

at a cost of about £1000, and was conveyed to the following trustees, some of whom were the principal subscribers to the funds for its erection, namely: the Earl of Powis, Lord Darlington, Lord Clive, Hon. R. H. Clive, Rev. N. R. Pemberton, E. W. Smythe Owen, Esq., G. R. Benson, Esq., Panton Corbett, Esq., Thomas S. Acton, Esq., E. B. Coleman, Esq., William Pinches, Esq., Mr. John Broome, and Mr. John Robinson. The old market hall, an antique structure much admired for its primitive appearance, was chiefly composed of timber and plaister, and was built in the year 1617; it was fast falling to decay when it was taken down; the inhabitants purchased the site and the tolls for £200, which was raised by subscriptions, so that the market is now toll free. In a deep valley about a quarter of a mile from the town is a flourishing flannel manufactory, the machinery being turned by a mountain stream; the inhabitants are however chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits; large flocks of sheep are pastured on the neighbouring hills. The principal landowners are Moses George Benson, Esq., Charles Orlando Childe Pemberton, Esq., and Mrs. Coleman; the latter is lady of the manor.

THE CHURCH, an ancient cruciform structure with a central tower, chiefly in the early English style of architecture, is dedicated to St. Lawrence, having an image of that saint in the eastern angle of the tower. The tower exhibits some elaborate workmanship, and contains a very melodious peal of bells and an excellent clock. On the north and south sides of the edifice are doorways of Norman character. The tower is supported by four clustered pillars and pointed arches, which divide the nave, chancel, and transepts. The chancel is beautifully ornamented with richly carved oak in antique devices, collected at a considerable cost by the late rector, the Rev. Robert N. Pemberton, who bestowed great care and expense in the embellishment of the sacred edifice. In the centre compartment of the altar is an elegant and well carved representation of Christ after the crucifixion. The windows, principally in the decorated style, with rich and flowing tracery, are beautified with stained glass. The eastern one is peculiarly chaste and elegant, and being immediately over the altar gives the interior a very chastened and effective appearance. The centre division contains a fine figure of our Saviour, and on one side is a representation of St. Peter, and on the other of St. John. This window was the gift of the late rector, the Rev. R. N. Pemberton. The living is a rectory, rated in the king's book at £15. 10s., in the patronage of C. O. C. Pemberton, Esq.; incumbent, Rev. Hugh Owen Wilson. The tithes are commuted for £505, and there is a glebe land attached to the rectory, of the annual value of £60. The parish is in the diocese of Hereford, and the triennial visitation is held here by the bishop. The visitation in the intermediate years is held by the archdeacon. Roger Mainwaring, D.D., vicar of St. Giles in the Fields, and chaplain to King Charles I., was born in this town. His two sermons, entitled "Religion and Allegiance," were censured in parliament, and he was afterwards imprisoned and suspended for three years. In 1633 the king presented him to the rich rectory of Stanford Rivers, in Essex, made him dean of Worcester, and in 1635 he was consecrated bishop of St. David's, which see he held till the bishopric was abolished. He was cruelly dealt with by the prevailing powers in the time of anarchy and confusion, and died in 1653, leaving behind him the character of a person of great learning and true piety.

There is a Branch Savings Bank at Church Stretton, which commenced in the year 1821, the business of which is conducted at the school house every Friday. About 300 depositors have their names in the books, and a sum of about £9,000 standing to their credit. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the Manchester Unity have a lodge here, with their funds in a prosperous condition. There is also a clothing club for the benefit of poor families, and one for the supply of coals during the winter season. A police station has been erected at the expense of the county, near to the union house, in connexion with which are cells for the temporary confinement of offenders, and a residence for the superintendent constable.

THE CHURCH STRETTON UNION WORKHOUSE is situated nearly a quarter of a mile from the town, on the Shrewsbury and Ludlow turnpike road, and in the immediate vicinity of the Longmynd hills. The situation is remarkably dry and salubrious, and the building is admirably contrived for the convenience and comfort of the inmates. The building is in the form of a cross, which, with the outer wall, forms four quadrangles, and these are used as airing yards. It was built in 1838, of the rough stone got from the neighbouring quarries, with quoins and cornices of hewn free stone. The cost of the structure was £2,000, and the sum of £200 was paid for the site and land attached, which covers an area of about two acres. The money necessary for the erection was borrowed, and it was agreed to pay back the principal by instalments of £100 per annum: there remains unpaid at the present time £600. The parishes comprised within the union are, Acton Scott, Church Stretton, Cardington, Easthope, Eaton, Hope Bowdler, Leebotwood, Longnor, Rushbury, Shipton, Sibdon, Carwood, Smethecott, Wistanston, and Woolstaston. The house is capable of accommodating 110 inmates, and the guardians meet at the board room every fortnight for the transaction of the business connected with the union. The expenditure for the half year ending Lady day, 1850, was £1,266. 16s., and the average weekly cost per head of the in-door paupers was 2s. 1½d., of which 3d. was for clothing. The number of in-door paupers at the same period was 55. John Belton, *Clerk to the Guardians*. Thomas Heighway, *Relieving Officer*. *Medical Officers*: Richard Wilding, for the house and first district; Thomas R. C. Downes, second district; Robert Jones, third district; Charles Mott, fourth district. Rev. P. Nunn, *Chaplain*. Henry Evans, *Governor*. Mary Ditcher, *Matron*. Sarah Atkinson, *Schoolmistress*.

CHARITIES.—There is a school and schoolhouse in the town of Church Stretton, built in 1779 on the site of an old school, supposed to have been erected on the waste land by subscription, and another room has since been added thereto. By an act of parliament, passed 28th George III., for enclosing the commons and waste lands in the manor of Church Stretton, it was enacted that all encroachments which had heretofore been made on the said commons and waste lands, for the use of the school and schoolmaster at Church Stretton, should be confirmed by the commissioners to the rector of the parish for the time being, together with nine other persons therein named, and their successors to be appointed as therein directed, on trust to receive the rents and apply the same to the use of the schoolmaster as an augmentation of his salary, and to permit such master to occupy the buildings for the uses for which they were intended. In pursuance of this act the commissioners allotted a parcel of land containing 27a. 0r. 29r., (including a road containing about one acre), which was let, when the charity commissioners published their report, for the yearly sum of £37.

The following legacies have at different periods been left for the benefit of the school, viz:—Sir Rowland Hayward, Knt. £1. 13s. 4d. yearly, payable out of certain lands in the parish. In respect of the charity of *Thomas Bridgman*, 40s. yearly is paid to the schoolmaster for teaching four poor children. From *Lloyd's Charity* the trustees receive the sum of £2. 5s., and £3. 3s. yearly for the support of a Sunday school. The trustees also receive £4. 10s. yearly from *Mainwaring's Charity*, and £2. 1s. annually from the churchwardens. The whole annual income derived from these sources amounts to £42. 12s. 4d. The schoolmaster is appointed by the trustees, and receives a salary of £40 a year, and resides in a house free of expense, and for these emoluments he also teaches a Sunday school. The school is conducted on the national system: about 60 boys and 60 girls attend.

*Thomas Hawkes*, by will dated 19th August, 1703, left £30 to the use of the poor of the parish of Church Stretton, to be laid out in land; the yearly produce thereof to be distributed in bread as follows; viz: eight penny loaves every Sunday, and sixteen penny loaves every first Sunday in the year, Easter Sunday, and Whit-Sunday, to such poor persons as should frequent the church. The aforesaid sum of £30 was laid out in 1708 in the purchase of a copyhold tenement situated in Church Stretton, called Walter's