

The Corporation has obtained possession of the local water supply, buying out the company's undertaking, and by the Act of 1901 securing the Kinder site for an additional supply, which will place Stockport beyond the reach of want in this respect for a period of forty years. The Corporation thus controls the water supply over an extensive area, and for a population computed at 130,000. In 1901 the Corporation also obtained powers for the construction of tramways to be worked by electric traction. At the time of writing the Woodley, Lancashire Hill, and Brinksway sections are in working order, and the construction of other sections is in progress. A new wing has been added to the Infirmary, a new Fire Station has been built, and preparatory steps are being taken for the erection of new Municipal Offices. The years 1900 and 1901 mark a period of exceptional municipal activity. The extension of the Borough itself, doubling the former area, was a notable achievement, and contemporaneously with this were the possession of the Waterworks and the inauguration of tramways. Councillor Albert Johnson, the Mayor, has taken an active interest in the promotion of these undertakings. Recent years have witnessed a fair measure of sanitary improvement, and old insanitary dwellings have given place to new and better structures. The density of population in the central part of the Borough is great, and building has consequently been going on at the outskirts. This was a strong argument for the extension, and there is now a large area remaining to be built up within the Borough boundaries. Within recent years fine churches, chapels, and other buildings have been erected, adding to the architectural appearance of the town. The rates are moderate, and there is a growing demand for houses within the Borough area.

### Churches.

**ST. MARY'S.**—Without doubt the Parish Church of Stockport (St. Mary's) must have had a very ancient foundation, and it is said that a church and an extensive parish existed here prior to the Conquest. No records or remains of the earlier churches are to be found, but the building which preceded the one we now have, and of which the existing chancel formed a part, was erected in the fourteenth century. The tower, which was not so ancient as the nave and chancel, in 1805 was dangerously weakened by reason of the severe shaking it received from the continuous ringing of the bells in celebration of Nelson's glorious victory at Trafalgar. The last occasion on which the bells pealed from the ancient tower was on October 13th, 1809, the occasion being the jubilee of King George III. Great dissatisfaction was caused by the whole of the old church (save the chancel) being taken down. Battering rams and gunpowder had to be used to destroy the massive walls of the nave. The foundation-stone of the modern building was laid on July 5th, 1813, and the work of re-building occupied nearly four years, the consecration sermon being preached on July 4th, 1817, by the Rev. Charles Prescott, B.D., Rector of Stockport. The total cost of the church was £42,886. The building is a most interesting one, and contains many ancient monuments. The Rev. Canon W. Symonds, M.A., is the present Rector and Rural Dean, he having been appointed in 1875, in succession to the late Rev. C. K. Prescott, who died at the age of 88 years, he and his father having held the living of Stockport for a period of 92 years. On the death of Mr. Prescott the parish of Stockport was divided into two rectories, St. Mary and St. Thomas.

St Mary's Parish Church—Rev Canon Symonds, M A, rector, surrogate, and rural dean; Rev J L Litt, B A, Rev G H Kingston, B A, Rev J A Davys, B A, and Rev R G Fairhurst, B A, curates; Mr J Darwin, 1, Loyalty Place, parish clerk; Messrs G Leah, G F Tatton, J J Sidebotham, and J Blackshaw, churchwardens; Messrs T Claye, R Evans, P E Bailey, J C Tunstall, W N Symonds, W Henshall, John Bower, jun, and Wm B Bell, sides-men; Messrs G F Tatton and J Blackshaw, lay representatives; Mr W Randell, lay reader; Mr C Swain, organist; Alfred Davies, 30, Churchgate, apparitor. Services: Sundays, 7-30 (H. Com), 10-30 a m and 6-30 p m; Wednesdays and Fridays, Litany and Matins, 10-0 a m; Wednesdays, Evensong with Sermon, 7-30 p m; other days, Matins, 7-30 a m, Evensong, 7-0 p m, except Thursdays, Evensong, 5-0 p m; Saints' Days, Communion, 10-0 a m; Holy Communion every Sunday at 7-30 a m; 1st and 3rd Sundays also at noon. Baptisms and Churchings: Sundays, 3-45; Wednesdays, 8-15 p m.—*St Stephen's*, Hillgate: Rev J L Litt, B A; lay reader, Mr T Cooper. Sunday services, Morning Prayer 10, Evening 6-30. Holy Communion, Sundays at 7-45 a m and 10-30 a m. Weekdays, Matins 8-30 a m, and Evensong 7-30 p m; Tuesday, Children's Service, 6-30 p m.—*St Andrew's*, Newbridge Lane. Sunday services,

Morning 10-30, Evening 6-30; Thursday evening 7-30; Holy Communion on Sundays at 8 a m, and Choral Eucharist every 3rd Sunday at 10-30 a m.—*Church Army and Labour Home*, Hillgate: Captain Astlett.

