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A
DESCRIPTION
OF
LONDON;

CONTAINING A SKETCH OF
ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE,

And of all the most celebrated
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, &c.

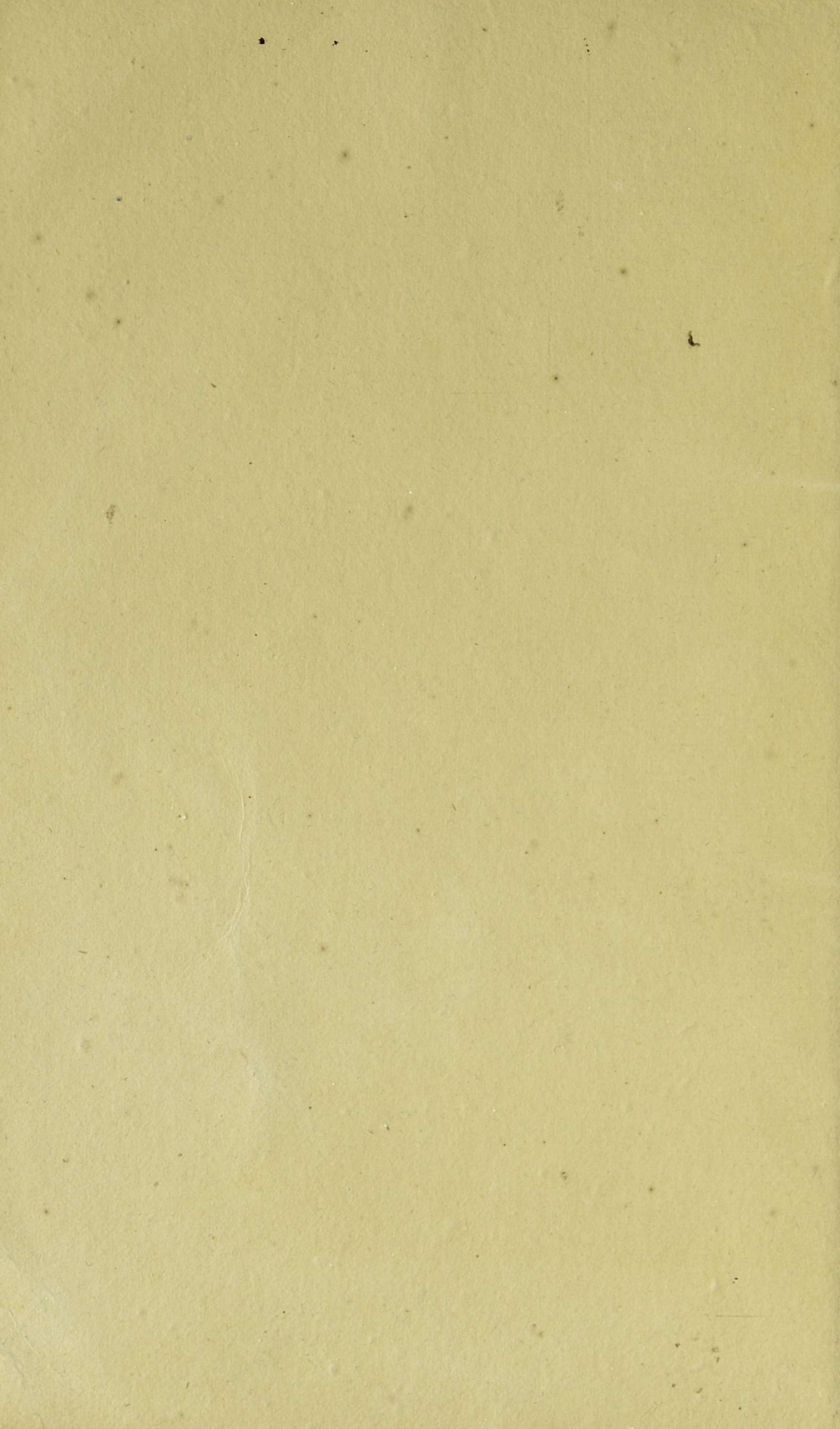
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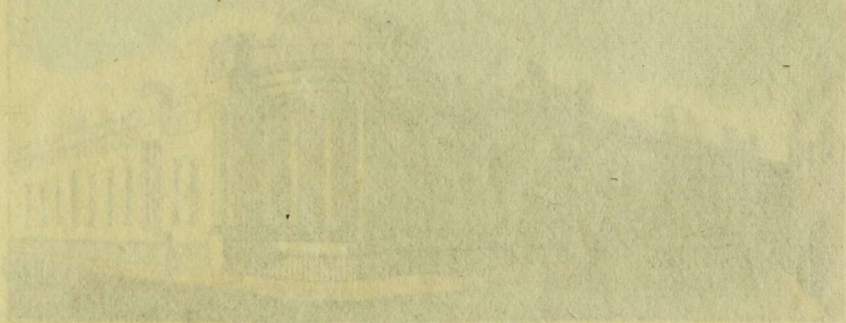
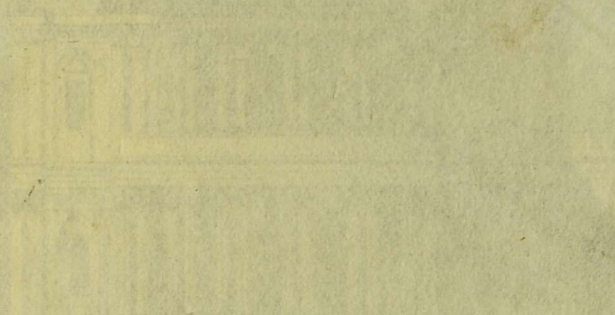
LONDON:

WILLIAM DARTON, 58, HOLBORN HILL.

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Elmira Liske



The Book of Liske

St Paul's Cathedral.



The Bank of England.

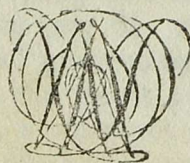
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DESCRIPTION
OF
L O N D O N.

LONDON, the metropolis of the British empire, is situated on a gently rising ground on the north bank of the Thames, in 51 degrees 31 minutes north latitude, and 5 minutes 37 seconds west, from the Observatory at Greenwich. It seems to derive its name from the Gothic words *Lun*, a grove; and *Den*, a town; from being situated in the midst of an extensive forest; and appears to have been founded by the British, descended from the Goths, who had emigrated from Scandinavia.

Another etymology is assigned to it; viz. *Llyn*, the Welsh word for a lake; and *Dyn*, a town; descriptive of its situation, when the south side was occupied by the Thames and some very extensive morasses, ditches, &c. giving it the appearance of a city on the lake.

It is first mentioned by the Roman historians in the reign of Nero, in the year 61, when Tacitus relates that "Suetonius Paulinus," pursued by the victorious Boadicea, "marched through the heart of the country as far as London (*Londinum*), a place not dignified with the name of a colony, but the chief residence of merchants, and the great mart of trade and commerce."

It is afterwards mentioned by Ammianus Marcellinus, in the reign of the Emperor Julian, as "an ancient town."

Constantine the Great, who first made it a bishop's see, is said also to have built the walls, which were something more than three miles in circumference, and twenty-two

feet high, guarded at proper distances by lofty towers. London was made "the capital of all England," by Alfred the Great.

We have a very curious account of the state of London in the reign of Henry II. by William Fitzstephen, who died in 1191. It is the oldest account of London extant, is perhaps the earliest description of a great city which any European nation has to boast, and presents a picture of our early manners in the twelfth century, which cannot be obtained elsewhere.

According to him, London was then strongly fortified, except on the side next the river, the tides having undermined and destroyed the ancient walls that had been erected on its banks. There were not less than thirteen large conventual churches, besides a hundred and twenty-six parochial. On the east stood the Tower; on the west *Baynard* and *Mountfitchet* Castles; and the wall was furnished with seven double gates, supposed to have been *Aldgate*, *Bishopsgate*, *Cripplegate*, *Aldersgate*, *Newgate*, *Ludgate*, and the *postern*, near the Tower. On the west, and on the bank of the river, he describes the *royal palace*, which he calls an incomparable structure, furnished with bastions and a breast-work, at the distance of two miles from the city, but united to it by a populous suburb, since called the Strand. On the north were fields and pasture; and beyond an immense forest, (of which Enfield Chase is thought to be but a small remainder), among whose inhabitants bears and wild bulls are enumerated. He speaks highly of the strength of the city, and extols the politeness of the citizens.

Particular and distinct places appear to have been allotted for the different trades and manufactures. On the banks of the river was a public eating-house, or cookery; Smithfield is mentioned as the great mart for horses; wine was sold in vessels on the river; and, amongst a great variety of other things, we find silks from China mentioned. He then proceeds to the sports and pastimes; informs us that even then, instead of the ancient shews of the theatre, London had her mysteries and moralities; and, among the winter sports, he describes a game similar to skating. He notices two inconveniences: "the ex-

cessive drinking of some foolish people, and the frequent fires." It must be observed that at this time the streets were very narrow and crooked, and the houses chiefly built with timber and thatched with straw or reeds. Such was London between six and seven hundred years ago !

