

Just WHY



Old Dutch Cleanser

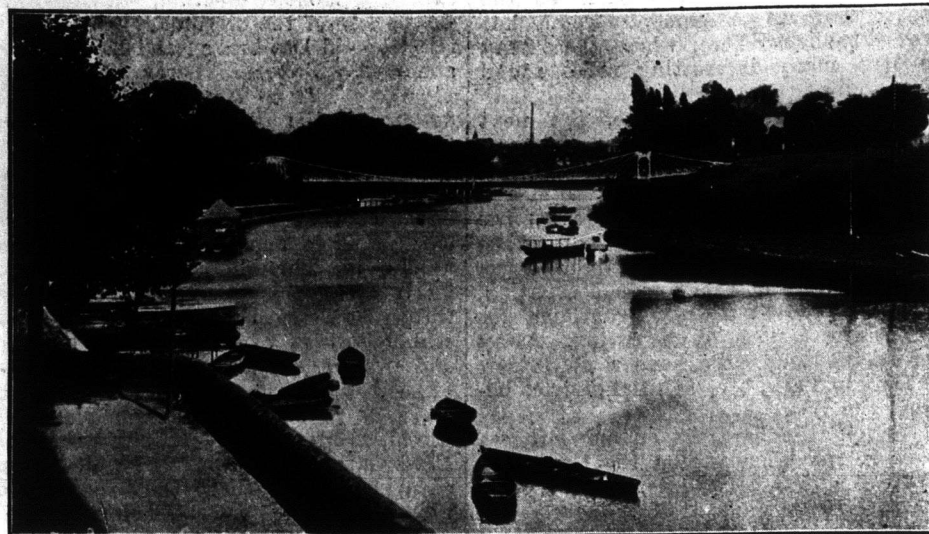
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The River, Chester.

thus became the first cathedral church of Chester. A few years later the See was again removed to Coventry, but Henry the VIII. created the city a separate See in 1541, after the Dissolution of the monasteries, that supreme act of spoliation which no Englishman can recall without a sense of shame.

The present cathedral was begun by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, a nephew of William the Conqueror, in the year 1093 A.D. There was a former church here in early Saxon times, to which the remains of St. Werburga, daughter of Wulphere, King of Mercia, are said to have been removed from Trentham (where they had lain for two hundred years), in the year 875 A.D. The removal was effected by the daughter of Alfred the Great, and the body of Werburga remaining at Chester, she became the patron saint of the city. The Norman portion of the cathedral, of which there now remains only parts of the nave, north transept, north-west tower, cloisters, and monastic offices, was finished in the year 1140. Rebuilding commenced in 1194, and continued during the thirteenth and early part of the fourteenth centuries, whilst restorations took place at various times during the nineteenth century.

Amongst other interesting things which claim our attention may be mentioned Grosvenor Park, the gift of the second Marquis of Westminster, where are to be seen "Billy Hobby's wells," which are of great antiquity; the King's School, in Northgate Street, founded by Henry VIII. in 1541; the Blue-Coat Hospital; and the Queen's School for girls, which stands near the Water Gate, on the site of the old city gaol.

