

badly David with Pebbles, the Streets

Narrow and not one on a Level,

The Houses are all, old fashioned

Wooden

that

Yard

Parish

**COVENTRY  
THROUGH  
THE AGES**

compiled by

**D. J. H. Smith**

St. Johns, of Trinity & St. Michael

the last of which is the largest and  
handsomest. Consisting of four Aisles  
and has a Capital Organ ..

Over the Altar Piece is a Beautiful  
Painting in Oil, of Christ taken down  
from the Cross finely decorated on each  
side with Elegant Marble Columns  
Near the East Entrance, is a Desk

JN 910  
Dup.

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# COVENTRY THROUGH THE AGES

**Some descriptions of the City c.1540-1868**

compiled by  
**D. J. H. SMITH**

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## FOREWORD

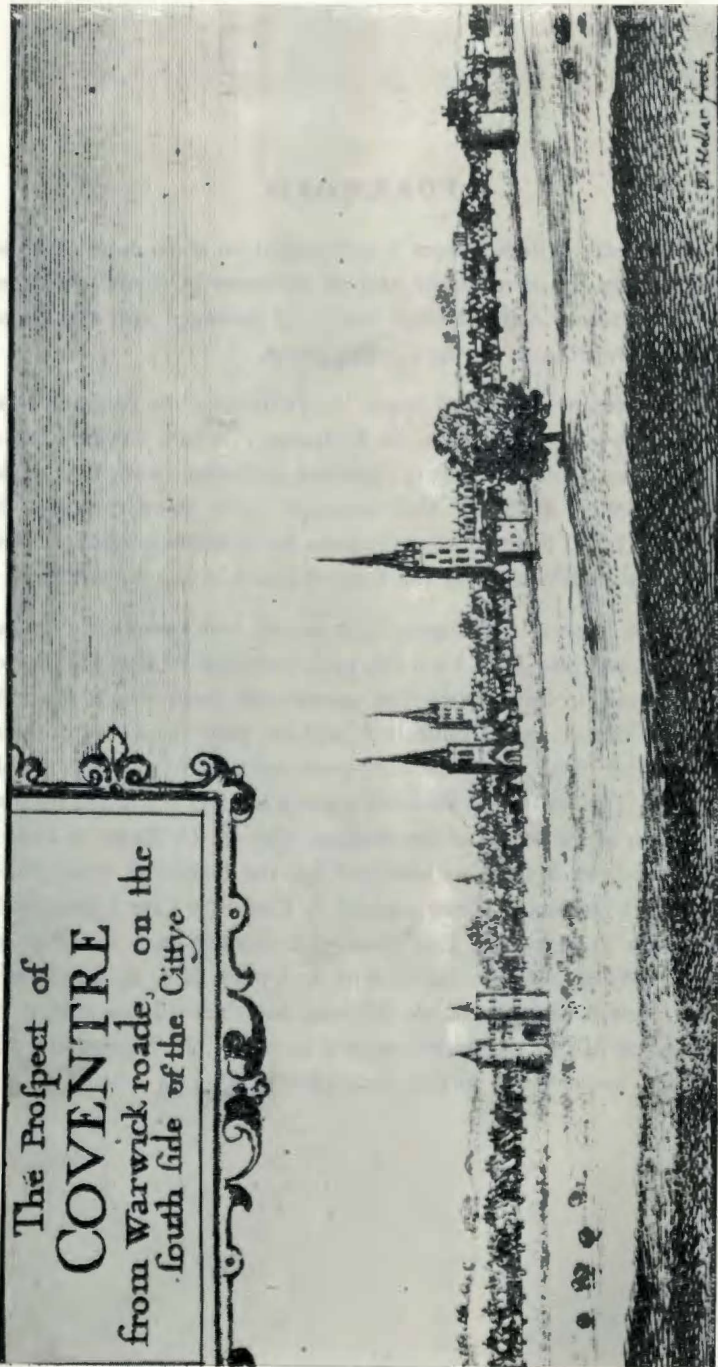
In selecting these pieces I have tried to show how outsiders saw the City, its inhabitants and its environs in their own times. I have therefore omitted most historical passages and the almost inevitable repetitions of the Godiva story.

No attempt has been made to reproduce the original typography, lay-out, marginalia, or footnotes ; where explanation or comment has been necessary it has been embodied in the text within heavy brackets (thus) ; and omissions have been indicated by three dots (...). With these exceptions the extracts given here have been taken unaltered from the sources listed in the Appendix.

In the time at my disposal my search was necessarily limited to printed sources. Thus I am the more indebted to Miss D. Rayson for bringing to my notice the manuscript from which the 1796 extract is taken ; this is published, and the page from it reproduced on the outer cover, with the kind permission of Manchester Public Libraries. The portion of Bromley's letter of 1722 is printed by kind permission of the owner of the original, Mrs. R. O. Bagot of Levens Hall, to whom I am also indebted for the transcript from which my extract was made. I am grateful to Coventry City Libraries for permission to reproduce the 'View of Coventry from the Railway Station'. My thanks are due to Miss A. Lynes, Mrs. E. A. Gooder, Mr. J. Hewitt and Mr. A. A. Dibben, for their advice during the preparation of this pamphlet, as well as to Mr. P. Searby and Mr. F. West, respectively former and present general editors of this series.

D.J.H.S.

The Prospect of  
**COVENTRE**  
 from Warwick road, on the  
 south side of the Cittie



c.1540

Thence to Mariden village a 4. miles by enclosyd ground, havynge some corne. wood and pasture. And at the end of this village ran downe a broket on the lefte hand, and thereby was a parke. Thens I passyd a 3. miles by lyke ground, and there I rode over a broke : and a myle farthar I passyd ovar the same broke agayne, at the west ende of Coventre towne, where the broke ran downe on the lefte hand, and aftar comithe throwghe a bridge of a 2. arches witheyn the towne selfe of Coventrye, and there the streame rennithe on the left hand, and so goynge in the medowes by thabbay of Coventrie turnithe agayne to the lyfte hand to a bridge a myle lower in the way to London...

There be many fayre towers in the waulle. The grite and colour of the stone that the waulles be buyldid of is of a darkeshe depe redde, as it were ferragineus colour ; and so is all the gritt of the contrye thereabout. Moste parte of the stone in the waulles wer taken out of the diks by the waul. The diche goithe about moste parte of the towne walle. It is but late [ago] sence the waulles of Coventry wer finished...

There be many fayre stretes in Coventrye, well buylded with tymbar ; but the strete that goithe from west up to este southe est is the moste principall of all the towne.

There were 3. stately churches in the harte and midle of the towne, all in one cemetry. The abbey church... now suppressyd.

St. Michall a parochie church, an excedynge goodly and ample peace of worke. St. [Trinity] is the third, a right fayre pece of wirke also. There be no mo parochie churches in the towne.

There is a charnell chapell in the same semetry. There is a church or colledge of St. John Baptist in the towne, and ther was a mastar and brithern professyd and an hospitall. The church is yet stondinge, and a prist syngithe there ; but Hales with the clubbe foote hathe gotten entrest in this colledge, and none (but the devell) can get hym out (a later insertion : Hales did not acquire St. John's Hospital till 1546).

