the Town they were huddled together like Pigs, it was not very many of them that had got more than one Room to live in, with no Closet to the Houses and to Fetch their Water from the Pump or Coundit, and of a Dry Season to fetch it from the River or

the Quarry Well. Thare dwellings almost without exception was in a wretched condition, most of them having been much out of Repair.

On the Ground Floor you would find most of them with broken Slates and the next Floor above could be seen through, not a scrap of Matting, much more a bit of Carpet to be seen in any of these homes and if they ever heard of Paper Hangings they would not know what it meant.

The Wood Work was never painted, ocasionally a little White Wash. White Lime had to be Fetched From Morwellham, it Cost 2^s a Bag and seldom could you get it at that Price and if brought from Plymouth it would cost in Carriage 1/6 per Hundred Weight.

Coals were very Dear, they had to be brought From Bude and Boscastle, before they could be had at Druxton. Thare is an entery in the Corporations Books of 1824. Paid £4..12.. for a Ton of Coals, very few had Grates in thare Chimleys. Faggot Wood was the principal Fuel. Coal was sold by the Peck or Gallon, Ten Pence for the former and 2½^d for the latter.

[Druxton: Druxton Wharf, near Werrington, was the Launceston end of the Bude canal, completed in 1823.]

I well recollect the Political Scare from 1827 to 1829. Thare was then a great Agation to admit the Roman Catholick in Parliament, that if the Bill Passed, Protestants would never be safe in thare Beds, and a risk of us all of being Burnt to the Stake has our Forefathers had suffered, and this Bogey was readily bleived in by the Lower Classes. Thare was not then any News Papers For them to Read and no Board Schools. It was got up by the Orange Party, and Spread by there Satelites *[The Catholic Relief Act was passed in 1829.]*

During this Period there was a Great Gulph between the higher classes, and the lower classes, the former was called Rich People, the Tradseman was Common People, the workers Poor People, and if a few colected together that would be called a Mobb

Parish Apprenticeship was then in full swing, and in its most Demoralising Form *[Parish Apprenticeship: a scheme originating under Elizabethan Poor Law to provide training for pauper children. An Act of 1767 aimed to correct the worst abuses of the system. The abuses actually got worse as the factory system developed in the late 18th century and early 19th century. Conditions for apprentices improved only with the effective factory and mines acts of the 1830s and 1840s.]*

I shall First take the Corporation, thare Officials and Apointments

Rowe, Coryndon,	Dockacre	Doctor of Medicine	
Roe, John	Blindhole	Retired Tallow Chandler	
Roe, Phillip	Ditto	Solicitor, Brother of the above	
Ching, John	Broad Street	Chemist and Wine Merchant	
Penwarden, Richard	Star Cross	Sadler and Currier	
Cook John	Scarne	Retired Captain of the Navy	
Hockin, Parr Cuninham	St Thomas	Solicitor	
Green, James	Broad Street	Game Keeper, For the Duke of Northumberland	
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland	Recorder		
John King Lethbridge	Madford	Deputy Recorder,	Solicitor
		Agent to the Duke of Northumberland	
Cristopher Lethbridge	Madford	Town Clerk, Solicitor	

Rev John Rowe (Chaplin at Werington) Chaplin

----- Martin

Organist

Mr Martin was Buried in the Church under the Organ 1830

John Rowe

Tailor & Auctionier

John Rowe, Committed Suicide in the Exeter Inn Hay Loft, Giglets Market, 1835.

There was no Apointment to Fill his Place. He was the Leading Town Sergeant

[Duke of Northumberland: The First Duke bought the Werrington Estate about 1775 and the family held it until 1864. The Duke referred to above is probably the Third Duke (1817-47), who was a great benefactor of Launceston.

Robert Martin, organist at St Mary Magdalene for 40 years, died in 1800 and requested in his will that he should be buried 'at the foot of the Organ Loft Stairs, near the Body's of my Daughters'. Robbins has the date of his burial as 1830? The 19th century renovations to the church included moving the organ from its old position at the west end of the church and there is now no sign of the Martin burials.

Giglets Market: a fair held in Launceston on the Saturday after Christmas. This was a wife market, a giglet being a giddy young woman – Britton & Brayley: Devonshire and Cornwall, 1882.]

Town Sergeants

John Burt

Shoe Maker

John Burt was taken Prisoner on Board the Swift Shore by the French in 1815. He was The Collector of the Dukes Tolls at the St Stephens Fairs.

John Ralph

Tailor

The Town Sergeants also acted Has Constables, when required. John Rowe lead the Corporation, with a Long White Rod. The two others followed, with thare Maces on the Shoulder and had New Cloaks and hats at every Mayor Choosing.

Constables

Joshua Farthing

Tailor

William Tapson

Carpenter

William Grylls

Roper

William Rogers

Shoe Maker

Joshua Farthing was present when Jory was killed in the Execution of his duty at Bamham in 1814. He was the Leader of the Cornish Militia Band and Served in Ireland with them in 1812. He was Teacher of Musick, The First that Introduced a Piano in the Town.

William Tapson was present with the above when Jory was killed

[Three constables, Samuel Jory, a Broad Street tradesman, Joshua Farthing, a sergeant of Militia, and William Tapson, keeper of the Plymouth Dock, later the Devonport Inn, went to Bamham to assist sheriff's officers to levy distress. Jory was shot dead. The other constables arrested the farmer and his two sons. The three were committed to Bodmin Assizes in August 1814, but were acquitted on the grounds that no-one had seen the fatal shot fired.]

Sexton

John Frayn

Carpenter

Scavenger

Thomas Congdon

Labourer

[A scavenger at this period was someone who was appointed to clean the streets.]

Thomas Congdon was the Apointed Whipper of Malefactors To the Carts Tail and the Pump, Broad Street

[Flogging at the cart's tail was a punishment for larceny; the procession started at Starcross, went down the High Street, past the old Butchers' Market, now Church Street, and back by Broad Street. The Pump was close to the old assize courts in Broad Street. Flogging ceased to be applied in Launceston about 1834.]

Inspector of Market Skins

William Bray

Shoe Maker

William Bray had to Examine all Skins in the Market, if Cut two pence Fine, all further Cuts, one penny extra

Parish Clerk

William Spevin

Schoolmaster

Bell Ringers

John Frayn

Tenor, Sexton

William Frayn

Hatter

Robert Hodge

Huntsman, For the Duke

John King

Carpenter

John Moyse

Farmer

When Robert Hodge was Buried in 1827 Rev John Rowe Wept in Reading the Service at the Grave like a Child. In fact he sobbed aloud. Hodge was the Dukes Huntsman. Rev Mr Rowe was a constant Follower of the Hounds. His Dress was Top Boots, White Breeches (I believe Buckskin) Scarlet Coat and Velvet Capp. The Dukes Hounds was kept at Newport at the bottom of the Dutson Hill. The Pack was broken up in 1834.

We ring the quick to Church, the dead to grave
 Good is our use, such usage let us have.
 Who swears or curse or in a furious mood
 Quarrels or strikes altho he draws no blood
 who wears a hat or spurs or turns a bell
 or by unskilfull handling mars a peal
 Let him pay sixpence for each single crime
 Twill make him cautious gainst another time

The above was in large colored Letters, on the Wall of the Belfrey on the second Floor were the Ringers stood,
 Vandlisim came in here why I don't know, but this as ocured in several cases conected with what was Church Property, the Graves have been stripped of there Head Stones, to make Pigs Houshes, the Floor stones of the Memoires of the Dead

that rested in the Church were used for Footpaths, the Monuments some of them when taken down when the Church was Restored, 1850, was not all Replaced. There was one of a Lady that lay in the North Church Yard for many years unbroken, the Inscription on it was her Four husbands, three of them were Devonshire Knights. In 1884 Mr Powell Editor and myself went in to the Church Yard to look up this Stone but after some time turning over a Rubbish heap against the Wall found it broken in three pieces when the Council Room was rebuilt, 1850, Charles the First Letter of thanks to Cornishmen, The Letter was removed in the open the Blindhole, and placed up against the Wall of the Butchers Market. The Woodworm Rotting and the Letters disfigured. I read a Paper before the Launceston Mechunicks Institute, Launceston Past Present and Future, and Called attention to this neglect and scandal of the Publick Property by the Corporation. The Mayor on the following Morning ordered it to be taken to Mr Lines and Rep. at his expense. When I was a young man there was nine Fine Chesnut Trees in the Church Yards, but were are they now. They are destroyed and by the hand that should have been thare protectors.

[Charles the First Letter of thanks: in 1643 Charles wrote a letter to Cornishmen thanking them for their loyalty during the Civil War and ordered the letter to be read in churches and chapels throughout the county. A copy of this letter was displayed on a wooden board in many Cornish churches. The Charles I Letter board is in the vestry of St Mary's.

Paper before the Launceston Mechunicks Institute: Richard Robbins delivered two lectures to the Mechanics Institute in 1856; texts now held by the Lawrence House Museum.]

New Shambles

The Markets was not under the sole Control of the Corporations. The Butchers Market was most of it in the hands of Private Owners, viz. the Old Shambles on the Site of Mr Haymans Toy Shop, the New Shambles was at the London Inn Yard. The Former was Entred by three Steps facing the Church, Entrance in Church Street at the higher end by Four Steps. The Third Entrance in the High Street at the upper End Level with the Road. The New Shambells The Entrance From Church Street at the upper end by a Wide Passage, it extended in the High Street with Stalls on each Side Permantly Errected, on each side, and several of The Butchers had Stalls, outside Tradesmens Shops, Rented From the Ocupiers of High Street and Church Street were To the Town could not Levy Tolls The Corn Market was held in the Old Town Hall Broad Street.

The Cattle on Four Days, in the Centre of the Town, Extending in Lenords Fair as far as the Ring of Bells. The Horses in Season through the Streets

[Mr Haymans Toy Shop: at 22 Church Street.

London Inn: formerly at 26/28 Church Street.

Old Town Hall: knocked down in 1840 to make room for a Corn Market, later used for poultry and butter, and demolished in 1920, making room for the war memorial.

Saint Leonards Fair, held on 17 November, was a major event in Launceston. It ceased to be held in 1865, when the monthly cattle markets were established.

Ring of Bells: formerly in Northgate Street, closed about 1930.]

Markets

The Fish Market in Broad Street on the Lefthand side, commencing from the corner of Southgate Street to Mr Chings, Chemist The Vegetables in Southgate Street. Shoe Makers in Broad Street outside Mr Rogers Shop Abutting the Town Hall and Mr Richard Dingleys Shop. Ropers, in Broad Street. The Basket Makers extended from Mr Chings Shop to the First Door of the White Hart Hotel.

The Cow and Calf Market held under Madford Wall, Cheap Jacks opposite the White Hart Hotel. The Pig Market at Star Cross, the Gable End of the Old Town Hall.

[Mr Chings Chemists shop was at No 9 Broad Street. Mr Rogers and Mr Dingleys, together with the Old Town Hall, stood in the Square. Star Cross was at the west end of the Square.]