It is evident that our limits will not allow us to notice much more of the *history* of this Imperial city ; yet there are two woeful occurrences which cannot be passed over in silence—the GREAT PLAGUE and the FIRE OF LONDON.

The *great plague* of 1665 commenced at a house in Long Acre, whither goods had been imported from Holland that had been brought from the Levant, about the beginning of December. The prevalence of a frost, attended by sharp winds, checked the mortality till April and May, when the disorder began to spread in a dreadful manner, and continued its ravages for nearly the whole year. "Now it was, indeed, a dismal time," says De Foe, "and for about a month together, not taking any notice of the bills of mortality, I believe there did not die less than *fifteen or seventeen hundred a day*." It should be remembered, too, that this was at a time when nearly 200,000 people are thought to have previously quitted the metropolis.

The dead augmented beyond the means of enumeration ; the church-yards were no longer capable of receiving the bodies ; and large open spaces, on the outskirts of the metropolis, were appropriated for the purpose. "Whole families, and, indeed, whole streets of families, were swept away together, insomuch that it was frequent for neighbours to call to the bellman to go to such and such houses, and fetch out the people, for that they were all dead."

The grave was now a "yawning abyss," deeper and more extensive pits were dug, and the rich and the poor, the young and the aged, the adult and the child, were all promiscuously thrown headlong into one common receptacle. By day the streets presented a most frightful aspect of desolation and misery ; and at night, the *dead carts*, moving with slow pace by torchlight, and with the appalling cry "*bring out your dead !*" thrilled horror through every heart.

The dead carts were first used in July, when all the common ceremonies of interment were obliged to be dispensed with. They nightly went round wherever they were required; and when the "buryers" thought a sufficient load was heaped up, they were drawn to the nearest pit and thrown in as hastily as possible. Long hooks, like shepherds' crooks, were used to drag the bodies out from the lanes and alleys, where the carts could not come, and a kind of hand-barrows to carry them to the carts. The chief preventives used by the buryers were rue, garlic, tobacco, and vinegar. The stoppage of public business was so complete that grass grew within the very area of the Exchange. The contagion swept away, according to Lord Clarendon, who thought the computation under-rated, 160,000; though Dr. Hodges collected from the bills of mortality only 68,596.

The plague had scarcely ceased when the dreadful *fire of London* broke out at the house of one Farquer, a baker, in Pudding Lane, on Sunday, September 2, 1666. It raged in a bright flame all Monday and Tuesday; on Wednesday it was partially stopped, and on Thursday, September 6, it was wholly extinguished. The destruction of churches, halls of companies, and other public buildings, was immense; there were about 13,200 houses burned; and the value of property destroyed was estimated at 7,335,000 pounds sterling. Notwithstanding the extent of the conflagration, from the Tower to Temple Bar, not more than six people perished.

PRESENT STATE OF LONDON;

SITUATION, EXTENT, STREETS, DIVISIONS, AND
POLICE.

London stretches from west to east along the banks of the Thames, and consists of three principal divisions; the city of London, the city of Westminster, and the borough of Southwark, with their respective suburbs. From Limehouse and Deptford, to Milbank and Vauxhall, it is about seven miles long, and is about sixty miles

distant from the sea. Its breadth varies from two to four miles.

The principal *streets* are wide and airy, and surpass all others in Europe, in convenience, paving, and cleanliness. Under the pavements are large vaulted channels, or sewers, communicating with every house by smaller ones, and with every street by openings and gratings, to carry off all filth that can be conveyed in that manner into the river; and scavengers are constantly employed to take away all rubbish that accumulates on their surface. Most of the great streets appropriated to shops have an unrivalled aspect of wealth and splendour; the shops themselves are handsomely fitted up, and decorated with taste, but the manufactures with which they are stored form the chief ornament.

London does not excel other great cities, perhaps not equal several, in the grandeur and beauty of its buildings, although it has recently undergone some magnificent improvements at the western extremity; but it is unrivalled in the comfort, neatness, and convenience, of its houses; it is not so much adapted for show as for use, health, pleasure, and enjoyment. There are at least 8,000 streets, lanes, alleys, and courts; 70 squares, and 160,000 houses, warehouses, and other buildings.

The direction of the main streets follow the course of the Thames from east to west; and the cross-streets generally run from north to south.

There are two *grand lines of streets* from west to east. One of them, the *northern* line, commences from the Uxbridge road at the north side of Hyde Park, and, under the names of Oxford-street, St. Giles's, Holborn, Skinner-street, Newgate-street, Cheapside, Cornhill, and Leadenhall-street, is continued on to Whitechapel and Mile-end, on the Essex road.

The other, the *southern* line, commences from the Bath road, at the south side of Hyde Park, and is continued under the names of Piccadilly, St. James's Street, Pall Mall, Charing Cross, Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate Hill, St. Paul's Church-yard, Watling-street, Cannon-street and Tower-street, to the Tower of London, whence it may be said to extend two miles further along the river-side to Wapping.

The *west end of the town*, extending westward from the meridian of Charing Cross, is the most modern and elegant part of London; it is inhabited by the court, nobility, and gentry, and is the seat of government.

The *City*, in its familiar acceptation, may be said to extend from Charing Cross to the meridian of the Tower; though, strictly speaking, it extends only from Temple Bar to the Tower, being bounded on the south by the river, and on the north by Chiswell Street, &c.

Eastward of the Tower, London may be considered as a *sea-port*, the inhabitants in general being connected with the wonderfully extensive shipping interest of this mistress of commerce.

The *Borough of Southwark*, lies to the south of the Thames, is chiefly inhabited by merchants and traders, and has only one main street, called the Borough High Street, extending from London Bridge into the country. A fine street also extends from Blackfriars Bridge out of London, and others are projecting which, in time, will confer more importance on this part of the metropolis.

The *civil government* of the city is vested in its own corporation, which consists of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the Aldermen, and the Common Council.

Middlesex returns eight members to parliament, two for the county, four for the city, and two for Westminster.

The *police offices* in which magistrates sit every day, are :

The Mansion House,
Guildhall,
Bow Street,
Queen Square, Westminster,
Great Marlborough Street,
Hatton Garden,
Worship Street,

Lambeth Street, Whitechapel,
Mary-le-bone, High Street,
Union Street, Southwark,
High Street, Wapping, for offences
connected with the shipping
and port of London.

The marshalmen, beadles, constables, watchmen, patrols, police, and Bow-street officers, employed for the protection of the city, &c. amount to 3,077 persons.

POPULATION.

The *population* of London, including the suburbs, according to the return of 1821, amounted to 1,225,694:

but other estimates, for four miles round St. Paul's, including visitors, sailors, soldiers, &c. make it amount to *one million and a half*.

SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS.

An idea may be formed of the vast extent and population of London from the quantity of *provisions* annually consumed.

Yearly consumption of *animal food*.

Oxen	-	-	158,000,000
Sheep and Lambs	-	-	1,549,000,000
Calves	-	-	22,000,000
Hogs and Pigs	-	-	20,000,000

besides animals of other kinds.—The total value of butcher's meat, as sold in Smithfield, is £8,000,000 per annum.

Annual consumption of *milk*, 7,884,000 gallons, for which the cow-keepers receive £328,000; but for which the public pay £646,000.

For *vegetables* there are 10,000 acres of ground cultivated near the metropolis; and for *fruit*, 3,000; the annual produce of these two articles is estimated at £1,045,000.

Annual consumption of

Wheat	-	-	-	2,700,000	bushels,
Butter, about	-	-	-	21,000,000	pounds,
Cheese	-	-	-	26,000,000	pounds,
Fish	-	-	-	120,000	tons,
Poultry to the value of about	-	-	-	60,000l.	sterling,
Coals	-	-	-	1,200,000	chaldrons,
Porter and Ale	-	-	-	36,000,000	gallons,
Spirituous Liquors and Compounds	-	-	-	11,000,000	gallons,
Wine	-	-	-	65,000	pipes.

The chief *markets* in London are:—

Smithfield, for live cattle and hay,
Leadenhall, for meat, skins, and leather,
Newgate, for meat, poultry, butter, eggs, &c.
Fleet, for ditto,
Billingsgate, for fish,
Covent Garden, for fruit and vegetables,
Hay Market, for oats, beans, straw, and hay,
Mark Lane, for corn of all sorts,
Thames Street, for coal.

There are in all 16 flesh markets, and 25 for corn, coals, hay, vegetables, &c.

PLACES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Churches of the established religion	-	122
Chapels of ease, of ditto	-	67
Foreign Protestant churches and chapels	-	19
Roman Catholic chapels	-	15
Synagogues for the Jews	-	6
Dissenter's chapels	-	190

Total 419

PUBLIC, LITERARY, AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

45	free schools,	
94	public companies,	
4254	seminaries for education, including 237 charity-schools,	
8	societies for promoting good morals,	
12	societies for promoting the learned, the useful, and the polite, arts,	
5	royal and national institutions for the advancement of polite arts and letters,	
3	colleges for various uses,	
18	public libraries,	
6	literary institutions,	
1	national museum,	
52	hospitals and dispensaries,	
122	alms-houses and asylums,	
704	benefit or friendly societies,	
30	institutions for educating the poor on the plan of Mr. Lancaster, or Dr. Bell.	

