

1853.

The Castle Yard lowered to make it suitable for a cattle market for which it was used for many years. The cattle market in Mersey Street, Park, was removed to the Castle Yard.

Compulsory Vaccination Act passed.

1854.

Mauldeth Hall, Heaton Mersey, purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on February 7, as residence of the Bishop of Manchester. It was enclosed in about 40 acres of land, and later converted into a Hospital for Incurable Diseases.

Declaration of War with Russia—March 27.

Stockport Ragged School established—June 13.

Death of Major Marsland, M.P.—November 18.

1855.

Jubilee Celebration of the erection of Stockport Sunday School—June 15. A medal was struck for this occasion.

1856.

The Corporation established new fairs in the Borough, one on January 1, and the other on July 9.

Treaty of Paris—March 20.

Close of Crimean War.

National Debt increased by £40,000,000.

1857.

Park Bridge over the Goyt connecting Warren Street with Portwood opened—September 29. The bridge was christened on March 13. The river was formerly crossed at this point by a wooden bridge.

Prince Albert visited Abney Hall, Cheadle—May 5.

First train ran on newly constructed railway from Stockport to Whaley Bridge—May 28. The train consisting of 10 first and third class carriages, containing 80 gentlemen, left Edgeley Station at 12-20, and called at Hazel Grove, Disley, Thornsett (for New Mills), and Whaley Bridge. On the return journey the Directors of the Railway and others called at Disley and had a celebration dinner at the Ram's Head Hotel. The first sod for the new railway was cut near Lyme Hall by Mrs. Legh, of Lyme, on September 30, 1854. The line was subsequently extended from Whaley Bridge to Buxton.

An old windmill, once a conspicuous figure in the landscape and situate at the top of Edward Street, taken down. It was formerly used for the grinding of corn for a number of wheat mills which were in existence in 1817. The foundation stones of this windmill were discovered in the course of excavations (made in February, 1922) preliminary to the erection on this site of new works for the Hollingdrake Automobile Company.