



HISTORY OF MANNINGHAM.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL SURVEY.

Surveys of 1811 and 1839—Daisy Hill—Towler Lane—The Trees—Low Lane—Coggill Lane—Jumbles—Hesp Lane—Lawcroft Lane—New Road to Keighley—Township Boundaries.

In making a survey of the township of Manningham we are prompted to remark, that in no other portion of the Borough of Bradford has such a material change been wrought as there. A glance at any old plan of the township will furnish sufficient evidence of this fact. In the year 1811 a survey and map of Manningham were made by Mr. George Leather,* when the ratable value only amounted to £2108. In 1839 another survey was made by Mr. Thomas Dixon, in which the ratable value was assessed at £9503 14s. 7d. The Corporation Year Book for 1895 shows that the present assessable value of property in Manningham is about £205,000, as against £61,000 in 1868, or an increase of nearly four-fold.

The above figures constitute only one form of comparison as to the growth of Manningham, and that not the one most apparent to the public mind unaccustomed to statistics. For this, by far the larger section of the community, a sort of "reading-made-easy" form may be suggested, namely, the survey recently published by the Government Ordnance Department, which shows every

* NOTE.—The plan and survey published by Mr. Leather are of much interest and historic value. To Bradfordians that interest will be intensified by the fact that Mr. Leather was a native of Bradford, and the progenitor of a family several of whose members worthily sustained the reputation he had already established.

block of buildings in the township, and almost every projecting doorstep. Any one making a comparison between this survey and either of the two named, could not fail to be surprised at the transformation which has been effected in the interval.

The appearance of Manningham township during the first quarter of the century bore but the most distant resemblance to that which it now presents. At that period the residences of influential inhabitants numbered well within the dozen. There was, in the far west, Field House, or "Fool's Penny Hall," as it was called, built by Mrs. Ward, afterwards occupied by Dr. Scoresby, vicar of Bradford. Coming nearer to Bradford, there was West House, where resided Mr. Thomas Hollings, the site of which is now occupied by Woodlands, the residence of Mr. Angus Holden, M.P. Lower down Towler (or Toller) Lane was Manningham Lodge, owned and occupied by Mr. Matthew Thompson, father of the late Sir M. W. Thompson, Bart. At Wheatley resided Mr. Joseph Hollings; on the opposite side of the same road being another house called "Whetley," owned and occupied by Mr. Thomas Hill Horsfall, and afterwards by the late Mr. John Priestman. A third house, called "Whetleys," and situated in Whetley Lane, was occupied by Mr. John Hill, then by Mr. John Aked, and afterwards by Mr. Martin Schlesinger. This was the former abode of "Dicky Hodgson," to whose property Miss Jowett, of Clock House, succeeded.

Manningham Hall, now enclosed within its own park, was the residence of Mr. Ellis Cunliffe Lister. The park, however, was then divided by hawthorn hedges into fields. Clock House, the residence of Miss Jowett, occupied practically its present position, and its most substantial companion was Bolton Royd, built and occupied by Mr. John Garnett Horsfall. The adjoining house, where Mr. Richard Margerison lived, was built to supersede Manningham Old Hall, a former abode of the Bolling family. With the exception of the house called Trees, the former residence of the Cowgills, of Manningham,

and afterwards of Mr. James Ambler; and Spring Lodge, in Manningham Lane, which had just then been erected by the late Mr. Alfred Harris, banker, there were no other gentlemen's houses of note in this portion of the township. Indeed, the Spotted House Inn, and old Walter Clark's, at Halliwell Ash, were the only dwellings along the whole of Manningham Lane in addition to the three just named.

What is now called Church Street constituted Manningham proper. Where St. Paul's Church and St. Paul's Road now stand there was an open space, called Stocks Green, adjoining Helliwell's Farm. Little colonies of dwellings existed at the Bradford end of White Abbey, at Upper and Lower Globe, and also at Brick Lane End and Four Lane Ends. The oldest inhabited parts of Manningham were Skinner Lane, Church Street, and East Squire Lane, which immediately adjoined Manningham Old Hall.

