

MESSRS. BASS AND CO.'S BREWERIES

“A glass of bitter, please!” “And you, sir?” “A glass of Burton.” So run two of the most familiar orders of every luncheon-bar or dining-room in London, of every tavern or refreshment-house in the three kingdoms, and of nearly every bar in the civilised world where the English language happens to be spoken, while equivalents for the same demands are to be heard in strange tongues in many a foreign clime. Yet how few of us think when giving such an order how vast is the machinery, how extensive the machinery, we are aiding to keep in motion. Nay, we are convinced that very few of our own readers, who instead of buying, sell their “glasses of bitter”, and week by week have to receive barrels upon barrels into their cellars, have ever realised to their own minds the striking truth that almost in the very centre of England there is a wealthy, populous, and flourishing town, the name of which is familiar to all civilised ears, and yet which has for its *raison d’etre* nothing but the one fact that it is the site of the manufacture of bitter beer.

Yet of Burton-upon-Trent the pages of history have little else to record. It is true that in the very earliest days, subsequent to the Norman Conquest, some pious or penitent baron built here and endowed a magnificent abbey, the ruins of which may still be examined by the antiquarian, but it is, to say the least of it, characteristic that the very oldest existing document connected with this edifice is one which Matilda, daughter of Nicholas de Millindale, leases to the abbot and convent certain tenements, for “two white loaves from the monastery, *and two gallons of conventual beer* or cider, and one penny, together with *seven gallons of beer* for the men, and one sextary of hay”. The date of this document is 1295, so it is clear that for five centuries and three-quarters brewing has been one of the main pursuits of the good people of Burton, and, doubtless, as far as the skill of the

times permitted, the monks of Burton Priory continued to produce a good tap.

Then it is on record that when Mortimer Glendower and Hotspur, on the eve of their rebellion against Henry IV, were dividing in anticipation the England they had yet to win, the fiery Percy, although his fellow conspirators offered him all the land north of the Trent, was not satisfied without Burton. Had it been his rival, Prince Hal, who was thus desirous of acquiring the Midland town, we could well have supposed that he might have been attracted by the fame of the local beer. And, indeed, Percy himself, with his scorn of fopperies and affectations, was just the man to prefer a good draught of “sound October” to all the thin French wines that then reached our shores from the vineyards of Gascony. Be that as it may, rather than lose the town, he announced his determination of altering the course of the Trent. “Methinks,” he cried,

my moiety, north from Burton here,
In quantity equals not one of yours:
See how this river comes me cranking in,
And cuts me from the best of all my land
A huge half-moon, a monstrous cantle out.
I’ll have the current in this place damm’d up;
And here the smug and silver Trent shall run
In a new channel, fair and evenly;
It shall not wind with such a deep indent,
To rob me of so rich a bottom here.

Now it must be remembered that at Burton Shakespeare was not far from home, and, at all events, was in a country with which he was thoroughly familiar, so when he makes Hotspur call the Burton district “the best of all my land”, and speak of it as having “so rich a bottom”, it is fair to assume he knew what he was writing about.

So thought Glendower, who was almost prepared to quarrel rather than allow the river's course to be changed.

It is matter of history now that at the battle of Shrewsbury these rebels were defeated, but it would be a puzzling question for a debating society to decide, whether if they had won the battle, and Hotspur had changed the course of the Trent, we should ever had any bitter beer. It is sad to think of, but at times the most important events depend on the veriest trifles, and it is possible that the mere transfer of the English Crown, by resulting in the river being directed across the path of the famous springs of the Trent Valley, might have robbed the world for ever of its bitter beer and caused the present generation to be ignorant of the name Bass.

