

fruition in 1854, when the brothers Platt took into partnership the firm's cashier and two heads of departments. From this course of events the firm assumed the name Platt Brothers & Company, the name by which it was to be known, with two minor additions, for over a century.

III *Elijah Hibbert and Hartford New Works*

The association with Henry Platt, from which derived their great firm, was, undoubtedly, Elijah Hibbert's most rewarding venture. Yet he had been involved in other ventures which, at the time of his death, caused him to be considered Oldham's most successful entrepreneur in the field of engineering. The esteem in which he was held, in the town, was expressed by the tribute paid at his funeral, of which an account says: the procession from his home, Lyon House, to Oldham Parish Church comprised, unsolicited, more than 300 of his workmen and some 150 principal inhabitants, including the clergy, magistrates and other authorities. He had been made a county magistrate in 1839 and in the year before his death he had become the chairman of the Oldham District Railway Company. He was Henry Platt's junior by eight years, so that when they met, in 1822, he was only 21, yet, was launched successfully, on his own account, in an iron and brass foundry, at Greenacres moor, and in another part of the town, not far from where Hartford New Works was to be sited, he was in partnership with his uncle, a Mr Tomlinson, in a millwright concern. But his crowning glory was to come, in the premature evening of his life, from the leading part he played in the planning and commissioning of Hartford New Works.

Hartford New Works was built, with its frontage on Featherstall Road, on the north side of the railway with which it ran parallel down the gradient leading to Chadderton. Because it consisted entirely of new buildings the manufacturing plant was arranged, in the best possible fashion, to suit the types of machine it had been allocated to make from the firm's overall range of products. Broadly, the machines which had been allocated were those which afforded the greatest degree of mass production methods to be used. These machines incorporated several lines of rollers (some precisely fluted on special purpose machine tools) running their full length and long ranks of identical production points – spindles. Generally, the frameworks were, comparatively, of a smaller and lighter nature which enabled the foundry facilities to be confined to a type most efficient for their particular production. Essentially, the allocation which had been decided meant it was the machines for the later end of the cotton spinning process which the