COURTS OF JUSTICE.

There are	13	supreme courts,	} in which about 8000 lawyers practise :
	48	subordinate,	
	4	ecclesiastical courts,	
	12	inns of court,	
	14	jails,	
	5	houses of correction.	

PLACES OF PUBLIC AMUSEMENT.

Two royal theatres for British dramatic performances—*Drury Lane* and *Covent Garden*, which are open for nine months in the year, beginning on the first of October, and closing on the 30th of June.

The *Opera House*, for Italian operas and French ballets, opens in winter, and continues open till Midsummer.

Several Subscription *Concerts*.

Vauxhall Gardens, open about the middle of May, and close at the end of August.

The *Haymarket Theatre*, for English dramatic pieces, opens at the end of June, and closes at the beginning of October.

The *Lyceum*, or the English Opera House, opens and closes about the same time as the Haymarket.

Sadler's Wells, for burlettas, ballets, and pantomimes, but especially for aquatic exhibitions; opens on Easter Monday, and closes in October.

Davis's Amphitheatre, for equestrian performances, pantomimes, &c.; opens and closes at the same time.

Amphitheatre of Arts, for the same amusements, in the winter season.

Royal Circus, or Surry Theatre, for similar performances; opens and closes nearly at the same time as Sadler's Wells.

The *Coburg Theatre*, upon the same principle of management, in every respect, as the Surry Theatre.

The *Sans Pareil*, or the Adelphi Theatre;—and some private theatres.

Bartholomew fair is the only one annually held in London.

To the above sources of amusement, may be added, an examination of,

The British Museum,
Royal Institution,
London Institution,
Bullock's Museum,
The Tower,
Westminster Abbey,
St. Paul's Cathedral,
Exeter Change Menagerie,

The Royal Academy,
Society of Painters in Water
Colours,
British Institution,
The various Panoramas,
Linwood's Exhibition,
West's Pictures,
&c. &c.

NEWSPAPERS, MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS, &c.

There are published in London,

8 Morning Newspapers, and	} Daily,
8 Evening Newspapers,	
7 three times a week,	
2 twice a week,	
33 weekly,	
1 every third Saturday in the Month,	
1 monthly,	

Of the Morning Papers there are sold about 20,000 daily; of the Evening Papers about 15,000 to 16,000; of those published thrice a week, about 20,000 to 22,000;

of the weekly Papers about 70,000; in all, at least 340,000 copies per week.

Exclusive of the publications on botany, trade, agriculture, naval and military science, army and navy lists, &c. &c., there are upwards of 40 monthly miscellanies; and several are published quarterly, such as reviews, &c.

About 800 *new* books and pamphlets are regularly published every year in the metropolis.

COMMERCE.

London is the greatest commercial city in the whole world, and more ships sail from it in a year than from all other places in the world united. It has fifty times more trade than ancient Carthage, Venice in its greatest glory, all the Hanse towns, or Amsterdam, could ever boast.

Exports and Imports.

The annual value of goods exported and imported has been estimated at *seventy* millions sterling. It is also calculated that above forty thousand waggons and other carriages arrive and depart in one year, occasioning a transit to the value of fifty millions more; making together a sum of *one hundred and twenty millions worth* of property annually moving to or from London.

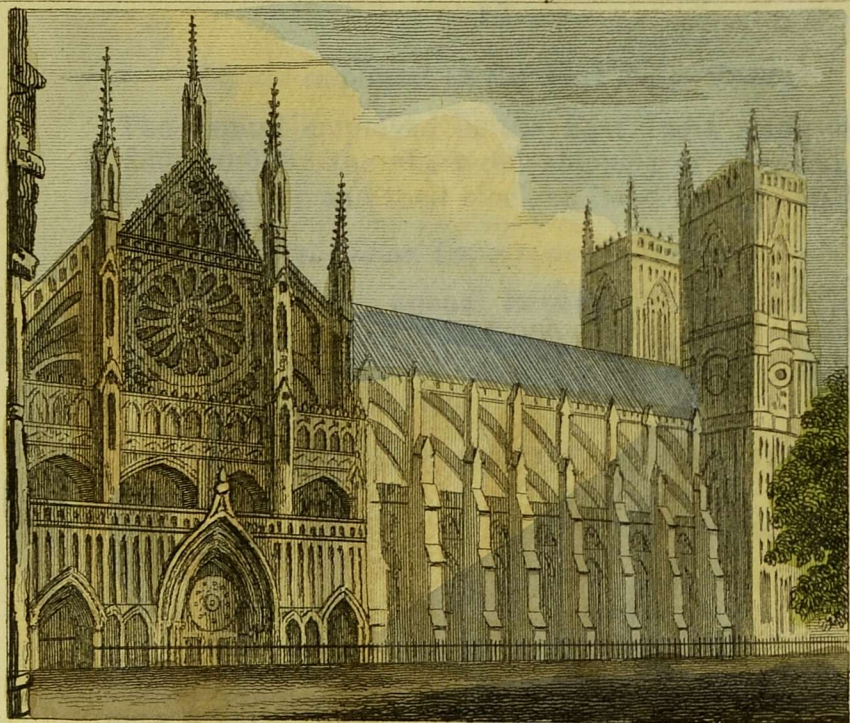
Customs.

The annual amount of *customs* at the port of London is more than £7,000,000. There are about 4000 British and Foreign ships employed in the export and import trade, and about 15,000 cargoes annually enter the port. On an average there are 1100 ships in the river and docks; 3000 barges and small craft employed in lading and unlading them; 2,288 barges engaged in the inland trade; and 3000 wherries, or small boats, for passengers.

Persons employed on the Thames.

There are about 8000 watermen employed in navigating the wherries and craft; 4000 labourers lading and unlading the ships; and 1200 revenue officers constantly doing duty on the river; besides the crews of all the vessels.

Westminster Abbey.



Westminster Hall.

Capital employed in the East India Trade.

The capital employed in the East India trade alone is £30,000,000; the chartered shipping of the company is 80,000 tons; and their stock on hand is £13,000,000.

West Indian Imports and Exports.

The value of the annual imports of the West India trade is upwards of 7,000,000; of goods exported, £3,800,000; tonnage of shipping employed 150,000; number of seamen, 14,000.

CHIEF SEATS OF PARTICULAR TRADES.

Booksellers,	-	-	Paternoster-row,
Clothiers,	-	-	Basinghall-street,
Drapers,	-	-	Cloth-fair,
Hosiers,	-	-	Wood-street,
Manchester Houses,	-	-	Cheapside, &c.
Bankers,	-	-	Lombard-street,
Upholsterers,	-	-	Moorfields,
Fruit Merchants,	-	-	Thames-st. and Botolph-lane,
Sugar Bakers,	-	-	Thames-street,
Hop Merchants,	-	-	Borough,
Wire Workers,	-	-	Crooked-lane,
Type Founders,	-	-	Chiswell-street,
Silk Manufacturers,	-	-	Spitalfields,
Birmingham and Sheffield Factors,	-	-	Cheapside,
Coach Makers,	-	-	Long Acre, &c.

There are 1100 hackney coaches, 400 hackney chariots, 80 cabriolets, and 400 sedan chairs, licensed in London. Stage-coaches, waggons, &c. to every part of the country; post-chaises, and private coaches for hire, are to be had in every quarter of the town, in great abundance.

DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THE MOST REMARKABLE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN LONDON.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

This interesting edifice was founded by Sebert, King of the East Saxons; but, being afterwards destroyed by the Danes, it was rebuilt by Edgar in 958. Edward the Confessor again rebuilt the church in 1065. The present church was built by Henry III. and his successor, except the two towers at the entrance, which

are the work of Sir Christopher Wren. It is 360 feet long; the breadth of the nave is 72 feet, and of the cross aisle 195 feet.

The roof of the nave and of the cross aisle is supported by two rows of arches, one above the other, each of the pillars of which is a union of one ponderous round pillar, and four of a similar form, but extremely slender, continued from the base to the roof, which produce an uncommonly grand and awful effect. The choir is one of the most beautiful in Europe; and the elegant and interesting monuments with which the church is stored, especially in Poets' Corner, add greatly to its attractions.

Our limits will allow us only to mention, but not to describe, some of the curiosities in this venerable pile, and in the other public buildings that are to follow. The most worthy of notice are *Henry the Seventh's Chapel*, one of the finest places of gothic architecture in the world, called, by Leland, the wonder of the world; *Edward the Confessor's Chapel*, in which, among a great variety of valuable antiquity, models, and monuments, are the coronation chairs of the British sovereigns, and the very stone on which the ancient kings of Scotland used to be crowned. There are nine other chapels. The Cloisters, the Crypt, the Chapter-House, in which *Domesday Book* is kept, the beautiful prospect from the towers of the Abbey, the Choir, the Altar, and the west window, must not be omitted.

Prices of Admission—Henry VII.'s Chapel, 6d.; North Transept, 6d.; Henry V.'s Chapel, 3d.; West-end and North-west Tower, 6d.; but it is usual to give a trifle to the conductor.

WESTMINSTER HALL.

