

The Morning Chronicle's
LABOUR AND THE POOR

VOLUME IX

BIRMINGHAM

CHARLES MACKAY

Edited By
Rebecca Watts & Kevin Booth

Ditto Books
www.dittobooks.co.uk

First Published by Ditto Books 2020

© Ditto Books 2020

All rights reserved

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-913515-09-6 (hardback)

ISBN 978-1-913515-19-5 (paperback)

Cover Image:

Birmingham from the South

Engraved by W. Harvey

Image courtesy of The Birmingham Museums Trust

“We place our feet in winter upon a Birmingham fender, and stir a Birmingham grate with a Birmingham poker. We ring for our servants with a Birmingham bell, and we write our letters of business and affection with Birmingham steel pens. Birmingham supplies our tables with spoons and forks, though not with knives, and our bed and window curtains with rods, rings, and ornaments. We cannot dress or undress, whether we be men or women, without being beholden to the aid afforded us by Birmingham.”

Contents

List of Illustrations	iii
Preface	v
Introduction	vi
Letter I.	1
Parochial and Moral Statistics.	
Letter II.	17
Sanitary Condition.	
Letter III.	35
The Metal, Florentine, and Horn Button Manufacture.	
Letter IV.	52
The Pearl and Fancy Button and Stud Manufacture.	
Letter V.	68
The Manufacture of Fire-Arms.	
Letter VI.	85
The Manufacture of Fire-Arms.	
Letter VII.	102
The Condition of Factory Women and their Families.	
Letter VIII.	123
The Employment and Education of Children.	
Letter IX.	140
The Manufacture of Steel-Pens.	

Letter X.	151
Glass-Makers and Workers in Glass.	
Letter XI.	167
The Manufacture of Swords, Matchetts, and Bayonets.	
Letter XII.	179
Workers in Brass.	
Letter XIII.	196
Workers in Brass (concluded).	
Letter XIV.	210
Heavy Steel Toys.	
Letter XV.	228
Light Steel Toys.	
Letter XVI.	246
Tin-Plate, Japan, and Britannia Metal Workers.	
Letter XVII.	266
Die-Sinkers, Medallists, Coiners, &c.	
Letter XVIII.	279
Gilders, Platers, and Electro-Platers.	
Letter XIX.	292
Industrial and Ragged Schools.	
Letter XX.	303
Amusements of the People.	
Letter XXI.	324
Clubs of Working Men and their Families.	
Index	338

List of Illustrations

- Map of Birmingham and the Surrounding District** **viii**
From “Gill’s Imperial Geography”
George Gill
Published 1886
Courtesy of The British Library
- Birmingham’s Courts** **24**
Illustrated Weekly Newspaper
December 16th 1876
Courtesy of The Birmingham Museums Trust
- Interior of Gillott’s Pen Manufactory** **144**
From “The Working Man Vol I. No. 26”
Published 1866
Courtesy of The Internet Archive
- The Manufacture of Glass** **154**
From “The Working Man Vol I. No. 3”
Published 1866
Courtesy of The Internet Archive
- Birmingham Town Hall & Statue of Sir Robert Peel** . . . **218**
From “Staffordshire and Warwickshire, Past and Present”
John Alfred Langford
Published 1884
Courtesy of The British Library
- Tilting Steel** **226**
From “The Useful Arts and Manufactures of Great Britain”
Charles Tomlinson
Published 1861
Courtesy of The Internet Archive

The Bull Ring & Nelson Statue	309
Thomas Allom	
1845	
Courtesy of The Birmingham Museums Trust	
Vauxhall Gardens, Saltley	319
J. L. Pedley	
1850	
Courtesy of The Birmingham Museums Trust	

Preface

This work attempts to be a faithful reproduction of the “Labour and the Poor” letters as printed in *The Morning Chronicle*. Only obvious typographical errors and omissions have been corrected. Variations in the spelling and hyphenation of words have largely been retained. We hope any such inconsistencies prove to be of some historical interest to the reader.

As much as possible we have tried to recreate the original layout and styling of the text and all factual tables have been reproduced as closely to the originals as possible with only minimal alterations made where necessary to improve readability.

Not all letters were titled. Where missing we have added titles to the Table of Contents to assist navigation and explanation of content. The letters themselves are as per the originals.

A handful of illustrations have been added to each volume. These did not appear in the original text but hopefully provide added interest.

R. W.
K. B.



Introduction

In 1849 a leading London-based newspaper, *The Morning Chronicle*, undertook an investigation into the working and living conditions of the poor throughout England and Wales in the hope that their findings might lead to much needed change.

The reputed catalyst for their “Labour and the Poor” series was an article written by Henry Mayhew recording a journey into Bermondsey, one of the most deprived districts of London, which was printed in September 1849. Following this it was proposed that an in-depth investigation be carried out and “Special Correspondents”, the investigators, were selected and distributed around the country. The first article or “Letter” appeared on the 18th of October 1849 and the series would run for almost 2 years and 222 letters.

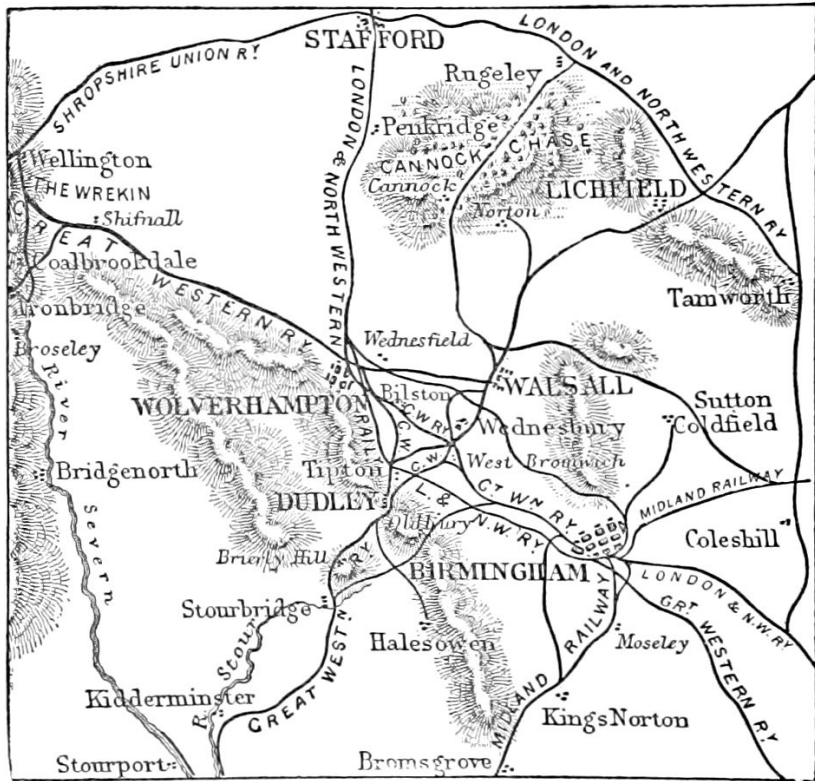
The well-known and respected writers and journalists recruited for the task included Henry Mayhew who was assigned to the Metropolitan districts, Angus Bethune Reach to the Manufacturing districts, Alexander Mackay and Shirley Brooks to the Rural districts and Charles Mackay to investigate the cities of Birmingham and Liverpool. The author of the letters from Wales is as yet unknown.

The “Labour and the Poor” letters were extremely popular at the time, being widely read throughout the nation and even abroad. The revelations in them caused quite a stir amongst the middle and upper classes of Victorian society. *Letters to the Editor* poured in with donations for specific cases of distress that appeared in the letters and also for the general alleviation of the suffering of the poor. A special fund was set up by *The Morning Chronicle* to collect and distribute these donations.

