

RISE AND PROGRESS OF GAWLER

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1860

About three-and-twenty years ago, an exploring party sent out by Messrs. Light and Finnis, returning from the neighbourhood of the Barossa Ranges, fell in with a wanderer in the scrub, worn out with exhaustion, hunger, and thirst; after relieving his wants and lifting him into their dray, they carried him as far as a ford on the South Para River, when, on attempting to rouse him, they found him dead. Having no implements wherewith to dig a grave, they placed his body upright in the hollow of a tree by the river side, and covered it decently with bark and sticks; a short time afterwards it was discovered by another exploring party, and properly interred near the spot. The place of burial to this day retains the name of the Dead Man's Pass, and is now the ford crossing the South Para at the southern extremity of Murray-street, Gawler.

At this time the ford itself, and all the surrounding district, was occupied by Mr. Horrocks as a sheep-station. The space between the two rivers was covered with peppermint and wattle trees, and the black man and his wurley were then the only habitations and residents.

Shortly after this the Gawler Special Survey was made, and the proprietors fixed on the land included between the junction of the two rivers as a suitable position for their proposed new township, to be called after the then Governor of South Australia, Colonel Gawler. Early in 1839, they caused this portion of their survey to be laid out in allotments; and on the 1st July, 1839, these were divided amongst the original proprietors, and a township destined to play no mean part in the early progress of the colony, sprang into existence.

The Gawler Special Survey of 4,000 acres, mentioned above, was taken up and divided in eleven portions amongst twelve proprietors, viz.:—Messrs. Murray, Reid, King, Fotheringham, Stubbs, Johnson, Patterson, Sutton, R. Todd, J. Todd, Porter, and Rev. B. Howard, and they wisely set apart 240 acres at the junction of the Para Rivers for a township, allotting 200 half acres amongst the proprietors, and setting aside 140 acres for streets, park-lands, schools, churches, market, burial ground, and other public purposes; and, in order legally to convey the same, vested the whole by trust deed in the names of two trustees, Messrs. Smart and Phillips, for the sole purpose of conveying to purchasers, and to the future recognised authorities, for the proper conservation of the public lands. All the allotments were conveyed by the trustees to the original proprietors, but the loss of the original land grant renders the title of land in the township to a certain degree imperfect. The public lands still remain vested in Smart and Phillips, they having left the colony, and there being no provision in the trust deed to reappoint new trustees.

The township, as then laid out, had somewhat the form of an irregular triangle, the North and South Para Rivers, up to their junction, forming two of its sides, the base being to the east, and formed by the allotments of land laid out to the eastward of the principal street, running in a direct line north and south, from the Dead Man's Pass on the South Para, to a similar fording place on the North Para. A deplorable mistake was made in the laying out of this street (Murray-street,) which, for its whole extent (about one mile,) has only a single entrance on the eastern side, namely, the present Lyndoch Valley Road. This has been the cause of frequent and serious inconvenience, for, during flood, two large gullies, opening from the east, pour their contents into the town through private allotments, filling up the streets with silt, and flooding all the premises in their neighbourhood to such an extent as will compel the Corporation, in order to obviate this nuisance, to purchase land, in a short time, at an enormous price, in the most valuable part of Gawler—an expense which might have been entirely saved by a little foresight in the laying out of the township.

The street next in importance to Murray-street is Cowan-street, which follows the curve of a spur of high land running westward from Murray-street, and a little