There is also a collegiat church at Bablake hard witheyn the west-gate, alias Bablake-gate, dedicate to St. John and other ; it takythe the name by lyke of a conducte (water-supply) by it. It is of the foundation of the burgesses of the towne, and ther is a great priveleged guilde or fraternite. In this colledge is now a mastar and 8. ministars, there hathe bene of late 12. ministars.

One Bonde, a very riche marchaunt of Coventre, annexid to Bablake of late days an hospitall well buildid for 10. pore men and women to kepe them. There is also a prechar of Bond's foundation, havynge 10. li. the yere...

There be dyvars fayre suburbs without the wauls of Coventrye.  
The kynge hath a palace in Coventrie now somewhat in ruine...  
There is a mint for coynng in Coventrye.

The Bysshope of Coventry and Lichefield hath an old palace  
in Coventrie.

The towne rose by makynge of clothe and capps, that now  
decayenge the glory of the city decayethe...

The broke that cummithe from Coventryes towne end by  
weste rennithe a mile lower then Coventrye in the highe way to  
London undar a stone bridge of a 3. arches ; and there as I rode  
the streme goinge downe on the right hond, that broke goithe a  
litle lower into Sow river, *ripa dextra* (on the right bank) bynethe  
Wynnell (Willenhall) bridge.

Wynnoall bridge on Sowe of 5. arches of stone is about halfe  
a mile from the aforesayde bridge of 3. arches, and lyethe in the  
highe waye frome Coventrie to London.

JOHN LELAND (1506-1552), father of English topography, made his  
travels in performance of a royal commission to search for antiquities. He  
failed to complete his projected description of the whole of England, and  
died insane.

### 1586

In the mids of this Woodland standeth Coventrye... In the  
foregoing age, growing wealthy by clothing and making of caps,  
it was the onely mart and Citie of trade in all these parts, frequented  
also and peopled more than ordinarily a midland place : as being  
a Citie very commodiously seated, large, sweet, and neat, fortified  
with Strong walles, and set out with right goodly houses : among  
which there rise up on high two Churches of rare workmanship,  
standing one hard by the other, & matched, as it were, as con-  
currents, the one consecrated to the Holy Trinity, the other to  
Saint Michaell. Yet hath it nothing within it, that one would say  
is of great antiquity. And the most ancient monument of all, as  
it may seeme, was the Monasterie or Priory, the ruins whereof I  
saw neere unto those Churches...

WILLIAM CAMDEN (1551-1623) was a schoolteacher, eventually  
becoming headmaster of Westminster in 1593. But only four years later his  
growing fame as an antiquary secured for him the position of Clarenceux  
King-of-arms. The research for *Britannia* occupied him for ten years.

### 1634

Heere wee rested very quietly, and contentedly, and in the  
morning address'd our Selues to a stately fayre Church, which may  
compare without Organs, with many Cathedralls, though none it  
Selve, but for largenesse, Lightsomnesse, fayrenesse, and neatnesse,  
which hath as fayre, and loftie a stately Spire, as any in this  
Kingdome...

In this Church there are some fayre and ancient Monuments,  
and amongst the rest these are of eminency.

Sir Thomas Barkeleyes Tombe of black, and white Marble,  
onely son of Henry Lord Berkley, and his Lady Katherin Sister  
to Thomas Duke of Norfolk; And his Sonnes.

The Lord Swillingtons Tombe, himselfe in Armour, in free  
Stone, and his two Wiues.

The 2. sisters fayre Grauestone in Brasse, somewhat  
defac'd, that built the fayre High Steeple, in this Church  
(Ann and Mary Botoner).

Neere adioynng to this Church, stands another fayre one,  
which hath a spir'd Steeple, and these two, with another little one,  
seldome vsed, containe the whole City...

This City, as it is sweetly situated on a Hill, so is it beautify'd  
with many fayre streets, and Buildings ; and for defence thereof  
it is compassed with a strong wall, nigh 3. Miles about, with a  
whole Jury of Gates, and many offensive, and defensiu Towers ;  
grac'd, and much beautify'd with a fayre, lofty, 6. Square Crosse,  
though not altogether soe richly guilded as that vnparrell'd one  
in Cheap-side, yet with as curious, and neat worke, and caruings  
cut in stone, as that of lead.

A fayre large Hall there is, ouer against their fayre Church,  
with a stately ascending entrance, the vpper end adorn'd with rich  
Hangings, and all about with fayre Pictures, one more especially  
of a noble Lady, whose memory they haue cause not to forget...

Heere the Mayors annuall, and sumptuous Feasts are kept  
vpon all Saints Day. Three fayre Hospitalls this place affords,  
and the Situation, Strength, and Beauty of Her, shew themselues  
apparently conspicuous.

The Ciuill Gouernment is discreetly order'd, and wisely  
administred by a generous, prudent Mayor, with his 12 discreet  
Brethren, 2. Sheriffes, and 10. Aldermen, clad in Scarlet, with a  
fayre sword, and Cap of Maintenance, 5. Maces, and other Officers,  
and an Honourable, graue, and Learned Recorder, to grace and  
preserue her ancient Liberties. As this precious place, is plac'd in

the middle of this famous Island ; soe doth she verefy, and make good the old Prouerb, *In medio consistit virtus* (the goodness is in the middle); for she wants nothing, either of Pleasure, or Profit, participating largelie of them both ; For both the sweet Situation of the City, and generous Condition of the People... inuited heere a longer stay, but wee were call'd away, to visite that famous Castle of Guy of Warwicke.

LIEUTENANT HAMMOND. All that is known about the author is that he was a lieutenant in the Norwich militia.

### 1662

This night... we reach'd Coventry, whose goodly walls had been lately pulled down lest they might again bee made use of to secure a rout of factious rebels. The next day being Sunday, wee rested our selves and horses and took some notice of the city, in which there are two very large churches and three very high spire steeples : one of the steeples having lost its church : which are carv'd about and very handsomely wrought. Wee likewise saw that famous structure, Coventry crosse...

For the buildings in generall they are but mean, an oister barrell serves instead of a chimney in divers places, and most of the city is built the old wooden way, yet there may be some good houses within side, but not many gentlemen living in them.

EDWARD BROWNE (1644-1708) was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Browne, the author. He eventually became physician to Charles II.

### 1690

In the morning I went to the great church, which is fifty paces broad and ninety long. There I heard Mr. Fox preach, and received the sacrament from him. In the afternoon I preached on Luke i. 28, and after prayers went to see the cross, which is a very rich and glorious structure, having all the Kings of England in effigy round it, with some other images. Near the top, at the gate end, stands the image of an old man looking out of the window, being kept in memory of a fellow who peeped out there when the queen rode naked through the town. Then we all went to the Three Tuns to drink some Nottingham ale, and thence into the Park, which is a fine outlet from the town, where a long walk is well laid out with two rows of ash trees, but most of the trees are gone ; however both the town and country near afford a very pleasing prospect from it.

