

The QUEEN Cometh



Queen Victoria's visit to Worsley,
Salford and Manchester in 1851

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FOREWORD

In October 2013, I began to transcribe the burial records of St. Mark's Church, Worsley. The records for both baptisms and marriages had already been transcribed and digitised, but only for limited periods - approximately from the church's foundation in 1846 to the mid-1920's. The burial records appear in six volumes, and, so far, only two volumes have been completed and published! During the recording process, I became interested in the clergy who had officiated at the burials - to such an extent that I began to do some research into some of them.

In the course of my enquiries, I began to recognise a strong connection between the village of Worsley and the visit of Queen Victoria in October 1851 to Salford and Manchester, particularly through the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey. This began to excite my thinking, and I decided to follow in more detail the royal progress throughout the two boroughs. The whole project blossomed in July 2014, when I discovered, quite by chance, the existence of a full collection of original newspapers at Chetham's Library in Manchester. The special volume also included many other pieces of information, which were publicly displayed during the visit.

The more reports I read of the visit, the more I became fascinated with the wonderful forms of expression and descriptions printed in the papers, and with their exquisite use of the English language. I have relied very heavily upon these reports, although, at times, they do not always agree with each other! Inaccurate names, misspellings, varying estimates of numbers, slightly differing accounts, abound, but I have done my best to reflect the common ground.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book could not have been published without the help and support of the staff at Chetham's Library, Manchester, and its librarian, Dr. Michael Powell. I am deeply indebted to those members of the staff who frequently made available the collection of contemporary newspapers, which proved to be indispensable to my research.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to the staff in the reading room at the John Rylands Library, Deansgate, who were of great help during the initial stages of my work, in particular when I was working on the burial records of the parish church of St. Mark, Worsley. Their help in accessing the British Newspaper Archive, and in recording some of the information, was invaluable. It was then that this particular piece of work had its origin.

I am also grateful to Christopher Eimer, of London, a medal and coin collector, who gave permission for me to publish details and a photograph of the Worsley commemorative medal, associated with the Queen's visit. Another medal was located at the Leamington Spa Museum and Art Gallery, and I am indebted to them for permission to publish the pictures of the Manchester medal.

I am indebted to the Royal Archives at Windsor for their help and advice with reference to Queen Victoria's Journals. The relevant texts have been printed with the permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Some pictures from the Royal Collection have also been included and I am pleased to acknowledge their permission to publish them.

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THE VISIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA TO WORSLEY, SALFORD AND MANCHESTER IN 1851

PREPARATIONS

Queen Victoria was the first monarch of the House of Brunswick and the first Queen of England to set foot in Manchester. In fact, hers was the first royal visit to the town for 234 years - a visit which was later said to be "*unprecedented in the history of the great manufacturing borough of Manchester.*" It was in August 1617 that James I paid the last royal visit. In his progress through Lancashire, he came to the town and attended divine service at the Collegiate Church (now Manchester Cathedral). One particular incident of note occurred during his visit to Lancashire that year. He was so pleased with the lavish dining set before him during his three day stay at Hoghton Tower, near Blackburn, that, one evening, he took his sword and knighted the prime joint of beef before him, and this was to be for ever called 'Sir Loin.' The king had been the guest at the ancestral home of Sir Richard Hoghton. Although it is thought that Charles II might have come to Manchester in 1651, the evidence for this appears to be slim at best. In any event, it had been a very long time since the previous visit, and therefore it made the visit of the Queen even more exciting.

Once the news had been announced that the Queen was to visit the region, the two adjoining boroughs reacted with great industry and purpose to mark the occasion with the grandest arrangements ever seen for a royal visit. This is a brief summary of how the councils responded to this challenge.

16 August: The *Manchester Examiner and Times* first announced the intention of the Queen to visit **Manchester**. This announcement created a fever of anticipation, and preparations were begun in Patricroft, Worsley, and Manchester for the royal visit.

23 August: The Exchange committee met to agree a request from the Mayor for the presentation of the loyal address in the hall. Also, invitations were sent from the Mayor of **Salford** to clergymen and teachers at Sunday Schools, to consider a welcome at Peel Park of as many scholars as possible.

27 August: Special meeting of **Salford** Council to consider the most appropriate measures to implement for her Majesty's reception. Resolved to defray all the expenses incurred, and a committee was appointed to make all the necessary arrangements.

28 August: Mayor of **Manchester** formally announced "*the official intimation of the Queen's visit.*" The Council resolved to defray the costs incurred.

30 August: A special meeting of magistrates for this division was held, and a committee of fourteen was appointed to make the arrangements.

w/c 1 September: Mr. H. B. Peacock granted the free use of the **Free Trade Hall** for the training of the scholars on two evenings of that week.

Plans were also made for triumphal arches to be erected in both **Manchester** and **Salford**, and preparations were made for the illumination of many buildings.

2 September: a large meeting of clergy in the Town Hall, **Salford**, to discuss the mayor's invitation for the assembly of schoolchildren in Peel Park, and the proposal was approved. Mr. D. W. Banks was appointed to be chorus master, and to train the thousands of children to sing the National Anthem.

6 September: Mr. T. Agnew, mayor of Salford, left for Balmoral to meet with Colonel Phipps, to present before the Queen the projected arrangements.

7 September: Superintendent Hughes of the metropolitan police force was consulted by **Salford** on the requirements necessary to maintain good order during the visit.

The processional route was finally agreed.

18 September: The people of **Pendleton** decided to raise money to erect an arch.

20 September: The **Manchester** Council decided by 23 votes to 15, to purchase robes for the mayor and corporation. **Salford** declined to wear any distinguishing dress.

23 September: The first meeting of the school committee was held to discuss arrangements for the Peel Park assembly. It was resolved to erect a platform for the children in the Park.

This brief summary shows the tremendous energy and enthusiasm that was shown by all the respective organisations and committees prior to the royal visit. The committees continued to be very busy, drawing all the fine details together, and the general topic of conversation among the people was the rapidly approaching day when her Majesty would make her way through the two boroughs. The *Manchester Examiner and Times* listed the wide variety of activities that were taking place;

- numerous arches were being erected.
- the pavilion at Peel Park was being prepared.
- the hall of the Exchange was being decorated.
- fountains were being placed in the pond at the Infirmary.
- gas-fitters were busy everywhere (even with increased wages!)
- flag staffs were being made and erected on public buildings.

"Henceforward, there was little or no intermission."

PAPER'S BOAST

The *Manchester Examiner and Times* proudly reminded its readers on Saturday 11 October 1851 that it had been the first to announce the intended royal visit to Worsley and Manchester in its edition of Saturday 16 August. In its edition four days later, it gave a brief outline of the proposed visit, and it is remarkable to note that the whole event followed exactly the format described.

"Her Majesty and Prince Albert, on their return from Scotland, are expected to arrive at the Earl of Sefton's, on Wednesday the 8th of October. On the following day, St. George's Hall will be opened, and the inauguration of that noble building is to be honoured with the Royal presence. On the same day the Queen and Prince Albert will proceed by railway to the Patricroft station, where suitable preparations will ere long be commenced. At this point a state barge will convey the royal party along the canal to Worsley Hall, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere, where they will remain on Thursday evening. Invitations for the occasion have, we understand, been sent to the Marquis of Westminster, the Duke of Norfolk, and other noblemen and gentlemen whose possessions lie in Lancashire and the adjacent counties. The Duke of Wellington is also expected at Worsley Hall for the occasion. The Worsley and Bolton troops and yeomanry will be in attendance as an escort, and the numerous workpeople of the trustees of the Duke of Bridgewater will officiate as a police force; while the Worsley tenantry will no doubt be ready to display their loyalty. On Friday the 10th, it is expected that Her Majesty and the Prince will visit Manchester and Salford, when addresses will be presented by the two corporations. They will then return to Worsley, and pass a second night under the roof of the Earl of Ellesmere. On the following morning the Royal party will leave for Windsor."

(The Manchester Examiner: Wednesday 20 August 1851)

Given that there were barely 2 months to go, the preparations must have been carried out with great energy and industry. Triumphal arches were erected at various locations; Peel Park was transformed with huge grandstands; royal barges were built to convey the queen to and from the Worsley area; platforms and small stands were positioned at certain points throughout the districts; routes were planned for the differing stages of her brief visit and loyal addresses were written for presentation. There must have been a tremendous

buzz of excitement throughout the whole area. And all this was to happen within about 7 weeks.

"For the previous fortnight, the din of preparation had been sounded, and on Thursday, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, the whole town was occupied with workmen, artificers, gas layers, decorators and painters. Pavements were torn up, ladders erected in every street and turning; wagons loaded with laurels, evergreens, and flowers, blocked up every avenue; and, as the afternoon cleared up, the factories and warehouses poured out their vast numbers, who thronged the streets to gaze upon the illuminations and decorations, of which 'rehearsals' were coming off in every quarter of the town."

Other newspapers also played their part, both locally and nationally. Prior to her Majesty's arrival in the region, early in October 1851, a great deal of newsprint was devoted to many articles about the Ellesmeres,.

Worsley and its importance to the industrial and economic development of the country. Much of it was extremely complimentary towards the Earl and the people of the Manchester area.

"Just now, preparations are in progress for adding a north aisle at the church erected recently by the noble earl for the use of the inhabitants of Worsley; and it may be suggested that to lay the foundation stone of the addition would be a means of commemorating her sojourn on the spot acceptable to the feelings of all concerned. Should this not be done, perhaps a tree planted by her hand may live to flourish on some part of the domains, and be pointed out in future ages as the "Queen's Tree." Undoubtedly Her Majesty will inspect the beautiful building which the noble earl has erected for the specific instruction of the people around him, and while speaking of it, a thought comes over us, that it is not a little singular that the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, the incumbent, will have been brought into close communication with her Majesty on the two occasions she has been to this county, as incumbent of Fleetwood, when her Majesty landed there, and now as incumbent of Worsley."

(The Manchester Courier: Saturday 23 August 1851)

Even in the Victorian era there was clearly a sense of rivalry between Manchester and Liverpool, both towns which had been expanding rapidly, thanks to the huge strides being made in industry, manufacture and transport. Indeed, it was only 20 years earlier that these two boroughs were joined by a railroad. *The Morning Herald* expressed this rivalry when comparing the comparative amounts of money spent by the respective corporations in advance of the Queen's visit.

"Manchester appeared resolved, that, so far as external decorations and outward show went, they would leave their neighbour and rival immeasurably in the rear. Indeed, we have heard that one member of the Manchester Corporation declared that for every thousand pounds spent in decorations in Liverpool, Manchester would spend ten thousand."

(The Morning Herald: Saturday 11 October 1851).

COMMENT ON THE NEW HALL

"Worsley Hall is a building of very modern date, the foundation-stone having been laid, we believe, in 1840. The mansion was completed in 1846, soon after which the Earl of Ellesmere came to reside at Worsley. It was erected from the designs of Mr. Blore, and is finely situate on an eminence, commanding a view of no less than seven counties. The style of architecture, as will be observed from our illustration, is Medieval, and seen from certain points the Hall is a very pleasing composition. The view obtained from the southern or garden fronts is extensive and fine. Carrying the eye directly south, the view ranges across the centre of Cheshire, the conical peak of the Wrekin towering up in solitary grandeur in the distance. On the east, the Derbyshire hills are very distinctly seen in their undulating attitudes; and on the north a glimpse of the Westmoreland mountains may frequently be obtained on a clear day. To the westward of the Hall the eye is carried over an area of comparatively limited extent, within which a population numbering millions is located, whose energy, industry and enterprise have achieved wonders unsurpassed in the history of the world. Within that area, the huge cotton manufacture of the kingdom is confined; the laborious occupation of the miner, upon which that manufacture so largely depends, is pursued by many thousands; and the first

experiments in two systems of transit which have materially aided that manufacture in its growth - the canal and the railway - run before the front of the Hall itself. It would probably be difficult to discover a place possessing more interest for a reflective mind than Worsley; and there can be no doubt, that, in glancing upon the landscape, her Majesty and her Royal Consort must have risen from the mere transient gratification of the vision to the contemplation of higher matter - the national interests that are found within it. Worsley Hall is a place as yet but little known to tourists, and not much spoken of in guide-books. The interior is not so extensive as might be supposed from an external view of the house, and consists of a larger proportion of bed rooms than is usual. The panellings of the principal apartments are of oak, and in character with the exterior of the building. Rich and costly undoubtedly the furniture is, but one is struck rather with the admirable taste which could combine so much of elegance and comfort. In the drawing room is Landseer's celebrated picture of the "Return from Hawking," in which the artist has so admirably contrived to give the likenesses of the Earl and Countess, and of their family, as an historical illustration of another phase of society and its customs. A delightful piece of sculpture by Marshall, in white marble, "Paul and Virginia," is also to be seen here but space is wanting to catalogue a tithe of the works of art the mansion contains."

(The Illustrated London News: October 1851)

Sir Edwin Landseer (1802-1873) was an English painter, renowned for his paintings of animals, particularly horses, dogs and stags. He was a favourite amongst the aristocracy. In the year before her marriage, Queen Victoria commissioned a portrait of herself, as a present for Prince Albert. He then taught both Victoria and Albert to etch, and made portraits of Victoria's children as babies, usually in the company of a dog. So popular and influential were Landseer's paintings of dogs that the name Landseer came to be the official name for the variety of Newfoundland dog (or 'Newfie') that, rather than being black or mostly black, features a mix of both black and white. Between 1858 and 1860, he made the four bronze lions at the foot of Nelson's Column in London, a commission from the government.

In the painting "*Return from Hawking*," Landseer portrays Lord Egerton and the Countess of Ellesmere as they return from hunting with hawks. The picture is described as an "*admirable work*" in which "*the noble pair, their lovely offspring, the huntsman and domestics, the horses, the hawks, the architecture,*

and all the accessories, are painted with a carefulness, and, at the same time, with a spirit and a fluency of pencil, wholly unrivalled." (The Literary Gazette, and Journal of the Belles Lettres, 6 May 1837). The location of the picture is not known. It cannot be Worsley New Hall, since the Hall was only completed in 1846.

The statue "Paul and Virginia" was sculpted in 1841 by William Calder Marshall (a Scottish sculptor, 1813-1894). It has been described as *"a work of great merit, worthy of one of our most promising sculptors."* (The Art Journal - June 1843). Marshall was born in Edinburgh, the son of a goldsmith, and studied at Edinburgh University. By 1834, he had moved to London and from there spent some time in Rome (to pursue his interest in classical sculpture) and Paris before returning to London in 1838, where he settled for the rest of his life. He received many commissions for public monuments - in the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and St.Paul's Cathedral. Locally, his best known works are the colossal bronze statue of Sir Robert Peel (1853) which stands in Piccadilly Gardens and a statue of the inventor Samuel Crompton (1862) in Bolton.

The two fatherless children, Paul and Virginia were the creations of the late-eighteenth century French novelist Bernardin de Saint-Pierre. In his work, *"Paul et Virginie,"* (1787), they are brought up on the idyllic island of Mauritius, happy and virtuous, far removed from civilisation and society, free from any form of corruption. Sadly for them, society draws them apart when Virginie is called to France by a rich but harsh aunt where she is frightened and appalled by the norms of society. On returning to the island, two years later, she dies in a shipwreck before Paul's eyes. Her only hope of survival was with a naked sailor, but her strong sense of purity prevented her from accepting his helping hand. She drowned with one hand firmly holding her clothes to her body and one hand on her heart. Paul himself died two months later of a broken heart. It is a melancholic tale of simplicity and innocence, with a strong moral tone, which attracted the readers at the start of the revolutionary years in France.

"While upon this subject, we must not omit to notice, that in the neighbourhood of the modern mansion are three curious old halls. One of them is situated at the northern extremity of the gardens of the New Hall, and is constructed of brick, wood, and plaster with wooden gables. This house, the successive residence of the Worsleys, the Masseys, the Stanleys, and the Egertons, was formerly remarkable as the depository of a series of spirited, grotesque, and allegorical heads, with an intermixture of ornamented designs engraved in oaken panels, brought from Hulme Hall, Manchester, one of the

manorial residences of the Prestwiches. This curious collection has since been removed by the present noble owner to the modern mansion. Another of the ancient halls of Worsley is a brick, wood, and plaster building called Kempnall Hall, adorned by two gates, now in decay, the property of Mr. L. G. P Starkie, of Huntroyd. It is said to have been the residence of Nicholas Starkie, in 1594, when his family was under the supposed visitation of demoniacal possession. To the east of Kempnall Hall is the ancient pile of Wardley Hall, of the age of Edward VI, situated in the midst of a small woody glade, and originally surrounded by a moat, except on the eastern side. This edifice is of a quadrangular form, consisting of ornamented wood and plaster frames, interlined with bricks, and entered by a covered archway, opening into a courtyard in the centre. This hall has lately been repaired by Lord Ellesmere."

(The Illustrated London News: October 1851)

In advance of the Queen's progress through south Lancashire, the *Illustrated London News* devoted a whole page to an article by Alexander Somerville - THE QUEEN'S LODGING-PLACES IN LANCASHIRE: Croxteth and Worsley. Two full columns out of three were devoted to a brief history of the Bridgewater Estate.

THE YEOMANRY

Five troops of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry were sent to the area on active duty. They were the Worsley Troop, under Lt. Loch (in the absence of Captain Lord Brackley); the Bolton Troop, under Captain Langshaw; the Furness Troop, with Captain Michaelson as its commander; the Rochdale Troop, under the command of Captain Croke; and the Wigan Troop, under Captain Lord. Each troop was given a precise rôle to play. The Worsley Troop was detailed to escort her Majesty from Worsley to Salford. Captain Langshaw and the Bolton Troop were to escort her Majesty back from Salford to Worsley. The Furness Troop was to be stationed at Irlams-o'-th'-Height, and the Rochdale and Wigan Troops were to be held in reserve for any special services.

On Wednesday 8th October, all the five troops of the Yeomanry were reviewed in a field near Worsley Hall, in front of Major Gerrard. They were 250 strong, and the review lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at eleven o'clock, members of the family of the Earl of Ellesmere proceeded to the ground, to watch the men rehearsing their manoeuvres. It would appear that all was satisfactory.

THE CONSTABULARY

On the morning of Wednesday 8th October, 520 special constables were sworn in at Worsley Court House, to supplement the regular constabulary. They consisted mainly of men employed by the Earl of Ellesmere. They were placed under the command of Captains Woodford, Chief Constable of the County, and Sheppard, Assistant Chief Constable of the County, for duty on Friday. They were to be stationed on duty largely within Worsley, and the immediate neighbourhood, lining the road to Swinton. They were joined by regular members of the County Constabulary and each officer was placed at 30 to 40 yard intervals, in the rural parts where there was less crowding. Each man was provided with a staff and wore his number on the left arm.

On Wednesday afternoon (8th), 180 police officers from Lancaster (under Captain Woodford) moved assembled in Lancaster. That afternoon, a further 200 county policemen met at Rainhill Station to preserve order to Croxteth Hall, during the first part of Her Majesty's visit to Liverpool. That same body of officers remained in Liverpool to assist the Liverpool borough police on Thursday. The force of 180 from Lancaster were joined by a further 200 reinforcements from other parts of the country, to preserve order from Patricroft to Worsley. On Friday (10th), the whole force of officers were stationed to keep order along the road from Worsley to Swinton, a distance of about 3 miles. The regular constabulary lined the route onwards to Peel Park at 30 to 40 yard intervals, in the rural parts, and were formed in closer order where the crowds became more dense.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES & TRADE BODIES

Members of various bodies and benevolent societies applied to Salford and Manchester for permission to line various parts of the route from Worsley, through Salford, and around Manchester. In Salford, permission was granted to groups to occupy the front places along the rails. These were the National Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, the National Independent Order of Rechabites, the Sons of Temperance, and the National Independent Order of Foresters. They were to be distinguished by wearing a white rosette and gloves. They were drafted in to help keep discipline, together with the police, special constables and the retired military.

At the Pendleton arch, trade and association societies marched through it and formed up in the following order: Engravers to Calico Printers; Ancient Shepherds; the Operative Spinners; the Burial Society; Bookbinders; Ancient Order of Druids; Stockport Teetotallers; Protestant Loyal Orangemen;

Openshaw Oddfellows; Pendleton Oddfellows, and the Eccles Oddfellows. These men drew praise for their respectable appearance and their excellent conduct. In addition, a stage was erected in the churchyard to accommodate the children from the Union Schools and the poor people of the township.