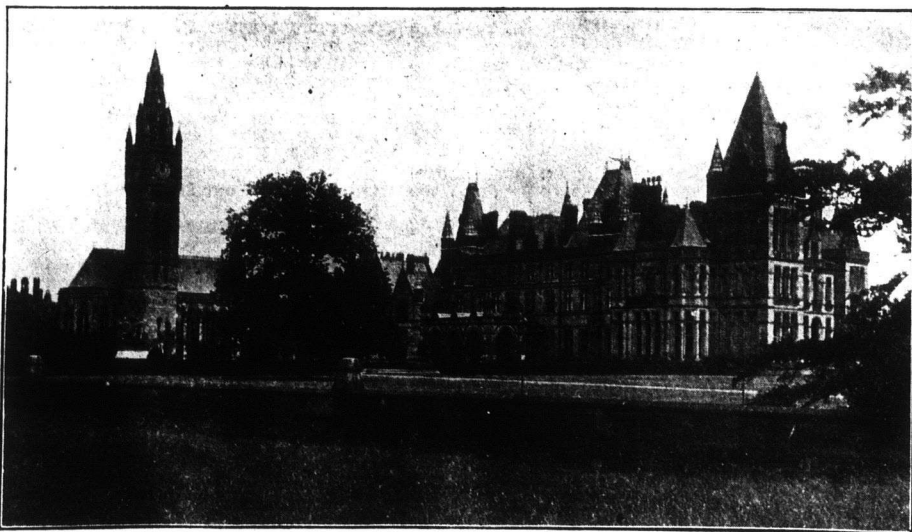
One of the chief educational institutions is the Grosvenor Museum, erected by public subscription in 1886, at a cost of £12,000. The Art Gallery, School of Science and Art, and the Archaeological and Natural History Museums, are all accommodated in the building, and there are to be seen here many interesting objects relating to the Roman and Norman periods, which have come to light at various times. Notable among these may be mentioned the head of the old mediaeval City Cross, which formerly stood at the intersection of the four principal streets, still named The Cross, and some lead water pipes, found in Eastgate Street in 1899, which bear the inscription: "These pipes were laid

when Vespasian and Titus were consuls for the eighth and ninth times respectively, and when Cnaeus Julius Agricola governed the province of Britain." This fixes the date when they were laid as the latter part of the first century.

The city streets, at which we must now glance, present features which are unique among British towns. The four principal streets, Northgate street, Bridge street, Eastgate street, and Watergate street, cross the city at right angles to each other, and on arriving in the city the visitor is at once struck with their quaint old-world appearance. There are, however, a number of modern buildings, notably the town hall, a fine piece of architecture, erected at a cost of £50,000, and opened by the late King Edward on Oct. 15th, 1869, when he was Prince of Wales.

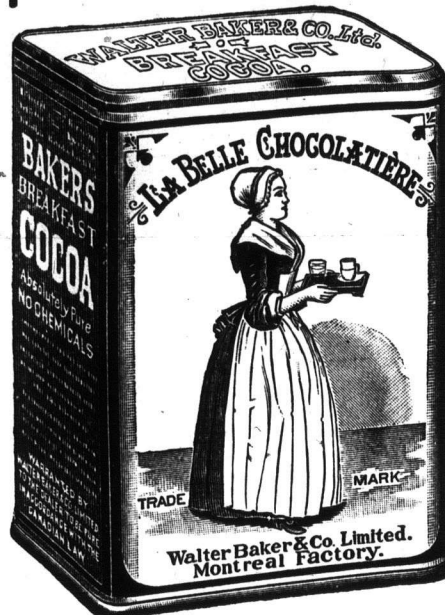
One feature, which belongs to Chester alone, is The Rows, of which we may attempt some description. Imagine a row of old-time half-timbered buildings, three or four stories in height, in which the front portion of the second story is cut out, and pillars inserted to support the storey above, with balustrades stretching from pillar to pillar, and you have some idea of the appearance of the Rows as seen from the street. But The Rows are useful, as well as ornamental and curious. If we ascend one of the flights of steps which are placed at intervals in each Row, we shall find that the back portion of the second story has been largely utilized for business purposes, while the front part serves as a covered promenade above the level of the street, on which we can walk protected from the weather.

The streets contain many buildings of great interest. In Watergate street is "God's Providence House," said to be the only house in the city which escaped the pestilence when the country was swept by the Black Death in the 17th century. In commemoration of the fact the owner had placed on the gable front the famous inscription from which the house takes its name: "God's Providence is mine inheritance—1625." One's feelings are rather shocked, however, to find that it is now occupied as a place of business, for the sale of furniture and old china. A little lower down the street, on the same side, is Bishop Lloyd's Palace, now occupied by the Young Women's Christian Association. The Custom House Inn is an excellent



Eaton Hall, Chester, the residence of the Duke of Westminster.

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