to the north of its centre. Three squares interrupt the course of this street before its termination at the West Park Lands, viz., Light-square, Orleans-square, and Parnell-square. The centres of these squares were set apart for three places of worship, two of which have already been erected, viz., the Catholic Chapel in Parnell-square, and the Church of England in Orleans-square; the centre of Light-square, the site for the Established Church of Scotland, being still unoccupied. At the junction of Cowan and Murray streets, two allotments were set apart for a market-place, and between Light and Orleans-square the police station and court-house occupy other two allotments, reserved for Government purposes. Two acres on the eastern side of Murray-street, opposite the entrance to Cowan-street, were allotted for a public cemetery, and two other allotments, one at the end of Dundas-street, and the other on the border of the North Park Lands, for public schools: in addition to these, two other half-acres on the northern side of the town, near to the present Willas bridge, were allotted to the Wesleyans, which, however, still remain unoccupied. King-street connects Light-square with the Northern Park Lands, and is the present most direct road of communication with the North Para bridge. Jacob-street, Tod-street, and Whitelaw-place are situated to the south of Cowan-street, and run at right angles with Murray-street, whilst these are again intersected by Reid, Dundas, and Cameron streets, which run due north and south. Finnis-street runs nearly parallel to Cowan-street, but to the south of it; whilst the situation of the other streets to the north, having as yet no real existence, is only discoverable by reference to plans. The portions of the township facing the Park Lands were divided into terraces, and are just beginning to take their proper form. They are commencing from the south-Juliana, Whitelaw, Fotheringham, Patterson, Nixon, Victoria, and Flinders terraces, the three last existing only in name. Although out of place, it may be mentioned, that since Gawler East has been included in the Corporation bounds, another street (High-street) parallel to Murray-street, and running from the Lyndoch Valley Road to the South Para, has been added to the township; and that the Lyndoch Valley Road itself, for some distance, begins to assume the form of a terrace, whilst a road has been partially formed up the gully facing Whitelaw-terrace, and several buildings erected along one side of it, thus extending the township considerably to the east of its original boundary.

In all country districts the public-house is the first sign that marks the rising township, and to this rule Gawler was no exception. The first house erected in Gawler was the "Old Spot," in Murray-street, almost immediately opposite Whitelaw Place, at the corner of which the post-office now stands. For several years this picturesque building was the most noticeable portion of the new township; its long, low, straggling buildings, with gable ends presenting themselves in every direction, its spacious verandahs and porticos, built of pine, pine, and shingle, put one much in mind of a wayside inn at home. It was first erected by Mr. Scheibener, and afterwards occupied by Mr. Tooth; but the days of its greatest prosperity were those when it was conducted by Mr. Henry Calton, whose public spirit in matters connected with the township is still cherished in the remembrance of all its old inhabitants.

At the Old Spot, during the well-remembered days of "Jemmy Chambers," all the mails for the north and south used to stop. We can well recal the bustle of their arrival in the evening, and the throng of townspeople and passengers exchanging greetings before its doors, as if the latter had performed some daring exploit in venturing life and limb so far in such vehicles! We can recal the deep sound of the gong sending forth its peal before the dawn to rouse the inmates from their peaceful dreams to the perils of the coming day, whilst one mail-cart after another drew up before the lengthy front to take its departure, laden with brave and adventurous spirits to dare the perils and dangers of the road-for peril and danger was not unfrequent from bad roads, swollen streams, jubbins horses, and reckless drivers! Who amongst the dwellers in Gawler of those glorious days of inconvenient travelling, does not remember one wet drizzly night, about seven years ago, when the omnibus then conveying the mail from Adelaide, driven by one Bill Lewis, was lost on the Gawler Plains, after changing horses at a station north of Salisbury, and after wandering about for hours, passengers, horses, and driver had to camp-out the whole night within eight miles of Gawler; and on the grey dawn breaking through the damp and dismal night, found themselves within a mile of the station where they had changed horses the previous evening! How often in wet weather have passengers had to walk a great portion of the way, looking at their less fortunate four-footed companions, dragging the clumsy mail-cart

through slush and mire for miles together, and not unfrequently having to put their own shoulders to the wheels to help the along!

The glory of the Old Spot has long since departed. An enterprising individual-one Mr. G.C. Wyld-came with vast and extensive ideas of alteration and improvement(?) and in 1855 down came the old place, and with the celerity of a London speculator, up sprung a row of shops, which, rapidly as they arose, have still more rapidly tumbled to decay, and a few ruinous walls, with broken shop fronts, and a ricketty verandah, alone point out where the first building in Gawler stood, whilst a very unsightly edifice at the one end still bears its name; and although well conducted by one of our most respected townsmen, (who, to his own regret, took a lease of the premises,) presents but a faint shadow of what was once the pride of Gawler-"The Old Spot."