This is the largest room in Europe unsupported by pillars, except the theatre at Oxford; it is 275 feet long, and 74 broad. Westminster Hall, with the Houses of Lords and Commons, and other contiguous buildings, are the remains of the *Old Royal Palace* of Westminster, built by Edward the Confessor. This great hall, which has a curious chesnut roof in the gothic style, was built by William Rufus, and enlarged by Richard II.

It was originally used as a place to entertain the king's guests and dependents in, on great festivals; Richard II. entertained 10,000 persons within its walls, and it is still used for the coronation feasts. It is also fitted up for the trial of peers, or persons impeached by the House of Commons.

Under the roof of this hall, or in intimate connexion with it, is performed the most effective public business of this great empire. Here the representatives of the people deliberate;—here every department of the law is administered in the three supreme courts, (King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer,) and in the Court of Chancery;—and here sit the Court of Final Appeal, and the other House of Legislature—the House of Lords.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords is a very handsome and convenient, but not a splendid, room; it is a part of the old Court of Requests, and was fitted up for the present purpose, on the union of Great Britain and Ireland. Its height is reduced by an elevated floor of wood over the original stone pavement; it is said to be prepared merely for temporary use, a new parliament-house being in contemplation.

The throne is merely an arm chair, elegantly carved and gilt, and ornamented with crimson velvet and silver embroidery.

The old canopy of state, under which the throne is placed, has the arms of the United Kingdom embroidered on it in silk, and the supporters in silver.

The Lord Chancellor, the judges, and officers of the House, sit on large woolsacks covered with crimson baize; and the peers sit, according to their rank, on benches covered with similar baize: the bishops and ministers of the crown sitting on the right hand of the woolsacks.

Strangers may see the House at any time; and may attend below the bar, while the House is sitting, either by the introduction of a peer, or by application to the door-keepers. No persons are admitted in boots or great coats, except members of the House of Commons.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons was originally a chapel built by King Stephen, and dedicated to St. Stephen. It was rebuilt in 1347 by Edward III., and Edward VI. gave it to the Commons for their sittings, to which use it has ever since been applied.

The old house was formed within the chapel by a floor raised above the pavement, and an inner roof considerably below the ancient one. On the union, the house was enlarged, but it is still too small. A handsome gallery runs along the west end, and the north and south sides are supported by slender iron pillars, crowned with gilt Corinthian capitals. The whole of the house is lined with brown and well-polished wainscot.

The Speaker's ancient chair stands at some distance from the wall at the upper end of the room; it is slightly ornamented with gilding, with the king's arms at the top. Before this is the table at which the clerks sit.

In the centre of the room is an area, in which a temporary bar is placed, where witnesses are examined.

The Members' seats occupy each side, and both ends of the room, except the passages. There are five rows of seats rising above each other, with short backs and green morocco cushions.

The House may be viewed by strangers at any time, and access to the gallery obtained during the sitting, either by the introduction or order of a member, or by paying three shillings to the door-keeper. No ladies are admitted into the House during its sittings.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

This is the most ancient of the royal palaces in London, and till lately was the place at which the courts were held. An hospital for fourteen leprous females was originally founded on its site, before the conquest; it was surrendered to Henry VIII. in 1532, who erected the present palace; but it does not appear to have been the court of the English sovereigns till the reign of Queen Anne, from which time it has been uniformly such.

Though the palace is inconsiderable and mean, and though there is nothing very superb in the decorations or furniture of the apartments, yet it is allowed to be better adapted for purposes of ceremony and state than any other palace in Europe.

The presence chamber, the privy chamber, which has a canopy of flowered crimson velvet, and the grand drawing room, are the most worthy of observation. In the latter is a very magnificent chandelier of gilt silver, and a superb throne with its canopy. The canopy of the throne is of crimson velvet, with broad gold lace, having embroidered crowns, set with real and fine pearls. In the grand levee-room also is a very noble bed, the furniture of which is of crimson velvet, manufactured in Spitalfields.

In 1808 the south-eastern wing of the building was destroyed by fire, and has recently been rebuilt; the state apartments were however uninjured.

THE QUEEN'S PALACE.

This is usually called Buckingham House, from its builder, the Duke of Buckinghamshire; it was erected in 1703, was purchased by the king in 1761, and was settled on the queen in 1775, in case of her surviving his majesty. It was the actual town residence of George III., and here the levees of the king were held from 1806 to 1810, until he became unable to attend.

It is situated in the western extremity of St. James's Park, is built of brick, with white pilasters, entablatures, &c., has many noble apartments, and very fine and extensive gardens behind.

CARLTON HOUSE,

Is situated on the northern side of St. James's Park, fronting Pall Mall, and is the residence of the present King. It is a modern building, and contains several magnificent apartments. It has the finest and most extensive armoury in the world, in which are some of the rarest specimens of the arms, &c. of all nations.

The principal front is separated from Pall Mall by a low screen, surmounted with a beautiful colonnade.

OPERA HOUSE.

The Opera House, in the Haymarket, for the performance of Italian operas and French ballets, may be ranked among the finest buildings in London. The exterior, which was erected in 1808, is adorned with an elegant colonnade, supported by pillars in the Doric order. The interior of this beautiful house is as large as the great theatre at Milan, within two feet. There are five tiers of boxes, which have curtains to enclose them, and six chairs in each, and will contain nearly 900 persons. The pit will hold 800, and the gallery 800.

The stage is 60 feet long, and 80 broad; the pit is 66 feet long, and 65 broad; the gallery is 42 feet deep, and 62 broad; the height of the house from the pit-floor to the dome is 55-feet. The great concert-room is 95 feet long, 46 broad, and 35 high, and is fitted up with elegance.

The *terms of admission* to the boxes and pit are 10s. 6d. and to the gallery 5s. The boxes are private property, and rented for the season at from 100 to 300 guineas, or on a lease. The house opens in January, and continues its representations every Tuesday and Saturday till August; the performance begins at eight o'clock.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

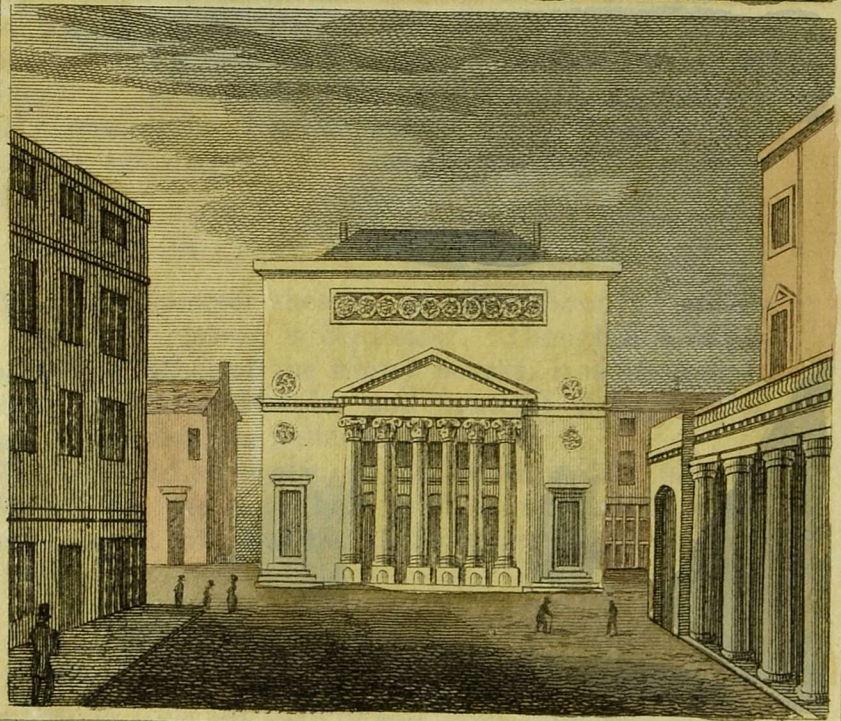
This is a summer theatre, opening about the middle of *May*, and closing in *September*. Though it is not so spacious as either of the winter houses, it is fitted up in a neat and tasteful style, and contains three tiers of boxes, a pit, and two galleries.

The price of admission to the boxes is 5s.; pit, 3s.; galleries, 2s. and 1s.; half price is not taken. The doors open at six, and the performance begins at seven o'clock.

HORSE-GUARDS, OR WAR OFFICE.

