



*The Gas Works*

present eligible site, and the price was still further reduced to 5s. per thousand. These reductions were attended with satisfactory results, not only to the public but to the proprietors; for the income which in 1839 amounted only to £955, with gas at the rate of 15s a thousand, increased to £3,255 in 1859, after the price had been lowered to five shillings. The capital of the company is £10,000, divided into a thousand shares, and on that invested capital a dividend is paid at the rate of 7½ per cent per annum.

The works are commodious and well adapted both for the manufacture and distribution of the particular commodity which they are intended to supply, and consist of a large and well-ventilated retort-house, containing thirty clay retorts, 14 in. by 8 ft. 6in., with coal stores running parallel with the retort beds, a powerful condenser and scrubber, three large purifiers for dry lime, station meter, two gas-holders, and a station governor.

These works form a conspicuous object on the left, as the train leaves the Great Western station for Oxford; whilst the tastefully laid out garden in front of the residence of the company's engineer, and closely adjoining the works alluded to, satisfactorily demonstrate that when similar