

as 24 feet) was cut through from Perry's Nursery to below the Bloxham Road, and the hollow in the road as far as the Cross was raised several feet. Bloxham Road was also very steep. There was a fearful accident to a brewer's dray at the bottom of the hill one night after dark. The draymen had lost control of the horses, which dashed into a stone wall at the bottom. One of the draymen was killed, one horse killed and another had to be shot. The dray was a complete wreck and empty barrels were broken and strewn in all directions. The road was shortly afterwards improved, and made as at present. On one winter's evening in 1836, when the Catholic Church was being built, a large quantity of prepared freestone, ready for building was stacked on the ground about four feet high and nine feet long; a quantity of haulm and loose straw was thrown on the top to protect them from the ravages of the frost. There were about a dozen of us Oxford Bar boys playing hide and seek in and about the new building. It was my turn to hide. I went towards the straw that covered the stones intending to hide there. Pulling some away from the top I threw myself down on my side and to my astonishment found something alive underneath me, and in a few seconds heard a most horrible roar and groans. In quick time I regained my feet trembling with fright. Two tall men in blue blouses came out from the straw, leading a huge dancing bear. A large crowd soon gathered round and one of the old watchmen was quickly on the spot. The tale was soon told, the men had failed to get lodgings, so they sought for rest under the straw, not thinking that a stranger uninvited was about to invade their sleeping apartments. The watchmen were still unable to get anyone to take them in, so bear and men were locked in a coal shed in Calthorpe Lane for the night, and next morning saw them all out of the town. St. John's Roman Catholic Church was opened in 1838. The top part of the pinnacles on the tower were about seven feet high and were taken down some years after. They were considered dangerous as they rocked in a gale. A few years later a chapel was built at the end of Dashwood Road, called Austin's Chapel. It was used only for a few years then turned into a private school. It is now called Henwick House.

A Wesleyan Meeting House had been erected near the top of Calthorpe Lane, in what was called Lodging House Yard, but it was used for a few years only, and had since been used as a common lodging house. There was a passage through from Calthorpe Street to South Bar. At one time the shop at the end was kept by an Irishman, named "Peggy McWhee," who had lost his leg at Waterloo. Many a rough fight have I seen outside his shop, in which he, with his wooden leg and crutch, assisted by his