For let us remark here that while the popular belief that the quality of Burton beer to a great extent depends on the water used in its manufacture is sufficiently well-founded, it is altogether a mistake to suppose that this water is taken from the Trent. Everywhere in the valley through which river runs and in which the town of Burton is situated, are to be found, at varying depths, wells yielding abundant supplies of water. The peculiarity of this water, which is altogether dissimilar to that of this river, is that it is always found in the gypsum strata, that is altogether free from organic particles, and that it is peculiarly rich in earthy sulphates and carbonates. Devoting just one line to science, we may here remark that the chemical theory on the subject is that these alkalines combine in some manner with the acid of the malt extract, and are so precipitated in the form of insoluble salts, carrying with them all the nitrogenised substances which are so detrimental to the most carefully conducted "brew".

Returning to the history of Burton, beyond the fact that here was established in the reign of King Edward the Sixth, a grammar school, which still flourishes, and has at different times borne on the lists of scholars such well known and honoured names as Bass and Allsopp, and Worthington and Wilson, and Salt and Mason and Sherratt - brewers every one of them - there is really nothing to mention until the year 1707. At this time there were four or five brewers in Burton, but all were evidently in a small way, confining themselves strictly to a local trade. Among them, however, was one Benjamin Printon, who, seemingly impressed with the

quality and excellence of his own brewings, determined to give the world at large the benefit of his skill. He therefore, actuated by a spirit of enterprise, sent out his beer at regular intervals to the distant towns of Derby, Lichfield, Nottingham, Stafford and Tamworth - nay, it is even said that an occasional barrel found its way to such far-off places as Sheffield to the north and Birmingham to the south. Certainly, then, to Benjamin Printon must be attributed the credit of having founded the export beer trade of Burton-on-Trent. But he was not long without imitators. The fame of the Burton beers spread rapidly, new men entered into the business, and in 1777 one WILLIAM BASS, an extensive carrier of the town, finding probably how largely his horses and wagons were employed in the transportation of beer, seems to have been struck with the idea that he might as well brew and carry his own beer as simply give up his drays to the brewings of other people.

This Mr. William Bass, who could hardly have dreamed he was in time to become the founder of one of the largest and most famous trading firms in the world, was the grandfather of Michael Thomas Bass, Esq. the present respected head of the firm and member of Parliament for Derby. The skill and enterprise he brought to bear on the business he had founded were not long before they produced their legitimate effect, and by the end of the century beer was recognised far and wide as the staple trade of the little Staffordshire town. In 1800 there were no less than nine breweries in the town, but of them the only two whose names are still in existence were Bass's and Worthington's. Not yet, however, had the manufacture of "pale ale" commenced. The principal production of the Messrs. Bass during the first quarter of the present century was a strong brown ale popularly known by the name of the town in which it was brewed, and of this quantities were sent all over the kingdom; but its chief market was to be found in Russia, whither it was exported by way of Hull. In 1822 a great blow was dealt to the Burton ale trade by the imposition, on the part of the Russian Government, of protective duties so heavy as to be virtually prohibitive. But this, which promised to be the ruin, proved to be the foundation of Burton. Mr. Bass at once grasped the situation in all its bearings, and making up his mind that the northern trade, depending as it did on the word, or even the caprice, of a despotic ruler, was too precarious to be depended on, turned his attention to the readiest means of popularising his ales in the south of England. Largely

introduced into London, they at once became popular. But the great fame that was to be acquired by Burton was fated to depend, not on the strong brown ales manufactured for the cold climates of the north, but on a "pale ale" prepared especially for the Indian market, and the circumstances that led to the introduction of this new beer are worth relating at length.

