

## THE CASTLE

[The castle] stood north of the market place, and the buildings covered nearly an acre of ground. Its site is still known as “the castle gardens” [and] in accordance with the utilitarian principles which regulate the transactions of modern times, has been devoted to the ignoble but exceedingly useful purpose of nourishing cabbages and cultivating cauliflowers.

[Here follows a lengthy description of the Civil War sieges of Banbury Castle.]

Returning to the market place, the visitor crosses Factory Street, at the east end of which is a manufactory for the fabrication of worsted girths, roller webs, and summer horse clothing – a species of manufacture that has been carried on in the town, by different members of the same family, for nearly a century. A short way westward from the point of intersection is a rope-walk and factory for the fabrication of rick sheets, tents, and sacking, which has also been established nearly fifty years.

Crossing the market-place and High Street, a little to the west of the Town Hall, a stranger will find himself in what is now called Broad Street, the houses consisting chiefly of the dwellings of the working classes. On the east side he may notice a plain and unpretending little building, erected in 1838 for the use of a plain and unpretending people, wherein they may worship their God in their own way. That is the chapel of the Primitive Methodists, and is capable of comfortably accommodating nearly 200 persons. A little further on is Christ Church which, if it ever should be finished, will be calculated to form not only a commodious but elegant building, and is already attended by a numerous congregation of the adherents of the established church residing in the southern district of the town. It was erected in 1852-3 by Mr Joseph Hope, under the superintendence of Mr Benjamin Ferry, the Incorporated Church Building Society contributing the sum of £400 towards the expense of the structure, on condition that 694 of its sittings, out of 944, should be free.

It was probably near this place – although it is now impossible precisely to say where – that the fifth gate, called Cole Bar, formerly stood. It marked the boundary of the town on the direct line of communication from the Castle gate to the Oxford Road; but when it was erected, or how it disappeared, there are no records extant to show.