Henry Pidgeon

SALOPIAN ANNALS, I

10 January 1823-30 December 1824

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Salopian Annals

Vol I

1823

By Henry Pidgeon

[fo. 1r]
[IMG_7582]

Salopian Annals 1823 by Henry Pidgeon

Battlefield. Two ancient shields have recently been ploughed up at Battlefield, which no doubt were worn at the celebrated Battle of Shrewsbury. The smaller one which is the handsomest is supposed to have been worn by the horse soldier and the largest by the foot. The former one is supposed to have belonged to some officer of rank. It is 1 foot in diameter and weighs 2¾ pounds. They are in the possession of Sir Andrew Corbett. The largest shield is 1¾ feet in diameter and weighs 5½ pounds. January 10th 1823.

Disease.
The small pox and measles are very prevalent in our town, especially among the lower orders of people, the dwellings of which in general are not kept clean and properly ventilated. January 11th.

Insolvent Debtors. Thursday January 16.
A meeting of between 40 and 50 inhabitants was held in the [fo. 2r] [IMG_7583] Town Hall according to a requisition having been sent to the Mayor, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament at the next session either for a repeal or an amendment of the Acts for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors. The Mayor in the chair. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament was resolved upon.

Samaritan Society. Sunday January 19th.
Two sermons were preached in St. John's Chapel by the Rev. John Chettle, minister, in aid of the funds of the Good Samaritan Society. The collections were £12 8s. 8d.

Mortality.
I have unquestionable authority for stating that there now lies dead in the parish of St. Chad 27 persons, an epidemic disease is very prevalent generally affecting the old and young. January 23rd.

The weather. The frost for the last fortnight has been extremely severe, in consequence of which our river soon admitted of a passage over and has afforded amusement to a great number of [fo. 3r] [IMG_7585] skaiters [sic], sliders, &c. There was a heavy fall of snow this evening. Saturday January 25th.

Mem[orandum]. A very rapid thaw, our streets afford a dangerous passage in consequence of the great thickness of ice which had formed over them. Tuesday 28th**.**

1823

Died 4 January in Bryanstone Street, Portman Square, London, *Teresa* the wife of Robert Selby and sister to the Earl of Shrewsbury in the 62 year of her age.

Died 10 January. Rev. John Eyton M.A. vicar of Wellington and rector of Eyton for 20 years, aged 45. He was the author of 2 volumes of sermons and an accomplished preacher.

John Craig, Esquire. The remains of John Craig, Esquire who died on the 30th of January were interred in the cemetery belonging to Swan Hill Chapel, which was crowded to excess to witness the solemn ceremony. 10th February.

The Rev. Thomas Weaver, minister, improved his death from the words of the wise man 'A time to die' on the Sunday following. Mr Craig was a gentleman much respected and esteemed in the town.
[fo. 2v] [IMG_7584] Mr Craig with the exception of a few legacies has left his extensive property to his brother the Rev. James Craig a minister of the Scotch Kirk.

[fo. 3v] [IMG_7586]
1823 26 February. Rev. E. P. Owen son of Archdeacon Owen is instituted to the vicarage of Wellington and rectory annexed.

[fo. 4r] [IMG_7587]
Mortality. On referring to the registers of *three* of our churches it is found that there have been 70 interments in the parish of St. Chad, 56 at St. Mary and 28 at St. Julian's since the 1st of January. There were 8 graves opened in one day in St. Chad's church yards. 27 February.

High Sheriff. John Mytton, Esquire, of Halston is appointed High Sheriff of Shropshire for the ensuing year.

Shropshire Lent Assize
March 19. The High Sheriff was escorted into town this morning by a numerous body of his tenantry &c who afterwards accompanied him to Emstrey to meet the judges of Assize, who were brought into town amid the ringing of bells and other usual demonstrations of respect on which the Commission of Assize was opened.

On Thursday morning they proceeded to St. Chad's church where the Rev. H. C. Cotton, curate of Great Ness, preached a sermon from 1 Peter, 2 chapter, 13 and 14 verses. After their return from church the business of Assize was commenced. The calendar contains 34 prisoners.

[fo. 4v] [IMG_7588]
1823 31 March. Died in his 70th year Sir Corbet Corbet, Baronet of Adderley Hall, County [of] Salop. He was chairman of the Quarter Sessions for 22 years. Having died without issue the baronetcy is extinct, but he has left his extensive estates to Richard Corbet, Esquire, second son to Sir Andrew Corbet of Acton Reynald Hall, county [of] Salop.

[fo. 5r] [IMG_7589]
Execution. March 24. John Newton aged 40 was executed for the murder of his wife at Severn Hall near Bridgnorth; over the lodge in front of our County Gaol. He was a farmer and is said to have held about 200 acres, at the place above mentioned.

Easter. March 30th. Being Easter Sunday the body corporate attended divine service at St. Chad's, where the Rev. John Langley, curate, preached.

Market Hall Clock. The Market Hall clock dial regilded, it was scarcely distinguishable before.

St. Chad's Schools. Sunday April 13th. Two sermons were preached at St. Chad's in aid of the Girls School on Dr. Bells system and the Boy's Sunday School, in the morning by the venerable Archdeacon Corbet from Proverbs 22, 6 verse and in the evening by the Rev. Edward Burton M. A. from Matthew 19 and 21 verse. The collections were £61 13s. 3½d.

Birthday King George. April 23. Being the day his Majesty's birth day was observed, ringing &c.

[fo. 5v] [IMG_7590]
1823 Died May 7. Rev. Edmund Dana, vicar of Wroxeter 50 years, aged 83. He was a very eccentric character.

[fo. 6r] [IMG_7591]
Florists Society. Thursday May 1st. The first annual meeting of a society lately formed in this town under the title of the 'Shropshire Florists Society' was held at the Crown Inn, after the exhibition of flowers &c and the general business of the meeting had concluded, the members sat down to an excellent dinner and spent the evening amid the 'blossoms of friendship'.

Samaritans Society. Sunday May 4. The annual meeting of the Good Samaritans Society was held in St. John's Chapel, from the report, then read, it appears that 88 cases have been relieved during the past year with the sum of £46 14s. 11d. There is a balance of nearly £7 due to the treasurer.

Infirmary. Edward William Smythe Owen, Esquire, has accepted of the office of treasurer to our Infirmary.

Barge sunk. A barge laden with manure sunk this evening at the English Bridge. Saturday May 10. This barge was got up on the 12th June with the assistance of two large trows and a number of men. The cargo was washed away and the barge much injured. H. P.

[fo. 7r] [IMG_7593]
Rev. John Palmer. Thursday May 15th. It is with regret I have to record the death of the Rev. John Palmer which took place this morning at his residence 'Enon Cottage' aged 55 years, having exercised pastoral jurisdiction with exemplary perseverance and diligence over the Baptist Church in this town for upwards of 26 years and which he resigned last year in consequence of ill health. Mr. P[almer] as a preacher was plain and forcible, in his character possessed of many peculiarities, and original ingenuity, in reference to his preaching I cannot do better than refer to a sermon which he preached and afterwards published in 1817 on the death of the Princess Charlotte, a copy of which was presented to her Royal Father, who very graciously received the same and desired Sir Benj[amin] Bloomfield to express his acknowledgement to Mr. Palmer. As regards his peculiarities and ingenuity, his residence which was of his own construction, will show in some measure the figure of his mind particularly in social life* and his experiments in suspension bridges for which he obtained a patent, will be a monument of his ingenuity.

* Near Salop's Castle's antiquated pile, A lonely cottage stands in humble style.

[fo. 6v] [IMG_7592]
The substance of the annexed memoire was forwarded to the Gent[leman's] Mag[azine].
H. P.

[fo. 8r] [IMG_7594]
Corporation
Whitsunday May 18. The Corporation preceded by the staff of the Shropshire Militia attended Divine Service at St. Chad's Church where the Rev. John Topp preached, Mr. Langley being prevented through indisposition.

Trinity Sunday May 25. The Rev. Hamlet Harrison, Rector of a portion of Pontesbury, preached from 16 chap St. Mark and part 16 ver, "He that believeth not shall be damned" being an explanation of the Athanasian Creed, which he endeavoured to prove, was neither "unintelligible" or "uncharitable."

Rev. J. Langley, Curate of St. Chad's, preached in the evening on the subject of the Trinity when the annual anthem usually sung on Whitsunday was performed. It was taken from the 23rd psalm.

The Rev. Palmer's seat a man sincere
Beloved by many a Christian pilgrim near
Airy and pleasant is the fav'rite spot
On which the sound Divine has built his cot.
Enon Cottage a poem

[fo. 9r] [IMG_7595]
St. Julian's Bells
Friday May 30. St. Julian's bells rehung and rung for the first time.

