

CHAPTER XIII.

Birmingham; incessant Clamor of the Place. — Toy-shop of Britain; Serious Character of the Games in which its Toys are chiefly employed. — Museum. — Liberality of the Scientific English. — Musical Genius of Birmingham. — Theory. — Controversy with the Yorkers. — Anecdote. — The English Language spoken very variously by the English; in most cases spoken very ill. — English Type of Person. — Attend a Puseyite Chapel. — Puseyism a feeble Imitation of Popery. — Popish Cathedral. — Popery the true Resting-place of the Puseyite. — Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Puseyite Principle; its purposed Object not attained; Hostility to Science. — English Funerals.

THE sun had set ere I entered Birmingham through a long low suburb, in which all the houses seem to have been built during the last twenty years. Particularly tame-looking houses they are; and I had begun to lower my expectations to the level of a flat, mediocre, three-mile city of brick, — a sort of manufactory in general, with offices attached, — when the coach drove up through New-street, and I caught a glimpse of the Town Hall, a noble building of Anglesea marble, of which Athens in its best days might not have been ashamed. The whole street is a fine one. I saw the lamps lighting up under a stately new edifice, — the Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, which, like most recent erections of any pretension, either in England or among ourselves, bears the mediæval stamp: still further on I could descry, through the darkening twilight, a Roman-looking building that rises over the market-place; and so I inferred that the humble brick of Birmingham, singularly abundant, doubtless, and widely spread, represents merely the business necessities of the place; and