These *Letters to the Editor* have been included in this series, predominantly in the Metropolitan district volumes whose letters elicited the majority of responses. They provide a unique window into the thoughts and sentiments of the Victorian readership as they react to the incredible accounts of misery and desperation being unveiled.

The Morning Chronicle's extraordinary and unsurpassed "Labour and the Poor" investigation provides an unparalleled insight into the people of the period, their living and working conditions, their feelings, their language, their sufferings and their struggles for survival amidst the poverty and destitution of 19th century Britain. An investigation of such magnitude had never before been attempted and the undertaking was truly of epic proportions. Its impact at the time was profound. Its historical importance today is without question.





Map of Birmingham and the Surrounding District

LABOUR AND THE POOR.



BIRMINGHAM.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

PAROCHIAL AND MORAL STATISTICS.

LETTER I.

Birmingham was called by Burke, more than half a century ago, the “toy-shop of the world.” By this phrase the orator intended to express both the flimsiness and elegance of the various manufactures of the town, and the extensiveness of the markets which it supplied. It is not easily ascertainable whether among the men of Birmingham at this time the word “toy” had the meaning which it now conveys; but if the stranger at Birmingham inquires at the present day whether it manufactures “toys,” and what description of toys it most excels in, he will be furnished with a list of articles which will somewhat surprise him, if he attach to the word its usual meaning. The “toys” of Birmingham are divisible into three great classes—heavy steel toys, light steel toys, and toys in general. The first includes articles by no means intended to be played with, such as the tools used in the trades of the carpenter, the cabinet-maker, the upholsterer, the machinist, the farrier, the shoemaker, and scores of other trades. Hammers, pincers, adzes, compasses, choppers, awls, nut-cracks, toasting-forks, turn-screws, saws, spades, and edge-tools of every description, form but a fraction of the immense variety of articles that are classed under this head by Birmingham manufacturers. The light steel toys include clasps, buckles, brooches, tassels, beads, chatelaines and a whole host of articles made of steel, for the adornment of the house or the person; while the general toy manufacture includes metal, pearl, horn, glass, and florentine buttons in all their countless varieties, and a perfect maze of knick-knacks and gilt or plated trifles, which it would take a whole advertising sheet to make a catalogue of. Birmingham, in this sense, still remains the toy-shop, or rather the work-shop, of the world; and supplies Europe, Asia, Africa, America, Polynesia, and Australia, not alone with trifles, but with an immense variety of

necessary articles. There is scarcely a house in Europe or America that is not indebted for some portion of its luxury or its comfort to the enterprise and ingenuity of the men of Birmingham. We place our feet in winter upon a Birmingham fender, and stir a Birmingham grate with a Birmingham poker. We ring for our servants with a Birmingham bell, and we write our letters of business and affection with Birmingham steel pens. Birmingham supplies our tables with spoons and forks, though not with knives, and our bed and window curtains with rods, rings, and ornaments. We cannot dress or undress, whether we be men or women, without being beholden to the aid afforded us by Birmingham. It is that town which supplies half the globe with buttons for male costume, and with hooks and eyes for the costume of ladies. Pins and needles and thimbles principally come from Birmingham; and we never sit upon a chair or table, or lie upon a bed, or tread upon a floor without deriving advantage from the industry of the metal-workers of that town and neighbourhood; for Birmingham supplies England, Scotland, and Ireland, and many parts of the European and American continents with nails, tacks, and screws. Not only in life, but in death, we have recourse to Birmingham. There is scarcely a coffin that is laid in the lap of earth within the limits of Great Britain that is not held together by the nails, and ornamented with the plates and handles and other funereal gewgaws of Birmingham. The Australian ploughs his fields with a Birmingham ploughshare, shoes his horses with Birmingham shoes, and hangs a Birmingham bell around the necks of his cattle, that they may not stray too far from home on the hills or the rich pasture lands of that country. The savage in Africa exchanges his gold dust, his ivory, and his spices for Birmingham muskets. The boor of the Cape shoots elephants with a gun expressly made for his purpose by the Birmingham manufacturers. The army, the navy, and the East India Company's service draw from Birmingham their principal supplies of the weapons of destruction—the sword, the pistol, and the musket. The rifleman of the backwoods of Canada and the Hudson's Bay territories would be deprived for awhile of the means of trade or sport, if Birmingham should cease its fabrication of gun barrels and locks; and all the tribe of sportsmen, whether they frequent the jungle, the moor, the mountain or the lake, carry on their recreation by the aid of Birmingham. Even the far distant men of California are obliged, in default of policemen, to defend their treasures by Birmingham guns, dirks, and daggers. The negroes of the West Indies, and the slaves

of Cuba, cut down the sugar cane with Birmingham matchetts; and grass is mowed, and corn is reaped, in England and the Antipodes, by scythes and sickles of its manufacture. In large and small articles it is equally industrious and equally successful; it turns into the world millions of buttons, and millions of pins, pens, nails, screws, hooks and eyes per day, and even per hour—and administers to a greater extent than any other town in the world, to the comforts, the conveniences, the necessities, and the luxuries of civilized life. The town is *par excellence* the town of metal, and fully nine-tenths of its population depend for their subsistence on the various manufactures which it carries on in iron, steel, zinc, brass, copper, gold, silver, electro-plate, and the substantial as well as the showy goods which it daily turns out in all these materials.

But, before entering into any account of these manufactures, and their countless and minute divisions and subdivisions—and before describing the social and moral aspect of a place which is one of the most peculiar and remarkable in England, a few words of introduction, devoted to the consideration of its past and present state as a parish and a borough, will be necessary.

The first view of this remarkable town, especially if seen from the place where the tickets are collected on the railway, is not prepossessing. To the casual glance from that distance it appears to be built upon a plain—to be composed of mean, dingy, dirty brick houses—and to be enveloped in dense clouds of smoke, which are poured forth from no less than four hundred tall chimneys. Neither domes, spires, nor towers are to be seen amid the mass of building—nothing but red brick houses, and perpendicular columns polluting the atmosphere with smoke. But Birmingham improves on a closer inspection. When the eye has once become accustomed to its climate, and the feet have made acquaintance with its streets, it is found to be built not upon a plain, but on a number of hills and hollows, and to possess some wide and handsome streets, and two or three fine public buildings and churches. It stands on an elevated site, in a dry and healthy part of Warwickshire, and occupies as nearly as possible the centre of England.

It has been said that the damp atmosphere of Lancashire is highly advantageous to its peculiar industry—the spinning of cotton—and that the dry atmosphere of Warwickshire is equally favourable to the profitable production of iron, steel, and plated goods. Birmingham is considered a healthy town; and it is remarkable that in the great

years of the cholera, 1832 and 1849, when other parts of the country suffered so severely, Birmingham was almost, if not wholly, exempt from the visitation.

The name of Birmingham is probably derived from Broomwich, or Bromwich, with the addition of the Saxon word "ham" or home. A great number of places in the immediate neighbourhood derive their names from a similar source, among others Castle Bromwich, Little Bromwich, West Bromwich, Bromsgrove, Bromley, Broomhill, &c. The common pronunciation of *Brummagem*, which the "schoolmaster" has in vain endeavoured to supersede, would seem to prove that tradition is more correct than learned authority in this and other instances; and the great "schoolmaster" himself obstinately persists in giving the word the popular and vulgar, but possibly correct, pronunciation. "Brummagem ware" was long the designation of all goods that were showy but not substantial, and has been applied to every description of article that Mr. Carlyle would more emphatically pronounce to be a "sham." A showy but inferior actor has been called a "Brummagem Garrick"—and an over-rated dramatist a "Brummagem Shakspeare." The character of Birmingham in this respect has improved of late years, and its manufactures now compete not alone in cheapness and in outward appearance, but in intrinsic excellence, with those of all possible rivals, either at home or abroad.