Shrewsbury Show
Monday June 2. Our ancient pageant called the show was celebrated with more spirit than has been known for many years. The order of procession was as follows:

Crispin and Crispanus on horseback followed by the Master Shoemakers
Master Tailors preceded by a man with his shield and buckler
Master Butchers preceded by their king
Master Builders preceded by a representation of King Henry 8th
Apprentice Bricklayers preceded by a king on horseback
Master and apprentice Sadlers preceded by a caprisoned [sic] horse led by a groom.
Each of the companies were followed by their respective Wardens and accompanied by their music, flags, banners etc, the whole exhibiting a lively picture of former days.

About a hour afterwards, the Mayor, Rice [fo. 10r] [IMG_7596] Wynne esq., and several members of the Corporation followed the Trades and visited each of the arbours and the day was spent by the several companies with the greatest hilarity and it was past 10 o'clock before the Mayor and gentlemen with many others returned much invigorated with the essence of barley corn. It rained unfortunately the whole of the evening.

Memorandum
Soon after the civil authorities had set out for Kingsland several males and females of a sect who last year introduced themselves into our town under the titles of Primitive Methodists, or 'Ranters', assembled in the Market Hall and began singing after which one of their preachers offered up a prayer and ere it was concluded, two drummers and a fifer belonging to a recruiting party, commenced their music, to 'out noise' if possible that of the Ranters and disperse them and really the 'music of the drum', the singing of the Ranters and the noise of the rabble was a scene quite ludicrous. In the midst of all, however, the Ranters began their exhortation or sermon, levelling their [fo. 11r] [IMG_7597] observations chiefly against the attendants of the show whom they asserted were in 'the broad way' holding out in the most threatning [sic] manner and plainest language, the punishments which would be inflicted on such transgressors. The confusion and noise however increasing, the fanatical spirit of the Ranters became excited and their enthusiasm burst forth, not in love, but in anger. A general scuffle ensued which ended in several battles. The *good* people quickly dispersing doubtless to a place of greater security.

A scene similar to the above took place this day the two preachers however were taken before the magistrates. Tuesday 3rd.

Cavalry June 4th
The Cavalry (Shrewsbury) completed their eight days training. They have introduced a good band of music.

Dominican Friary
Workmen commenced levelling the ground in that part of the meadow adjoining St. Marys Water Lane on the site where old people say a building called the *blockhouse* stood, for the purpose of erecting a house and warehouse and forming a wharf. The land is the [fo. 12r] [IMG_7599] property of Mrs. Corbet, who has granted a lease of it to a company and being an interesting spot in ancient and modern periods of our local history, has required a reservation of whatever antiquities may be discovered. June 5th.

[fo. 11v] [IMG_7598]

N.B. Since writing the annexed, portions of an old foundation have been dug up, the cement of which is harder than the stone. This is conjectured to have belonged to one of the towers which flanked the adjoining gateway.

[fo. 12r] [IMG_7599] [cont.]
Saturday June 7
A human skeleton in a most perfect state of preservation of between 6ft 4in and 6ft 5in long was dug up at the *Dominican Friars* now called the Union Wharf, with several skulls, bones etc. The ground has an unusual fetid smell from which circumstance we may conjecture that this part was probably the burial place of the Church.

Bible Society. Sunday June 8th
Two sermons were preached in St. Chad's church in aid of the funds for the British and Bible Society, in the morning by the Rev. E Bather, Vicar of Meole, and in the evening by the Rev. G. Swinney, Curate of St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth. The collections amounted to £43. 10s. 0d.

Visitation. Thursday 12th
The Venerable Archdeacon Owen held his primary visitation in St. Chad's church. The Rev. E. Bather preached the sermon usual on such occasions from 2 Cor 4c 5v

[fo. 13] [IMG_7600]
Baptists. June 12th
The Rev. Manoah Kent, having received a unanimous 'call' was ordained Pastor of the Baptist church. The chapel was crowded to excess to witness the ceremony which in Shrewsbury is very rare.

Waterloo Day
Wednesday June 18 being the anniversary of the ever memorable battle of Waterloo the morning was ushered in by a fine peal on St. Chad's bells, from the tower of which church and Lord Hill's Column floated Union flags.

1823 July

Bible Society. July 2
The annual meeting of Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society took place in the Town Hall and was very numerously attended. Archdeacon Corbett President.

Wesleyan Missions. Sunday July 6
Two sermons were preached in St. John's Chapel in aid of the Wesleyan Missions by Dr. Taft of Birmingham. On Monday the annual meeting was held in the same chapel, Jonathan Brookes Esq., Dorrington in the chair. The several collections amounted to nearly £40.

[fo. 14r] [IMG_7601]
Agricultural Society. Tuesday July 8
The 14th anniversary of the Shropshire Agricultural Society held for the exhibition of stock etc. The gentlemen afterwards dined at the Lion Inn where a motion was made to consider of the propriety of dissolving the Society or supporting it with greater spirit.

Confirmation. Friday July 11th
A Confirmation was held at St. Chad's church by the Bishop of Chester who officiated for our Venerable Diocesan. 648 males and 793 females received [*amended in pencil* to underwent] that ordinance.

Summer Assize

Wednesday July 23rd
Sir James Allan Park Knt and Mr. Baron Hullock were escorted into town by the High Sheriff, John Mytton Esq., and a great attendance of his tenantry, when the Commission of Assize was opened.

On Thursday morning their Lordships attended Divine Service at St. Chad's church where the Rev. H.C. Cotton of Great Ness preached a sermon from 4 Deut 6v after which Mr. Judge Park took his seat at the Crown Court and Baron Hullock presiding at the Nisi Prius in which there is more cases than has been before known. The [fo. 15r] [IMG_7603] Calendar is light containing the names of only 10 criminals.

At these Assizes the Company of Mercers brought an action against Mr. Hart, a Mercer, in the High Street, for carrying on business without being a Freeman of the said Company. The Plaintiffs obtained a verdict. The trial was highly interesting.

[fo. 14v] [IMG_7602]
Memorandom: 21 Aug
The Mercers Company dined together at the Lion in celebration of gaining their trial by which they have fully established their right as a chartered body to fine all persons exercising the trade of Mercers and without being a Freeman of the Company.

On Sunday 27 the judges attended Divine Service at St. Chad's where the Rev. James Wilding preached. Baron Hullock did not leave the court until 15 mins to 4 this morning. The judges left town August 30th

[fo. 15r cont.]
Swan Hill schools **Sunday Schools.** Sunday August 10
Two sermons were preached at Swan Hill chapel by Dr. Raffles of Liverpool in aid of the Sunday School connected with that place, that in the morning was from 2 Timothy 2 ch 19v. The collections amounted to £34 1s 4d.

St. Giles Church
Divine Service was performed at the little church of St. Giles this evening. The Rev. W. G. Rowland preached from 5 Proverbs v 6, 7 & 8

National School
I should have stated above that the Mayor and several members of the Corporation and the friends to the School on the National system accompanied the President, J. A. Lloyd Esq., from the Town Hall to the Abbey Church where a sermon was preached by the Rev. H. C. Cotton of Great Ness from Hosea 4 ch 6 v. He preached again in the afternoon at St. Julian's. Coll[ection] £57 14s. 4d.

[fo. 15v] [IMG_7604]
1822

Died 31 Dec. at Bombay, the Reverend George Martin M.A. one of the chaplains to the Hon. East India Company at that Station and Vicar of Great Ness, county Salop. He was brother-in-law to the Duke of Athol.

[fo. 16r] [IMG_7605]

Dominican Friary

I have been much gratified in watching and learning the proceedings of the workmen at the Dominican Friars, but have refrained from recording their discourses as they occurred wishing to preserve them under one division in addition to those I have already noticed. They have succeeded in clearing a considerable portion of the lower walls of the building which exhibited three apartments about 30 feet in length and the breadth from 18 to 19 feet, the doors of which were of various sizes. In breaking open the walls some worked stones have been taken out of the middle of them which it is conjectured have been taken from the ruins of a building of still greater antiquity. A specimen of these stones is placed on the top of the gable ends of the warehouse. Several capitals and numerous pieces of *mullions* which from their size and workmanship doubtless formed part of a window of large dimensions and several painted tyles [sic] and fragments of ancient stained glass have been dug up and in removing a portion of the upper part of the bank to form a road [fo. 17r] [IMG_7606] from the wharf to Castle Street several stone graves have been discovered, the masonry of which was well finished and extremely thick. The interior being formed so as nearly to fit the corpse. On cleaning them skeletons were found encased in red sand but not the least vestige of anything in which the body might have been wrapped. The bones, on being exposed to the air invariably separated and broke with the slightest pressure.

The graves were made due East and West and judging from the height they were above the floors of the ruins already noticed prove them to have been some subterraneous chambers.

Mr. D. Parkes has taken a ground plan of the whole in its most interesting form. August 12th.

