



wet-dock, this was the first of the kind in England. The Old Dock was opened in 1715; then followed a dry dock and three graving docks; and, later on, before the end of the century, several others were completed abreast of the original one: all of which, with the exception of the Old Dock, remain to this day, many of them, however, having been reconstructed and improved. The Victorian era has seen, as it is to be expected, an enormous development in all the shipping facilities afforded by the port: a large number of new docks, both north and south of those already in use, having been designed and carried out, the Langton and Alexandra Docks being completed in 1881, and the Hornby in 1883, all at the extreme northern end close to the open sea, while on the southern side higher up the river an extensive system of docks has only recently been completed. On the Cheshire side, opposite Liverpool, are the Birkenhead docks, acquired in 1858 by the corporation, known as the "Mersey Docks and Harbour Board," who administer the whole of

the vast systems of works, which together practically form one port.

In looking more closely at these docks the figures involved as regards their area, capacity, cost and so forth are such as cannot but appeal powerfully to the imagination, and not only to the imagination, for here, for instance, in tangible, concrete—and there is a good deal of it literally concrete—form is an object lesson of the meaning of two hundred millions of dollars, which is in round numbers the cost. Large as the figures are in themselves, they are even more striking, as suggestive of the skill and judgment, the care and forethought necessarily exercised in designing, completing and maintaining efficiently these magnificent works. The advantages they offer to the traveller and the trade are sufficiently obvious to everyone, but only the more thoughtful will appreciate the genius which has produced them, and the scarcely less marvellous vigilance, sleepless and unceasing, which renders them always available. With the changes introduced during recent years in the