Mr. Hutton, the only historian that Birmingham ever produced, and an exceedingly bad specimen of the article, claims for the town and its industry an antiquity nearly two thousand years prior to the Christian era. He appears to think that if the ancient Britons drove chariots, and carried shields and breastplates, and were skilful in the use of the scythe, the spear, and the javelin, Birmingham must have forged the iron and steel for them. The first authentic information connected with the manufactories of Birmingham occurs in the pages of Leland, who describes it as it existed in the reign of Henry VIII. He says: "I came through as pretty a street as ever I entered into Birmingham town. This street, I remember, is called 'Dirtey' (meaning Deritend). There be many smiths in the town that use to make knives and all manner of cutting tools, and many lorimers that make bittes, and a great many naylor's." It is not known when the button manufacture, now carried on to so large an extent, was introduced into the town, and Birmingham was not greatly celebrated, even for another of its great staple articles—guns—till the commencement of

the eighteenth century; but its antiquity as the great mart for edge tools, or heavy steel toys, is in all probability such as to justify the historian in considering it the oldest manufacturing town in Great Britain.

The borough of Birmingham includes the ancient town and parish, and the adjoining parishes of Edgbaston and Aston; the last mentioned including the hamlets or townships of Deritend and Bordesley, and Duddeston-cum-Nechells. Its total area is 8,780 acres. Its extreme length is five and three-quarter miles, its average breadth three miles, and its circumference nearly twenty-one miles. It is estimated to contain about 100 miles of streets and 40 miles of suburban road. The town of Birmingham, properly so called, scarcely occupies more than a third of this superficies. The population of the town was found by the census of 1841 to be 138,210, and of the borough, 182,922. Of this number 4,673 were stated to be Irish.

The growth of this town has been rapid, though not to be compared to the growth of Liverpool, Manchester, or Glasgow, for it was a noted town before either of these three was ever heard of. In the days of Henry VIII., when Leland first mentioned it, no account of the number of its inhabitants has been preserved. About a century after this time (A.D. 1650), if we are to believe the guesses of Hutton, the population of Birmingham was 5,471. Fifty years afterwards, according to the same authority, its population had nearly trebled itself, amounting in 1700 to 15,032. In 1741 its population was 26,660; in the next forty years it nearly doubled itself, amounting, in 1781, to 50,295. In 1791 its population was 73,653; and in 1818 it amounted to upwards of 90,000. The present population of the town is not accurately known, but it is estimated on sufficient authority to be about 190,000 for the town, and 230,000 for the borough. Of these numbers at least 50,000 are supposed to be of the poorest class, inhabiting about 2,000 close, ill-built, ill-drained, and unwholesome courts, for which Birmingham is as notorious even as Liverpool.

The borough is divided into 13 wards, including 10 wards in the parish and town of Birmingham proper; and although incorporated by Royal Charter under the provisions of the Municipal Reform Act in October, 1838, it has the great disadvantage, for all sanitary and general purposes, of being governed by various independent and sometimes conflicting boards. The number of these jurisdictions appears to be eight. There are first the Birmingham Commissioners, acting under the 9th George IV., cap. 94, for paving, lighting,

watching, cleansing, and otherwise improving the town, and for regulating the police and markets; second, the Deritend and Bordesley Commissioners; third, the Duddeston and Nechells Commissioners, performing similar duties in those two townships, which now form part of the borough; fourth, the Poor-law Guardians; fifth, the Municipal Corporation; and sixth, seventh, and eighth, the Surveyors of Highways for Deritend, Bordesley, and Edgbaston.

The borough of Birmingham possesses no property, and has no funds for general or sanitary purposes, except such as it can borrow on the security of the rates. As I shall have occasion to enter upon this subject in another letter, in connection with the sanitary state of the town, I shall confine myself in the present letter to Birmingham as a parish. In this respect it is governed by a local act, and appears to be less afflicted with the plague of pauperism than any town in England or Scotland of similar wealth and magnitude. Irish paupers, that are so constant a source of expense and annoyance elsewhere, do not trouble Birmingham to any great extent. There is no demand within its boundaries, as there is in the Liverpool Docks, and in the agricultural districts, for unskilled labour, and for the services of men who only require health and a pair of hands to become useful. In Birmingham a labourer must be skilled to have the slightest chance of obtaining a livelihood. Accordingly it is the mechanic, not the mere labouring man, that is in request, and the horde of Irish vagrants keep aloof. The few Irish who reside in the town are chiefly "navvies," bricklayers' labourers, and dealers in cat and rabbit skins. Even in the dreadful times of 1846 and 1847, when upwards of 600,000 Irish paupers landed in Liverpool, very few made their way to Birmingham; and it appears from a return made by the assistant overseer, charged with removals, that for a period of nine months, from June, 1847, to March, 1848, when the Irish immigration pressed with its most intolerable weight upon the sea-board towns, Birmingham was only put to the expense of about £205 for the removal of Irish paupers. Their numbers were 85 men, 98 women, and 92 children; in all 275 persons. This, of itself, is a remarkable fact, and would seem to show that the immigrating Irish upon that occasion were not without a knowledge of the places upon which it was most advisable for them to fasten themselves. The total pauperism of Birmingham in the melancholy year 1847, cannot be stated with any precision, in consequence of the confusion in the parish books, caused by various changes of system, both in pauper management and in the mode of keeping the accounts;

but subsequently, from the half-year ending Lady-day, 1848, the statistics of pauperism can be more accurately dated. They exhibit a very remarkable decrease in the numbers of the in-door and out-door poor, a result attributable to two causes simultaneously in operation. First, the general revival of trade and manufactures in all their principal branches; and secondly, the application of a stricter test of destitution by the new guardians, who came into office on Lady-day, 1849. A return presented to the House of Commons, to its order, dated the 25th of July last, showed a general decrease of in-door and out-door pauperism throughout most of the counties of England and Wales. There was a slight increase upon some of the agricultural, and a great decrease in nearly all the manufacturing counties. The three counties in which the greatest decrease took place were, the West Riding of York—Leicester—and Warwick. In the West Riding the decrease was 17.3 per cent., compared with the previous year; in Leicester, 17.5 per cent.; and in Warwickshire, 35.8 per cent. These returns included both the aged and impotent and the able-bodied poor. A second return, confined to the adult able-bodied poor, exclusive of vagrants, yielded a similar result generally for England, and particularly for the three counties above cited. The decrease for the West Riding, in this class of pauperism on the year, was 31.5 per cent.; of Leicester, 34.4; and of Warwickshire, 66.8. This decrease in Warwickshire is almost, if not entirely, attributable to the increased activity of trade in the town of Birmingham, and the districts more immediately connected with its peculiar manufactures. The gradual decrease is shown in the following statement of the in-door pauperism of the parish, furnished for this inquiry by the parochial authorities:—

Total in-door pauperism for the half-year ending	
Lady-day, 1848	16,222
Ditto, Michaelmas, 1848	11,741
Ditto, Lady-day, 1849	12,743
Ditto, Michaelmas, 1849	9,226
Ditto, Lady-day, 1850	2,990