[fo. 15v cont.]
Dominican Friary
I had a very good portion of the capital of a round pillar which I presented to Mr. W. A. Leighton 1825

[fo. 17r cont.]
Castle Gates. Tuesday August 13
A meeting was held at the Town Hall pursuant to advertisement to take into consideration the ‘best mode of obviating the dangers and difficulties attending the road up that principal approach to the town at the Castle Gates.’ A committee was formed to make preliminary arrangements.

[fo. 18r] [IMG_7607]
Church Missionary Society. Tuesday August 26 Afternoon was preached at St. Chads Church in aid of the Shropshire Church Missionary Association, by the Rev. W. Sibthorp Minister of Tattershall Lincolnshire, from 4 Zech 6 and 7 verses, after which a collection was made.

The Annual Meeting was afterwards held in the County Hall Alderman W. Cludde in the Chair. A deputation from the Parent Society attended.

St. Mary's Chimes.
Chimes were formerly on the eight bells in St. Mary's Tower (Mr Burney who died in 1789 having left £70 for that purpose) but in putting up the 2 additional trebles in 1812 they were much injured and have since that time ceased to play; this interesting music however is again restored under the management and chiefly through the exertions of Mr Dawson, a subscription having been opened among the Parishioners for effecting the same. It is purposed that there be seven tunes, one for each day in the week, two of which are now completed – viz 'Lady Coventry's Minuet' and the 100 Ps 6v. September 4th.

[fo. 19r] [IMG_7608]
Bellstone.
The large stone situated at the northern angle of the outer wall of the mansion called Bellstone in Barker Street, and from which the house is supposed to have received its name, was last week removed, and placed *in the wall*, in consequence of its size forming a considerable projection in the street, which is now being under drained and repaired. September 6th 1823.

St. Mary's Tower.
Workmen have been since June employed in repairing the bell chamber windows of Saint Mary's tower and replacing the large ruined mullions of the North, South and West windows and repairing the East and the arches of the others with Roman cement. The pinnacles and battlements were put up in 1816 and 17 and the upper part of the spire was repaired in 1818 and raised about 3ft. higher, making a total of 220 ft 2 inches.

It is to be hoped that early attention will be directed to the present ragged appearance of the tower.

Having adverted to Saint Mary's spire, it may be proper in this place to state that the difference between the appearance of [fo. 20r] IMG_7609] this spire and that of St. Alkmonds arises from the intake or tapering of St. Marys spire commencing immediately at the base of the shaft, and also from the tabernacled openings of St. Marys spire not *decreasing* in correct proportion with the tapering of the spire. (St. Alkmonds has bands around the head of each open spire light.)

St. Alkmonds spire on the contrary rises from the tower on a pedestal or upright of about fifteen feet before the *intake* begins, and the lights or openings are correctly proportioned, if St. Mary's spire had a pedestal of fifteen feet it might rise considerably higher and would be the Rev. James Mattheson considers, stronger. September 10th.

Street Drains.
Workmen are now under draining the streets. September 11th.

Horse Races.
September 16, 17 and 18. The company on the Race Ground on Tuesday was rather small, but on Wednesday and Thursday there was a numerous assemblage considering the state of the harvest. The weather was fine.

[fo. 20v] IMG_7610]
St. Chads.

Sunday 28 1823. I should have noticed on other side that a sermon was preached in St. Chad's Church by the Rev. A. Harrison from 4 Matt 16 verse in aid of the funds of the Incorporated Society for the Education of the Poor in the principles of the Established Church, under the Kings Letter. Mr H. in the course of his sermon said 40 or £50 ought to be collected out of such a respectable congregation. The collection amounted to £20 6s. 0½d.

[fo. 21r] [IMG_7611]
Infirmary Meeting.
The anniversary meeting of the friends and subscribers to the Salop Infirmary held at St. Chad's Church where a sermon was preached by the Rev. Edward Burton M.A. from Heb 12 c. 6 v. E. W. Smythe Owen Treasurer. The plates were held by Mrs. A. W. Corbet supported by Robert Pigot Esq. of Patshull and the Hon. Isabella Forester supported by R.W. Biddulph Esq. of Chirk castle. The collection amounted to £176 6s. 5½d.

September 28

New Mayor.
Sunday morning October 5th 1823 Jonathan Perry Esq. the new Mayor proceeded with several members of the body corporate to his parish church, St. Alkmond's where a sermon was preached by the Curate, Rev. John Richards.

The musical peal of bells in the tower of this church which have not been rung but once since 1820, owing to a mistaken alarm of endangering the spire, after the close of the service, struck up a spirited peal.

Coleham School.
Oct. 5 Two sermons were preached in St. John's chapel by the Dr. Taft in [fo. 22r] [IMG_7612] St. Johns chapel in aid of the Sunday School connected with that place, under the title of the Shrewsbury General Sunday School. The collections were £22 0s. 2½d.

Dominican Friary.
The workmen discovered another stone grave in the Dominican Friary. October 7th.

St Chad's.
Sunday October 12th. The Rev. John Langley having been previously indisposed for some months past preached this morning from 66 psalm the 8th and 8 following verses. The discourse was expressive & of gratitude to God for his late mercies vouchsafed to Mr. L.

Weather.
The weather has been in an unsettled state for some time and several parts of our county have within these few days been visited by several thunderstorms, and strange as it may appear thunder has not been heard in Salop until this day throughout the present year. October 14th.

Bellringing.[1]

[1] sections of this entry have been heavily amended in pencil (which is followed here).

Shrewsbury, it is well known has been remarked for its bellringing, though [fo. 23r] [IMG_7613] not so much at the present time as it was formerly, from what cause this may be attributed to is better known to those who practice the art.

The first regular society of ringers appears to have been established about the year 1776 of which a Mr James Wilding is the senior member, and Mr. R. Lloyd his zealous successor in seniority, although prior to that time, this latter gentleman informed me, several respectable gentlemen of the town used to meet, considering it no ignoble amusement to join in a peal.

The union then formed, continued well, until some electioneering squabbles and contentions, for a season caused a want of harmony among them. About 1811 the Union again pealed together and continued with some cross changes until 1818 when it was again closed until the present month.

Being an ardent lover of the science of ringing & bell harmony, I have frequently regretted the long silence of St. Mary's and St. Alkmond's [sic] bells the latter having been motionless until a few days since 1820, owing it is said to the frame of the bells being too [fo. 24r] [IMG_7614/5] near the walls of the tower, which from causing a considerable vibration, was thereby thought to endanger the spire.

St. Mary's were in a similar state for about fourteen months, owing to the *looseness* of the frame in which they were hung and having the same effect on the spire and particularly on one of the pinnacles under which it was highly dangerous to pass, when the tenor bell only was ringing; this was remedied by a few wedges being placed, so as to steady the frame, and those fine bells after a long silence, now perform their usual share of ringing since June 1822. And their melody floats along Sabrina's stream. 14th October 1823.

Society promoting Christian Knowledge.

Sunday October 19th. The mayor, several members of the body corporate and friends of the Salop District of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, proceeded from the Town Hall to the Abbey Church where a sermon was preached by the Reverend Dr. Forester from 2 Thess 3 ch 13 ver. The collection in aid of its funds amounted to £33.13s. 0d. Lord Forester the President was prevented attending through indisposition.

[fo. 25r] [IMG_7616/7]

Sick Mans Friend.

October 21. The 13th anniversary of the Sick Man's Friend and lying in charity was held in the school room of the chapel on Swan Hill. From the report which was read to the meeting it appears the receipts were £146. 16s. 0d. and the disbursements were £162. 5s. 5d. leaving a balance of £15. 9s. 5d. due to the treasurer.

Weather.

We were rather surprised this evening by a fall of snow, accompanied with wind and sleet which continued about 10 hours. October 30th.

Abbey Church.

The architectural designs which filled the upper part of the east window in the Abbey Church were taken out and replaced by filling the four principal compartments with angels, one in each, attired in rich drapery and holding a flowing label in old English characters 'Gloria Deo in Excelsis et in Terra Pax. In homines Benevolentia'. In the corners are cherubs and the whole is surmounted by the Holy Lamb. Saturday November 1st.

I should have stated that this alteration is at the expense of the Rev. Mr. W. G. Rowland.

[fo. 26r] [IMG_7618]
Agricultural Society.
November 13. A special meeting of the Agricultural Society took place at the Lion Inn for the purpose of considering the propriety of dissolving it, when it was resolved so to do after the distribution of premiums in July 1824.

Hunt week.
The attendance at the Shrewsbury Hunt this week was highly numerous and respectable. Saturday November 15. Hon. R. H. Clive President.

Halston Family.
November 20. John Mytton esquire of Halston had a son and heir born.

Memorandum.
December 4th. A very high wind.

St. Alkmonds.
Sunday December 7th. There was no service at St. Alkmond's today in consequence of the alterations which must necessarily take place in the gallery prior to the erection of the new organ which arrived on the 4th Inst.

