

of this magnificent apartment, which terminates above them in a richly panelled semi-dome. The room is handsomely furnished with mahogany tables and chairs, and provided with gas-lamps of elegant construction. The tables are supplied with London and provincial papers, reviews, and periodicals, in great variety. The building remains open from seven in the morning till ten at night.

The grand staircase leads to the Dining-room, which is fitted up with an orchestra, and occasionally used as a concert and ball-room. Ante-rooms, and other necessary appendages, communicate with this apartment. The entire design was furnished by the late Mr. Harrison, of Chester.

PRESTON.

Preston, a town in the hundred of Amounderness, stands on an eminence rising from the north banks of the river Ribble, and is situate fifteen miles north of Wigan, thirty-one miles north-west of Manchester, and thirty-two miles south-east of Liverpool.

This town is said to have derived its name (originally *Priests'-town*) from the number of religious houses formerly existing here. It obtained the privilege of a borough in the twenty-sixth of Henry the Second. The inhabitants gave one hundred marks to enjoy the same privileges as those of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. King John in his second year had sixty marks and four *chaseurs*, or dogs, for ratifying their liberties; but they were fined ten marks and a palfrey in the next year, for their place, on a plaint made against them by Theobald Walter, (who had a grant of the fee of the lordship of Preston,) concerning the gaol and gallows. Henry the Third, and Edward the Third, both confirmed these grants. Members of Parliament are, in this borough, returned by universal suffrage. In the sixteenth year of Edward the Second, Robert Bruce made an irruption into England by way of Carlisle, and advanced as far as Preston, part of which he demolished.

In the time of the civil contest between King Charles the First and his parliament, the Duke of Hamilton, who had brought an army from Scotland for this service, was routed on Ribbleson Moor, to the eastward of the town, and at the pass of the bridge. In the year 1715, also, the friends of the Pretender were defeated here by the forces of George the First, under the command of Generals Willes and Carpenter. Having been joined here by many disaffected people, great numbers of them were made prisoners, brought to trial, and found guilty of high treason. Amongst those who suffered may be noticed the names of Richard Chorley, of Chorley, Esq., Mr. Shuttleworth, of Preston, Mr. Roger, Manchester, an attorney of Garstang, Mr. John Ord, of Lancaster, and other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, with several persons from Manchester and Liverpool. One of the