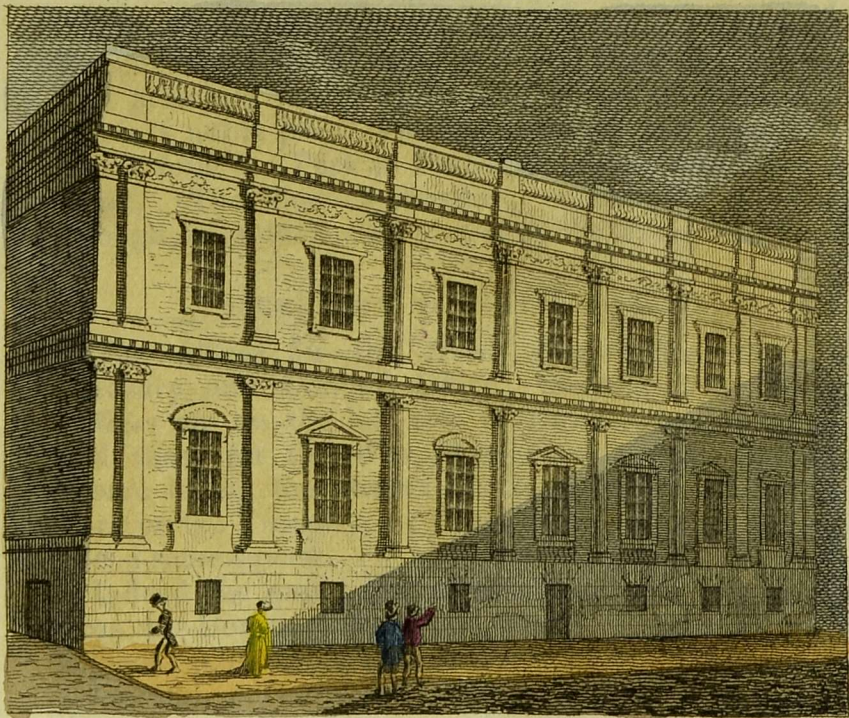
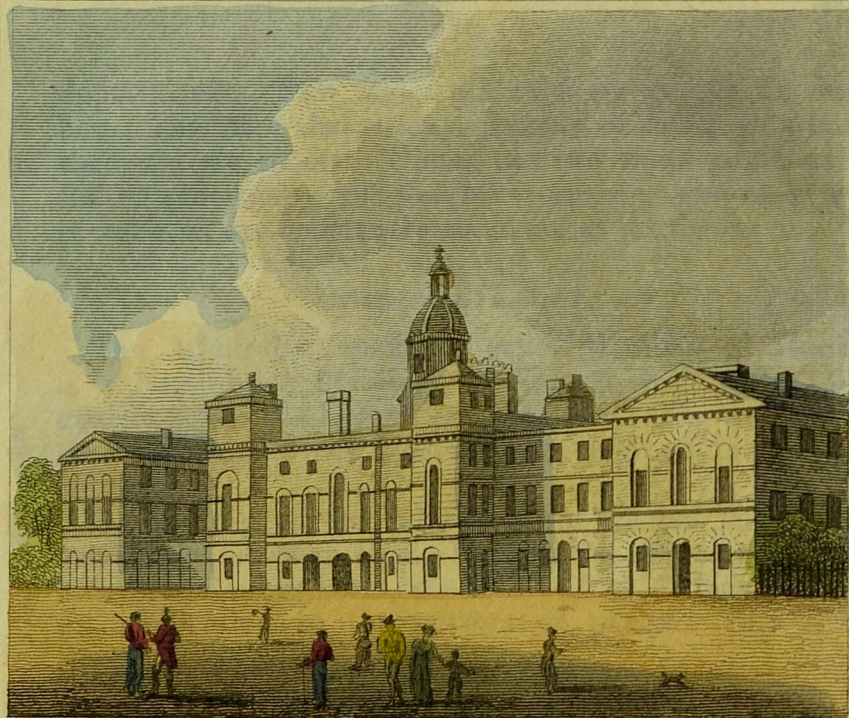
This is an elegant stone building, separating Parliament-street from the eastern end of St. James's Park, to which it is the principal entrance. Here is transacted all the business of the British army in a great variety of

Carlton Palace.



Hay Market Theatre.

The Horse Guards.



White Hall.

departments. Two regiments of horse-guards do duty here; and here also three regiments of footguards have their orderly rooms. Under the two small pavilions at the entrance, two of the horse-guards, mounted and in uniform, are constantly stationed as sentinels.

THE ADMIRALTY.

The Admiralty, anciently called Wallingford House, is a large brick building, containing the offices and apartments of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, who superintend the marine department of this mighty empire.

On the top of the Admiralty are erected telegraphs, communicating with Deal, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Yarmouth, and other ports, the inside of which may be seen on application to the porters or persons who work them.

THE TREASURY.

The Treasury is an extensive building, facing Parliament-street on the east, and the Park on the north. The principal front, which is of stone, is in the Park, and is a noble pile. Vaulted passages run beneath the offices from the Park to Parliament-street and Downing-street. The Council-chamber, commonly called the Cockpit, is under the same roof as the Treasury.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICES.

The offices for the *Home Department* adjoin the Treasury and Council Office; the offices for *Foreign Affairs* are on the left side of Downing-street Square; and those for the *War Department* are in the same square facing the street: the large house of the First Lord of the Treasury, or Prime Minister, is on the right of the same square.

Indeed the grand line of buildings from Spring Gardens to Downing-street are wholly devoted to public objects. On the north is the immense pile of the Admiralty, next the War office, then the offices of the three Secretaries of State, and lastly, in Downing-street, those of the Treasury.

Here, in fact, is performed the whole of the state business of the British empire. In one building is directed the movements of those fleets, whose thunders resound in every sea, and strike terror into every nation. In another is directed the energies of that army hitherto invincible. Adjoining are the executive departments with relation to civil and domestic concerns, to foreign nations, and to our exterior colonies. To finish the groupe, here is that wonderful Treasury which receives and pays a *hundred millions* per annum.

WHITEHALL.

The old palace of this name occupied a space along the bank of the river, a little below Westminster Bridge, beginning at Privy Gardens, and ending near Scotland-yard; it extended from the river to St. James's Park and to Spring Gardens, and was originally the property of Hubert de Burgh, Justiciary of England, under Henry III., from whom it passed to the prelates of York, and was long called York House. Henry VIII. purchased it from Cardinal Wolsey, then Archbishop of York, when it became the residence of the kings of England, till the reign of Queen Anne, who held her court at St. James's, in consequence of this palace being burnt down in 1697.

The *Banqueting House* occupies but a very small part of the site of the ancient palace, and derives its appellation from an old building used for public entertainments in the reign of Elizabeth. It is only a small portion of the vast plan of a palace, intended to be worthy of the residence of the British monarchs, but left incomplete. It was begun by order of James I., and is the work of Inigo Jones. The great room is converted into a chapel, and over the altar stand several eagles taken from the French at the battles of Albuera and Barossa. The ceiling was painted by Rubens, and represents the apotheosis of James I.; it was lately retouched by Cipriani. In the court behind the Banqueting-house is a very fine statue of James II. Before the Banqueting-house Charles I. was beheaded on a scaffold erected for the purpose, to which he passed through one of the windows, since bricked up: and he slept here the night before, in one of the small rooms.

Among the great variety of splendid squares, public buildings, and princely mansions, in this part of the town, and further *west*, we regret to say that the only object we can notice is

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

This grand national collection of antiquities, books, and natural curiosities, is deposited in the noble mansion formerly the Duke of Montague's, in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. The house is a stately edifice, in the French style of Louis XV., and on the plan of the Tuileries. On entering the gate, a spacious quadrangle is presented, with an Ionic colonnade on the south side, and the main building on the north, which is 216 feet long, and 57 feet high to the top of the cornice. As a museum, its whole economy is conducted under the best regulations. It was established by act of parliament in 1753, in consequence of the will of Sir Hans Sloane, who left his museum to the nation, which he declared cost him upwards of 50,000*l.*, on condition that parliament paid 20,000*l.* to his executors, and purchased a house sufficiently commodious for it. Several other valuable collections were united to this of Sir Hans Sloane's, and the whole establishment completed for the sum of 85,000*l.*

Parliament afterwards added at various times to the Sloanean Museum, the Cottonian library—Major Edward's library—the Harleian collection of MSS.—Sir William Hamilton's collection of fictile or Greek vases—the Townleian collection of antique Marbles—and the MSS. of the late Marquis of Lansdowne.

George II. gave the whole of the important library of printed books and manuscripts which had been gradually collected by our kings, from Henry VII. to William III.

His late Majesty gave a numerous collection of valuable pamphlets, published in the interval between 1640 and 1660. He also contributed the two finest mummies in Europe, a sum of money, arising from lottery tickets, which belonged to his royal predecessors, amounting to 1123*l.*; a complete set of the Journals of the Lords and Commons, a collection of natural and artificial curiosi-

ties sent to him in 1796, by Mr. Menzies, from the north-west coast of America; and several single books of great value and utility.

In 1803 the government deposited here many articles of Egyptian antiquity, which were acquired from the French by the capitulation of Alexandria in 1802.

The trustees have lately added Greenwood's collection of stuffed birds—Hatchet's minerals—Halhead's Oriental MSS.—Tyssen's collection of Saxon Coins—Dr. Bentley's Classics—and the Greville collection of Minerals.

