A HAND BOOK OF BUSINESS IN LOWELL, WITH A HISTORY OF THE CITY.

BY CHARLES COWLEY, ESQ., A MEMBER OF THE MIDDLESEX BAR.

LOWELL: PUBLISHED BY E. D. GREEN. 1856.
Works. His skill in this department won for these prints an enduring renown in all the markets of the globe. Goods bearing his brand have long commanded higher prices than any goods of the same description, not having his brand. Hence this brand has often been counterfeited by those who could not command his skill. Mr. Prince is still living, at an advanced age; and long may he be spared those honors which gratitude bestows upon the meritorious dead!

Besides the corporations above referred to, there are several wadding and batting mills, a large flannel mill, several large tanneries, sawing and planing mills, machine shops, dye-houses, screw-bolt factories, carpet factories, belt factories, harness factories, grist mills, card factories, bobbin and shuttle factories, bedstead factories, a wire-fence factory, a bag factory, etc.

Churches, Schools, Banks, Journals, etc.

There are twenty-four churches in Lowell, which cost in the aggregate about three hundred thousand dollars. The Orthodox Congregationalists have five churches; the Calvinistic Baptists, three; the Episcopal Methodists, three; the Roman Catholics, three; the Unitarians, two; the Universalists, two; the Episcopalians, one; the Presbyterians, one; the Free Will Baptists,

* The Protestant Episcopal Church was the first edifice dedicated to religious worship here, since the erection of that modest log chapel in which the Apostle Elliot preached to the Indians, some two centuries ago. It was called St. Anne's, as a compliment to the wife of Mr. Kirk Boott, who, at that time, was the man of this place. Rev. Dr. Theo. Edson, its present Rector, was the first clergyman ever settled in Lowell, and the only one ever connected with this church.

The history of this church is peculiar. The land on which it stands originally belonged to the Fletcher farm, which was purchased, with other lands, by the Merrimac Company, in 1822. This land was then valued at two hundred dollars; but in 1826, it was valued at ten thousand dollars, so rapidly did real estate then increase in value. In 1825, the Merrimac Company erected the church and the parsonage adjoining. The church is a very handsome edifice, built of dark stone, with Gothic doors and arched windows, and shaded
one; the Wesleyan Methodists, one; the Second Adventists, one; the Swedenborgians, one. Besides these, there is the Free Chapel, which is under Unitarian influence. There are, also, several smaller societies, of Spiritualists, Millerites, Wymanites, Come-Outers, etc. The sums expended by these churches for benevolent purposes, exceed forty thousand dollars a year.

Several events have transpired, which have shocked the religious sensibilities of the community,—such as the conversion of the Free Will Baptist Church on Merrimac street into a theatre, and the conversion of the "Christian" Church on Lowell street, into a dance-house. The denominational character of some of

by forest trees. It was consecrated by Bishop Griswold, on the 16th of March, 1825, and, by the permission of the Merrimac Company, occupied by the "Merrimac Religious Society,"—the name by which the present church was then called.

Shortly afterwards, when the great reorganization of the companies took place, these premises were conveyed, together with other real estate of the Merrimac Company, to the Locks and Canals Company; and on the third of May, 1826, the Locks and Canals Company reconveyed the premises to the Merrimac Company, upon the condition that the church should continue to be used for religious worship, and the parsonage to be occupied as the residence of a minister of the gospel. But by a subsequent deed, given in 1830, the Locks and Canals Company released the Merrimac Company from this last named condition, and renewed their former grant unconditionally.

On the 23d of November, 1827, the Merrimac Company, for a nominal consideration, leased both church and parsonage to the Merrimac Religious Society, for the term of fifteen years; and on the termination of this lease in 1843, the proprietors of St. Anne's church purchased the church and church lot of the Merrimac Company, for the sum of twelve thousand dollars. Possession of the parsonage—which since 1826 had been occupied by the society's parson—was now resumed by the Merrimac Company, who compelled the parson to vacate his parsonage, and have ever since occupied it as the residence of their agent. In 1845, the church was considerably enlarged by the proprietors.

An action has recently been commenced, in the Supreme Judicial Court, by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, of this church, against the Merrimac Company, to recover the parsonage, with rent for the same during its occupation by the Merrimac Company, and also to recover the twelve thousand dollars paid for the church in 1843, together with the interest upon the same. The issues involved in this case are of too technical a character to be detailed here. However interesting to lawyers, they would be "cuiusre to the general." Both of the litigating parties have retained able counsel; and the decision of the case will be looked for with much interest by the numerous parties concerned, and by the public.
these churches has been changed. Thus, the Roman Catholic Church on Suffolk street, was formerly a Free Will Baptist Church;—the Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Central and Merrimac streets, was originally erected and occupied by the Universalists;—the Congregational Church on High street, was built by the Episcopalians;—but the attempt to establish a second Episcopal Church here, proved a failure. The most magnificent church in Lowell, and one of the most splendid edifices in the country, is the Roman Catholic Church of St. Patrick, on Fenwick street. It cost about seventy thousand dollars, and can seat three thousand persons. The High Street Church is a showy Gothic edifice, “with spires and turrets crowned;” but Whittier compares it to one of Irving’s Shingle Palaces, and calls it “a whittled representation of the many-headed beast of the Apocalypse.” Architecturally considered, most of these churches are more than respectable.

The schools of Lowell are, one High School, with seven teachers and two hundred and thirty pupils; ten Grammar Schools, with thirty-six teachers and over eighteen hundred pupils; five Intermediate Schools, with eight teachers and four hundred pupils; and forty-eight Primary Schools, with one teacher apiece, and twenty-seven hundred pupils. The cost of all these schoolhouses was about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The appropriations of the City Council for schools are between fifty and sixty thousand dollars a year. These schools are under the management of a committee, chosen annually by the citizens. Much has been done for the education of the young employed in the mills, by several Free Evening Schools, in connection with the Ministry at Large. These Schools have two sessions a week in winter; and about a thousand pupils,—many of them of adult years,—here receive gratuitous instruction.

These public schools are institutions of distinguished excellence. The District School System, which was first adopted here, proved inadequate to the educational wants of the rising community. The present system was adopted as early as 1832, chiefly through the efforts of Rev. Dr. Edson, Warren Colburn, and a few others, contrary to the wishes and determined opposition of the mana-