The Tolls of the Market were Let by Publick Auction every Ladaday. The Price would vary from £95 to £130. The Town was much Congested. There was no Exeter Road, Western Road and North Road. The Former was made in 1824, the two latter 1834. The Butter and Poultry Market in High Street outside Herveys Bank. The Butchers stood in the Market at the following places with thare names and thare places of Residences

[Ladaday: Ladyday, the Feast of the Annunciation, 25 March; one of the traditional quarter days.

Herveys Bank: on the corner of Broad Street and High Street.]

1 Benjamin Vosper	New Shambells	Ridge Grove
2 Richard Isbell	New Shambells	Ridgegrove
3 William Randle	Newport	Private House High Street
4 Richard Randle	Newport	Old Shambells
5 Thomas Randle	Southgate	Do
6 John Parnell	Fore Street	Stall Leese of Market
7 William Tapson	Church Street	Old Shambells
8 Robert Cotton	Westgate	Ditto
9 John Sutton	Northgate	Ditto
10 William Essery	Badash	Ditto
11 John Box	Tetcot	Old Shambells
12 Thomas Hender	Church Street	Ditto
13 William Spear	Milton Abbot	Ditto
14 Richard Hain	Broadwood	New Shambells
15 Richard Chubb	Lifton	Ditto
16 Digory Colwill	Race Hill	Ditto
17 Henry Short	Trevallet	Ditto
18 Thomas Bickle	Milton Abbot	Ditto
19 John Vickery	Broadwood	Private Stall Church St
20 Thomas Stacey	Dutson	Ditto High Street
21 Richard Hain	St Thomas	Ditto Church St
22 William Pearse	South Petherwin	High Street
23 Richard Dingle	Northill	Ditto
24 William Ridgeman	Tregadelet	Ditto
25 John Fitze	Milton Abbot	Church Street
26 William Stacey	Dutson	Ditto
27 John Reed	Lewanick	High Street
28 Mrs Davey	High Street	New Shambells
29 John Reardon	Egloskerry	Leese of Market

30 John Kittow	North Petherwin	Lessee of Market
outside the Church		
31 John Husband	Lezant	Old Butchers Market
32 Wm Kittow	North Petherwin	Lessee of Market
33 Thomas Honey	ocupied House of his own	Church St
34 John Bear	Tetcot	Church Street

There was on an average Seven Bullocks killed Weekly. Mr B Vosper slaughtered his at Ridgemoor, Mr Isbell at the Jubilee Inn Stables The others at the Bell Inn Slaughter House, Back Lane. Mr Vosper and Mr Isbell were the only Butchers in the Market that sold a Bullock to themselves, the other Butchers had only half a Bullock between Two. These were Styled by the Trade as Beef Butchers. To those that sold Mutton, Mutton Butchers, and to those that sold Pigs, Pig Butchers. *[Jubilee Inn : at the top of Fore Street.]*

Mr Richard Randle, Emigrated to America 1830, left his Wife and Family at home, Newport. His name continued on the Rate Book. It was seen by the Conservative Party of 1832 that every voter would be wanted. A Special Messenger was sent for him and within a few Days, before the Poll was open Mr Randle arrived and voted for the Duke's Nominee. He remained at home and Followed his trade in the Market to the Close of his Life

[1832: the fiercely disputed Great Reform Bill, introduced by the Whigs, reforming the electoral system, was passed in 1832. Randle was tenant of a property which had the right to a vote in Newport – hence the summons for the particularly bitter election in 1832 - see Lawrence House Museum Monograph No 9 Parliamentary Representation in Launceston 1295-1832 by Jake Jackson, p 27.]

Mr Essery supplied the Duke's House at Werrington, when the Family was there. Mr Wm Atkins, the Proprietor of the New Shambles, Entered an Action against Mr Chubb, his Tenant For using a Crook, that the former contended did not belong to him. The Case was a Frivolous one. It was Tried and in Launceston Assize the Judge had it referred to Arbitration. The Decision by them was For each to Pay there own Costs.

Mr Amos Randle and his son John are the Third and Fourth Generation that have Constantly Followed the Butchers Market During this Century.

Mr Charles Vosper is the Third Generation who has constantly Followed the Butchers Market During this Period.

For the Lighting of the Markets a Penny Tallow Candle was stuck up to the joint of Meat by a thin bit of Scragging Meat around it and a Skiver run through it. The Butchers Custom was to Dine at a Publick House, take a huge Stake with them to be Cooked. I have heard of an anecdote of the Landlord of the London Inn (who was a very near and saving man) when a Stake was Frying For a Customer, he said Mr would you kindly allow me to Dip my Tattee (potato) in your Greavey, it will do my Tattee good, and your Stake no harm.

[Skiver: a tool used for working hides.]

The Butchers seldom cleared out from the Market before Eleven at Night, and it would be often midnight before the Doors would be Closed on them. During this time very many Robberies took place on there leaving the Town. (The Town had only 16 Oil Lamps Burning.) There Carts would be robbed of there Meats and other goods. That they had after those things had been so repeatedly done one guarded the Cart behind with a Horn Lantern to Protect it. After this the Corporation appointed six men to Watch the Town by Night, two of a Night. They had to give a Call every half Hour, All is well, and change there Call Twelve

o'Clock, no Row yet, but this did not last long For it was assumed that some of those Men were in League with the Maruders For Robberies Continued and some of them on a huge Scale. Mr Wm Pearse of Newport House was Broke into of a Sunday Night and Ransacked and not long after Mr Charles Lethbridges House at St Stephens shared the same Fate. Then followed the Exeter Inn Burgalary in the Early House of a Sunday Morning. My Father has told me that in his Young Days the Fairs commenced at Four the Clock in the Morning when the Cattle in the Winter was most of it sold by a Lantern with a Tallow Candle by Daylight, and that thare was but two stalls in the Market at that time. This must have been about the year of 1795, he was Born 1767, therefore he could very well remember this period.

[Oil Lamps Burning: gas lighting was not installed in Launceston until 1860.]

Thare was Room For the whole of the Butchers to be Acomidated in the Two Meat Markets. The Old Shambells, inside and outside, was Capable of Acomidating Twenty Persons and the New Shambells about Sixteen. The Former would be Closed of a Saturday Night and not opened For Cleaning until the Saturday Following. It was very Delapidated and Dirty. I don't

bleive it had a Coat of Paint From the time it was Erected to the time of its Pulling Down 1840. The New Shambells was Kept better, The Lanlord living on the spot. Nothing surprising that the Butchers took to Stalls outside Tradsemens Houshes. They Rented thare Stalls from the latter From £5 To £6 Per Anum.

In again refering to the Old Shambells it was Built entirely of Wood and to the best of my recollection thare never had been any Lime Wash used For the Interior. Thare was a Mr Reardon of St Stephens who Kept a Stall in the Market, Broad St, who sold Hot Teas and Cakes. The Water Boiled by Faggot Wood and thare Customers had to stand in the Open to Drink it.

In the Winter Mr MacCollif supplied Mutton Pies by carrying of them through the Market, having with him a two Gallon Kettle with a hot Liquid, place a Pie in a Saucer and Fill it from the Kettle all For penny. His Crie was, all Hot, Mutton Pies, all hot, all hot, hot with the Pepper and Sweet with the Salt.

These were the only places that the Market People could get supplied, except they went into an Inn and had hot gravy or Toddy. Thare was no ordinary get up then by any of the Inkeepers.

I have seen many Farmers and thare Wifes By a Penny Pie, Cut him and Dunk the Soup, in the Street on the Market Day

It will be seen that the Yearne Market fell into disuse. The Building was taken down the Jubliee year 1810 and a publick House was Erected on the Site. If the Old Corporation had Built a Butchers Market instead in this part of the Town were the Trade was then done and the main Throughfare of North Cornwall, what great improvements they could have effected in the place. The Tolls that the Market would have made them, but they Slept and Slept on has they had done in the Centries past, little thinking or caring for the wants of the greatest Number, but allowed the Butchers Market to slide into Private Hands and also dispersed Town Land, Scarne, Windmill, and Hay Common wich as made a little return in its Place. I leave the Historian to Deal with thare publick policy of the property wich was placed in thare hands at this time. When the Present Butchers Market was built the Old Butchers Shambells, standing on the Site of Mr Haymans Toy Shop, it was First offered to the Town Council but they refused to Buy it although one third of the price £300 was Tendered by Mr T S Eyre, Mr Henery Greenway and Mr John George to be removed For the Improvement of the Two Streets. I was not suprised at thare Refusal. For the Council had not been purged of the old Leaven, who had always shut thare Eyes to Improvements.

[Yearne Market: on the site of the Jubilee Inn at the top of Fore Street, which was demolished after 1909.

Jubilee year 1810: Golden Jubilee of George III (1740-1820).

T S Eyre: chemist, High Street. Henry Greenway: wine and spirit merchant, High Street. John George: tallow chandler, Broad Street.

Council not purged of the old Leaven: the borough corporation before the Municipal Reform Act 1835 was a self-perpetuating group of aldermen and councillors who existed more for self-aggrandizement rather than for the good of the town. At elections they sold their votes (by 1830 Launceston had only 16 voters) to the highest bidder – the Morices of Werrington until 1775 and after that the Duke of Northumberland – see Lawrence House Museum Monograph No 9 Parliamentary Representation in Launceston 1295-1832 by Jake Jackson, p 21.]

Bankers

Harveys Bank	Broad St	Suspended Payment 1826
North Cornwall Bank	Broad St	Suspended Payment in 1822

There were three Banks in Launceston in the early part of this Century, all of them in Broad Street, one to each Corner of the Street. The Tamar Bank, the North Cornwall Bank, were now stands the East Cornwall Bank, and Harveys Bank, to the higher Corner abutting High Street

[Tamar Bank: the story of the Tamar Bank crash of 1825 is shown in a display in the Lawrence House Museum.

See also Dingley's Bank below under Grocers.]

Solicitors

Lethbridge, Son (John King) and Gurney	Madford House
Mr Parr Cuninham Hocken	Westgate
Mr John Darke	Castle Street
Mr Edward Spettigue	Castle Street
Messers Pearse and Lawrence	Castle Street
Philip Roe	Blindhole

Mr Charles Lethbridge had a Nickname of Turkey Legs, he was a tall slight man and small Calfs to his Legs. He was commonly called by most of the lower People Turkey Legs. A Case came before him of calling names. He told the Plaintiff that the Boys called him out of his name Turkey Legs, but he never took notice of it. He Dismissed the Case. He Died at Madford 1830.

Mr Darke was Engaged in the Cases of the Men who Broke into the Houshe in the early Hours of a Sunday Morning of Robert Mules at the New Inn (now were the Launceston News is published) and Drank and let the Liquor run away. The Case was Tried at the Law Court, Town Hall.

Mr H P Lawrence joined Mr Thomas Pearse's Firm in Castle Street 1822 and Lodged with Mr J B Geake, Draper, High Street

[The Launceston Weekly News was first published in 1856 under the editorship of John Brimmell, and printed at the back of his premises in Church Street.]

