

That Banbury should be without a Cross was unreasonable to think of as Coventry should be without its “Peeping Tom”, or Canterbury shorn of the shrine of A’Beckett... – to think of Banbury without a “Cross” is to run counter to all the reminiscences of childhood and sets at defiance all the records of legendary lore. The subscription lists were opened on the occasion referred to, and the structure erected in 1859.

At present we shall take the visitor no further up the Green, but cross over to West Bar Street. This was formerly called Sugarford Bar, and subsequently Bull Bar Street. Here is a small chapel capable of accommodating about 150 persons, erected for the use of a congregation whose members have espoused the tenets of Calvin. One of the town gates stood at the Western entrance, with an arched gateway for carriages and a smaller postern for foot passengers. The gateway was standing within the last eighty years, and the inscription “except the Lord keep the city, the watchman watcheth but in vain”, with the date “1631”, both of which were carved over the arch, lead to the inference that it was erected after the great fire of 1628.

[A description of Broughton Castle follows.]

Having returned to the West Bar [where several genteel mansions have recently been erected,] we shall take the traveller up that lane to the south leading to the west end of Crouch Street, [and if he will look into the field on his right, he will see a memorial to times long gone by... There too, at periods less remote, both bears and bulls have been put to torture; from which the field in question got the name of Bear Garden, a title which it retains to the present day].

The British Schools in Crouch Street have now been established upwards of twenty years, and attended with an unprecedented degree of success. For the year ending in Mid-summer, 1861, the children’s pence amounted to £230.7s.5d.; and in the course of the same period, there were upwards of 222 boys and 189 girls in actual attendance [1st ed.: 1859, £223.15s.0d., 200 boys, 150 girls].

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

On returning to South Bar Street at the top of the Green, the first object that arrests attention is the “Catholic Church of St John the Baptist”. It is a handsome edifice, surmounted at the end fronting the street by a square battlemented tower, 100 feet in height, which forms a pleasing feature in the surrounding landscape. The design for the building was furnished by Mr Derrick of Oxford, who superintended the