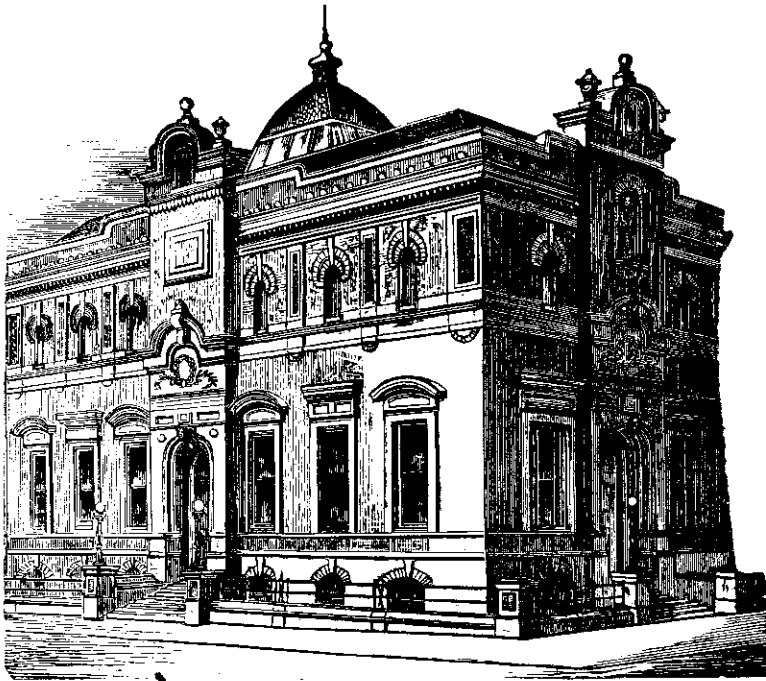


## 1862.

The Volunteer Armoury, Greek Street, opened at a bazaar, the opening ceremony of which was performed by the then Mayor, Mr. Robert McClure—April 23. The assembly, the "Stockport Advertiser" stated, was "of the most recherche description and comprised the elite and the bon ton of the Borough and its suburbs." Among the visitors were Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (who was presented with an address on arrival at Edgeley Station by the Mayor and Corporation) and Mrs. Gladstone. They were the guests of Sir James Watts, at Abney Hall, that "splendid mansion where the late 'Prince the Good' had also been entertained."

Stockport Mechanics' Institution, Wellington Road South, opened by Lord Stanley (afterwards Earl of Derby)—September 22. The first Mechanics' Institute was a library and reading room in the Little Underbank, opened on November 14, 1825. Owing to lack of support the Institution was closed on May 25, 1827. It



was revived in the old Theatre in Park Street (now demolished) in 1834, and from 1850 to 1862 when the new building was erected the Institute was held at Fowden House in Lower Hillgate, afterwards the Reform Club. The building in Wellington Road, shown in the illustration, was taken down in 1912 to give way to the new Central Library, erected 1913.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church opened.

£13,000 raised at public meeting in Volunteer Armoury for cotton famine—December 20.