



MANCHESTER: ONE OF THE MANY BRIDGES OVER THE SHIP CANAL.

The City of Manchester.

In this month's *SUNSHINE* we give a number of interesting views of Manchester—the industrial metropolis of the British Empire.

It was in the year 1377 that Manchester dates the beginning of its greatness and prosperity. In that year Edward III. introduced woollen manufactures into England, and Lancashire was selected as the seat of these manufactures. The protection given to the woollen industry was an enactment by law prohibiting anyone from wearing any cloth but of English make.

The cotton industry was introduced into England from Smyrna sometime before 1501 and increased very rapidly. In a brief description of Manchester written in 1650, its manufactures are described as "woollens, frizes, fustians, sack-cloths, mingled stuffs, inkles, tapes and prints, in the production of which men, women and children were employed."

Manchester is some thirty-five miles distant from the sea with which it is connected by a ship canal constructed during the period 1887-94, costing in the neighborhood of £16,000,000. The ship canal has been of enormous commercial importance to Manchester, making it become one of the great seaports of the world. The dock covers an area of 406½ acres, this gives some idea of the extent of Manchester's shipping facilities.

Manchester is also well supplied with railways, having excellent railroad connection with all parts of England.

The old boundaries of the city has a population of some 600,000, but Greater Manchester, within a radius of eight miles, gives a population of over 2,000,000. The area included within a radius of forty miles of Manchester, contains, it is said, and most numerously populated district in the world, with a population of over 8,000,000.

The present annual value of Manches-