As in Salford, permission was also granted by Manchester Corporation to similar groups of societies to form lines close to the kerbstones, on the carriageways. They had to take their respective places by 10 o'clock and to be in possession of the badges of their respective societies. The societies and their locations were: National Independent Order of Oddfellows, to form two deep on each side of Market Street and High Street; Manchester District Order of Independent Oddfellows, to form in single file on each side of Swan Street and Shudehill; Order of True Friends, to form two deep on each side of Portland Street, nearest to Piccadilly; Order of Operative Fine Cotton Spinners, to form two deep on each side of Portland Street; Society of Amalgamated Engineers and Machinists, to form three deep on Peter Street, near St.Peter's Square; and the Society of Ancient Shepherds, to form three deep on Peter Street, nearest to Deansgate.

BRIDGES AND ARCHES

Triumphal arches sprang up in all parts of the district, and the bridges under which the royal party was to pass were also decorated. One such arch was in the grounds of Worsley New Hall, over the new carriage drive, along which the Queen proceeded from the landing stage to the Hall.

"This arch was a handsome erection of a composite style of architecture, corresponding with that of the house. It was finished in stone, and was supported by two large pillars, having niches at each front, in which were four female figures, holding in their hand bouquets of flowers. From the top of the arch waved three flags, those at each side being union jacks, and the central one bearing the Egerton Arms."

Monton Bridge was topped by a series of six ornamental arches. Flags fluttered from the corners and there was a tall one standing at the centre. The whole was covered with evergreens and other decorations. The two bridges at Worsley, which are set almost at right angles, were similarly adorned with flowers and evergreens, ready for the royal party to pass.

At Broad Street in Pendleton, an arch was erected at Pendleton toll-bar, across the carriage road, 24 feet 9 inches wide, with cartloads of laurels and evergreens brought in for decoration. 26 illuminations were to be lit on the eve

of the 10th October, with other illuminations set up on different buildings. The arch was covered, as with so many others, in evergreens, providing a striking contrast with *"the somewhat dirty streets."* On the side which faced in the direction of Worsley the word PENDLETON was formed in coloured flowers, which were surrounded by dark green foliage and brightly coloured flags. On the other side were the words GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. The design for this arch was the work of Mr. Figgs, of Hale Barns, near Altrincham.

The railway bridge which crossed Chapel Street, Salford, and which belonged to the London and North Western railway, was equally decorated to make its appearance more attractive. The whole series of girders which supported the main arch had been painted in bright colours, as had the smaller outer ones. The entire span carried the words WELCOME, VICTORIA AND ALBERT on both sides in large, ornamental letters.

At Victoria Bridge - the bridge which crossed the Irwell and was the boundary between Salford and Manchester - another arch was erected, with gateways at each end. This bridge marked the entry of her Majesty into Manchester, where she was greeted by the Mayor of Manchester, Mr. John Potter. It was 54 feet long, with a central arch 15 feet wide and 28 feet 9 inches high. On each side of the arch was a smaller one, 6 feet wide and 23 feet 6 inches high. The two gateways were painted to represent white marble, each having two towers at the angles Allegorical figures measuring 7 feet 6 inches high were placed on pedestals at the bases. Above each centre arch was the Royal Arms in relief, with the almost triangular space between one side and the curve of the arch filled with interwoven roses, thistles and shamrocks. On the architrave of one of the side arches was the word *"Vivat"* and above the other was the word *"Regina."* Large pedestals 10 feet high stood above the smaller arches of the gateways, and on each of these pedestals was a statue in burnished armour, holding a British flag in the right hand and, in the left, a shield. In the openings at the sides of the towers on the Manchester side were the arms of the borough of Manchester, and on the sides facing Salford the arms of the borough of Salford. Connecting the two gateways was a light arcade, 54 feet in length. This arch was built at the entire expense of the corporation of Manchester.

As the Queen toured the streets of central Manchester, she passed beneath two arches on Oldham Street, one erected at each end, with the costs raised by the shopkeepers of that street. The arch at the New Cross Street end was to be called the Victoria and Albert, whilst that at the Piccadilly end was to be called the Prince of Wales arch. The first of these consisted of a main central arch over the road, and the others over the footpaths. The arches were supported by two columns placed by the kerbstones. The structure was of wood and wire, decorated with flowers and evergreens. Over the arch were the names 'Victoria and Albert' and above the pillars were clusters of flags.

The Prince of Wales arch was of similar design, and was simpler in its decorations. At the centre point was a medallion with the letters P.W., surmounted by the Prince of Wales feathers. Groups of flags similar to the other arch stood on top. Efforts were also made to raise subscriptions to illuminate the arches with coloured lamps at night. At St. Ann's Square, too, there was another arch through which her Majesty was to pass on leaving the Exchange for her return to Worsley. This was paid for by a number of subscriptions, totalling 184 guineas. The arch was to be decorated with evergreens and flags, and was to be brilliantly illuminated on the Friday evening.

In front of the Exchange entrance on Market Street, stood an arch, designed by Mr. Shorland. It stood some twelve feet from the door through which her Majesty would enter the building. It consisted of four square pillars. On the outer pair there were vases of natural flowers. Flat ornamental beams connected the two outer ones to the two inner pillars. An arch of iron work stretched across the two inner ones, and this was adorned with evergreens and flowers. Above the centre of the arch was a wreath of flowers, with the royal insignia within it. Floral decorations hung from the arch and above the door to the exchange could be seen the royal arms. At night, the arch was to be covered with illuminating devices

The arch at St. Ann's Square was a double arch, with a large lamp post forming the centre support. Each arch was 30 feet wide, and was composed of a wooden frame, covered by evergreens and flowers, and secured by a broad blue ribbon. The pillars supporting the two arches at the kerb stones were hollow with a base and capital. The pillars were also covered in evergreens. In the centre between the arches there was a royal flag and crown, surmounted by the royal standard, with groups of smaller flags at each side. In the centre of each arch was fixed the arms and crest of Manchester. From the centre of each arch and to the side was a white linen banner, bearing the motto "Long Live Our Queen." The illuminations at all points consisted of oil lamps. - inside the pillars, above the royal crown, and around the Manchester crest.

The Albert Bridge, like the Victoria Bridge, linked Manchester to Salford, and was to be the exit point of her Majesty from Manchester, as she made her way back to Worsley. This arch was erected at the joint expense of the corporations of the two boroughs, in an Italian style. It consisted of a main central arch, with two square sides entrances. The principal arch was 27 feet wide and 35 feet high, with its length from the Manchester side to the Salford side being 17 feet. The two side entrances were 25 feet high and 9 feet wide. Over the keystone on each side of the main arch was a shield, with an oval medallion with one displaying the arms of Manchester and the other the arms of Salford.

Above the arms on one side was the name of Victoria and on the other the name Albert. The pediment was surmounted by the Royal Arms and the whole structure was decorated with flowers, garlands other ornaments. It was reported that this arch was completed just 30 minutes before the royal party passed through.

RULES & REGS

In advance of the Queen's arrival at Patricroft Station, Public Notices were displayed on 2nd October, published by the Magistrates of the County of Lancaster, giving a series of Rules and Regulations for the public to follow on the occasion of Her Majesty's progress from Patricroft to Worsley Hall on the 9th October. These were intended to afford the public every opportunity to see the Queen, whilst preventing any possible annoyance or inconvenience to the Queen.

- 1. All persons will have free access to the Road along the Canal on the Monton Green side from Patricroft to the Coke Ovens at Worsley.*
- 2. No person will be allowed to remain on the Towing Path or Bridges.*
- 3. The Field opposite the Landing Pavilion at Worsley will, by permission of the Earl of Ellesmere, be open to the Public.*
- 4. No person will be permitted to run before, along with, or after the Royal Barge.*
- 5. All persons must especially refrain from waving hats or handkerchiefs until after the horses drawing the Royal Barge has passed.*
- 6. No Flag or Banner must be displayed along the Bank of the Canal.*

A further set of Rules was published at the same time, covering the events of the 10th October, from the New Hall to Peel Park, Salford.

- 1. No person will be allowed to join the Royal Cortege, either in a Carriage, upon Horseback, or on foot.*
- 2. The ordinary traffic along the whole line of route from Worsley to Salford will be stopped from 8a.m. until after Her Majesty's return.*
- 3. No Carriage, Waggon, or Cart, will be allowed to remain on the Roadside during the last period named.*

4. *Every person, party or procession, will be expected to be in the place selected by or allotted to him or them before Nine o'clock.*
5. *The whole Carriage Way will be kept perfectly clear, and all persons viewing the progress of Her Majesty must confine themselves to the footpath.*
6. *Parties or Processions may march to their respective places with Bands and Banners, but it is imperatively required for the safety of Her Majesty, that all Flags and Banners be furled or carried to the rear before Her Majesty's approach; and all persons are desired to abstain from the exhibition of any political or party Banners or Flags.*
7. *No person will be permitted to run before, along with or after the Carriages containing Her Majesty and Suite.*
8. *The Magistrates having appointed Mr. William Bradburn, Junior, Surveyor, Manchester, to examine all Stages on the side of the road between Worsley and Salford, warn all persons against standing upon any Stage or Erection which has not received the approval of the Surveyor, certified by a notice upon the Stage or Erection itself.*

The notice went on to express its confidence that all classes of Her Majesty's subjects would observe and enforce these regulations. The Magistrates were also satisfied that a strict observance of these rules would add to Her Majesty's pleasure on seeing such a large gathering of her loyal subjects, whilst attending to the safety and comfort of the citizens.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS

The idea of producing medals to commemorate her Majesty's welcome by the Sunday School Scholars was proposed by the Mayor of Salford (Mr. Thomas Agnew). The suggestion was approved by the committee and an order was placed with Ollivant & Co., silversmiths, of Exchange Street to provide 10,000 medals, 1¾ ins. in diameter, and 5,000, 1½ ins. in diameter. Both medals were provided to be purchased by clergymen, conductors or teachers for them to distribute to the most deserving pupils. In many cases, they decided to give a medal to every child in the school, and this helped to appease those children under 8 who were excluded from the park. The larger medal sold for 2d and the smaller for 1d.

On the obverse side were profiles of the Queen and Prince Albert. The Queen wore a light diadem, not the state crown, with a small chain around her neck,

with a heart-shaped gem. The Prince wore the Windsor uniform. The background bore the inscription "Queen Victoria and Prince Albert." The reverse bore the inscription "In commemoration of the general assemblage of Sunday schools, from the boroughs of Manchester and Salford, in Peel Park, to welcome Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and her royal consort - October 10th, 1851," surrounded by the words "John Potter, mayor of Manchester" around the top half, and "Thomas Agnew, mayor of Salford" around the bottom half. Both medals were very similar and were pierced to allow them to be worn around the neck.

Two other medals were struck to mark the royal visit, for purchase by the general public. Both were designed by Mr. J. C. Grundy, of Exchange Street, one to commemorate the Queen's visit and the other to mark her visit to Worsley New Hall. Both these medals were 2 ins. in diameter and the obverse was the same for both. This was an image of the Queen in profile, facing left, wearing the royal diadem and the ancient Dalmatic robe of state. The legend within the sunken surface of the medal read "*Victoria, Queen of Great Britain.*" On the raised border, which was ¼ inch wide, and facing the Queen, there was intertwined a rose, a thistle, and a shamrock. Behind the Queen's head were oak branches, with foliage and acorns. The reverse of the Manchester medal was a bas-relief image of the Queen's entry into the borough of Manchester, with the Victoria Bridge linking Salford and Manchester. On the Salford side was the royal carriage and four, whilst the Manchester side showed parts of the cathedral and other notable buildings. On a raised inner border was the legend "*In commemoration of the visit of her most gracious majesty Queen Victoria and H.R.H. Prince Albert to Manchester.*" The legend terminated with the name of the mayor and the date: "*John Potter Esq. mayor 10 Oct. 1851.*" Messrs. Allen and Moore of Birmingham produced the medals.

The Worsley medal was very similar in size, material and design. The obverse was the same as the Manchester one, but the reverse was a bas-relief representing the Queen's progress in the Earl of Ellesmere's state barge from Patricroft to Worsley, with Worsley New Hall seen on a rise in the background. A similar legend encircled the design on the obverse, except that the visit was to "Worsley" and the date was "9th and 10th October 1851." The medals went on sale at the cost of 6d each, or 5s. a dozen! *The Manchester Guardian* reported that the medals were being "*sold at a price so cheap as can scarcely be remunerative.*" It continued to express the view that this would be "*enough to induce thousands to possess one of the two medals, as a beautiful and appropriate record of the event they are designed to commemorate.*"

ROYAL BARGES

"In anticipation of the visit of Her Majesty to Worsley, the Earl of Ellesmere had two barges constructed and most luxuriously fitted up. That occupied by Her Majesty from Patricroft to Worsley, a distance of 2 miles, was about 40 feet long and 8 feet 6 inches wide. The saloon was about 12 feet long and 8 feet wide. Both the exterior and interior were painted white, relieved by gold mouldings. The state chair in the saloon, together with the other seats, the window curtains, and the blinds, were all of crimson satin. The barge occupied by the Royal suite was both smaller and lighter: it was fitted up with great elegance, and every attention paid to the accommodation of the occupants. Upon the stern of each barge was emblazoned the Ellesmere arms, and the noble Earl's crest was also placed at the 'prow. The fore-part of each of the boats was open."

(The Illustrated London News: October 1851)

This is how the *Illustrated London News* described the royal barges. *The Daily News*, however, described the second boat slightly differently, stating that it was a newly-built iron barge, which was much longer, but narrower at the beam. It was said to be more elegant and graceful, though not as elegantly fitted. A great deal of print was given over to the description of many features of the royal visit and much of it was extremely complimentary towards the Earl and the people of the Manchester area. Each of the barges was to be drawn by two horses, with a postilion in livery on the rear horse in each case, and a boy to run at the horses' heads.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD REGATTA CLUB

It had only been decided shortly before the royal visit that the boats of the Manchester and Salford Regatta Club would form part of the procession along the canal. The Earl had willingly and courteously granted this privilege to the club, of which he had been patron since its institution in 1842. The boats were to assemble in the canal basin in Dawson Street, Manchester, on Thursday 9th October, the day of her Majesty's arrival in the area, at 1.00p.m. and they were then to proceed to Patricroft at 1.30p.m.

The Manchester Guardian noted that his lordship "when at college, was an active member in the aquatic circle himself, plying the sturdy oar as no.7 in an eight-oar cutter." The dress of the crews was to be essentially uniform in appearance. The coxswains would wear blue naval caps with gold bands, black

neckerchiefs, blue uniform coats with anchor buttons, white vests, black trousers, and white gloves. Both coxswains and rowers would have white rosettes on the left side of their tunics. The rowers would have jackets similar to the coxswains, but when they were rowing they were to have their usual uniform of blue caps, Guernseys (or *gansey*, a seaman's knitted sweater), and white flannel trousers.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES

All the newspapers carried advertisements over many days for good vantage points to be purchased by the people. It seems that every office, warehouse, hotel, public house, private house, even church, was able to offer an '*excellent*' view, or a '*commanding*' view, or a '*most commodious and comfortably seated platform*.' Tickets varied in price, from 1s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. In one instance, it was said that the royal party would pass (and re-pass) within six yards of the platform. Some were able to state that the royal party would be seen for a quarter of a mile in each direction. Understandably, all claimed to have the best site, or to be in the most desirable situation; with the best view, or an uninterrupted view, or an extensive view of all the proceedings.

In one instance, "*A private balcony will be erected over the shop No.38 Market Street, near the Exchange, which will be let to one or two private families: two rooms will be at the disposal of the occupants during the day. - Apply at No.2 Pall Mall.*"

In another advert, "*To Be Let, SIX room windows, adjacent to Leaf Square, where an uninterrupted view can be had of the Royal Cortège from Pendleton Church to Windsor Bridge, Salford. - Apply to Mr. R. Woodall, Ellor Street, Pendleton*

Readers of *The Manchester Guardian* (Wednesday 8 October) were encouraged to go to the Horse Shoe Hotel, three minutes from Pendleton station, to their "*spacious and well-built platform*" in the grounds, close to the Triumphal Arch on her Majesty's entrance into Pendleton. There they would have commanding views of the coming and returning of the procession, at the cost of 2s. 6d., or 4s, for a reserved ticket! A marquee and refreshments were to be provided "*at a moderate charge, with wines and spirits of first-rate quality.*" An excellent brass band would also be there.

George Fox, of the Victoria Inn, Salford, called the attention of the Inhabitants of Manchester and surrounding neighbourhood, "*to his Covered PAVILION, without question the most massive and imposing of any erected, commanding an uninterrupted view from beyond Trinity Church, Salford.*" It had already been approved by the corporation's appointed inspector - "*indeed a moment's*

glance at the immense strength of the materials employed and the principles upon which it is built is a sufficient warrant for its safety." The most eminent members of the Manchester Chorus Singers were engaged to welcome the Queen with the "soul-stirring" chorus "Viva Victoria", with Mr. L. Goodwin conducting. Tickets and places could be secured at the bar of the Inn!

Adverts appeared for other services. One was to sell transparencies for decoration, aimed particularly at private families and suitable for windows of houses. These could be bought from W. D. Whitehead, of 50 Spring Gardens. J. H. Lane, of 67 Market Street, *"has just received, expressly for the above occasion, (The Queen's Visit), a beautiful assortment of Full and Half-dress BOOTS and SHOES, with walking soles, both French and English manufacture."* Charles Henry, at 18 Market Street, was now selling at very reduced prices, *"ORNAMENTS, combining elegance with utility, suitable for this happy occasion."*

Mr. I. Simmons, a gold and silversmith and agent for Braham's Patent Pantoscopic (the lens bottom is rotated towards the cheeks) Spectacles, of 7 St. Ann's Square, was offering *"a choice assortment of achromatic opera glasses, just imported from Paris,"* and in a separate advert was offering *"to the ladies of Manchester and its vicinity - the most elegant and fashionable ornament now worn - the BRACELET,, which is so suitable for the present style of dress sleeve."* Each of these adverts bore the royal coat of arms at the top!

PEEL PARK

The Queen had, at an earlier date, signalled her willingness to receive an address from the Mayor and corporation of Salford, from within the borough's boundaries. Peel Park was chosen as the most appropriate place for the ceremony. It had only been opened on 22 August 1846, as one of the first parks in the country to be created *"for the enjoyment and recreation of the public ... without charge or restriction."* It was named in honour of the then Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, who had led the campaign for public parks and who was also a major beneficiary to its development. Adjacent to the park, the Salford Museum and Art Gallery, at Lark Hill mansion, was opened in November 1850 as "the Royal Museum and Public Library," the first unconditionally free public library in England. These developments took place at a time when there were great strides being made in public social reforms during Queen Victoria's reign.

The area of the park, which was principally undulating ground, was 32 acres and was laid out with extensive flower beds, shrubberies, lawns and walks.

The main entrance from the Salford road was, for this occasion, completely altered. A deep, coved arch standing 20 feet high, was built, its gateway being 10 feet 6 inches wide. Two extensions stretched to either side, giving a total frontage of 50 feet. The finish was generally of stone, with the coved part filled with evergreens and flowers, and with the Royal Standard mounted on top of the arch. On either side of this entrance, large stands had been erected for the public.

A large pavilion was erected to the north of the park, in which the corporation's address to the Queen would be delivered. It had a straight-arched front and was calculated to accommodate 1,250 guests. The shape was described as semi-octagonal. It was 140 feet long and there was a raised bank of seats to hold 950 people. At the front was a platform, raised one foot off the ground, where the Mayor and corporation would stand during the presentation of the address to the Queen and Prince Albert. There was also a wide carriage way to the front and under the roof of the pavilion, so that her Majesty would not have to descend from the carriage, since she had expressed her intention not to do so.

The side of the pavilion facing the park towards the museum was open and consisted of five arches, supported by three pilasters and one pillar at each junction. The three centre arches were 26 feet 4 inches wide and the two end ones about 18 feet. Above the arches was a tympanum, which contained the Royal Arms. All the columns were decorated in a similar fashion: covered in drapery and wreathed with flowers and evergreens, with their capitals painted in white and gold. *"The centre ceiling of the pavilion was divided into three panels, from the centre of each of which radiated lines of fluted glazed calico, intermingling the colours of amber, blue, white, and pink, with strings of artificial flowers and ornamental wreaths. In the centre arch (over the place where the Royal carriage rested, was a canopy, in gold and scarlet cloth, bordered with a rich gold fringe."*

(The Illustrated London News: October 1851)

For the school children, large platforms were erected in the centre of the park. The main platform stretched across the park, with its front describing a slight concave looking towards the pavilion. This platform was 200 yards long and 27 yards deep, with an incline rising to just over 12 feet. Two smaller platforms, facing each other, of the same length but not as deep, only 13 yards and rising to 3 feet 6 inches high, were also built. These platforms were separated by a gap 12 yards wide, in the middle of which was a carriage driveway, 8 feet wide, which was levelled. The space between the platforms and the edge of the carriageway was boarded over for some of the children to stand on. It was calculated that the platforms would hold 62,000 people, with space for 20,000 more on the boarded areas.

