

The building was erected in the time of Elizabeth; and is characterized by substantial comfort, rather than by elegance. The father of the present owner obtained possession of the Hall, with its demesnes, by purchase.

Domestic architecture, in the northern and midland parts of England, and particularly in Lancashire and Cheshire, is remarkable for a style, not altogether peculiar, but practised no where else so commonly, or on so grand a scale. It has a sort of rude magnificence, in which, if elegance and taste are not so evident as in the more stately fabrics of stone and brick raised in other parts of the country at the same periods, the general strength and ingenuity of construction, and frequently the beauty of its internal decorations, are well worthy of notice. In the thirteenth century, carpentry had attained great excellence; and in the following, its beauty vied with that of the finest productions of the sculptor. It is probable, the ancient timber-work in Irlam-Hall is as old as the commencement of the fourteenth century.

#### MARKET STREET—CUNLIFFES, BROOKS, & CO'S BANK, MANCHESTER.

The principal feature in this View, is the Banking-house of the highly respectable firm of Cunliffes, Brooks, and Company. The front of this building is elegantly classic in design and execution. Four Doric columns support an entablature, from which rise four Ionic pillars, crowned with a plain cornice, and terminating in an attic story. The edifice recedes between two elegant shops, which, from a similarity in their architecture, form wings to the design, and render the *coup d'œil* more effective.

Market Street is the principal thoroughfare of Manchester, and possesses many buildings deserving notice. It had long been inadequate to the vast and continuous traffic with which it was crowded, when, in 1821, an act of parliament was obtained, with the general concurrence of the town, and the lord of the manor, for the improvement and widening of this and other confined avenues. The commissioners instantly commenced operations, and in the course of a few years, they had nearly completed the present Market Street, with well-arranged shops and dwellings on each side, and descending by a regularly inclined plane from Piccadilly to the Exchange. Among the improvements effected is the removal of the ancient building, adjoining the Banking-house. The preservation of this object in our view, is curious, as exhibiting its appearance before the extensive alterations above-mentioned were effected.