The out-door pauperism experienced a similar diminution. Prior to Lady-day, 1850, there were six relief stations in various parts of the town, where the relieving officers attended to receive applications and grant relief. The consequence was, that some of the paupers having been relieved at one station, immediately made application at a second or even third, and were again relieved with money or food. The new

board of guardians devised a remedy for this abuse by appointing a pay clerk with a central station, at the workhouse, and this officer alone administered relief to the various applicants recommended by the relieving officers. By this means, double and treble allowances, dishonestly obtained, became impossible. In the last week of the old system, the number of out-door paupers was 5,453, and the cost of relieving them was £369 5s. 5½d. The first week of the new system showed a diminution of upwards of 400 claimants, the numbers being 5,041, and the cost £342 7s. 5¾d. Before the expiration of the parochial half-year the numbers had decreased to 4,238, and the cost to £288 12s. 8¾d. Amongst this number there was not a single able-bodied male pauper. The great majority were helpless old men and women; many above seventy years of age, with a few able-bodied women, mostly young widows with large families. Among other reforms introduced by the new board of guardians, which led to a diminution in the number of claimants for relief, was the abolition of the out-door labour test. Prior to the month of January, 1850, as many as 280 able-bodied male paupers were employed by the parish in grinding corn at the parish mill, for which labour, pursued every day, they received weekly the sum of 2s. 6d. in money, and loaves according to the number of their families. Another batch of able-bodied male paupers was employed in stone-breaking upon Birmingham-heath, receiving wages in money, and loaves, not according to their work, but according to their real or supposed necessities. It was resolved to put an end to this system, and to grant no relief to able-bodied paupers, unless they consented to enter the workhouse. The result was a diminution of three-fourths of their numbers within the first week. Within three months the whole of them ceased to become burdensome to the parish, and were lost sight of altogether, with the exception of a few who were known to have found profitable employment in the manufactures of the town.

Like most other parishes, Birmingham has a vagrant shed or office, where tramps and houseless persons are relieved with a night's lodging. Prior to the present year, the tramps were relieved, not alone with a lodging, but with a supper of bread and soup, and a breakfast of bread and milk. The nightly allowance for a man was six ounces of bread and a pint of soup, and for his breakfast six ounces of bread and a pint of milk. For a woman, the supper and breakfast were five ounces of bread at each meal, and the same allowance of soup and milk as a man. Children received half the quantity delivered to a

man. While this system lasted the vagrant shed was never short of visitors. The following return for the years 1847, 1848, and 1849 shows the numbers that received this hospitable treatment at the hands of the parochial authorities:—

TRAMPS AND VAGRANTS RELIEVED BY THE PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM WITH FOOD AND LODGING.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Irish.
1847 ...	13,703	3,750	3,806	21,259	7,051
1848 ...	13,674	3,116	1,801	18,591	4,416
1849 ...	8,730	1,975	1,626	12,331	5,002

The gradual diminution in the numbers during these three years was due to the increasing prosperity of trade, and not to any change of system introduced by the parochial authorities. The tramps were occasionally violent, and used profane and obscene language, and sang indecent songs. Sometimes, also, money was found concealed about the Irish paupers. A new system with regard to tramps was introduced on the 1st of January, 1850, by which lodging alone was given, and food was only administered in extreme cases, where it was obvious that the applicants were really sick or destitute. The following is the result from the 1st of January to the 7th of September inclusive:—

TRAMPS RELIEVED WITH LODGING BY THE PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM, 1850.

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Irish.
1,459	500	426	2,425	902

The average poor-rate of the parish of Birmingham is about 5s. in the pound, but this includes the borough rate for the support of the police, the county and borough prisons, and other civic charges. The total rental of the borough upon which assessment was made in the year 1849, amounted to £615,212, of which £462,025 was for the town and parish of Birmingham, and the remainder for the parishes of Edgbaston and Aston.

The number of infant paupers in the Asylum of the Birmingham workhouse appears to average less than 300. Some years ago they were employed by the guardians in pin-heading, by contract, for the pin-manufacturers of the town; but this system has been discontinued, and the infant paupers receive an industrial training in the trades of the carpenter, the tailor, and the shoemaker. The number of lunatic paupers at the commencement of the present year was 109, of whom

57 were males, and 52 females. At the commencement of the succeeding half-year, the first week in July, the number of lunatics was 140, of whom 74 were males and 66 females.

The statistics of crime in Birmingham for the last ten years have just been published by Mr. Stephens, the superintendent of police for the Borough. The following return shows the number of persons taken into custody, for all kinds of offences, from the formation of the police force on the 20th of November, 1839, to the 31st of December, 1849. It will be seen that in every year, considerably more than one-half of the whole number were discharged by the magistrates, and that only about one-eighth, upon an average, and sometimes not above one-tenth, were committed for trial.

	Taken into Custody.	Discharged by the Magistrates.	Summarily Convicted or held to Bail.	Committed for Trial.
1839 from Nov. 20 to Dec. 31 . . . }	783	465	230	88
1840	5,986	3,740	1,627	619
1841	5,556	3,521	1,441	594
1842	4,938	3,331	1,020	587
1843	3,363	2,258	852	553
1844	3,259	1,735	1,040	484
1845	4,165	2,658	1,015	492
1846	4,315	2,947	901	467
1847	4,027	2,694	753	580
1848	3,557	2,126	853	578
1849	3,405	2,109	893	403

A first glance at this table would seem to prove great and undue officiousness on the part of the police, and an arrest of persons for very trivial offences. The returns for the year 1849, in which the various offences are duly set forth, will throw some further light upon the matter, and exonerate the police from an excess of zeal. In that year it will be seen that the returns are lower than they have been in any year since the establishment of the police force, with the exception of the years 1843 and 1844. In this number of 3,405 persons arrested are the following large items:—

Assaults	263
Assaults on the police in the execution of their duty	184
Wilful damage	157
Disorderly characters	220
Drunkards	812
Riot and breach of the peace	21
	<hr/>
Total	1,657

Thus it appears that 1,657 persons out of 3,405, or about 48½ per cent., were taken into custody either for drunkenness or the violence which springs from drunkenness; for it may fairly be presumed that riot, breach of the peace, assaults on the police in the execution of their duty, and offences of this class, are for the most part, if not wholly, committed by persons under the influence of intoxicating liquors. Other large items in the return are:—

Vagrants	127
Offences under the Street Act and by-laws of the corporation	86
Suspicious characters	52
Gambling	36
	<hr/>
	301

Deducting these two, there remains the number of 1,447 persons to be accounted for under the heads of more serious offences against life and property. But even here it appears that the greatest number of offences is included under the head of simple larceny, and that the more heinous classes of offences are exceedingly rare. The following are the principal items:—

Simple Larceny	485
Larceny in a dwelling-house, to the extent of 5 <i>l.</i> and upwards	4
Ditto, under 5 <i>l.</i>	76
Ditto, from the person	180
Ditto, by servants	70
Misdemeanours, with intent to steal	188
Embezzlement	35
Fraud	46
Uttering, or having in possession, counterfeit coin	52
Receiving stolen goods	27
Attempt to murder	1
Shooting at and stabbing	12
Manslaughter	9
Burglary	10
Housebreaking	18
Forgery on the Bank of England	2
	<hr/>
	1,205

After all these deductions, there remain 232 prisoners, whose offences are ranged under the following heads:—

Rape, assault with intent, and other offences against public decency	26
Child dropping	2
Bigamy	2
Attempts to break into shops, &c.	37
Cattle and horse stealing	4
Attempts to defraud	11
Offences against the currency	18
Absconding from bail	2
Runaway apprentices	6
Attempted suicide	10
Cruelty to animals	4
Deserters from the army	27
Desertion of families	37
Hawking without license	6
Illicit distillation	5
Keeping disorderly houses	2
Perjury	1
Prison breaking	2
Reputed thieves	3
Illegally pawning	1
Rescue and refusing to aid peace-officers . .	26
	<hr/>
	232

The educational statistics among these 3,405 persons, the drunk and disorderlies included, show what statistics have proved in every

other town and district in which they have been collected, that the great mass of offenders against the laws, both of sobriety and morality, are either totally unable to read and write, or can read a little without being able to write, or can read and write imperfectly. Of these persons 2,730 were males, and 675 females. The following figures will show the amount of their knowledge, or rather of their ignorance:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Neither able to read nor write . .	1,100	391	1,491
Able to read without writing, or able to read and write imper- fectly	1,453	274	1,727
Able to read and write well, but without other education . . .	150	10	160
Having a superior education . . .	27	—	27
	2,730	675	3,405

Of these 27 persons of superior education, 2 were convicted of assaults on the police in the execution of their duty, 2 were fined for being drunk and incapable of taking care of themselves, 1 was committed for larceny, 1 for fraud, 1 for an attempt to defraud, and 1 for a breach of the peace. The remainder were discharged by the magistrates.