Private dwellings, blacksmiths' forges, butchers' shops, and stores around the Old Spot, soon gave fair promise for the future prosperity of the new township. A mill and a school-house to provide for the wants of the body and the mind were the next places of public importance to spring up. The mill was erected by Mr. Stephen King, in 1845, and called the "Victoria Mill." The premises now occupy nearly the whole of the square block of land enclosed by Jacob, Cameron, Todd, and Dundas streets, and the lofty and spacious buildings-the immense piles of firewood-the constant arrival and departure of drays laden with wheat and flour-show its importance to the trade and prosperity of Gawler. But at the time of which we speak, though then the only mill for a large district around, a moderate sized building and a small engine were found sufficient for all its purposes. In 1847 it fell into the hands of Mr. W. Duffield, by whom it has since been twice greatly enlarged-once in 1849, and again in 1853, when the present engine was erected, which is capable of turning six pair of stones, and turning out twenty-five tons of flour daily; at the same time additions were made to the wheat store, which is now capable of containing 10,000 bushels of wheat. The public school-house, built on land set apart for the purpose at the junction of Scheibener and Fotheringham's terraces, is a building of much humbler pretensions, but nevertheless has done, and still does, its share in the good work of progress. Not only was it used as a school in the early days of the township, but different denominations here held their religious services till the congregations became sufficiently numerous to rear edifices for their own accommodation. Some time after its erection five trustees were appointed to keep it in proper repair, and to see that it was appropriated to the purposes for which it was erected, viz.,-Messrs. Calton, Gozzard, Duffield, Auld, and Orsmond; two of these still survive and it is hoped that they will take care that this useful memorial of the early days of the township will not fall to decay through neglect of proper repairs. It is at present worthily occupied by Mrs. Murphy as a school for young children.

For several years, the only means of crossing the Para rivers was by fords, or during floods by a ferry-boat; but the increasing traffic caused by the opening of the Kapunda mine in 1843, necessitated the building of a bridge over the North Para. It was built of wood, with sandstone abutments, and spanned the river nearly in a line with the north-end of Murray-street, but was swept away by a heavy flood in July, 1847, immediately after which the bridge which now connects Gawler with Willaston was commenced. After the old bridge was carried away, the flood still continuing, Mr. Uren, the boatman, through the kindness of Mr. Calton, had placed his boat on the river, purposely to convey the Rev. Mr. Coombs to the Sunday service at the old school-house; having done so, he was returning for others, when, by some mischance, he fell into the water, and was carried away by the stream, and his heavy boots soon filling, he was, although a first-rate swimmer, dragged beneath the surface and drowned. The flood was so great at the time, that, although every exertion was used-the river having been dragged and native divers employed-it was not till seven days after that his body was found. Thus to both fords a melancholy interest is attached by tragical occurrences. In 1848, the present bridge over the North Para was completed. Engineering difficulties presented an obstacle to the erection of a bridge over the South Para in a direct line with Murray-street, so it was determined to build one in the present position, and to turn the road through a portion of the intervening allotments; this was accordingly done, and the present bridge was opened for traffic in 1849. It was further strengthened in 1858, and now promises to last for many years.

In 1844, an event occurred which connects Gawler with the glorious history of Australian discovery, for on the 16th of August in that year, Captain Sturt passed

through on his memorable exploring expedition—one of those gallant enterprises which give to every resting-place, (though even for a few hours,) a name famous in Colonial story.

The year 1845 brought with it the traffic from the Burra, and gave Gawler its first great impetus. From that time, until the opening of the railway from hence to Kapunda, during the present year, this continued to be one of the main-stays of the prosperity of the town, and its diversion from hence will be felt for years to come.

To the Church of England belongs the honor of establishing the first regular services for the worship of God in Gawler, and the first appointment of a resident minister, the Rev. W.H. Coombs, now the Rev. Canon Coombs, whose zealous and untiring labours during fourteen years have won the respect and admiration of all classes and denominations. The regular services of the church were first established in November, 1846, and held in the basement story of the Victoria mill, then belonging to Mr. Stephen King. The accommodation here was soon found to be insufficient, and the public school-house was used for the purpose, whilst preparations were made under the superintendence of Mr. Kingston, the architect, for the erection of a church on the land set apart for that purpose in Orleans-square. On the 4th of March, 1847, four months after the first regular service, the foundation stone of the first church in South Australia north of Adelaide, was laid by His Excellency Governor Robe, in the presence of Mrs. Hutchinson (Colonel Gawler's mother) and a large assemblage of spectators. The church was named after England's tutelary Saint (St. George) in honor of Colonel Coombs, who presented the Incumbent with a handsome silver communion service for the use of the congregation. Rapidly—(indeed too rapidly as has since been found, for its stability)—the building rose, and within twelve months was completed, and on March 21st, 1848, was consecrated by the present Lord Bishop of Adelaide.