ROWLAND DAVIES (1649-1721) was born near Cork. He took holy orders in 1671, became chaplain to an English regiment in 1690, and was eventually promoted to the deanery of Cork in 1710.

### 1697

Coventry stands on the side of a pretty high hill and as you approach it from the adjacent hill you have the full prospect ; the spire and steeple of one of the Churches is very high and is thought the third highest in England, in the same Church yard stands another large Church which is something unusuall, two such great Churches together, their towers and the rest of the Churches and high buildings make the town appear very fine ; the streetes are broad and very well pitch'd with small stone, the Crosse is noted and the finest building in England for such a thing, and in my phancy it very much resembles the picture of the Tower of Babel, its all stone carv'd very curiously and there are 4 divisions, each being less than another, to the top, and so its Piramidy forme; in each partition is severall nitches for statues quite round it where are Kings and Queens, and just on each side before each statue is their arms and the arms of England and the arms of the town, and so its adorn'd with coullours and gilding in their proper places, as in the garments and Crowns or Coronets and finely carv'd with Angels and Cherubims and all sorts of beasts birds flowers in garlands and leaves, thus in every division, there is variety quite up to the top which is finely carv'd and gilt.

This is the biggest place in the town and the streete very broad and runs off a great length, and most of the streetes are very good ; the buildings are most of timber work and old ; There is a Water house at the end of the town which from springs does supply by pipes the whole town with water, in the manner that London is, there is also a water which serves severall mills that belong to the town ; it seems to be a thriveing good trading town and is very rich, they have a great publick stock belonging to the Corporation above 3 thousand pound a year for publick schooles charity and the maintenance of their severall publick expences ; of their Magistrates and Companies, the majority of the heads are now in the sober men's hands, so its esteem'd a Fanatick town ; there is indeed the largest Chapple and the greatest number of people I have ever seen of the Presbiterian way, there is another meeting place in the town of the Independents which is not so bigg, but tho' they may differ in some small things in the maine they agree and seeme to love one another which was no small satisfaction to me, Charity and Love to the brethren being the characteristicall marke of Christs true Disciples.

CECILIA FIENNES (1662-1741) was grand-daughter of the first viscount Saye and Sele. No other details of her life are known.

The City of Coventry is a large, and very Populous Inland City, and sends two Members to Parliament, which are chosen by the Freemen of the City— In this place, such has been the Continual Zeal and Heat of Parties, that the Division has risen up to the Greatest Animosities, and the Consequence has been Railing, Envyng, Fighting, and all sorts of Inveteracy and Violence. Club-Law has been the Deciders of Controversies, and on every Election, Victory in the Street, has given Victory in the Poll.

These things are risen now to that height, that the Parties draw up in little Armies in the Streets, and Fight with all the Fury and Animosity imaginable, 500, and some say, a 1000 of a side...

There was, it seems, a Riot in the Streets on the . of April last, and 2 or 300 Engag'd of a Side, abundance Wounded and Knock'd Down, a Tumult altogether Destructive of Good Government, and fatal to the Publick Tranquility...

Since this Battle, nothing is, it seems, more frequent in the Streets of Coventry, than to hear what Preparations of War are making on both Sides; what Gathering Confederates, what Encouraging one another to stand to it, what furnishing themselves with Auxiliaries, and getting stout Fellows out of the Country to back them, and all against the Day of Election? And ask any Coventry Man now, Who is like to Carry it? They will Unanimously tell you, They that Beat in the Street, They that get the Victory in the Fight, carry the Election, the strongest Side has the Day in the Town Hall.

And this may well be true, it seems, since all Freemen Poll, and no Man is Sworn at the Poll, nor is there any Lists of the Freemen; so that if the strongest Side, say a Broom-maker is a Freeman, tho' he never was in the Town, he is Poll'd; and who shall Dispute against Club-Law?—

Nor, it seems, can there be any such thing as a Scrutiny afterwards, there being no Books to Examine by.

DANIEL DEFOE (1661-1731), novelist, journalist, and political pamphleteer, was often in debt during his stormy career, and more than once in goal. In addition to his vast output of hack-work, he produced several classics of undying popularity.

More Madmen still! Bless us, said I, where shall we meet with any Body, but who in their Turns have their general Lunacies? Prospects of Success elevate Men of all Sides, sometimes above the Restraint of their Sences, and the Frenzy of Parties is the most extravagant of its Kind.

But of all the Men in England, who have run out of their common Understandings, I defie the Nation to match our Brethren of the High Church at Coventry...

Here's a Comedy fit for Bartholomew-Fair—Mob a-la-mode, or the Coventry Election; Walk in, Gentlemen, and take your Places, here's the Rabble uppermost, and the Magistrates under their Feet; Here's Ha—s and Ge—y (Sir Christopher Hales and Mr. Thomas Gery) in Masquerade...

But to conclude with a short History of the Fact, for the Information of such as are yet ignorant of it; the Case is thus:

The Mob of Coventry headed by Sir Chr. Ha—s, and Mr. G—y, having at the last Election beaten the Magistrates, wounded the Mayor, disarm'd the Watch-men, and taken away their Halberts, and so carried on the most violent Tumult, that has been seen in this Nation for many Years; and under the Influence of it, made a pretended Election of the said Sir Chr. H—s and Mr. G—y.

To back their Proceedings, they indicted the Mayor and Magistrates, and some of the Citizens for a Riot.

DANIEL DEFOE.

I hope Dear Sr... that yr Elections are to yr Satisfaction.

That at Coventre began on Tuesday, when there were polled about 100 for Oughton & Neal & 6 for Craven & Skipwith. There were above 1000 Voters in the Street, when upon pretence of ad-journing for an Hour, the 2 former with the Magistrates carried away the Sheriffs, would not let them return to the Court, nor suffer any but their own Creatures to come near them, not their wives, kept them up all night, & would nt. let them go till they had forc'd them to make a Return, which was not declared nor signified to the Freemen till all was over, & then not in Form. The Sheriffs were 2 poor Scoundrels, however they darst not trust them, there being a vast majority on the other side. Oughton had brought all the Freemen serving in the Troops in Gr. Brittain & Ireland, &

living in Chelsea Hosp. to the Election, who appeared in their Regimental Cloaths & Swords.

WILLIAM BROMLEY (1664-1732) of Baginton was first elected to the House of Commons to represent Warwickshire in 1690. He became Speaker in 1710 and Secretary of State in 1713, losing office when the Government fell in the following year.

### 1769

The city is large, populous, and rich ; but the buildings, though many of them are grand enough, are generally old ; and some of them, which are built of timber, project so forward, that in the narrow streets they almost touch at the top. The chief of its churches are St. Michael's and Trinity church, which, for their architecture, seem to rival each other ; the former is large, and well lighted, but not handsome, its greatest beauty being its high spire, of excellent workmanship, and all of stone, which is about three hundred feet high, and, it is said, was more than twenty-two years in building.