Delf Lane and Strait Lane (now Oakroyd) were formerly narrow occupation roads branching towards the Holmes, the low land lying close to the Bradford Beck. From Manningham Lane the centre of the township was reached by way of Cowgill (or "Coggill") Lane, a narrow road lined with trees. This terminated in Back Lane, which led in a roundabout way to the top of Church Street. In Oak Lane and North Park Road we have the amplified lines of Duce (or Dewhirst) Lane and Hesp Lane, the former leading to Skinner Lane and Trees, and the latter to Broad Lane, as Victor Road was then called. From Broad Lane the old Jumbles Lane went down to Clock House. The Jumbles is now absorbed in Lister Park, although a right of way is still preserved to the Clock House proprietors. A narrow way known as Dark Lane once existed from Hesp Lane to Trees.

Law Croft Lane was the name once given to what is now called Lilycroft Road, and it was connected with Towler Lane by a very narrow passage. Towler Lane declined in importance as a high road to the north when Manningham Lane was opened out, but a tollbar still

stood at the end of Law Croft Lane, just opposite the present entrance to Woodlands. At the junction of Toller Lane with Smith Lane there was also a chain-bar. The upper part of Carlisle Road is upon the line of an ancient footpath from Whetley Lane to Back Lane. It is worthy of note that the ancient Brick Lane included not only the present City Road, but that portion of Thornton Road which lies between City Road and Four Lane Ends. "Brick Lane" is derived from "Brecks," meaning land that had been broken up in getting stone. Thornton Road was opened in 1826, and a bar was placed at the bottom of Whetley Lane for the purpose of collecting tolls. Snakehill Lane, leading from Thornton Road to Allerton Road, is denominated Snag Hill in the early surveys. The road leading from Four Lane Ends to Great Horton was formerly called "Thiefscore Lane," and before the bridge was made the crossing of the Thornton Beck was called "Thievesford." The lane now bears the gruesome title of Cemetery Road. A pleasant footpath once passed along the beck side from Thiefscore Bridge to New Miller Dam, where stood a small corn mill. Brownroyd, now a dense mass of working-class dwellings, takes its name from a farmstead of that name, which adjoined Water-side Farm.

Of course the thriving colony at Girlington was non-existent at the period under consideration. An occupation road passed over the site for a short distance, from the direction of Thornton Road towards Duckworth Lane. The name is not modern, there being at one time a homestead called Girlington standing about the centre of Kensington Street, and the name appears in old records. Lady Royd is also the designation given to an ancient settlement at the bottom of Squire Lane; and Crow Trees is also a name of remote origin. The road from Lady Royd towards Throstle Nest and Allerton was formerly called Topham Lane, from the name of a farmer residing in the locality. There appears to have been a little colony at Daisy Hill from early times.

At the Bradford end of the township much expansion

and many changes have taken place during the present century. At the top of Darley Street, leading into Manningham Lane, there was formerly a large rookery, and a fine avenue of elms and sycamores extending from Darley Street to Piper Grave, the site of which is now occupied by the handsome building erected by the Yorkshire Penny Bank. This was, however, not the regular approach to Manningham Lane, but only one on sufferance by the Lord of the Manor. The high road to Frizinghall and the lower part of Manningham was by way of Fair Gap, *i.e.*, the narrow thoroughfare leading from Westgate, skirting the Pack Horse Inn. A pleasant diversion was secured by taking the footpath leading from Piper Grave, past the Bradford Grammar School, and along Busy Brig Fields to Frizinghall.