The building itself, though doubtless esteemed both useful and commodious at the time of its erection, has long since become an eye-sore to the congregation, who have seen handsome edifices rising in the neighbourhood, belonging to other denominations; and the faulty construction of the walls, and heavy roof, rendering it necessary either to make extensive repairs or pull it down altogether, it was resolved, after due consideration, that a suitable edifice should replace it. A handsome design in the early English style, (14th century) by E.A. Hamilton, Esq., was selected, and the building so planned as to allow of the addition of a transept at some future period. Eleven years had not quite elapsed since laying the foundation of the old church, when on the 6th January, 1858, a stirring scene took place, and amid a concourse such as was little dreamed of at the former ceremony—Mrs. Short (the lady of our worthy and Right Rev. Bishop) laid the foundation of the second English Church in Gawler, destined, when complete, with its strong and lofty tower, and tuneful peal of bells, to become an ornament not only to the town, but all the surrounding district, its lofty and central site being such as will make it a conspicuous object for miles around. Since then it has progressed steadily. Three contracts have already been completed, and solid buttresses and walls of slate, with freestone quoins, and the graceful carved work of doors and windows, give promise of a handsome edifice, and well shadow forth the design of the architect. The fourth contract is now taken and we trust that before the appearance of our next DIRECTORY, the merry peal may ring its changes from St. George's tower; for it would be a lasting disgrace to the Township if an undertaking like this were to languish for want of funds.

The parsonage House, a plain but commodious residence, erected on the glebe land, just outside the eastern Corporation boundary, near the Lyndoch Valley Road, was built in 1848, and the present Incumbent took up his residence there during the same year.

In January, 1848, the Church of England Board for the administration of the Government grant voted £40 for the erection of a public school-house in Gawler, and further subscriptions raising the amount to upwards of £160 having been collected, the present St. George's school was founded by the Rev. Mr. Coombs, upon a moiety of the clergyman's allotment in Orleans-square, which was conveyed by him to the trustees of the school for that purpose. This school was completed and opened in 1850, the Lord Bishop of Adelaide being appointed visitor, P. Butler, Esq., A.W. Grant, Esq., S. King, Esq., Thomas Stubbs, Esq., and W. Younghusband, Esq., M.L.C., being trustees, and together with the Incumbent and Churchwardens, governors in perpetuity. Messrs. Beck, Helmore, and Gibson, successively presided over the school previously to June, 1853, when the present indefatigable master, Mr. L.S. Burton, was appointed. Since this time, in compliance with regulations of the

Educational Board, sectarian teaching has been entirely relinquished during the ordinary school hours, and the school is open to children of all denominations. In 1857 it was considerably enlarged by the addition of a separate room for a girls school. The average number of scholars is about 130.

One of the prettiest buildings in Gawler is the Free Kirk of Scotland, in Cowan-street, erected in 1856, on an allotment presented to the Presbytery by the late Mr. John Auld. Its elegant tapering spire is one of the most conspicuous objects from whatever side you may enter Gawler, and it is much to be regretted that in consequence of some disagreement between the congregation and the Presbytery, it should at present be closed. The Rev. Mr. Moir, for some period, was the resident minister, but since his departure no other has been appointed.

The Catholic Church in Parnell-square, erected in 1855, is an edifice far exceeding the older structure of the English Church in beauty, if not in size. The clergyman's residence is built upon an allotment immediately opposite the church, and a school-house is now building on a portion of the same. A loud and tuneful bell, (the largest in Gawler), reared upon a wooden belfry, peals forth daily at primes, matins, and vespers. Fathers Coyle, Woolfrey, Fallon and Roe have successively filled the pulpit of this church.

The Independent Chapel—a neat little place of worship—stands on an enclosed allotment at the junction of Dundas and Cowan streets, in Light-square. It was erected in 1851. The allotment on which it is built was enclosed in 1858, and planted, so that it will in a short time add much to the beauty of that part of the town. The Rev. J. Leonard is the present minister, and was preceded by the Rev. Messrs. Pinkstone, Agget, and Lewis. A new and handsome chapel is about to be erected on the same allotment, and the present building is to be converted into a school-house.