Ministers

Rev John Rowe *	Minister of St Mary Magdalene
Rev Charles Lethbridge *	Minister of St Thomas and St Stephens
Rev Mr Cope	Castle Street, Chappel

Mr Cope Left the Town and Mr John Bright Succeeded him

Wesleyans, constant Change

Mr Johnathan Eyre Baptist, Back Lane

Rev John Rowe Preached twice of a Sunday, Morning and Afternoon, seldom a Service in the Week. He had not many Followers there as most of them that went to Church in the Morning went to the Wesleyan Chappel or the Castle Street Chappel in the Evening.

Mr Cope Kept a Grammar School in Castle Street and also constantly went Week Nights Preaching in the Villages

The Wesleyans were also well Received, not only in the Town but also in the Villages

Mr Jonathan Eyre Preached Sunday Evenings in the Large Room, Tapsons Court, Back Lane

[Rev C Lethbridge (1763-1840: incumbent of Landulph, Stokeclimsland, St Stephens and St Thomas. According to Alfred Robbins, Lethbridge received the living of Stokeclimsland from George IV whose favour he had won, according to local gossip, by singing a good song.

Castle Street Chapel was erected in 1712.

Grammar School in Castle Street: in Lawrence House, then 9 Castle Street.]

* There was an Act of Parliament to compel a Man to Marry a Woman that got in to trouble through him, to Marry Her, if he refused he was Summoned before a Magistrate and still refused there was a Day appointed by the latter to be Married and he was Kept in Custody until The Banns was Called in the Church, taken there Handcuffed and Married. One of these Cases occurred in Launceston 1829, the other Case at St Stephens 1833

Doctors of Medicine

Messers Pethwick and Pearse	Westgate Street
Messers Anderson and Brendon	Walk
Messers Brendon and Patch	Walk
Messers Brendon and Good	High Street

These Firms Changed
three times From
1825 to 1832

Dr John Whittaker	Westgate Street
Dr Cory Rowe	Dockacre

Mr Pethwick served his apprenticeship with Mr Ching, Broad Street

Dr Anderson left the Town in 1825. Mr Peter Brendon was joined by Dr Patch of Exeter. That Gentleman annihilating the Contents of a Stomach of supposed Poisoning Pricked his Finger and Died of Blood Poisoning 1830. Dr Good then joined with Mr Brendon

Dr Whittaker Painted the Castle, a picture in the Museum

Dr Rowe was a Brother to the Rev John Rowe and Father of Sir William Rowe and Mrs Gurney, Wife of Mr Charles Gurney of the Madford Offices.

Druggists

Thomas Ching and Son	Broad Street
Thomas Symes Eyre	High Street
William Hocken	Behind Town Hall
John Hurdon	Church Street

Ching and Son were also Wine and Spirit Merchants. Mr Thomas Ching was very highly Respected in the Town and Neighbourhood in the straight Forward way that he Conducted his Business and also his Publick Duties, and also Kind and Liberal to the Poor and Outcast

Mr Hocken Died in 1830. He was a Church Sunday School Teacher.

Mr Eyre Commenced Business in the Town 1826

Mr Hurdon Commenced Buisness in the Town in 1826, but Left the Town and went into Buisness at Camelford in 1828

Vetenary Surgeons

Walter Venner	Castle Street
Charles Parsons	Exeter Road
- - - Bull	Blindhole

Mr Warne Ruddall of South Petherwin Served his Aprenticeship with Mr Venner

Auctioniers

John Rowe	Castle Street
Thomas Eyre	Church Street
John Nottle	St Thomas Hill

Mr John Rowe was one of the Town Sergeants. He was also a Tailor by Trade.

Mr Thomas Eyre Emigrated to America in 1833

Mr John Nottle was for some time a Clerk at Madford

Schoolmasters

William May, Orwell School	Newport
John Rogers, St Stephens Hill	Newport
William Poulton, Newport	

Carried on his School in Back Lane in the Old Wesleyan Chapel

John Sleep	Back Lane
William Spear, Old Town Hall	Broad Street

Horwell School House was Built in 1824. Mr May was Shortly after apointed Master. He witnessed my Indentures, 1827, at Thomas Eyre and Son, High Street. I was Bound to them by my Father to be a Feelmonger. He had been in thare

Employ For Thirty Four Years. My Apprenticeship commenced at Ten Years of Age and did not Expire before 21 Years of Age
 The First Year to Receive 1^s 6^d a Week and to advance 1^s each year, so at Sixteen I should receive 6^s a Week and that would be Stanioary up to 21 Years of Age. My Father Died. The Buisness was given up. I then went in to T S Eyre's Drug Shop, remained thare for Three years. I was the Aprenticed by my Mother to Robert Burt of Newport, Shoe Maker
 Mr Poulton's School was Carried on in the Old Wesleyan Chappel Back Lane
 Mr Spear was Clerk at Launceston Church. He was the Clerk at the latter Place, when I was Married, February 24, 1840
[Horwell's Endowed School, St Stephens, founded by John Horwell in 1708, reorganized under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners in 1877.]

Wool Staplers or Fellmongers

Messers John James and Thomas Langdon	St Stephens
Messers William and Thomas Pearse	Newport
Messers Thomas and Aron Eyre	High Street
Messers Edward and John Marshall	Newport
Mr John Geake	Southgate
Mr Jonathan Eyre	High Street, removed to St Thomas Bridge

The Mssers Langdons Spinned thare own sorted Wool and also Mr William and Thomas Pearse
 Messers Langdon's Woolstapling Buisness was Carried on in St Stephens, thare Factories, at New Mills, and RidgeGrove Mills
 Mr Wm Pearse and Sons's Woolstapling was Carried on at Newport, also the Combing, thare Factories were in Wooda and Town Mills
 Messers Eyre and Son, Messers Marshall and Son, Mr Jonathan Eyre were Woolstaplers, as well as Fellmongers. The Latter Trade was Sheep Skin Pulling (or Plucking) From the Pelt or Skin and then sorted in three heads, First Second and Third. Thare was a Custom in the Trade Aprentices should have suficent Lambswool to make them three pairs of Stockings, when Knitted a year during thare Aparenticeship. There were two Women who regularly came to Launceston on a Market Day From Northpetherwin and take home with them small buckets of Wool and return it made into yearne fit for Knitting Stockings on the Following Saturday. This was a custom that my parents adopted. My Father was Foreman to Messers Thomas Eyre and Son For Thirty Four Years and Died in thare Service 1829

Spinning Factories

Messers James, John and Thomas Langdon
 Factories at New Mills and Ridgegrove Mills
 Mr William and Thomas Pearse
 Factories at Town Mills and Wooda Lane
 Mr Richard Frost
 Factories at Town Mills and The Iland at St Thomas Bridge

Messers Langdons Failed in 1826 so that thare Establishments were broken up. James with his Family and John Emigrated To America, Thomas not long after Died at Newport. They were large Employers
 Mr William and Thomas Pearse gave up the whole of thare Buisness in or about 1834. They were very large Employers of Labour, at thare Factories Employed nearly Two Hundred Hands
 Mr Frost Employed a large number of Hands at his Two Factories. He gave up Buisness in 1825.

Tucking Mill or Serge Factory

Messers Searle or Searle Brothers	Town Mills
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Searle Brothers ceased Working the Serge Mill 1826, Serge having been made at Newport For over 200 years

Tanners

Terleven and Son	Newport
Thomas Honey	Newport
James Snell	Newport
Jonathan Eyre	St Thomas Bridge
John Close	N ^r St Thomas Bridge
Thomas Pode	St Stephens Hill
Thomas Harvey	Westbridge
Marshall and Son	St Thomas Bridge
John Clare	St Stephens Hill
Walter Close	St Thomas

Mr Terlevins Sole Leather, was kept in the Pitts, For Two Years it was Tanned From Pure Bark, the Tanning so long closed up the Pores of the Skin that it resisted the wet going through made up Article wether for Boots or Harness Work
 Mr Thomas Pode Tanned Horse Hide For Making things and Constantly Followed Launceston Markets For the Sale of them. Thare was then a large Sale For that Article.

Tallow Chandlers

John Dymond	Church St
John George	Broad Street
William Saunders	Church Street

Thare was made for use at this time For to meet the Working Class Pocket viz. a long Eighteen, the latter number to the Pound, and a Candle of the same number to the Pound, the Rushlight, wich gave little Light but Burnt a long time. The latter was mostly used at the Bedside of the Sick by Night

Dairy Men

Samuel Holman	Newport
John Pridham	Westgate Street
William Thorn	Behind the Town Hall
John Hill	Back Lane
Joseph Langdon	Castle Street
John Holman	Exeter Road

Shoe Makers

William Rogers	Broad Street	no Child
Joseph Littelton	Ditto	two Sons
John Burt	Fore Street	three Sons
John Heath	Westgate	two Sons
Robert Welsh	St Thomas	no Child
John Bray	St Thomas	three Sons
* William Short	Fore Street	three Sons
William Short	Workhouse Road	four Sons
William Bray	Westgate	no Son
Harry Bray	Castle Street	one Son
Richard Dingle	Westgate	one Son
Thomas Harvey	Harveys Lane	three Sons
Richard Cuper	Back Lane	no Son
John Martin	St Thomas	four Sons
Joseph Langdon	Church Street	no Child
George Nevill	Samford Timewells Lane	two Sons
John Williams	Fore Street	no Son
John Cadlip	Back Lane	two Sons
John Martin	Old St Thomas Hill	three Sons
Joseph Goodman	Newport	one Son
Thomas Yeon	St Stephens	one Son

Workhouse Road: led from the bottom of Angel Hill to the site of the old Workhouse.

Harveys Lane: one of the alleys between Northgate Street and Back Lane (now Tower Street), obliterated in the developments of the early nineteenth century.]

It was the Custom For Tradesmen to bring thare Sons to thare own Trade. Thare is Nineteen on the other side, five of them with no Son. The other Eleven had 33 Sons brought to the Trade and thare were several Journeymen in the Town and they did Likewise

John Burt (Town Sergeant)

Robert Welsh was Caretaker at the Wesleyan Chappel, he Died at an Old Age 1825. His Wife Died on the same Day. They were Buried in the same grave in the Wesleyan Cemmetary.

John Williams was nicknamed Jockey Williams. He was full of Jokes and up to a Lark. He Borrowed a Great Coat of Mr Perkyn, Draper, but not returning it he saw him pass is Shop, and Called to him to remind him that he had not returned the Coat. John put up a long Face, saying that he was sorry he had not done so, but when he Borrowed the Coat of him, he was not aware that he had the Itch. Mr Perkyn at once replied, don't you bring the Coat to me.