The statistics of drunkenness in Birmingham thus appear to be very high—and in this respect figures do not belie, but confirm the character which large classes of its working mechanics have unfortunately acquired. The workers in metal are proverbially thirsty; and many of the trades which consider their employments unwholesome—such as the gun-barrel grinders, the pearl button turners, and others—are said to drink with the idea that it is necessary to their health and strength. For their supply there are in Birmingham 564 public-houses and houses of entertainment, including hotels, inns, and taverns, in which wine, beer, and spirits are sold. Of these not above 50 or 60 are *bonâ fide* places for the accommodation of travellers. There are known to be 661 retail beer-shops, 54 wine and spirit merchants, 14 ale and porter stores; or in all, 1,293 establishments, large and small, for the supply of intoxicating liquors. The total number of houses in the borough is about 43,000; so that in every 33 houses one is a wine, beer, or spirit shop, of a higher or lower degree.

If we suppose that each of these 1,293 establishments maintains four persons, either as part of their families or as servants—and the supposition is moderate rather than extravagant—it will follow that 5,172 persons live in this industrious town by the sale of intoxicating drinks—or 1 in every 45 of the whole population. This is a larger number than is employed in some of the staple trades of the town. According to the census of 1841 there were but 3,000 button-makers, 1,000 pearl-workers, and 2,400 gun-makers in Birmingham; and as many, if not all of these, included women and children, it is but too probable that very few branches of industry, in the most industrious town in Europe, employ so many persons, young and old, as the sale of intoxicating liquors. It may furthermore be mentioned that the number of shops for the sale of beer and spirits exceeds those for the sale of bread, including hucksters and chandlers' shops, by no less than 422—the number of bakers and hucksters being 871 only.

One principal cause of the intemperance which appears to prevail to so great an extent in Birmingham is said by some employers to be the number of beer shops in the town, which are frequented by young boys. The apprenticeship system is gradually dropping into disuse throughout England. In no part of the country are so many children and young lads employed in manufactures as in Birmingham. The great majority of these boys, from 11 or 12 years of age upwards, work for their own wages, and own no allegiance to their masters or employers after they have left the workshop. The old licensed victuallers or public-house keepers would not allow young lads to frequent their houses. Their customers objected if youths under 21 were permitted to smoke and drink in their tap-rooms or parlours, but the beer-shop keepers have no such scruples, and it is no unusual sight to see precocious men of fifteen or sixteen years of age, drinking and smoking, and playing at games of chance in these places, utterly uncontrolled by parental or any other authority, and taking liberties of behaviour in which full-grown men would be ashamed to indulge. It is impossible to walk the streets of Birmingham after seven or eight o'clock at night without being painfully impressed with the fact, that the youthful workpeople of the male sex are prematurely depraved; and have all the vices, without the common sense of adults. Perhaps, too, the elder workmen of no town in England more obstinately observe "Saint Monday" than the working men of Birmingham; and it is a common complaint among employers that when trade is good and wages high, they not only keep "Saint Monday," or "shackling day,"

as some call it, for drinking and pleasure making, but add a Tuesday, and even a Wednesday, to the idle days of the week. "From various causes," says the Rev. T. Bowring, in his annual address to the subscribers to the Domestic Mission, "Birmingham is a very drinking town. Some drink because the work is hard, and others because they have no work to do; some because they are flush of money, and some to keep up their spirits when the purse is low. There are some who lose no work, and yet find time for tipping, and others who sot all the day long." The great number of clubs among the working classes of Birmingham are a cause, though by no means a necessary one, of the enormous evil of intemperance. In walking through the streets, and looking at the bills in the public-house and beer-shop windows, it will be found that scarcely a beer or spirit shop in twenty is without one or more clubs, which meet periodically within it. Many of them are provident and friendly societies, and sick and burial clubs, both of men and women; and those who know any thing of the habits of the working classes of England, may be sure that the members of no club are allowed to meet in such places without being obliged to spend money in drink. But as the clubs of the working men of Birmingham form a very peculiar feature in the town, and are believed to be organized to a greater extent, and for a greater variety of purposes, than in any other town in England, I propose to devote a letter of this series to the consideration of that subject alone, and merely allude in the present instance to the great number of them which meet in public-houses, as one of the great predisposing causes of the intemperance for which the town is noted. Guinea clubs and five-pound clubs are among the most common and the most mischievous of these associations. They are chiefly got up by the landlords of beer-shops. The following is a copy of a printed bill, of which any one who will take the trouble may count scores in a walk of half an hour through the streets of Birmingham:—

"A guinea club is held here every Monday evening. Whoever joins the same, or brings a member, will confer a favour on his obedient servant."—(Signed by the landlord.)

Each member of these clubs puts in threepence, sixpence, or a shilling, according to numbers or previous arrangement, and the guinea produced is put up for public competition, and purchased by the highest bidder, who not unfrequently pays as much as five shillings out of the twenty-one for the "accommodation." The loan is repaid

by weekly instalments, and in three cases out of four is only sought for drinking purposes. The public-house interest in Birmingham is very strong, and boasts of being able, not only to influence parochial and borough affairs, but to return one of the two members to Parliament. But notwithstanding the intemperance which may be alleged against the working classes, it appears from the police returns that the state of crime in Birmingham is not formidable, and that the town bears a worse character for drunkenness than for any other more serious breach of the laws. The principal cause of this absence of gross offences against property is doubtless to be found in the generally prosperous condition of the town, and in the fact, for which Birmingham is noted, of the great numbers of its small master manufacturers—men holding a middle rank between the great manufacturers of other towns and the journeymen operatives who work for wages. It has been said of Birmingham, that its manufacturers leave off business with an amount of capital which the Manchester manufacturer considers barely sufficient to begin the world with. It is generally estimated that there are from 1,900 to 2,000 of these small masters in the town, who live generally in a state of comparative comfort, who husband their originally small resources, live within their means, run no commercial risks, and increase by slow but sure degrees. The journeymen they employ are for the most part in the receipt of good wages. The poorest of these masters are sometimes called “garret masters,” and either have their little workshops attached to their own dwellings, or hire steam power in the numerous mills that partition off corners of their premises for this purpose. These form a singular and peculiar class in Birmingham, and will be described in connection with the various trades in the future letters of this series.