PLAN OF ROUTE

Entering Manchester by the Victoria Bridge, the royal party proceeded through Victoria Street, Market Street, High Street, Shude Hill, Swan Street, Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Portland Street, Baker Street, Mosley Street, Peter Street, Deansgate, King Street, Cross Street, St. Ann's Street and St. Ann's Square, to the Exchange; and then from the Exchange through St. Ann's Square, Deansgate, Bridge Street, and New Bailey Street, and from there direct to Worsley, via Pendleton and Swinton.

COMMENT ON WORSLEY

Various depressing commentaries on Worsley, all well known to today's local residents, appeared. Francis Leveson-Gower (later Earl of Ellesmere) is recorded as saying that he found Worsley to be "*a God-forsaken place, full of drunken, rude people with deplorable morals*". In a diary entry of 1773, Josiah Wedgwood wrote of the area; "*We next visited Worsley which has the appearance of a considerable Seaport Town. His Grace has built some hundreds of houses, and is every year adding considerably to their number.*"

The Illustrated London News added its comments to the dreary image of Worsley when it described in detail the Queen's visit in its edition of 11th October 1851.

"Of the village in which Worsley Hall is situated, it is not too much to say that it is an oasis in the somewhat dreary district surrounding it. (Here, a tribute to the philanthropy of the noble Earl and his benevolent Countess with fresh works of piety or charity). We are assured that in former years the moral condition of this colliery district was only too truly described by its ostensible features. The principal street of Worsley, then called Smoke Street, from its sooty aspect and proximity to the Bridgewater forge and coke ovens, was but the entrance to a series of hamlets in which dilapidated cottages, rude and squalid children, and blackened coal works, formed the principal characteristics. Drunkenness, Sabbath breaking, cock-fighting, and disregard of all decency, prevailed to a great extent. The few Sunday schools, whether belonging to the Church or to Dissenters, were void of everything like discipline or control; and Ellenbrook chapel, capable of holding about 350 people, with a Wesleyan chapel at Worsley, and Independent Methodist

chapel at Roe Green, and a Ranting chapel at Winton, were the only accessible places of worship. In short, it was considered as rough a locality as any in the county."

This is as depraved, dissolute, and damning a commentary as there can be! However, the paragraph then changed its tone. The continuation then read:

"From the time of Lord Ellesmere's residence, however, an entirely new era seems to have commenced. Few neighbourhoods now present a more quiet Sabbath, fuller churches, better schools, more respectable, honest, orderly, and civil inhabitants."

(The Illustrated London News: Saturday 11 October 1851)

And from that point, it went on to list all the benefits that the noble Earl brought to the community:

- A temporary church erected at Walkden Moor
- A clergyman appointed and paid for by Lord Ellesmere
- In 1838, juvenile schools for 300 children were built
- In 1838, a school built at Walkden Moor for 200 infants
- In 1842, juvenile schools added in the same district
- In 1844, a school for 200 infants was opened in Worsley, with a mistress and 2 assistants
- In 1845, the beautiful church of St.Mark's Church, Worsley, (600 sittings) built by his lordship
- In 1848, the church of Walkden Moor was built
- In 1849, the chapel of Ellenbrook was extended, with an infant and Sunday school opened
- In 1850, a new Sunday school built at Edgefold
- In 1851, the foundations of a new aisle at St.Mark's laid

WELLINGTON ARRIVES

The Duke of Wellington had arrived at Worsley at about 6pm in the evening of Wednesday 8th October, where he joined other guests in readiness for the arrival of Queen Victoria later the next day. By 1851, the Duke was growing tired of the enjoyment of society, due largely to increased deafness. He only attended Her Majesty's invitations and did not enjoy spending 18 out of 24 hours in Society, not being able to hear one word that was said. He did, however, accompany Her Majesty to Lord Ellesmere's in October 1851. He made this clear in a letter to Mrs. Jones on 15th October 1851, when he wrote:

"I have been in the habit of visiting much, and enjoyed the society until I have become so deaf as to be unfit for social life; and I now go only to attend Her Majesty's invitation, or to meet Her Majesty as recently as Lord Ellesmere's, as I find it irksome to pass eighteen hours out of twenty-four in Society, and not hear one word that is said. I never go anywhere now excepting to Lord Salisbury's for a night."

(Letter to Mrs. Jones: Wednesday 15th October 1851)

Some of his thoughts (such as in the letter above) were expressed in personal letters addressed to Mrs. Jones of Pantglas. She was born Margaret Charlotte Campbell, daughter of Sir George Campbell. Margaret Charlotte Jones (1827-1871) was the wife of David Jones (1810-1869) of Pantglas, Carmarthen, whom she married in 1845. Her husband was a banker and Conservative politician, who became MP for Carmarthenshire in May 1853. In 1850, David Jones purchased the 7,854-acre estate at Pantglas and built a large Italianate mansion there. By 1851 they were living at St. George's, Hanover Square, London, with 2 daughters and a large retinue. Mrs. Jones was almost 60 years younger than the Duke but she was a great socialite in London. She was a gifted conversationalist and letter-writer, and as such was able to keep the Duke well-informed, since his increasing deafness made socialising difficult.

On the evening of his arrival at the Hall, he wrote to Mrs. Jones:

Worsley, Oct. 8th

"I made a good journey here ... but did not arrive till towards six o'clock. Her majesty will come here from Liverpool at the same time this day. I found here the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Lord and Lady Westminster, Lord and Lady Wilton, and a son of Lady Westminster's, Lord and Lady Brackley, and the family of the Host. I purpose to return to London on Saturday. Lord and Lady Stanley will come this day. We all go into Manchester tomorrow. I shall return to London on Saturday and then back to Walmer Castle. I hope that you continue to be amused. (Today) was a very fine day. It rains heavily now, but I hope will clear up for the arrival of the Queen.

With compts to Mr. Jones

Believe me

Ever yours most faithfully,

Wellington"

Within twelve months of the Queen's visit to Worsley, the Duke had died. He wrote his last letter to Mrs. Jones from Walmer Castle on 7th September 1852. He died on 14th September.

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

The day did not start auspiciously. A great deal of time and money had been spent on the preparations, but the weather refused to join in the celebrations. The dismal conditions prevented the royal family from witnessing the grand reception that had been planned along the route of the canal from Patricroft to Worsley. The state of the weather prevented many testimonials of loyalty and affection to the monarch from being seen to their best advantage; but, nevertheless, this did not deter thousands of people from assembling along the route to witness the royal progress from the railway station to the New Hall. The thick drizzle continued to fall throughout the day.

THE ARRIVAL AT PATRICROFT

Shortly before 4 p.m., the royal barge was towed empty from Worsley to Patricroft, followed by the barge for the Queen's retinue, which contained Lady Ellesmere, Lady Brackley, the Ladies Blanche and Alice Egerton, and the honourable Captain Egerton, R.N., together with Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, the Earl and Countess of Wilton, and the Countess of Derby. The Earl of Ellesmere and the Earl of Derby remained at the Hall, because of illness. As the boat passed the coke ovens, the Duke of Wellington was instantly recognised by the crowds standing on specially erected platforms and was heartily cheered. This recognition and response was to be repeated on many occasions and in different places during the royal visit. A third boat, owned by Mr. Loch, left the landing-stage also unoccupied.

On arriving at Patricroft, the barges were lined up along the canal bank, ready to take onboard their royal guests. At 4.12 p.m., his Grace came onto the platform from the corridor and was again loudly cheered. He appeared in good spirits and was in deep conversation with the Countess of Ellesmere, who had taken his arm. He later spoke with one of the directors, Mr. Tootal, recounting a previous visit to Manchester some 20 years ago, at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, on the occasion of which William Huskisson died tragically near Rainhill.

He then became even more animated when he spotted a veteran from the Peninsular Wars. He immediately engaged with an old policeman named Zachariah Drakeley, working in the service of the London and North Western Company, and stationed at Madeley Station, Staffordshire. He, along with several others, had been sent to Liverpool and then to Patricroft for service during her Majesty's visit. His jacket was decorated with medals won in the Peninsular Wars, a campaign directed by the Duke himself. The medals were

won at Talavera (1809), Ciudad Rodrigo (1812) and Salamanca (1812). The conversation is understood to have been as follows:

Duke: You have been an old soldier?

Zachariah: Yes, your honour (not understanding that he was talking to the Duke).

Duke: What regiment were you in?

Zachariah: In the second battalion of the 24th Foot, my lord.

Duke: Who was your colonel?

Zachariah: Colonel Drummond.

Duke: You are right. He was at Talavera.

Zachariah: Yes, my lord, he was.

Duke: Well, I am glad to see you so well.

Zachariah: Thank you, my lord.

In response to a further question from the Duke, Zachariah admitted to being 67 years old. At this point, it was reported that the Duke handed to Mr. Drakeley a sovereign. Zachariah was wounded at Salamanca and discharged in 1814. He was eventually admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 6th January 1857.

A pilot engine first passed through the station at 3.43pm to signal the approach of her Majesty. The train which had brought her Majesty from Liverpool entered the station at 4.30 p.m. It was drawn by the engine '*Marquis of Douro*' and consisted of the state carriage, two saloon carriages, two ordinary first-class carriages, and a luggage van. The engineer was Mr. Francis Trevithick, locomotive superintendent, from Crewe. The title '*Marquis of Douro*' was one conferred upon Arthur Wellesley on 11 May 1814, at the same time as the title '*Duke of Wellington*' was bestowed upon him. However, this title passed quickly to his son, Arthur Wellesley, who was styled Marquess of Douro from 1814 to 1852. The title remains within the family to the present day.

The station at Patricroft had been covered over, fitted with red, pink and white draperies, and decorated with dahlias and evergreens, according to a design provided by Mr. Rainforth of Liverpool. The platforms were covered with crimson cloth. The exterior was completely covered with evergreens, "*giving it the appearance of a large rustic arbour.*" (The Times: Saturday 11 October). There was a long corridor from the station platform to the canal, about 100 yards long, and brilliantly lit with gas. A guard-of-honour was also in attendance, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Messiter, with 100 troops of the 28th Regiment, stationed in Manchester.

Upon her arrival, the Queen appeared well and in good spirits. As her Majesty descended from the carriage, the band of the 28th Regiment played the National Anthem. She graciously acknowledged the cheers of the crowds, and, after being warmly greeted by the Countess of Ellesmere, entered the waiting room which had been lined with crimson satin. The party waited there for about five minutes whilst the engine and carriages were removed, and a temporary platform across the line was put down. The party was then conducted across the platform to the other side of the railway line, and immediately proceeded along the corridor leading to the embarkation stage, where the royal barge was waiting to receive her Majesty.

The corridor was beautifully decorated, with elaborate ornamentation. The roof had a richly-veined ceiling which was supported by ornamental arches, resting upon several pillars, covered in fluted red and white cambric, (a fine white linen or cotton fabric originally from Cambrai in Northern France), with the capitals painted in white and gold. The carpet that had been laid down for the royal party was a rich granite pattern, with a border in crimson and gold. At each end of the corridor was a lion rampant, carved in wood, supporting a silk banner, on which was emblazoned the arms of the Earl of Ellesmere. A detailed account of the rich and extensive decoration at the station is contained in *The Daily News* of Saturday 11 October. The newspaper noted that only the wooden framework of the arches and corridors were visible at 2 o'clock on the Wednesday afternoon, and that within 24 hours all the decoration had taken place.

The Queen was accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and Prince Alfred, together with Viscountess Canning, lady-in-waiting, and the Hon. Beatrice Byng, maid-of-honour. The other members of the suite were Earl Grey, Secretary of State, Colonel G. G. Gordon, page of honour, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, keeper of the privy purse, Sir James Clark, physician, and the Rev. H. M. Birch, tutor to the Prince of Wales. The directors of the railway company who were present to welcome her Majesty were George Carr Glyn, Esq., the Chairman of the Company; William Rotherham, Esq., of Liverpool; E. Cropper, Esq., of Liverpool; James Hornby, Esq., Robert Benson, Esq; M. Lyon, Esq; G. R. Chappell, Esq., Edward Tootal, Esq.; and Captain Huish, the general manager.

The Queen went aboard the barge first and, after acknowledging the cheers of the spectators, took her seat in the state chair in the centre of the saloon. She was followed by Prince Albert, the royal children, the Duke of Wellington, the Countess of Ellesmere, the Marchioness of Westminster, and Lady Brackley. The rest of the royal party and other distinguished guests of the Earl of Ellesmere got into a second barge, and the Queen's retinue, with luggage and domestics servants, followed in a third barge. Steering of the royal barge was

entrusted to Captain Ransford, captain of the packet which ran daily between Worsley and Manchester.

The boats of the Manchester and Salford Regatta Club, which had been moored opposite Mr. Nasmyth's foundry, kept their distance until the third barge was about 100 yards away. The boats had arrived on station earlier in the afternoon, and the crews went ashore to await the signal of her Majesty's arrival. As the royal party passed the boats, each crew saluted her Majesty. This courtesy was graciously acknowledged by the Queen and the Prince Consort, who had come to the bow of the barge to inspect the boats as the barge passed by. The boats, of which there were twelve, followed at 100 yard intervals, so that the whole procession was nearly a mile in length.

It had only been decided shortly before the royal visit that the boats would form part of the procession along the canal. The Earl had willingly and courteously granted this privilege to the club, of which he had been patron since its institution in 1842. *The Manchester Guardian* noted that his lordship "when at college, was an active member in the aquatic circle himself, plying the sturdy oar as no.7 in an eight-oar cutter." The dress of the crews was essentially uniform in appearance. The coxswains wore blue naval caps with gold bands, black neckerchiefs, blue uniform coats with anchor buttons, white vests, black trousers, and white gloves. Both coxswains and rowers wore white rosettes on the left side of their tunics. The rowers had jackets similar to the coxswains, but when they were rowing they had their usual uniform of blue caps, Guernseys (or *gansey*, a seaman's knitted sweater), and white flannel trousers.

The owners of the Bridgewater Foundry at Patricroft, Messrs. James Nasmyth & Co., agreed to allow their large yard to be used as a spectator area for a limited number of people on the day. The yard stretched along the canal bank for a distance of 400 yards from the station, and this was to provide an uninterrupted view of the Queen's embarkation and the royal progress along the canal. An organising committee was formed and it was proposed to charge a fee of 1s. per person, with the proceeds going to charitable purposes in the neighbourhood.

JOURNEY ON THE CANAL

In the days leading up to the royal visit, the banks of the canal had been thoroughly inspected, and repaired where necessary. The towing path was also levelled and edged with fresh green sods of grass. The canal itself had been dredged and cleaned at those points where it seemed too shallow. No boat was then allowed to pass along the section of the canal that was to be used by the

Queen between 9 o'clock in the morning and 9 o'clock in the evening. Further to this, an order was published prohibiting any boat from passing along the same section on Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Steps had been taken to break in the horses that were to tow the barges, so that they would not be startled by the noise of the spectators. Groups of mine-workers had been assembled on several occasions to accustom the horses to raucous shouting, and the selected horses had seemed able to withstand the noise. However, as the second barge was about to move off, the hind horse was startled by the cheering that rang out, mingled with the loud tones coming from the band on the opposite bank, who were playing the National Anthem.

The animal started prancing and the result was that his hind legs slipped over the bank into the water. Fortunately, the horse was rescued from the canal and the barge proceeded on its journey to the Hall without further interruption. The tow rope of the royal barge broke after only a few yards and there was a slight delay while another was secured. The third boat pulled away from the platform at about 4.40 p.m. and was quickly followed by the boats of the regatta club. Since the steady drizzle was continuing to fall, the spectators did not wait too long before dispersing, having waited just long enough to pay homage to their Queen.

The banks of the canal from Patricroft to Worsley, a distance said to be about 2 miles in *The Times*, were crowded with large numbers of people, who had occupied any space from which they were likely to obtain a good view of the royal progress along the canal. A number of wooden stands had been erected on the towing path side of the canal, and were filled with spectators, who enthusiastically cheered her Majesty. A triumphal arch stood across the canal at Monton Bridge, about half a mile from Patricroft, and was adorned with flowers and evergreens. After passing under the bridge, the royal party, now within the domains of the Earl, very quickly came within sight of "*the pretty village of Worsley*," with "*the tall and graceful spire*" of Worsley Church beyond.

Monton Green was considered to be an excellent place to observe the passing of the procession and a large crowd assembled there. The barges had to make a wide sweep round the ness at that point, and the Queen was able to notice the carriage drive which was lined with spectators. On seeing this, her Majesty had the royal chair positioned at the front of the saloon, so as not to disappoint the people. One newspaper estimated that there were probably about 15,000 assembled there, reasoning that a single line of spectators would have numbered three thousand along the 1,000 yard stretch and that the crowd was five deep. Given that many of them had stood for several hours in the persistent rain, it proceeded to admire their deep sense of loyalty.

A crowd estimated at between 4 and 5,000 colliers and workmen from the Bridgewater estates filled Worsley Yard as the royal barge approached. Each was accompanied by his family. The two bridges which form a right angle in the heart of the village were crowded with people. On the face of one of the bridges was the inscription "Victoria, Duchess of Lancaster" in huge letters. There was a great outpouring of joy and cheering which was "*absolutely deafening*." Several banners floated from the roofs of the extensive canal works, which had been established by the Duke of Bridgewater. The largest was made of silk and was emblazoned with the arms of the Earl of Ellesmere. The Queen appeared greatly interested in the scene on the canal banks and, in spite of the poor weather that afternoon and the fatigue that she was suffering from, she left the salon from time to time and walked upon the deck of the barge. There she was protected from the rain by an awning and this offered her a better view of the preparations made for the royal reception. Shortly after passing through the works yard, the barge entered Lord Ellesmere's estate.

THE ARRIVAL AT THE HALL

The Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal family and suite, arrived at Worsley Hall, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere, at precisely 5 o'clock. *The Daily News* on Saturday 11 October reported that "*preparations of a most extensive and costly character had been made there, and all along the line of the canal from Patricroft, to give the royal party a fitting reception. Unfortunately, the state of the weather prevented many of these testimonials of loyalty and affection to the monarch from being seen to the best advantage.*" However, the poor weather did not deter thousands of people from assembling along the banks of the canal to witness the arrival of her Majesty. A thick, persistent drizzle fell throughout the whole of the day.

A special landing-stage for the royal party had been erected in a neo-Gothic style. A large canopy crossed a road parallel with the canal, where the royal carriage waited for her Majesty. To the front of the building was an awning which stretched across the canal where the barges were to draw up. The Queen was welcomed by an escort of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Major Gerard, and by children from the Worsley schools, headed by a troop of fifes and drums, all the performers being children from the schools. A small, select group of visitors only had access to the private grounds on the north side of the canal, whereas on the opposite bank, and behind the towpath, members of the public were freely admitted.

The Countess of Ellesmere was the first to leave the barge, nimbly leaping from the barge before it had come to rest, followed by the Duke of Wellington,

who tried to do likewise. Unfortunately, he too stepped onto the canal bank before the barge had come completely to rest and slipped on the grassy bank. Prince Albert then handed the royal children onto the bank and, shortly after, helped the Queen to disembark. Her appearance on the canal side was greeted with enthusiasm by the spectators on the other side. The royal party began its progress along the drive which was measured at a third of a mile. The horses of the Cavalry were drawn up in files and faced inwards. Midway along the drive stood a triumphal arch designed by Mr. Edward Blore F.R.S. (architect of the New Hall) from which banners fluttered in the breeze. There were five carriages in the royal party and the group moved slowly along the driveway towards the Hall, with a small advanced and rear-guard, until the party disappeared from view behind a shrubbery. The raising of the royal standard from the flag-tower signalled the arrival of the queen and her residence in the Hall.