The Wesleyans early commenced religious services in the township, but it was not until 1850 that their first place of worship was erected. The site set apart in the original plan being deemed unsuitable, an allotment was purchased in Tod-street, at its junction with Scheibener-terrace, where the chapel now stands. It was found necessary to enlarge it in 1850, and it now contains sittings to accommodate 400 persons. Messrs. Tregillas, Hill, Lloyd, and Bennett, have been the ministers who have resided in the township. In 1859, a commodious house was erected on the same allotment as the chapel. The Rev. Mr. Bennett is their present resident minister.

In a young community like ours, where Government has organised no regular system for the relief of sickness and distress in the country districts, Friendly Societies are of incalculable benefit. How many homes in the colony have they shielded from poverty and want! How many, through their aid, have been able manfully to struggle through long sickness, receiving only their just due, earned by their own economy and prudence, which thus enabled them to maintain the contest without calling upon the cold hand of charity, or tardy aid of Government, for relief! Truly noble are these institutions—noble in the spirit of self-support they engender—noble in the mutual aid they inculcate—noble in the succour they supply to the widow and the orphan of the brethren who are taken from amongst them! One of these Societies early established a branch in Gawler. In 1846, when the town was only seven years old, a Lodge was opened in connection with the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and called the Loyal Gawler Lodge. This Lodge was opened at Host Calton's, at the Old Spot, and before long a high brick building reared its head behind the quaint gables of the hotel, a portion of which was set apart for a lodge-room. The Lodge was held there until 1852, when it was removed to the Globe Inn, and afterwards to the Old Bushman. The number of members had by this time so increased as to render even the largest room then existing in any of the hotels too small for their purposes, and in 1858 it was determined to build an Oddfellow' Hall in Gawler—the first in the colony. The flourishing state of the finances of the lodge, which had been steadily progressing from its commencement, warranted this step; and under the superintendence of Mr. Wright, the architect, the new building was erected. It is a handsome two story structure, situate in Murray-street, on its eastern side, a little below where the Old Spot formerly stood. The hall, which occupies the whole of the upper story, is sixty feet in length by twenty in width, and sixteen feet in height: it is well ventilated, and lighted by six windows. It is capable of accommodation an audience of at least 300 on the occasion of concerts, lectures, or other entertainments, and its erection has given a great stimulus to the rational amusements of the town, by providing them with a suitable room for such

purposes. The lower portion of the building is occupied by the Institute. On the 5th April, 1859, the members of the Order, to the number of about 150, marched in procession from their quarters at the Old Bushman through the town, and took possession of their new hall, the district officers attending, and formally dedicating it to lodge purposes. It was said by many at the time that the step was imprudent, so large an outlay (£1200) being too great a drain upon the funds of the lodge: but time has fully justified it; and the large increase in the number of members, and the value of the lodge-funds, have more than realised the hopes of its most sanguine projectors. The lodge meets every alternate Thursday, and now numbers 220 members, and its funds exceed £2,000.

The Ancient Order of Foresters, instituted for the same purposes, and on the same philanthropic principles as the Oddfellows, established a court in Gawler in 1855; it was first held at the Old Bushman, and is called Court Bushman's Pride. Since the erection of the Oddfellows' Hall, it has held its meetings in that building, and is steadily progressing, promising in time to rival it both in usefulness and numbers. The Court holds its meeting every alternate Wednesday.

Of greater antiquity than either of the above orders, more inscrutable in their mysteries—the brethren of the "Mystic Eye," hold one of their lodges in Gawler, called the Lodge of Fidelity, E. C. It was established in 1840, and now numbers upwards of forty members. The lodge first held its meetings at the Old Spot, but in 1852 removed to the Globe, where it has continued to assemble up to the present time. This masonic lodge meets on the Wednesday on or before the full moon.

The Christmas eve of 1851 was remarkable for one of the most severe hail-storms with which Gawler has been visited. It lasted scarcely half-an-hour, but during that time nearly of the whole of the windows on the western side of Murray-street were destroyed by the hail, which fell in large pieces—in some instances the size of pigeons' eggs, whilst masses of ice, formed by their agglomeration, were swept down the streets by the flood, carrying with them stones, some of them at least a hundred pounds in weight. The storm itself was very partial—not extending more than two or three miles from Gawler in any direction.