Index

- Accidents, 95, 119
Alcohol, *see* Drinking
Amusements, 217, 223, 225, 243–244, 303–323
 “guinea gardens”, 321
 music, 315–316, 319–320
 past amusements, 303–305
 badger-baiting, 304, 312
 bear-baiting, 310
 bull-baiting, 304–305, 308–310, 312–314
 cock-fighting, 304–308, 310–312, 314–315
 dog-fighting, 314
 railway excursions, 148–150, 321–323
 sports, 217, 223, 225, 323
 Vauxhall Gardens, 316–318
 wakes and fairs, 305
 youth entertainments, 316
Apprentices, 76–77, 159, 175, 249, 256, 267–268
Athenic Institute, 323

Badger-baiting, 304, 312
Baldwin, E. P. and W. (tin plate manufacturers), 247–249
Baskerville, John (printer), 258
Baths, public, 31–32
Bayonet manufacture, 177
Bear-baiting, 310
Beer-shops, 13
Benefit clubs
 clothing, 148
 coke and coal, 328
 sick and burial, 148, 166, 184–186, 217, 260, 326–327, 331–333
 see also Clubs

Benefit Societies, 160
Bilston, 238, 275
 buckles, 238
 counterfeit coins, 275
 see also Vol. V.
Birmingham
 comparison to Sheffield, 224–225
 crime, 10–13
 description of, 3–4
 drinking habits, 13–16
 dwellings, 20–27
 history of, 4–5
 manufactures of, 1–3
 pauperism, 6–10
 population of, 5
 prosperity of, 16
 rapid growth of, 5
 sanitary condition, 17–32
 town-hall, 18–19
 toy-shop of the world, 1, 210
Birmingham Chronicle
 buckle history, 236–237
Birmingham Coal and Coke Company club, 328
Birmingham Directory, 64, 85, 140, 151, 171, 179–180, 213, 228, 266
Blunderbusses, 84
Bone buttons, 64
Botanical Gardens (Edgbaston), 32–33
Boulton, Matthew (Soho Works), 230, 240, 274, 276
Brass buttons, 63
Brass manufacture, 179–209
 bedsteads, 203–204
 cabinet brass, 183
 cock (tap) founding, 196–198
 divisions of, 180–181

- Brass manufacture (continued)*
 garret-masters, 188, 195
 inferior goods, 186–188, 202–203, 209
 lamps, chandeliers, gasaliers, 188–195
 candlesticks, 193–195
 ship lamps and scuttles, 193
 manufacturers, 179–180, 190, 191
 mathematical instruments, 201–203
 Messenger, Samuel, 191–192
 military ornaments, 200–201
 nails, 204–205
 saddlers' ironmongery and coach furniture, 205–206
 "Slaughtermen", 187–188, 195
 thimbles, 208–209
 weights and measures, 198–200
 Winfield, Robert, 126, 128–130, 190
 wire making and drawing, 206–208
- Brass workers, 179–209
 burnishers, 182
 casters, 205
 character of, 183–184
 children, 182, 184, 204–205, 208–209
 drinking habits, 183–184, 189, 198
 earnings, 182, 184, 189–190, 195, 197–198, 203–204, 208–209
 "gang" system, 188–190
 modellers, 191–192
 number of, 179
 "Saint Monday", 183, 205
 subdivisions of, 182
 teetotallers, 183
 unions, 197
 women, 182, 204–205, 208–209
- Britannia metal manufacture, 257, 261–265
 articles made, 261
 history of, 262–263
 inferior goods, 262–263
 spinning, 261–262
 unions, 263–265
see also Tin plate manufacture
- "Brummagem ware", 4, 43, 245, 279
 Buckles, 235–245
 steel, 231–232
 Building Societies, 329–331
 Bull-baiting, 304–305, 308–310, 312–314
 Bull-ring, 308
 Burial clubs, 184–186, 217
 Burnishers, 40, 41, 182, 249
 Button manufacture, 35–67
 button types
 bone, 64
 brass, 63
 Florentine, 40–41, 44–49
 glass, 62–63
 horn, 49–51
 iron, 63
 patent linen sewn-through, 49
 pearl, 52–62
 shirt-studs, 62
 steel, 63–64
 wooden, 64
 fashions, 38–44, 64–65
 garret-masters, 57–62
 history of, 35–44
 manufacturers, 64
 reduction in prices, 59–62
 shanks, 64
 "slaughtermen" (factors), 58, 60
 unions, 57
- Button workers, 38–49, 55–57, 59–62, 65–67, 106–112
 burnishers, 40, 41
 children, 38, 40, 44–49, 55–57, 62, 65–67, 109, 111
 "cobbers", 66
 condition of, 65–67
 cutters out, 40, 55
 drinking habits, 40
 earnings, 47, 56, 67
 gilders, 40
 hours of work, 65
 number of, 38
 "Saint Monday", 66
 solderers, 40
 stampers, 40
 strikes, 60–61
 unions, 60–61

- Button workers (continued)*
 women, 38, 40–41, 44–49, 67,
 109–112
- Canal transport, 161–162
- Carbines, 84
- “Case-hardening”, 211–212
- Casters, 205
- Chance, Messrs. (glass manufactur-
 ers), 161
- Chance, William (ragged school be-
 nefactor), 298
- Chance, William and Co. (glass
 manufacturers), 130–133
 medical funds, 166
- Child labour, 38, 40, 44–49, 55–57,
 62, 65–67, 96, 102–104, 106–
 107, 109, 111, 123–128, 182, 184,
 204–205, 208–209, 249–250,
 292, 300–301
 education, 124–128
- Child neglect, 104, 106–107, 113, 116,
 118–122
- Clock and watch hands, 234–235
- Clubs, 15–16, 324–336
 Building Societies, 329–331
 children’s, 326–327
 clothing, 148
 coal and coke, 328
 Freehold Land Society, 331
 “gipsy parties”, 148–150, 321–323
 “Goose and gin” clubs, 329
 Great Exhibition excursion, 217,
 335
 history of, 324–325
 men’s, 328
 money clubs, 333–335
 prevalence of, 326
 Provident and Benevolent Soci-
 ety, 332–333
 public-house “sweeps”, 336
 sick and burial, 148, 166, 184–186,
 217, 260, 326–327, 331–333
 women’s, 327–329
 “Cobbers”, 66
- Cock-fighting, 304–308, 310–312,
 314–315
- Coffin ornaments, 269–271
- Coinage, 272–278
 counterfeit, 275–276
 Indian, 274
 Royal Mint, 276
 Soho Works, 272–278
- Counterfeit coins, 275–276
- Crime, 10–13
 prisoners’ education, 12–13
 statistics, 10–13
- Crowley’s cottages, 26
- Crystal Palace
 glass for, 161
- Crystal Palace (glass for), 164–165
- Cutters out, 40, 55
- Darlaston, 96
- “Darlaston Wake Bull-baiting” bal-
 lad, 312–314
- Deritend, 26
- Die-sinking, 266–278
 branches of trade, 266
 coffin ornaments, 269–271
 coinage, 272–274
 manufacturers, 266–267, 270–271
 medals, 271–278
 School of Design, 267
 Soho Works, 272–274
 workers, 267–269
 apprentices, 267–268
 earnings, 268
- Diet, 107, 115–116
- Dog-fighting, 314
- Drinking, 13–16, 40, 108, 111, 116–
 118, 130, 183–184, 189, 198, 219
 beer-houses, 13
 clubs, 15–16
 gin-shops, 315
 juveniles, 14
 public-houses, 13
 “Saint Monday”, 14–15
 teetotallers, 130, 183
- “Dropped hand” (disease), 160
- Dwellings, 20–27
 Crowley’s cottages, 26
 Deritend, 26
 “Gullets”, 22
 London Prentice-street, 21
 Myrtle-row, Green’s Village, 21