St. Alkmonds.
Sunday December 21st. The new organ at Saint Alkmond's was this [fo. 27r] [IMG_7620] morning opened by Mr Davies who has been elected organist, and the singers of the church; at night the Choral Society of the town lent their services Mr Wynne presiding at the organ, and Mr Tomlins leader.

The Rev. J. Richards Curate of the church preached an interesting and appropriate discourse from 135 psalm 2 and 3 verses, the church was crowded to excess, and the collections amounted to £36.7s.0d.

The expense of the organ is I believe £180.

Christmas Day 1823 The body corporate attended Divine Service at St. Alkmund's, The Rev. J. Richards preached.

[fo. 26v] [IMG_7619]
1862 December 21st.
On the anniversary of the opening of the St. Alkmond's organ, the Rev. C. E. L. Wightman, Vicar of St. Alkmonds, preached a funeral sermon on the death of the Rev. John Richards, who was buried at Shawbury on the previous Friday. The Rev. J. J. James who read the evening prayer at the opening of the organ, died, this day December 21st 1862.

[fo. 27r contd]
December 31st 1823 Married
The Reverend Samuel Lee M.A. of Queens College Cambridge and Professor of Arabic in that university to Mrs Palmer of Regent Street London.

[fos. 28-31 blank]

[fo. 32r] [IMG 7621]

Salopian Annals 1824 by Henry Pidgeon.

Samaritan Society January 25th 1824
Two Sermons were preached in St. Johns Chapel by Mr Gill of Brosely in aid of the funds of the Good Samaritan Society. £15. 11s. 2 ½ d was collected.

Bishop of Lichfield
Tuesday January 21st 1824.
Died at Richmond, Surrey in his 82nd year; The Rt. Hon and Rt Rev. James Cornwallis, D.C.L., Earl Cornwallis Viscount Brome etc etc, Lord Bishop of this Diocese and over which he has presided, forty two years, a longer period than any other Prelate ever enjoyed its dignities. 'He was the 80th Bishop since its institution in the Seventh Century'.

Memorandum.
The month of January has been unusually mild for the season of year, but little frost has been experienced, [fo. 33r] [IMG_7622] though much rain has fallen in the course of it.

Nothing particular has transpired relative to our Town, beside two or three meetings having been held respecting the propriety of altering and improving the Holyhead Road through it, at which much interesting discussion took place but no decisive plans were determined upon.

Nor should I omit to mention the gratification Mr. C. A. Hulbert has excited amongst his friends by the publication of a neat little book entitled *A wreath of Ivy and Christmas Wild Flowers*. Though we cannot be said to *envy* the manner in which our author wishes to depart out of this 'vale of tears', to his last sad 'Home', No! we would rather his remains beneath the sod should lie, than our – 'current shroud them when he die'. In fact, we rather startle at the thought and would feelingly sympathize with him fondly indulging the idea that these are his *milder* thoughts. Saturday January 31st.

[fo. 34r] [IMG_7623]
Sir Brooke Boothby died January 23 1824.
At Boulogne in his 80th year, Sir Brooke Boothby Bart of Ashbourn Hall Co. Derby.
He was a Burgess of our Town, and presented to the Corporation the Portraits of King Charles 1st, and King William 3rd which now ornament the Grand Jury Room.
[remainder of the page blank]

[fo. 35r] [IMG_7625]
February 1824
Parliament. Monday February 2.
Parliament was opened this day by Commission. Rowland Hill Esq., moved the address in the Commons.

Fox Hounds. Saturday February 7th
A meeting of several gentlemen who are desirous to establish by subscription a pack of Fox Hounds to hunt this County, assembled at the Lion Inn. The result was that Sir B.

Graham is to be requested to undertake the management of the pack provided a sufficient subscription is obtained.

High Sheriff
John Wingfield Esq. of Onslow is appointed High Sheriff of our County for the year ensuing.

Holyhead Road. Monday February 16.
A meeting at the Town Hall respecting the Holyhead Road. Justice Smith asked 'what were they going to do all this for? For the *Irish* he supposed, Why should we do it? We get nothing by them!' At this meeting various plans were proposed, on [fo. 35v] [IMG_7226] which a long and interesting discussion ensued and a subscription at length entered into for improving the Holyhead line up the Wyle Cop.

[fo. 36r] [IMG_7627]
Public Stocks. Tuesday Feb 24th.
The punishment of confinement in the stocks has long been disused in this town. A pair stood against the Market Hall but were removed some 18 years ago. A temporary pair were fixed near to the Butter Cross, in which were placed two youths for gambling on the Sabbath day. The novelty of this proceeding excited a concourse of spectators, and the Rev. J. B. Blakeway in passing gave the offenders some admonitory advice.

Lecture St Chads. Thursday February 26 1824.
The lecture at St. Chads recommenced this evening, having been discontinued since the close of last September in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Langley, the Curate and Lecturer. The congregation generally is small for so large and respectable a parish and which induced a gentleman about two years ago, to enquire from the pulpit whether 'these are the few out of so large a population that are seeking their way to Zion with their faces thitherward?'

[fo. 37r] [IMG_7629]
New Bishop Lichfield
In the conclusion of last month I noticed the demise of the venerable Bishop of this Diocese, and now record his successor, the Hon. and Rev. Henry Ryder D.D., late Bishop of Gloucester, who was born in 1778 and is the seventh son of the late Nathaniel Lord Harrowby and brother of the present Earl of Harrowby, Lord President of the Council. Saturday February 28th

[fo. 36v] [IMG_7628]
The new Bishop underwent the ceremony of Installation in Lichfield Cathedral. April 27th.
H.P.

[fo.37r contd]
Married 10 February
E.W. Smythe Owen Esq. of Condover Park to Charlotte Maria, third daughter of the late John Edward Maddocks Esq. of Fron-Iw [sic], Co.Denbigh

[fo. 38r] [IMG_7630]
Holyhead Road. Monday March 1st 1824

A numerous meeting was held in the Town Hall relative to the improvement of the Holyhead [Road] through our town, Lord Clive in the chair. An answer from the Town Committee of Management which was read shewed that they are fully impressed with the necessity of improving the Wyle Cop and are willing to contribute the sum of £400, which is the utmost amount that can be so applied from their funds but they are of opinion that the Wyle Cop can never be made good, either as a paved, or a broken stone road, unless the water is well carried off by underdraining that street of which the following is an estimate.

To under drain Wyle Cop, Dogpole and Ox Lane	£260 0s. 0d.
Repaving footpaths, curbstones etc	£64 0s. 0d.
McAdamising W(yle) Cop and Eng(lish) Bridge	£310 0s. 0d.
Removing projections and obstructions	£35 0s. 0d.
	£669 0s. 0d.

A subscription was accordingly opened to make up the deficiency. This was the final meeting. H.P.

[fo. 39r] IMG_7631]
Tempest. March 3rd 9 o'clock a.m.
An awful hurricane visited our town with a considerable fall of snow and hail accompanied by thunder and lightning. The tempest tore down a large limb from one of the Quarry trees near the Rev. J. Rocke's house which in falling, shattered the arms and trunk of another tree across the walk.

Slavery. Monday March 8th
A petition having been presented to the Mayor, signed by 24 respectable gentlemen of the town, requesting him to convene a meeting of the inhabitants to consider the propriety of presenting a petition to the Honorable the House of Commons expressive of gratitude for the means adopted by that House for *ameliorating the condition of the slave population* in his Majesty's colonies etc.

On the motion of the Venerable Archdeacon Corbett seconded by the Rev. Thos. Oswell, a petition was resolved on. Joseph Loxdale Esq., in the absence of the Mayor took the chair.

[fo. 40r] IMG_7633]
Lent Assize. Wednesday March 17th 1824
At an early hour this morning our town was all bustle in consequence of the High Sheriff, John Wingfield Esq., proceeding at eight o'clock attended by his Javelin Men and a numerous attendance of gentlemen and tradesmen to meet Mr. Justice Park and escort him into town. At a few minutes before nine he arrived and, after opening the Commission and partaking of breakfast, he proceeded to attend Divine Service at St. Chad's church where an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles Wingfield, the High Sheriff's brother, from 4 chap. Amos and 13 verse, after which he proceeded with the business of the Crown Court. The Calendar contains 53 prisoners.

Mr. Baron Garrow, who presided at the Nisi Prius did not arrive from Stafford until 12 o'clock. There were 16 causes.

The trial of Beacall and Wellings for embezzling certain sums of money belonging to the Directors of the Shrewsbury House of Industry came on at these Assizes and excited much interest. They were found guilty.