William Short Resided in one part of the old Workhouse in the Workhouse Road, Rent Free. The latter because he had a large Family. He carried on Buisness as a Shoe Maker and atended the Markets. Thare was also Five other Familes who lived under the same condition, up to the time of the New Poor Law Act 1835, carrying on the Buisness as a Shoe Maker for over half a Century. I have heard him to state that he never spent a penny to Buy Blacking in his Life For to Clean Boots with, but used as a substitute the Back of the Frinepan, wich was then a common Practice with the Poor People

On another Ocasion he was walking down High St, a Country Labourer he followed down the Street, he picked up an unmentionable, coming up to the Man, he looked him sideways in the Face and Gaped. The Man Gaped also, he thrust it into his Mouth and had to run to save a good Thrashing

Thare was an old saying, Shoe Makers Sunday. The Men had seldom any Work at thare Shop to do on that Day, Working by Piece, thare work to begin was seldom ready before the Tuesday Morning. This Custom frequently had not only led to an Idle Day, but to a Drunken One. Crispin Day, the 24th of October was the General Custom to Keep it up, in having a Drinking Bout in the Evening that consequently lead to a Day or Twos Fuddle with them. With not being able to get to work early in the Week and with the Habbits, the Men had formed by long Custom, they had to Work late at the End of the Week and it often happened that it led into Sunday Morning and sent out wether in Town or Country to thare Customers. I remember well that a Pair of Boots sent to Mr R Gill's Wife on a Sunday Morning that he sent them back again

Mr Joseph Goodman was taken and sent to Bodmin Prison by Mr Terleven, Tanner, For Debt. As soon has he was Released, he Emigrated to America with his Family, but did not Land in New York but returned back in the same vessel (no Steam then) and again Established a Buisness in Newport. Mr Goodman and Mr Thomas Yeon, although only one Son each, did not bring them to thare Trade. I have omitted John Gregg from the List, Church Street. He had an order to make a pair of Hessian Boots, he knew not how to Cut them out, he Rode on Horseback to Plymouth to get Instructions. The Hessian Boot took its name from Hessie, the Blucher, worn in the Peninsular War by Bluchers Army, the Wellington Boot, worn by Wellington, at the same time, is why the name is given to the Diferent Boots

[Hessian Boots: took their name from Hesse in Germany, originally military boots, with low heels and pointed toes, knee-high with tassels.

Blucher: Prussian field marshal, led his army against Napoleon and fought with Wellington at Waterloo.]

Pig Dealers

Mr Lane	Castle Street
Mr Wm Symons & Son	Northgate
Mr James Lawrence	Boyton

The above were the largest Dealers in the Trade. The First Two were Scouring the Country, the First Four Days of the Week to Buy For the Tavistock and Launceston Market. Lawrence was Sexton of Boyton and when atending the Service in that Church on the Sunday Morning, he Took a Sleep and during the Sermon he called out with a loud voice, I say Raff Symons, you have not paid me for those Pigs. Symonds had the Nickname of Raff

Curriers

Penwarden and Son	Star Cross
Mr William Davey	Back Lane
Mr Richard Dingley	Castle Dyke
Mr Nicholls Burt	Newport
Mr Vaughn Ridgeman	Newport

Mr Burt and Mr Ridgeman was the active Agents in the Newport Election in 1826
[Newport Election in 1826: the Whig candidate, Stevenson, a London banker, attracted extensive support at a series of meetings organised by Burt and Ridgeman, but at the election he was defeated by the Duke of Northumberland's nominees.]

Sadlers

Penwarden and Son	Star Cross
Thomas Robbins	High Street
James Deacon	Behind the Town Hall
Thomas Honey	Newport

Mr Richard Penwarden was an Alderman. He was very witty and a good Comick
Mr James Deacon was also a Sheriff's Officer

Woolen Drapers

William Retalick	Church Street
William Curgenvin	Church St
John Perkyn	Southgate Street
William Derry and Son	Broad Street
John and Joseph Beard Geake	High Street

Mr Perkyn Sold his Buisness to Mr John Nicholls in 1834. It is now Carried on by his Son, Thomas Nicholls, in the same Place.

Frutriers

Loveday Farthing	Church Street
Mary Robbins	Broad Street
Joanha Clerk	Southgate
Sophia Sleep	Race Hill
Elisabeth Ball	Fore Street

The above were all Widows, and most of them were Left Widows with large Familes of Young Children, and through thare Industry brought up thare Familes and Placed thare Children out in the World in good Positions

Tailors

Joshua Farthing	Church St
John Perkyn	Southgate St
John Vascoe	Angel Hill
William Medland	Angel Hill
Richard Aunger Senr	Fore Street
Richard Aunger Junr	Westgate Street
John Ralph	Southgate
John Packey	Broad Street
John Dennis	Behind the Town Hall
John Rowe	Castle Street
John May	Church

These Men brought nearly all thare Sons to thare Trade
John Ralph and John Rowe were Town Sergeants.
Joshua Farthing, Constable. He was a Leader of the Cornish Malitia and served with the latter in Ireland from 1811 to the Summer 1814. He was a Teacher also of Musick and the First that had a piano in his House in Launceston

Barbers

John Higs Broad Street

He was the only Barber in the Town and had been so for very many years. He had Five Sons. He brought Four of them to his Trade.

Builders

William Burt	Newport
Richard Wise	Westgate Street
Ebsworthy Tapson	Back Lane
William Tapson	Southgate
John Holman	Southgate
John Browning	Castle Street
Thomas Hutchings	St Thomas Hill
William Matters	St Thomas Hill
Cristopher Bounsall	Newport

Mr Wm Burt was the Principal Builder in the Town. Most of the others were Engaged in the Town and Country Jobbing. He was a large Employer of Labour. He Built Tregare House and also Trelaske House, the latter in 1823, Mr Ching's House in Broad Street in 1829, the Orwell School House 1824. He was also the Constructor of the Lanivet Water Works, For the Town. He was Employed by most of the Landowners in the District, his Work was always considered of the very best quality, and as For Men, he had the pick of the West of England Viz. Henry Burt, Wm Penharol, John Stripling, Thomas Martin, Wm Martin and others equally good in the Carpenters Shop. For Masonry Thomas Thorn, Thomas Shilson, Henry Orell, Charles Browning, John Duckson, John Body, and others, but Wages were very low. The Carpenters were not more than 14 or Fifteen

Shillings a Week. The Masons were about 13 or 14 Shillings a Week. The Labour Nine Shillings a Week.

[Orwell School: Horwell School.

Lanivet Water Works: see below under Water Supply.]

Grocers

Mr Richard Dingley	Broad Street
Mr Edward Harvey	Broad Street
Mr William Nicholls	Broad Street
Mr Thomas Honey	Southgate Street
Mr John Doidge	Broad Street
Mrs Wilmot Hender	St Thomas

Mr Dingley was the First apointed Agent of the Tavistock Bank. He also Carried on the Watch Making. (The Writer has seen him at Work in his Front Shop Window Repairing Watches.) He also Carried on the Currying Buisness. His Workshops were in Castle Dyke and also the Coal Trade at Druxton Wharf.

[Richard Dingley (with others) founded the Launceston Bank at his premises in the Square in 1855. When the Old Town Hall was demolished, and with it Richard Dingley's shop which had backed on to it, the Bank moved to Westgate Street. It was sold to the National Provincial Bank in 1922. See Lawrence House Museum Monograph No 16 The Launceston Bank, by Anne M Barks.]

Mr Wm Nicholls also Carried on the Watch Making but gave it up after his Fathers Death. Mr Dingley Served his Aprenticeship with the latter.

Mr John Doidge First went in to Buisness in Broad Street, the House verified by the late Mr Alderman Shearm, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

Licensed Victuallers

Thomas Ching and Son, Wine and Spirit Merchants	Broad Street
Henery Greenway, Wine and Spirit Merchant	High Street
Samuel Rowles Patterson, White Hart	Broad Street
William Smith, Kings Arms	Southgate St
John Dyer, Launceston Arms	Exeter Road
William Tapson, Dock Inn	Race Hill and Exeter Road
Edward Pearce, Pack Horse	Southgate
Jonas Copp, Westgate Inn	Westgate
Samuel Symons, Cornish Inn	Westgate Street
Harry Blake, Dolphin	Westgate Street
Robert Acres, Exeter Inn	High Street
John Philp, Little White Hart	Star Cross
William Atkins, London Inn	Church Street
John Tapson, Turks Head	Church Street
Joseph Dunn, Bell Inn	Tower
Charles Atkins, Ring O Bells	Fore Street
William Masters, Jubilee	Fore Street
John Jory, New Inn (1850 Market House Inn)	Church Street
William Burt, White Horse	Newport
Robert Burt, Northumberland Arms	St Stephens
John Burt, Fifteen Balls (13 Duke St)	St Stephens

[For information on the Public Houses of Launceston, see Lawrence House Museum Monograph No 12, by Miriam Mincher.]

Ching and Son were Alderman of the Town and Served as Mayor on two or three occasions. Thare House in Broad Street was were the Judges Lodged During the Assises.

[Thomas Ching was Mayor twice in 1828-29 and 1834-35.]

John Dyer had his only Son, John, 21, Thrown From his Horse and Killed in the Exeter Road in 1829

William Tapson, Constable was present when Jory was Shot at Bamham in 1814.

[See above under Constables.]

Henery Blake or Harry Blake was the Driver of the Night Mail to Falmouth

Robert Acres was one of the Biggest Men in the Town. He Weighed over Twenty Five Stone. His Coffin had to be turned on one side to bring him through the

Exeter Inn Passage. The Exeter Inn was the most Poplar of any House in the Town, it was the Resort of The Old Corporation and the Tradseman of the Place.

Mr John Philp was Thrown From his Horse and Killed.

Mr Dunn was a large local Brewer. He had the Nick Name on that account of Whitbread; to this name he always answered.

Charles Atkins was one of those that Captured the Two Men who Broke into the Post Office and was Executed at Bodmin.

[James Joice and John Williams were executed in 1805 for a burglary at Launceston Post Office.]

Mr William Burt had two Brothers Killed, John in the Falling in of the Arch of the Resovoir at Lanivet Green, Nicholls in Repairing the Well Head at Werrington Park, a Flat Stone Fell on him and was Crushed to Death

[See below under Water Supply]

Beer House Keepers

Thomas Yeon	St Stephens
William Coombe	Westgate
William Bray	Chapel
John Higs	High Street
Thomas Colwill	Race Hill
William Dymond	Angel Hill
George Scown	Fore Street
Thomas Pote	Back Lane
Richard Cuper*	Back Lane
William Matters	Old St Thomas Hill
George Clark	Castle Street
William Clark	Southgate
William Scown*	Bowling Green, Now Cemetary

*Cuper, Clark, Clark, Son, and Scown were Licensed to sell Tin Cider onely

[Bowling Green, Now Cemetary: a site below Horse Lane (now Dockacre Road) is described as 'New Burial Ground' on John Wood's map of Launceston in 1842. Ching refers to this in his Reminiscences, Lawrence House Monograph No15, p 39, note 27.]

Bakers

John White

Southgate Street

Mr John White was the First to Establish the Baking and Confectionary Buisness in the Town. Nearly every Housekeeper made thare own Bread and sent it to the Common Oven to be Baked. Thare were but few Houses that had Stoves in them, so that Joints of Meat and all heavy Baking had to be taken to the Common Bakehouse.