The latter portion of this year (1851) also brought with it the rush to the Victorian gold-diggings. Gawler was deserted by almost all its male inhabitants—business of all kinds was suspended—several even of the public houses were closed, and everything seem at a stand-still, whilst ruin was on all sides liberally predicted both for the township and the colony at large. On the advent of a mail from Melbourne, the street around the post-office was thronged with women eager for news from their absent relatives; and many were the ludicrous scenes that occurred whilst the "grass widows" held possession of the town. For several months this remarkable state of affairs continued, until gradually the diggers returned, most of them laden with a fair share of the golden spoil, and all ready, with renewed energy, to take advantage of the prosperous times, and push their way in the world. Business revived—the value of labour rose—every branch of trade prospered—and increased rapidly in value—and a series of prosperous years ensued, during which Gawler flourished, and increased in wealth and importance till it became one of the most considerable towns in the colony.

One of the first signs of a returning population was the re-opening of an iron foundry in Murray-street, the property of Mr. James Martin. This, conducted on a small scale previous to the diggings, was greatly enlarged, and speedily became one of the most important manufactories out of Adelaide, whilst the number of hands kept constantly employed therein throughout the year has contributed greatly to the prosperity of Gawler. A tannery was also established by the Messrs. Harrison, who, however, after a short-time, relinquished this branch of business, and erected a mill near the South Para bridge, called the Union Mill, which, in 1856, they further enlarged; and it is now a very imposing building, three stories in height, giving one somewhat the idea of a large fort guarding the bridge and entrance to the town.

Scarcely had the gold-digging mania subsided, when a grant of a new constitution to the Colony was announced, and Gawler, as the principal polling-place for the district of Barossa, deeply participated in the excitement. Sept. 18th, 1855, was the day for the nomination of candidates, Messrs. Angas and Rodda, and sharp and bitter was likely to be the contest between them. The

Gawler favorite was Captain Rodda, but the friends and supporters of Mr. Angas had resolved to make every effort to overcome the prejudices against him; and a procession had been determined on to escort their favorite to the polling-booth. About ten, a.m., Mr. Angas's supporters left Gawler, and, joining the procession from Tanunda and Angaston, about a mile from the town, returned with it. A brass band, in a German wagon, headed the procession, followed by Mr. Angas and his more immediate friends and supporters, to which succeeded a cortege of nearly a mile in length, consisting of about twenty German wagons full of electors, besides several hundreds on horse and foot, whilst over them flags of every description, and one large banner bearing the candidate's name, floated gaily in the breeze. The procession, passing up Cowan-street, turned first towards the South Para bridge, and then skirting the Park Lands went up Murray-street from north to south to the Globe Inn, where the nomination was to take place. The procession at this time reached from the front of the Globe to beyond the cemetery; and the glorious summer sun has never shed its rays over a gayer or more cheerful sight in Gawler than on that day. The sequel is well known; it did not alter the result of the election, for Angas was beaten in Gawler, but returned by the rest of the district.

The next election took place under the new sondtitution act, March 9th, 1857. This act had forbidden the use of processions and display of any kind in favor of any candidate, but it could not prevent deep interest and great excitement in the contest. Gawler again took a prominent share therein, and party feeling ran very high. Messrs. Duffield, Dean, and Bakewell, were the rival candidates, and the two first were the Gawler favorites. The splendid talents of Dr. Dean, and his brilliant oratory and liberal principles, had won the good-will of many of the electors; whilst the uncalled-for persecution he endured from others of high station, raised a sympathy in the minds of those who were not at first inclined to support him. One of the first printed documents that was issued from the press, then newly erected in Gawler, was Dr. Dean's reply to an announcement of His Excellency, and this document was almost entirely set up by his own hands—another instance of his extraordinary versatility of talent. How Dr. Dean was twice elected by the constituency, and twice rejected by the Assembly, and how Mr. Bakewell crept into his seat against the wishes of the electors, are they not written in the records of that august body—the Parliament of the Colony—where they acquire a renown never to be dreamed of in this simple sketch!

