

SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND. All over the world "Sheffield" means fine cutlery, such as knives, razors, scissors, surgical instruments, together with mathematical instruments, files, saws, and engineering tools of all kinds. Heavy steel, too, is manufactured there—armour plate, rails, engines, machinery, guns and shells—and cast-iron articles, such as stoves and grates, as well as silver and brass ware.

Next to the lord mayor, the highest dignity in the city is the Master Cutler of the ancient Cutlers' Company, which exercises jurisdiction over trade-marks on metal goods and over all persons in business in the district of the West Riding of Yorkshire, in which Sheffield is situated. The famous "Sheffield plate" (silver) is no longer manufactured, the process having been abandoned in favour of much cheaper methods.

Sheffield's pre-eminence in the steel industry is due in part to its situation in the Yorkshire-Derbyshire coal field. Yet iron was smelted with charcoal in the district probably in Roman times—certainly by the time of the Norman Conquest—and Sheffield blades were famous long before

"pit coal" was used in the manufacture of iron and steel.

It was a Sheffield man, Benjamin Huntsman, who in 1740 introduced the process of making crucible steel from bar or blister steel, which is still used in making fine Sheffield cutlery. Henry Bessemer established his first steel works in Sheffield, and much Bessemer steel is still manufactured there.

SHEFFIELD'S TOWN HALL

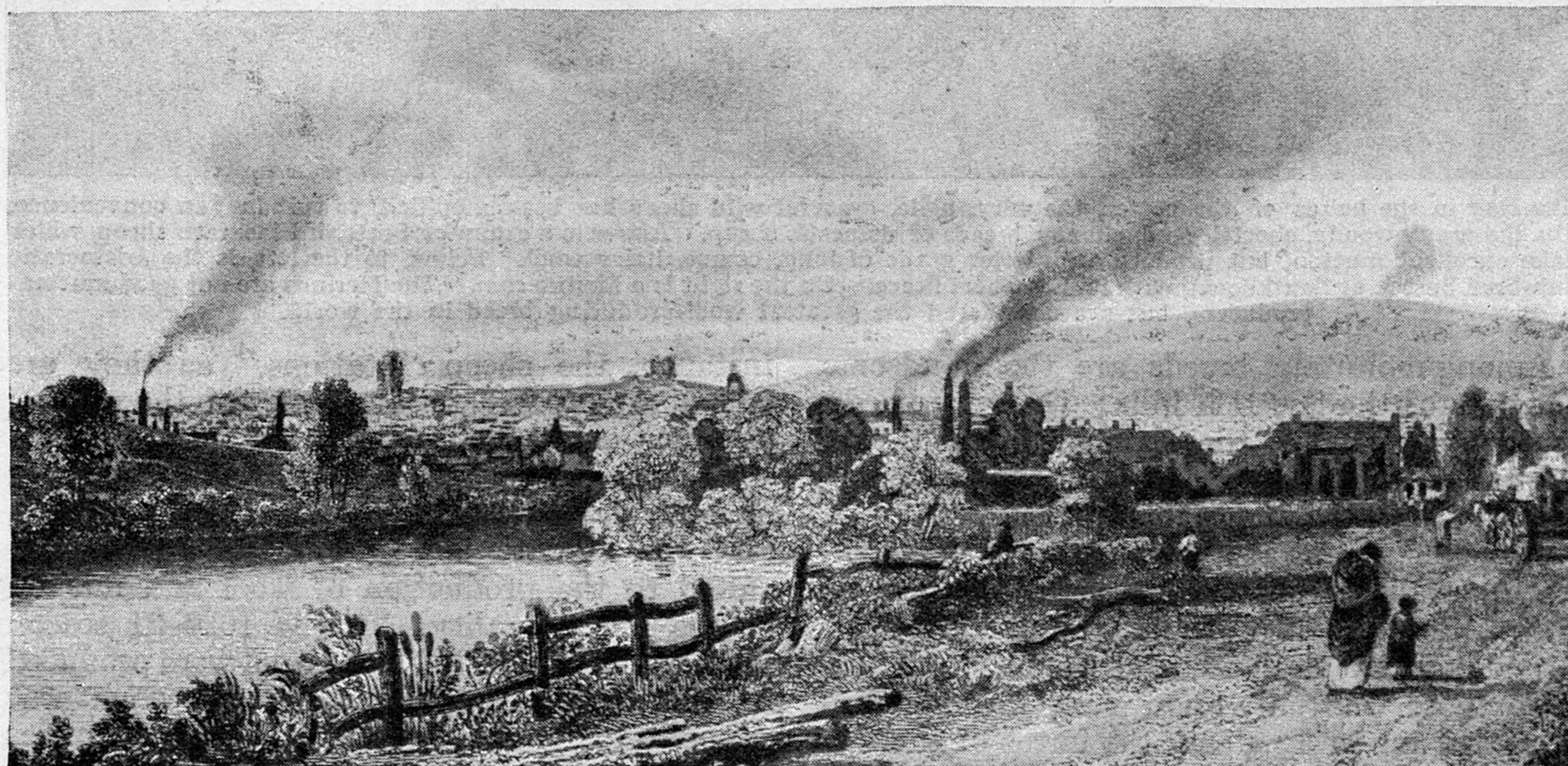


This splendid building, in Renaissance style, surmounted by a lofty tower, was opened in 1897. It was built at a cost of £130,000.

Like most other steel towns, Sheffield is smoky and dirty, but it is delightfully situated at the base of hills on the river Don, a tributary of the Humber. Its most interesting public building is St. Peter's church, originally built in Norman times and burnt during the wars waged between Edward III and the barons, but since rebuilt; the oldest standing part, the tower, dates from the 14th century. The handsome town hall was opened by Queen Victoria in 1897.

Sheffield University, founded in 1905 by a local steel manufacturer, comprises, besides the departments of medicine, arts, science, commerce, etc., a flourishing technical school with metallurgical laboratories and well-equipped workshops. Population, about 490,000.

SHEFFIELD AS IT APPEARED TO OUR FOREFATHERS



Sheffield as it was in 1819. The town is situated at the point where the river Don and other streams join. The manufacturing quarter lies chiefly in the valley of the Don, and the residential district has extended up the hills.

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