It was not many of the Working Classes that had got in to thare Houses Grates (much more Stoves). Thare Fire was on the Heath, Faggot, Wood was thare principal Burning. The Common Oven was lighted with Furze.

Common Bake Houses

William Dingle

Northgate

John Prout

Castle Dyke

Charles Body

Westgate

Joshua Whitham

Madford Wall

Elisebeth Uren

Southgate

William Short

Fore Street

Richard Dingle

Northgate Street

Bakehouses

Hugh Green

St Thomas

Thomas Phillips

New Port

And Two Common Bakehouses in the Village of St Stephens

Distress in Argiculture

I well remember that Farmers were Constantly sending Petitions to Parliment to Enquire in to Argicultral Distress, and also what remedy could be sugested For the Employment of thare Surpreufloous Labour Poupulation. I have heard From Mr John Lang (Uncle of the Messers Lobbs of Lawhitton) whom his Father and himself Rented the Barton in that Parish say that at a Vestery Meeting the Labourer would be Put up to Auction and would be Knocked Down to the highest Bidder commencing from Seven Pence a Day, advancing a Penny a bid, seldom a bid went higher than Eleven Pence. He was then Knocked Down to the Buyer, the Parish making up the Deficensy For his Wages Sixteen Pence a Day.

[Barton: originally an enclosed courtyard for storing hay and other farming materials.

Labourer put up to auction: these yearly hiring fairs were common. The low wages were made up first in Speenhamland in Berkshire, 1795, and then this practice was followed by other parishes until it became nationwide. This form of outdoor relief was ended when the Union Workhouses were established after the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834.]

Corn Market

The Corn Market was held in the Crown Court of the Guild Hall. Very few of the large or better to do Farmer brought his Corn in to the Launceston Market. Thare produce was taken to Tavistock Market were thare was found to be a better Sale for it. It was the small Farmer who brought his Grain into the Launceston Market. Seldom would one bring more than two Bags into Market, oftner one Bag. This he would bring in on Horseback, himself Riding on it. The Buyers were Grist Millers, Mechanicks and the Labourer. Two of the latter would Club together and purchase a Bag of Wheat and handed over to the Grist Miller to be Ground together, only the Brand to be taken out of it.

[Guild Hall: at that time in the Square; it was demolished in 1840 and a new Corn Market built on the site (later the Butter Market).]

Watch Makers

Nathinel Spry	Southgate Street
William Reynolds	Westgate Street
Richard Dingley	Broad Street
William Nicholls	Broad Street
John Box	Broad Street
James Uglow	St Thomas

Mr Dingley also Carried on the Buisness of a Grocer and Currier, the latter in Castle Dyke. He was apointed Agent to the Tavistock Bank in 1829.

[Mr Dingley: see above under Grocers.]

Mr William Nicholls also Carried on the Buisness of a Grocer.

Mr John Box also Carried on the Buisness of a Grocer.

Printers and Stationers

Thomas Eyre	Church Street
Theodore and William Roe Bray	Westgate Street

Haberdashers

Thomas Eyre	High Street
William Martin	Church Street

Mr Thomas Eyre was also Auctioner. He Emigrated to America April 1833, taking out with him Two of Mr Benjiman Vosper's Sons with him. The latter made good Positions thare.

[Benjamin Vosper: a butcher, see above under Markets.]

He who took with him one of his Aprentices, Thomas Holman, who also became a Tradseman in New York. Mr Eyre Sold his Buisness to Mr Cator of Huntindon, the Son of William Cator who now Carries it on.

Painters

William Gregory
George Vivian

Southgate Street
Westgate Street

Painters were but very little in demand at this time. For on an Average there was not Five per Cent of the Houses Painted in Thirty Years and some of them never painted at all. From the time that they were Built, 200 years ago, not even up to this time. Take some of them in Angel Hill, the Alleys in Fore Street and other Places. A little Lime Wash here and there at Ladady, before the Assises took place.

[Ladady: Ladyday, the Feast of the Annunciation, 25 March; one of the traditional quarter days.]

Coopers and Panner Makers

John Ashton
Peter Westlake
John Congdon

Northgate
South Gate
Newport

I well remember Mr Ashton's Shop. He was the owner of the Property between the Northgate Inn to the Northgate. He had of a Saturday a large show of Panners, outside his Shop. Also Dung Butts. Dressing was Carried on Horseback on the Farm, the Parish Rodes and the Farm Road were there so bad that Carts in some places could not be used.

[The Northgate Inn: at the bottom of Northgate Street.]

Patten Makers

John Rowe and Son
William Castine

Fore Street
Church Street

Pattens were worn by all Females in Town and Country and in the Winter to Church and Chapel. On the North Entrance and West Entrance to the Church were painted in Gold Letters on the Door of the Church, Be Pleased to take of your Pattens. The latter remained on the Doors to the Restoration of the Church 1857. John Rowe and Son attended the North of Cornwall Fairs, and did a large Trade in Pattens and Clogs.

Dyers

William Bounsall
Robert Holman

St Thomas
Southgate

Glasiers and Tin Men

William Thorn
John Edcombe
Harry Jewell
John Bolt

Behind the Hall
Walk
Castle Street
Fore Street

Ironmongers

Prockter and Son	Southgate Street
Castine and Son	Church Street
Westlake and Son	St Thomas Hill
Thorn and Son	Behind the Town Hall
Dymond and Son	N ^r the Tower

Mr Castine was also Patten Makers.

Wire Workers

Robert Watling	Westgate
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Robert Watling was Elected Mayor of the Pigmarket 1827.

[Mayor of the Pig Market: the Pig Market was at Star Cross, at the west end of the Square. On the first Monday in September, when the Corporation chose the Mayor, it was the custom for the rougher element in the town to chose a 'Mayor of the Pig Market', get him drunk and parade him around town. The last time this happened was in 1827.]

Hatters

James Terleven and Son	Fore Street, removed to Broad Street
Mr Thomas Rice	Fore Street, removed to Broad Street
Smale and Rowe	Church Street
Abram Sheppard	Broad Street
George Farthing	Wooda Road *

* George Farthing was an Uncle to My Wife, Mary Farthing, who now lies in the Cemetary under The Walk.

The Hatting Trade was one of the most important in the Town. There was over Thirty Men and also several Aprentices employed in this Branch of Industry, Terleven and Son by far the largest Employers. The Hatters supplied For most of the Towns North and South of Launceston, Terleven and Son also going East so far as Okehampton, and most of them atended all the Fairs in the District. The Bell Inn was the headquarters. For the Men thare was a Trades Union, with the Hatters thare Wages were better than any other Trade but they very Freely Indulged in Drink, having had to work over a steam Furnace.

Tallow Chandlers

John Dymond	Church Street
John George	Broad Street
William Saunders	Church Street

Blacksmiths

Thomas Slaperton	St Stephens
William Langdon	St Thomas
John Gilbert	Castle Dyke
Angwin & Son	Westgate Street
John Jennings	Back Lane
Thomas Prout and Son	Back Lane
Thomas Saltern	Bottom of Angel Hill
Samuel Poulton	Back Lane

The Old Fashioned way was for Blacksmiths to take a Measurement was by a Piece of String on Cord

William Angwin and Son were also White and Lock Smiths. Thare Principal Buisness was in Making of Kitchen Ranges. Stoves were but little in use For nearly all Householders sent thare Baking to the Common Oven, and with the Upper Class they had an oven in the House. It was an Earthenware one, Heated with Wood or Furze.

Vetenary Surgeons

William Venner	Castle Street
Charles Parsons	Exeter Road
- - - Bull	Blindhole

Letting Horses, To Hire

William Fry and Son	Race Hill
William Dyer	Exeter Road
John Palmer	Blindhole
James Shilson	Westgate

Mr Fry Junr (only Son) was thrown From his horse at Pages Cross on his way home from Tavistock Market and Killed 1831.

William Dyer's Son (only Son) was thrown From his Horse in the Exeter Road and Broke his Neck 1829.

Ropers

Valentine Pode	Westgate Street
William Grylls	Back Lane
Richard Heath	Westgate Street

The Roping Trade paid very low Wages. The Men were Paid Nine Shillings a Week. The Youths Two Shillings a Week. The Ropers atended all Fairs in the District and Launceston Market. Two [of the above] had Seven Sons, one none. They were all brought up to the Trade.

Basket Makers

William Coombe	St Thomas Bridge
Richard Ham	St Thomas Hill
James Shilson	Westgate Street
George Timewell	Church Street
Thomas Dawe	Workshop St Thomas, Residence Back Lane

Basket Making was at this time an Important Factor. At this time there were several Men and Apprentices Employed in it. They all of them attended the Market and also the Fairs, North and West of Launceston. Their standing place on the Market Day extended from Mr Ching's Shop to the White Hart Hotel Front Entrance.

[Market Day: see above under Markets.]

Millers

William Madgwick	Bamham Mills
John Jury	Yelombridge Mills
William Bailey	Ridgegrove Mills
Abel Uglow	Town Mills
Wilmot Hender	Town Mills

Launceston was a great Centre For the Farmers in the North of Cornwall to sell their Wheat For they could always meet with a ready Sale. All named [above] did a large Trade. The First Four Men sent large quantities of Flour to Plymouth. The latter supplied nearly all the Flour Shops in the Town. Mr John Phillips of St Thomas was her Manager. It was currently Reported that Mrs Hender Bought 150 Bags of Wheat. I have heard Mr Phillips say that North Cornwall Red Wheat was not to be surpassed. This was a very important Industry in the Neighbourhood For it brought to the Market a large Number of Farmers.

Malsters

George King Mann	Race Hill Malthouse
Daniel Shilson	Angel Hill Malthouse
John Gard	Bounsalls Lane Malthouse
Henery Greenway	Castle Dyke and Wooda Lane
William Perkyn	Castle Dyke Malthouse
William Hooper	St Stephens
Samson Bennet	Yellombridge

Malsters were large Buyers of Barley as the Millers were of Wheat which was the cause of bringing a number of Farmers to the Town. Large quantities of Barley was Malted and sent to Plymouth and at this time every Publican Brewed his own Beer and also many private Persons. When the latter gave you a Glass of Ale they would tell you, this is our own Brewing, it is The Pure Malt and Hopp.

Weavers

William O'Brien

St Stephens Hill

Thomas Dawe

Fore Street, Ramalley

[Ram Alley: one of the alleys between Fore Street/Northgate Street and Back Lane (now Tower Street), obliterated in the developments of the early nineteenth century.]

The Looms worked by Mr O'Brien and Dawe were, so well as I can remember, Six Feet long and also that in Height. The latter was worked by Mrs Dawe. These were the last Machines of the sort left in the Town. Mr O'Brien came From the North of England and settled down at St Stephens when a young man. He continued in this Work within a few Weeks of his Death. He lived to an Old Age. He died at Newport 1834.