DINNER PARTY AND MR. NASMYTH

On the evening of Queen Victoria's arrival at Worsley New Hall, on Thursday 9th October, the Earl of Ellesmere hosted a private dinner party in her honour, commencing at 8pm. The guests included the Duke of Wellington, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, the Earl and Countess of Derby, the Earl and Countess of Wilton. The Earl of Ellesmere, though very ill, joined the party. He was *"lame with gout and walking with a stick."* Ref: Royal Archives, Windsor: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ(W): 9 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies). Also present were members of the Ellesmere family - the Viscount and Viscountess Brackley (George Granville Francis Egerton and Mary Campbell), the Ladies Alice (aged 20) and Blanche Egerton (aged 18), Captain the Hon. Frank Egerton (second son, born 1824) and the Hon. Algernon Egerton (third son, born 1825). At dinner, they were joined by local dignitaries, who included Mr. James Nasmyth, a Scottish engineer, inventor and highly talented machine builder, famous for (amongst other things) his development of the steam-hammer. In August 1836, Nasmyth and his business partner, Holbrook Gaskell, had opened the Bridgewater Foundry in Patricroft, Eccles, near to the established Bridgewater Canal and the newly-built Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

At Patricroft, he welcomed many distinguished guests, frequently in the company of the Earl of Ellesmere. The Earl would frequently bring his visitors to the foundry in his private barge. In his autobiography, he wrote:

"It was always a source of high pleasure to me to receive visits from Lord Ellesmere, as he was generally

accompanied by men of distinction who were well able to appreciate the importance of what had been displayed before their eyes. The visits for instance of Ralph Brooke, the Earl of Elgin, the Duke of Argyll, Chevalier Bunsen, and Count Flahault, stand out in my memory."

(James Nasmyth: Autobiography-1883)

Indeed, James Nasmyth was full of admiration for Lord Ellesmere and for the interest he displayed in his work. He derived great pleasure from having the Ellesmeres as his near neighbours and spoke highly of his lordship's generous disposition in all matters. As an example of this, he says that Lord Ellesmere offered the use of the wharf free of rent. But, in his desire to ensure that everything was done in a business-like manner, Nasmyth had the arrangement put in a formal acknowledgement, offering to pay 5/- per annum. Lord Ellesmere became a frequent visitor to the foundry and enjoyed the sight of the machinery in operation.

A Council Medal had been presented to him at the Great Exhibition for his work on the steam hammer. This he received with great pride but he derived the greatest pleasure from the award of the Prize Medal, received for his special hobby - the drawings of the moon's surface. He had sent a collection of these to the Exhibition, together with a map of the moon's surface. These attracted great attention because of their accurate and artistic style. In making the award, the Jurors concluded:

"Mr. Nasmyth exhibits a well-delineated map of the moon on a large scale, which is drawn with great accuracy, the irregularities upon the surface being shown with much force and spirit; also separate and enlarged representations of certain portions of the moon as seen through a powerful telescope: they are all good in detail, and very effective."

Inevitably, given Prince Albert's interest and commitment to the Great Exhibition, these drawings came to the notice of the Prince Consort. The Queen and the Prince made their visit to Liverpool and Manchester after a five-week stay at Balmoral, during which time they stayed at Worsley New Hall as guests of the Earl of Ellesmere. Knowing that Nasmyth lived nearby, the Prince expressed his desire to Lord Ellesmere that he be invited to exhibit some of his lunar drawings to Her Majesty. This suggestion was readily accepted by the Countess who sent a note to Mr. Nasmyth requesting a selection of the drawings to be sent to the Hall. He then went to the Hall in the evening:

"I had then the honour of showing them to the Queen and the Prince, and explaining them in detail. Her Majesty took a deep interest in the subject, and was most earnest in her inquiries. The Prince Consort said that the drawings opened up quite a new question to him, which he had not before had the opportunity of considering."

(James Nasmyth: Autobiography-1883)

In his work *The Life of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort*, Sir Theodore Martin makes reference to James Nasmyth's presence at the dinner:

"The evening was enlivened by the presence of Mr. Nasmyth, the inventor of the steam hammer, who had extensive works at Patricroft. He exhibited and explained the map and drawings in which he had embodied the results of his investigations of the conformations of the surface of the moon. The Queen in her Diary dwells at considerable length on the results of Mr. Nasmyth's inquiries. The charm of his manner, in which the simplicity, modesty, and enthusiasm of genius are all strikingly combined, are warmly dwelt upon."

Queen Victoria, with much admiration and excitement, described the evening as follows in her journals:

"After dinner we saw some very interesting drawings of the moon by M^r Nasmyth, a Scotchman, and an Engineer, a most intelligent man, who has entirely raised himself by his own efforts, and has a large factory at Patricroft, where he has a steam hammer. He has made many wonderful and useful inventions, and is very simple, modest and unaffected. He is quite an enthusiast about the moon, and the researches he has made by means of a telescope of his own construction are very wonderful. He made the map of the moon, which is in the great Exhibition. By these drawings he shows that there are immense volcanic mountains and craters in the moon, that they are perfectly round, proving the entire absence of all atmosphere & of all wind. The mountains are conical, for the same reason, , — whereas in our Planet, they are steeper on one side than on the other. This shows that the wind blew the lava, or whatever hot substance it was, which was forced up through the crush of the earth, into their present shapes. By means of the mechanism of the telescope, he is able to estimate, the relative size, diameter and height of the different volcanoes. He also has made

drawings representing the effect he supposes the sun to have on the moon, — a perfectly black sky, from the absence of atmosphere, — no vegetation, — nothing but the roughest, boldest rocks, & the most intense sunshine.

It was extraordinarily interesting to hear what he had to say and he explained all so delightfully. What fields science opens to the human mind! How much more of God's visible (and invisible) world may we not possibly soon be led to admire and comprehend! We saw also some other very pretty sketches by M^r Nasmyth."

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 9 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

Both the queen and Prince Albert were very impressed by Mr. Nasmyth's drawings of the lunar surface and the explanations he gave of each. Prince Albert asked several questions, demonstrating his keen philosophical and scientific mind, and the whole encounter is said to have taken at least three quarters of an hour. Further discussion took place about the nature and character of the moon's surface, and, after expressing her gratitude for Mr. Nasmyth's exposition of so novel a subject, the Queen expressed her desire that on the following evening, at an early hour, he would show the Prince of Wales his lunar drawings, accompanied by an explanation. Prince Albert continued to engage Mr. Nasmyth on many topics, which is estimated to have taken about two hours, and expressed a desire to see his foundry, and in particular a ventilating fan for the mines. An appointment was made for the Friday afternoon at three o'clock, when the Prince paid his private visit.

In the course of the evening dinner party, two gold medals were presented to the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. They were very similar to the medals handed to the school children earlier in the day at Peel Park. On one side, there was an image of the Queen and her Consort. On the other was the inscription: "*Thomas Potter, Esq., mayor of Manchester, and Thomas Agnew, Esq., mayor of Salford. In commemoration of the assemblage of Sunday Schools from the boroughs of Manchester and Salford, in Peel Park, to welcome her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and her Royal Consort. Oct.10, 1851.*"

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

This day was to become the greatest day that the area had ever seen. By daybreak, all the preparations which had been going on at pace, were completed. Crowds assembled in Manchester from all parts. People came from Bury, Bolton, Macclesfield, Preston, Wigan and many other towns - mainly by train. All carriages were reported to be crammed to excess. Various estimates of the crowds were eventually reported in the newspapers. One newspaper estimated that the population of the two boroughs of Manchester and Salford had been trebled that day, and that 800,000 'strangers' at least were there. In addition, there were approximately 100,000 in Peel Park whilst her majesty was there. All business and commerce was suspended for the day.

The clear atmosphere that morning was in direct contrast to the dismal weather of the previous day. *The Daily News* reported that, although the morning began rather inauspiciously, with the atmosphere being thick and hazy, the mist quickly cleared and the sun shone in all its majesty by 9 o'clock. At a very early hour, villagers, large bodies of local inhabitants and people from other towns began to flock into Worsley to pay homage to their Sovereign. Indeed, the Queen herself was an early riser and enjoyed a brief walk on the terrace along the south front of the Hall. Earl Ellesmere had arranged for platforms to be erected on either side of the road, so that his dependants and others might get an opportunity of viewing the royal progress to Manchester. By nine o'clock, every vantage point was taken. The children of the Worsley, Walkden Moor and Mosley Common schools, which were under the patronage of the Countess of Ellesmere, led by their very creditable juvenile band, marched into the grounds of the New Hall and took up a position near the north entrance. They were joined on the rising ground by the Ellenbrook, Rawgreen (sic) and Hedgefield (sic) Sunday Schools, and the whole group numbered about 1,200. The Worsley Troop of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry, under Captain Loch, arrived to escort her Majesty to Peel Park.

The Manchester Examiner that morning referred to the auspicious day and described it as a proud day for Worsley, Salford and Manchester. It portrayed the lively and colourful scene in Worsley that day in the following report:

"The quiet, clean and neat village of Worsley, and a large portion of whose inhabitants spend their days under ground, in order to warm and comfort others, on Thursday had the good fortune not only to breathe the pure air on the sovereign's surface, but also to express their loyalty to the sovereign whose industrious and peaceful subjects they are. Those who stationed themselves on the elevated ground near the church, with its lofty spire, and cast their gaze over the

village to the southward, would see a cloud of banners floating in the air. It appeared like a field of battle. True, 'the hero of a hundred fights' was present, but this was not one of them."

The scene was one of peace and joy, with adults and children mingling in great numbers on the slopes which flanked the route along which the royal procession would pass. In a field to the front of the house occupied by Mr. Rasbotham, secretary to the Earl, were 400 scholars from Preston New Mills Sunday School, 500 from the Farnworth and Kearsley Sunday Schools, and others from the Bolton Wesleyan School. There were also groups of workmen from surrounding towns, for some of whom special stands had been erected by the employers.

It had been decided by the corporation that the address should be accompanied by a display which was novel, interesting, and impressive. It was therefore agreed to make arrangements to gather in the park all the Sunday School children of Manchester, Salford and suburbs, so that her Majesty might have an opportunity to witness the extensive provision of education for the young children of these new industrial and densely-populated towns. The ministers of the various churches - Churchmen, Dissenters and Roman Catholics - all readily agreed to the proposals; consequently there was to be an assembly of children to sing the National Anthem, the like of which probably had never been seen before throughout the Kingdom. The number of children to be present was set at 80,000, together with 3 or 4,000 teachers. A further 4,000 special admission tickets were also issued for the Park, notwithstanding the number of people issued with tickets for the pavilion where the address was to be delivered.

PEEL PARK & SALFORD

The children were arranged in groups, depending upon which parts of the two boroughs they were coming from. The Manchester schools were arranged in 4 divisions, the Salford schools were grouped into 3 divisions, and there was another group from other neighbourhoods beyond the limits of the two boroughs. To avoid any chaos and confusion, and to facilitate the entrance of these large bodies into Peel Park, each division had its own dedicated route to follow and its own entrance. Their routes brought them from each point of the compass. All the children had to be within the rails of the park by 8.30 a.m. The park entrances were opened at 6 o'clock and closed at 9 o'clock. All the school divisions had to be formed in close order and were to walk five abreast along the whole length of the route. Some of them had more than six miles to walk. Those children who had been given medals to wear (usually the

youngest and the oldest) proudly wore them on the day, and the Roman Catholic children wore theirs, together with a small cross on a blue ribbon.

The royal party left Worsley New Hall at ten o'clock, though other accounts state just before 10 o'clock or just after 10 o'clock. There were five carriages in total in the royal cortège. Ahead of them in his own carriage were the Earl of Carlisle; T. P. Heywood, Esq., high sheriff of the county, with his lady, and Mrs. Oliver Heywood. The first carriage was the royal carriage, containing Her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. The Duke of Norfolk, Earl Grey, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, and Colonel Gordon were in the second carriage. The third carriage had the Marquis of Westminster, the Viscountess Canning, and the Hon. Miss Beatrice Byng. In the fourth carriage were the Duke of Wellington, the Countess of Ellesmere, the Hon. Frank Egerton, and the Lady Alice Egerton. The Earl of Ellesmere, Viscountess Brackley, the Hon. Algernon Egerton, and the Lady Blanche Egerton rode in the last carriage. The Queen was escorted by the Worsley Troop of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry, from Worsley New Hall to the triumphal arch which had been erected at Cross Lane, the boundary with Salford.

As the party passed through Worsley village, they were cheered by the Earl's workforce, and were also welcomed by a large number of artisans from Mr. T. B. Crompton's paper mill at Preston, and continued at a brisk pace towards Salford. At Irlam-o'-the-Heights, employees from Mr. Crompton's mill at Tamworth were gathered, numbering about 1,500. They undoubtedly gave her Majesty a warm reception, and the carriages continued towards Pendleton. As the royal party moved through Pendleton towards Peel Park, they were loudly cheered by the massed ranks of human beings, with several platforms bearing huge crowds of people. The road through was a wide one and was lined with an estimated 20,000 members of benevolent societies and trade bodies. Every window and balcony was crowded, with some people seeking a better vantage point from the roofs of the houses. Many of the balconies were covered with bright calico and displayed expressions of welcome to the Queen of England.

The arch at Cross Lane was designed in an Italian style. It was 90 feet wide and 65 feet high. The structure consisted of a central arch, and to each side of it was a rustic arch, intended for the use of horse-riders. There were also rustic arches over the pavements for pedestrians. Above the central arch was a royal crown, surmounted by the royal standard. The finishing of the arch was in marble, with gilt bases and capitals to the columns. At this point, the royal carriage stopped and Earl Grey presented the chief magistrate to the Queen. She was also met by the mayor, Mr. Thomas Agnew, who then re-entered his carriage and headed the procession towards Peel Park, now escorted by a troop of the 16th Lancers. Throughout this journey, the royal party was cheered

enthusiastically by thousands of local inhabitants who lined both sides of the roads.

At 11 o'clock, the loud cheers of the people (*'the roar of human voices rising and falling upon the ear like the surging of the mighty ocean'*), signalled the arrival of her Majesty, whose carriage descended the remodelled steep drive into the park. A company of pensioners was stationed on each side of the entrance to receive her Majesty, and they were arranged in files 25 deep. Opposite the pavilion, about another 400 pensioners were positioned, under the command of Captain Bond, their rôle being to keep the area in front of the pavilion clear. The scene which presented itself to the Queen as her carriage moved through the park was one so overwhelming, imposing and novel that *The Daily News* was compelled to write: "*Neither poet nor painter perhaps ever conjured up in the happiest moments of inspired genius a picture so extraordinary, so ++++* (The Daily News: Saturday 11 October 1851).

The children of the Cheetham College (sic) were positioned near the entrance to the park, and the brass band, formed from the scholars, played the National Anthem as the Queen passed. The royal party moved forward at a slow pace towards the pavilion, which it entered at 11.10.a.m., amidst the wild cheers from the whole assembled population. *The Manchester Courier* portrayed the sheer scale of her Majesty's progress as she "*proceeded along between the two vast mountains of human beings.*" The paper continued to comment upon the Queen's reaction to this vast assembly, by reporting that "*Her Majesty was so struck with the imposing appearance of this great assemblage ... that on entering the avenue she stood erect in her carriage, as did also H. R. H. Prince Albert to view the children.*"

In addition to the children and clergy, there were several thousand other spectators squeezed in to the park. In the pavilion, which accommodated over one thousand people, were gathered, among others, the Bishop of Manchester and Archdeacon Rushton Mr. J. Brotherton, M. P., Mr. W. Brown, M.P., Colonel Clowes, Rev. Hugh Stowell, and several local dignitaries. Members of the corporation were arranged on a semi-circular platform in the centre of the carriage drive. All those who had tickets for the pavilion had taken their seats before 9.30 a.m., with every space occupied.

Immediately her Majesty's carriage entered the pavilion, the whole assembly rose and paid their loyal respects to the Queen. The royal carriage came to rest under a canopy projecting from the front of the pavilion and over the carriage drive. However, because of an earlier request that the royal party should be received in silence, no cheering took place. The Mayor of Salford, accompanied by the town clerk, Mr. Gibson, descended from their carriage and

approached the royal carriage; and, taking their places on a small platform inside the pavilion, Mr. Gibson read to her Majesty the loyal address.

"Most Gracious Sovereign

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Salford, humbly avail ourselves of the auspicious occasion of your Majesty's gracious visit to this locality to tender to your Majesty the tribute of our respectful homage, and to express the loyal gratification we experience in being enabled to welcome your Majesty within the precinct of this your Majesty's ancient manor of Salford.

The deep and lively interest your Majesty has ever taken in those measures of public policy which conduce to the physical and moral improvement of the people, combined with the exemplary virtues by which your Majesty is so pre-eminently distinguished, as well in the private relations of domestic life as in the higher walks of your exalted station, have justly endeared your Majesty to all classes of your dutiful and affectionate subjects; and we ardently cherish the hope that the large and increasing population of this great manufacturing district, under your Majesty's benign sway, may be so educated and trained up in habits of industry and usefulness, that they may rightly fulfil their various duties to society, and be alike distinguished for their regard for social order, their attachment to the principles of religion and of constitutional loyalty.

In conclusion, we trust that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to accept the expression of our humble but earnest desire for the health and happiness of yourself, your Royal Consort, and family; and we fervently and devoutly pray, that, under the gracious Providence of Almighty God, your Majesty may be long preserved to us as the guardian of the religious and civil rights and liberties of your subjects, and the Sovereign of a free, prosperous, and happy people."

The address was then presented to her Majesty, who then handed it to Earl Grey. Her Majesty, in reply, expressed her great pleasure at receiving this address given on behalf of the people of Salford, and at seeing the great attention given to the education of the children of the borough, as witnessed in the novel and interesting scene before her.

An address was also presented to Prince Albert, though this was not read. Two copies of the catalogue of the Salford Public Library, of which the Queen and Prince were patrons, were handed over. Two copies in blue velvet bindings of a miniature map of the railways of Lancashire and Yorkshire were also prepared for the royal couple. The Mayor, who had had the honour of kissing hands, then withdrew and a signal was given for the procession to proceed. A loud cheer erupted from the pavilion, which was gradually taken up by the crowds and children in the park. The royal carriage moved forward, followed by the carriages containing the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Ellesmere. The Duke was quickly recognised and received his usual acclamation. He did so with good dignity, as though he believed that the loud cheering was for his Sovereign, rather than himself. The Earl of Ellesmere received similar adulation.

Every inch of space within the park was occupied with the children and their teachers, each school being identified by a small banner. As the royal procession moved along the carriageway between the platforms, after receiving the corporation's addresses, an exhilarating picture presented itself to the spectator, with the voices of the children loudly singing the National Anthem, in exceptionally good time. The voices were conducted by Mr. Banks, standing on top of a platform raised some 15 feet above the ground, in order to make him visible to all and to give him an excellent view of all the choirs. Six assistant conductors, each with batons, were scattered amongst the choirs, and each of these had a cornopean (early form of cornet) player alongside, to give the notes. Colonel Messiter, of the 28th Regiment, readily complied with a request for the use of the regiment's drums, and it was agreed that the roll of the drums, together with the sounding of the keynote of the cornopean players, would be the signal to commence the singing.

The National Anthem, however, was not sung in the normal way. Some absurd fear had been felt that the Roman Catholics would take offence at the words

'Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,"

from the traditional second verse. And yet, it is understood that they never expressed any objection to these lines, since they never dreamt of being confused with Victoria's enemies! However, consideration was given to these words to allay any possibility of offence and accordingly the second verse was rearranged. In the opinion of one newspaper, the sentiments expressed in the alternative verse were more suited to a juvenile choir, and the peaceful and joyous occasion, than "*the original lines which breathe war and vengeance.*" These words were written expressly for the occasion by Mr. Charles Swain. However, views differed and one other newspaper described the changes thus:

"The following namby-pamby lines - which, to be sure, have the merit of rendering the whole composition consistently milk and water throughout - were put in its place:-

*"Crown'd by a nation's love'
Guarded by Heaven above'
Long live the Queen!
Long may each voice exclaim,
Wide as Britannia's fame,
Long live Victoria's name,
God bless the Queen!"*

The Queen's carriage stopped briefly by Mr. Banks's stand, and her Majesty once again seemed thrilled by the huge number of children assembled, and by their singing. The young Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal were equally excited and stood in the carriage, gazing with astonishment at the sea of young faces which surrounded them. *The Manchester Guardian* wrote that *"the sight and the sound were deeply, profoundly affecting."*

As the Queen's carriage turned to make its way towards the road, the children's singing gave way to three cheers, followed by loud and boisterous cheering. As soon as the royal procession had left the park, the huge crowds surged from the park towards the main road to get another look at the Queen. This tide prompted a struggle with the old veterans who had been standing by the gates and along the walls on duty. There were some minor injuries on both sides, but military training and discipline eventually triumphed, and order was restored.

