

rounding the cloister garth remain; these include on the east side, one of the piers of the entrance to the chapter-house, of late Norman date, on the south side, the cellarge of the frater (refectory), and on the west, the substructure of the guest house: in the lower part of the gardens and near the river is the lower guest hall, with a stone basement of the fourteenth century, anciently a refectory, and a timber-framed upper storey or dormitory of the fifteenth century: the building now serves as a museum of antiquities and contains a large collection of British, Romano-British and Roman remains found in York and the neighbourhood, together with many fragments recovered from the site of the abbey: to the north of the church is the gate-house, the Norman archway of which forms the entrance to the grounds from Marygate: the lower portion of the gate-house, now a private residence, is supposed to have been the prison of the abbey; the upper floor, Late Perpendicular, was the Abbot's court-room: the abbey stood without the city walls, but its precinct was inclosed at first by earthworks and subsequently by a fortified stone wall, erected by Abbot Simon, which extended from Bootham bar to the still existing tower at the corner of Marygate, and thence to the river; the city rampart bounded the area on the east, and the circumference of the whole was nearly three-quarters of a mile: a great part of this wall, with its entrance gateways, is still extant: the abbey was surrendered to the Crown, Nov. 26, 1539, by William Thornton, 29th and last abbot, who obtained a pension of 400 marks (£266 13s. 4d.) yearly, and there were then 50 monks, with a net yearly revenue of £1,650: the arms of the abbey were, "az. on a cross, gu. a bezant charged with the demi-figure of a king crowned and holding a sceptre; in the first quarter a key:" the buildings and precinct were at first retained by the king, and a portion of the former, extending from the south transept to the wall of the close, was converted into a royal palace and became the residence of the Lords Presidents of the Council of the North, instituted in 1537 for the suppression of the Pilgrimage of Grace: in 1826 the greater part of the site was acquired from the Crown by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, who in 1864 obtained the lease of an additional portion of the close, and since then have gained possession, by exchange, of the site of the choir.

Near the Museum, on the south-west, is a small observatory, and attached to the gardens are swimming baths, also belonging to the society and let on lease; the entrance is in Marygate: the grounds, which contain many valuable trees, plants, and shrubs, are in part laid out for the study of botanical science, and owing to the objects of interest they contain, as well as from their intrinsic beauty, form one of the principal attractions of the city of York.

The City of York Public Library and Reading Room, in Clifford street, was opened for the free use of the public in August, 1892: the building was formerly occupied by the York Institute of Art, Science and Literature, and was purchased by the Corporation in 1892 for £4,000: the foundation stone was laid by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, July 18th, 1883, and the building, which is in the Continental Romanesque style of the 12th and 13th centuries, contains an excellent library of about 7,000 volumes, and a reading room. A branch of the York School of Science and Art is conducted in these premises.

The York Corporation Fine Art Institute, in St. Leonard's place, near Bootham bar, stands on ground formerly belonging to the King's manor, and is a building of stone and brick in the Italian style, erected in 1879, at a cost, including site, of about £25,000, from designs by Mr. Edward Taylor, architect, of York, and was acquired by the Corporation in 1892 for the sum of £5,000, a further sum of about £1,000 being also paid in respect of the

School of Art: the institute, which is two storeys in height, has an open arcaded portico, opening into a central hall, which leads to the great hall, 200 by 90 feet, and 60 feet high, with galleries and a large organ attached: on this floor are refreshment rooms and other offices, and adjoining is a garden of some extent; the York School of Art occupies the right hand wing; on the left is a picture gallery, and on the second floor another gallery, 100 by 30 feet; the interior also comprises a secretary's room and lavatories &c.

The York Church Institute, Lendal, opened June 1883, has for its objects to provide a centre of union for church people in York and the neighbourhood; to further church work in all its branches; to promote the study of the principles of the Church of England; to serve the purpose of a church club and to provide a place where meetings of all church societies can be held: it comprises reading and discussion rooms and a library with over 1,500 volumes: the rooms are open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas day excepted: the terms of membership vary from one guinea to half-a-crown: the institute numbers at present about 600 ordinary members and 120 members of classes: Rev. William Henry Fraser Bateman M.A. and Mr. W. P. Glaisby, hon secs.

The Young Men's Christian Association is in High Ousegate, and the Women's Christian Association at 17 Micklegate.

The York Subscription Library, St. Leonard's place, was established in 1794, and has about 32,000 volumes, including a valuable collection of antiquarian, topographical and other works of reference, and about 300 volumes relating to public records, presented in 1835; there are now (1893) 350 members, each holding a proprietary ticket costing £2 2s.; the annual subscription is £1 6s. and for associates £1.

The Theatre Royal, in St. Leonard's place, erected in 1765, occupies part of the site of an ancient church, destroyed by fire in 1137, some portion of the crypt of which still remains: the theatre is the property of the Corporation, and has been several times remodelled: it will hold 1,400 persons, and the stage is 30 feet deep with a width of 58 feet, the proscenium opening being 21 feet.

The Assembly Rooms in Blake street, near the site of the ancient church of St. Wilfred, were erected in 1730-1 in the Classic style, from designs by Richard (Boyle) third Earl of Burlington K.G. so distinguished for his taste and skill in architectural design: the largest room is 112 feet in length by 40 wide, and as many in height; forty-four elegant Corinthian pillars ornament the sides of the hall, and the upper part is filled with windows and designs of foliage and tracery: annexed is a smaller room 66 feet by 22 feet: the rooms, which hold 1,800 persons, are the property of shareholders, and are used only for the concerts and balls of the nobility and gentry of the county and city.

The Merchants' Hall in Fossgate, belonging to the Merchants' Company, stands within a courtyard, and is an ancient structure, containing two large rooms, each 65 by 25 feet, one of which is hung with portraits of masters of the company: the ground floor includes a small chapel, and over the gateway are the arms of the company.

The Festival Concert Room in Museum street, erected in 1824, at a cost, including site, of £9,400, is a spacious building, calculated to hold 2,000 persons.

The Yorkshire Club was formed in 1835; the club house, situated in Museum street, and erected in 1868, is a handsome building of red brick, with stone dressings, in the Elizabethan style: there are over 400 members.

The Club Chambers, adjacent to the premises of the Yorkshire Club, Museum street, are largely used by its members and by the county gentry when visiting the