Though here are three parish-churches only, there are four steeples ; for at the south end of the town stands a tall spire by itself, which is the only remains of a church that belonged to its monastery of Grey friars... The Protestant dissenters are a considerable body in this city, there being almost as many meeting-houses here as churches. The town-house is worth seeing, the windows being of painted glass representing some of the old kings, earls, &c. who have been benefactors to the city...

It was formerly the only market-town of this country, at which time it was of greater resort than could be expected from its mid-land situation, and its chief manufacture was then cloth and caps, but now both these trades are much decayed. Their employment now is in the manufacture of tammies, and the weaving of the ordinary sort of ribbands, especially black. Here is a free-school, (with a good library) founded by John Hales, Esq ; with the name of King Henry VIII's School, the master of which is always to be the minister of Bablack's church, which was made parochial by the title of St. John's, pursuant to act of parliament, *anno* 1734. Here are also a charity-school, and an hospital...

The city of Coventry sends two members to parliament, has a weekly market on Friday, and three annual fairs, viz. the second of May, for horses, cows, and sheep ; Friday in Trinity-week, for flannels, linen, and woollen : at this fair the lady Godiva is represented on horseback : and the first of November, for linen, woollen, and horses.

ANONYMOUS.

### 1772

The tower of Coventry church, is a beautiful object : but constructed of the same kind of mouldering stone, which we took notice of in the ruins of Kenelworth ; and which indeed is better adapted to a decayed, than to a compleat pile. The ornamental parts of this tower are just in that state, which one could wish in a ruin : they possess a sort of rich mutilation : every part is in some degree defaced ; and yet the whole so perfect, as to leave room for the imagination to put all together. In a *ruin* this is enough : but where the parts are *intire*, we require the ornaments to be so too.

WILLIAM GILPIN (1724-1804) was a schoolmaster until 1777, when he became Vicar of Boldre in Hampshire. He is remembered for the concept of 'picturesque beauty' expounded in his many books of travel and biography.

### 1778

Proceed to Coventry, an old, ill-built town, in which there is little to excite, or gratify, curiosity. The cross, heretofore so famous for its workmanship, has no longer any thing to please. It was erected in the time of Henry VIII with the stone of the country, which is sandy and porous ; and being much decayed, all the upper part was taken down about twenty years ago. The story of Lady Godiva and peeping Tom, or Dick, whose figure is still preserved, is too well known to be mentioned. A very great manufacture of ribbands is carried on here.

In 1768, an Act of Parliament was passed for making a navigable canal from hence, to communicate with that which was carrying on to join the Trent and the Mersey ; and the next year another act was passed to make a canal from hence to Oxford.

These were noble undertakings, which promised to be of the greatest service to the country ; but, useful as they were, they met with violent opposition. Amongst other objections made to the latter in the House of Commons, it was said that coals would, by this means, be rendered so much cheaper, at Oxford and other places, than the sea-coal which they then used, that that great nursery of our seamen would be injured. Private interest, and perhaps private pique, unfortunately contributed to impede the undertakings. The subscribers to the two canals could not agree on the place where they should join, and they are carried on in nearly parallel line for a considerable length ; this has contributed to exhaust their money, without any use ; and the former is carried no farther than about Atherstone, and seems nearly at a stand ; the latter is conducted with much more spirit, and has reached



Banbury. The beneficial effects are already found, particularly in the reduction of the price of coals, in places through which it runs, and where that very necessary article was before extravagantly dear.  
ANONYMOUS.

1782

Coventry is seated on ground gently sloping on most sides : its length, from Hillstreet-gate to Gosford-gate, is about three quarters of a mile, exclusive of the suburbs. The streets in general are narrow, and composed of very antient buildings, the stories of which, in some, impend one over the other in such a manner, as nearly to meet at top, and exclude the sight of the sky. By the appearance of the whole, it is very evident that it never underwent the calamity of fire ; which, deprecated as it ought to be, is usually the cause of future development...

The city is watered by the Radford and the Sherborn brooks, which, from N. and S. meet within the walls, and, after a short current, bound the north-eastern parts without the walls.

We began our progress from the Chester road, on the western side of the city, at the reliques of Sponne hospital, consisting of the chapel and gateway...

A little farther is the entrance into the city ; in my memory under a venerable and magnificent gate, called Sponne Gate ; of late years demolished, in order to give admittance to the enormous waggons loaden beyond the height of arches erected when war was our chief trade.

Immediately within the walls, on the left, stands the church of St. John, a very handsome building, with a neat but not lofty tower, placed in the centre ; the inside is in form of a cross, intersected by a short transept : the windows high, and form a long tonge, with very narrow divisions...

The church has of late years been rebuilt ; made a rectory by act of parlement, in 1734, and settled on the master of the free-school of Coventry...

Pass by Cookstreet Gate, on the outside of the city, and a little further, by the Three Virgins, or Priory Gate, between which there is a complete part of the wall...

At a small distance without the Priory Gate, is Swanswell Pool, which supplies the city with water...

From hence I returned to the priory, seated on the south side of the brook Sherburn. What bears that name is an uninhabited house, of much later date than that monastery ; but built on some part of the site of this great foundation...

When the cathedral was standing, Coventry possessed a matchless group of churches, all standing within one cemetery. Saint Michael's at present is a specimen of the most beautiful steeple in Europe : a tower enriched with saintly figures on the sides ; an octagon rising out of it, and that lengthened into a most elegant spire. Every part is so finely proportionable, that it is no wonder that Sir Christopher Wren spoke of it as a masterpiece of architecture. The outside is extremely handsome ; the inside light and lofty, consisting of a body and two ailes, divided by four rows of high and airy pillars and arches. The height of the steeple and length of the church are the same, three hundred and three feet ; the width of the latter an hundred and four...

Trinity church, and its spire, would be spoken of as a most beautiful building, was it not eclipsed by its unfortunate vicinity to St. Michael's...

A little south of St. Michael's, stands St. Mary Hall, at present used for corporation-assemblies... Within this building is a fine old room : in the upper end is a noble semicircular window, divided into nine parts, elegantly painted with figures of several of our monarchs, with coats of arms and ornaments, but now very imperfect : those in the windows on the one side are lost ; several of those on the other are entire, and were designed to represent some of our great nobility, who had honored this hall with their presence as brothers and sisters of the gild, for whose use this hall was founded...

The illustrious personages represented here, are William Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenny, and fourth son to Thomas Earl of Warwick ; and by him is his countess Joan, daughter of Richard Earl of Arundel.

Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, and his second wife Isabella, daughter of Thomas Lord D'Espencer ; Humphry Earl of Stafford, with a battle-ax in his hand ; and one of the John Mowbrays Dukes of Norfolk. All those great men are dressed with the magnificence and luxury of the east, in long robes lined with ermine, and with large and singular hoods. These were the garments of peace, when they passed the festive day in honor of their fraternity...

In the apartments of this building are held the balls and assemblies of this city. In one of the drawing-rooms is to be seen, in high preservation, an antiquity equally delicate and curious ; an unique, which Coventry alone has the happiness of possessing. Here it is known by the name of *The Lady's Spoon*, but is doubtless no other than the *Scaphium* (a boat-shaped drinking vessel) of the antients...

