

first floor have circular turrets, and at the fourth is a projecting bay of two storeys, the lower stage containing the entrance and the upper storey a small chapel, arcaded and ornamented with dog-tooth moulding; the tower may date from the reign of Richard I. or John, and has two circular staircases leading to the summit. The castle and tower were originally strongly defended by a deep moat and approached by drawbridges, which have long been removed. The Castle continued in the hands of the Crown for many reigns, and was used as the official residence of the high sheriffs of Yorkshire, and the depository of the revenues and muniments of the Crown, and after it ceased to be used as a military post it was converted into a county prison. The old building at the further end of the yard, now forming the Debtors' Prison, was built in 1708. Her Majesty's Prison here was begun in 1826, and this work, together with other buildings and improvements, occupied a period of about twelve years: the area of the castle was greatly enlarged, the additional space being protected by a lofty stone wall, which includes Clifford's Tower (previously without the castle wall), and a massive towered gateway: these alterations cost £225,000. The County Assize Courts, on the south-west side of the Castle area, were erected in 1777, on the site of the old assize hall, built in 1673, and extensive additional buildings were erected in 1881.

The City Gaol was taken down in 1878, and all prisoners, both from the city and county, are now confined in the Castle.

There are several pleasant walks, amongst which are the Esplanade, extending along the bank of the Ouse from Lendal bridge to Clifton, a distance of one mile, and the New Walk, along the bank of the same river, in an opposite direction, towards the village of Fulford; this walk, which is shaded by an avenue of elms, was laid out as far as the Foss in 1733, and in 1768 continued, the whole extent being now about one mile. Lendal toll bridge, a structure of stone and iron, across the Ouse river from the railway station to the Minster, was opened in 1863; the cost, with the purchase of its approaches, was about £35,000. Ouse bridge, connecting Low Ousegate and Micklegate, was erected in 1810-20, from designs by Mr. Atkinson, architect; it is built of stone, and consists of three elliptical arches, that in the centre having a span of 75 feet. Skeldergate toll bridge, of four arches, erected in 1881, is a structure of iron and stone, uniting Fishergate and Clementhorpe, and comprising five arches, three across the river and two on land, the centre river arch spanning a width of 90 feet and one of the two side river arches of 30 feet span opens on the bascule principle, the roadway being raised and lowered by hydraulic machinery. Scarborough railway bridge, built in 1845, is also a foot-bridge, and crosses the river near Marygate. Monk bridge is a single arch constructed of iron and stone, and connects Monkgate with Heworth. Layerthorpe bridge, connecting Peasholm Green with Layerthorpe, Foss bridge, connecting Fossgate with Walmgate, and Castle Mills bridge, connecting Tower street with Fishergate and Fulford road, are each stone bridges of one arch. Blue bridge is a foot-bridge which connects King's Staith and St. George's Field with the New Walk.

Lendal and Skeldergate bridges are leased by the Corporation, the lessees charging a toll of a halfpenny for every foot passenger and a penny for conveyances.

The corporation of the city, as stated by the Municipal Corporation Commissioners in their report in 1835, claims to be a corporation by prescription. The earliest charter extant is one of Henry II. which confirms all the liberties, laws, customs, guilds, merchants, and hanses in England

and Normandy, as they were held in the time of Henry I. and confirmations or new grants of charter rights were obtained from almost every subsequent monarch to Charles II. In the time of Richard II. the city was constituted a county of itself, and authorized to elect two sheriffs, who, with the Lord Mayor, should have cognizance of all pleas and actions within the city limits. The Ainsty of the City of York, a wapentake of the county, in the time of Henry VI. was annexed to the city, but during the reign of William IV. was re-annexed to the West Riding of the county by Act of Parliament, for parliamentary purposes it belongs, under the Redistribution of Seats Acts, 1885, to the Thirsk division of the North Riding of Yorkshire, but by the Local Government Act 1888 it is deemed to be part of the West Riding for the purpose of establishing County Councils. The City of York by the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835 (5 and 6 William IV. c. 76), was divided into six wards, having previously contained but four, namely, Micklegate, Walmgate, Bootham and Monk wards; it has now, in addition to these, Castlegate and Guildhall wards. In 1884 the York Extension and Improvement Act 1889 (47 and 48 Vict. c. cxxxii.), was obtained, by which the area of the boundaries of the city was increased from 1,971½ acres to 3,553½ acres. Consequent upon the passing of this Act, the six wards into which the city is divided have been re-arranged, but retain their previous names. Each ward elects six councillors, two of whom go out yearly in turn. The councillors elect twelve aldermen, who serve for six years. The style and title of the corporation is "The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of York," who are charged with the management and protection of the city: the Lord Mayor resides, during his term of office, at the Mansion House. The municipal and parliamentary boundaries of the city are now co-terminous and include Heworth and the greater part of Clifton in the North Riding, and Holgate in the West Riding. Under the Local Government Act, 1888 (51 and 52 Vict. cap. 41), the city becomes a county borough, and under and for the purposes of the Local Government Act the City Council acts as the County Council. The corporation act as the Urban Sanitary Authority. The city has a commission of the peace and a separate court of quarter sessions. In 1295 (23rd Edward I.) the city returned two members to Parliament, and it has continued to do so up to the present time, the Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885, adding the places under the Extension Act of 1884, to the parliamentary borough, but not altering the representation.

The corporation are the trustees and conservators of the river Ouse from a short distance above the port of Goole to about ten miles above the city. Only one lock existed between the city and the sea, and as this was too small in size to admit of sea-going vessels trading to the city, a new and much larger lock has been constructed at Naburn, four miles south, to allow of vessels of 300 or 400 tons burthen to pass through. The new lock was opened on July 27th, 1888. The Foss is rendered navigable by a lock a few hundred yards above its junction with the Ouse.

From the time of the Conquest the trade and commerce of York have been very considerable. There were numerous guilds or corporations of traders, who were empowered by charters from the Crown to prosecute their respective callings. The Ouse would admit the passage up to the bridge of the largest class of vessels at that time employed in the merchant service; but the increase in size of trading vessels, the distance from the sea, with other causes, led to the gradual decline of the trade of this city. The principal branches of trade at the present time are the manufacture of confectionery, artificial manure, combs and joiners' planes; there are also iron