

the establishment of foundries at small collieries in the adjacent villages, but after the Treaty of Vienna, when the demand for guns fell off, Rotherham turned to heavy castings and bridge work. The firm built bridges at Sunderland and at Southwark. But, for some reason, after that date the business declined. In 1821 the firm ceased operations and the capital, valued in 1797 at £214,000, was distributed. Since then the different members of the firm have carried on the iron business; one continued the blast furnaces, another took over the rolling-mills, a third set up a steel plant at Parkgate, whilst the general foundry work was relegated to a fourth. This laid the foundation of the cast-iron trade of Rotherham, which is now largely confined to stove grates. So important is this business that the headquarters of the National Union of Stove Gratemakers have been established at Rotherham. Much puddled bar, however, is turned out in the district, together with large quantities of pig iron, the latter principally by the Parkgate Iron & Steel Co. The chief firms in the stove-grate trade are: Yates, Haywood & Co., Hattersley Bros., W. H. Micklethwait & Co., Newton Chambers & Co., and George Wright (Rotherham).

With the exception of pig iron, the minor trades of Rotherham show little progress. But the district is now attaining a position in the front rank of steel-making. Oxleys of Parkgate, and Stubbs of the Holmes, are still working the process of cementation. Newton Chambers & Co. own blast furnaces, as well as their famous collieries. They have designed cottages built of cast-iron plates which compete with the steel houses associated with the name of Lord Weir. The works of Steel, Peech & Tozer are amalgamated with the United Steel Co. referred to in a previous chapter; and, more important still, the Parkgate Iron & Steel Co. has established a plant of the very first order, with a share capital of £2,000,000, some of which represents