Again, another election on 23rd March, 1860, and again another triumph for the popular candidate, placed Messrs. Grundy and Duffield in the second Parliament; and thus the political records of the town of Gawler for the present close.

The year of the first popular election, 1855, was also the year in which the northern branch of South Australian Railway was commenced. The first portion, to Salisbury, was opened for traffic on the 1st January, 1857; the second portion to Smithfield, on the 1st June; and the third to Gawler on the 5th October, in the same year. Great dissatisfaction was expressed by all the tradesmen and townspeople at the inconvenient distance of the station from the township; and public meetings were held, and representations made to the Government respecting it, but all to no purpose; and a great and permanent injustice has been done to holders of property in Gawler, by diverting the traffic, which the natural position of the town commanded, from its legitimate course. The opening of the railway, for a time, gave a start to land-jobbing and speculation, and three townships to the south of the South Para were laid out in allotments, and realised large sums to the proprietors, viz.—Bassett Town, Gawler West, and Gawler South. The two last, though they have essentially the same interests, have, through the jealousy of the rival proprietors, been divided from one another by a ditch, a wire fence, and a strip of public land, over which no friendly road is ever to effect an amicable junction: but time will tell. Already the ditch is filled with sand, the wires are very loose, and tracks uncommonly like roads creep close lang the borders, and, in some instances, trech upon the sacred precincts of the "reserve." This year (1860) has seen the line of railway extended to Kapunda, and though we miss the northern traffic which filled our streets with drays, and our houses with dust, we have no fear for the trade; we firmly believe that a good harvest in the surrounding districts will serve our purpose better than all the passengers' and goods' traffic of the rail.

Communication by electric telegraph was first established between Adelaide and Gawler on the 13th April, 1857. Since then the line has been successively

extended to Kapunda, Clare, and the Burra. The office will shortly be removed from its present site to a handsome two story edifice near the Oddfellows' Hall, which has just been completed, and adds much to the appearance of that portion of Murray-street. The 6th of August, 1859, and its succeeding days, will long be remembered in connexion with this department. At that time, the ill-fated Admella was wrecked, and the intense anxiety and excitement which pervaded the whole community whilst her fate was in suspense, was felt in Gawler equally with the rest of the colony, and crowds thronged round the office for days together, whilst every event of that melancholy catastrophe was flashed through the magic wires. Two of our fellow-townswomen were on board, and alas! not amongst the survivors.

By 1857, the business of Gawler had increased to such an extent as to induce the South Australian Banking Company to open a branch office in the town; and, within a few months, they commenced building a handsome bank at the southern end of Murray-street, which was completed and opened for business on the 4th of April, 1859. This edifice is in the Italian style, with a large and handsome portico; it would do credit to any town, and is the greatest ornament of ours.

Shortly after the South Australian Banking Company had opened their offices, the Union Banking Company established a branch, but as this did not realise the expectations of the Company, it was closed in 1858. The National Bank of Australasia also opened a branch in one of Mr. M'Ewen's new shops, on the 5th December, 1859, and is now doing a satisfactory amount of business; and it is worthy of note that nearly 1,000 shares of this bank are taken up in Gawler.

In 1857, in consequence of a memorial from the rate-payers, Gawler was separated from the districts of Mudla Wirra and Barossa West, to which, up to that time, it belonged, and with the addition of the suburb of Gawler East, was formed into a Corporation, the boundaries of which are the centre of the streams of the North and South Para, from their junction on the west of the township to a straight line running from river to river in a line with the centre of Gawler East. The town is divided into three wards, by two lines—one down the centre of Murray-street, from river to river; the other at right angles to this, from the centre of Murray-street, in a straight line down the centre of Jacob-street to the river: these wards are respectively named North, South, and East Wards. An alderman and two councillors are returned for each ward, and the mayor is elected from amongst themselves by the members of the Corporation. The election for alderman and councillors is on the 1st December each year, and the election for mayor on the 9th of the same month. R. J. Turner, Esq., has held the office of mayor for three consecutive years. During 1859, £1,000 voted by Government for the repair of Murray-street, was expended by the Corporation; and, during the present year, many useful public works have been carried on and completed by the Public Works' Committee, which add greatly to the comfort of the inhabitants, and will, possibly, for the future, prevent their having to rush out, clad in M'Intosh's and water-boots, with spade, rake, and hoe, to dare the dangers of the flood, and save their homes from the fury of the rushing torrent.

