

to Banbury, for railway stations either at Didcot or Oxford were unknown. The birth of this princess caused great rejoicing in England. She was the third child and second daughter of Queen Victoria and Albert, Prince Consort. She was named Alice Maud Mary, and died in 1878.

In the Market Place, opposite to the Angel Inn, was a pool of dirty sludgy water, in which pickpockets and other disreputable characters have been unwillingly dragged. At the bottom of the Market Place was a very old house. The eaves of the thatch were not more than ten feet from the ground; the two upstairs windows, about two feet square, peeped through a thick thatch roof. This old house for many years was occupied by George Baker, grocer and provision merchant. These old premises were pulled down fifty years ago, and the building now occupied as the Birmingham Bank was built as a private residence for a well-known, good and worthy townsman, John Phillips Barford, Esq. On the west side of the Market Place were some very antiquated and curious old houses. That occupied by Messrs. Robins is full of interest. The house next door, which was occupied by Mr. Thomas Taylor, was pulled down in 1856, when the Central Corn Exchange was built. This was one of the largest and most interesting houses on the west front. Mr. Taylor, who was a saddler and harness maker, had in his front shop a life-sized model of a fine carriage horse, fully equipped in a bright set of carriage harness. This was a source of much wonder to the juveniles, to witness the extreme quietness of the animal. The two next shops were occupied by Mrs. Pepples, hosier, and Mr. Thomas Strange, jeweller. A set of five steps had to be climbed to reach the shops; the shop windows were very small and of a very antique character. These steps and high windows have been removed more than fifty years.

A great number of cattle from Wales and Herefordshire used to be on trek through Banbury to Northampton and the grazing lands of the Eastern Counties. I have known as many as 2,000 pass through Banbury in a day; they would not travel more than two miles per hour. I have known them three hours marching through the town. Large herds of fat cattle would leave Banbury on a Friday and reach Smithfield Cattle Market on a Monday morning. Another sight to be seen in Banbury streets very regularly, was large carts laden with bales of rags going to North Newington Paper Mills. They made at these mills a very superior blue foolscap paper which was in regular and constant demand to supply the wants of several Government offices in London, but steam and modern machinery has superseded this industry at North Newington, as it has done at many paper mills in Oxfordshire.