Westgate and White Abbey are both old thoroughfares. The first named was one of the three "gates" of Bradford, and the principal outlet westward. At the bottom of Westgate the market was held, extending up to Silsbridge Lane. From that point two roads diverged, one passing along Silsbridge Lane, through what is now called Lister Hills, up Legrams to Great Horton, and forward to Halifax. The other road left Westgate on the right, by way of Fair Gap into Manningham Lane. The continuation of Westgate, however, was the principal high road northward, namely, by way of Toller Lane, over Cottingley Moor to Cottingley Bridge, and forward through Bingley. A divergence from this road took place near the Upper Globe Inn on Whetley Hill, where the road to Heaton commenced. This road is said to have been in a wretched condition, and a "slough of despond" in winter time.

In 1755 an Act was obtained for opening up the road from the west end of Toller Lane over Chellow Height and Cullingworth to Colne in Lancashire. The Act was chiefly promoted by Bradford, Heaton, and Shipley men, the list including the names of Bartlett, Balme, Bentley, Cockroft, Field, Hodgson, Hollings, Horsfall, Lister, Sawrey, Stansfield, Sagar, Wainman, and others. It is generally known as Haworth Road.

The new highway to Keighley, superseding the old coach road over Cottingley Moor, was completed about seventy years ago from the Spotted House Inn forward. Previously the road from Bradford passed close to Clock House and through Frizinghall, and was known as Manningham Low Lane. At best it was but a country lane, with hedge-rows on either side, and the narrowest of causeways on the western side. The Act for "amending the road from Bradford to Keighley, and for making and maintaining a branch therefrom," obtained the Royal assent in May, 1815, and the present road was several years in course of construction. The toll-house near Carr Syke, Frizinghall, was finished in October, 1816, and cost the trustees of the road £182. Mr. George Leather, jun., was the surveyor of the road appointed by the trustees. The prices paid to the adjoining landowners for land required for making the road varied from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per yard. A stone post was placed in Manningham Lane to mark the boundary line between Bradford and Manningham townships, and was long afterwards known as "Manningham Stoop."

In 1836 an exchange of land was made between Mr. E. C. Lister and Miss Jowett, of Clock House, of a piece of ground called Northrop Ing, situate at Carr Syke, consisting partly of the old highway leading from Bradford to Shipley and partly of land severed by a branch of the Bradford and Keighley highway from another field belonging to Mr. Lister, called Emm Lane Close.

The above-named constituted the principal ancient thoroughfares within the district under consideration. It goes without saying that such ample approaches as Carlisle Road, Oak Lane, and North Park Road are of modern creation, while the older thoroughfares have in nearly every instance been materially improved.

Excepting the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Daisy Hill and White Abbey Wesleyan Chapel, no regular place of worship existed in Manningham half a century ago. Manningham Mill was the only manufactory in the township, and it was not a very large affair. Notwithstanding

the scores of factories, dyeworks, &c., which have since sprung up, the township of Manningham still contains much open ground, and is largely residential.

The township of Manningham includes the suburbs on the north-western side of Bradford, and comprises a large proportion of the best residential property in the borough. The township covers an area of 1318 acres, and contains within it the districts known as Girlington, Four Lanc Ends, Whetley Hill, Lilycroft, and Daisy Hill. Its boundaries may be thus briefly described:—On the west the township is bounded by Dean Beck, dividing it from the township of Allerton; on the north by the township of Heaton; on the east by the Bradford Beck, excepting a few roods of ground which belong to Bolton; and on the south by the Thornton Beck, which separates the township from that of Horton.

As indicating the importance of Manningham as a railway centre, it may be stated that it is one of the most important, provincially, upon the whole of the Midland Railway Company's system, and its growth has been almost phenomenal. In 1875 the staff of men employed by the company at Manningham was 149. In 1895 the number had risen to 334. The number of engines have increased from twenty-five to eighty-five. The train mileage increased during the eighteen years from 870,324 to 1,529,042, or 75 per cent., and the engine mileage from 1,040,392 to 1,927,708, or 85 per cent.

These discursory remarks, however, are by way of introduction to a more detailed reference to the topographical features of Manningham township generally.