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MANCHESTER

FACES AND PLACES.

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MR. ALDERMAN ISAAC BOWES.

MR. ALDERMAN ISAAC BOWES, of whom a portrait appears in this number, although he has long been closely connected with this district, is by birth a Yorkshireman. He early proceeded to Stockton-on-Tees, where he served his time as a millwright and engineer, and laid the foundations of that intimate knowledge of railway, shipping, and engineering matters which he has since put to such excellent use. Stockton being a shipping port and situated in the district where the railway system originated, it was but natural that he should from the beginning of his business career take the deepest interest in everything connected with these subjects. After leaving Stockton, Mr. Bowes found employment in Sunderland and in West Hartlepool in some of the most important iron shipbuilding concerns, and subsequently removed to Middlesborough, where he was engaged in a large engineering establishment. While in Middlesborough he made the acquaintance of Mr. William Barningham, who in 1850 introduced the manufacture of iron into this part of Lancashire, and

established the Pendleton Iron Works. The connection of Mr. Bowes with Salford commenced in 1851, when he became cashier and manager at these works, a position he continued to hold, with a slight interval, for a period of twenty-three years, when the business was disposed of to a limited liability company, of which Mr. Bowes acted as chairman and managing director until the company ceased operations, and he then commenced practice as a consulting engineer, a profession he has since followed with gratifying success.

Shortly after his settlement in Pendleton, Mr. Bowes began to take an active interest in various public matters, especially in those concerning the education and improvement of the people. He took a prominent part in the establishment of evening classes for adults, and energetically worked to promote the efficiency and usefulness of the Pendleton Mechanics' Institution, then recently established. He freely gave his time and thought to the work, and rendered invaluable assistance in every department, acting for many years as secretary, and, subsequently, becom-

ing director and chairman. Pendleton had good reason to be proud of its Mechanics' Institution and the great results it produced. It was in every way admirably conducted, and it was chiefly owing to the liberality and constant support of such men as Mr. Bowes, Mr. Alderman Ashworth, and his brother, Mr. Councillor Joseph Ashworth, in conjunction with Mr. B. Armitage, Mr. Wright Turner, Mr. Alderman Tysoe, and others that the institution attained such a high place among educational establishments, and became a powerful agency for good in the district.

When the movement in favour of the establishment of a free library for Pendleton was commenced, Mr. Bowes was the chief promoter and advocate of the sale of the Mechanics' Institution to the Corporation of Salford for the purpose; and, with his co-directors, proposed a scheme for handing over the proceeds of the sale to trustees, who were to invest the sum for the purpose of founding scholarships for scholars attending the elementary schools in the township of Pendleton. This scheme received the approval and sanction of the Charity Commissioners, and has for several years been in active operation.

Mr. Bowes became a member of the Salford Corporation in 1870, when he was elected Councillor for St. Thomas's Ward, Pendleton, and ten years later, in 1880, he was raised to the aldermanic bench. During the time he has been connected with the Corporation he has taken an active part in the work of several of the most important committees of the Council, of which he has been a member. In 1875 he was elected deputy-chairman of the Museum, Libraries, and Parks Committee, and on the decease of Mr. Alderman Davies, in 1886, became chairman, a position he still holds. During this time great developments have taken place. New branch libraries have been erected, new parks and recreation grounds have been provided, and the new Langworthy Gallery at Peel Park has been built. In the carrying out of all these projects, Mr. Bowes has actively assisted. He has also taken a prominent part in the introduction of tramways into the borough. A practical engineer, his advice and knowledge have been of the greatest service in connection with the sewage works at Mode Wheel, and the provision of the

great intercepting sewer. He has taken a deep interest in the many improvements effected in the borough during recent years, notably in the planting of trees, and the formation of what have not inaptly been called the "Pendleton Boulevards." He was also the prime mover in the establishment, and has since borne a prominent part in the organisation of the successful exhibitions of Cottage Window Gardening, which are such pleasant annual events at Peel Park; and he has been largely responsible for the admirable arrangements which resulted in the delivery of free lectures in the Peel Park Museum during the last twelve winters.


