

1890: the building is of red brick with stone dressings, the principal front of two storeys having octagonal turrets at the angles, and in the centre a pedimented gable of three storeys, surmounted by a tower in the centre, containing a clock with four dials: the Sessions Court has an area of 1,800 square feet, and the Police Court an area of 1,200 square feet: the School Board have their offices on the first floor, and in rear are the City Police and Fire Brigade stations and the Weights and Measures office: the building is fitted with the electric light.

The Judges' residence, in Lendal, was purchased by the county in 1806.

The Police Station and Fire Brigade Station, in Low Friargate, form portions of the new buildings erected in Clifford street for the Law Courts.

The Post and Telegraph Office, in Lendal, erected in 1884, is a structure of brick with stone dressings in the Tudor style.

The Inland Revenue and Stamp Office is in Minster yard.

The District Registry of Wills, in Duncombe place, was erected by Government in 1885, on a site given by the Corporation, and here are kept the testamentary records of the late Prerogative and Exchequer courts of York: the documents preserved including copies of wills from 1389, and original wills from 1578; the Probate and Administration Act books begin at 1514. The records of the Dean and Chapter are in the custody of H. A. Hudson esq. Minster yard.

BANKS.—There are five banks, viz.: Messrs. Beckett & Co.'s, 45 Coney street; National Provincial Bank of England Limited, 1 Market street; York Union Banking Co. Limited, 1 Parliament street; Yorkshire Banking Co. Limited, 30 High Ousegate; York City & County Banking Co. Limited, 13 Parliament street; Savings Bank, in St. Helen's square and a Penny Bank, the business of which is transacted at the Merchants' Hall, in Fossgate.

The Corn Exchange, Clifford street, was erected in 1869, through the instrumentality of Francis Carr esq. (formerly alderman), whose bust adorns the hall; it is used on Saturdays for the Corn market and occasionally for meetings, concerts and sales by auction; the large hall will hold from 800 to 1,000 persons, and there are smaller rooms available for meetings of from 20 to 200 persons. Offices of the Company, 20 Blake street; John Lane, sec.; T. Sigsworth, custodian.

The Merchant Taylors' Company is of great antiquity and is now constituted under charter of Charles II.; the Hall, situated in Aldwark, is an ancient building of red brick, occasionally used by the company, but is now let as a dancing saloon; George Kirkby esq. is the present master and Joseph Wilkinson esq. clerk to the company. There are four almshouses, erected in 1730, for four poor brothers or sisters of Merchant Taylors.

The Banqueting House, or De Grey Rooms, in St. Leonard's place, was erected in 1841, and is the property of a joint-stock company: it is chiefly intended for the mess of the officers of the Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry Cavalry during their annual visit to York, and the barristers' ordinary at the assizes, and is also used for public meetings and entertainments.

The Freemasons' Hall is a stone building in Duncombe place, and there are two other Masonic Halls, one in Castlegate and one in St. Saviourgate.

The Victoria Hall, Goodramgate, erected in 1845, is a structure of brick used for public meetings, containing a large hall which will seat over 900 persons, and eight small rooms which are used for club and lodge meetings.

The York Architectural Association was established in 1882, for the study of architecture; the meetings are held at the Church Institute, Lendal.

The Museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, established in 1823 in a hired house, is now located in a

building erected on a site within what were the grounds of St. Mary's abbey. The first stone was laid October 24, 1827, and the building designed by W. Wilkins R.A. architect, was opened February 22, 1830. The principal front, 200 feet in length, relieved by a portico, with four columns of the Grecian Doric order, supporting a pediment; on the right of the entrance hall is the library, and on the left the council-room and the staircase leading to the rooms above: in the centre is the entrance to the theatre or lecture-room, on the sides and at the end of which are rooms for the mineral, geological, zoological, and ornithological collections. The collection of antiquities now preserved in the lower guest hall of the abbey is especially fine. The geological collection, the bulk of which was presented by the late Mr. W. Reed F.G.S. is one of the finest in the country. The contents of the museum include Saxon, Roman, Norman and Mediæval relics as well as some of Egyptian and Assyrian times: the examples of the Romano-British period comprise tessellated pavements, and British and Roman pottery and tiles, besides an interesting series of sepulchral tablets and several altars with inscriptions denoting their erection by members of the Roman Legions (probably the Sixth and Ninth) which occupied the city; there are, in addition, personal ornaments, armlets, necklaces, fibulæ and rings, and examples of Roman coin moulds of hardened clay discovered at Lingwell gate, Wakefield, and there are other objects discovered in and around the Roman city of Eboracum; among the mediæval exhibits is the mortar of the infirmary of the Abbey of St. Mary, a two-handled vessel of bell-metal weighing 76 pounds, having an inscription on the rim and another at the base with the date A.D. MCCCVIII.

On the right of the entrance into the grounds are the remains of St. Leonard's Hospital, said to have been first founded by King Athelstan in 836. Several grants were made to it by the Norman Kings, and Stephen rebuilt it, dedicating it to St. Leonard; it subsequently became a house of Austin Canons, or hospitallers living with the secular clergy under that rule, who were succeeded by the vicars choral of the Minster; the principal remains consist of the ambulatory or cloister, and the chapel of the infirmary, an Early English work of the thirteenth century; within the ruins are preserved a number of Roman sarcophagi and other monumental relics. Adjoining the Hospital is a portion of the old city wall, at the end of which, toward the north-west, is the Multangular tower already referred to.

The ruins of the Benedictine abbey of St. Mary occupy the site of an earlier monastery or church partly erected by Siward, king of Northumbria, about 1050 and dedicated to St. Olave, or Olaf, but still unfinished at the time of the Conquest: it was subsequently re-founded by Alan, son-in-law of the Conqueror and Earl of Richmond about 1080, and on the visit here of William Rufus in 1088, he laid the foundation of a new church, and dedicated it to St. Mary. In 1137 a large part of the convent was destroyed by fire, but in 1270 Simon de Warwick, 10th abbot, begun the erection of the church, the ruins of which still remain, and the whole work was completed about 1294. This magnificent structure, when perfect, was 371 feet in length and 60 feet wide, and consisted of a choir and nave, each of eight bays, transepts with eastern aisles or chapels, a central tower and a sacristy on the north side of the south transept: the existing portions, comprising chiefly a part of the west front, the north side of the nave and the piers of the central tower, are very late Early English or Early Decorated of peculiarly graceful character, the nave wall retaining eight beautiful windows, beneath which runs a continuous arcading: the west front is equally fine: south of the nave were the cloisters, the foundations of which are still traceable and fragments of some of the buildings sur-