Private donations have afforded Dr. Birch's library, and an annual sum by him of 522*l.* 18*s.* in the funds for ever—Brander's collection of Fossils—Tyrwhit's select library of Classics—Sir William Musgrave's ditto—Cracherode's most magnificent collection of Books, Prints, Coins, Medals, Minerals, Shells, Gems, &c.—Curiosities from the South Sea, by Sir Joseph Banks and Captain Cook—Icelandic Books—and many valuable books and other presents from most of the European sovereigns, from the Boards of Admiralty and of Longitude, from the East India Company, and from the various literary societies of London, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge, Leyden, Brussels, Lisbon, &c. To these collections have been added, the Elgin Marbles, obtained by Lord Elgin during his mission to the Ottoman Porte, and purchased by government for 35,000*l.*

The above enumeration can give but a faint idea of the value and importance of this matchless collection, which is truly worthy of its name. When we add that the whole is arranged in the most complete order in separate rooms, with descriptive catalogues,—that the ceilings, staircases, and cupolas, are elegantly painted,—that it is open to all visitors on certain days of the week, who write their name, &c. in a book,—and that it was formed, not by plunder and fraud, as some have been, but by fair purchase and free gift,—every Briton will have reason to glory in the British Museum.

SOMERSET HOUSE.

On the site of Somerset House formerly stood a magnificent palace, built by the great and amiable Duke of

Somerset, protector in the reign of Edward VI., who being barbarously attainted and executed, it fell to the crown. The present edifice was erected, under the powers of an Act of Parliament, by Sir William Chambers, for several public uses. It is an immense stone edifice, raised on piers and arches, on the banks of the Thames, and fronting the Strand. The terrace, as seen from the river, is very noble; it is raised on a grand rustic basement, having thirty-two spacious arches, and commands a beautiful part of the river, including Blackfriars and Westminster Bridges. The front of Somerset House, in the Strand, has a very magnificent aspect, and that which looks into the court is elegant in its composition, and considerably wider than the former.

In the extensive court is the statue of the late king, and at his feet a figure of the river Thames, pouring wealth and plenty from a large cornucopia. The three open arches in the Strand-front form the principal entrance; they lead to a spacious and elegant vestibule, in which are the rooms of the *Royal Society*, the *Society of Antiquaries*, and the *Royal Academy of Arts*. The various public offices, and houses of the officers, are at once commodious and elegant, worthy of the nation to which they belong. The hall of the *Navy Office* is a fine room, one of the fronts facing the terrace and river, and the other the court. The *Stamp Office* consists of a multitude of apartments, and the room in which the stamping is executed is very interesting to the curious.

Here are also the offices of the Auditor of the Exchequer—Chancellors of the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster—Hawkers and Pedlars—Lottery—Stage Coach—and revenue establishment of the Tax Offices. Somerset Place is also one of the wonders of the financial system of Great Britain.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

This substantial and superb theatre was rebuilt, in 1811, by Mr. B. Wyatt, on the ruins of the former, which had been burnt down in 1809. The grand entrance to the boxes is from Brydges-street, through a spacious hall leading to the boxes and pit. Three large doors

lead from this hall into the house, and into a rotunda of great beauty and elegance. The grand saloon is 86 feet long, circular at each extremity, and the ceiling arched; the effect of two massy Corinthian columns of verd antique at each end, with ten corresponding pilasters at each side, is grand and pleasing.

The house is built to afford sitting room for 2,810 persons: 1200 in the boxes; 850 in the pit; 480 in the lower, and 280 in the upper gallery. The body of the theatre has recently undergone considerable improvements. There are three circles of boxes, each containing twenty-six. The theatre is altogether a master-piece of art, and an ornament to the metropolis.

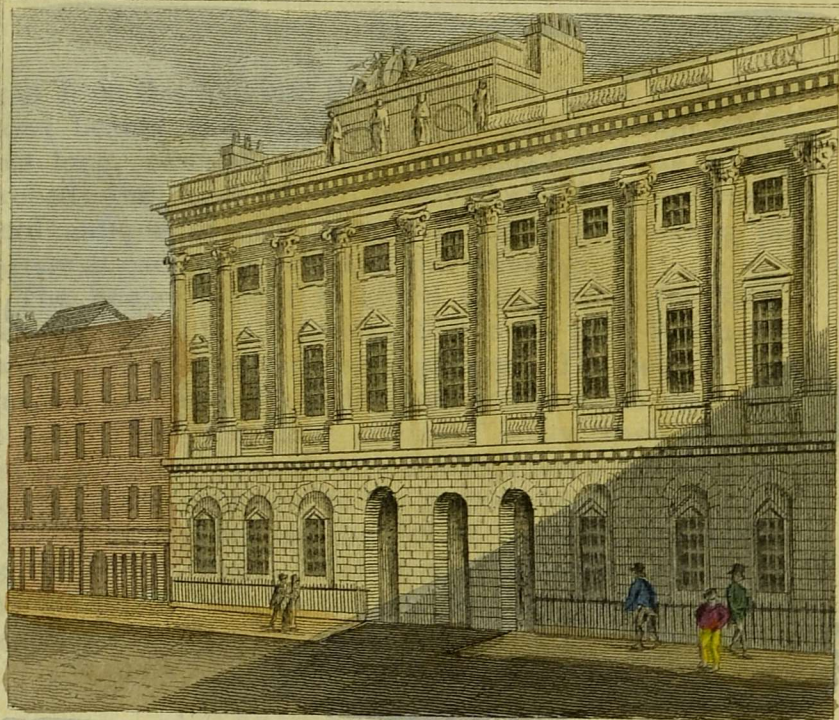
The house opens on the 1st of October, and closes on the 10th of June. The *terms of admission* are 7s. to the boxes; 3s. 6d. to the pit; and 2s. and 1s. to the galleries. The performances commence at seven.

COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

This theatre was rebuilt in 1809, after the conflagration in 1808, and is, as a building, one of the ornaments of the metropolis, and the completest theatre in Europe. Great exertions have been made to raise its amusements to the highest pitch of scenic splendour and dramatic perfection; accordingly the dresses are more costly, and all the arrangements are on a more expensive scale than were ever before known in this metropolis. The colour of the interior is gold upon white. The prices for admission, time of opening and closing the house, and of commencing the performances, are the same as at Drury Lane.

The *half-price* begins at both theatres at the end of the third act of a play of five acts, or at the end of the second act of a play of three acts. Each theatre employs, as actors, artists, musicians, and mechanics, from 200 to 250 persons, at salaries from 30*l.* to 2*l.* a week. Each holds, when crowded, about 750*l.*; and with a full house, about 650*l.*; the nightly expenses are at least 200*l.*; hence the proprietors have a clear profit of about 40,000*l.* per annum.

Somerset House.



Covent Garden Theatre.

NEWGATE.

As far back as 1218 Newgate was recorded as the most considerable receptacle for prisoners in London; it was improved in 1422, and afterwards rebuilt with greater strength and more convenience; it then ran from north to south over Newgate Street, with the gate and postern of *New gate* between. This building was pulled down in 1777, and another erected on the present site, which was almost destroyed by the rioters in 1780. It has since been restored, and now presents a fine uniform exterior to the west, consisting of the keeper's house in the centre, and two wings, one for debtors, the other for felons.

In the central and eastern yards, felons for trial, and convicts, are confined; in other yards convicted felons are lodged; and, in another, female felons. In the north-east corner, next Newgate Street, is the condemned yard, in which persons under sentence of death are kept. In the state side, as it is called, the rooms are in general in good condition, and are let to the better sort of prisoners. Those confined on the felons' side usually amount from 150 to 300. A new prison, exclusively for debtors, is now erected at Cripplegate. Newgate may be visited on giving a trifle to the turnkeys. There are many other handsome prisons in London; the chief are, the *Penitentiary*, the *New Debtor's Prison*, *Compter*, *King's Bench*, *Fleet*, *Middlesex House of Correction*, *Clerkenwell Prison*, *Tothill Fields*, *Bridewell*, *Marshalsea*, &c.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

This is the chief ecclesiastical ornament of London; and the grandeur of the design, and the beauty and elegance of its proportions, justly rank it among the noblest edifices of the modern world. It stands in the centre of the metropolis, on an eminence rising from the valley of the Fleet.

The body of the church is cruciform, at the intersection rises a stately dome, from the top of which springs a lantern, which is surmounted by a gilded ball; and the whole is crowned by a large gilt cross.

It is adorned with three porticos, one at the principal entrance facing the west, and the other two facing the north and south; the western portico, (having the two turrets, one on the right, the other on the left,) combines as much grace and magnificence as any specimen of the kind in the world. It consists of twelve Corinthian columns below, and eight composite above, supporting a grand pediment, crowned with the statue of St. Paul; the whole resting on an elevated base.

The dimensions of this Cathedral are very great :

	<i>Feet.</i>
From east to west, within the walls, it is	510
From north to south, within the doors of the porticos	282
Breadth of the west entrance	100
Circumference of the whole building	2292
Height within, from the centre of the floor to the cross	404
Circumference of the dome	430
Diameter of the ball	6
From the ball to the top of the cross	30
Height of the west pediment	120
Height of the towers of the west front	287

A dwarf stone-wall, supporting a ballustrade of cast iron, which, with its seven iron gates, weighs 200 tons, surrounds the church, and separates a large area, properly the church-yard, from a spacious carriage and footway on the south side, and a foot-pavement on the north. In the southern turret of the west front is the great clock, the bell of which weighs 11,474 pounds, and is 10 feet in diameter.

