

Between the acts a number of local musicians played a selection of music. Not very long afterwards the first of the Banbury Philharmonic Concerts was given in the Girls' Schoolroom. These schools were built in 1839.

The old Theatre in Church Lane was the property of Mr. James Hill, then residing in Parson's Lane. It was used only by a theatrical manager named Jackman, who visited the town for three months every two years. On the night the Banbury Gas Company was inaugurated, Mr. James Hill invited several gentlemen to a hot supper on the stage of his theatre, where it had been cooked by gas. On the same night a huge gas trophy many feet high was erected near the centre of the Horse Fair. Many specimens of gas burners, coloured glasses and other interesting things connected with gas were exhibited. The streets were crowded till a late hour.

Our late beloved Queen Victoria paid two visits to Banbury during her long reign. The first visit, October, 1858, was on her return from the north to Windsor Castle, when she received addresses from the Corporation and Edward Bennett, Esq., who was Mayor at that time. This was on Banbury Michaelmas Fair day, great crowds of people went down to the Railway Station. The fair was almost deserted for about an hour in the afternoon. The second visit of her Majesty was in the summer of 1867, when she went to Wolverhampton to unveil a statue of her late beloved husband, the Prince Consort, that the good people of that flourishing town had erected in his honour. Her Majesty stayed at Banbury Station for a quarter of an hour, to receive a loyal address. On that morning there was a grand luncheon at the Council Chamber, the Council, the Recorder, the Magistrates, and other gentlemen were invited. Shortly before noon a procession was formed at the hall and walked to the Railway Station. The two maces were used on that occasion, which had not been done for many years previously. Seats were provided on the platform for a large number of townspeople. William R. Harrison, Esq., Mayor, read the address. She was very pleased with her reception at Banbury. Lord Derby was her Majesty's Minister in attendance. A pretty little girl, the daughter of the Mayor, presented to her Majesty a lovely bouquet of flowers. Alexander Staveley Hill, Recorder of Banbury, joined the royal train here and proceeded to Wolverhampton, dressed in his full robes as Doctor of Law.

Spring Fields, as they were called seventy years ago, on the north side of Mr. Munton's Flower Show Field had a footpath which passed from the Horse Fair to the bottom of Constitution Hill in Broughton Road. After getting to the first clap-gate the footpath,