For some years previous to 1822, while the Burton brewers had been devoting themselves to the supply of the Russian and other Baltic ports, a London brewer, named Hodgson, of what was then the well-known firm of Abbott and Hodgson, of the Old Bow Brewery, had with equal pertinacity and perseverance been endeavouring to produce a beer specially suited for consumption under the burning sun of our Eastern Empire, and such success had he attained that "Hodgson's India Pale Ale" had fairly monopolised the Eastern trade. But just at the time Bass's ale was becoming popular in London, a bottle of it was tasted by a captain in the East India Company's Service, and this gentleman, it is said, suggested to Mr. Bass, that he too should produce an Indian ale. Mr. Bass took the hint, and calling in some of the highest scientific aid of the period, entered on a long and costly series of experiments, which eventually resulted in the consignment to Calcutta of a first cargo of "Bass's Bitter Beer," as it is now called in popular parlance, but then more strictly known as "East India Pale Ale." The success of this ale in India was instantaneous and complete, and Mr. Bass found himself handsomely rewarded for the heavy risks and long anxiety he had undergone. For it hardly needs remarking that this early manufacture of a beer able to bear a long and tedious sea voyage round the Cape, and that could be relied on to be landed in prime condition, was by no means a simple or everyday affair. It is not so much to say that then the process of brewing was elevated from a rough-and-ready domestic process into a science, only to be practised successfully by men, who in addition to practical experience, have received regular training as chemists.

Until 1827 Messrs. Bass seem to have sent all their bitter beer to that Indian market for which it had been originally manufactured, but in the year named a lucky accident - so far as the Burton brewers were concerned - was the means of introducing it to a wider, and perhaps thirstier constituency. A vessel containing some 300 hogsheads was wrecked in the Irish Channel, and

several of the casks being saved, were sent to Liverpool and there sold for the benefit of the underwriters. Instead of being reshipped to its intended destination the beer was drunk on the banks of the Mersey, and thus gained as much favour as it had already acquired on the banks of the Hooghly.¹ Its subsequent history need hardly be dwelt upon.

The reader is hardly likely to suppose that the rapidly-increasing trade of the Messrs. Bass had been unaccompanied by an extension of plant and premises, but as even the most vivid imagination is unlikely to form a very correct idea without an actual visit to Burton, of the vast establishment which sends out annually to every quarter of the globe something like 800,000 barrels of ale, we think as complete an account of the growth and present aspect of the brewery as our space will permit us to give will not prove unacceptable.

According to the statistics prepared by Professor Leone Levi² at the special request of Mr. M.T. Bass, the greatest commercial interest in this kingdom is the liquor trade, there being invested therein as fixed and floating capital the enormous sum of £117,000,000, a sum exceeding one-seventh of our National Debt, and more than equalling the National Revenue for eighteen months. Of this vast amount, of course a very large proportion pertains to the brewing branch of the trade, and the largest brewers, not only in the country but in the world, are Messrs. Bass and Co., of Burton-on-Trent.

The growth of this remarkable firm becomes more astonishing when it is remembered that not a hundred years have elapsed since Mr. William Bass commenced business as a brewer in the High Street of his native town. The original establishment, forming a small portion of what is now known as the "Old Brewery," occupied altogether a plot of ground equal to a good-sized garden. By rapid degrees this was added to on every side. All the contiguous ground that could be secured was purchased, and gradually a huge establishment grew from the small beginning. But the development of the railway system gave an enormous impetus to the trade of Messrs. Bass, and then came the Great Exhibition of 1851, which certainly did more than anything that had gone before it to popularise bitter beer with the public at large. The consequence was so increased a demand that the brewery became altogether unable to keep pace with the orders received, and at last

it was determined to build in another portion of the town another brewery, which should altogether dwarf the old establishment with all its enlargements, and enable the firm to keep fairly ahead of the wants of their customers. This new building, the Middle Brewery, was erected in 1853, and was considered at the time, as in very truth it was, a most gigantic structure, and there were now prophets of evil to foretell that the trade would never be sufficient to keep the space and plant employed. It soon appeared, however, that Messrs. Bass themselves had no idea of their own popularity, and enlargements again and again were called for until, in 1863, on the 18th of May, the foundation-stone was laid of another and yet larger brewery, which was opened for work on the 25th of January, 1864, and to conclude this paragraph, during the last and present years both the Middle and New Breweries have again had to be very considerably enlarged.

