



THE RAILWAY STATION

To which we will take the liberty of conducting him at once, and which the preceding engraving will leave him at no loss to recognise. The Buckinghamshire branch of the London and North Western Railway was constructed at the enormous expense of about £30,000 a mile; but it was done in a hurry, and the proprietors were doubtless charged extra for haste. It joins the Oxford branch at Winslow, $23\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Banbury, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther on, it is connected with the trunk line at Bletchley. It was opened to Banbury for public traffic on the 1st of May, 1850. The Great Western line was not opened until about two years afterwards, when it afforded a much more direct line of communication to the north, and abridged the journey from Banbury to the South Western districts of the kingdom by something like fifty miles. It has brought us within a two hours journey of the metropolis, and a ride of 28 minutes will convey a visitor from Oxford hither.

THE GAS WORKS

Only remain to be noticed.⁸ The company was established in 1833, with a capital of £3,500. The works at that time were situated in the town, and the price to the consumer was charged at the rate of 15s. per thousand. This was gradually reduced to 6s.8d.; but in 1853, by the advice of Mr Hedley, the engineer of the company, the works were removed to the

⁸ See 'Gas-Making in Banbury' G.C.J. Hartland, *C&CH*.4(4), 1969, pp.47-49.