Worsted and Yarne Spinners

Mrs - - - -

Northpetherwin Gate

Mrs - - - -

Northpetherwin Gate

These Two Wommen followed Launceston Market Weekly to take back with them Wool to Spin For Netting Stockings. I have had Stockings Netted from the Wool they have Spun. My Father was in the Wool Trade and have heard him say that thare was scarceley a Country Cottage but what had a Machine for this Purpose. When an Aprentice to Mr Spettigue in the latter part of the last Century, he has taken Horses Laden with Wool to Chapmans Well For the Cottagers thare to Spin, For his Master, For the Yarn Market and a number of Villagers from the Country brought thare Yearn in the Weekly Market.

I have no idea wen the First Introduction of Spinning Factories were first introduced in the Town, but on a pane of Glass in the Bone Mill on the second Floor (formerly a Spinning Factory) is cut out the Date that the Factory was worked 1803. After the latters introduction the Yearn Market Declined and on the Jubilee of George the III 1810 it was pulled Down and the Jubilee Buildings Erected in its Place.

[Yearn Market: see above under Markets.]

Nursery and Seedmen

William Spry

Southgate

Mr Spry had two Nurseries, one at Clampits, the other at St John, runing up the Penigilliam Gate. He Employed a large number of Men. His principal Culture was to Grow Shrubs and Trees.

Buff Breeches, Gaiter, Overawl Maker

Samford Timewell

Church Street

In Mr Timewell's Day Buff Breeches was worn by the Squire, the Yeoman and well to do Farmers and also in the Hunting Field. Gaiters and Overawls were made to match and Buff Gloves were generalay worn.

[Samford Timewell has given his name to an alley off Church Street.]

Turners in Ivory, Bone and Wood

John Maunder

Church Street

Mr Maunder was a Dealer in Old Curisoties. He regularly followed the Markets and the Fairs of the North and West of the Town.

Cabinet Makers

Thomas Geake

High Street

John Jenkyn

Broad Street, removed to Church Street

Mr Thomas Geake's Cabinet Work was asumed to be the best in the County. He carried on a succesful Trade for many years and was held in high esteem by his Fellow Men. I have in my possession a Maogony Chest of Drawers made by him For my Fatherinlaw, Joshua Farthing, in 1805. They are as Trim and good has when the came out of the Makers Hands.

Weelwrights

William Edcombe

Southgate

John Dew

St Stephens

Thare was but few if any Carriges Kept by anyone in the Town. I can only remember but one Gig Kept in the Town. Anyone then that had to go any Distance from home had to Ride on Horseback For no Veichles could Travel on the Parish Roads For the were seldom or even Repaired. When Mr Bucknel came to Tredidon he was unable to Drive to Launceston.

The Ruts made in the Roads by Dung Butts, the latter, the Wheels went Down to thare Axles. He then tried The Way Warden of St Thomas with an Action (Mr Abel Uglow). The latter called a Vestry Meeting and Persuaded them to put the Rodes in good condition. At this time the Horse Trafick had to go through the River From St Thomas Bridge to the Church and then through the Leat to Town Mill. All Parish Roads were then no better.

Horses had to take the Dressing For the Fields in Butts, one on each side, and when the Farmer and his Wife went to Market or Church he Rode Horseback and his Wife behind him sitting on a Pillion.

It must be noticed that what had been the Staple Trade For Centuries of the Town up to 1830 had all but Disapeared, and in a very few years after thare was scarcely a remnant of it Left, viz Fellmongering, Woolstapling, Serge Making, Weaving, Yearne Spining &c with many other Trades of Local Manufacture, Hatting, Candle Making Dyeing, Thong Making, Coopering, Patten Making, Panner Making, not one of those Trades remain. Then take Ropers, Blacksmiths, Shoemakers &c, were thare is one now, thare were Six Employed at this period. The Assises was held here Anually and you were the High Road From London to Falmouth were all

goods and Despatches From the Continent came in and passed through there. The Maganeese Mines were also in Full Work.

[Manganese Mines: for mining in the area, see Lawrence House Museum Monograph No 13 Mining and Quarrying in the Kensey Valley, by Diana Sutherland.]

Carriers

Russells Waggon For Goods, rested in the Town. From London every Saturday at Noon, on there way To Falmouth, if a Parcel or Package came by them, a Letter would have to be Posted the Wenesday Week before. Thare Waggon was due in Launceston Sunday Midday and when one of thare Waggon was Loaded with Gold Bars, there was Eight Horses, Two Guards, one each side, Dressed in White Smocks and Two Drivers. The Former always Carried Fire Arms with them. The Bullion was taken to the Bank of England. Thare Offices and Stabling were at Westgate. Mr Lake was there Manager.

Mr William Davies' Four Horse Waggon started From the Top of Fore Street at 6 AM For Goods and Passengers For Exeter Monday, resting the Night at Stickelpath, arriving there at 2PM, leaving Exeter on the following Day at Noon, again resting for the Night at Stickelpath, returning to Launceston on the Thursday at or about 3PM. He had also a Light one Horse Waggon, that left the Town with Goods and Passengers, at 9AM Wednesday, resting the Night at Stickelpath, arriving in Exeter at one o'clock PM on the Thursday, leaving the latter place on the Friday at Noon, resting again For the Night in Stickelpath, arriving in the Town at 2PM on Saturday. Fares For Passengers 3/6.

Mr Athanasus Broad, a Waggoner, went to Plymouth Three times a Week. Heavy Goods were Charged 1/6 For a Hundred Weight.

Mr Anthony Carwithen and Mr John Painter's light Waggon For Plymouth, with Goods and Passengers, leaving Southgate at 8AM, arriving in Plymouth at 7PM. Returning on the Following Day at 7PM. Passengers Fare 2/6.

They also took Letters with them. Thare Charge was Two Pence. There was a bit of string Tied Round each Letter, so that it should appear to be a light Parcel. The obget of the String tied round the Letter was to Defeat the Revenue Officer. If any Letters From the Town was conveyed over to another Carrier, say Dartmouth Carrier, there would be an Extra Twopence, wich made Fourpence. This is the way I received my Letters when in Dartmouth in the Winter of 1839. The Charge for a Post Letter there was Ninepence, a Saving of Fivepence, but I seldom got my Letter until Four or Five Days after Date. John Pengelly once a Week From Truro to Launceston with one Horse Springloaded Cart, leaving Truro Mondays. Resting the Night in Bodmin, arriving in Launceston at 4PM, Tuesday. Leaving again on the Following Morning at 11AM. Resting again For the Night in Bodmin, arriving in Truro on the Thursday afternoon. Fares For Passengers 2/- to Bodmin and 3/6 to Truro.

[String tied round each letter: revenue was chargeable on letters sent by Royal Mail; the charge was calculated according to the distance travelled and the number of sheets of paper and could be very expensive. Many items, such as newspapers and small parcels, were not subject to the charge; hence letters masquerading as parcels to escape the duty. Reforms recommended by Rowland Hill led to the introduction of the penny post in 1840. See also below under Post Office.]

There was Mr Oliver Daveys and Mr Averys Waggon, From Bude and Boscastle but they were used Principally For Conveying Coals to the Town in the Winter, and in the Summer For bringing Heavy Goods to the Town, Landed at these ports From Bristol.

Coaches

There were Two Royal Mail Coaches, with Four Horses, and a Gard. The Down Mail arriving at the White Hart Hotel at 11PM. The Up Mail From Falmouth at 3AM. Licensed to Carry Ten Passengers, Four Inside and Six Outside. The Gard Wore Scarlet Livery and a Blunderbuss.

There were Two Day Coaches, From Falmouth to Exeter, the latter arriving in the Town at 1PM, The Falmouth Coach about half past one PM. They were Driven by Four Horses. The Fare through was 16/-, From Launceston to Exeter 12/- and From the Former Place to Falmouth 14/-.

There was no Coach to Plymouth. One was started in 1833, Driven by Three Horses, but it was soon given up again. I have frequently seen it come down Race Hill with but one or Two Passengers in The Top. The Tamar Terrace Road was not then made, this was completed 1835.

It was the Custom of Noblemen and Gentlemen in the County to Drive their own Coaches when they went to London, if conveyed by their own Horses, Driven From the Box Seat if Posted, Two Post Boys Riding Dressed in White Breeches and Scarlet Coats. Mr Arundell Harris Arundell of Lifton Park, when he went to London Drove his own Four in Hand, and it was not an uncommon thing to do at that time.

[if Posted: post horses were kept at inns on major routes for use by mail coaches or for rent to travellers.]

I was with Mr T Eyre, The Chemist, in 1830, his Brother Aron From Werrington wrote to him From Plymouth saying he wanted to come to Launceston to see his Brother but there was no Conveyance to the Town, but there was a Three Horse Coach that Runned to Tavistock. He could get that Far. I was sent on Horseback there for him to get to Launceston and I Rode back on the same Horse behind him. I mention this to have the contrast in going about in 1830 and 1894.

Post Office

There was not then any Country Post Men. If a Letter For the Country arrived there it was to be Placed in the Post Office Window and if a Neighbour of the latter should by chance see it, he or she was allowed to take it by payment of the Postage. Postage for a Letter from Launceston to Liverpool 1/3, to London 11^d, Tavistock 6^d, Plymouth 7^d, Exeter 6^d, Dartmouth 9^d, Bodmin 6^d. Letters could be sent through the Post Office with or without Payment, if the latter preferred, to be paid for on Delivery. The Lifton and Lewdown Mail Bags were taken by hand. All their Post came in to the Launceston Post Office. The Postman started with the Mail Bags at half past Five AM Arriving at Lewdown at 8AM. Returning to Launceston at 6PM. When I was an Apprentice I took the Sunday Post there for several years.

The North Devon Mail was brought here From Holsworthy on Horse Back, arriving in the Town at 10 o'clock PM. The Plymouth Mail was brought here by Mail Cart, arriving in the Place at 10 o'clock PM. Returning after the arrival of The Falmouth Royal Mail at Three AM.

I have seen all the Post Delivery of a Morning taken by The Postman, Hugh Issicks, Grandfather of Thomas Cavey, the Old Laneast Postman bring the Letters out of the Post Office and holding all of them in his Left Hand. Thare was but one Delivery in the Day. The Practice of Commercial Travellers was to Post one Letter to one of his Customers to inform him when he should give him a look in. He would ask the latter to inform his other Customers the Date of his arival.

Water Supply before the Lanivet Green Supply in 1825

For the Water Supply thare were Eight Town Pumps, viz. one in the Top of Race Hill, Shephards Well, Madford Wall Well, Westgate Well, Westgate Street, Bounsalls Lane, Broad Street (the latter the Flogging Pump) and in the Walk. Thare were three Coundits, viz. Race Hill, wich was Supplied by a small Resovoir under Madford by the side of The Hill, one abuting the London Inn, and another in Fore Street, close to the Jubilee Inn, both with Slate Tanks. The Former was supplied from the Resovoir in Race Hill, the latter from the Broad Street Resovoir, and this was supplied from the Audit in Bounsalls Lane. In the Summer thare was but little Water to be had.

