

Railway, which is now leased to the Great Northern Railway Company.

The *Gas Works* were opened in April, 1826, by a company of proprietors, with a capital of £6000, raised in £25 shares, under the sanction of an act of parliament, obtained in 1825, when another act was passed "for paving, lighting, cleansing, regulating, and otherwise improving the town and parish of Louth." The COMMISSIONERS of this act comprise more than 40 rate-payers, among whom vacancies are filled up by the survivors. Under this act the streets, &c., have been much improved, and are now lighted with gas. In 1855, the commissioners expended about £1160 in paving, &c., and £600 in lighting the streets. The expenses are levied upon the inhabitants in paving and lighting rates. J. B. Sharpley, Esq., is chairman of the commissioners; Mr. W. Allison is their *clerk*; Mr. G. R. Willoughby, *surveyor*; and Thomas Mawer, *collector*. The Gas Works were enlarged in 1855, at the cost of £1200, and consumers are charged 5s. 10d. per 1000 cubic feet. Mr. T. F. Allison is *clerk* to the Gas Company; and Mr. Alex. Milne, *manager*. In the town and vicinity are many copious springs of pure water, the largest of which are *Aswell Spring* and *St. Helen's Spring*, on the south side of the town. The stream issuing from the former turns a large corn mill, within 200 yards of its source; and the latter once supplied Louth Park Abbey, by means of a cut called *Monk's Dike*, which now falls into the river Lud, a little below the town. At the foot of the northern hills several springs issue in summer, and form a rapid stream, but in winter they are generally dry. Water may be obtained in almost every part of the country within 12 miles of Louth, by boring to the depth of about 27 yards, and inserting tubes in the bed of gravel which lies at that depth. Through these tubes the water rises to the surface, and thus perpetual fountains are formed in the district, at a small expense. Application for an act of parliament for the erection of *water works* is in contemplation. The valley in which Louth is situated runs east and west, and is sheltered on the north and south by sloping hills of indurated chalk, whose horizontal strata are covered with an argillaceous soil, several inches deep. Towards the west, the rising grounds afford beautiful prospects; but the country extending eastward to the sea coast, is generally level and well wooded, and has a rich loamy soil, suitable either for pasturage or tillage.

In ancient times, Louth was variously called *Ludes*, *Luda*, &c., from its situation on the small river Lud. The only evidence of its having been occupied by the Romans, consists in the coins of that people, which have been found in various parts of the town, from which it is supposed they had a branch road to the great Fossway. *Julian Bower*, a woody hill on the south side of the town, does not appear to have a legitimate title to that appellation, though it may be the site of a Druidical temple. Several ancient coffins, formed of scolloped oak trees, were dug up in the market place, in 1822, and are supposed to have lain there since the time of the Saxons. The first recorded notice of Louth is in Domesday Book, and may be thus translated:—"Manor in Ludes" (Louth). The Bishop of Lincoln had, in Edward the Confessor's time, 12 carucates of land to be taxed, and twelve ploughs. The Bishop has now there, in demesne, three ploughs and a market; 80 burgesses, 40 sokemen, and two villanes, having among them 10 ploughs. Two knights have two ploughs, 21 acres of meadow, and 400 acres of wood and pasture, one mile and eight quaranteens long, and ten quaranteens

houses; £444 from the market tolls and the Boar's Head Inn; and £68 from turnpike shares. With this income the Corporation are enabled to pay all their expenses without levying any borough rates; but, as has been seen at page 243, the Commissioners of an Improvement Act, passed in 1825, levy rates for paving, lighting, and cleansing the streets. In 1855, the EXPENDITURE OF THE CORPORATION was about £1600: of which £112 was paid in annuities granted by the old corporation; £119 for the interest of £3100, borrowed of the Rev. F. Orme and L. Parker, Esq.; £30, mayor's salary; £60, town clerk's salary; £26. 10s., bailiff's salary; £20, treasurer's salary; £1. 6s. 8d., high steward's salary; £365, for wages to borough police; £80. 6s. 6d., to Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, for fee farm rent, reserved by Queen Elizabeth's Charter; and £422. 16s. 4d. to the Wardens and Six Assistants, for the support of the Grammar School and Hospital. The *Borough Police* consists of a superintendent, a sergeant, and two policemen. The Corporation also support fire engines, under the care of a superintendent and 16 firemen.

The TOWN COUNCIL for 1855-6 consists of Wm. G. Allison, Esq., *mayor*; John Bogg, F. F. Goe, Thomas Overton, Samuel Trought, J. B. Sharpley, and John Allenby, Esqrs., *aldermen*; and Messrs. Wm. Robert Emeris,* Dr. Dymock,* G. R. Willoughby,* Edward Sutton, Hy. Boothby, jun.; Wm. D. Ditchett, James W. Parker, John Hurst, Robert Norfolk,* Thomas Grant, jun.,* Abraham G. Marshall,* W. G. Allison, T. P. Waite, Thomas Jackson, Henry Gates, H. H. Allenby,* C. E. Lucas,* and Thos. Ranshaw,* *councillors*. Those marked * are councillors for the North Ward, and the others for the South Ward. The BOROUGH MAGISTRATES are the Mayor, Dr. Dymock, and Cornelius Parker, J. B. Sharpley, W. D. Ditchett, and W. T. Kime, Esqrs. The Right Hon. Chas. T. D'Eyncourt is *high steward of the borough*; Christopher Ingoldby, jun., is *town clerk and clerk to the magistrates*; Mr. Thomas Mawer is the *borough treasurer*; and J. W. Tacey, is the *police superintendent, sanitary inspector, &c.* James Wakelin is the *town crier*.

CHURCHES.—*St. Mary's*, the ancient parish church of Louth, stood on the north-west side of the town, in a burial ground of nearly 2 acres, which has been disused as a place of sepulture, since Dec., 1855, when the new Cemetery was opened. This church was dilapidated in the reign of Henry VII., and its remains were fitted up as the Grammar School in 1552, but it was entirely deserted about a century afterwards, and no vestiges of it now remain. *ST. JAMES' CHURCH*, the *present parish church*, is a spacious and elegant building, in the perpendicular style, in the heart of the town, at the junction of Westgate, Chequergate, Uppgate, and Bridge street, in a small enclosure. The gradual decay of *St. Mary's*, together with its increasing distance from the town, which has gradually receded from the northern acclivity of the valley, were probably the causes which led to the erection of *St. James's Church*, in the 13th or 14th century; but the elegant tower and spire, at the west end were not commenced till 1501, and not finished till 15 years afterwards. The height of the old spire was 360 feet, but the top stone was blown off in 1587, and the whole was blown down in 1634, when the present octangular spire was erected, at the cost of £135. 9s. 9d., under the direction of Thomas Turner. It was struck by lightning in 1828, and was repaired in the following year, when the church had its pews and roof renewed, and was lighted with gas. The spire was