It is difficult in mere words to convey to the reader any idea of the size and extent of these vast establishments, as when figures extend beyond a certain magnitude, they seem almost to lose their force from the mind ceasing to grapple with them. Let us commence, however, in stating that these premises occupy altogether a space of one hundred and fifty acres, of which fifty acres are the freehold property of the firm, and are valued at £250,000. In the erection of the new brewery alone more than five million bricks were employed, and the main block of this building is seven hundred feet long (being more than the eighth of a mile), with an average breadth of one hundred and eight feet. In this building there are three floors, the whole giving a floor space of six acres, a space considerably larger than the roped area at Lord's Cricket Ground on the occasion of a great match! One of the racking rooms on the ground floor has an area of considerably more than an acre, being 433 feet long by 110 feet broad. On this floor also are the two engine-rooms, besides other accommodation. On the first floor are grinding and storing rooms for malt, the mashing-room, and turning-rooms. One of these latter, immediately over the racking-room just mentioned, and of the same dimensions, contains 1460 tuning casks, each of which holds 160 gallons, equal in all to 233,600 gallons. That is to say, if 1000 men were turned into this room, and allowed each of them to drink a gallon of ale per diem for thirty-three weeks, at the end of the time there would still be left 2600 gallons for a final farewell orgie! In the mashing-rooms there are

twelve mash-tubs, each of which will mash sixty quarters of malt, so that more than 150 acres of land would be required to grow the barley for a single charge for these dozen tubs. On the second story of this building are the fermenting-rooms, containing 226 squares of vats, each of which will hold 2200 gallons, or 587,600 gallons in all, a quantity more than sufficient to fill a swimming-bath 250 feet long, 160 feet broad, and six feet deep, which, it need not be added, is more than three times the size of the largest public bath in London. On the third story are the coolers, and copper house. In this latter are three water-coppers, each of which will boil 12,000 gallons; and eleven wort-coppers, that will each boil 2200 gallons.

These enormous quantities seem to convey some feeling of amazement, and almost of incredulity, to the mind; yet it must be remembered that all we have written refers only to one of the three breweries belonging to this firm - indeed only to one building therein. For here there are to be found also three large malthouses and the cooperage, one of the most interesting departments in the entire establishment. Here some four hundred men and boys are constantly employed in making new casks and repairing the old ones. The largest amount of work done in the cooperage is due to the foreign trade, as in the home business casks are, of course, used over and over again for an almost indefinite number of times: but the casks that go abroad do not return, and of these there are no less than 40,000 every year, all of which are made on the premises.

Instead of the manual labour, with the occasional assistance of a single horse, which was found sufficient by William Bass for all his operations, his grandson has constantly at work no less than twenty-six steam-engines, with an aggregate of 432 horse-power; yet, though manual labour is said to be done away with in every possible department, the number of persons employed in Messrs. Bass's Burton Brewery exceeds two thousand, whose weekly wages amount to about £2000. This sum is independent of the chief officers, the agents and the hundreds of persons engaged at the large branch establishments of the firm in London, Manchester, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Birmingham, and any other towns.

Some notion of the transactions of the firm may be gathered from the following somewhat curious details.

Besides the steam-engines already mentioned, there are on the works six locomotives of an aggregate of 500 horse power, which are employed in moving the traffic to and from the works and the railway station, with which there is direct communication by means of some six miles of railway that traverses the premises in every direction. The stock of casks necessary for carrying out the business amounts, at the present time, to more than half a million butts, hogsheads, barrels, and kilderkins. But although a local authority reminds us that these casks placed end to end would more than reach from London to Manchester, yet even these do not thoroughly represent the vast trade got through by Messrs. Bass as in the course of a brewing season, they send out 800,000 barrels, and during the same period receive into the works raw material weighing 75,000 tons. For the carriage of their barrels to their various destinations in the twelve months ending the 30th of June last, Messrs. Bass paid the railway companies and other carriers, the trifling amount of £168,529 5s. and employed something like 120,000 railway trucks, enough if all placed on a line of railway in a straight row to reach from London to Liverpool and back again. In the production of the beer they used 250,000 quarters of malt, the growing of which would require some 50,000 acres, equal to nearly one third of the entire area of the county of Middlesex. Of hops, 34,000 cwts. were used, and of coals 40,000 tons. By Messrs. Bass's operations during the year the revenue netted in malt duty and brewer's licence the nice round sum of £285,000, a contribution which should almost make Sir Wilfrid Lawson³ forgive the manufacture of so much "jolly good ale and old".⁴ To meet this more than princely expenditure, it is clear that an equally princely revenue must be forthcoming and accordingly one is hardly surprised to hear that Messrs. Bass's receipts are estimated to reach not less than £2,400,000 per annum.