[fo. 39v] IMG_7632]
Judgement on Beacall and Wellings was respited until next Assizes and their case in the meantime will be left to the consideration of the 12 judges

[fo. 41r] IMG_7635]
St. Chad's. Sunday March 21st
The Judges of Assize, attended Divine Service at St. Chad's. The Rev. John Langley, Curate of the Church, read the Service of the day and afterwards preached from the 3rd and part of the 4th verses of the 3rd Chapter of Romans. He commenced his discourse by saying that in every age of the World man has been led to disbelieve the oracles of God. As instances thereof, he brought forward our first parents the Antediluvian Word, the Jews etc and after a few brief remarks as to the import of the words of the text, he proceeded to consider *First* the prevalence of unbelief, *Secondly,* the folly of such a principle. Under the first point he said it was not his intention to bring forward what was called infidelity, but to shew that there is a kind of secret unbelief which prevails in every mind.
1. Man's neglect of the word of God is unbelief.
2. What neglect men discover in understanding the word of God; and what great things are expected in direct opposition to it.

Some men do not imagine that *all* will be *finally lost*, that the wicked shall be turned into Hell etc. Can such [fo, 42r] [IMG_7637] men be said to believe the word of God. They certainly *profess* to believe that there is a God. They profess to believe that they have an 'immortal soul', but make no provision for the day of judgement, living as securely here as if the days and the years were their own, seemingly as if they had made a covenant with death. Having pointed out the prevalence of unbelief, he proceeded, *Secondly,* to shew the folly of such a principle which, in the first place, cannot avert those evils it affects to despise. In confirming and reviewing what he had said in the former part of his discourse, he said, shall *Hell* be *divested* of its *torments,* or *its punishments limited*? Shall the *nature* and *blessedness of Heaven* be changed to mortal conceit? Is it probable? Is it possible? Secondly, it enhances the evils whose practices it affects to deny. He held out a caution to those who yield themselves to unbelief, to take heed lest they are deceived, since we know that 'he who believeth shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be condemned'. In conclusion he urged his hearers to draw healing virtue from the Gospel.

[fo. 43r] [IMG_7639]
Execution. Monday March 22nd 1824.
Richard Overfield aged 35 was executed for the murder of his child 4 months old by administering sulphuric acid to it. After hanging the usual time his body was conveyed to the Infirmary for dissection.

Conversion of Jews. Wednesday March 31.
A sermon was preached at St. Chad's Church by the Rev. J. H. Stewart, minister of Percy Hall Chapel, London, in behalf of the Society for the Conversion of the Jews. The collection amounted to £16 12s. 4d.

St. Mary's Organ. The noble front of St. Mary's organ cleaned and varnished.

[fo. 44r] [IMG_7640]

Execution. Saturday April 3 1824.
Richard Smith convicted at our late Assizes of a burglary at Priors Lee, was executed this morning on which day he completed his 23rd year.

House of Industry. Tuesday 6 April.
Mr O. D. Owen late of Overton is appointed steward and clerk of our House of Industry, and Mrs Owen to the situation of matron.

Alderman Cullis. Died April 8th 1824.
Alderman Edward Cullis in his 78th year. He was a plain inoffensive man, and rose by his own industry from a comparative menial situation, to affluence and honour. He was elected mayor of our Borough in 1820 and was interred in St. Chad's cemetery.

Weather.
The weather for the last eight days has been very unsettled. We experienced a fall of snow on Saturday last, and yesterday and today several hail storms, accompanied by thunder and lightning, though the weather was cold and frosty. Monday April 12th.

[fo. 45r] [IMG_7641]
St. Mary's Tower. Workmen have commenced restoring the decayed parts in front of the lower portion of St. Mary's tower, and to lower the walk in the churchyard, leading from the north to the west entrance, whereby some inconvenient steps are removed which occasioned a descent from the porch to the church.

Easter, St. Chad's. Sunday April 18th 1824.
The mayor and 6 alderman preceded by their officers, the Shropshire Band &c. went in procession to St. Chad's church, where the Rev. John Langley preached an excellent sermon from 3 chapter Romans and part 25 verse 'He was raised again for our justification', to a very full congregation. He preached from the former part of the verse on Good Friday.

Baptist Schools. Same day.
Two sermons were preached at the Baptist Meeting House by the Rev. Manoah Kent, in aid of the Sunday School connected with that place.

[fo. 46r] [IMG_7642]
Free Schools. Wednesday April 21st 1824.
At 4 p.m. an alarm was given that smoke and fire were seen issuing from the tower of our Royal Free Grammar School, the engines were immediately called and by prompt exertion, the fire was soon got under, fortunately no great damage was done, beside melting a quantity of lead, which ran in streams from the tower, and damaging through the h[…]y* the clock. The fire originated in consequence of a dilapidated chimney which had a communication with the tower.

St. Chad's Schools. Sunday April 25.
Two sermons were preached at St. Chad's church in aid of the funds of the Girls School and Boys Sunday School in that parish, by the Rev. Edward Burn, M. A. minister of St.

* Illegible word.

Mary's Birmingham. The collection amounted to £52 2s. 3d.

County coroner. Wednesday April 28th.
Our town this morning manifested all the bustle of an election, the Cavalry Band [fo. 47r] [IMG_7644] having commenced parading the streets soon after 6 o'clock, in consequence of the election of a coroner for the county in the place of Mr. Whitcomb, and which took place at the Guild Hall this morning. The candidates were Mr Southam of Cleobury Mortimer and Mr. G. Jones of Bridgnorth, who have been canvassing the suffrages of the freeholders for the last six months. The High Sheriff having read his decision, declared Mr Jones duly elected, who returned thanks, and was afterwards placed in an *'arm chair'* and conveyed from the Hall accompanied by music &c. to the Unicorn Inn, where the assembled crowd after anxiously waiting for a speech, were obliged to depart as they came.

[fo. 46v] [IMG_7643]
August 26 1824. Mr Southam was elected in the room of Mr Whitcombe as a coroner for the county, Mr Jones's election having being declared void.

[fo. 48r] [IMG_7645]
Wesleyan Missions. Sunday May 2nd.
The annual sermons in aid of the Wesleyan Missions were preached at St. John's Chapel. The public meeting was held on Wednesday. Thomas Brookes, Esqr. of Bewdley in the chair.

St. Mary's Tower.
Workmen still continue their reparations on the west side of St. Mary's tower, having completed the red stone basement they have proceeded to the upper stor[e]y which is also repaired with Roman cement, by means of a moveable scaffold, suspended by pullies from the battlements. The windows in this part of the tower were repaired last year.

The Burial Ground attached to this church and populous parish has long been full and in a dirty and most irregular state, in fact, I have witnessed graves that have been made within eighteen inches of the surface of the ground, whilst the soil from repeated interments had accumulated to a considerable height up the walls of the building. It has therefore been [fo. 49r] [IMG_7646] considered advisable to lower the cemetery and consequently many hundred cart loads of earth have been conveyed to a field of Dr Butler's at Coton Hill, and although a considerable improvement will be effected by this proceeding at the north, south and west entrances, whereby some inconvenient steps are removed which caused an unpleasant descent into the church, yet the feeling mind cannot but grieve at the consequent removal of the ashes of hundreds, and view with a sort of sympathetic disgust, the quantity of human bones, which are continually thrown up and scattered around with apparent unconcern. The workmen however, in many instances, have had to encounter with not a few of those persons who think 'What guilt can equal violations of the dead. The dead how sacred. Sacred is the dust. Of this Heaven laboured form'. At the same time it is to be lamented that places of sepulture ever should have been allowed in towns, our own [fo. 50r] [IMG_7647] having afforded a striking example of the baneful effects resulting from such a practice. Nor is the worst part of this tragic tale at an end, for a tradesman desirous of facilitating to his advantage the erection of a new house and workshop at the south east end of *St. Julian's Church*, made an arrangement with the parish to remove the steps leading direct from the Wyle Cop to the cemetery,

provided he might take in three feet of the walk, which leads round the east end of the church, and which was a portion of the burial ground until 1810, when it was railed off for a foot path. After the steps have been removed, and when digging for the cellars, a considerable portion of the superincumbent earth gave way, and brought to view, vast quantities of bones and remnants of coffins. May 22nd 1824.

St. Chad's Bells. Tuesday May 25.
From the low situation in which St. Chad's bells hang, and the consequent inefficacy of [fo. 51r] [IMG_7648] sound in the announcement of the hour, it was deemed advisable that the clock should strike on the tenor bell upwards.

Accident. Master George Case. Friday May 28th 1824.
Master G. Case (son of the Rev. G. Case, Unitarian minister) whilst amusing himself with his dog on the banks of the river near the English Bridge, unfortunately slipped in, and was drowned.

Oswestry Mile Oak.
During this month, the fine oak tree near Oswestry, called the '*Mile Oak'* and which had for centuries braved the storms and tempests of conflicting elements, was cut down. Its demolition was unnecessary and has excited a general sensation of regret in Oswestry. See a letter on the subject in the Shrewsbury Chronicle of May 28th by H. Pidgeon.

St. Mary's.
The dial of St. Mary's clock removed lower down the tower and the west front of the [fo. 52r] [IMG_7649] steeple completed. The north and south sides of the tower will be commenced of immediately.