Water was in the Summer Fetched From Northgate Quarry Well, the River and Shute at Newport. The latter was the Favourite Place For the Publican to Brew with. Thare was a good stream of Water from Chapel to the Northgate, running through Miss Pearses Garden in Earthenware Pipes, and Passing through a Shute in a large Granite Trough, close on the Old Northgate in the Hamlet, but the Principal supply for the latter was Quarry Well. Charles Ruse of Quarry Lane Cleaned out this Well every Summer and also locked and Superintended it during the year. He Demanded from each of The Inhabitants of the Hamlet on Penny each of the Householders, wich was readily given.

The Lanivet Green Water was brought in to the Town. The Hamlet received no benefit from it whatever. When The Lanivet Green Water Works was Completed in 1825 in the Summer, the Water Supply was very little better, for the Old sources were or had been neglected. The constant supply of Water from a Shute at Northgate from Chapel was neglected and some time after Diverted into another Channel. Thare were Five Water Taps, Fixed in diferent Parts of the Town for its Distrubtion, viz. Southgate, were thare is now to be seen Carved in the Granite The Initials of the Mayor and The Date of its being brought to the Town, and one at the Castle Wall, Castle Dyke, now The North Road, one Fixed at the Old Butchers Shambells, Facing the Church, another in the Back Lane, near the Bell Inn, and another at the bottom of Fore Street, by the Congreagate and Chapel. But in the Summer Months this extra supply of water was not adequate to the wants of the Inhabitants and the Mayor had to carry out the anual Custom, to Padlock all the Pumps and Water Taps in the Place From 6AM to 6PM. Many Wommen would take thare Pitchers to the Pumps and Water Taps in thare Night Dress at 3AM and leave them. The Rule was, First come, First serve, and when the Town Sergeant arived to take the Padlock off thare would be a large Crowd of Wommen and Girls, and the Crie would be whose turn First and seldom did they part in peace, but what thare was a Squabble with them in Broken Pitchers and a trial of strength of wich had the strongest Hair.

It was a very old saying, when every one had to take thare Baking at the Common Oven and Fetch thare Water in Pitchers, that the Coundits and The Bakehouse was the Two Schools For Gossip and Scandal.

[Water supply had been a problem over the centuries. In 1825 a reservoir was built at Dunheved Green, subsidised by the Duke of Northumberland. John Burt,

mentioned above under Licensed Victuallers, was one of the men killed during the work. This was the town's first public water supply and a water point dated 1825 and inscribed "PCH" for Parr Cunningham Hocking, Mayor of that time, can be seen on Southgate Arch. The reservoir eventually proved insufficient for the needs of the town and the new Local Board of Health formed in 1850 undertook further work to try to alleviate the problem.

Miss Pearses Garden: this is Caroline Pearse of Lawrence House, the garden of which went down to St Thomas Road and to Wooda.]

Sanitation

Sanitation at this time was in a deplorable condition. For a Bourough Town wich could boast of nearly 600, Mayors to Preside over the Town. In Fore Street thare was a Gutter of over three Feet wide in the middle of the Street of Town Sewage, wich ran in to a Sewer wich Conveyed it to Northgate Chute, and with the latter Stream ran in the open to the large Pond in Deer Parks, now Miss Pearses Garden. It then flowed in the open Crossing Wooda Lane, in open Gutter Emtin itself in The Priory Meadow. The Inhabitants of Fore Street threw all thare Night Soil, thare Slops and Refuse in the Open Sewer.

On the Top of Fore Street in Front of the Jubilee Inn, thare the Street Sweepings of that Part of the Town was Kept, thare was thrown all the Night Soil, Slops and Refuse of the Neighbours living around thare. At this time thare could not have been less than Thirty Familes residing on the Site of the Wesleyan Chapel.

In Broad Street, The Sweepings were Kept at that part of the Town close in a Corner of the Town Hall, close to the Clock, and that is the Place were many of the Residents threw thare Night Soil and Refuse. The Town Dung was taken away twice a Week, Mondays and Fridays.

In Blindhold thare was a large Pond, or Catch Pitt For Town Sewerage. It Emtied itself in an Orchard a little below Dockacre, it having passed through an open Gutter in Ridgegrove Lane, close in Dockacre House. In Castle Dyke thare was an open Privey and open Catch Pitt adjoining it were the Residents threw thare Night Soil. The Castle Dyke was a Place were every kind of Dirt and Filth was thrown and it was left to the Residents, who had Back Entrances, to Clean it, but this was seldom Done by them, unless thare was a Plenty of Scrapings about and the Place had become impassable, For nearly every one of them had Dung-heaps at thare Back Door, and Claimed thare Right to the Soil. The Town Scavenger never interfered with them and never put his Broom over it. Before the Castle Wall was Built thare was Stables and Pigstyes on that side of the Road.

Angel Hill and Race Hill was no better. Nearly all of them had to throw thare Night Soil in the Open Street.

Samford Timewells Lane was made a Publick Urinal, were not only Male but Female passers by. In it thare was scarcely room for two to walk abreast and thare lived in it several Families and back Entrances for some of those living in Church Street, and of a Saturday, Market Day, the sight for Females and Children to pass thare was not only objectionable but Disracefull. Tapsons Court, in the middle of the Court, was Kept a Heap of Dung, were all the Residents threw thare Night Soil, thare Slops, and thare Refuse, and I am lead to bleive that the Landlord at that time made his Claim for it and removed it when he thought a fit time to do it in. Thare was an open Privey at the bottom of the Walk, over an open Sewer that Emptied itself in the Orchard below Horse Lane, and another Open Privey in the Corner on the Walk of the old Grammar School, close to the Cottage. Thare was also an Open Privey in Blind Hole over the Town Sewage. The Pond that the latter run into and The Privey was not Fifty Feet from the entrance of Mr Alderman John

Roes principal Entrance to his House, and not Thirty Feet from the entrance of Mr Bulls House, part of the site of the Butchers Market. Thare was also an Open Privey over the Town Sewer in Dockey, but this was out of the way of all Dwellers.

Church Street, some of those that Resided thare had no Backlet to thare Houshes. They had to take thare Night Soil and Slops to the Grating Opposite the Water Tapp of the London Inn, having no wise else to dispose of it.

Many of the Houshes of the better Class have Priveys, with a Catch Pitt. This was Cleaned out once in Six Months, after the Inmates had gone to Bed and many of those Priveys were in Houshes that had no backlet to those Places, no not so large has a Mans Hand.

I have been informed that the Privey at the Old Ring o Bells was so Deep that it was never known to be Cleaned out.

[Backlet: small court at the rear of the house.

Tapsons Court: on Back Lane]

Recovery of Small Debts

For the Recovery of small Debts thare was two Courts held in the County Anually, one at Truro and the other at Penzance alternately. The limit of Debt I Bleive (but cannot state acurately the Sum) was Five Pounds and under. You had to apply to the Registrar of were the Court was to be held the next Half Year. He would grant a Summons, through the Sherrifs Officer were the Plaintiff and Defendant had to Apear, so the Plaintiff would have to go to Truro or Penzance as the case might be. The Plaintiff, to Recover a Debt of a few Shillings, would have to say the least have to go to Truro, and to get thare by Coach The Fare, 14^s thare and the same amount Return, if he went by the Truro Carrier. The Fare thare was 3^s6^d but he or she would have to Sleep in Bodmin the Night and also on his Return Journey or must Walk thare.

And the Country could never had a better system of Collecting Small Debts if Lord Liverpool, Lord Eldon, Sir Charles Wetherall and Mr Croker had lived and Commanded a Majority in the House of Commons.

[Tory government under Lord Liverpool 1812-1827embarked on very few reforms. Eldon dominated the legal hierarchy from 1788 to 1827 and was absolutely opposed to reform of the law. Wetherall, attorney general in Wellington's cabinet 1828 to 1830, radically opposed the Great Reform Bills 1831-32. Croker was secretary of the admiralty 1809-30, a friend of Wellington and Peel until 1846. Lord Brougham, a Whig politician who became Lord Chancellor in Lord Grey's cabinet in 1830, eventually obtained radical reform of the law: new courts were created to deal with bankruptcy cases, a county court was established in each poor law union, (which made the recovery of small debts easier), private debtors, as well as traders, were allowed to go into bankruptcy, and finally in 1861 all imprisonment for debt ended.]

Sports

Cock Fighting

Cock Fighting, this was a Sport, verrily a most Poplar one with the Disipated and Idle, but the Wealthy and the Great indulged it. The Greatest Gambler in England

in this Game was Earl Derby, Father of the Rupert of Debate. He was generally known and spoken of as The Cockfighting Earl of Derby.

[Rupert of Debate: Fourteenth Earl of Derby was described by Lord Lytton as: 'The brilliant chief, irregularly great, Frank, haughty, bold – the Rupert of Debate'.]

Cock Fighting was very Poplar with all Classes, with the well to do, they had thare Cockpit at Badash. The Latter Place was confined to the Upper Ten. Working Class Matches would be made at a Publick House and Fought in the Castle Ring or on Windmill. The First and the Last Cock Fight that I atended was in the Spring of 1834 at the Lent Assises. I had saved a little Pocket Money to spend at the Assises and was induced by others to see the Cock Fight. I went and lost all my Savings. I came a Wiser but a sadder Youth, but I never atended again another Cockfight.

[A F Robbins describes cock fighting as 'just beginning to go out of fashion' - Launceston Past and Present, p 307.]

There was growing concern about ill-treatment of animals in the 1820s. The first Act to prevent ill-treatment of horses and cattle was passed in 1823, largely through the efforts of 'Humanity Martin'. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed in 1824 (given the title 'Royal' in 1840). Martin tried again and again to get bull baiting and dog fighting (and presumably cock fighting) banned by parliament. He was successful in 1833; they were forbidden within five miles of Temple Bar. This prohibition was extended to the whole country in 1835.]

Badger Baiting

Badger Baiting, this Sport took Place at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide in the Castle Green, Windmill and at St Thomas Church Yard, before that part was Consecrated, near the River.

Skittle Playing

Skittle Playing took Place all the year round but more Frequent in the Summer Months. This Game was princpaly Played at the Publick House, For most of them had Skittle Alleys and those that had none, if a Club, was held at one of thare Houses, on the Annual Day. After they had Dined, a Tempoary Alley would be made in the Publick Road. This was the case of The Pack Horse Club at Whitsuntide. The Skettles would be Built between the Three Roads, Exeter Road, Race Hill and Southgate Street. This Game was also Played on the Club Day, Whit Monday, held at the White Horse at Newport in Newport Square.

[Pack Horse Club: the Packhorse Inn was situated outside the Southgate at the junction of these three streets.]

Card Playing in Publick Houses was very much resorted to and this Game was very often Played thare During the whole of the Night. Publick Houses then could be kept open all Night and this was Frequently the case.