- Dwellings (continued)*
rent, 22, 26
- Earnings
brass workers, 182, 184, 189–190, 195, 197–198, 203–204, 208–209
button workers, 47, 56, 67
deductions, 114, 159, 197, 250
die-sinkers, 268
factory workers, 102–103
firearms workers, 82, 92, 96, 97
gilt and plate workers, 284–286
glass workers, 153, 158, 165
iron and steel workers, 214, 232–233, 235
japanning workers, 260
pen workers, 147
reductions in, 97, 101, 205, 226–227, 268–269
stability of, 214–215
sword workers, 174
tin plate workers, 249
- Edgbaston, Botanical Gardens, 32–33
- Edge tools, 222–227
- Education, 12–13, 124–139, 292–302
factory schools, 125–133
Free Industrial School, 292–298
lack of, 103–105, 150, 190–191
National Schools, 292
Ragged Schools, 292–302
school meals, 293, 295
School of Design, 267, 281, 287
subjects taught, 128, 130–131, 295
Sunday schools, 133–139
- Electro-plating, *see* Gilt and plate manufacture
- Elkington, Mason and Co. (electro-plate manufacturers), 288–291
show-rooms of, 290–291
- Emigration, surplus labour, 157–158
- Entertainment, *see* Amusements
- Excise duty, glass, 156, 160–161
- Factories, poor condition of, 105
- Factors, 187–188, 195
- Factory workers, 102–122
children, 102–104
earnings, 102–103
women, 102–122
working hours, 124
- Fashions
buckles, 235–245
buttons, 38–44, 64–65
gilt and plate, 280, 282
heavy steel toys, 216
- Female workers, 38, 40–41
brass, 182, 204–205
buttons, 44–49, 67, 109–112
child neglect, 104, 106–107, 113, 116, 118–122
condition of workers, 103–104
domestic missionary's view, 116–117
factories, 102–122
firearms, 89
japanning, 260
number of, 103
pens, 140, 144
screws, 112–116
thimbles, 208–209
tin plate, 248
- Firearms manufacture, 68–101
accidents, 95
barrels, 86–95
boring, 89–90
grinding, 90–92
iron manufacture, 86–87
proving, 92–95
rolling, 87–89
blunderbusses, 84
carbines, 84
export trade, 72, 97
finishing, 98–99
engraving, 98
foreign competition, 101
fowling pieces, 83
fusils, 84
history of, 69–83
locks, 95–97, 99–100
percussion, 99–100
manufacturers, 85
muskets, 83
prices, 84

Firearms manufacture (continued)

- proof houses, 80–81, 92
- rifles, 84
- stocks, 97–98
- Firearms workers, 68–77, 81–82, 85–101
 - accidents, 95
 - apprentices, 76–77
 - children, 96
 - cleansers, 98
 - condition of, 100–101
 - earnings, 82, 92, 96, 97
 - finishers, 98
 - grinders, 90–92
 - health of, 91–92
 - jiggerers, 95
 - lock filers, 95–97
 - lock forgers, 95–97
 - maker-offs, 98
 - number of, 68–69
 - percussioners, 99–100
 - rollers, 87–88
 - screwers-together, 97–98
 - smiths, 86–87
 - stockers, 76–77, 81–82, 97
 - strikes, 96–97
 - trades, 85–86
 - women, 89
 - working hours, 96
- Florentine buttons, 40–41, 44–49
- Foreign competition, 214–215, 223, 230–231, 234, 282–283
- Fowling pieces, 83
- Free Industrial School, 292–298
 - “Asylum” for orphans, 297
 - headmaster’s report, 296
 - income and expenses, 297–298
 - industrial classes, 295–297
 - locality of, 301
 - origin and history of, 292–295
 - subjects taught, 295
- Free-trade, 161
- Freehold Land Society, 331
- Fusils, 84

- Garret-masters, 57–62, 188, 195
- Gilders, 40

- Gill, Thomas (sword manufacturer), 170
- Gillott, Joseph (steel pen manufacturer), 126, 143–148
 - employment standards, 147–148
 - sick clubs, 148
- Gilt and plate manufacture, 279–291
 - changes in trade, 280–284, 286
 - electro-plating, 288–291
 - advantages of, 289
 - opposition to, 288–289
 - process of, 289–290
 - Elkington, Mason and Co., 288–291
 - fashions, 280, 282
 - foreign competition, 282–283
 - gilding, 279–284
 - imports, 281
 - inferior goods, 279–281, 286–287
 - manufacturers, 280–284, 286–288
 - plating, 284–291
 - process of, 285
 - School of Design, 281, 287
 - strikes, 286
 - unions, 286
 - workers, 291
 - earnings, 284–286
 - “Saint Monday”, 291
- “Gin penny”, 117
- Gin-shops, 315
- “Gipsy parties”, 148–150, 217, 321–323
- Glass blowers, 153–155
- Glass buttons, 62–63
- Glass cutters, 158–161
 - health of, 160
 - “Dropped hand”, 160
- Glass manufacture, 151–166
 - articles produced, 152
 - Chance, William and Co., 130–133, 161–166
 - crown and plate, 161–165
 - Crystal Palace, 164–165
 - cutting, 159–160
 - Excise duty, 156, 160–161
 - flint glass, 152
 - foreign competition, 161–162

- Glass manufacture (continued)*
 history of, 151–152
 manufacturers, 151
 process of, 152
 shades, 165
 Spon lane, 161, 162
 Glass workers, 152–166
 Benefit Societies, 160
 blowers, 153–155
 earnings, 153, 158, 165
 emigration, 157–158
 French workmen, 165
 glass cutters, 158–161
 habits of, 165
 health of, 160
 “Dropped hand”, 160
 medical funds, 166
 number of, 152
 self-employment, 155–156
 strikes, 155
 superannuated funds, 159
 surplus labour, 157–159
 unemployment, 155, 158
 unions, 157–159
 working hours, 152–153
 “Goose and gin” clubs, 329
 Great Exhibition, 161, 164–165
 excursion clubs, 217, 335
 Green’s Village
 Myrtle-row, 21
 Grinders, 224–225
 Guinea clubs, 15–16
 “Guinea gardens”, 321
 “Gullets” (street), 22
 Gun manufacture, *see* Firearms manufacture
 Health
 firearms workers, 91–92
 glass cutters, 160
 Heaton, Ralph (coin manufacturer), 273
 Heavy steel toys, 1, 211–227
see also Iron and steel manufacture, heavy steel toys
 Hinckes and Wells (steel pen manufacturers), 143
 “gipsy parties”, 148–150
 Horn buttons, 49–51
 Housebreakers’ instruments, 219
 Infant mortality, 118–122, 326
 Iron and steel manufacture, 210–245
 fashions, 216, 235–245
 foreign competition, 214–215, 223, 230–231, 234
 heavy steel toys, 1, 211–227
 “case-hardening”, 211–212
 edge tools, 222–227
 examples of, 211
 export trade, 213
 housebreakers’ instruments, 219
 paper tax, 212–213
 prisoner restraints, 219–222
 slave restraints, 220
 Timmins, R. and Sons, 217–219
 inferior goods, 211, 231–232, 245
 light steel toys, 1, 228–245
 ancient and modern, 233
 buckles, 231–232, 235–245
 buttons, 231–232
 clock and watch hands, 234–235
 examples of, 228
 history of, 229–230
 Luckcock, James, 236–237
 manufacturers, 228
 snuffers, 235
 watch-keys, 233–234
 manufacturers, 212–213, 222–224, 230–237, 245
 strikes, 215–216
 “Toys”, definition of, 210
 Iron and steel workers, 214, 216–227, 230–245
 buckle makers, 238–242
 condition of, 216–218
 earnings, 214, 232–233, 235
 “gipsy parties”, 217
 grinders, 224–225
 number of, 213
 oldest man in Birmingham, 242–244
 self employment, 214
 sports, 217, 223, 225
 unions, 225
 Iron buttons, 63

