

OLD YEAR OF

1908.

PUBLICATION.

BAILEY'S

NEW MILLS

Almanac

and Guide.

Price, One Penny.

AS USEFUL IN THE HOME AS AT THE OFFICE!

AND THE PRICE FOR

4-ft. Fumed Oak Roller Top Desk is only £4 15s.

DELIVERED FREE.



NEW AND
SECOND HAND
FURNITURE,
CARPETS,
BLINDS.

✻
REPAIRS,
UPHOLSTERING,
FRENCH
POLISHING.

SAYER, NEW MILLS.

7-25/8

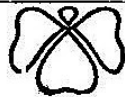


PROVIDENCE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

.. ALMANAC ..

PUBLISHED BY

G. H. Bailey,



PRINTER & BOOKBINDER,


60 & 62, Market Street,

NEW MILLS,

FOR

new 1908. *new*

Local Information.

N last year's issue of the Almanac review was given of the construction of the Canal more than a century ago, the coal mines at work about the same time, and the religious life of the district at a time when the Society of Friends and the Wesleyan Methodists were the only religious bodies in the place.

Resuming the story, brief mention must now be made of the manufactures that sprung up in the first two decades of the last century, before we pass on to the establishment of the Congregational body.

Within a few years New Mills rose to great importance as a manufacturing district, and small mills were built along the banks of the river for a considerable distance, so that by the year 1828 it was quite busy. In the calico printing trade the Strines Print Works had been established a long time, and so had Watford Bridge, the name of which was London Place. In 1828 it was in the hands of the executors of Samuel Bridge who disposed of it to Messrs. Ingham and Yates, Mr. Ingham was father of Mrs. Mackie. The old Garrison Works were carried on by Thomas Oldham, grandfather of Mr. Thomas Bennett, J.P., and just at this time Rock Mill was started by John Edge, and at Spinnerbottom, in the old buildings still standing, John Yates carried on business. He was the "patentee and printer of bright metallic objects on calico and other fabrics" The cotton spinners were Samuel Armstrong, Torr Vale; John Barnes and Co., Torr Top; Samuel Arnfield, George Bowden, Rowarth; George Froggatt, Thornsett Mill; John Hadfield, Rowarth; Samuel Schofield and Son, Robert and John Schofield; Samuel Silcock, Rowarth; Thatcher and Bowden, Rowarth; and Ward and Thatcher, New Mills. The manufacturers of cotton banding were James Chadwick, Jonathan Hadfield, Joseph and John Stafford, William Thatcher, in addition to George Bowden, and James Hague, in Rowarth. Bleachers had already located themselves, John Yates

being a bleacher at Thornsett, and John Hartwell running the Ringstones Bleachworks at Rowarth. The well-known firm of Potts, Oliver and Potts were busy as engravers to calico printers. There were no fewer than five cotton factories and a bleachworks in Rowarth 80 years ago.

In 1828 the "Post Office" was merely a "Receiving House" at the Mason's Arms, kept by Jordan Bradbury, and letters had to be fetched by a foot post from Disley at nine o'clock every morning. Two years later Adam Brierley, druggist, was the postmaster, and letters arrived from Manchester every night at half-past seven, and were despatched every morning at seven.

In these days of express trains and motors, the public will be interested to know that the only mode of conveyance in 1828 was a coach called "The Mercury" which started from the Mason's Arms every Tuesday and Saturday morning at seven, going through Stockport to Manchester, arriving back at nine o'clock at night—if it happened so! The same coach went to Stockport on Friday at eight a.m., returning at the same hour at night.

It was in the year 1828, when the Independent Chapel was built, and it has a most interesting history. It is on record that a Mr. Steele, who was an employer of labour and the owner of a factory in the town, who was an ardent Independent, gathered about him a number of his workpeople, and so formed a small community of worshippers. As time advanced the erection of a Chapel was decided upon, and land was secured. But there was little money in those days, and to save expense Steele and his followers built the Chapel themselves, and actually excavated and carried the stones from the river side. But when the Chapel was built, "Steele's Chapel" as it was then known—it was much too big for the company, and a portion of it was for a long time used as a barn and let to a farmer for storing hay and implements.

But soon there were developments. The back part of the building was improvised as a minister's residence, a small salary was guaranteed, which was augmented by Moses Hadfield, Esq., of Shiloh, Mellor, and the first minister was the Rev. Samuel Simon, of Hazel Grove, who for 30 years had the oversight of the Church and Day School and periodically conducted services at Thornsett. About 1860, Frederick Midwood, Esq., came to reside at High Lea Hall, and this gentleman, with Mr. John Yates, and Mr. Nathaniel Buckley, all three well-to-do men and hard workers in the cause both Chapel and



THE REV. W. D. EDMONDSON,
Congregational Minister.