Mr. Bowes has always been interested in scientific and literary subjects, and was for some time president of the old Scientific and Mechanical Society of Manchester, which has now ceased to exist. He was a frequent attendant at the meetings, and read several interesting papers to the members of the society. The many calls made upon his time by his various municipal and other public duties have doubtless prevented him from contributing more largely to the literature of the various subjects in which he is interested, but he has recently found the opportunity to publish a highly-interesting booklet, entitled "Rails and Waterways," in which are given sketches of the lives of George Stephenson and Ferdinand de Lesseps, and descriptions of the Stockton and Darlington Railway—the first public railway—and the Suez and Panama Canals. The greater portion of the work was given at Peel Park Museum in the form of lectures in connection with the Salford Free Libraries, and at the time met with such appreciation that Mr. Bowes was induced to issue them, considerably expanded, in book form, in order that they might thus be placed within reach of a larger audience. The story of Stephenson's life and labours, as told by Mr. Bowes, is full of instruction and interest, and in little space he gives a very accurate and clear account of Stephenson's position in the history of the development of locomotion. In his sketch of de Lesseps and his two chief enterprises, the author gives an admirable description of the great Frenchman's career, while the facts and figures relating to the Suez and Panama Canals which he brings together, will make the book additionally useful as a work of ready reference.

Like most practical men Mr. Bowes nev

makes long or tiresome speeches, being evidently of Caslyle's opinion, that "if you can find nobody to take care of your affairs but the expertest talker it is all over with your affairs and you;" consequently, he

devotes his energies and abilities to the furtherance of every movement intended for the physical and intellectual improvement of the people, in which direction he has ever been a persevering and energetic worker.

CHETHAM'S LIBRARY.

 The many munificent bequests made by Humphrey Chetham not the least was that of one thousand pounds "towards a Library within the town of Manchester for the use of scholars and others well affected; . . . the same books there—in the College if possible—to remain as a public library for ever." "my mind and will is," continued the testator, "that care be taken that none of the said books be taken out of the said library at any time," and further on that "the same books be fixed or chained, as well as may be, within the said Library for the better preservation thereof." The will also desires that the feoffees appointed for the administration of Chetham's Hospital shall also superintend the library. The founder, in addition, left another hundred pounds to provide a place for the books, and the residue of his personalty, after the discharge of all expenses or charges according to the terms of the will, was to be devoted to "the further augmentation of the said Library." After Humphrey Chetham's death his executors acquired the college for the purposes indicated in his will, and the Library has since occupied a portion of the quaint old building. Chetham's has the proud distinction of being the first library in Europe to open its doors freely to all comers, and is a veritable treasure house of literature, containing one of the most interesting and valuable collections in existence.

The part of the old college in which it is housed is traversed by two long galleries, divided into numerous compartments, which, as will be seen from the view of the main corridor published in this number, are enclosed with rails. Gradually additions have been made to the collection of books, until at the present time the library contains some 60,000 volumes, including some of the rarest in the kingdom.

The gem of the collection is the earliest MS. existing of the "Flores Historiarum," and from which directly or indirectly all the others have been derived. "This," says Dr. Luard, "is a quarto, in double columns, containing in all 299 leaves, including the fly-leaves and the Calendar prefixed to the volume after its transference to Westminster. At least fifteen different hands can be traced in the course of the volume. It contains pictures of the coronation of Arthur, Edward the Confessor, and the later kings from William I. to Edward I. . . . all very much in the style of those in the Corpus Christi MS. of Matthew Paris. The earlier portion was certainly written at St. Alban's down to the year 1265, the chronicle for the years 1241-1249 being in the distinct St. Alban's hand, and the whole containing entries referring to that monastery introduced in such a way as to show they came originally from that source. . . . After its removal to Westminster (1265) several passages in the earlier portion were erased, and entries written over the erasure relating to Westminster, which are found nowhere else; there are also several marginal notes relating to Westminster. . . . Traces of the handwriting of Matthew Paris may be found in several places of the portion written at St. Alban's. At the end of the year 1313 a contemporary hand has written with a plummet, "Huc usque habetur in libro R. Gal." When the MS. was removed from Westminster cannot be determined." This finely illuminated MS. was given to Chetham's Library in 1657, by Nicholas Higgintosome, of Stockport. The library also contains a number of other valuable manuscripts, including two copies of the Vulgate, dated 1250, and exquisitely written in almost microscopic characters. "The Pricke of Conscience," by Richard Hampole, an old Yorkshire monk, who flourished about 1349; a copy of Wycliffe's New Testament,

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MR. ALDERMAN ISAAC BOWES.
(From a Photograph.)