- Japanning, 258–260
 articles made, 259
 Baskerville, John, 258
 process of, 259–260
 workers, 259–260
 earnings, 260
 sick clubs, 260
 women, 260
- Jiggerers, 95
- Kent-street Baths, 31
- Light steel toys, 1, 228–245
see also Iron and steel manufacture, light steel toys
- London 'Prentice-street, 21
- Luckcock, James (buckle manufacturer), 236–237
- Matchett manufacture, 177
- Medals, 271–278
 Soho Works, 272–274
- Messenger, Samuel (brass manufacturer), 191–192
- Modellers, 191–192
- Money clubs, 333–335
- Music, 315–316, 319–320
- Muskets, 83
- Myrtle-row, Green's Village, 21
- National Schools, 292
- Outdoor sports, 217, 223, 225
- Parks
 Botanical Gardens, 32–33
 lack of, 19, 32–34
 Vauxhall Gardens, 316–318
- Patent linen sewn-through buttons, 49
- Pauperism, 6–10
 new system, 7–8
 relative lack of, 6–7
- Pearl buttons, 52–62
 manufacturing process, 55–56
 source of material, 52–55
- Peel, Robert, Sir, 161
 monument subscriptions, 57, 155–156, 217–218
- Pen manufacture, 140–150
 export trade, 142–143
 Gillott, Joseph, 126, 143–148
 Hinckes and Wells, 143, 148–150
 history of, 140–141
 manufacturers, 140, 143
 number produced, 141
 process of, 144–147
- Pen workers, 140, 144
 earnings, 147
 employment standards, 147–148
 number of, 140
 "Saint Monday", 148
 sick clubs, 148
 women, 140, 144
 working conditions, 150
- Percussioners, 99–100
- Plating manufacture, *see* Gilt and plate manufacture
- Poor-rates, 9
- Prisoner restraints, 219–222
- Probyn, Owen ("cocker"), 305
- Proof houses (gun making), 92
- Provident and Benevolent Society, 332–333
- Public-house "sweeps", 336
- Public-houses, 13
- Ragged Schools, 292–302
 attendance, 299–301
 Chance, William, 298
 effectiveness of, 301–302
 Free Industrial School, 292–298
 Legge-street, 298
 Little Anne-street, 299
 name change effect, 298
 students, 300
 Well-lane, 299
 Windmill-street, 298
- Railway excursions, 148–150, 321–323
see also "Gipsy parties"
- "Rattening", 225
- Reservoirs, 27–28
- Rifles, 84
- Rollers, 87–88
- Royal Mint, 276

- "Saint Monday", 14–15, 33, 66, 148,
 172, 183, 198, 205, 291
 Sanitary condition, 17–32
 medical inspectors' reports, 23–26
 natural advantages, 19–20
 water supply, 20–22, 27–31
 School of Design, 267, 281, 287
 Schools, *see* Education
 Screwers-together, 97–98
 Sheffield, 224–225
 Shirt-studs, 62
 Sick and burial clubs, 148, 166, 184–
 186, 217, 260, 326–327
 "Slaughtermen" (factors), 58, 60, 156,
 187–188, 195
 Slave restraints, 220
 Slop goods (inferior quality)
 brass, 186–188, 202–203, 209
 Britannia metal, 262–263
 gilt and plate, 279–281, 286–287
 iron and steel, 211, 231–232, 245
 tin plate, 256–258
 Snuffers, 235
 Soho Mint, 240
 Soho Works, 272–278
 Solderers, 40
 Spon lane, 161, 162
 Sports, 217, 223, 225, 323
 Stampers, 40
 Steel buttons, 63–64, 231–232
 Steel-pens, *see* Pen manufacture
 Stockers, 97
 Strikes, 215–216
 button workers, 60–61
 firearms workers, 96–97
 glass blowers, 155
 platers, 286
 tin plate workers, 250–252, 254–
 255
 Sunday schools, 133–139
 Superannuated funds, 159
 Sword manufacture, 167–177
 blades, 174–175
 decline of, 171–173
 export trade, 172, 176–177
 Gill, Thomas, 170
 grips, 175–176
 hilts, 175
 Sword manufacture (continued)
 history of, 167–171
 manufacturers, 170
 scabbards, 176
 Sword workers, 171–176
 earnings, 174
 forgers, 174
 grinders, 174
 number of, 171
 "Saint Monday", 172
 Taxes, paper, 212–213
 Teetotallers, 130, 183
 Thimbles, 208–209
 Thumb-screws, 222
 Timmins, R. and Sons (heavy steel
 toy manufacturers), 217–219
 Tin plate manufacture, 246–258
 articles made, 249
 Baldwin, E. P. and W., 247–249
 export trade, 246–247
 inferior goods, 256–258
 origin and cost of tin, 249
 process of, 247–249
 state of trade, 255–258
 see also Britannia metal manufac-
 ture
 Tin plate workers, 248–255
 apprentices, 256
 burnishers, 249
 children, 249–250
 earnings, 249
 employment contracts, 252–255
 strikes, 250–252, 254–255
 unions, 249–250
 women, 248
 Town-hall, 18–19
 organ, 319–320
 "Toys"
 definition of, 1, 210
 heavy steel, 1, 211–227
 see also Iron and steel manufac-
 ture, heavy steel toys
 light steel, 1, 228–245
 see also Iron and steel manufac-
 ture, light steel toys
 toy-shop of the world, 1, 210
 Unemployment, 155, 158

- Unions, 57, 60–61, 286
 - brass workers, 197
 - Britannia metal workers', 263–265
 - button workers, 60–61
 - glass workers, 157–159
 - iron and steel workers, 225
 - tin plate workers, 249–250
- United Trades' Association, 251, 252
- Vagrancy, 8–9
 - new system, 9
 - old system, 8–9
 - vagrant sheds, 8
- Vauxhall Gardens, 316–318
- "Vauxhalls on Sunday Night" ballad, 317–318
- Wages, *see* Earnings
- Wakes and fairs, 305
- Washhouses, public, 31–32
- Watch-keys, 233–234
- Water supply, 20–22, 27–31
 - reservoirs, 27–28
 - water-carriers, 28–30
- Water-carriers, 28–30
- Watt, James (Soho Works), 274, 276
- Weapons manufacture, 167–177
 - bayonets, 177
 - export trade, 72, 97, 172, 176–177
 - firearms, 68–101
 - history of, 167–171
 - matchetts, 177
 - slave-trade usage, 176–177
 - swords, 167–177
- Wednesbury, 96
- "Wednesbury Cocking" ballad, 304–308
- Winfield, Robert (brass manufacturer), 126, 128–130, 190
 - sick and burial club, 184–186
- Wolverhampton, 246–258
- Wolverhampton Canal, 161–162
- Wooden buttons, 64
- Workforce, flexibility of, 177–178, 209
- Workhouses, 9–10
 - infant paupers, 9
 - lunatic paupers, 9–10
- Working hours, 124, 152–153
- Workshops, poor condition of, 105

Titles Available in the Series

LABOUR AND THE POOR

Volumes I to IV: **The Metropolitan Districts**

Henry Mayhew

ISBN 978-1-913515-01-0, 978-1-913515-02-7, 978-1-913515-03-4, 978-1-913515-04-1

Volume V: **The Manufacturing Districts**

Angus B. Reach

ISBN 978-1-913515-05-8

Volumes VI & VII: **The Rural Districts**

Alexander Mackay & Shirley Brooks

ISBN 978-1-913515-06-5, 978-1-913515-07-2

Volume VIII: **Wales**

Special Correspondent

ISBN 978-1-913515-08-9

Volume IX: **Birmingham**

Charles Mackay

ISBN 978-1-913515-09-6

Volume X: **Liverpool**

Charles Mackay

ISBN 978-1-913515-10-2

For information on these and other titles available please visit:

DittoBooks.co.uk