Consideration had also been given to how the massed ranks of children would exit the park after the Queen's departure. It had been decided that any children wishing to leave the park after her Majesty's departure could do so within one hour after that departure. They were to leave the park by crossing the Crescent towards Manchester, by Hulme Place and Oldfield Road, or by the Wallness Gate.

The gates to the park were closed and exit was denied to those who had either been present as guests at the spectacle or were mere onlookers. Regrettably, the school children, under the supervision of the ministers and teachers, were also obliged to remain within the park's boundaries; had they been allowed to leave, they probably could have done so in an orderly fashion. It became known that they would have to stay there for about an hour and this led to a scene of great confusion. Some wandered off to find refreshments, whilst others went to play. Consequently, when the time came for them to leave the park, their supervisors had great difficulty in assembling their charges together.

The majority of scholars went up to the principal entrance on The Crescent, and there was a crush. Several little girls fainted and had to be revived; other children suffered from dehydration. *The Times* described the scene as one of "extraordinary confusion." The teachers and clergy were anxiously searching for stray scholars, and many poor children were crying after becoming separated from their friends and school friends. *The Times* concluded this part of its report by expressing the advice that any future event of this kind should be regulated differently.

It is quite remarkable to note the sheer scale of this exhibition of loyalty. The size of the stands, the rich decoration of the pavilion, the numbers of children, the enthusiasm that must have been evident, the warmth and affection shown to all in the procession, these are features of that brief visit to Salford. Queen Victoria recorded the events in her journal:

"...we went into Peel Park, the Mayor receiving us at the entrance and here was indeed a striking and I supposed totally unprecedented sight. 82,000 School Children were assembled, — Church of England Presbyterians, Roman Catholic, Baptists, even Jews, whose faces betrayed their descent, — all with their teachers. A pavilion was erected in the centre of the Park, under which we drove, but did not get out and here an Address was read, and the Children sang "God save the Queen" extremely well together, the Director, being placed on a very high stand, from which he could command the whole Park!"

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 10 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

The visit to Peel Park was the subject of an oil painting by George Hayes which now hangs in the Victorian Gallery at Salford Museum. It was gifted to the museum in 1885. The different school and Sunday schools were grouped under banners which can be seen in the painting. Each child was allocated a small amount of bench to sit on, while they sang songs as the Queen passed by. To cover the whole event, only 16 toilets were put on location!

MANCHESTER AND THE LOYAL ADDRESS

In Salford, because the police force was still small in number, barricades were erected to control the crowds and pensioners (former soldiers) were called upon to assist! In Manchester, the calling out of the police reserve enabled the Mayor and the corporation to dispense with barricades and the military, except

for the barricades erected at street corners to protect against extra pressure there. The Duke of Wellington noticed this and made this enquiry of a gentleman: *"How do you manage to keep such vast masses of people in order, with such a handful of men to control them?"* The gentleman replied: *"The people themselves were the conservators of peace, and therefore needed no further control."*

From Peel Park, her Majesty and the royal party proceeded along the main thoroughfare of Salford, surrounded by the excited throngs of the population, which filled all the streets. There was a great deal of waving of hats and handkerchiefs, and shouting from the people, as the procession moved along Chapel Street, followed by crowds of people who had broken ranks and ran after the royal carriage to obtain a longer view of her Majesty. This was in defiance of a regulation issued by the corporation that no person would be permitted to run after the carriages containing Her Majesty and Suite.

The fronts of almost every building were decked with banners, or wreaths, or flowers, and the windows were filled with spectators. At Victoria Bridge, the boundary between Salford and Manchester, the Queen was greeted by Mr. John Potter, Mayor, and members of the corporation, at 11.45 a.m. The escort was formed by a troop of the 16th, or Queen's Own, Lancers. The escort of the 28th Regiment, based in the Infantry Barracks on Regent Road, was relieved by the escort of the 50th Regiment, whose HQ was at Ashton-under-Lyne. This escort received her Majesty with full military honours and then escorted her through Manchester to the Exchange.

At the bridge, her Majesty's carriage was halted, whilst Earl Grey presented the chief magistrate to the Queen. She bowed graciously to acknowledge the Mayor's greeting and received a bouquet from him, which appeared to please the Queen very much. The Mayor then entered his carriage, drawn by four greys, and preceded the royal party past the Exchange into Market Street. The whole procession was led through Manchester by an officer and fifteen men of the borough police, followed by half a troop of the 16th Lancers. To the rear of the carriages was another half-troop of Lancers and finally an officer and twenty men of the local police.

The streets and all vantage points were full of spectators, and there was some early concern that the crowd might become unruly in its excitement, even before the arrival of the Queen. These concerns were unfounded, with the local press comparing this scene with that in Liverpool, where barricades were considered necessary.

"The Mayor and the officers under his command ... rightly conceived that the loyalty of the people and the earnest

desire on the part of all classes to contribute to her Majesty's enjoyment, would be an all-sufficient safeguard against any anticipated inconvenience from an excessive crowding of the streets."

Entering Manchester by the Victoria Bridge, the royal party proceeded through Victoria Street, Market Street, High Street, Shude Hill, Swan Street, Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Portland Street, Baker Street, Mosley Street, Peter Street, Deansgate, King Street, Cross Street, St. Ann's Street and St. Ann's Square, to the Exchange; and then from the Exchange through St. Ann's Square, Deansgate, Bridge Street, and New Bailey Street, and from there direct to Worsley, via Pendleton and Swinton.

As the royal party reached the end of Oldham Street, her Majesty had an excellent view of the Infirmary, which stood in modern-day Piccadilly Gardens. Founded there in 1756, it was one of the most striking buildings in Manchester, faced in stone, with porticoes of four Ionic pillars at both the front and sides. In front of the building was a large body of water, which had for a long time been a nuisance to the people of Manchester and its visitors. However, the royal visit presented an opportunity to improve it and make it a better amenity for the town.

The stretch of water was 533 feet long, 90 feet wide at one end and 62 feet at the other. A series of ornamental fountains were placed in the reservoir, and they were played throughout the royal visit and for several days prior to it. The main jet was flanked by two smaller jets, which in turn were surrounded by 36 smaller jets, describing an oval. Another fountain stood at each end, surrounded by 25 smaller jets. The effect was quite striking. It had been designed by Mr. Roe, of the Strand, who had also exhibited at the Great Exhibition. The lake was eventually replaced by a broad promenade in 1854 and was designed to house several public statues.

Given that the principal event of a local authority upon a formal visit to any town was to present a loyal address, the mayor of Manchester felt that it was desirable for as large a number of spectators as possible to be present to witness the ceremony. Since no room in the town hall was deemed to be large enough, it was decided to apply to the managing committee of the Exchange to use their large room for the presentation of the address to the Queen. The committee unanimously agreed to the request and the room was made available from Tuesday evening (the 7th October) to the end of the week.

It was further resolved by the council to raise a charge for admission, to cover the costs of setting up the seats, rather than this expenditure being placed upon the borough's rate payers. The plan was to grant seated accommodation for

3,000 people, at an admission of £1 each. The mayor invited applications in writing from anyone who wished to be present at the reception and each application had to be for two people. If the number of requests exceeded the capacity of the room, then a ballot was to take place. The closing date was Thursday 25 September.

However, the sale of tickets fell far short of expectations and the plan was dropped. It was finally resolved that admission should be free, and that the whole cost should be placed upon the borough's funds. Tickets were then issued only to those who had been prompt in applying for them, with each bearing a seat number, so that every one might be able to take their allotted seat quickly. Of the remaining tickets, the town council divided about 700 amongst themselves, each member receiving ten, with the mayor having an extra number.

At 12.15 p.m., the members of the corporation, (the aldermen and councillors), who had been present at the arrival of her Majesty at Victoria Bridge, re-assembled in the Exchange building and arranged themselves on either side of the hall to await the Queen's arrival. Their appearance gave rise to some amusement and tittering since all but four of the 62 members wore new ceremonial robes for the occasion. This had caused a lot of discussion in the town hall, where there was a number of officers who opposed the plan on economic grounds. Since the corporation was of fairly recent origin, the councillors had no mace, or sword, or any other symbol of municipal dignity. Neither did they have any robes, and so it was thought fitting that on this historic occasion they should don civic dress. This suggestion was stoutly resisted by a small number, and the ultimate decision remained in the balance for some time. Among the four exceptions were Mr. Abel Heywood, a bookseller, and Mr. W. Clark, who, it is believed, "*represented the pure democracy of the district.*"

The aldermen wore robes of scarlet, lined with white satin, and faced with black velvet; and the councillors wore robes of blue, trimmed with fur. The robes were manufactured by Messrs. Nicoll and Son, of Regent Street, London. It was said that one of the two recalcitrant members had expressed the hope that the robed ones would be pelted with rotten eggs, though no such calamity befell them! Those who did wear robes paid for them the day before, to entitle them to wear them as their own property! The council did not possess any form of insignia for the mayor either, so an order was placed with Mr. Hall, jeweller and silversmith, of King Street, and this was manufactured in London.

"The collar is an inch and a quarter wide and 4½ feet long, with the rose of Lancaster in ruby enamel, alternating with

the S.S. and a fancy knot device; in the centre is a beautiful scroll, with medallion (in relief) of Commerce, as a female figure; from this was suspended a badge, with the arms of incorporated Manchester in the centre, in high relief, and enamel on a crimson ground, and encircled by a riband of purple enamel."

(The Manchester Guardian: Saturday 11 October 1851)

Upon the riband was the motto of the corporation "Concilio et labore" in diamonds, the whole surrounded by a rich gold border in a renaissance style, with wreaths of intertwined rose, thistle, and shamrock, in diamonds.

At 12.30 p.m., a buzz of excitement spread around the hall at the approach of her Majesty. Mr. Heron, the town clerk, requested that the assembly should receive her Majesty with respectful silence, as was the custom on such occasions. He believed that it was etiquette not to applaud, and this request was greeted with a few cheers of approval. He did, however, encourage those present to sing the National Anthem as the Queen advanced towards the throne. The Duke of Wellington then entered the hall, with the Countess of Ellesmere leaning on his arm, followed by the rest of the party from Worsley.

It was reported that the Exchange Room (on this occasion being used as the civic hall) was very large, with an estimated 2,500 people arranged on seats along the sides, with a broad passage between them. This passage was covered with a deep blue carpet with gilt stars for a pattern (manufactured by John Bright & Co.), and it was intended that the royal party, having entered the Hall, would walk to the dais at the far end. The dais was raised as a platform, with five steps leading up to it, the whole covered with a rich velvet scarlet carpet, with a gold star pattern. On the dais stood three chairs of state and a settee, with a large canopy covering the platform. Retiring rooms for the Queen and her Consort were also provided. A more detailed description of the richness of the hall and its furnishings can be found in *The Daily News* of Saturday 11 October.

The Exchange Hall had begun to fill from 9 o'clock, and the doors were kept open for two hours, after which only those with special passes were admitted. Amongst the company were observed Earl Granville, the Earl of Carlisle, Lord de Tabley, the Bishop of Manchester, Sir B. Heywood, and several M.P.s. It was also noticed that the number of women exceeded the number of gentlemen.

The Queen entered the building at 12.40 p.m. and walked towards the throne with Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. As her Majesty moved along the hall, a group of choristers, under the direction of Mr. Harris,

organist of the Cathedral, sang the National Anthem, and were joined by the military band of the 16th (or Queen's Own) Lancers. The whole assembly joined in the singing. Colonel Phipps, Colonel Gordon, the Duke of Norfolk, and the Marquis of Westminster led the procession down the hall, with the Mayor having the honour of escorting the Queen and the Prince Consort. The Mayor, who had once again been presented to her Majesty by Earl Grey, moved towards the dais and presented the loyal address, which was read by the Recorder, Mr. Armstrong, M.P., Q.C.

"May it please your Majesty,

We, your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Manchester, humbly approach your Majesty, to offer, as the representatives of the inhabitants at large, the homage of an ardent and devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and Government, and the assurance that we hail with feelings of heartfelt and grateful delight the august presence among us, in this your Majesty's ancient county palatine, of your Majesty, your Royal Consort, and children.

The sentiments which the public visit of a Sovereign is in itself calculated to inspire are greatly enhanced and strengthened, when, as on this auspicious occasion, the honourable distinction is conferred, for the first time in the course of centuries, by the gracious condescension of not only a Sovereign, but a Queen, who is not only entitled to the reverence which belongs to illustrious station and to the possession of constitutional authority, but who has also, in the highest degree, those endearing claims which arise from the constant and exemplary, though unostentatious practice of every private virtue.

While we have the happiness thus to recognise the great moral influence which the example of your Majesty exercises over your people in all the social relations of life, it is also our gratifying duty to acknowledge the blessings which, under divine Providence, have attended the public policy, that, with your Majesty's willing sanction and approval, has been steadily pursued during the whole of your Majesty's beneficent reign.

The effect of that policy, based on the full and enlightened recognition of a widely-regulated freedom, is strikingly

manifest in the generally flourishing condition of the realm, and in the increased content and happiness of your Majesty's people. We that our country now enjoys more abundant elements of social welfare and of national prosperity and strength than at any former epoch of its history; demonstrating that the free institutions under which we live, and the free commercial policy, which, under your Majesty's wise and benign auspices, has been recently consolidated in your Majesty's dominions, are the surest means of promoting and the firmest foundations on which can rest the progressive happiness, peace and prosperity of nations.

That your Majesty may long live to witness the continued moral improvement and wellbeing of your people, and actively to aid in accomplishing this great object of your Majesty's benevolent sympathy and care, and that your Majesty and all most dear to you may be rewarded by every blessing of life, is the fervent hope and prayer of these of your Majesty's grateful subjects who have now the honour to address you.

Given under the common seal of the corporation, this 10th day of October, 1851."

The address, which was in a beautiful binding, was formally presented to the Queen, who, having handed it to the Secretary of State, read the following reply:

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in receiving the address you have presented to me, and I thank you for the warm loyalty it expresses.

I rejoice to have been enabled to visit your borough - the capital of one of the one of the most important branches of industry carried out in my dominions, and I have derived the highest gratification from the favourable account you are enabled to give me of the condition of my people, with which, in this large and manufacturing district, you must be intimately acquainted.

I feel deeply grateful to Providence for the prosperity you describe, and earnestly solicitous for the continuance of the blessings we enjoy."

An address was then handed to Prince Albert, but, according to custom, it was not read out. After the reading of the address, the Mayor, at the command of her Majesty, knelt down at the foot of the throne to receive the honour of knighthood. The sword was handed to the Queen by Colonel Gordon and the honour was conferred in the usual way. The Mayor rose as Sir John Potter. It is worthwhile noting that his father, Sir Thomas Potter, had also received a knighthood from the same monarch, this being in 1840, when he sent a letter expressing the gratitude of the borough to the Queen, following her escape from the assassin Edward Oxford (the first of eight people who tried to do so). Mr. Alderman Nield and Mr. Alderman Shuttleworth, who had been the mover and seconder of the loyal address, were granted the honour of kissing her Majesty's hand.

This concluded the formal part of the proceedings, and the Queen descended the throne, where she had remained standing throughout. The royal party withdrew to the retiring rooms at the Market Street end of the building, where perfumes prepared and supplied by a local chemist were available for use by the royal guests. The whole ceremony had lasted only seven minutes. All those present stood as her Majesty left the hall, and gave a rousing cheer, while the organ played its loudest notes. The Earl of Ellesmere also received a loud cheer as he prepared to leave. Although a splendid lunch had been prepared in the private reception rooms, it was understood that her Majesty did not partake of it.

At 12.55 she left the Royal Exchange. The dense crowd slowed the arrival of her carriage in front of the Exchange. A troop of the 16th Lancers was called to clear a way through. It was reported that this had occurred because of the over-zealous actions of some of the police who had initially tried to force the crowd back, and that the people had become irritated by this treatment. However, as soon as the troops appeared on the scene, the mob cheered them and of their own accord fell back to their correct positions.

Her Majesty was escorted by the Mayor of Manchester through St. Ann's Square, St. Ann's Street, and Deansgate, to the Manchester boundary on the Albert Bridge, where another triumphal arch had been erected, and was there welcomed by the Mayor of Salford, who accompanied the Royal party to Windsor Bridge. Thus ended the great festival which had long been anticipated with a mixture of anxiety and pleasure. At that point, the county authorities resumed their responsibilities and the Bolton troop of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry, under Captain Langshaw, formed the Royal escort to

Worsley. The party drove through to Worsley at a rapid pace, arriving at the New Hall at about 2 p.m.

The people of Manchester continued their celebration and enjoyment after the departure of the Queen. Many people moved slowly along the route her Majesty had taken, gazing at all the decorations in front of the houses. All the principal warehouses and shops, and every private house in all the main streets presented illuminations of all kinds long into the night. Those people who had gazed upon the procession from their windows in the day poured out into the streets and thousands more came in to the town from Stockport and the surrounding districts. The main popular thoroughfares were impassable for hours and the streets remained crowded until after midnight. The Saturday papers were pleased to report no occurrence of any accident of a serious nature, in spite of the huge number of people who had assembled. Sadly, though, two deaths were reported in the following week's papers.

AT ST. MARK'S, WORSLEY

*"The extraordinary scenes through which the royal party had passed during the morning appeared to have occasioned very little fatigue on Her Majesty who, after partaking of luncheon, proceeded on foot with the Prince Consort, and nearly the whole of the guests staying at the mansion, to **Worsley Church**. The Royal party walked through the grounds to the lodge gate, and across the turnpike road into the churchyard. A double line of constables was formed from the lodge gate to the church porch, behind which the villagers extended in every direction. On her approach, the cheering was most enthusiastic."*

(The Morning Post - Mon. 13 October 1851)

This is how *The Morning Post* began its article which covered specifically Queen Victoria's visit to Worsley Church. There was a large party accompanying the Queen as she made her way across the road and into the church grounds at about 4 o'clock. The royal party consisted of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, the Countess of Ellesmere, the Viscountess Brackley, the Ladies Alice and Blanche Egerton, the Marchioness of Westminster, the Earl and Countess of Wilton, together with other members of the party at the Hall. The Queen and the Prince Consort were greeted at the church door (south porch) by the incumbent, the Rev. St.V. Beechey, and they proceeded down the main aisle. Victoria seemed very pleased by the architecture and sculpture of the church, and its rich stained-glass windows. It is wonderful today to walk

down the same aisle, knowing that one of our greatest monarchs, whose name has come to define a particular age in British history, once walked the same way.

The church today does differ from the 1851 building in one particular respect - namely the addition of the north aisle which, at that time, had not been started. The royal party left the church by the west door (then the vestry door), and preceded by the incumbent, they passed through the vicarage gardens into the private walks of the Earl of Ellesmere, and then to Lady Brackley's poultry yard, through the woods to the dispensary at Kempnough Hall. From there, the party returned to the New Hall via the Old Hall, where Her Majesty was received by Mrs. George Loch, with whom she conversed for some time. The royal party finally returned to the Hall at about 6 o'clock.

The Queen wrote about this walk in her journal:

"At 4 we walked out with the Children and the whole party, 1st visiting the Church, built by the Ellesmeres, which is very pretty, then the Parsonage and Poultry Yard, a nice little house built near a pretty piece of water and afterwards through a wood, along a little stream round by the Dispensary to the old house, in which the Duke of Bridgewater lived, now occupied by the Agent, M^r Locke, and in which the Ellesmeres lived till 5 years ago. There were a great many people out, who frequently rather crowded upon us, but were very well behaved. We lastly went to the Garden, on the other side of the house. Came home a little after 6."

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 10 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

A report in *The Manchester Courier* (Saturday 18 October) gave a similar but, in places, differing account of the visit to the church. It was reported that the royal party left the church *"unobserved at first and unrecognised by any one."* It continued to tell the readers that it quickly became known that Her Majesty was walking in the locality, and that a gathering of people soon collected, and followed the party at a respectful distance, *"testifying their delight by frequent outbursts of loyal exclamations."* Seemingly, no attempt was made by the constabulary to restrict the movement of the people, who followed Her Majesty through the private walks *"in close proximity to her person."* The newspaper was pleased to pay tribute to the respect shown by the people and wished that such respect might be copied in other quarters of her dominion.

It then went on to describe an incident as her Majesty left the church, '*which deserves to be recorded*'.