In the days when bitter beer was beginning to get generally popular in London, many of our readers will remember that it was to be procured only in bottles, and it would therefore be a curious omission to leave out all allusion to the bottling process, although this is not performed by the firm itself, but by duly accredited agents who are supplied with a due proportion of the familiar "Pyramid" labels to affix to every bottle of the genuine bitter. The London bottlers are supplied direct from the London Stores, which are to be found in the King's-road, St. Pancras, by the side of the Midland Railway,

over which beer trains run direct from the brewery into the stores. These stores constitute one of the largest and most imposing ranges of brick buildings in London, and are of sufficient extent to afford stowage for 90,000 barrels of ale. Each of the three stores of this building is kept at a certain distinct temperature, one cold, one temperate, and one warm, for the storage of ales of varying age and condition. By this arrangement the managers are enabled always to ensure their ale when they send it out, being exactly in the very best state for early consumption. For, after all, beers and wines have this one characteristic in common, that there is a moment when they are at their best, and that they may be drunk either too soon or not soon enough. Again, as it is impossible to get good wine from a bad vintage, so it is impossible to get good beer from bad "brew." But in the former case the vine-grower has hardly any choice. When the season arrives he is bound, however unpromising his grapes may appear, either to make with them what wine he can or to throw away altogether his year's harvest, in many cases the one sole prospect to which he could look forward for his year's expenses. The brewer is in better case. If his harvest has been bad in one direction, he can look in another. If the barley has failed in England, he can import it from the banks of the Danube or the shores of the Black Sea. If the hops have disappointed the growers in Kent, the brewer can turn his attention to Worcestershire or to Bavaria. Accordingly, if a brewer be determined to make his beer always of the best quality, it can hardly ever happen that he is unable to purchase the raw material. It is merely and entirely a question of price. This consideration is one not likely to affect the great pale ale brewers, for the simple reason that they are strong enough to rule the markets, and if Messrs. Bass and Allsopp, owing to the condition of the hops find themselves compelled to put a shilling a gallon on their ales, we fear the Licensed Victualler has nothing to do but submit. Fortunately, though we believe that they are strong, so these gentlemen are considerate, and would not raise their prices save when there had been some unavoidable fluctuation in the prices of the raw material which rendered such a step not only justifiable but necessary.

But to brew successfully it is not enough to buy the finest hops and the best barley, even when your water is the best in the world for the purpose. It is needful that having your ingredients you should know thoroughly how to manipulate them. And here it is Messrs. Bass

have their easy superiority. Every department of the manufacture at Burton is presided over by a thoroughly qualified chemist, whose salary has to be made sufficiently remunerative to induce him to eschew private practice and to devote himself exclusively to the firm. In addition to the presiding genius of each brewery, there are in each establishment three assistants, who have, every one, obtained a certificate of qualification from the College of Chemistry, so that every process can always be watched with the greatest care, circumspection, and intelligence, the result being that a failure is a thing almost if not entirely unknown.

It is not our intention to inflict on the reader a dissertation on the science of brewing, but a few words will probably be found not uninteresting.