Bible Society. Sunday May 30th 1824.
Two sermons were preached at St. Chad's church in aid of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society, that in the morning by the Rev. Edward Williams, M. A. minister of Battlefield &c from 1 Chapter Phillipians part of 27 verse 'Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ', and in the evening the Rev. Preston Nunn curate of Church Stretton. The congregations were but small and the collection amounted to £41 14s. 1d.

Royal Academy. Among the variety of interesting paintings, this year at the Royal Academy, is one of the Battle of Shrewsbury by Mr A. Cooper, in which the principal figure on a grey horse is Archibald Earl of Douglas killing Sir Walter Blount; on another grey horse is Henry Percy, who having overthown the [fo. 53r] [IMG_7650] treacherous Earl of Stafford, and is in the act of leading on the rebel army. On the other side is King Henry contending with Sir Richard Vernon, whose banner &c lies in the foreground. May 1824.

Died May 21st Sir John Hill, Bart., of Hawkstone in his 81st year, he was a member of the Corporation of this town for many years and was elected mayor in [blank]. He was interred at Hodnet.

Sunday May 30. A man named Oliver Dillon, who was confined in the Watch House for tippling, hung himself; he is said to be respectably connected and to have had a good

education. He was interred next day at the House of Industry.

[fo. 53v] [IMG_7651]
The Cavalry had their grand field day on the 7th inst. and were reviewed by a Major Eckersly, many persons assembled to witness their evolutions.

June 1. A child aged 5 years drowned at Coton Hill, the name was Barton.

[fo. 54v] [IMG_7652]
Cavalry. June 1st.
The Shrewsbury Yeomanry Cavalry assembled for eight days permanent duty.

The Butchers.
St. Alkmund's bells rang merrily this evening, in consequence of the inspecting duty or fine having been taken off hides that may be damaged by the butchers. June 1st.

Corporation. St. Chad's. Sunday June 6th 1824
Being Whitsunday, the Mayor and Corporation attended Divine Service at St. Chad's Church when the Rev. J. Langley preached a sermon 8 chapter Romans 26 verse.

Jos[ep]h Bromfield. Died June 6th.
Joseph Bromfield Esq. of St. Julian's Friars in his 81st year. He was for many years a member of the Corporation and served the office of mayor in 1809. He was a mild inoffensive gentleman, quite unassuming in his manners and attained a rank of honour and respectability by his own persevering industry. Mr. B. was by trade a builder.

[fo. 54v] [IMG_7653]
1824 Sunday June 13th.
Two sermons were preached in St. Alkmunds church in aid of the Sunday Schools belonging to that parish, by the Rev. J. Richards, curate of the church.

[fo. 55r] [IMG_7654]
William Davies.
Died June 15th. At a very advanced age Mr William Davies of Princess Street, upholsterer. This individual was a native of our town and though he had amassed property by his business many years ago to the amount, it is supposed, of £30,000, lived with a sister who died about eighteen months ago in the greatest parsimony. To accumulate this property Mr Davies's trade must have been good in years past, but this had during the last quarter of a century dwindled into nothing, though paper hangings, carpets, &c &c were continually exposed for sale, and of a pattern quite antique.

The shop previous to the death of his sister was as dirty as a place that was seldom or ever swept could be, and similar to what we may suppose Dirty Dick's Warehouse to have been in London. Mr Davies and his sister generally went by the epithet of '*Brother Billy'* and '*Sister Betty'* words which they always used when speaking of each other, whilst no person had for many years been permitted to proceed further in their premises than the shop. [fo. 56r] [IMG_7656] So that how they lived few could tell, further than that every thing about them was of the dirtiest description. When his sister died he locked the door of the room where she lay and would suffer no one to enter for a long time, until persuaded of the paramount necessity for so doing, by Mr Clement a surgeon of our town.

After her death his constitution soon began to give way, owing probably to a better and more regular change of living, and a greater quantity of wine and spirits with which he was well plied. A distant female relation of the name of Strange who attended him during his illness, has succeeded to his property under a will, after paying off some handsome legacies. He had no near relations. His remains were interred in Acton Burnell churchyard by the side of his sister on the following Wednesday. I might considerably extend this memoir, but as the deceased gent. did in no way contribute to the good of our town, it may be considered that I have said enough.

[fo. 55v] [IMG_7655]
Mrs Strange died in September 1824 and her youngest daughter shortly afterwards, just at the time as her mother's will was being proved at St. Chad's church. [written in pencil underneath] Another daughter of Mrs Strange married a person of the name of Gavin Clarke who kept the Fox Inn. He became insolvent in 1838 and this daughter left destitute with a family.

[fo. 57r] [IMG_7657]
The Show. Monday June 21st 1824.
Being the day on which the ancient pageant of Shrewsbury Show is usually celebrated, proving unfavourable by heavy rain, the Bellman about 10 o'clock proclaimed a postponement until the morrow, by order of the Mayor, and much to the satisfaction of many.

Tuesday 22nd. It was yet doubtful whether the procession would go to Kingsland dry, in consequence of heavy rain occasionally falling, about one o'clock however the atmosphere cleared up, and at ½ past the companies proceeded to Kingsland in the following order: [fo. 57r] [IMG_7658] Master Cordwainers, preceded by their beadle bearing a battle axe and Crispin and Crispanus on horseback with music and three flags. *Apprentices*, by their king, music, flags &c. Master Tailors preceded by two men, bearing each a sword and shield, a third carried a battle axe, music, flag and streamers. *Apprentice* Tailors preceded by a flag.
[fo. 58r] [IMG_7660]
Master Butchers preceded by their beadle, and shield bearers, music, flags, &c. The *apprentices* had their '*king'* on horseback, music, flags and streamers. Master Smiths preceded by a '*knight'* in a complete suit of black armour, carrying a sword and shield inscribed with 'Hammer and hand, all acts do stand', his attendants occasionally firing blunderbusses. A shield and charter bearer followed, and music, flags, &c. Master Builders preceded by their king who personated Henry 8th with tolerable effect, being portly, well raddled and whiskered. The cavalry band, flags, &c. The *apprentices* had their king, music and large purple and orange flag. Apprentice Barbers had a '*Queen'* on a led horse with music. Master Saddlers, Painters &c. were preceded by a cap[a]risoned horse, led by a well dressed jockey, music &c. About half an hour afterwards the Mayor preceded by his officers and attended [fo. 59r] [IMG_7662] by his friends followed to Kingsland on horseback, where they visited the several companies in the arbours and partook of the refreshment provided. Unfortunately, about 4 o'clock a most terrific thunderstorm came on accompanied by tremendous rain, which dispersed the multitude assembled in hasty confusion, it continued drizzling throughout the evening and at 8 o'clock the trades returned through Coleham. Great preparation had been made to render this celebration of out ancient pageant attractive, nor did the labours and expense

bestowed prove of none effect since it was undoubtedly one of the best that had been witnessed for many years.

St. Giles's Church. Sunday June 27th.
Divine service was performed at St. Giles's church and the Rev. W. G. Rowland preached from Romans. The congregation in this neglected little temple was numerous and attentive, whilst *swallows* oft and loud sent forth their notes.

[fo. 60r] [IMG_7664]
Drowning. Thursday July 1st.
Two youths, sons of Mrs Simpson of this town and Mr Griffiths of Bishop's Castle (printer) were drowned whilst bathing in the river beyond Dr Darwin's, opposite Gravel Hill, the water being at the time bankfull. Simpson was found about three hours afterwards.

Humane Society.
From the frequent and recent accidents that have occured [sic] by drowning it would prove desirable to have a Humane Society established in our town. From a diligent enquiry I have ascertained that a branch of the Humane Society was established in Salop about the year 1794 and that at its formation an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Gilpin after which a collection was made and a subscription entered into to support its design. But this institution has long been lost in the stream of oblivion.

[fo. 61r] [IMG_7665]
Bible Society. Wednesday July 7th 1824.
The anniversary meeting of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Guild Hall, and numerously attended, especially by the fair sex, several good speeches were made. Archdeacon Corbett, President.

Hay Harvest.
The greater part of this week has been very hot, which has rendered the hay harvest general, the late heavy rains have materially delayed it. The hay harvest was got in by this time last year. Saturday July 10th.

Bible Society. Sunday July 11.
A sermon was preached at Swan Hill Chapel, by the Rev. Joseph Hughes, M.A. of London, in aid of the funds of the Bible Society, the sum of £21 5s. 0d. was collected.

House of Industry. Monday July 12.
A numerous meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the six united parishes took place in the board room of the House of Industry 'To [fo. 62r] [IMG_7666] consider the propriety of *dissolving* the corporation, and to consult on the measures to be taken thereon'. Alderman Perry in the chair.

