

one. The living is a vicarage, valued in the king's book at £4. 17s. 10d., now returned at £805; incumbent, Rev. James H. Gwyther, who is also chaplain to the Madeley Union, and the Right Hon. Lord Milford. The tithes have been commuted, and £226 apportioned to the vicar, and £115. 10s. to Sir Joseph Hawley, Bart., the impropriator. The vicarage, situated near the church, is a good residence mantled with ivy, and is an object of attraction to strangers, as being the residence of the celebrated pious Fletcher, formerly vicar of Madeley, a short account of whose life will be found on the following page. THE CATHOLIC CHAPEL, a neat structure, was built about the year 1760, and will hold 300 persons. The interior has a chaste appearance, and the altar is beautified with some fine workmanship. The Rev. William Molloy, the priest, resides in a house adjoining the chapel. THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS have a neat chapel built in 1841, capable of holding about 600 hearers. THE NATIONAL SCHOOL is a handsome structure of brick with stone finishings, built in the year 1845, exhibiting the Elizabethan style of architecture. The cost of the building was £859. 1s. 4d., towards which the sum of £629. 1s. 4d. was raised by local subscriptions, and a grant of £230 was obtained from the Committee of Council on Education. One hundred and thirty boys and one hundred and twenty-five girls attend the school; it is conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and three pupil teachers.

IRONBRIDGE, a populous and interesting portion of the parish of Madeley, takes its name from an iron bridge which has been erected across the Severn at this place. Here are many handsome residences, good inns, and shops in all the different branches of the retail trade. A flourishing market is held on Friday. A market hall has been built, gas introduced, and the whole has a thriving and prosperous appearance, and may be considered the focus of commercial pursuits in the parish. The iron bridge which spans the Severn is a magnificent structure, and was cast at the Coalbrook Dale Works, in 1799. The span of the arch is one hundred feet six inches, height forty feet, and the road way twenty four feet broad. It was the first iron bridge erected in England. The total weight of the iron in the bridge is three hundred and seventy-eight tons, and the whole was erected in the space of three months. The abutments of the bridge are of stone, covered with plates of iron, with mortices, in which stand two upright pillars of the same. Against the foot of the inner pillar, the bottom of the main rib bears on the base plate. This rib consists of two pieces connected by a dove-tail point, in an iron key, and secured by screws. The cross stays, braces circle in the spandrils, and the brackets connect the larger pieces, so as to keep the bridge perfectly steady; while a diagonal and cross stays, and top plates, connect the pillars and ribs together in opposite directions. The bridge is covered with iron top plates, projecting over the ribs on each side, and on this projection stands the balustrade of cast iron. The bridge being private property a small charge is made to pass over. Large quantities of iron, all kinds of castings, coal, and lime are shipped at the wharf to distant parts of the country. Near to the Lodge Farm are several beds of fine sand, which is much used by the Coalbrook Dale Company in their beautiful castings.

THE CHURCH, a handsome structure of brick, dedicated to St. Luke, is situated on elevated ground, and approached by a flight of steps one hundred and nineteen in number. It was built in the year 1836, and consists of nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower, in which is one bell. The east window is richly beautified with stained glass, and has full length figures of St. Peter, St. James, and St. John, executed by the celebrated Evans, of Shrewsbury. The church is provided with galleries, and has a small organ. There are a thousand and sixty-two sittings, of which six hundred and sixty-two are free and unappropriated. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the vicar of Madeley. Incumbent, Rev. John Andrew Jetter. THE WESLEYAN METHODISTS have a chapel at Madeley Wood, built in the year 1837, which will hold about seven hundred persons. They have also a place of worship near to the wharf, and a spacious Sunday school at Madeley Wood, where four hundred children are instructed. THE WESLEYAN NEW

CONNECTION have a chapel situated at Foxholes. THE DISPENSARY and SAVINGS' BANK are at Mrs. Rogers's, Bridge-street; Mr. William Smith is the secretary of the latter. THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, situate on the Madeley road, is numerously attended, and there is a RAGGED SCHOOL situated in Milner's-lane. THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION was established in the year 1840. The objects of the institution are to afford to mechanics and others opportunities of acquiring at their leisure hours the principles of science and the arts, and for the cultivation of literature. THE GAS WORKS, situated near the Madeley Wood brick works, were established in 1839, and the streets in Ironbridge were first lighted with gas on November 5th, 1839; Mr. Charles W. Smith is the manager and secretary. An extraordinary phenomenon occurred at the Birches not far from the iron bridge in 1775, a particular account of which has been given with Broseley.

COALBROOK DALE, a winding glen two miles from Madeley, hemmed in by lofty hills and hanging woods, is celebrated for the most considerable iron works in England: the forges, mills, and steam engines, with all their vast machinery,—the flaming furnaces, and smoking chimneys, with handsome residences nestling under the cliffs of the hills, have altogether a most romantic and singular appearance, and perhaps in no part of the globe are features of so diversified and wonderful a character brought together within so limited a compass,—here art has triumphed over nature, and the barren wilderness has been converted into one of the most animating abodes of commerce, and being studded with residences of taste and elegance, it gives the whole a very interesting appearance. Coalbrook Dale is chiefly the property of the Darby family, who carry on the extensive iron works here and in the adjoining parish of Dawley, where they have been already noticed. The Coalbrook Dale Company is one of the largest establishments in England, justly celebrated for the superiority of their castings, and for the manufacture of every description of iron goods. THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, a neat brick structure, was built in 1789, and has a small burial ground attached. It stands near the site of a former meeting house. THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL, a plain brick structure, was occasionally the scene of the labours of the eminent Fletcher, the vicar of Madeley. A spacious school room has been built at the expense of the Coalbrook Dale Company, where about eighty boys are instructed. It is chiefly supported by the liberality of the same company. The room above the school is used as an episcopal place of worship, and here the curate of Madeley usually officiates twice on the Sabbath. A commodious school for girls has been built near the works, which is supported by Mrs. Abraham Darby; here about one hundred girls and an equal number of infants are now receiving instruction. Sunny-side House, a good brick residence on the heights above the dale, was unoccupied when our agent visited Coalbrook Dale. The residences of Abraham Darby, Esq., Richard Darby, Esq., and the Mrs. Darby, are handsome mansions, situated near the works in the dale. East Field is a good residence at the bottom of the dale, the seat of Barnard Dickinson, Esq., near to which is Severn House, the residence of Henry Dickinson, Esq., besides which there are several other handsome residences.

COALPORT, celebrated for its rich and extensive china works, is situated about two miles from Ironbridge. The eminent firm of Rose and Company has been established here upwards of half a century; and the articles produced at this manufactory, for superior taste and elegant workmanship, are nowhere excelled. The establishment is known as the Coalbrook Dale China Manufactory, and is the most extensive in the kingdom. The firm employs 537 operatives.

CHARITIES.—By an Indenture dated 29th May, 1706, we find that *Basil Brook*, by his will bequeathed to the poor of the parish of Madeley the sum of £40, which the churchwardens and parishioners desired might be laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements for the use of the poor of the parish. It was witnessed that Comerford Brook, in consideration of the said £40, and also of a further sum of £30 paid to him by Audley Bowdler and eight others, parties to the said indenture, granted to Audley Bowdler and