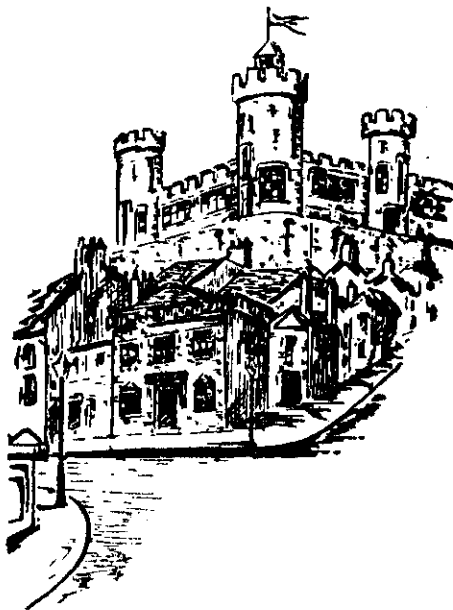


Stockport Advertiser History of Stockport.

CHAPTER I.

Ford at Tiviot Dale—The Castle—Stockport a Roman Station—The Town's 13th century Charter—Stockport granted right to hold Weekly Fair and Annual Market—The Lords of the Manor—The Civil War: Stockport held by Parliamentary Forces: Prince Rupert visits town in 1644—The Rebellion of 1745: Prince Charles visits the town—Castle levelled—Early Trade Unions—Combination Acts and Industrial Strife—The Reform Movement: Stockport and Peterloo.

THE Centenary of the "Stockport Advertiser" was celebrated on March 31st, 1922, by the publication of a facsimile of the first number printed on March 29th, 1822, and a supplement to the current weekly edition, containing a history of Stockport and of the newspaper during the last hundred years. So great was the demand for this Centenary issue that though it was twice reprinted, it was quickly out of print, and the proprietors of the "Advertiser," yielding to a general request, now reproduce in this more permanent form the history as it was then told with certain additions to text and illustrations.



OLD STOCKPORT CASTLE.

A few notes relating to the early history of Stockport will serve as an introduction to succeeding Chapters, which will present a pen picture of Stockport as it appeared in 1822, a chronology of the principal happenings from 1822 to 1922, and the story of the Stockport of to-day.

Stockport owes its origin to the ford across the river Mersey at Tiviot Dale, the passage of which was readily commanded from the Castle Hill, which now forms the Castle Yard and a portion of the Market Place. As a meeting place of several of their roads, the site was probably fortified by the Romans.

A Castle was built here by the Normans and held by Prince Geoffrey (one of King Henry's sons) on behalf of the Earl of Chester in A.D. 1172, and by the de Spencers on behalf of Edward II., in A.D. 1327, and finally destroyed in the civil wars of Charles I. by an agreement made between the opposing forces. Earwaker points out

that the artist in the above engraving has based it upon one of Halton Castle, and that both views are of a purely imaginary character.