

tween farmer and labourer has been established, and the mellowing influence of time has borne good fruit.

Intense and long protracted frost brought much privation and distress among the poor and needy of the town. I have known seasons when the canal has been frozen over for five weeks at a time, and as this was the only way in which coal could be procured you can readily conceive that this commodity soon fetched a high price. I have known it as much as 4s. 6d. the cwt. The appeal for help by the poor was pitifully and grievously made to the benevolent and generous. Subscriptions to coal funds and other purposes flowed liberally in from the wealthy and charitable. Ladies visited the poor and needy in their cheerless homes and thus brought light in darkness and food into hungry homes.

There were in those days few public rooms in the town where balls, concerts, and other entertainments could be given. I remember a grand concert in the National School, Southam Road, as far back as 1835, where ladies were carried in sedan chairs, the room being lighted with oil lamps. In 1837 my mother took me to a Schoolroom on the Green to hear a lecture on temperance. The schoolmaster that occupied the school during the day was a Banbury man, Mr. Joseph Osborn, who afterwards became a spirit merchant and chief magistrate of his native town. The temperance lecturer was quite a young man, he walked that day from Warwick, over 20 miles, and carried heavy packages on his shoulders. He unpacked in the school a large number of temperance tracts. He gave his lecture, which was much applauded; but there were not more than 60 persons in the room at the time. He then made an effort to sell his publications, and succeeded to his satisfaction. He told us he was going to walk to Oxford the next day. By hard work and ever constant industry, he succeeded in business as a temperance publisher, and afterwards published more educational works than any firm in London. It was more than forty years from the time I heard the temperance lecturer in Banbury until I was introduced to him in his counting house at Belle Sauvage Yard. He was then at the head of the firm of Cassell, Petter and Galpin. Mr. Cassell was pleased with the interview and well remembered his lecture at Banbury. It was a very pleasing ten minutes' chat. He was very glad to tell me of the hard trials and privations he had overcome, and the grand achievements he had won. The school on the Green, mentioned in the early part of this paragraph, was occupied for many years after as a shoeing forge by Mr. C. N. Page, as a Veterinary Surgeon. About the year 1842 Mr. Thos. Mitchell, a well-known Shakespearian reader, gave a reading in the Boys' British Schoolroom.