

A GLIMPSE OF THE CITY OF HULL.

WILBERFORCE HOUSE.

Wilberforce House is so charming a relic of mediæval architecture that the Corporation of Hull have done well to preserve it for the city, apart from the interest it must always have as the birthplace and home of William Wilberforce. In his time the gardens sloped to the river's edge. Now it is situated in a slum, a jewel which shines the fairer for the sordidness of its surroundings.

In the case of all great men and women it is interesting to study the influences in their lives and character, and it was undoubtedly from his mother that the emancipator received his rare mental endowments. Neither at school nor at Oxford does he seem to have made much use of his opportunities, though he managed to pass his examinations with credit. At the age of 21 he was elected to represent the town of Hull in the House of Commons, and seems to have lived the life of an ordinary fashionable man about town. Four years later his acquaintance, on a visit to Nice, with Dr. Isaac Milner led to his adoption of Evangelical views, and thereafter he became one of the great exponents of this form of Christianity. In Parliament from 1787 onwards he waged unceasing warfare on the iniquity of the slave trade, devoting his talents and his wealth to the cause, but though he achieved a certain amount of success in restricting the number of slaves carried in ships, and by carrying a motion for gradual abolition, the Emancipation Bill was only carried within a few days of his death. He was the friend of Hannah More, and supported her

work for the foundation of schools at Cheddar. He died in London, and is buried in Westminster Abbey. Wilberforce House dates back to Elizabethan days, and King Charles the First was lavishly entertained there.

The magnificent staircase, with rooms at the rear of the house, were added about the middle of the eighteenth century when the property came into the possession of the Wilberforce family. A room which has lately been restored is a perfect example of the best period of Adam work, and in it are collected various interesting relics of Wilberforce's time.

In the room in which he was born are a number of portraits and engravings, in which

he is represented at different periods of life from boyhood to old age. The idea of securing the house as a local museum is due to Alderman John Brown, and the city may indeed be grateful that, owing to his efforts, this house, so intrinsically beautiful and historically interesting, has been preserved, and the vandalism of allowing its beautiful oak-panelled rooms and moulded ceilings to fall into the hands of the housebreaker prevented. A Chippendale chair used by



WILBERFORCE HOUSE, HULL.

Wilberforce has a place of honour in one of the rooms, and a Worcester tea service which belonged to him, a library of 500 books containing his book-plate, as well as relics of the slave trade.

We regret that we have been compelled to defer the publication of Dr. White's interesting lecture to the Nurses' Missionary League on "Hospital Work in Persia" until next week. Also the report of the examination of the Fever Nurses' Association which we received too late for insertion.

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