"An aged woman, named Ann Rigby, 79 years of age, formerly or at present resident at Street Gate, was near the church when her Majesty left, and discovering the fact hurried after her, and earnestly asked the privilege of being permitted to touch her Queen. The request reached the ear of the prince, who instantly made way, and the old woman having gently placed her hand on her Majesty's shoulder retires; her wish was gratified. The reader may perhaps expect to hear that the reason for this somewhat odd movement was merely the promptings of fancy, or perhaps some superstition that disease could be cured by the touch, but it was a deeper and more hallowed feeling. Ann Rigby had been a victim of that horrible slavery, which, up to within a few years, bound the women of this district to work in coal pits; for 33 years she had toiled in a mine for one master; the act abolishing the abomination had passed within the reign of our most gracious Sovereign, its promoters had all her sympathy and all her support, her sign manual was appended with the deepest pleasure; and it was the wild overpowering of gratitude which thus singularly developed itself."

The Act of Parliament referred to in the report was The Mines and Collieries Act (1842) which contained three main provisions. 1. that no female was to be employed underground. 2. that no boy under 10 years of age was to be employed underground. 3. that Parish apprentices between the ages of 10 and 18 could continue to work in the mines. The Act was a response to the working conditions of children described in the Children's Employment Commission (Mines) 1842 report. That commission had been headed by the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury.

This is a copy of a piece of testimony given to that Commission by a young girl who was compelled to work down a mine:

Isabella Read, 12 years old, coal-bearer .

"Works on mother's account, as father has been dead two years. Mothers bides at home, she is troubled with bad breath, and is weak in her body from early labour. I am

wrought with sister and brother, it is very sore work ; cannot say how many rakes or journeys I make from pit's bottom to wall face and back, thinks about 30 or 25 on average ; the distance varies from 100 to250 fathom.

I carry about 1 cwt. and a quarter on my back ; have to stoop much and creep through water, which is frequently up to the calves of my legs. When first down frequently asleepwhile waiting for coal from heat and fatigue.

I do not like the work, nor do the lassies, but they are made to like it. When the weather is warm there is difficulty in breathing, and frequently the lights go out." (Université Paris-Ouest)

In 1841, there were about 216,000 people - men, women and children - working in the mines. The working day lasted between 11 and 12 hours, but some spent as much as 26 hours underground, working in narrow and dark tunnels. The pits were deprived of ventilation and adequate lighting, and inspection rarely happened, with only four inspectors covering all the collieries. The dangers faced by the miners each day, like gas explosions or the breaking down of tunnels, added to diseases like bronchitis or asthma, which led to about 4,000 dead each year in the mines.

The first sign of a growing awareness concerning the condition of the miners was when eleven girls from eight to sixteen years old and fifteen boys from nine to twelve years old died on the 4th July 1838 while they were working at Huskar pit in Silkstone Common near Barnsley. The 1833 Factory Act had already stopped children under the age of nine from working in the textile mills. It was now time for similar protection for children working in the mines. Their plight was taken up by Queen Victoria herself who ordered a public inquiry into the incident. Parliament was persuaded to set up a royal commission of inquiry into the children's employment in the mines. The publication of the report was made in early May 1842 and its progress through Parliament was sponsored by Lord Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury. With this background, it is easier to understand the feelings of Ann Rigby, who was so full of admiration for Her Majesty and gratitude for her rôle in her liberation from the mines. Sadly, it has not yet been possible to find any trace of who Ann Rigby might have been. Efforts will continue!

DINNER & WORSLEY POLKA

The private dinner on the Friday evening at the New Hall was again well attended by noble people, other dignitaries and local folk. The party included the Earl and Countess of Cathcart, the Bishop of Manchester, the Mayor of Manchester (who had been knighted earlier in the day), and the mayor of Salford. The incumbent of Worsley, the Rev. St.V. Beechey and Mrs. Beechey were also there, and it is understood that the Rev. Beechey had conducted morning prayers with Her Majesty that day. The dinner was a very informal affair, with the Queen passing up and down the rooms and engaging in conversation with individuals who had the honour of being presented to her. After the dinner, Victoria received about 100 of the leading clergy and other inhabitants of the district. In the course of the evening, the Queen received a loyal address from the Bishop of Manchester on behalf of the clergy of the diocese, which was signed by nearly 400 of them.

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

We, your Majesty's most dutiful, loyal, and devoted subjects, the bishop and clergy of the diocese of Manchester, humbly request permission to tender with profoundest respect the assurance of our sincere and earnest attachment to your Majesty, accompanied with our expression of heartfelt gratitude to the Author of all Good for the happy dispositions and distinguished virtues with which, in his mercy to us, He hath graciously been pleased to endow our beloved Sovereign.

As the clergy of a large and populous diocese, erected by your Majesty's Royal favour into a separate see, we shall ever feel it our bounden duty, as well as our solemn privilege, to seek, through Divine assistance, to carry out the objects of the high commission with which we are entrusted, by inculcating, as much as in us lies, the Scriptural tenets of our branch of Christ's Holy Church; maintaining in their full integrity and purity the great principles of Protestant faith, yet recognising the right to liberty of conscience, as regards themselves, in such as may differ from us in religious opinion.

The education of the young in sound and useful knowledge, ever accompanied with a careful training in the great principles of the Gospel, and a constant recognition of Divine Providence as set forth in Holy Scripture, will, in

addition to our other duties, be the subject of our special and anxious care; and we hope confidently, in pursuance of this great object, for your Majesty's most gracious protection and encouragement. We most gratefully had the Royal visit with which your Majesty has graciously honoured Manchester, in the full conviction that, while the bright and endearing example of the domestic virtues so uniformly exhibited by your Majesty and your Royal Consort, cannot but have won the admiration and affection of all classes of the community, this evidence so graciously vouchsafed, that the gratification and well-being even of the meanest subject is an object of consideration with your Majesty, cannot fail to enhance, under a benevolent and happy reign, their reverence, esteem, and gratitude.

That the Almighty may long continue (amid the prayers and blessings of a grateful people) to shower upon your Majesty, your Royal Consort, and your Royal Children, a rich and ample measure of prosperity here, to become the earnest of an unfading diadem hereafter, is our humble, fervent, and unremitted prayer and intercession."

Also present in the evening was Mr. Staite, the patentee of the electric light, whose invention was used to illuminate the terraces and fountain. It was reported that *"he threw the bright moon into the shade by his effective illumination of the atmosphere."* William Edward Staite, of Sunderland, had conducted the first exhibition of arc lighting in England and gave further demonstrations of its effectiveness in many English towns over a period of four years. Serious interest had already been shown in his invention by railway companies and dock authorities. The magazine *Scientific American* reported that *"this one light eclipses ten gas lights."* However, he died in 1854, without profiting from his invention, and his method died with him.

Queen Victoria noted in her journals: *"Several electric lights were displayed on the Terrace, giving quite the effect of sunshine - really wonderful."* Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 10 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies). One light of Mr. Staite's patented electro-magnetic light was set up at each end of the terrace, so that the they could be seen from the drawing-room windows. Their brilliance, whiteness and purity were greatly admired and, because of the elevation of the locality, they must have been visible for miles around. *"The flower slopes and shrubs appeared lighted up as by a sunbeam, exhibiting themselves in their natural colours with a beauty and perfection almost magical."* The power of the light displayed exceeded that of over 5,000 wax candles, *"an amount of light never before attained on any occasion in a single*

lamp, from any known artificial source of illumination." The Queen then retired at 11.10 p.m., with the band playing the National Anthem.

During one of the two royal dinners, hosted by Lord Ellesmere, a piece of music was played which had been composed by a German, Heinrich Blümer. The cover of the sheet music reads "Composed on the occasion of the visit of Queen Victoria, to Worsley Hall, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere, by Heinrich Blümer." The picture on the front cover is a rural view of the New Hall, looking from the south west. It would appear that the piece was played just the one time in 1851, and after that, it was forgotten. There is no historical record of the reception of the polka when it was played at Worsley New Hall, nor is it known on which night the piece was performed.

The Queen was herself an accomplished pianist who was very partial to German music. She frequently played duets with her consort, Prince Albert. Indeed, Mendelssohn is known to have played before Her Majesty in London on many occasions and his music was much admired by Prince Albert. The score for the polka eventually disappeared among the council archives. That is, until 2012, when it was found by Dr. Robin Dewhurst, who performed the piece on Tuesday 11 September 2012, as part of an exhibition at MediaCity UK - an event which featured finds from the archaeological dig at the site of the New Hall, carried out by the University of Salford. The piece has now been recorded on the internet, and can be heard at

<https://soundcloud.com/salforduniversity/ellesmere-polka>.

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

WORSLEY ADDRESS

"A serenade was performed in the Hall at 8 o'clock by 4 singers, a deputation from the Manchester working classes." Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 11 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies). They arrived at the Hall, under the direction of Mr. R. Weston, to perform a matinale (or *matinée musicale*) beneath her Majesty's window. The Queen was already awake, and requested that the singers should chant their serenade inside the mansion, at the foot of the staircase leading to her Majesty's chamber. The party consisted of Miss Eleanor Appleton, soprano; Miss Fanny Isaacs, contralto; Mr. T. M. Bednall, tenor; and Mr. T. Bellhouse, bass; with harp accompaniment by Mr. J. G. Jones, bandmaster of the 16th Lancers; and Mr. H. Miller, bells.

As soon as the clock struck eight, the party started to sing Michael William Balfe's quartet "*Lo! the early beam of morning*" followed by Miss Flower's chorale "*Now, pray we for our country.*" This was followed by the National Anthem, which included the verse written by Mr. C. Swain for the reception in Peel Park. Her majesty then appeared on the landing to acknowledge the party. After breakfast, she was joined for Morning Prayers by the Rev. Mr. Beechey.

Shortly afterwards, the Hon. Colonel Phipps delivered a message to Mr. Weston, which read:

"Lieut-Col Phipps has received the commands of her Majesty the Queen to thank the singers of the working classes for their attendance at Worsley this morning; and to assure them of her Majesty's gratification at their performance. - Worsley, Oct. 11th, 1851."

Later that morning, her Majesty received an address from the clergy, children and teachers of the Sunday schools and other schools of Worsley and its neighbourhood, including those at Worsley, Ellenbrook, Walkden Row Green (sic), and Edgefield (sic). It was in these schools that the children of the workmen employed by the Earl of Ellesmere were educated.

By 9.30 a.m., the schools had begun to march into the grounds of the Hall, preceded by the juvenile band of fifes and drums of the Worsley schools, in the following order: Worsley, Edgefold and Roe Green schools, with over 550 children; Walkden weekly, Sunday, infant, and servants' schools numbering about 450 children; Ellenbrook Sunday and Infant schools with about 150 children; and Mosley Common school, about 250 children. They were all

accompanied by their teachers, and the clergy were in their full robes at the head of their respective school groups. The schools were arranged in 14 rows of about 100 children, each holding a small flag or banner in red and white, and blue and white. All the children were under the supervision of the Rev. St. Vincent Beechey, incumbent of Worsley; the Rev. J. Whitlock, incumbent of Walkden; the Rev. J. Rigg, of Ellenbrook; together with the Rev. Mr. Moverley, of Aston, near Newport; and the Rev. Mr. Young, of Lindall.

The children (in total about 1,400) were assembled on the lawns at the side of the carriage road, to the north of the Hall, by about 10 o'clock, with their mothers occupying a position on the grass slopes. Behind the mothers stood the clergy from the neighbouring districts, with their wives and other privileged spectators. Around the entrance to the Hall were the ladies and gentlemen who had been specially admitted, amongst whom were Mrs. George Loch and their children, the Rev. Edward Girdlestone and Mrs. Girdlestone and family, Mrs. Ridgway and Miss Ridgway, Mrs. Rasbotham, Mr. and Mrs. Hepworth, Mr. and Mrs. Farr, and others. A large party from Lord Wilton's seat at Heaton Hall also arrived to witness the presentation.

Immediately before the Queen appeared, the band played the National Anthem. The Queen's escort at Worsley New Hall was formed by troops of the Lancashire Yeomanry Cavalry. The troops which had been specially selected for this duty were from the Worsley troop, which, in the absence of Viscount Brackley, was under the command of Lieutenant Loch; the Furness troop, under Captain Michaelson; and the Bolton troop under Captain Langshaw.

Shortly after 10 o'clock, Her Majesty appeared in the porch of the Hall, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice and Prince Alfred. Amongst the distinguished guests around the Queen were the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, other Earls and Countesses, the ladies Alice and Blanche Egerton, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, and other notable people. As soon as Her Majesty appeared at the entrance, Mr. Baldwin, the master of the Worsley School, handed the address to the Rev. St. V. Beechey, who stepped forward and handed it to her. The address was printed in gold, on white satin paper. He said: *"May it please your Majesty, I have the honour to present to your Majesty the address of the clergy, teachers and schools, of the Sunday and other schools of the three districts of Worsley, Walkden and Ellenbrook."* Her Majesty replied: *"It is very delightful to see so many scholars together under instruction."*

The text of the address was as follows:

"May it please your Majesty,

The Clergy, Teachers, and Scholars in connexion with the Sunday and Weekly Schools of Worsley, Walkden, and Ellenbrook approach your Majesty on this auspicious occasion with the sincere expression of their devoted loyalty and attachment to your Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and your August Family.

The visit of your Majesty to our munificent Patron most powerfully demands such an expression of our sentiments; for in no portion of these realms has the epoch of your Majesty's accession been connected with greater cause for thankfulness than in these three districts.

Previously to that event, of happy memory, a small extra-parochial Chapel, at Ellenbrook, was the only place of worship within the distance of three miles which our Established Church possessed, and great moral and physical degradation accompanied the want of religious instruction and beneficent superintendence which prevailed.

But it has so pleased Divine Providence that the very year in which Your Majesty was mercifully called to the Throne of these realms should be also a year of regeneration to these districts, and that each succeeding year should add a blessing to our labouring population.

Since that time, Sunday, Daily, Infants', and other Schools have sprung up in rapid succession; Libraries, a Dispensary, and Clubs for various purposes have been established; two Churches have been erected, and their officiating Clergy provided, thus offering additional means of worshipping God, free of any payment whatever, to upwards of 1,300 of the population.

Through the Divine blessing on these means, aided as they have been by the Acts passed by your Majesty prohibiting the daughters of our poorer inhabitants from the unfeminine labour of the coal-pit, as well as by the great impetus given to education by the grants and inspection of the Committee of Council, whose examiners have already been enabled to pronounce the Schools of Worsley as amongst the best in this country, the happiest results have taken place.

It is not without pride, mingled with the deepest gratitude where it is so justly due, that we present before your Majesty

this day nearly 1,400 children of our labouring population, now receiving Daily or Sunday instruction according to the pure principles of our Protestant Established Church, with nearly 200 Sunday Teachers, from a population not exceeding 5,000, within the three districts immediately connected with our generous Patron, whom your Majesty has graciously delighted to honour.

We believe, on the other hand, that it will greatly rejoice your Majesty to be thus assured, from personal inspection, that the great cause of sound Religious Education which your Majesty and your Royal Consort have so much at heart, is here progressing in some degree proportionate to your desires. And on the other hand, we are persuaded, that thus to behold their Queen and the Royal Princes, of whom they have so often heard, and for whom they have so often prayed, will leave upon the hearts of even the youngest of these children indelible impressions of duty, loyalty and love, and cause them to join their Pastors and Teachers in offering up more ardent prayers that Almighty God may long preserve your Majesty upon the Throne of these realms, and bless your Royal Consort and your hopeful Children, "in health and wealth long to live, strengthened to overcome all your enemies," if such there be, "and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity."

*Signed in behalf of the Clergy, Teachers, and Scholars,
St. Vincent Beechey, M.A.
Incumbent of Worsley
Worsley, October 11th, 1851"*

(Transcribed from 'The London Gazette', Tuesday 14 October, 1851).

The clergy withdrew and the children sang the National Anthem. Then, in the midst of several hearty cheers from the children for their sovereign, the Queen retired into the Hall. Shortly afterwards, the Princess Royal, seemingly curious to have a closer look at so many children of her own age, returned with Lady Ellesmere and walked closer to the ranks of children, whilst the juvenile band played some jaunty tunes. The Sunday School scholars began to file past, and the noblemen present began to watch them with interest. However, none of their reactions matched that of the Earl of Derby, who remained until the last of the files had passed and seemed to be highly amused by the "*uncouth bows and head duckings of the children - salutations which he appeared to take a pleasure in punctually returning.*" and the school children were marched down to the landing-place to witness the royal embarkation.

At the time of Queen Victoria's visit, the Earl of Ellesmere was the patron of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, at Old Trafford. The Countess had shown great interest in the success of the work of that institution. Some days before the Queen's arrival, some beautiful specimens of the work done by the children were submitted to her, and the Countess was so pleased with them that she sought permission to show them to Her Majesty. On Thursday (9th), a box was delivered to Worsley New Hall (from Capt. Whittaker, one of the governors), with the following note inside:

"The board of management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, solicit the honour of her Majesty's most gracious acceptance of a cushion, a shawl, three purses, and a bag; the knitting, netting, and threading of the beads, being entirely the work of blind inmates of the asylum. - Imprinted by a blind person. October 9th.

The cushion was described as being 20 inches square, knitted in wools of 22 different shades, principally of scarlet and silver greys. A leaf pattern was used throughout, the cushion finished with gold cord and tassels, and the whole placed upon a white satin background. The netted shawl was of white Berlin wool, with scarlet spots netted in; the border was 18 inches deep and finished with a leaf pattern at the edge. The first of the three purses was of scarlet silk cord, decorated with a large number of very small beads. The second was royal blue, with gold beads, and the third was of scarlet and white silk, with silver beads.

In accordance with the wish of the Earl, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes (Governor and Matron of the Asylum), attended the New Hall on the Saturday morning, with three or four blind inmates from the asylum, to demonstrate to her Majesty the benefits of the education given to the children, and the facility with which they were able to write, using a typograph recently designed by Mr. Hughes. This "*new mechanical contrivance for the use of the blind*" had been awarded the gold medal at the Great Exhibition that year and had been praised for its speed and ease at the Exhibition by the Queen herself.

Shortly after the Queen had retired inside the Hall, Mr and Mrs. Hughes, accompanied by Mary Pearson, a young blind girl, were presented to her Majesty and the mode of printing was demonstrated to her by the girl. A slip, bearing the words *God Save the Queen* was printed and given to her. The Queen was most pleased to accept this example and then asked for a further demonstration of its worth. Her Majesty opened a book containing portions of Scripture and placed it before Mary, who read, by use of her fingers, with great fluency and accuracy. Victoria expressed her pleasure at the excellent

education being given to the pupils at the asylum and remembered having seen Mr. Hughes' machine in the philosophical department of the Great Exhibition.

Prince Albert had left the Hall earlier that morning (at 7 o'clock) to visit the extensive cotton mills of Messrs. Gardner and Bazeley at Barrow-bridge, near Bolton. He left the mills at 10 o'clock to return to Worsley and rejoin the Queen. His Royal Highness arrived back from Barrowbridge at 11 o'clock, after which preparations were immediately made for the royal departure.

DEPARTURE OF QUEEN VICTORIA

The Royal Standard was lowered at 11.20 a.m., and Lord and Lady Ellesmere left the hall for the embarkation pavilion in an open phaeton with the Countess at the reins. Her Majesty followed immediately in a carriage, escorted by a company of the Yeomanry Cavalry (Wigan Troop). On arriving at the pavilion, the royal party took their seats in a state barge, accompanied by Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, Earl and Countess of Derby, Earl and Countess of Wilton, and the younger members of the Ellesmere family. The barge then left for Patricroft Station. The canal banks along the 2 mile route were lined with spectators who cheered enthusiastically. The Duke of Wellington had already left discreetly and with no fuss.

An amusing incident was then recounted in one of the newspapers. It was reported that, as the royal barge approached the coke ovens near Worsley, they noticed a small group of men who had positioned themselves on the banks of the canal, to give her Majesty one last hurrah on her way to Patricroft station. When the barge came close, and they were within a few feet of the royal party, a loud cheer went up, which the Queen acknowledged by bowing repeatedly to the men. Unfortunately, one gentleman gave the loudest cheer, with hat in hand, but his arm caught his neighbour and the hat flew off into the canal. It was reported that her Majesty (who was then standing at the bow of the vessel), Prince Albert and the Countess of Ellesmere laughed heartily at this occurrence. The reporter then concluded the piece by wondering; *"Whether their amusement arose from witnessing the floating article, or from noticing the sudden cessation of the gentleman's loyalty in his anxiety to regain his hat, is a question we leave for future historians to determine."*

The Queen arrived at Patricroft a few minutes before noon and immediately proceeded up the elegantly decorated corridor to the railway station, leaning upon the arm of the Earl of Ellesmere, with Prince Albert accompanying the Countess of Ellesmere. Her Majesty was received on the platform by Lt-Gen Earl Cathcart, KCB, and his staff. Officers of the North Western Railway

Company were also in attendance to pay their respects to her Majesty prior to her departure. They were Mr. Glynn, Capt. Huish, Mr. Tootal, Mr. Benson, Mr. Chappell, Mr. Pershouse, and others. On the platform were also Lady Cathcart, Lady Trafford, Mrs. Lee (wife of the Bishop of Manchester), the Dean of Manchester, the Mayor of Manchester (Sir J Potter), and the Vicar of Eccles (Rev. W. Marsden). A guard of honour of the 28th Regiment (100 men under Lt. Col. Messiter) was formed on the platform with the regimental band.