The front of the Drapiers Hall is very elegant, ornamented with Tuscan pilasters, and does much credit to the city. It was lately rebuilt on the site of the antient hall, founded by certain drapiers, whose names have long since perished...

In the course of my walk a chamber was shown me, in Gosford-street, noted for the melancholy end of Mary Clues, in February 1772 ; who was found almost consumed by fire, occasioned by an accident of a most uncommon nature. She had been confined to her bed by illness, the consequence of intemperance. The room was floored with brick ; the bed furnished with only one curtain, and that was next to the window. The fire-place was on the other side. She was left, the evening before the accident, with two small bits of coal put quite back in the grate, and a rush-light on the chair, by the head of the bed. The next morning a great smoke was perceived in the room. On bursting open the door some flames appeared, which were easily extinguished... The furniture of the room was only slightly damaged ; the bedstead superficially burnt, but neither sheets, feather-bed, nor blankets destroyed.

The solution of this phenomenon is rather ridiculous. Mrs. Clues was excessively addicted to dram-drinking : she would drink a quart in a day, either of rum or anise-seed water ; and by that means, filling her veins with pure spirits, became as inflammable as a lamp. She tumbled out of bed, took fire by the candle, and... was fairly burnt out.

THOMAS PENNANT (1726-1798), now remembered only for his travel books, was, in his day, a leading naturalist. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1767, and his *History of Quadrupeds* remained a standard work long after his death.

### 1789

Some pleasant miles brought us Allesley, where I dismounted to survey the churchyard, which stands well.—The clergyman, from his garden, spoke to me, in praise of the view. To one remaining Gothic isle of the church has been added a Venetian brother ; proving which looks best ; the venerable Goth, or the tasteless Italian. Over the church door, is written an exhortation to the people to come in : that wou'd do much !—In the churchyard, (whence the prospect over Mr. Neales grounds is very pleasing,) I transcribed 3 epitaphs,—lost in my tour book.—At Coventry Towns End, I dismounted ; near to one of those, so disdainfully spoken of, Romish chapels. The streets are narrow, and meanly built. Close to our inn, The King's Head, is the figure of Peeping Tom, projecting from the front of an house, dated 1700 ; and, after the fashion of that day, he is equipp'd in a large laced hat, and a full

wig !—Being eager after strawberries, I immediately went in search of them, and did buy some quantity ; (but where out of London are they to be found good ?) and survey'd the spot, whence the wise corporation of Coventry removed the ornament of their town, their old beautiful cross : upon which they ought to have expended 500£ in reparations.—If blockheads will pull down these monuments of antiquity, that wou'd attract the attention of strangers, why do not noblemen of the neighbourhood carefully remove them to their parks, and gardens, and there restore them to their primitive glory.—St Marys Hall (formerly call'd St Katherines Guild) where the corporation feasts are held, was fill'd by burgesses swearing to their freedoms ; a most necessary, and pleasant thing to these gentry on the approach of a new election, which is commonly well contested.—On the centre of the gateway roof is a curious old bas relief.

The stairs, the hall, the roof, windows, &c, are as old as any antiquary wou'd wish, with many ancient pictures, and the armoury that might have been used in former processions. There is an old chair is very grand and of much curious carving.

Having now found the clerk (an intelligent, jolly fellow,) we enter'd St Michaels Church, a grand and lofty building, much out of repair, with an huge organ, and a good eastern window ; but for antiquity look not into great town churches : for aldermen are ashamed of seeing painted windows, and old tombs : some however have survived !

The clerk discovering that he, and I, were brother antiquaries, offer'd to conduct us about the town ; and my surprise was great when I found all the old gates were pull'd down.—The two last remaining, the Sponne, and the Grey Friars Gate (an error : Cook-street and Priory gates have survived intact to the present day)... He likewise led us to the oldest foundation, the White Friars, now let out into small tenements ; however there were an archway of entrance, much arched ceiling, and some part of the cloisters left.—We then cross'd into the park, a large extent of ground belonging to the P. of Wales, and now granted to the Earl of Hertford, who makes a pretty advantage of it, and has lately fell'd a row of trees, which must have been an ornament ; and comfort to the town. The spire of the Grey Friars Church, hollow to the top, is left standing in a garden.—In the Grey Friars Street is a most venerable hospital ; formerly founded for lepers ; now a retreat for aged poor.—We then went back to the clerks house, to see some carvings he had preserv'd from the church ; and I told him that I wish'd that all clerks wou'd preserve more, as brasses, glass, &c ; and then we antiquaries (a bold word) might come in for a bit of plunder.

Our wretched Black Town Inn, gave us a very bad dinner, and bad wine : (a wonder not to have a tolerable inn here !) and we are glad to depart from Coventry...

Binley New Church, built in the Venetian ball room taste, we pass'd by : the fall of old churches seems to be at hand ; nor do I conceive how, without a special care, (suitable to my superstitious notions) so many—neglected, as they are—have lasted so long... Mean is the entrance into Coombe-Abby Park ; a place, of which I had heard much, and where my friend Capability Brown was allow'd to act ; so modern taste, join'd to antiquity, I hoped wou'd produce great things ; but B— here sadly deceiv'd me ; for he has ruined old avenues, and not planted in their place, half enough ; the water is stagnate, and there is no inequality of ground. The old part of the abbey is venerable ; the newer, tasteless and ugly.—In front, at a short distance, is a poor attempt at castle building, for the front of a dog kennel.—(Of this kind of architecture I conceive myself a good judge, from being in the practise, for a 4th part of a century.) Our horses being stabled, we enter'd the old cloisters, now glazed up ; and so hornified are their walls, as to give horrible presage ; their being horns of all sorts of wild cattle, and one amazingly large stuff'd wild cat, kill'd here, of which they say there are many about ; I never saw a live one.

The old hall, now the great dining room, is a lofty and magnificent apartment.—The great drawing room at the top of the large stair case is in the same superb stile ; a kind of room they will not, now, build !! It is preserved in old state, with old sashes ; and is a room I shou'd dote upon : the long gallery adjoining is cover'd by noble portraits of the Cravens, of Gustavus Adolphus, and those warriors distinguish'd in the Palatinate War.

The gallery is narrow and low ; and all the pictures have been shamefully clean'd. To enumerate all the grand portraits here were impossible ; those of Prince Rupert, and Prince Maurice, please me most ; as well as one of Charles 1st, when young, by Mytens ; and several of the Queen of Bohemia (Charles I's sister Elizabeth), the heroine of this house, whose love made Craven a warrior.—She has a pleasant sensible look, with the gloomy family cast. This was the Lord Craven not only so famous in his youth for his love and courage, but who was afterwards noted for keeping horses, ready saddled, in London, to attend fires ; which drew from Rochester this answer to K. Charles 2d's enquiry 'if Craven was at the Great Fire ?' 'Yes, please your Majesty,' answered R., 'and has already had two horses burnt under him'.—

In the newer part of the house, particularly in the drawing-room, are many charming pictures ; some by Morillio, I shou'd think (probably Paulus Moreelse, 1571-1638). We survey'd every

part of the house, with pleasure, and delay ; and were only surpris'd at the want of a chapel.