**ST. THOMAS'S.**—The history of this Church is told on three tablets affixed to the wall under the west gallery. The church was erected by the Commissioners for the building of additional churches, and the first stone was laid by Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., on the 7th October, 1822. The Viscountess Bulkeley, the patroness of the Parish Church of Stockport, presented the site for the church and the burial ground. The consecration took place on September 26th, 1825, by the Right Rev. Charles James, Lord Bishop of Chester, the first incumbent being the Rev. Martin Gilpin. The famous Wren, of Manchester, built the organ in 1834, and it has since been enlarged. Great improvements have been made in the appearance of the church. The Rev. H. Sewell, M.A., is the rector.

St Thomas' Parish Church—Rector, Rev H Sewell, M A, Surrogate, St Thomas' Rectory; clerk, Mr W W Wilson, 7, Holt Street. Services, Sundays, Holy Communion 7-30 every Sunday; 11-45 a m on first Sunday; Choral Communion 10-30 a m third Sunday; Matins and Sermon 10-30 a m; on the third Sunday, Matins (plain) 9-45 a m. Baptisms, every Sunday, 4 p m. Evensong and Sermon, 6-30 p m. Week days, Matins, 7-30 a m. Evensong on Wednesday, choral, 7-30 p m, other days, plain, 7 p m. Litany on Wednesday and Friday, immediately after Matins. Holy days: Holy Communion, 11 a m. Baptisms: Sunday, 4 p m, Wednesday, 6-45 p m. Sunday School: 9-30 a m and 2-30 p m.—*Mission Church of St John the Divine*, Mottram Street: Curate-in-Charge, the Rector. Sunday, Holy Communion second Sunday at 7-30 a m and fourth (choral) at 10-30 a m; Matins, first, second, and third, at 10-30; Litany, first and second; Evensong, 6-30 p m.—*Mission Church of St Michael and All Angels*, Bramall: Curate-in-Charge, Rev J Fleming Jones, B A. Sundays, Holy Communion 8 a m and on the first and third Sundays in the month at 10-30 a m; Matins and Litany, 10-30 a m; Afternoon Service (first Sunday in month), 3; Evensong, 6-30 p m; Sunday School, 2-45 p m.—*St Thomas' Mission Room*, Higher Hillgate: Sunday, Mission Service, 6-30 p m; Thursday, Mission Service and Address, 7-30 p m.

**ST. MATTHEW'S.**—A Church of England place of worship for Edgeley was first mooted in 1837, when several handsome subscriptions were promised, but owing to local circumstances the project fell through until 1843, when it was revived. The old "Beefsteak Chapel" in Brinksway was purchased by the Church Building Society, and used until 1853 as a mission church. St. Matthew's Church at first consisted of the nave and chancel, the tower and spire being added in 1866. Lord Egerton of Tatton laid the foundation-stone, and Dr. Granam, Bishop of Chester, consecrated the church on May 20th, 1858. There is no gallery, and there is seating accommodation for 642 persons. The tower is 165 feet high, and owing to the elevated position of the church can be seen for miles around. The schools, standing close to the church, were built in 1871, at a cost of £3,000, but additions have since been made. The Rev. E. P. Alexander, M.A., is the vicar.

St. Matthew's Church, Edgeley.—Rev. E. P. Alexander, M.A., vicar; Revs. J. P. Richmond, M.A., A. G. Hodgson, M.A., and H. J. Graham, B.A., curates. Services daily, morning 10, evening 5; Wednesdays, 7-30 p.m.; Sundays, Morning Prayer 10-30, Evening Prayer, 6-30. Holy Communion: Every Sunday at 7-45 a.m., 1st and 3rd Sundays after Morning Prayer; on Thursdays and Saints' days at 7 a.m. Holy Baptisms and Churchings on 2nd Sunday of the month at 2-30 p.m., other Sundays at 3-30 p m, and every Monday at 7-30 p m.

**CHRIST CHURCH.**—Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, of Tatton Park, laid the first stone of Christ Church, Wellington Road North, on July 29th, 1844. The foundation-stones of the Parish Church, St. Matthew's Church, and St. Thomas' Church were, remarkable to relate, all laid by members of the Tatton family. Mr. W. Egerton gave the site and endowed the church with £1,000, the funds for building being raised by voluntary collection, and by £3,400 in grants. Dr. J. Bird Sumner, the then Bishop of Chester, consecrated the church on October 22nd, 1846. Various alterations and additions have been made to the church. The present Rector is the Rev. G. C. Little, M.A. The schools, standing on an elevated ground in the rear, correspond in style of architecture with the church. They were opened on November 2nd, 1849, being used as both day and Sunday schools.

Christ Church, Heaton Norris.—The Rev. G. C. Little, M.A., rector; the Rev. G. S. Osborn, M.A., and Rev. J. H. T. Renshaw, M.A., curates. Sunday services: 8 o'clock (holy communion every Sunday); 10-30 a.m., with holy communion first and third Sundays; 3 and 6-30 p.m. Week-days: Morning prayer, daily, 7-30 a.m. (summer), 8 a.m. (winter), evening prayer, daily, except Tuesday, 7 p m (summer), 6-30 p m (winter); Wednesday, 7-30 p.m. Holy Baptism, first and third Sundays, last Wednesday.