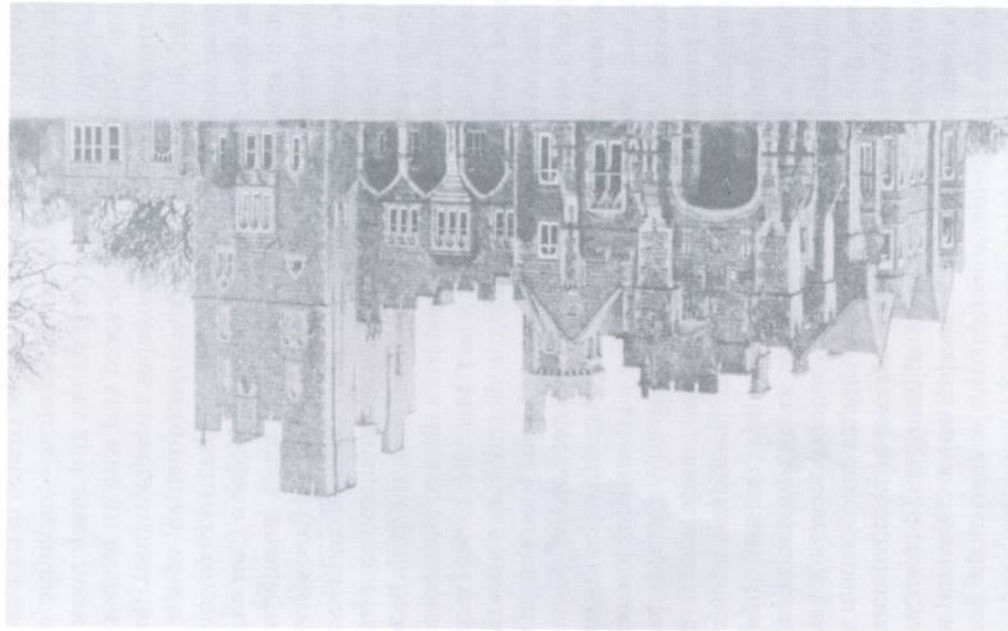


the vendor started to quibble the price which had been agreed. John Platt threw down the pen in disgust splattering the document with ink. The document remained in that state and Wern Farm never did become part of the Platt estates, it was left, oasis like, in their midst.

It has been said the Llanfairfechan that came into being in the mid-nineteenth century was a product of the Industrial Revolution, though patently not in the usual sense, but certainly John Platt's presence in the place brought a degree of prosperity and opportunities far beyond most of the inhabitants' previous understanding. Besides those people who raised capital from the sales they made to John Platt many more benefited from the considerable and varied forms of employment he generated, stonemasons, in particular, had never imagined such a scale of building as John Platt set in train. A few Llanfairfechan men moved to Oldham to take up employment in Platt Brothers' works, a move occasionally to recur throughout the time the Platts had their estates in North Wales (John — "Johnnie" — Hughes, the redoubtable Works Director of the nineteen thirties, hailed from the neighbouring village of Abergwyngregyn, he was the son of Colonel Henry Platt's head-coachman). In the earlier years, several young women also made the move into Service at Werneth Park. Certain of those local people who had raised capital used it to finance more new boarding houses and shops two of which, in tribute to the "great man", as they referred to John Platt, were given the names "Manchester House" and "Oldham House". John Platt's own riches were taken to be infinite, even as late as the nineteen-thirties some very old people in Llanfairfechan, most of whom were only Welsh speaking, used, graphically and sincerely, to recount: "to the station, trains with the gold of Mr John Platt were coming". Then, just when it seemed the boundaries of John Platt's new country estate had been drawn he, at a stroke, more than doubled his Welsh landholdings when he bought the estate which bordered on Bryn-y-Neuadd. This estate was Gorrddinog of which only a part lay in Llanfairfechan, the rest was in Abergwyngregyn, commonly known, for short, as Aber. Immediately, the original House was razed and a superior one erected in its place. In 1869, Henry Platt, who, it has been seen, was John Platt's eldest son, with his recent bride, Eleanor, took up residence in the newly completed mansion at Gorrddinog.

When John Platt settled in Llanfairfechan the village had no railway station. The Chester & Holyhead Railway Company, which had opened its line, in 1848, had missed out Llanfairfechan when allocating stations along the route, although Penmaenmawr, to the east, and Aber, to the west, had been favoured. Speculation has been made that Llanfairfechan was ignored because no person of consequence resided in the place. Be that a valid explanation or not, the absence of a



Bryn-y-Neuadd, Llanfairfechan.