

timber; from whence, after being seasoned, it is handed to the morticing and tenoning machines, which shape and cut it about as easily as Hodge's boy can cut his cheese. The same power hurls a blast of air, such as Boreas himself might crack his cheeks in vain to produce, through subterranean channels, to some two score blacksmiths' roaring forges, in the smiths' shops forming the third side, where the wrought iron is formed by the followers of Vulcan into rough shapes ready for machinery to finish. The fourth side of the quadrangle consists of offices, painters' shops, and goods-despatching warehouses. Hundreds of tons of bar and pig iron, and what appears to be whole forests of felled timber, are piled in disorderly order, waiting to be sacrificed at the shrine of art to purposes more useful, after transformation, though perhaps not so ornamental."

Here may be seen in course of manufacture, the Britannia Self-Raking Reaper, an invention well calculated to lighten the harvest labours of the husbandman, the supply of which, notwithstanding all the means and appliances at command, can barely at present keep pace with the requisitions; turnip cutters, turned out at the rate of nearly six thousand a year, and of which above 80,000 have been despatched from these works to all quarters of the globe; root-pulpers, food-preparers, chaff-cutters, and cake-breakers, in abundant profusion and almost endless variety; lawn-mowing machines which crop the grass and roll the sward to such perfection as no workman can ever hope to attain; hay-making machines for scattering abroad the produce of the meadows, and horse-rakes for the purpose of drawing it together; clod-crushers, rollers, horse-hoes, and harrows, for pulverising the soil and fertilising the teeming earth. Throughout every ramification of these extensive works there is abundant evidence of the presence of a master mind; and when it is remembered that nearly 18,000 of these Implements are annually sent out to aid the scientific agriculturist in his labours – each bearing the name of "Banbury" – that fact will furnish a 'material guarantee' for the continued prosperity of the borough to which its inhabitants may point with becoming pride.⁷

Our traveller is now returned within five minutes' walk of

⁷ This description of the Britannia Works was reprinted in *C&CH.4(4)*, pp.60-61.