The first process is the malting of the barley. For the small brewers this is generally done by the maltsters, on their own account. This process is simple enough, but it requires to be carefully watched, or at any moment the work of days may be seriously injured. The barley is first steeped for two or three days in water, and then spread out on a floor for the process of germination to commence, and it is here the greatest care is necessary. Germination must only be allowed to proceed far enough for the albumen of the barley to be converted into diastase, a substance which possesses the power of splitting up, as it were, the starch, of which barley contains a very large quantity, into dextrine and grape sugar.⁵ Before this change has been completed long enough for any of the sugar to be applied to the nutriment of the sprouting barley the grains should be taken to the kiln and thoroughly dried. For pale ale brewing the barley is only dried before being ground, but when porter is the desired "brew," it is roasted until nearly black. The sugar is now free, and in the mashing process that follows is extracted to produce the "wort," which is the real foundation of the beer, the hops being used merely for the sake of flavour. The great cautions to be observed in the purchase of hops are, that first they have not been overdosed with sulphur, either when growing, to kill the insects with which the plant is so frequently infested, or when drying to give them a false colour; and second, that they have not been over-dried. In the first case, the sulphur flavour will be sufficient to spoil the beer, however well made it may be in other respects, and in the second case, the hops will fail to yield any flavour at all. The only material that should be used in the man-

ufacture of beer is yeast; and these four - malt, hops, yeast and water, are all that find a place in the preparation of Bass's bitter beer. But the various stages of the manufacture, as seen in a large brewery present many points of interest, though these are of too technical a character when put into words to be in place in an article which professes to be rather a description of a particular brewery than of brewing generally.

One word more on the growth of the Burton breweries and their influence on the town itself. We have seen already that in the firm of Bass and Co. there are now employed 2000 men and boys. In the year 1831, according to the local handbooks, there were employed in all the breweries of the town only 867 men and 61 boys. The entire population was then about 8000; it is now more than 20,000, an increase of 150 per cent. It was then a not very flourishing and not very handsome town; it now looks the very image of prosperity, it has its public park, its lighting, paving, and drainage are models to many larger communities; a handsome bridge has been built across the Trent at a cost of £30,000, and all these things are the product of beer, for Burton-on-Trent literally produces nothing else. But of this, its staple commodity, in the year 1869 it produced 1,735,928 barrels of ale, and 19,324 barrels of porter, of a gross value of £4,739,000, on which, in the form of duties and licences, the Government levied the sum of £501,800. The persons employed amounted to 5074 men and boys, receiving £241,127 in salaries and 74,832 tons of coals, worth £29,800, were consumed in the manufacture. Here, then, are facts which would assuredly almost justify the peaceful people of Burton in rising to rebellion against Sir Wilfrid Lawson, or any other fanatic who should seek to

Rob the good town of its beer

So much for the mere statistics of the firm. There are, however, features that present themselves in the mind's eye when engaged in contemplating commercial operations of such magnitude. In all probability it is an under estimate to put the number of persons who are directly and indirectly employed by Messrs. Bass, as farmers and hop-growers, as agricultural labourers, as coopers, colliers, smiths, engineers, glassworkers for bottles, railway *employés*, *cum multa alias*, at fifty thousand. This large army which thus derives its support from the skill, the high character, and the unflagging enterprise of

one firm might well ask to be heard in answer to those who glibly denounce beer in common with all alcoholic drinks as evils, and we fancy the weight of argument would be found on their side.

There is, too, a great lesson - which all may study with advantage - to be learned from the rapid and marvellous growth of this great firm. The secret of this has been neither puffing nor luck, but steady hard work, constant determination to produce the very best article that capital and science combined could wring from malt and hops, and unswerving, undeviating integrity.