National School. Sunday July 18th 1824.
The Mayor and body corporate with a respectable company of subscribers to the National School assembled at the Town Hall and accompanied Panton Corbett, Esquire, M.P. to the Abbey Church where the Venerable Archdeacon Corbett preached an appropriate sermon from 4 chap Phillipians 17 verse. He likewise preached in the afternoon at St. Julian's. The collections amounted to £54 7s. 8d.

Fox Hounds, Kennell. Thursday July 22nd.
A meeting of the subscribers to the Shropshire Fox Hounds was held when a subscription was commenced for the purpose of building a 'County kennell and stables' near the town.

Agricultural Society. Friday July 23rd.
It having been resolved at a special meeting [fo. 63r] [IMG_7667] held at the County Hall, of the Shropshire Agricultural Society on the 13th November last, that it is expedient that the society be dissolved, and 'that the committee should offer prizes to the extent of the balance in hand and adjudge them in July'.

Accordingly, the committee and a few agriculturists met this day, the last shew of stock held (which was very small), the prizes adjudged, and after partaking of a good dinner at the Raven, the Society became extinct.

Lady Jones.
This week was interred according to her own request, in the ancient burial place of her husband's ancestors in St. Alkmond's church, the remains of Harriett Rebecca, Lady Jones, widow of the late Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt Jones, Bart, M.P. who was buried at Windsor. She was fourth daughter of the late Edward Williams, Esquire, of Easton Mascott, by Barbara, relict of John Corbet, Esquire, of Sundorne, Co. Salop. She died at Eaton Mascott on the 15th aged 57 years.
[fo. 64r] [IMG_7668] No interment had taken place in the vault of the Jones's at St. Alkmunds for upwards of 79 years, in which are buried Sir Thomas Jones, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, 1692; Thomas Jones, Esquire 1715; his first wife 1712; his widow afterwards the wife of Sir Charles Lloyd, Bart, 1730, and Thomas Jones, Esquire, who died while High Sheriff of the County 1745. Another coffin with the initials W. J. but nearly illegible, is supposed to be that of William Jones, Esquire, six times bailiff and first mayor of Shrewsbury.

Wyle Cop.
The Wyle Cop undergoing a state of lowering, under-draining and macadamising, coaches, carts &c go down Belmont.

Drowning.
An old pensioner generally known by the name of 'Frank' being in a state of intoxication slipped into the Severne [sic] near Dr Darwin's and was drowned. July 28th 1824.

United Parishes. Friday July 30.
A special meeting of the Guardians of the Poor.

[fo. 65r] [IMG_7669]
St. Alkmunds, Jones's Altar Tomb.
Having sent a communication to the Salopian Journal about the middle of last June, setting forth the dilapidated state of the handsome altar tomb to the memory of Alderman William Jones and his wife Eleanor, and which originally stood in the chantry north of the chancel of the old church of St. Alkmund, but was on the demolition of that ancient structure placed within a wire screen on the outside of the present edifice, and had consequently suffered much from the effects of the weather, was this day removed to the Abbey Church, where it will be thoroughly repaired and beautified, and placed at the upper end of the south aile [sic] so as to correspond with the large altar tomb of the

Onslows, brought from the ruins of old St. Chad's, and placed in the north aile [sic]. August 9th 1824.

Bishop's Visitation. Tuesday August 16th.
The Bishop of this diocese held his primary visitation in St. Chad's church, and delivered [fo. 66r] [IMG_7671] a faithful charge to his clergy. The Venerable Archdeacon Owen having previously preached an excellent sermon from 1 Timothy 4 ch. 16 verse. Wednesday 13th. The Bishop confirmed upwards of a thousand persons in the same church, and afterwards addressed them with much solemnity.

Same day. The Judges of Assize, Justices Park and Littledale arrived in town and opened the Commission of Assize.

Summer Assize. Thursday August 14.
The Judges attended by the High Sheriff and usual authorities, heard Divine Service at St. Chad's church, where the Rev. Charles Wingfield, the Sheriff's chaplain, preached from 10 ch. Acts, 34 and 35 ver. After which Justice Park took his seat at the Crown Court. The calendar is not heavy and his Lordship in his address to the grand jury, congratulated them on the diminution of crime in our county.

[fo. 65v] [IMG_7670]
Beacall and Wellings were acquitted of the charges preferred against them at the last Assizes, but were again tried on fresh indictments, found guilty and sentenced to seven ['fourteen' written above in pencil] years transportation.

[fo. 67r] [IMG_7672]
St. Chad's Church. Bishop Ryder. Sunday August 15th 1824.
The Hon. and Rev. Henry Ryder, D.D., Lord Bishop of this Diocese attended by his chaplain, the Venerable Archdeacon Owen and the Reverend Thomas Stedman, M.A., the High Sheriff of the county, the Judges of Assize, preceded by the church wardens of St. Chad's walked in procession up the middle aile [sic] of that church, the clergy taking their seats at the altar and the judges in their usual place.

The Rev. John Langley, curate, read the service in a most impressive manner, the Bishop and Archdeacon assisting at the communion after which the Bishop ascended the pulpit and preached from 1 ch. St. John, part 1 verse, being an eloquent and faithful exposition of that fundamental doctrine of our faith, The *Divinity of Christ*. 'The word was God' truly indeed. 'By him the violated law spoke out its thunders, and by him in strains as sweet as angels use, the Gospel whispered peace'. The ailes [sic] and body of the church were crowded to excess, by one of the most respectable congregations ever collected within its sacred walls.

[fo. 68r] [IMG_7673]
Balloon Ascent. Monday August 23rd.
Our good old town was very early on the bustle and many were the wishes that the resplendant lustre with which the sun had risen, would continue unclouded and undiminished throughout the day, to witness Mr Green's 20th aerial excursion, a scene quite novel in this part of the country. During the whole of the past week, the balloon, partly inflated was witnessed by thousands in the Circus and removed this morning to the Gas House Yard, the place of ascent.

The day fortunately was as clear, calm and beautiful as mortal wish could desire, and the crowds of persons that occupied the banks, walls, towers of the different churches, the

Column, particularly the towers and ramparts of our ancient castle, the terrace and in short every convenient spot near and distant, was immense, and formed a scene when viewed from a central eminence at once grand and imposing whilst the vast [fo. 69r] [IMG_7674] multitude caused an excitement of astonishment.

Most of the shops and houses in the town were closed, while their inmates witnessed a scene never before exhibited in the capital of Shropshire, and which will long be remembered with pleasure.

The inflation commenced at half past one, and at 27 minutes past four a small pilot balloon was sent up as the signal of the grand ascent, and at ½ past four, the balloon with its intrepid manager, standing on the edge of the car, rose into sight, amid the loud cheers of the spectators and the band playing 'God save the King'.

Mr Green took his adventurous flight in the most grand and satisfactory manner. The ascent was slow and regular, at first in a north east direction, afterwards easterly and then south easterly and continuing in view to the naked eye, upwards of two hours at a great elevation. He descended safely on the estate of the Earl of Darlington in [fo. 70r] [IMG_7675] Corve Dale about 16 miles from Salop at 50 minutes past 6, after a pleasant voyage of 2 hours and 20 minutes. He supposes his utmost elevation to have been about 2 or 2¼ miles. The balloon is of a pear shape, 107 feet in circumference, 34 ft. in diameter and with the car nearly 50 feet in height and is capable of containing 136,280 gallons of gas. The car is about 2 ft 3 in. in depth, 2 ft in width and 5 in length, of a boat like shape and covered with leather.

Church Missionary Society. Wednesday August 25th.
A sermon was preached at St. Chad's church by the Rev. Parsons from Mark 16 ch, 15 and 16 verses, for the benefit of the Shropshire Church Missionary Association, after which a numerous and respectable company attended the annual meeting in the County Hall. The report was read by the Rev. John Langley, secretary, and the collections amounted to £43 3s. 0d.

[fo. 71r] [IMG_7676]
Church Missionary Society. Friday August 29th 1824.
A sermon was preached in St. Alkmond's church by the Rev. R. W. Sibthorpe in aid of the funds of the Church Missionary Society, when £16 1s. 7½d. was collected.

Churchyard Inscriptions.
A person named Blount, master of the National School, engaged by our historians to copy the inscriptions in our several church yards, for the History of Shrewsbury now in course of publication. August 30th.

Corn Harvest.
The corn harvest near our town is finished, the weather has been beautiful, and the crops are abundant.

[fo. 72r] [IMG_7677]
Drowning. September 4th 1824
I have again to record the death of another youth by drowning: Mr Philip Marindin, a pupil of Dr Butler's having ventured to bathe at a time & place forbidden by the Doctor, unfortunately got out of his depth and was drowned. The body was found after being under water 20 minutes, and though immediate efforts were made to restore animation, they proved unavailing.

St Chad's Dome.
Scaffolding was erected to gild the cross on St Chad's steeple, but from the uncertainty of the weather it was deemed advisable to postpone the work until next summer.