This Cathedral was built at the national expense, and cost a million and a half sterling. It was reared in 35 years, by one architect, *Sir Christopher Wren*,—by one mason, *Mr. Strong*,—and while one prelate, *Dr. Henry Compton*, filled the see of London.

The first stone was laid 21st of June, 1675, and it was completed, exclusive of some decorations, in 1710.

We can only mention some of the curiosities of the interior: the dome—the pillars—the statues—the tattered flags—the pavement—the stalls—the organ,—these may be seen every day, gratis, when the church is open. When the church is *shut*, admittance may be gained by knocking at the door of the *northern* portico; *four-pence* is demanded for passing the visitor to the staircase

leading to the curiosities; for this he may go to the two galleries outside the church, which have delightful prospects; the body of the church may be viewed for *two-pence*—the models, *two-pence*—the clock-work and great bell, *two-pence*—the whispering gallery, *two-pence*—the ball, 1s. 6d.—and 1s. per company for the guide to the crypts or vaults of St. Faith.

THE MANSION HOUSE.

This is the official residence of the Lord Mayor, and is situated at the west end of Lombard-street. It is a magnificent massy pile, built of Portland stone, with an elegant portico and pediment; it is of an oblong shape, and of great extent. The interior is more magnificent than comfortable, many of the apartments being very dark. The Egyptian Hall, the state bed which cost 3000 guineas, &c. are well worthy of observation. The Easter dinner and ball given here are very magnificent.

GUILDHALL.

This is a handsome gothic building at the northern end of King-street, Cheapside; it is the public hall of the City, in which the various courts are held for choosing the members of parliament, lord-mayor, sheriffs, &c. and in which most of the grand civic entertainments are given. Guildhall was originally built in 1411 by voluntary subscription; it was twenty years in building. Being greatly damaged by the fire of 1666, the present edifice was erected, except the new front, which was finished in 1789.

The hall is a very noble room, 153 feet long, 48 broad, and 55 high, in which are the monuments erected to Lord Chatham, Mr. Beckford, Mr. Pitt, &c. On either side of the west window stand two ancient *giants* carved in wood, known by the names of *Gog and Magog*. They are of great antiquity, and are supposed to represent an ancient Briton and a Saxon; they formerly faced the entrance, over a flight of steps leading to the various offices of the Chamberlain, the Treasury, King's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, Old Council-Chamber, &c.

—The Common Council Chamber is a large room with a dome, elegantly decorated with a fine collection of paintings.

Lord Mayor's day is annually celebrated in this Hall on the 9th of November, when a grand dinner and ball are given, at which the great ministers of state and many of the nobility are present, besides about 1000 of the most opulent citizens, male and female;—the feast costs about £3000. Guildhall is always open to strangers, except at the public meetings of the citizens.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The Bank is a very extensive stone edifice, situated a little to the north-west of Cornhill; it covers an extent of several acres, the chief entrance being from Thread-needle-street. The front is composed of a centre in the Ionic order, on a rustic base 80 feet long, and two wings, ornamented with a colonnade; the back of the building in Lothbury is a high and heavy wall of stone, with a gateway for carriages into the bullion court.

The centre of the bank was begun in 1732, the eastern wing was added in 1770, and the western wing, with the Lothbury front, were begun in 1789, and finished in 1804.

On the east of the principal entrance is the *Rotunda*, where the stock-brokers, &c. meet; and branching out of the rotunda are the *various offices*, each appropriated to the management of its particular stock. Besides these, the *hall*, in which notes are issued and exchanged, and in which are the *drawing-offices* for public and private accounts, deserves notice; it is a noble room, 75 feet by 40, and contains an admirable marble statue of William III. the founder of the Bank.

Mr. James Paterson was the projector of the scheme, and it was incorporated in 1694, the capital being at first limited to £1,200,000, but it now amounts to £11,686,800. There are 1100 clerks employed. The hours of business are from nine in the morning till five in the evening, when strangers may pass through the Rotunda and most of the other apartments.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

The first Exchange in London was built of brick by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1566, and was called the *Burse*. In 1570 it was visited in great state by Queen Elizabeth, who ordered it to be proclaimed the "Royal Exchange;" this building being destroyed in the fire of 1666, the present one, of Portland stone, was erected in its place, the first stone being laid in 1667 by Charles II. whose statue is in the centre of the quadrangle. It is situated on the north side of Cornhill, and has two principal fronts; one represented in the plate, with a handsome tower, in Cornhill, the other in Threadneedle Street; its extent is 203 feet by 171. Each of the fronts has a piazza, which gives a stately air to the building, and in the centre of each is a lofty gate leading into a noble area, 144 feet by 117, where the merchants, &c. assemble: this area has also a piazza carried entirely round, with seats along the four walks for merchants of different nations. Within the piazzas are twenty-eight niches, only two of which are occupied, one by the statue of Sir Thomas Gresham, the other by that of Sir John Barnard. In the niches of the wall in the upper story, near the gallery which runs round the whole, are the statues of the kings and queens of England, beginning with Edward I. on the north, and ending with his late Majesty on the east.

The upper rooms are occupied by Lloyd's celebrated Coffee-house, for the use of under-writers, merchants, &c. the Royal Exchange Assurance Office, apartments for the Gresham Lectures, &c. It is open as a thoroughfare from eight in the morning till six in the evening: but the business is chiefly transacted from two to five.

THE MONUMENT.

Near the north end of London Bridge is situated the finest pillar in the world, erected by Sir Christopher Wren in memory of the great fire, which, in 1666, broke out at a house on this spot. It is a fluted column of the Doric order; its total height is 200 feet; diameter at the base 15 feet; height of the column 120 feet; cone at

the top, with its urn, 42 feet ; height of the massy pedestal 40 feet. Within the column is a flight of 345 steps, and from the balcony at top is a most fascinating prospect of London and the adjacent country. The price for admission to the top is sixpence. In allusion to the wild supposition that the Catholics wilfully set fire to the city, as the monument affirms, Pope says, Sir Balaam dwelt

“ Where London’s column, pointing at the skies
Like a tall bully, lifts its head and *lies*.”

Indeed, the notion that the Catholics perpetrated so horrid a crime as the Monument imputes to them, can scarcely be entertained by any rational being.

THE EAST INDIA HOUSE.

This building is situated on the south side of Leadenhall Street, and contains the various offices of the East India Company, &c. ; it was originally built in 1726, but has been recently enlarged and adorned with an entire new front of stone, of great extent, having the appearance of much beauty, simplicity, and grandeur. The centre has a fine portico with six Ionic fluted pillars, supporting a pediment, which is crowned with a statue of Britannia ; on the east end of the pediment is a statue of Asia, and on the west, one of Europe.

The interior is well worth visiting. The Company’s *Sale Room* and the *Museum* must be particularly mentioned : the latter contains models of Hindoo and Gentoo idols ; Chinese gardens in ivory ; all kinds of curiosities from the British Empire in India ; some highly finished Indian and Chinese views ; Tippoo Sultaun’s library, his armour, the golden lion’s head which stood at the foot of his throne, his canopy, &c. &c. It is to be seen only by an order from a Director.

THE TOWER.

The foundation of the Tower has been erroneously attributed to Julius Cæsar, from one of the towers being called Cæsar’s Tower ; the earliest certain account we have is, that it was erected by William the Conqueror, in the first year of his reign ; and in 1078 he

built the large square tower, which, repaired or rebuilt by succeeding princes, is now called the White Tower. A castle was begun on the north side of the White Tower by William Rufus in 1092, which was finished by Henry I. In 1190, in the reign of Richard I. Longchamp, bishop of Ely, the Chancellor, erected a fortified wall of stone round the Tower, with a deep ditch on the outside, into which water from the Thames was introduced. Henry III. in 1240 added a stone gate and bulwark, with other buildings, to the west entrance; he also repaired and whitened the Square Tower built by the Conqueror, from whence it was called the White Tower. Edward III. rebuilt the Church; Edward IV. greatly enlarged the fortifications and built the Lion's Tower; Charles II. had the ditch cleansed, the wharfing rebuilt with brick and stone, and sluices erected for admitting or retaining the water, as occasion may require. James II. began the Grand Store House within the walls, which was finished by king William, who also erected that noble room called the Small Armoury. Since his time such additions have been made within the walls, that the fortress has the appearance of a town. In the late reign the ditch has been carefully cleansed, and the brick and stone work repaired, yet the place is of no military strength.

Its extent, within the walls, is twelve acres and five roods; the exterior circuit of the ditch is 3156 feet; the ditch is broad and deep on the side of Tower-hill; on the side next to the river, it is narrower. A broad and handsome wharf or gravel-terrace runs along the banks of the river parallel with the Tower, from which it is separated by the ditch; from this wharf the Tower is entered by a drawbridge. There is a cut also connecting the river with the ditch, having a water-gate, called Traitor's Gate; over the gate are the works that supply the fortress with water. There is a platform on the wharf, which was formerly furnished with 61 pieces of cannon, nine-pounders; these have been exchanged for smaller pieces, which are fired on state holidays, for victories, &c.