General Monk's picture frequently occurs ; as well as several of that beautiful concubine, the Duchess of Cleveland.

THE HON. JOHN BYNG (1743-1813), Viscount Torrington for the last two weeks of his life, had two careers : he was in the army till 1780, when he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel ; whereupon he went into the Inland Revenue Office.

## 1796

A large Irregular Place, dirty, badly Paved with Pebbles, the Streets Narrow and not one on a Level.—The Houses are nearly all, oldfashioned Wooden Buildings, a few only excepted that stand round S' Michaels Church Yard—There are but three Parish Churches in this City, S' Johns, Holy Trinity & S' Michaels the last of which is the largest and handsomest, consisting of four Aisles and has a Capital Organ—Over the Altar Piece is a Beautifull Painting in Oil, of Christ taken down from the Cross finely decorated on each side with Elegant Marble Columns. Near the East Entrance, is a Desk and various Old Books of Divinity chained thereto for Public Inspection—At the West End of the Church, stands the Spire, an old but finely ornamented Building and is 312 feet from the Base to the Top of the Cross... About 100 Yards NW stands also Trinity Church, the outer Building and Part of the Inside has been modernized within these few Years... Near S' Michaels stands the Town Hall—called S' Marys Hall The Chief Room therein being the Public Chamber where the Lord Mayor (an error : he was simply the Mayor till 1953), Corporation & . . Dine at the Annual Festival of Lady Godivas Public Ride. this Chamber is 75 Feet long . . four of the Windows contain some beautifull figures & Devices in stained Glass, at the Bottom of the Chamber, hangs a Fine Piece of Tapestry under a Green Baize Curtain . . representing King Henry with his Queen & Attendants as large as Life . . & over the Center the Emblem of Justice . . this Piece of Work was done to Commemorate their Majesties dining in this Hall with the Lord Mayor & City Officers There are several Pictures of Kings and Queens on a very large Scale One of which is his Present Majesty in oil Colour executed in an Elegant and Splendid Manner about 3 Years since, and made a Present to the Corporation by Lord Erdley—Here hangs the Armour, Spears & . . used in the Annual Procession—I forgot to mention a Picture over the Stair Case as you enter the Chamber of Lady Godiva on Horseback, and 3 Pictures in Oil, 3 feet by 2½ of Sir Thomas White, Norton & Jesson, and on each side the Chamber are Inscriptions in Old English Verse relative to the before mentioned Story & the Charter

of Coventry, but owing to their being much defaced, was not able to take a Copy of them. .

As you go up High Street on the Left hand, a few Doors from the Bank You see the Effigy of a Man in Wood looking out at a Window up the Town—called Peeping Tom.—The story relative to him being so generally known I shall forbear mentioning any thing more about him—only remarking that he is removing from the Corner where he originally stood, it being the Bank. . The City Pays a Sum annually for Toms house Room and fresh Painting - - . . a few years ago the Premium for a Frail Fair to ride in Publick was 5 Guineas— and now it is no more than half a Guinea & a New Pair of Stays - -

Q<sup>n</sup> how is the fall of this Commodity such a Contrast to the General Scarcity and Dearness of the Times.—

At the Entrance of the Town from the London Road on the right hand side, is the Remains of an Ancient Building called White-Friars, it stands in the Center of about 6 Acres of enclosed Ground, now converted into Gardens, but formerly the Residence of a Fraternity of Carmelite Friars - - - Part of the Walls and Back Entrance through an Arched Gate Way is still standing and the Body of the Building consisting of a small Square together with some Part of the Wings as much as is Tenantable is now the Residence of about 20 Poor Families The Cloysters are still entire, next the enclosed Parterre and are about 40 yards long . . . . at the End of the Left Wing is a Place enclosed by a Wall on 3 sides to ward the Entrance of the front Garden from which you descend by a Flight of Steps to a Passage but now filled up with Rubbish, which is said to go under Ground as far as Killingworth distant 4 Miles and Continues from thence to Warwick - - We generally find that all Abbeyes, & Monasterys has some secret Communications, the better wherewith to carry on their Scenes of Revelry & Priestcraft, unknown to the then ignorant Multitude - - - when first this Building was Partly destroyed and the friars drove from the Country . . this Ground was Confiscated & sold by the Crown so that it became Private Property, and now belongs to Parson Smith of Northampton In going down Misford Street (Much Park St.) at the End of an old White House which jets out into the Road, you will see a Remarkable large Blade Bone of a Wild Boar nailed up, it being above 2 feet & a half across - - At the farther end of the Town is a Place now called Swan-Hill formerly Swines Hill where is a large Pool of Water called Swines Pool.- When this abovementioned Wild Boar, used to frequent the Neighbouring Woods, it is said he threw up the above Hill and thereby formed the Pool in one Night- It is very remarkable that Populous as this City is, you will observe 10 Women to 1 Man — The Chief Manufactories here are for Ribbons Weaving and the New Invented Engines they now use

throw 30 different Shuttles at once thereby forming the same Quantity of Ribbons in the time they formerly took to make a single one, and requires only one Man to attend it. . . . Preparing the reels, Bobins, Shuttles, & . . is all done by Women & Girls — Coventry has little other Trade of any Consequence.

ANONYMOUS.

1855

Coventry is some nine or ten miles from Leamington. The approach to it, from the railway, presents nothing very striking—a few church-towers and one or two tall steeples ; and the houses that first present themselves are of modern and unnoticeable aspect. Getting into the interior of the town, however, you find the streets very crooked, and some of them very narrow. I saw one place where it seemed possible to shake hands from one jutting-storied old house to another. There are whole streets of the same kind of houses (one story impending over another) that used to be familiar to me in Salem, and in some streets of Boston. In fact, the whole aspect of the town, its irregularity and continual indirectness, reminded me very much of Boston, as I used to see it in rare visits thither, when a child. These Coventry houses, however, many of them, are much larger than any of similar style that I have seen elsewhere, and spread into greater bulk as they ascend, by means of one other jutting story. Probably the New Englanders continued to follow this fashion of architecture after it had been abandoned in the mother-country. The old house built by Philip English, in Salem, dated not much earlier or later than 1692 ; and it was in this style, many gabled, and impending. Here, the edifices of such architecture seem to be Elizabethan, and earlier. A woman in Stratford told us that the rooms, very low on the ground floor, grow loftier from story to story, to the attic. The fashion of windows in Coventry is such as I have not hitherto seen. In the highest story, a window, of the ordinary height, extends along the whole breadth of the house—ten, fifteen, perhaps twenty feet—just like any other window of a common-place house, except for this inordinate width. One does not easily see what the inhabitants want of so much window-light ; but the fashion is very general, and in modern houses, or houses that have been modernized, this style of window is retained. Thus young people, who grow up amidst old people, contract quaint and old fashioned manners and aspects.