The pilot engine, which preceded the royal train, was decorated with bouquets of flowers. The engine of the royal train was first driven to Crewe by Mr. Ramsbottom, locomotive superintendent of that division. It was then under the direction of Mr. Trevithick. The Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal entered the state carriage. Prince Alfred and Princess Alice were in the second carriage in the care of the ladies of the royal suite (the Viscountess Canning and the Hon. Miss Byng). There were 7 carriages in all (the state carriage, 4 first-class carriages for the royal suite and servants, and 2 luggage vans.

At 12 o'clock precisely the royal train left Patricroft at a rapid rate towards Manchester, and from there to Birmingham and London. The journey to Manchester took about ten minutes and large numbers of inhabitants had turned out to see the Queen pass. The city was still decorated and the weather was clear and sunny. The royal train continued on to Stockport *"through an almost continuous district of mills, warehouses, and other vast manufacturing and trading establishments."* By this time, it was the dinner hour and it seemed as though the whole population had lined the railway, and the royal party travelled the first hour of their return to London *"within hearing of ceaseless cheers."* As the train approached Stockport, it slowed down to cross the viaduct and the royal party had a magnificent view of the scene, in which *"every roof of every building, walls, windows, pailings, carts, trucks, and every imaginable place, were crowded with men, women and children."*

A letter expressing Her Majesty's satisfaction with the arrangements made for her reception in Manchester on the Friday was addressed to Sir John Potter, Mayor of Manchester. It read:

Worsley,

Oct. 10th 1851

"Sir, - I have much pleasure in acquainting you that I have received the Queen's commands to express to you Her Majesty's entire satisfaction with the arrangements made on the occasion of her visit this day to Manchester. Her Majesty was highly gratified by the proceedings of the day, and by

the manner in which she was received. - I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant."

Grey.

To Sir John Potter, Knight, Mayor of Manchester.

Similar letters were addressed to the Mayor of Salford, and to the Mayors of Lancaster and Liverpool. The Queen expressed her great pleasure and satisfaction at her visit in the following way in her journal:

"The Mayor told me last night that he thinks we must have seen a million of people, between Manchester & Salford. There are 400,000 inhabitants in Manchester and everyone says that in no other town could one depend so entirely upon the orderly and quiet behaviour of the people, as there; they have only to be told what ought to be done & it was sure to be executed."

(Queen Victoria's Journals: vol 32, page 146).

DEPARTURE OF THE DUKE of WELLINGTON

During his short stay in Worsley, many of the festivities in Salford and Manchester were held in rain but he described the entertainment of Her Majesty at Worsley as outshining any he had ever witnessed. The noble Duke left Worsley New Hall on the morning of Saturday 11th October. He took his leave of the Queen and left as she was about to receive the address from the Rev. St.V. Beechey. He did so unobserved and departed for Manchester by carriage to catch a train for London.

"I have been at the Reception of the Queen at many of the great Noblemen's Houses, and I have received Her Majesty myself. But I have never witnessed arrangements more perfect or handsomer than those made here."

(Worsley Hall, Friday 10th October, to Mrs. Jones).

However, it would appear that he was not prepared for the crowds that gathered around his carriage as he approached the city; nor was he prepared for the excitement and fervour with which he was greeted. He proceeded directly to the L and NWRC's station at London Road and left Manchester at 11.30.

"I wrote to you on Friday an account of our proceedings up to the last moment when the Post went out. There was a fine assembly at the Hall in the evening, and yesterday morning

all separated, each on his departure to his Home. The Queen went to Windsor, and I am in London.

Nothing could be more satisfactory than HM's reception at Lord Ellesmere's... I was very well received on my passage through Manchester - a party of 300 or 400 well-dressed people, ladies and gentlemen, ran with my carriage through the town to the Railroad Station."

(London, Sunday 12th October, to Mrs. Jones)

THE AFTERMATH

MANCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

In the week following the successful royal visit, Manchester Council met to hear the mayor congratulate all the authorities for the "*complete and most gratifying success of the arrangements*" for the welcome of their sovereign. He recalled the Queen's satisfaction with the arrangements and conveyed her great gratification for everything that had happened on the Friday. This was said to him at the dinner at the New Hall, and a similar assurance was delivered by Prince Albert. Lord Ellesmere sent a private communication to the mayor, but although the mayor did not have his lordship's permission to read it, he felt moved to quote a small clause from it which he believed to be so graphic and descriptive. It read:

*"As far as I could see, have heard, and believe, no complicated human transaction was ever accomplished with such unmitigated success as ours of today. (Applause). Most certainly no sovereign ever brought so many of their subjects to the scaffold with so much cause of satisfaction. (Laughter). I did not see an instance of trouble or ill humour - rarely avoidable in large assemblages - or any reason for such. I beg to congratulate you cordially on this and all other incidents of this day, in which you have been so largely concerned.
Ever faithfully, Yours,
Egerton Ellesmere."*

ANOTHER VISIT (1857)

Queen Victoria was to visit the area for a second time in 1857. The purpose of the visit was to promote and celebrate the 'Art Treasures Exhibition', which was open from 5 May to 17 October of that year. During that period of time, it was visited by over 1.3 million people - about four times the whole population of Manchester at that time. An organising committee was set up in May 1856, with the Earl of Ellesmere (Francis Egerton) as chairman. A site was chosen in Old Trafford and more than 16,000 works were exhibited - sculpture, sketches, paintings, engravings and photography. Prince Albert came to the newly created city (in 1853) on 5 May 1857 to open the exhibition and also to inaugurate the statue to Queen Victoria in Peel Park, designed to commemorate her visit to the area in 1851.

The exhibition was visited by Charles Dickens, Florence Nightingale, the French Emperor Louis Napoleon, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Queen Victoria, who again stayed at Worsley New Hall (29 June to 2 July), this time with the second Lord Ellesmere George Granville Egerton). It was for the opening ceremony that a local composer, Charles Hallé, was asked to form a small orchestra to play for the Prince, and he liked the idea so much that he kept the group together, and thus the renowned Hallé Orchestra was born. However, in the six years between her two visits, two significant deaths occurred of people who had been very prominent during her first visit.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

The Duke of Wellington continued to correspond with Mrs. Jones on a regular basis after his visit to Worsley. He wrote to her from Walmer Castle on 31st August 1852, telling her of his busy social life and intimating that he would be leaving for London for Parliamentary business hopefully sooner than usual. He normally left about the 14th or 15th November each year but intended to go at least a week earlier. On the 7th September, he wrote about two visits to Folkestone to see Mr. Croker who was there *"for a change of air."* He travelled by train from Dover to Folkestone, and complained about the length of time *"one must wait at the stations for the hours at which the Trains pass on the great Lines."* Then, exactly one week later, he died - on 14th September, aged 83. The circumstances of his death and his subsequent funeral were told most poignantly by Mary E. Davies-Evans, the daughter of Mrs. Jones (later Lady Levinge).

"As the bright autumnal day passed away he went with it, and so calmly and quietly, that it was only when a mirror was held on his lips that life was seen to be extinct.

He had said in one of his latest letters that this year he would go up to London a little earlier than his usual date of the 14th or 15th of November - little thinking how he would make the journey.

On the 10th of that month, by the light of torches and with the pealing of minute-guns, his earthy remains, which had lain at Walmer Castle for eight weeks under the faithful guardianship of his old regiment, the Rifle brigade, were removed to Chelsea Barracks. There all London thronged to see him as he lay in state. The great hall, lighted only by waxen tapers in silver sconces and draped in black, brought into strong relief the crimson coffin in which reposed the

'good gray head' with its expression of perfect peace. At its foot lay all the decorations which he had so nobly won. Life-guardsmen with their arms covered guarded the apartment. It was a sight never to be forgotten. The Queen was led weeping bitterly to her carriage, having broken down when she got to the center (sic) of the hall, and sorrow and solemnity were stamped on every face."

In London, he received a state funeral. This took place on 18th November 1852 and he was buried in a sarcophagus in St.Paul's Cathedral, next to Lord Nelson.

The Crown had eight weeks to prepare for the state funeral. This was because no such event could take place until Parliament reconvened, since Parliament had to agree to the expense. That could only have been in November. On receiving news of his death, the Queen, Prince Albert and Lord Derby (the Prime Minister) immediately began to make plans for the funeral. During those weeks, the Duke's body remained at Walmer, where it was embalmed and placed inside a four-layered coffin of lead, oak, mahogany and pine. After being brought to London, the coffin lay in state in the Great Hall of the Chelsea Hospital for two days. On the eve of the funeral, it was transferred to Horse Guards. On the day itself, it took twelve horses to draw the eleven ton carriage to St.Paul's. The procession stretched for 2 miles and was witnessed by crowds surpassing any that had ever been seen in the capital. Some say the crowd numbered one and a half million people.

Lord Palmerston, with whom he frequently disagreed, wrote of him:

"Old as he was, and both bodily and mentally enfeebled by age, he still is a great loss to the country. His name was a tower of strength abroad and his opinions and counsel were valuable at home. No man ever lived or died in the possession of more unanimous love, respect, and esteem from his countrymen."

Queen Victoria was deeply saddened and affected by news of his death. She was at Balmoral when the news first reached her, and she could not at first comprehend that he had died. She had just sat down in the countryside near Dhu Loch when a letter from Lord Derby reached her, confirming what she had heard earlier that morning by telegram. In her journals, she described him as *"...Britain's pride, her glory, her hero, one of the greatest men she ever produced."* Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 16 September 1852 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

"God's will be done! The day must have come, and the Duke was 83. It is well for him that he has been taken, when still in the possession of his great mind and faculties, without a long illness. One cannot think of this country without "the Duke", our immortal hero! In him centered almost every earthly honour a subject could possess, his position was the highest a subject ever had, above all Party, — looked up to by all, — revered by the whole nation, the trusted friend of the Sovereign! And how simply he carried these honours! By what singleness of purpose, what straightforwardness, what courage, were all the motives of his actions guided. The Crown never possessed, and I fear never will again, such a loyal, faithful subject..."

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 16 September 1852 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

Tennyson penned an ode of 281 lines, *Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington*. He is also fondly remembered as the creator of the Wellington boot. The Wellington Arch, which now stands at Hyde Park Corner, London, was built in 1825-7, at the behest of George IV, to proclaim the Duke's defeat of Napoleon.

DEATH OF LORD ELLESMERE

Lord Francis Egerton, 1st Earl of Ellesmere, died on Wednesday 18th February, 1857, aged 57 years, at Bridgewater House, London. He was buried at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, his foundation, on February 26th. His body was conveyed from Bridgewater House by his personal valet, Mr. Robson, and then along the London and North Western Railway to Patricroft. His body was interred in the family vault.

Upon hearing of the Earl's death, Queen Victoria wrote in her journal of Wednesday 18th February:

"Heard to our great concern that that truly amiable, excellent and accomplished Ld. Ellesmere died this morning. He had been very ill, ever since Nov: but it was hoped he might last some time longer. He was a great link in society, for he never took a violent part in politics and was so benevolent and kind."

The Illustrated London News wrote in its obituary:-

"The Earl's demise is the subject of deep and general regret. He possessed great taste and benevolence; he munificently patronised the arts, and showed himself ever a liberal friend to science and literature. He was beloved and esteemed both in public and private, and he bore, indeed, the credit of being a British nobleman of true worth and virtue."

The Earl had been lying in state at the New Hall, and at twelve o'clock on the day of the funeral, the funeral procession left the Hall. The mourners consisted of members of the family, members of the nobility, loyal personal staff, together with 100 of the tenants walking two abreast, and 70 of the Bridgewater Canal Agents, who also walked two abreast. There were about 250 people in total. The coffin was made of polished oak, with brass nails and large gilt handles, with coronets. The plate bore the arms of the Earl, with the following inscription:

FRANCIS EGERTON
Earl of Ellesmere, K.G.
Born Jan.1, 1800
Died 18th Feb., 1857
Aged 57 years

QUEEN VICTORIA'S LETTER TO DUCHESS

Two weeks after her visit to Worsley and Salford, Queen Victoria wrote a letter to the Countess of Ellesmere, particularly to thank her and Lord Ellesmere for their warm hospitality during her time in south-east Lancashire. The first page of the letter reads as follows:

Windsor Castle

Oct: 27 1851

My dear Duchess,

Your kind letter
reached me today
& I thank you much
for it, & hasten to
answer it. Our
journey homeward
was most successful
& interesting, & we

enjoyed our visit
to Worsley much. How
amiable Ld Ellesmere
is!

*Ref: RA VIC/ADDA24/303, Queen Victoria to the Duchess
of Sutherland, 27 October 1851*

AUCTIONS

An auction was planned for Thursday 30th October 1851 of all the decorations and fittings that were used in the pavilion at Peel Park. It was to be held in the large room of the Town Hall, Salford, commencing at 11 a.m. There were 28 lots in the catalogue, covering materials of all kinds (damask, calico, canvas), of all colours (crimson, grey, blue) and of all lengths (3 yds., 270 yds, 1300 yds.). In addition, there were ropes, ornamental cornices, artificial flowers, and wrought iron rods.

OVERVIEW

The behaviour of the people in Salford and Manchester on Friday 10th October drew the highest praise from various newspapers and also from the corporations of both boroughs. In Salford, owing to the small size of the police force, barricades were erected, and the pensioners (retired military) were called out to assist. In Manchester, the bigger police force, and the use of the police reserve, meant that the mayor and corporation did not need to call upon military assistance or use barricades, except at corners or crossroads to prevent any pressure there. The Duke of Wellington noticed this and made this enquiry of a gentleman: *"How do you manage to keep such vast masses of people in order, with such a handful of men to control them?"* The gentleman replied: *"The people themselves were the conservators of peace, and therefore needed no further control."* This fact placed the local people in a different light from that in which they were commonly held.

Another aspect which pleased the newspapers and commentators was the fearless manner in which her Majesty was able to ride and walk about amongst her subjects without any guard, given that there had already been two attempts on her life by this time. At Worsley, for example, there had been very few police on duty as she walked around the church and grounds. On the day of her departure from Patricroft, the only reason for the presence of the police was to prevent the possibility of any accidents due to pressure. The military did not enter the station and her Majesty was able to walk freely about the platform.

POSTSCRIPTS

1. The **bouquet** presented by the Mayor to her Majesty as she arrived at Victoria Bridge was prepared by Mr. Harding of 1 Clifford Street, Bond Street, London, a well-known flower arranger. The bouquet arrived in Manchester on the Friday morning.

2. The departure of the Queen from Worsley New Hall on Friday morning was **telegraphed** to the triumphal arch on Cross Street in a rather unique way. Under the direction of Captain Sheppard, police officers were placed at such distances along the route so that they could see each other, with no difficulty; and, with each man stepping into the middle of the road and raising his hat in succession, the message was conveyed in four and a half minutes. A similar form of communication was adopted for the Queen's departure from the Hall on Saturday morning, and with much success.

3. The inhabitants of **Harpurhey**, anxious not to let such an event pass without some form of celebration, quickly collected funds to buy a fat ox, which was to be roasted for the occasion. This, along with a good supply of plum pudding and ale, was distributed from the refreshment room in the Queen's Park. A committee was appointed to distribute 1,000 tickets amongst the residents of the neighbourhood. Saturday was chosen for this, rather than Friday, to allow those citizens who might have wished to do so, to enjoy the festivities and sights in Manchester. A band played music throughout the day, and, in the evening, tea was provided for widows and aged ladies. The proceedings finished with a firework display.

4. The **Mayor of Salford** entertained all his servants and workmen in honour of her Majesty's visit to the borough.

5. On Friday morning (10th), soon after the Queen had left, a **cab** belonging to Mr. Higson of Bolton, with four passengers, was being driven rapidly down the hill near the church at Worsley and tipped over. Three of the occupants escaped unhurt, except for some minor bruising. However, the fourth occupant, Mr. Chadwick Knowles, son of the town clerk of Bolton, had his right arm broken in two places. He was immediately taken to the Bridgewater Arms, and a surgeon was quickly called.

6. Various guesses had been made of the **numbers** of people in Manchester on Friday. However, a week later, information had been collected which showed that more than one hundred thousand people had arrived by train on Friday. But even so, it was impossible to say accurately how many were present, since many thousands had travelled on for from towns and villages six or seven miles away, and others had come the day before and even earlier in the week.

7. A grand **ball** was held on Monday evening (13th) in the Exchange. About 100 hundred gentlemen (who formed the managing committee) each contributed £5 to raise the necessary funds, and then ordered invitations to be issued to 1,000 townfolk. Each subscriber was given 9 tickets for distribution (5 for gentlemen, and 4 for ladies), with the remainder being held for special distribution among those who held public office, and distinguished families within the district.

The Exchange, complete with its decorations as they had been on the day of the Queen's visit, was used, and seats removed in order to accommodate the required additions and alterations. The throne and retiring rooms for her Majesty were removed, and accommodation for the guests provided. Mr. Horrabin's brass band was placed in an orchestra above the main door. The refreshments were supplied by Messrs. Gunter & Co., of Berkeley Square, *"and comprised the most recherché viands that could be supplied."* Amongst the guests from Worsley Hall were Lady Brackley, the Ladies Alice and Blanche Egerton, the Hon. Captain Egerton, R.N., and the Hon. Algernon Egerton. The party from Heaton park included the Earl and Countess of Wilton, the Viscount Grey de Wilton, and thee Lady Elizabeth Grey. Other important guests were the Earl and Countess of Cathcart, Major Douglas and Lady Douglas, and the High Sheriff, T. Percival Heywood.

The guests started to arrive about 9.30 p.m., and the dancing lasted from 9.45 till midnight, when there was an interval for supper. The programme of dances for the evening was as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Quadrille | 10. Quadrille |
| 2. Waltz | 11. Polka |
| 3. Polka | 12. Waltz |
| 4. Quadrille | 13. Galope |
| 5. Waltz | 14. Quadrille |
| 6. Galope | 15. Waltz |
| 7. Quadrille | 16. Polka |
| 8. Polka | 17. Quadrille |
| 9. Waltz | 18. Galope |

Dancing then continued to 2.30 a.m., and after several repeats of music, the National Anthem closed proceedings at 3.30 a.m. The managing committee for the ball acted as stewards for the evening, and were distinguished by a white ribbon at the button-hole. It was generally agreed by those who had attended that it had been *"an exceedingly delightful ball."*

8. There were very few **casualties** of a serious nature reported during the royal visit on Friday (10th). Sadly, though, the press the following Monday reported two deaths. A girl, named Louisa Teel, aged 8 (sic), was shot in the eye by the wadding fired from a 'cannon' (sic) by James (or George!) Alcock, who was

committed for manslaughter on Sunday. Louisa was born on 5th July 1842 and was baptised at the Cathedral on 2nd June 1844. Louisa died a few minutes after five on the Friday afternoon at MRI. The jury at the inquest on Saturday recorded a verdict of manslaughter. Her father was a chimney sweep. Also on the Friday night, an infant was crushed to death in its mother's arms.

A further report appeared in *The Manchester Guardian* on Wednesday 15 October. On the morning of Friday 10 October, Samuel Smith, an officer in the county court, was sent with others to keep the crowd out of the church yard of Pendleton church during the royal procession. Shortly after noon, Smith and some others went into the steeple of the church to signal the approach of the procession, to the belfry. The bells began their peal, but very quickly the ringers felt that something was wrong. Smith was not to be seen, so some of the ringers went up into the belfry where they found him lying under a bell, which had apparently knocked him down. He was taken to MRI where he died the following morning. At the inquest, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

9. The following **poem** appeared in *The Manchester Courier* of Saturday 11 October 1851, to celebrate the reception in Manchester of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

"How now? What is't?"
"The Queen and a noble troop of strangers
Have left their barge and landed."
"Go give them welcome;
And pray receive them nobly." - (Shakespeare: Henry VIII)

- - - - -

Hark! Hark! the merry tuneful bells'
They ring from every tower;
Their dulcet chimes like zephyrs float,
Then peal with lusty power:
Up-up from slumbers-and awake-
Prepare the glorious scene;
Let every man then take his stand,
To welcome England's Queen.