The principal entrance to the Tower is on the west. It consists of two gates outside the ditch, a strong stone bridge built over it, and a gate within the ditch. Much ceremony is used at opening and shutting the gates every night and morning; they are opened at six in the morning in summer, and at day-break in winter, and are shut every night at eleven o'clock. The Tower is open as a public promenade on Sundays, but there is the greatest facility of ingress and egress on other days. It is used as a state prison.

A platform within the Tower, called the Ladies' Walk, 70 yards in length, extends in the same direction as the wharf; it is shaded with a row of lofty trees and has a delightful prospect of the Thames. In going round the walls the visitor comes to the Devil's Battery, having five pieces of cannon mounted; the Stone Battery, with eight; and the Wooden Battery, with six,—all nine pounds.

There are several streets and various buildings within the walls; the chief of which are the Church, the White Tower, the Ordnance Office, the Mint, the Record Office, the Jewel Office, the Horse Armoury, the Grand Store House (345 feet long, and 60 broad), the Small Armoury, the houses of the officers of the Tower, barracks for the garrison, two suttlng houses, &c.

The Tower is governed by a Constable, (at present the Duke of Wellington,) a Lieutenant, a Deputy-Lieutenant, (commonly called the Governor,) a Tower-major, a Gentleman-porter, Yeoman-porter, Gentleman-jailor, four Quarter-gunners, and forty Warders, whose uniform is the same as the king's yeomen of the guard. There are many other inferior officers, and a battalion of the guards to garrison the fortress.

We conclude this article with mentioning the chief *curiosities*, and the *prices* for seeing them, exclusive of the warder's attendance. — The *Menagerie*, containing lions, tigers, leopards, bears, &c. 1s. each person.—The *six* following are shewn for 2s. each person:—*Spanish Armoury*; spoils of the Spanish Armada, pikes eighteen feet long, lances, many curious instruments of destruction, thumb-screws, Danish and Saxon clubs kept 900

years in the Tower, axe which beheaded Anne Boleyn, and representation of Elizabeth in the very armour which she wore when she addressed her army at Tilbury camp, standing by a cream-coloured horse, attended by a page :—*Horse Armoury* ; crowded with curiosities, the English kings from the Conqueror to George II. on horseback and in armour, many in the armour which they wore when living, John of Gaunt's armour, 7 feet high, Indian suit of armour, brigantine jackets, model of the silk-mill, &c. :—*Small Armoury*, 345 feet long ; accounted one of the wonders of the modern world from the variety of elegant figures, in which arms for 150,000 men are disposed, Maltese cannon, Highlanders broad-swords, &c. :—*Train of Artillery*, 380 feet long, 50 wide ; several curious and elegant pieces of cannon, one of the first invented, made of bars of iron hammered together, and bound with iron hoops, two pieces one with 7 bores, the other with 3, a huge mortar, and a cannon so large that a man may go into it, &c. :—*Volunteer Armoury* ; arms for 30,000 men, pikes, swords, &c. fine figure of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in bright armour, holding his own lance 18 feet long :—*Sea Armoury* ; arms for 50,000 sailors and marines.—*Jewel Office*, 1s. for each person if in company ; 1s. 6d. for an individual. It contains the *imperial crown*, of gold enriched with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and pearls, within is a cap of purple velvet ; the *golden globe* ; the *golden sceptre* and its cross set upon a large amethyst, decorated with table-diamonds, the pommel and top surrounded with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds ; the *sceptre* with the dove sitting upon a Jerusalem cross, decorated with jewels and table-diamonds ; *St. Edward's staff*, 4 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches round, all of beaten gold ; the *gold salt-cellar of state* in the shape of the White Tower ; *sword of mercy* ; *silver font* ; the *crown of state*, having the finest pearl ever seen, a ruby of inestimable value, and an emerald seven inches round ; the *Prince of Wales's crown* ; *golden spurs* and *armillas* ; *ampulla*, or *golden eagle*, &c. &c., besides all the crown jewels worn by the princes and princesses at coronations, and abundance of curious old plate.

LONDON BRIDGE.

This bridge is of great antiquity, and for many ages had houses built on it, on each side; it was first built of wood in 1016, then of stone in 1176, though not finished till 1209, when the houses were also built on it, and it remained in this state till 1758, when it was improved and put into its present condition. It is 915 feet long, 45 wide, and at its centre 60 feet high: it has nineteen arches, but no two are alike; the centre is semicircular, and, two being thrown into one, it is now 72 feet in diameter; the others are of different forms, and run from eight to twenty feet wide.

A very heavy fall of water occurs at this bridge, occasioned partly by the enormous size of the sterlings, and by the small breadth of free water-way, which renders the navigation very dangerous, and annually causes the loss of a number of lives. This bridge is now being rebuilt.

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE,

Was begun in 1814, and completed in 1819, at an expense of £800,000, including the avenues leading to it. This bridge consists of three stupendous arches, of cast-iron; the distance between the abutments being 708 feet. The centre arch, which is 240 feet in span, is the largest in the world. The weight of iron in this structure exceeds 5308 tons.

BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

Blackfriars Bridge was finished in 1769, and is remarkable for the lightness of its structure and for the beautiful views it commands. It has eight piers and nine elliptical arches; the centre one is 100 feet wide, those on each side 93, the third 80, and the fourth 70; it is 1100 feet long and 42 broad.

STRAND, OR WATERLOO BRIDGE.

This noble ornament to the British Metropolis was begun in 1811, and completed by Mr. Rennie on the 18th of June, 1817, on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. The style of the architecture is plain, but

noble; all the arches are elliptical, and of an equal size, and consequently the road over them is perfectly level. The bridge is constructed of granite, and consists of nine arches over the river, each pier resting upon 320 piles. Its dimensions are as follows:

	<i>Feet.</i>
Length of the stone-work within the abutments	1242
Ditto of road supported by brick arches	1650
Width of the bridge within the balustrades	42
Span of each arch	120

The toll-lodges are neat Doric structures, at each of which are iron turnstiles, which communicate with a clock, whose index shows the exact number of persons who have passed through them.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

This is esteemed one of the most beautiful structures of the kind in the world. Every part is fully and properly supported, and there is no false bearing or false joint, throughout the whole structure. A proof of this is adduced in the remarkable echo of its corresponding towers, a person in one being able to hear the whispers of another person in the one opposite him, though at the distance of nearly 50 feet.

It was begun in 1738 and finished in 1750; it is 1223 feet long, and 44 wide, containing 14 piers and 13 large and 2 small semicircular arches; and has on its top twenty-eight semi-octangular towers, twelve of which are covered with domes. The two middle piers contain each 3000 solid feet, or 200 tons, of Portland stone. The middle arch is 76 feet wide, the two next 72 feet, and the last 25 feet wide.

VAUXHALL BRIDGE.

This elegant structure consists of nine cast-iron arches, 78 feet in span, and 29 in height; and the length of the bride is 860 feet. It was erected at an expense of about £150,000, which is to be defrayed by a toll. The first stone was laid in 1813, and the bridge was completed in 1816.

Among the public buildings of London, we must not omit to mention the HOSPITALS, &c. many of which are elegant and superb as buildings, and are well worthy of observation from other considerations. The chief are—

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Newgate Street.</i>
CHARTER HOUSE,	<i>Near Smithfield.</i>
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Smithfield.</i>
ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Borough.</i>
GUY'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Ditto.</i>
NEW BETHLEM HOSPITAL,	<i>Lambeth Road.</i>
ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Old Street.</i>
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,	<i>Lamb's Conduit Street.</i>
ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL,	<i>Near Hyde Park Corner.</i>
LONDON HOSPITAL,	<i>Whitechapel.</i>
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL,	<i>Berner's Street.</i>
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL,	<i>Petty France.</i>
MAGDALEN HOSPITAL,	<i>St. George's Fields.</i>
ASYLUM,	<i>Ditto.</i>
PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY,	<i>Ditto.</i>
FEMALE PENITENTIARY, &c.	<i>Pentonville.</i>

THE END.

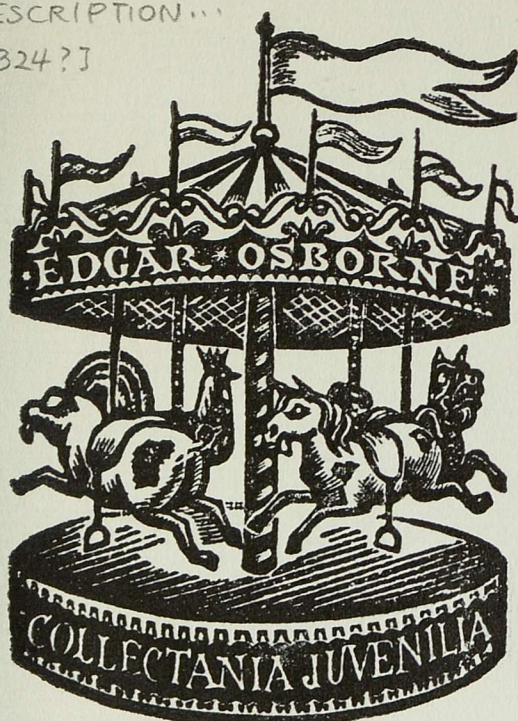
The Royal Exchange.



Waterloo Bridge.

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