I imagine that these ancient towns—such as Chester, and Stratford, and Warwick and Coventry—contain even a great deal more antiquity than meets the eye. You see many modern fronts ; but if you peep or penetrate inside, you see an antique arrangement, old rafters, intricate passages, ancient staircases,

which have put on merely a new outside, and are likely still to prove good for the usual date of a new house. They put such an immense and stalwart ponderosity into their old frame-work, that I suppose a house of Elizabeth's time if renewed has at least an equal prospect of durability with a house new in every part. All the hotels in Coventry, so far as I noticed them, are old houses with new fronts ; and they have an arch-way for the admission of vehicles &c into the courtyard, and doors, admitting into the rooms of the hotel, on each side of the arch. You see maids and waiters darting across the arched passage, from door to door, and it requires (in my case, at least) a guide to show you the way to bar or coffee-room. I have never been up-stairs, in any of them, but can conceive of infinite bewilderment of zig-zag passages, between staircase and chamber...

In the course of the forenoon, poking about everywhere in quest of Gothic architecture, we found our way, I hardly know how, into St Mary's Hall...

I have forgotten all particulars about the exterior of the edifice, except that it looked exceeding venerable, and that I peeped into the basement (now used as a coal-cellar) and admired the massive stone arches, intersecting each other in all sorts of ways, on which the building rests. We passed up a black staircase, with an oaken balustrade, and entered the Great Hall, which is more than sixty feet long, and about half as wide, and, I should think, much more than half as high, from the floor to the angle of the roof. It has the original oaken roof, in shape like the roof of a barn, with all the beams and rafters visible ; but carved, as the roof of barn never was nor will be, in beautiful style, with Gothic angels, and presenting, no doubt, the old artists's idea of the sky. The whole space of the hall is unimpeded by a single column, and the roof supports itself with its proper strength. There were rows of benches (which I wished were away) on the floor of the room ; and one side (on an elevated dais, if I mistake not) was an ancient Chair of State, looking very much like one of those old black settles which I have seen in America, and which are placed before the fire-place with the high back to the door, to keep off the wind. It was not so large as those to be sure, but would afford rather scanty accommodations for three persons ; and is very straight, angular, and rigid in its make. Julian and I sat down in it, and did not know, till I read it in the Guide-Book, that English Kings and Queens (now heaps of dust for ages past) had sat there before us. I presume it was the old principle to manufacture chairs of state so that they should be as irksome and uncomfortable, physically, as they appear to be morally.

The great hall had an aged darkness diffused over its wood-work, and would have looked somewhat bare and lacking in adornment, but for a very large and magnificent arched-window at the

northern end, full of old painted glass. It is in nine compartments, and represents the figures and coat-armories of many English monarchs. This window is very rich, and would be glorious no doubt, with the sun shining through it. There are also windows of modern stained glass, which I did not much notice. Another ornament (or what must once have been so) is a piece of ancient tapestry, ten feet high, beneath the great painted window, and extending across the whole breadth of the hall. In it are wrought King Henry Sixth (an error : it is Henry VII) and his nobles, performing religious exercises, and above are saints, angels, and apostles, and Heaven itself ; and the Deity was once there in person, but was long since taken out, and a figure of Justice sewed into the beatific vacuity... The whole is now so faded that the design is not readily discernible ; the whole, in the sombre light of the hall, appearing almost of one neutral tint ; but when the whole hall was covered with such rare tapestry, and all was glowing in its pristine freshness of color, and when the carving of the vaulted roof had not been so obscured by the darkening of the wood, it must have been such a chamber of state and festivity as modern times cannot show...

Having lunched, we again wandered about town, and entered a quadrangle of gabled houses, with a church, and its churchyard on one side. This proved to be St. John's Church, and a part of the houses were the locality of Bond's Hospital, for the reception of ten poor men, and the remainder was devoted to the Bablake School. Into this latter I peered, with a real American intrusiveness, which I never found in myself before, but which I must now assume, or miss a great many things which I am anxious to see. Running along the front of the house, under the jut of the impending story, there was a cloistered walk, with windows opening on the quadrangle. An arched oaken door, with long iron hinges, admitted us into a school-room about twenty feet square, paved with brick tiles, blue and red. Adjoining this there is a larger school-room which we did not enter, but peeped at, through one of the inner windows, from the cloistered walk. In the room which we entered, there were seven scholars' desks, and an immense arched fireplace, with seats on each side, under the chimney, on a stone slab resting on a brick pedestal. The opening of the fireplace was at least twelve feet in width. On one side of the room were pegs for fifty-two boys' hats and clothes, and there was a boy's coat, of peculiar cut, hanging on a peg, with the number "50" in brass upon it. The coat looked ragged and shabby. An old school-book was lying on one of the desks, much tattered, and without a title ; but it seemed to treat wholly of Saints' days and festivals of the Church. A flight of stairs, with a heavy balustrade of carved oak, ascended to a gallery, about eight or nine feet from the floor, which runs two sides of the room, looking down upon it.

The room is without a ceiling, and rises into a peaked gable, about twenty feet high. There is a large clock on one side of the room, which is lighted by two windows, each about ten feet wide, one in the gallery, and the other beneath it. There were two benches, or settles with backs (on the plan of the Chair of State, only smaller and plainer) one on each side of the fire-place... We saw some of the boys playing in the quadrangle, dressed in long blue coats or gowns, with cloth caps on their heads. I know not how the atmosphere of antiquity, and massive continuance from age to age, which was the charm to me in this scene of a charity school-room, can be thrown over it in the description. After noting down these matters, I peeped into the quiet precincts of Bond's hospital, which, no doubt, was more than equally interesting; but the old men were lounging about, or lolling at length, looking very quiet and drowsy, and I had not the heart or the face to intrude among them. There is something altogether strange to an American in these charitable institutions—in the preservation of antique modes and customs which is effected by them; insomuch that, doubtless without at all intending it, the founders have succeeded in preserving a kind of model of their own long past age, down into the midst of ours, and how much later nobody can tell.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (1804-1864), short-story writer and novelist, came of an old Massachusetts family. His extensive travels in England were undertaken between 1853 and 1856, while he was American consul for Liverpool.

