

and Bell. The probability is that each profited by the other's views, and that both deserve great honor for their share in the invention. The first steam vessel in Britain was built by Bell, on the Clyde, and named the Comet. It was of twenty-five tons burthen, and four horse power. It is lamentable to reflect that this distinguished man was allowed to die in poverty.

And now, to speak of Railways. As early as 1676 coals were carried from near Newcastle-on-Tyne to the banks of the river, by laying rails of timber straight and parallel, on which cars with four rollers, fitting the rails, and drawn by horses, would convey four or five chaldrons of coals. About a century afterward, an iron railway was constructed at the Sheffield colliery. The first railway resembling those now in use, for goods and passengers, was the Stockton and Darlington railway, completed in 1825.

Several years passed before Steam Locomotive engines were invented. This noble triumph of art was finally achieved by the completion of the Liverpool and Manchester railway, begun in 1826, and opened on the 15th September, 1830. Its construction cost £800,000 sterling. The Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel were present, as was also Mr. Huskisson, who was unfortunately killed by accident on the occasion.

Such is a short sketch of the progress made by this mighty power. Its great improver, Mr. Watt, was a native of Greenock, and died near Birmingham in 1820, having lived to see the fruit of his labors successful to a great extent. To expatiate on this great invention is not needful. Not a daily paper, not a newspaper reach us—scarce a letter is received—that does not remind us of the benefits flowing from the steam engine. Let us behold the City of Manchester or of Glasgow with their vast chimneys—busy, populous, enterprising—what an idea is given of the Manufacturing greatness of Britain. Who can look upon one of those colossal steamers that bear our mails over the broad Atlantic, without being struck with pleasing astonishment.