

dog and six woolcombers, with fleeces of wool. We met at six o'clock in the morning, at the offices at Cobb's factory. We had coffee and rolls for breakfast and afterwards proceeded in our car to wait for the procession to be formed. Perhaps the best part of the whole procession was "The shipwrights, taking a cruise in their good ship Victoria." A large boat was rigged as a schooner, drawn by horses, and carried the Queen's pennon and the Union Jack. On the mainsail was inscribed "Britannia rules the waves," and along the rudder were fastened models of vessels from the three-decker to the jolly boat. The vessel "Victoria" was manned by the shipwrights in sailors' dresses. In a bower at the stern was Britannia, who performed her part with great dignity, the lady is now over eighty years of age, and is living at Grimsbury. The procession started from Easington at nine o'clock, went to the Bridge, the Sun Rising at Neithrop, and returned to the Horse Fair at one o'clock, when the dinner took place. Forty-five long tables had been prepared, extending from West Bar Street to the Friends' Meeting House, running from the pavement to the road. There were 80 persons at each table and a superintendent for each. The larder for this big dinner was at the Malthouse at the top of High Street. Carvers, waiters, and others, formed themselves in line from the Malthouse to the tables and passed the provisions along. So well were the operations conducted, that everything was placed on the tables in half-an-hour. A kilderkin of ale stood in front of the chairman at the head of each adult table; one waiter at each table was appointed tapster, and stood by Sir John Barleycorn and gave out the due proportion of beer for each person. The actual partakers, including carvers, waiters and others, were nearly 4,000 persons. The following provisions were provided—3,059lbs. of meat, 1,700lbs. of pudding, 1,595lbs. of bread, 612 gallons of ale.

The cost of these provisions, tables, printing, bands, and other expenses connected with the dinner was £222 14s. 4d., leaving a balance in hand, all defrayed by voluntary contributions from the inhabitants. On the opposite side of the Horse Fair was a roped ring where the sports took place at three o'clock. There was climbing of a greasy pole, jingling matches, bobbing for oranges, &c. Donkey races took place from the Monument to the front gates of the Churchyard. Whilst the sports were going on, the Sunday School Children, 865 in number, marched in procession to a tea in Messrs. Staley's meadow, near the bridge. I carried a flag, and I do think I felt the proudest and happiest boy in Banbury that afternoon. The Rev. J. R. Rushton, for many years curate at St. Mary's Church, and Mr. J. G. Walford, of the old Congregational Chapel, had the management of that happy