REV. W. D. EDMONDSON.

Mr. Edmondson was born in 1866 at Stockton-on-Tees, of Scotch parentage a Lowlander on the father's side, and of Highland extraction on the mother's side, who was a Sinclair of the Western Isles. He received his early educational training in Glasgow, whither his parents had removed, was a winner of the McLeod bursary in Geometrical Drawing and obtained distinction in Mathematics. His parents' intention to send their son to the University was frustrated by an unforeseen calamity that visited many well-to-do families in Glasgow at that time, for the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank fleeced the Edmondson family of all they had, and they removed to Manchester where young Edmondson obtained a situation, applied himself to studies, identified himself with Cavendish Chapel and School, and took part in Band of Hope City Mission work.

In 1886, having completed successfully his Arts Course at Owen's College, he took a three years Divinity course under the Rev. Dr. Paton at the Nottingham Congregational Institute; became assistant to Rev. Dr. Hodgson in the work of Knott Mill Hall where he was one of the foremost pioneers. In 1890 he became Pastor Evangelist of the Congregational Churches at Silverdale and Hollinsend, Staffordshire, in succession to Rev. J. H. Partridge (now of Charlesworth), when he was the recipient of valuable illuminated addresses and testimonials from the Cavendish Ragged School and the Knott Mill Mission.

For four years he effected structural improvements and built up a strong cause, and in July 1894, Mr. Edmondson received a call and accepted the pastorate of the Providence Chapel, New Mills, and in the October following, commenced his ministry, and was married in the following year. Mr. and Mrs. Edmondson have both toiled assiduously for the well-being of "Providence." From year to year there has been marked progress in all their undertakings. A few years ago the Chapel was altered and completely beautified with a new Organ. Twelve months ago a spacious New School was opened, which after expending £1100, leaves a deficit of £300, which amount is loaned free of interest for two years. Thornsett Chapel has also been structurally improved and beautified. Mr. and Mrs. Edmondson enjoy the confidence of the congregation, and they hold a warm place in their hearts.

Mr. Edmondson has served as a member of the Executive on the Derbyshire Congregational Union. He was the first Honorary Secretary of the New Mills Free Church Council, and afterwards served as President. He has also been a member of the New Mills School Board and the Hayfield Board of Guardians, and at the present time is a member of the Free Libraries Committee, President of the New Mills and District Band of Hope Union, and President of the New Mills Social Reform Institute.

COUNCILLOR S. WHITEHEAD, J.P.

Although Mr Samuel Whitehead's life as what is generally termed "a public man," is covered by the last five years, there is no man in New Mills better known, for he has been very much of a public man in this town for more than forty years.

Born at Denton, he was the son of Mr. William Whitehead, and belongs to a very old family in that well-known centre of the hatting trade. When a boy he became a pupil teacher in Christ Church Schools, Denton, and after serving his time there he assisted for one year in the New Mills National Schools,—the old school that was pulled down when the railway was made to Hayfield—his brother, Mr. James Whitehead, being the headmaster at that time. He then entered on his training at Durham College, and on its completion was appointed headmaster of the New Mills Schools, on the resignation of his brother in the year 1866. Few there are who have had such a long and successful career at one School, and no wonder that his old pupils are to be found in all parts of the globe, many holding prominent positions in various spheres, and not a few being successful business men. It is a noteworthy fact that the first Pupil Teacher he had in the School is now one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in Yorkshire, Mr. George Thorpe.

Mr. Whitehead has always "stuck to his last" and he is universally respected in the district. During his mastership the present schools have been built and enlarged, and he has seen three Vicars, Rev. John Rigg, Rev. F. W. Newman, and Rev. J. L. Knowles. He is an old member of the Peveril of the Peak Lodge of Freemasons, but his public work commenced in April, 1903, when he had been elected a member of the Urban District Council for Beard and Ollersett Ward, and three years later he was returned unopposed. He is ex officio a member of all the Committees, but before the Chairman of the Council was placed on all the Committees by virtue of his office, Councillor Whitehead served on the Gas, Finance, Health, Water, and other committees and is one of the most regular in his attendance. Last April he was honoured by his colleagues with the chairmanship for the year, an office which he fills with ability and credit. During his year of office he is, of course, an ex officio Justice of the Peace