### 1857

We saw nothing else particularly worthy of remark, except Ford's Hospital, in Grey Friars' street. It has an Elizabethan front of timber and plaster, fronting on the street with two or three peaked gables in a row, beneath which is a low arched entrance, giving admission into a small paved quadrangle, open to the sky above, but surrounded by the walls, lozenge-paned windows, and gables, of the Hospital. The quadrangle is but a few paces in width, and perhaps twenty in length; and through a half-closed doorway, at the farther end, there was a glimpse into a garden. Just within the entrance, through an open door, we saw the neat and comfortable apartment of the Matron of the Hospital; and along the quadrangle, on each side, there were three or four doors, through which we caught glimpses of little rooms, each containing a fireplace, a bed, a chair or two, and a little homely, domestic scene, with one old woman in the midst of it; one old woman in each room. They are destitute widows, who have their lodging and home here — a little room for every one to sleep, cook, and be at home in — and three and sixpence a week to feed and clothe themselves with; a cloak being the only garment bestowed on them. When one of the

sisterhood dies, each old woman has to pay two-pence towards the funeral; and so they slowly starve and wither out of life, and claim each their two-penny contribution in turn. I am afraid they have a very dismal time. There is an old man's Hospital, in another part of the town, on a similar plan. A collection of sombre and lifelike tales might be written on the idea of giving the experience of these Hospitallers, male and female; and they might be supposed to be written down by the Matron of one—who might have acquired literary taste and practice as a Governess—and the Master of the other, a retired school-usher.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

### 1868

The manufactures which most distinguish Coventry are ribbon weaving, and watch and clock making. It is perhaps more especially known for the first, than for any other business. Still, the manufacture of ribbons is comparatively of recent introduction, dating back only to 1730. This trade was well protected with the wet blanket of duties on foreign competition until 1861, when these were removed, and the ribbon makers of Coventry were brought face to face and foot to foot, on the same level, with French and other continental rivals, whose genius and ability for cheap and artistic production had been developed to superior capacity by the very pressure of necessity put upon them by the protective policy of other countries. When plants grown under glass are deprived of their artificial air and roofage and turned "out in the cold," they get at first a chill, and, for awhile, are unable to compete with plants of the same genus that have been acclimated to the open sky, dew and rain of nature. It was natural and inevitable that the ribbon trade of Coventry, when thus unroofed and turned out of the conservatory of protection, should experience a chill and check in its growth for awhile, though in the end it may become more hardy and prosperous than ever from this very exposure to the out-door climate of the world's competition and commerce...

The next in the rank of the industries of Coventry is watch-making. The proportion between them may be put in figures. In ordinary times ribbons give employment to about 10,000 hands, watches, to 2,000; but of this number there are not included 100 females; whilst in the ribbon trade the women outnumber the men by two to one. Coventry once unfortunately had virtually but one string to its bow, and suffered often and deeply in consequence. But not only has the watch trade been added or expanded to a large business, but several other manufactures have been recently introduced, such as cotton frilling, bead-goods, and various kinds of trimming. We have already noticed some specimens of orna-



mental iron-work in Lichfield Cathedral produced here. Thus Coventry is in a fair way to provide itself with all those diversified strings of industry which are so necessary to the steady well-being and progress of a manufacturing town.

But Coventry seen from the railway presents as conspicuous individuality in its physical aspect, as it does from the high road of history as a municipal community. When I first caught a glimpse of it, at a few miles distance, a sudden simile came to my thoughts which did it great injustice, and gave my mind some compunction for admitting it for a moment. Lo, suggested the fancy, a fallen town still trying to cling to heaven with its three fingers! Would it not be fairer to say, responded a better thought, a Christian town trying to climb to heaven by its three fingers? Indeed, no city in England that the eye can cover, as sharpshooters say, at a glance, shows to the traveller three such church spires as tower up over Coventry. And these spires play off remarkable evolutions before his eyes as he approaches or leaves the town on the railway. At a certain distance one advances to the front and forms the apex sentinel of an equilateral triangle. When it has reconnoitred your position for a few minutes, it falls back into the centre of the line of spires, all drawn up in the order of review. Then they change

fronts, wheel, advance, and retreat as you change your point of view; so that you have a stately steeple-chase enacted before you, and you feel constrained to stop and study the principles of these tactics, and the parties that perform them...

I visited Coventry twice during the Exhibition of the Arts and Industries of the city in 1867, and saw all their silk-weaving machinery in busy occupation in a large hall, well ornamented with other productions of ingenious handicraft. It was a unique and interesting sight; for these machines were not in miniature or small working models, to show how ribbons were made, but they were the very machines of the factory brought out and put in operation day after day, turning out fabrics for the general market as well as for curiosities. Here you saw at a glance, and in striking illustration, the long line of progression in the trade, or the improved methods introduced under the pressure of that very competition which the early manufacturers and their operatives so much deprecated. It was exceedingly interesting to see the silken threads of every shade and tint painting portraits of distinguished men, and the churches, towers, and spires of the city. This Exhibition was eminently successful in every way, attracting visitors by special trains from considerable distances, and yielding a surplus of several thousand pounds sterling over and above the expenses involved.

Few cities in England, in a word, will present to the visiter so many features of interest as Coventry. It has played its part conspicuously in the history, literature, and industry of the kingdom, and it contains several of the most impressive monuments of the architecture of the fifteenth and fourteenth centuries. The romantic lore of legends and poetical fictions has illuminated its actual history, and made it stand out with attractive features of interest.

ELIHU BURRITT (1810-1879), another American, was an ardent linguist, traveller and reformer, and devoted most of his energy to campaigning for universal peace. His appointment as consular agent at Birmingham in 1863 enabled him to explore England.

## APPENDIX

The sources of the extracts quoted are as follows :

- c.1540 Lucy Toulmin Smith (ed.), *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the Years 1535-1543* (1907) part V p.106.
- 1586 William Camden, *Britain . . . translated newly into English by Philemon Holland* (1610) p.567.
- 1634 L. G. Wickham Legg (ed.), *A Relation of a Short Survey of 26 Counties Observed in a seven weeks' Journey begun on August 11, 1634 by a Captain, a Lieutenant and an Ancient all three of the Military Company in Norwich* (1904) p.68.
- 1662 Simon Wilkin (ed.), *Sir Thomas Browne's Works including his life and correspondence* (1836) vol. I p.40.
- 1690 Richard Caulfield (ed.), *Journal of the Very Reverend Rowland Davies, LL. D. Dean of Ross . . .* (1867) p.104.
- 1697 Christopher Morris (ed.), *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes* (1947) p.112.
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- 1769 *England Displayed, Being a New, Complete, and Accurate Survey . . . By a Society of Gentlemen . . . The Particulars respecting ENGLAND revised, corrected, and improved, By P. Russell, Esq., . . .* (1769) vol. II p.13.
- 1772 William Gilpin, *Observations on Several parts of England . . . relative chiefly to Picturesque Beauty made in the year 1772* (3rd ed. 1808) vol. I p.55.
- 1778 *Sketch of a Tour into Derbyshire and Yorkshire including part of Buckingham, Warwick, Leicester, Nottingham, Northampton, Bedford, and Hertford—shires . . .* (1778) p.37.
- 1782 Thomas Pennant, *The Journey from Chester to London* (1782) p.144.
- 1789 C. Bruyn Andrews (ed.), *The Torrington Diaries* (1934) vol. II p.110.
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- 1855 Randall Stewart (ed.), *The English Notebooks by Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1941) p.136.
- 1857 *ibid.* p.579.
- 1868 Elihu Burritt, *Walks in the Black Country and its Green Borderland* (1868) p.391.

The sources of the illustrations are as follows :

Cover Manchester Public Libraries ms. 942.J42 p.23.

The Prospect of Coventre from Warwick roade  
William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire* (1656)  
between pp. 86 and 87.

View of Coventry from Railway Station  
Coventry & Warwickshire collection of Coventry City Libraries  
JN 385. 32 '18'.



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