

untarred - and with its big clanging trams. Most of the buildings we passed have been pulled down and more modern ones put up. On the left hand side going down were, a blacksmith where Mr Howie snod all the horses, the old Gaiety theatre - scrapped, the Post Office site was then vacant ground on which was built the present Post Office about which people said "who is going to occupy that great building?" The same was said about other buildings - the Police Barracks in Fleet Street etc. Next we passed a building which is still the same - the Town - pardon, City - Hall. Next, on the site of the Allied Building Society a very small hotel. Then all changed until one reaches the Market Square and here you have Courtney's Corner, now a shop but in our days was a hairdressing salon. Next to it a couple of small offices and a tea room. We stopped at the tea room for a cup of tea and three buns for 6d. Today a cup of tea alone costs a shilling or more. The Market Square was a large open space on which the morning market was held. Here one saw all sorts of goods laid out - vegetables etc and in season a few samples of Pineapples which one could buy from the waggon standing by with the oxen resting at 3d ~~or~~ 1/- a dozen. There were waggon loads of wood which all had to have as there were no electric stoves - those were the days. Before continuing our walk I must mention that on the other side of the street the only old buildings left are: Stevenson Mitchels opposite the present Post Office, then that fine building of Cuthberts, Gibberd Bryants (now Garlicks) and the O.K. built on the site of the old Prince of Wales Hotel and the last, Smales Corner just the same.

After leaving the Hotel we crossed the railway line at Kimberley Road with automatic gates; today of course the line passes under the road. Much safer, for I remember on two occasions seeing cars caught on the line as the gates closed. The Gaiety Bio. where we used to go about once a week was next. The admission was 6d to any part of the hall. After one had taken your seat one waited for the show to start and this could not be until old Mrs Hamilton arrived to strum out the evening snow on the piano. Silent films of course, black and white. Below the Post Office on what was the Dorchester Hotel site now stands the new 14 storey Trust Bank building and on the next corner the Sanlam building, before that a small Indian fruit shop run by a man named Javon. His daughter married Toller Weenan an Englishman - this was years ago.

On the other side of the street next to the O.K. Bazaars is the Norwich Union Insurance Co building and what is now Ackermans corner was a single storey building W G Cooper & Son now trading at the lower end of Cambridge Street and managed by the son Harold. Going down Fleet Street one went down an incline to cross the railway line from the harbour the street level was raised and the trains pass under the roadway. The area now used as railway loading and landing of heavy goods was formed by portion of the continuation of the valley from the harbour being filled in. There used to be tennis courts on the same level as the Railway line. I should have mentioned that the present Murray & Stewart Centre was the site of Baker, King and Co.'s whole store.