Powis Eisteddfod
Much interest has been excited in our town and great preparations made in Welsh Pool and its environs for the due celebration of the Powys Eisteddfod, but it only remains for me to mention that our amateur performers and chorus singers were highly complimented for their services [fo. 73r] [IMG_7678] and considered to 'possess talents sufficient for any concert'. So much for native merit, of which it is years since *we* as Salopians have had an opportunity of forming our own judgement. September 11th 1824.

Horse Races
Our races were held on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd September. The company on the race ground on Tuesday & Wednesday and the weather tolerably fine. On Thursday the assembly was larger but a fall of rain coming on about ½ past three o'clock prevented much of the 'sport' anticipated. 23rd [September].

Infirmary meeting. September 24th.
The subscribers and friends to the Salop Infirmary walked in procession from that place with the Treasurer the Hon. Robert Henry Clive, to St Chad's Church, where the Reverend William Clive, vicar of Welshpool, preached a sermon from 2 chapter Phillipians, 4 verse. The plates were held by Mrs Smythe Owen, supported by Wrottesly Esq. and Miss Corbet of Sundorne, by J. R. Kynaston Esq. £193 8s. 2d. was collected.

[fo. 74r] [IMG_7679]
Balloon ascent
Mr Green having notified that he should make his 23rd aerial ascent on the Friday in the Race Week, about 2 o'clock crowds were seen taking various directions to the places which they considered to command the best views of the ascent.

He was however under the necessity of delaying his departure for more than one reason, which did not take place until 25 minutes past 3, at which time he went off most majestically and with considerable velocity in a south west direction, but at first not with such a rapidity of ascent as on his former voyage. On discharging some ballast he was perceived to rise with much rapidity, and shortly afterwards disappeared behind a dense cloud, again reappeared, and again lost to view in a similar manner; thus forming a novel feature in the scene, wh[ich] created a momentary interest in the observation, especially to those who had witnessed the undisturbed serenity and uninterrupted view of nearly his whole course during his previous voyage. He alighted in a field [fo. 75r] [IMG_7680] called the Orchard Meadow on Cefnsman farm in the parish of Llangu[n]llo, co. Radnor, the property of Ricketts Esq. The distance from Salop is about 34 miles and was accomplished in one hour and 50 minutes. His elevation was greater *than he ever attained*, being about 3½ miles above the Earth.

The amount collected by the Committee from the spectators and the admission to the gardens amounted to £61 2s. 9d. His expenditure was £38 3s. 4½d. A donation to the Infirmary of £7 13s. 4½d. leaving for himself the small balance of £15 6s. 3d. as a remuneration for his great risk.

[fo. 76r] [IMG_7681]

The Mayor. Friday October 1st 1824.
The Honorable and Rev. Richard Noel Hill, Rector of Berrington, having been elected on 27th August Mayor of this borough, was this day sworn into office, on which occasion he gave a handsome treat at the castle.

Sunday 3rd. He gave the body corporate a sumptuous breakfast at the Town Hall and afterwards proceeded with them to St Chad's church where the Rev. J. Langley preached a sermon from the first part of the 19 verse of the 18 chapter Genesis in which he strongly inculcated the use that should be made of majesterial influence. Many parts of the discourse seemed directly pointed to the new mayor.

Coleham schools, same day.
Two sermons were preached at St John's chapel by the Rev. Joshua Marsden in aid of the funds of the school connected with that place. Upwards of £21 0s. 0d. was collected.

Wesleyan Chapel. October 4th.
Workmen under Mr Birch commenced the foundation of a [fo. 77r] [IMG_7682]
a new vestry in front of St John's chapel, the former one situated at the back, will be taken down in order to extend the chapel several feet backwards. During these repairs the congregation will be accommodated with the use of the Unitarian chapel.

Sick Man's Friend. Tuesday October 19.
The 14th anniversary of the 'Sick Man's Friend' held in the school room of Swan Hill Chapel. The report stated that 171 sick and 54 lying-in cases had been relieved, the former with £82 12s. 6d. and the latter with £23, beside other assistance. The total disbursements of the year amounted to £160. The sum of £1497 4s. 10d. has been bestowed in the relief [of] 2703 cases since its first formation.

Henry Lyster Esqr. October 25.
A party of gentlemen dined at the Lion Inn to commemorate the marriage of Henry Lyster Esqr. of Rowton Castle to the Rt. Hon. Lady Charlotte Barbara Ashely Cooper, youngest daughter of the Earl of Shaftesbury, which took place on the 13th instant.

[fo. 78r] [IMG_7683]
Hunting. November 1st 1824.
At a meeting of the subscribers for the erection of a kennel and stables near our town, held at the Talbot Hotel, it was resolved that the Hon. & Rev. R. Noel Hill, Mayor, Jonathan Perry, Esq., John Eaton, Esq., John Beck, Esq., Joseph Meire, Esq., & Mr. Williamson, be a committee of the subscribers to the fund and that they be requested to act in conjunction with a committee of the like number, to be appointed from the subscribers to the 'Shropshire Fox Hounds' and that five of such joint committee be empowered to act.

Abbey Church. Tuesday 9th November.
Two new dials placed on the east and west sides of the Abbey tower, the old wooden one on the west front was put up in 1790, the figures of which had become scarcely distinguishable from the effects of time and the weather. A new clock will soon be added, by subscription.

Hunt Week.

The attendance of gentlemen at the hunt was numerous. T. Leeke, Esq. president. Saturday 13 November.

[fo. 79r] [IMG_7685**]**
Accident Drowning.
Yesterday a little girl of the name of Harwood fell into the river from the footpath near the Water Lane, Frankwell, a young man named John Mansell observed the accident and being a good swimmer plunged in with his clothes on & succeeded in pushing the child so near to the shore that with the assistance of two bystanders she was taken out. Mansell however was unfortunately in the deeper part of the stream which was bank full, and the wind blowing rather strong, his long coat by some means got over his head, and he became overwhelmed in the merciless element, in the praiseworthy attempt to save a fellow creature from destruction. He has left a widow, who was only confined the day previous, and two helpless children to mourn his untimely end. Monday 15th.

A subscription has been commenced this week for the support of the widow and children of Mansell, and from the interest excited and support given promises to be a liberal one. Saturday 20th. [fo. 78v] [IMG_7684] The body of Mansell was not found until December 26th on which day it was discovered floating near the Brewery.

[fo. 80r] [IMG_7686]
Tract Society. Sunday November 21st 1824.
A sermon was preached in St. Chad's Church by the Rev. Anthony Selfry, B.A. in aid of the funds of the Religious Tract and Book Society *in Ireland*.

Tempest.
A very high wind accompanied by occasional rain from the south west, several of the fine lime trees in our Quarry were much damaged, a large branch from one of them fell upon a boy named Rich. Pearson who was picking sticks, which fractured his skull, broke both his thighs and dreadfully bruised him in other places. He was conveyed to the Infirmary but died in a few hours. Much other damage was done about the town.

Humane Society. Wednesday December 1st.
A requisition signed by 36 most respectable inhabitants of the town, was presented to the Mayor requesting him to convene a meeting 'to consider the propriety of establishing a Humane Society.'

[fo. 81r] [IMG_7687]
Coroner's Inquest. Tuesday December 7.
A strong excitation was created in our town this morning, on the discovery of two boxes in the Lion coach office which came from Dublin and were directed for London, containing two dead bodies. An inquest was held upon them at the Town Hall and the coroner issued his order for interment in old St. Chad's cemetery.

Infant Schools.
Infant schools were commenced this month near the Welsh Bridge, by a few ladies. These institutions are likely to prove beneficial to society, in as much as their object seems to cultivate the dispositions early, and consequently to give in riper years a moral bias in the mind.

High Flood.

Our river higher than I ever remember it, and our town completely insulated, the approaches being all inundated. I witnessed the unloading of a cargo of salt this evening from a [fo. 82r] [IMG_7688] barge in Frankwell, opposite the passage to the Welsh Bridge. The water was within a yard of the keystones of the arches of this bridge. Thursday December 24th.

Humane Society. Wednesday December 29th.
The Mayor having appointed this day for the meeting to be holden, as expressed in the requisition presented to him on the 1st instant. A numerous attendance took place in the Guild Hall, when it was resolved that a Humane Society was seriously wanted in this town, and that a committee be appointed to consider the best plan for establishing such a Society and to submit it to a further meeting.

Theatre. Thursday December 30.
Our Theatre never perhaps was so crowded as this evening in consequence of several young men (amateurs) having volunteered their services in the performance of ‘Speed the plough’, ‘Ways and Means’, ‘The Intrigue’ [fo. 82v] for the benefit of the family of the unfortunate Mansell, and under the patronage of Panton Corbett Esq., M.P. A prologue written by Mr J.W. Bythell was spoken by one of the amateurs. The receipts amounted to £82 9s 0d