Without this last qualification it is possible, though not probable, the house of Bass and Co. might have acquired a temporary reputation, and have heaped up colossal fortunes, but certainly its individual members would not stand high in the estimation of their fellowmen as at this moment they certainly do. Throughout the length and breadth of the nation there is no man more respected by his countrymen at large than that sterling English gentleman, Michael Thomas Bass, the head of the firm. For twenty-six years this gentleman has represented the town of Derby in Parliament, and he would indeed be a rash intruder, with little discretion, who should seek to oppose his return. In the House of Commons he has ever been a most useful and never a factitious member. His services on behalf of the railway *employés* have evoked the warmest feelings of gratitude from the men for whom he has laboured, while his charities and his public donations have ever been of the most princely character. Among these must be reckoned his gifts of pleasure-grounds to the two towns of Derby and Burton-on-Trent, his munificent contributions towards the building of churches and schools, and his liberal and judicious support of all local charities. As proofs of his zeal in all matters in which Licensed Victuallers are interested, it may be sufficient to mention that besides presiding at the Asylum dinner in 1857, and the School dinner in 1861, he has acted as Chairman times without number at the annual dinners of local Licensed Victuallers' Associations. His example in this, as in most other respects has been nobly followed by his eldest son, Mr. Michael Arthur Bass, the Member for East Staffordshire, who occupied the chair at the Asylum dinner in 1870, and among numerous other similar services to the Trade, presided on Tuesday last at the annual dinner of the West Bromwich Licensed Victuallers' Association, a full and special report of the

speeches at which will be found in other columns. Mr. Michael Arthur Bass is now thirty-seven years of age. He received his education at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. 1858, M.A. 1863. After he had completed his scholastic career he entered the firm, and has since been an active member. He is a justice of the peace for the counties of Derby and Staffordshire, and of the latter is also deputy-lieutenant, and has been an energetic officer in both the militia and the volunteers. In July, 1863, he was elected to represent the ancient borough of Stafford in Parliament, retaining his seat until December, 1868, when he was elected for the eastern division of the county of Staffordshire, which he still represents. Mr. M.A. Bass is not less popular in many circles of London society than in the two counties with which he is most closely connected, and his sympathies with literature and the drama are proven that besides belonging to the Reform, Brooks's, and the Oxford and Cambridge Club, he is also a member and by no means unfrequent attendant of the Garrick. And now a younger scion of the house is proving himself worthy of his name. Mr. Hamar Bass⁶ has already appeared with considerable success at several Licensed Victuallers' gatherings, and on Tuesday next he is to preside at the Leicester Association dinner, when we are certain he will find himself surrounded by so goodly a gathering of the Trade as shall convince him of the respect and esteem felt by the Licensed Victuallers as a body for the honoured name he bears.

We have described the breweries of Messrs. Bass and Co. In conclusion, it may not be out of place to say a few words about the family residence of the Prince of Brewers. Rangemore House is situated about five miles west of Burton, in one of the most charming spots in the ancient forest of Needwood, where stout old John of Gaunt and his gay little court, fresh from Tutbury Castle, came hunting the wild deer among those grand old oaks in Staffordshire. It is built in the classic style of architecture, and occupies, with its beautiful gardens, conservatories, vineries, and ornamental waters, in all about thirty-five acres. Numerous additions are being made at the present time, and when these are completed, Rangemore will be almost unequalled as a family mansion in Staffordshire. Within 500 yards of the house, Mr. Bass has built and endowed a most beautiful church, built in early English style; and in connection with it the necessary schools, to accommodate more than one hundred children, and suitable residence for schoolmaster, etc.

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Notes

1. A distributary of the Ganges River in West Bengal, India.
2. Professor Leone Levi (1821-1888), distinguished statistician especially as applied to political economy and commerce.

3. Sir Wilfrid Lawson (1829-1906), Liberal M.P. and prominent temperance campaigner. He is a persistent target of the author of these articles.

4. The title of a poem by William Stevenson, (1530?-1575).

5. Grape sugar, a colloquial term for dextrose.

6. Hamar Arthur Bass (1842-1898), younger brother of Michael Arthur Bass and second son of Michael Thomas Bass.