Up! merry maids of Manchester;
Up-up, and greet the sun;
See that the roseate tints of morn
Behold the work begun;
Up with your garlands and your wreaths'
Your favours and bouquets;
Up! and accord with loyal hearts'

Your fealty and your praise.

Up, up, "ye little ones" in years,
 And join the phalanx strong,
Tune-tune your little artless souls,
 To waft the loyal song!
Though sovereign, princes, dukes and earls,
 And nobles near ye stand,-
Ye are the hope of England still,
 Its own adopted band.

But hark! the booming cannons roar,
 The banners wave on high,
And from each pinnacle and tower,
 The fluttering flags now fly;
The towns in motion, far and wide,
 They're hastening to the scene;
All bent on one, great glorious work,
 To homage England's queen.

Our churches and our chapels swarm
 With ranks of juveniles;
See, on each roseate shining face,
 The eloquence of smiles!
With medal on each tiny breast,
 And pastors, teachers, near,
They in immense detachments now
 To their position veer!

From east to west, from north to south,
 They come in legion's might;
The artisan, the man of wealth,
 And ladies fair and bright;
All onwards press with joyous hearts,
 And happy smiling face,
Determined with a purpose firm,
 To gain a glorious place!
The railways now discharge their freight,
 And countless thousands come;
Forsaken for this glorious day,
 Is commerce and their home!
"The cry is still they come, they come,"
 But happy and serene;
Their purpose is to hail the Prince,

And welcome England's Queen.

From street to street the eddying tide
 Of human beings roll;
While decorations mark each step'
 With loyal wreath or scroll!
Each balcony and window beam
 With faces gay and bright;
And all seem bent with pure content,
 To wait the glorious sight!

Triumphal arches greet our sight,
 The "trades" take up their ranks;
Whilst different "orders" earn from all
 Most universal thanks.
They are the bulwarks of our land,
 And quickly may you scan
The horny hand - the active brain -
 That tell the artisan!

But, hark! the buzz of millions now
 Arrests attention far;
The Queen of England comes in peace,
 And not in ruthless war.
She comes with children round her knee,
 And nobles in her train,
To recognise the seat of trade,
 And gild its glorious fame!

Peel Park she reaches, and the scene
 Burst on her like a dream -
One hundred thousand voices rise
 The ever-glorious theme!
"God save our gracious Queen" peals forth,
 Like ocean's mighty wave -
That is a sight to melt the heart
 However strong and brave.

She gazes on that scene with pride,
 While sparkling eyes reveal
All that the MOTHER and the QUEEN
 Can at that moment feel!
Electric like, her happy smile
 Sweeps o'er the living plain.

"God save the Queen," in echoes ring
Around her path again!

Then gathering masses, rank and file,
Line every inch of road,
O'er Salford float ten thousand flags,
From every bright abode;
Her "Body Guard," her people brave,
Defenders of her land,
Like adamantine fortresses,
Stand bravely hand in hand.

Onwards does she ride along
With unaffected mien,
The best, the gentlest of her sex,
A young and happy Queen!
Prince Albert and her children dear,
Grace the triumphant scene;
Dear to a nation's loyal hearts,
Dear to their treasur'd Queen!

And HE! the veteran chief of old,
A nation's warlike son;
What plaudits rend the morning air,
With shouts for WELLINGTON!
The "hero of a hundred fights"
Comes with his honoured Queen,
To trace the patriotic warmth,
Which elevates the scene!

No war's wild shrieks - no dying sounds -
No drums, nor piercing fife;
But Commerce, Peace and Loyalty,
Now supersede all strife;
The warrior comes with laurel branch,
The sword and shield are laid;
And now he sees the powerful fruits,
True triumphs of our trade!

But see "Victoria's Royal Arch,"
Festoon'd with flowers and green;
Our worthy Mayor receives in state
Old England's youthful Queen!
The "Cathedral Bells" strike up a peal,

Which echoes to the sky;
Whilst prancing steeds, and ladies fair,
In beauty bright pass by!

And dazzling is the gay effect
Which Market-street presents;
Thousands on thousands clustering stand,
In gay habiliments;
Each window teams with faces bright -
Though joyous, still serene -
They wave their hands, and gaze with joy
On England's peerless Queen!

The fountains, with their dazzling spray,
Refresh the human sight;
High and still higher do they rise,
In gems of glittering white;
From ev'ry point the eye can reach,
The noble group survey,
The efforts most gigantic made,
To greet them on this day!

The cavalcade advances on,
'Midst countless thousands round,
Whilst step by step, and street by street,
Is patriotism found:
One universal wish prevails,
Throughout the route 'tis seen;
'Tis honour to our noble guests,
And fealty to the Queen!

Within the decorated walls,
She walks of the Exchange;
Where lovely forms, and gallant hearts,
In splendour proudly range;
The nodding plumes, the jewell'd crests,
And heart enchanting scene,
All harmonise to crown with joy
The visit of our Queen.

By hearts within, and hearts without,
Her welcome is sincere;
Go, mark it in the humblest cot,
Or highest mansion here;

Devotion, sacred, firm, and true,
Does hallow her renown,
And welcomes her with purest joy
And rapture to our town.

Then up with garlands bright and gay,
And up with wreaths and flowers;
Ring, ring, the bells right merrily,
From steeples and from towers;
The welcome ye have given your Queen,
In vain may others raise;
For Manchester, and Salford, too,
Deserve a nation's praise.

And 'midst the praise to all decreed,
Shall HYAM's name not stand
Pre-eminent in annals bright,
Throughout the British land?
His genius and his talents shone
Conspicuous on this day;
What gave the pageant beauty bright?
Why, his superb array!

His costumes you might trace around,
In varied ways displayed;
Fit emblems of our mighty town,
Fit triumphs of our trade!
His countless patrons loyal hearts
Sincerely did evince
The patriotism that they felt
For England's Queen and Prince.

From high to low his wondrous skill
Distinguished was to sight,
For grace and beauty harmonised,
In garments rich and light;
The universal favourite here -
No wonder his renown
Should dart like lightning flashes forth,
And spread from town to town!

No wonder, England should adopt
B.HYAM for its own:
No wonder Scotland should exalt,

And his successes crown!
No wonder Ireland stretches forth
To him her noble hand;
His works, professions, and his truth,
Like adamant will stand.

Honour to Manchester - likewise
To Salford equal praise;
You have planted in Victoria's heart
The feeling pure that lays.
She will appreciate the acts,
And, with her fair renown,
Reciprocate the loyal faith
Experienced in our town.

Then up with garlands bright and gay,
And up with wreaths and flowers,
Ring, ring the bells right merrily,
From steeples and from towers.
With three times three in bumpers full,
Amidst the loyal scene,
Let's pledge, as Britons only can,
"Long Live our Noble Queen!"

10. The Earl and Countess of Ellesmere issued **invitations** for the dinner party on Thursday 9th October to the following:

The High Sheriff (T.Percival Heywood, Esq.); Earl and Countess of Cathcart and Mr. A. Cathcart; Sir Benjamin Heywood, Bart., and Lady Heywood, and the Misses Heywood; Major and Lady Elizabeth Douglas; Colonel and Mrs. Barnard, Miss Barnard and Miss Barnard; Colonel Yorke; Colonel Smythe; Colonel Messiter; Colonel and the Misses Clowes; Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Manchester and Miss Lee; Very Rev. the Dean of Manchester and Miss Bowers; Miss Addington; Rev. Canon Clifton; Sir T. and Lady de Trafford, the Misses de Trafford and Mr. H. de Trafford; Mr. Randolphus and Lady Adelaïd de Trafford; Mr. Wilson Patten and the Misses Patten; William Brown Esq., M.P.; Alexander Henry, Esq., M.P.; James Heywood, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P.; the Recorder of Manchester (R. B. Armstrong, Esq., M.P.); the Mayor of Manchester (John Potter, Esq.); the Mayor of Salford (T. Agnew, Esq.); the Town Clerks of Manchester and Salford; Mr. and Mrs. P. Ainsworth; Mr.

and Mrs. George Loch; Sir Elkanah Armitage; Major and Mrs. Gerard; Captain and Mrs. Langshaw; Captain and Mrs. Lord; Captain Michaelson; Captain Crook; Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher; Mr. Haliburton; Mr. Gray; Mr. Lord, jun.; Mr. W. Royds; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson; Mr. Ridgway; Miss Gray; Mr. and Mrs. Hulton; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hulton; Rev. St. Vincent and Mrs. Beechey; Rev. E. Girdlestone, Mrs. and Miss Girdlestone; Rev. G. Whitlock, Mrs. and the Misses Whitlock; Rev. - Whitlock; Rev. Wilson Rigg, Mrs. and Miss Rigg; Mr. and Miss Ommanney; Mr. Beaumont; Mr. Stephen Blair, M.P.; Mr. J. F. Foster; Mr. Daniel Maude; Mr. L. Trafford; Mr. and Mrs. Fereday Smith; Mr. Alderman Nield; Mr. Thomas Bazley; Mr. Farnall; Mr. Richard Birley; Mr. W. Slater; Mr. William Fairbairn; Mr. Joseph Whitworth; Mr. and Mrs. James Nasmyth; Mr. E. R. Langworthy; Captain and Mrs. Lawes; Mr. T. Ryder; Mr. Henry Houldsworth; Mr. Bramley-Moore; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rasbotham.

11. The **weather** was a notable feature of the Queen's visit to the two boroughs. The day when her Majesty travelled from Liverpool to Manchester was particularly damp and dreary. On the Thursday (9th), the rain fell continuously. Certainly it affected the size of the crowds who would otherwise have welcomed her, but nevertheless the people who did turn out gave her a most endearing reception. Thursday closed cloudy and damp, but the rain had ceased by sunset. Manchester had already a bad reputation for its weather and much depended upon Friday (10th) being fine. Almost a million people retired to bed, earnestly wishing that the following day might prove to be a fine one.

By 6 o'clock, those who were about - and indeed there were many - were relieved to note that it was dry and that the clouds were not as menacing. As day broke, and the morning advanced, the brighter moments increased, and the blue sky started to reappear. And so, contrary to all apprehension and fear, the weather cleared up that Friday morning. Not a drop of rain fell throughout the day. The improvement in the weather meant that the people came out in their masses, from a very early hour and from every surrounding town and village. *The Manchester Examiner* was pleased to report that, considering the inclement weather of the previous day, when her majesty was in Liverpool, "*Manchester may, we think, be said to have **fairly** taken the **shine** out of Liverpool.*"

12. The **streets** of Manchester remained crowded with people, long after her Majesty had left the scene. Many of them followed the route of the procession, marvelling at the decorations of the houses, with their streamers, flags and banners. The fountains by the Infirmary attracted a great deal of attention, since that stretch of water had hitherto been a blight upon the town centre. All the arches looked resplendent, and the one in St. Ann's Square was illuminated

that evening, with visitors pouring through the main thoroughfares, and there was scarcely a street where a pedestrian could proceed in comfort and without interruption. The masses remained in the town centre and its streets until well after midnight.

13. Excerpts from Queen Victoria's **Journals** (transcribed by Princess Beatrice).

"We first came to Pendleton... schoolchildren were everywhere in profusion."

"Next came to Salford where the crowd was very dense."

"We went into Peel Park ... and here was indeed a striking and I suppose totally unprecedented sight. 82,000 School Children were assembled - Church of England, Presbyterians, Roman Catholic, even Jews ... all with their teachers."

In Manchester, *"the streets were immensely full and the cheering and enthusiasm most gratifying. The order and excellent behaviour of the people, who were not placed behind any barriers, was the best we had ever seen in our progresses through capitals and cities. There was never a running crowd, nobody ever moved, therefore everyone could see well and there was no squeezing."*

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 9 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

"There are 400,000 inhabitants in Manchester and everyone says that in no other town could one depend so entirely upon the orderly and quiet behaviour of the people, as there; they have only to be told what ought to be done and it was sure to be executed."

Ref: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W): 9 October 1851 (Princess Beatrice's copies)

14. *The Manchester Examiner* (Saturday 11 October 1851) reviewed the **success** of the royal visit with the following words of enthusiasm:

"By this time, we trust, it is established beyond all question that the people of this neighbourhood are, after all, a most loyal people. Never was Her Majesty, in any of her previous

progresses among her subjects, more enthusiastically welcomed, more gazed at, cheered, addressed, besung, bebannened, (sic) and illuminated than during her visit to her lieges of Manchester."

15. *The Morning Chronicle* (Saturday 11 October 1851) reported on the **scale** and visual effect of the preparations made for the royal visit.

"With regard to the preparations made for the royal reception, Manchester excelled Liverpool. In the matter of buildings, probably from the feeling that the town is deficient in imposing public buildings, efforts were made to compensate for this defect in some degree by the erection of structures which, slight and unsubstantial as they are in reality, present a striking and imposing appearance."

It then proceeded to describe the number and decoration of triumphal arches scattered across the towns, and the profusion of flags on display from every window. It noted that, on some streets, it was almost impossible to discern the buildings, so dense were the flags and other decorations. It further described the stands which had been erected at every available location, wherever there was an open space of ground, but pointed out that in front of each one was "*a printed card, stating that the stand had been examined by a professional engineer, and found to be substantial and sufficient for the weight to be placed upon it*".

16. Along the banks of the canal at Patricroft, and opposite Mr. Nasmyth's foundry, the boats of the **Manchester Regatta Club** assembled to welcome her Majesty, at equal distances of twenty yards and in the order in which they were to follow the royal barge. The boats and their crews were as follows:

Alice steamer's gig boat: Highly decorated.

Crew: Captain Foulkes, coxswain, and four oarsmen.

Nemesis: six-oared barge. Pink flag at the bow and a blue one at the stern.

Crew: Messrs. Collinge, Martin, Swallow, Threader, Frost and Smith.

Coxswain: Mr. J. Lang. Uniform was pink guernsey.

Princess: four-oared gig. White club flag at the bow and a blue flag at the stern with the arms of the Earl of Ellesmere.

Crew: Messrs. Day, Farrand, Birch and Chew. Coxswain: Mr. J. R. Horner.

The *Princess*: four-oared cutter. Bow and stern flags were blue with a gold fringe. Uniform was blue, trimmed with white satin.

Crew: Messrs. Lowe, Millars, Harrison and Dawes.

Coxswain: Mr. P. Anson.

Pysche: six-oared barge, belonging to Joseph Stubbs Esq., the Mayor of Warrington. The bow flag was blue, with the Prince of Wales plume and the stern flag was the Union Jack. Uniform was white trimmed with scarlet.

Crew: Messrs. S. McCormick, H. Collinge, C. Howarth, H. Pearson, R. Smith and T. Reilly.

Coxswain: Mr. J. Lyth.

Prince of Wales: cutter. Bow flag was blue with a white cross and the stern flag was blue, bearing the boat's name. Uniform was pink.

Crew: Messrs. W. Hamilton, T. McCormick, J. Hamilton and G. Carrol.

Coxswain: Mr. T. Chew.

Nemesis: cutter. Bow flag was pink, with the name of the boat inscribed. The stern flag was also pink, with the classical figure of the goddess Nemesis upon it.

Crew: Messrs. Roebuck, Mullion, Sharrocks, and Cheetham.

Coxswain: Mr. Anderton.

Princess: gig (26 Feet). Light blue flag at stern.

Crew: Messrs. W. Smith, J. Bardsley, J. Ellery, and J. Southern.

Coxswain: Mr. J. Buxton.

Swallow: Messrs. Sharps' gig. Rose-coloured flag at stern. Uniform was white, trimmed with rose.

Crew: Messrs. H. and T. Sharps, Hargreaves, and Lamb.

Coxswain: J. Nuttall.

Nemesis club's gig. Bow and stern flags were pink. Uniform was pink.

Crew: Messrs. Telford, Shapley, Beard, Sale and Blackburn.

Coxswain: G. Scholes.

Ellesmere: gig, belonging to Mr. Cooper. Bow and stern flags, blue with white fringe.

Crew: Messrs. Collier, Cheetham, Dawes and Cooper.

Coxswain: Mr. S. Howard.

17. After the successful visit of Queen Victoria, questions were raised about the status of the town. The council began to refer to it as a **city**, and the borough petitioned for city status. It was proclaimed a city by Royal Charter on 29 March 1853 and the title was officially granted by Letters Patent in 1854. This process established the precedent that any municipal borough in which an Anglican diocese was established was entitled to petition for city status.

18. *The Morning Herald*, on Saturday 11 October, described the energy, vibrancy and development of the town of **Manchester** as follows:

"The town of Manchester has, within the last few years, carved out for itself a very important place, indeed in many

respects unparalleled among the busy hives of industry of this country. In almost every other department of our manufactures, the raw materials are furnished by ourselves, but here every fibre of the five or six hundred millions of pounds which its spinners work up into yarn every year must be brought over the seas. Never was dependence more complete than that of 'the Manchester man' upon foreign supplies. Cotton is the great moving principle that keeps Manchester alive, and that fills its streets, and lanes, and outskirts with a swarming busy throng, who rely upon the tropical agriculturist, the shipowner, and the merchant, before their spindles and looms can be set at work, and their families provided with bread. It was not until the 18th century that Manchester possessed any claims to attention as a manufacturing town, and then it was that the first step was taken by opening up improved communication with Liverpool, by rendering the Irwell and the Mersey fitted for the conveyance of merchandise, to secure the commercial importance of Manchester, and give the first real great impetus to the wonderful cotton manufacture. Less than a hundred years ago the indefatigable and eccentric Duke of Bridgewater formed those magnificent water communications which materially facilitated the conveyance and transport of goods at reduced charges, and this was, at the time, the great necessity of the town. Cotton and its manufacture had found its way into and around Manchester."

19. According to *The Morning Herald* (Saturday 11 October 1851), it was estimated that the **total cost** of the visit had been variously estimated at between £100,000 and £150,000. According to a House of Commons research paper, published in February 1999, the equivalent in that year's values would have been from £7.2 million to over £10 million.

"Certainly the display ... exhibited an unexampled and gorgeous display of flags, banners, wreaths of flowers, evergreens, laurels, triumphal arches, emblematical devices, transparencies, and inscriptions, which far exceeded anything that has ever before been witnessed in the numerous periodical triumphal progresses which her Majesty has made through various parts of her dominions."

20. T. H. Taylor, Chemist, of St. Ann's Square, who had prepared and supplied the perfumes for the royal retiring rooms at the Exchange, made them

available for sale to the public a week after the royal visit. Priced at 2s., 3s. 6d., and 5s. per bottle, it was said that *"they will be found to possess combinations of the fragrance of the most delicious flowers, forming bouquets of great delicacy, durability, and sweetness."* The series of odours and perfumes consisted of..

Bouquet pour la visite Royale de Victoria et d'Albert
 Bouquet de bienvenue d'Ellesmere
 Bouquet de réception du Maire
 Essence de Sels de Lavande et de Rose
 Sachets des Princesses ou Odeurs des fleurs d'Angleterre.

21. *The Morning Chronicle* (Monday 13 October) wrote about the restraint of the crowd that had assembled in the streets to witness the splendid scene.

"It was impossible to look upon the thronging crowds - crowds that choked up the broadest thoroughfares, and impeded their own movements by their very unwieldiness - without thinking how powerless all legal restraints must be against the riotous passions of a multitude like this, if irritated by oppression or goaded by insufficient food; and yet there could scarcely have been more order if Manchester had returned to its primeval solitude. The excitement of the earlier part of the day - the excitement of a more physical kind - which thousands who were unable to return to their own homes had since been indulging in, were alike powerless, now that night had come, to throw the people from their wonderful self-control, or to produce the least approach towards noisy riot."

22. Queen Victoria was so clearly moved by the spectacle of so many children gathered in Peel Park that, according to the *Manchester Examiner*, (Saturday 25 October 1851), she commanded a list of the Sunday School children assembled in the park. She particularly wanted to know about their number, and the names and denominations of the schools, together with the names of the clergymen and ministers to whose congregations they belonged. The official, complete list of numbers was as follows:

Independents	12,273	Church of England	24,169
Wesleyans	10,676	Other Methodists	8,153
Presbyterians	1,496	Baptists	2,295
Roman Catholics	8,080	Unitarians	1,064
Swedenborgians	620	Quakers	280
Jews	200	Total:	<u>69,306</u>