Pugulisim

Fighting was a very poplar pastime with the Blistered Hands, Unshorn Chinns and Fustain Jackets. Thare was scarcely a summer Evening that Passed over but what a

Match had been made up in the Day to take Place in the Evening, either on Windmill or the Castle Green, The latter the most poplar Place. The Originators of these Sports, as they called them, were Blacksmiths, Shoe Makers and Tailors, and Principally those Engaged in Indoor Pursuits. But thare was seldom a Saturday Night that Passed but what thare was a Fight took Place between The Country Men and the Towns Men. Thare was great Jealously between the Launceston Men and St Stephens Men. The latter always threw thare Influence in with the Countrymen and Fighting often took Place between those Men For the sake of a Fight and the constantly originated out of Publick House Brawls. At the Conformation (wich only took place once in Seven Years) this brought a large number together in the Town. I Bleive between Twenty and Thirty parishes, For Conformation in the Summer of 1827, after the Service outside the Church a Squabble took Place between two Men. The Cry was go to the Castle Green and Fight is out, wich they did, and while this was going on two other Battles arose out of it, and thare was three Fights going on at the same time. And Prize Matches would be now and then made up and Fought on Windmill or in the Old Priory Field. If the former was chosen The Fight would be on the Market Day to make it more Poplar, but if the latter Place Chosen, it would come of at 6AM.

They were never Interfered with by the Authorites.

[Conformation: confirmation of new entrants to the ministry by the Bishop of Exeter who was responsible for the whole of Devon and Cornwall at the time.]

Wrestling

Wrestling was a poplar Pass Time, with the Miners in the West of Cornwall, but after the Great Wrestling Match between Devon and Cornwall in Plymouth, 1826, They Caught the Contagain with Devonshire Men. It was thare Principal Sport and Pastime. In The Spring of 1826 a Challenge was made by them to the Cornishmen that thare Champion was ready to Play them For 200 Soverigns. The latter took the Challenge and named thare Man. The Devonshire Champion was Abram Cann. The Cornish Champion was William Polkinhorne of St Collumb. It came of in July 1826 at Plymouth. In one of the Rules drawn up was that the Champion should be led of the Ground by his Second. Polkinhorne threw his Man amidst the greatest exictment. The Cornishmen Rushed (and Screamed) From thare Seats and Carried away thare Champion in great Triumph. The Rules having been broken, The Stakes were never paid over to the Winner. This Match caused the greatest excitement throughout Cornwall that the Innkeeper of St Collumb had thrown the Devonshire Champion. Thare was a Print a short time after this of Mr Polkinhorne in the Window of Mr Wm Dymond of Southgate Stationers and Underneath it was, Mr Wm Polkinhorne Threw Mr Abraham Cann, The Devonshire Champion, For Two Hundred Soverigns at Plymouth July 1826. The Excitement of the latter had such an efect on some of our Townsmen to form a Club for Wrestling to take Place in the Neighbourhood and in the Summer of the Following Year 1827 thare was a Hooded Ring Erected in a Field on the left side of Park Gate St Stephens (The Duke of Northumberland was then staying at Werrington House) but the Subscriptions Fell short and the whole afair turned out a Fiasco, resulting in a heavy loss to the Promoters. The First and the last Wrestling Guild in the Town. *[William Polkinhorne: James Polkinghorne was a champion Cornish wrestler; there is a memorial at the Red Lion Inn in St Columb to the wrestling match in 1826 between Polkinghorne and Abraham Cann.]*

Horse Racing

Racing was attempted to be revived in the Town and Neighbourhood, 1833. I never heard, neither do I remember of any Horse Racing before that time but I assume there must have been. There is a level spot on St Stephens Down, Called the Race Down. So it is Possible Races had taken Place there before. Mr Arundell of Lifton Park became the Patron of the East Cornwall and South Devon Races to be held on the Race Course on St Stephens Down, August 1833. He was Supported by a large number of Gentry in the Neighbourhood and also by many in the Town and on the Day Fixed there was a large Concourse gathered there. Particulars I am unable to give. I felt no interest in it; although there, but I well remember in the running for the First Prize that Dr Joseph Smith of Launceston Rode his Mare, Bess, and Mr Nattle of Callington Rode his Horse, Edgar, and that Mr Arundell and Dr Brendon was in the Grand Stand. The Race took Place with Five Horses to run. Edgar was the Winner. There was Card Sharpers, Thimble Riggers and Betting Men From Plymouth in the Course and elsewhere. I was tempted to try my hand, to Fix the thimble under the Pea, but a Chum of mine saw that I held back, Put his hand in his Pocket and Placed down Half a Crown. But no sooner said than done, he lost it. I have heard a tale from Mr Snell Tanner of Newport that he went to Races and watching the Play he Perceived that those that was assumed to have much Money in there Pockets, let them win the First time. He thought he would try it, so he put his hand in to his Pocket and took out some Gold, looked at the Man with the Thimble in hand, put it again into his Pocket. He then took out half a Sovereign and placed on the Table and Won it. Then the Man said he would go Two Sovereigns. Mr Snell said no. I have a Plenty of Money. I should not wish to take more out of your Pocket, and left to the great disappointment of his Tempter. During the Day Drunkenness, Gambling and excesses of every kind Prevailed, and extended in to the Early Morning of the Next Day. Rev H A Simcoe Mustered Courage to put it down. This was his object in publishing The Light from The West, From The Penheale Press.

[Light from the West or The Cornish Parochial Visitor: magazine containing collections of essays and verse, edited by Henry Addington Simcoe, curate and later vicar of Egloskerry from about 1826; died in 1868. Simcoe had a printing press set up at Penheale.]

The Races were again held the following Year. Very few attended. The Press and The Pulpit was too strong For the Racing Men.

Mr Arundell in 1836 attempted to revive it at Gatherly on his own Estate in Lifton, but this effort of his also turned out a Failure.

Hunting

Hunting was a popular Sport in the Town and Country. The Duke of Northumberland Kept a Pack of Hounds For There Amusement at Newport. The Rev John Rowe of St Mary Magdalene was a constant Follower of the Hunt. He wore a Silk Velvet Capp, Scarlet Coat, White Breeches, with Top Boots, and the Old Gentleman was most times in at the Death. The Hunt on Mayor Choosing Day, The First Monday after the Eighth of September, was a Popular Hunt with the Young Men and Apprentices of the Town to Follow the Hounds on this Day. Why made it so Popular was to Kill a Brace of Hares to Present to the New Mayor.

Mr Phillips of Landue Kept a Pack of Fox Hounds, wich Hunted the North of
Cornwall and Passed through the Town of a Morning For The Hunting Field.

Farmers Songs in the latter Part of the last Centry and in the Early Part of this
Centry

The Cock as been Crowing
The Farmer did say
Come Rise ye Jolly Fellow
To the Break of Day

Jack Jumps out of Bed
Slips on his Clothes
And away to the Stable
So nimble he goes

Rubbing and Scrubing
That I do Prevow
We are all Jolly Fellows
That Follow the Plough

The Plough Boy turns about
With a smile and a Joke
It is Past Four O'Clock
Time to unyoke

Unharness your Horses
And Clean them down well
And after Supper you
Shall have a jug of Brown Ale

The Plough Boy again
Turns round with a Smile
Time to go to Bed
Pull of your Coutts

The above is over Sixty Years since I heard it Sung so I am not certin wether I have
got it Corect. The latter Verse in Paritcular

The Second Song, a Coppy of it, I have now in my possesion was a Song Sung by
the Yeoman or well to do Farmer

Let the Wealthy and Great
Roll in Splendor and State
I envey them not I declare it
I eat my own Lamb
My Chickens and Ham
I shear my own Fleece & I wear it
I have Lawns I have Bowers
I have Fruits I have Flowers
The Cock is my morning alarmer

To Jolly Boys now
Here's God speed the Plough
Long Life & success to
the Farmer

Misalenous of The Old School

When I was at Mr T S Eyre in 1829, he gave an Order to Drew, Heyward and Bains's Traveller, of Aldersgate London, he coming his Round every Three Months. When he again came, he Presented his Account, the Goods had not arrived. The Traveller was surprised at hearing this. It was afterwards found that the had been knocking about on the Water for nearly Two Months, but the goods shortly after this arrived.

I have heard George Horwood, the Plumber, state that in 1827 he came to Launceston From London to Work For Thorn and Son, Plumbers. From the time he left Blackwall to the time he arrived in Plymouth was Three Weeks, the Ship was driven into Gurnsey.

Mr Cardew of Church Street, Draper, (in or about 1823) to a London Traveller at this own Risk went when he thought there goods would be on the Water, he would run out of his Shop to look at the Tower Vane to see if the Wind was Favourable For the vessel to arrive in Plymouth. A Neighbour, Watching this, saw the object of it. He went on the Top of the Tower and tied the Vane, South West. The Old Man in the greatest of Trouble, he was sure that the Wind being so unfavourable that the Vessel was lost.

I have heard Mr Laskey state, Father of Mr John Laskey, Brighton, that when he was a youngster that on an Average there was not more than two Bullocks, a year Fed in The Parish of Northill.

I have heard Mr Giddy Pearse, Farmer of Lanion, state that when he took his Corn to Tavistock Market Three Horses and Waggon, he started from his home at 3AM and did not arrive home before TenPM, Nineteen Hours, the Journey.

I heard Mr Marten, Yeoman of Goatacre, Broadwood, say, (he was the Brotherinlaw of my Mother) in 1829 that he took his Corn to Tavistock Market he always Started from home at 2AM and did not arrive home until 11PM, Twentyone Hours the Journey there.

The Guardians of the Old Workhouse had a list of Names in the Old Workhouse Inmates Posted Annually to the Entrance of the Outer Door of the Church, there Ages and Infirmities of whatsoever they were. I well remember the one Posted up in 1830. Joseph Dymond was then an Inmate. Opposite his name was Soft. There was great Ridicule made of this Pauper List at this time that the Guardians never afterwards Placed a List of those in the Workhouse there again. Under the Old Poor Law it too often happened that when a Woman met with a misfortune and not a Parishioner, some time before her Confinement she would be compelled to leave her Place of abode and go to be Confined in her own Parish. Under The Old Poor Law if a Young Man or unmarried Man got a Woman in trouble and the Former refused to Marry her, the Overseers would have there Names Published in the Church of there Banns of Marriage and in The Two Parish Churches in which they Resided, and if the Man still refused, he was taken to Church, Handcuffed to the Constable and there compelled to be married. I have been a Witness to Two of these marriages, one at Launceston 1829 and The other at St Stephens 1833, when I saw the Man Handcuffed to the Constable and taken to the Church and Married.

[go to be Confined in her own Parish: Under the Act of Settlement 1662 all people without means of support in a village not their own were liable to be sent back to the parish where they were last settled, when ordered to do so by two Justices of the Peace upon receipt of a complaint from the Overseer of the Poor. This would still have been a common practice in the first half of the nineteenth century. See also above under Ministers.]

There was the usual Custom on the Day of the Mayor being chosen, the First one that Conveyed the News to their House Received Two Shillings and Sixpence.