The first public fountain in Gawler (indeed in the Province) was erected by Mr. Mold, in Jacob-street, and its motto, "Let the thirsty drink," has been a grateful sight to many a weary, parched, and thirsty passenger. The Corporation have tardily followed in his footsteps, and another fountain (or rather tap) is just making its appearance in Murray-street, near the Gawler Arms. Several seats have also been erected on the Park Lands, which will add greatly to the comfort and pleasure of an afternoon stroll thereon.

These annals would be incomplete were the Gawler Brewery omitted. It is the property of one of the original proprietors of the township—Mr. James Fotheringham—and its spacious vats are capable of turning out one hundred and sixty hogsheads per week. "Fotheringham's Pale Ale" is celebrated through all the country round.

The Soap Factory of Mr. William Square is also a large and increasing concern. From seven to eight tons of soap are made there every week. The soap manufactured here took the prize at the last exhibition in Adelaide.

The Court-house and Police-station are situated in Cowan-street, between Light and Orleans squares. A local court of full jurisdiction is held on the second Thursday of every month, and a court of limited jurisdiction every Monday, at ten o'clock. Messrs. McDonald, Dean, and Murray, have successively filled the office of resident magistrate.

The Gawler Institute was founded in October, 1857, and first occupied premises nearly opposite the Globe. About £2,000 had been subscribed for library

and furniture, and several magnificent donations of books having been received, the Institute was opened with a vocal and instrumental concert on 3rd November, in that year. The library then included about 700 volumes, and the subscribers numbered about 70. Since then, three years have elapsed, and its library now contains nearly 2,000 volumes, and the number of subscribers has reached to about 250; an excellent Museum has also been formed in connection with it, the nucleus of which was presented by the Naturalist Club, at the commencement of the past year. It embraces specimens of every department of local natural history, as well as curiosities and specimens from other parts of the world. A gentleman of great repute in the scientific world—Dr. Richard Schomburgk—has kindly accepted the office of curator. The first anniversary of the Institute was celebrated in 1858, by an exhibition of works of art and natural curiosities, which was open for two days, and excited great interest in the neighbourhood. In March, 1859, the Institute pic-nic took place, at a beautiful spot near Cockatoo Valley, belonging to the late Captain Lawson; and the crowds of people who flocked there from all parts of the colony, well attested the interest taken in the proceedings. On the occasion of the second anniversary, in October, 1859, a prize of ten guineas was offered for the best words, and ten guineas for the best music, of a Song of Australia. There were ninety-six competitors for the first of these prizes, which was awarded to Mrs. C. J. Carleton, the prize for music being given to Herr Carl Linger. The third anniversary of 1860 was to have been celebrated by an exhibition of works of female industry, but on account of the delay of the Government in distributing the grant in aid to country institutes, this project has been deferred for the present; but a much more extensive scheme has been undertaken, and one which bids fair to enlist the aid of the whole Colony. The committee have just advertised a prize of two hundred guineas for the best history of South Australia up to the end of 1861, and the project has been warmly and liberally supported, subscriptions in aid being promised from all parts of the Colony to an extent which will doubtless enable the committee to liberally increase the amount offered as a prize. These are a few of the doings of the Institute; but the influence it has had on our townsmen in breaking down prejudices, providing intellectual food, and rational entertainment, is incalculable. Its handsome and spacious reading-room is well attended; about 250 works are constantly in circulation amongst its subscribers, besides monthly boxes of books being supplied to several country districts.

Since commencing this sketch, Gawler has again been connected with the history of Australian discovery. On the 2nd November, Stuart—the old companion of Sturt—the hardy pioneer and successful explorer of the desert—passed through Gawler on his daring expedition, on which, it is hoped, will crown his brow with fresh laurels, and place him in the same rank as Franklin, M'Clure, and Livingstone. God speed the gallant party on their way!

And now our space is exhausted. We have chronicled no great events. The peaceful annals of our town have none to show; but the early years of a young township in a new Colony, remote from all the great centres of civilization, may still present features worthy of being photographed and preserved. If the photograph, however rough in its execution, has been clear and correct in its outlines, we are content. Before another DIRECTORY appears, more stirring events may arise, and a better Chronicler be found!