

ARNOLD VILLAGE TOKENS.

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ARNOLD is an old village situated about four miles from the centre of the City of Nottingham on the main road to Mansfield. It is now incorporated within the city boundaries. Possibly this village is more famous as being the birthplace of Richard Parkes Bonnington than for the issue of its tokens.

Davis quotes what Boyne says, "that the Arnold Works are said to be a mill for spinning wool at the Qean, Nottingham." This is not correct. The tokens were issued by Messrs. Robert Davison and John Hawksley of Arnold. Both belonged to old Nottingham families; they were important business men and well-known philanthropists. Mr. Hawksley was presented with the freedom of the town of Nottingham.

The Hawksleys were maltsters, the Davisons hosiery manufacturers. Mr. Davison gave up the hosiery business and joined Mr. Hawksley in building a factory near the River Leen, Nottingham, for worsted spinning; this factory was burned down in January, 1791. As far as I know, no tokens are in existence issued from there. It was after the destruction of these works that the firm at once commenced building new ones at Arnold. These works were running before the end of the year; they were situated near the site of Arnot Hill House, in which Mr. Hawksley lived. This new factory employed about 1,000 male hands—a very large number of employees for those days to be engaged in one building; they consisted of about 400 adults and 600 apprentices. The apprentices were mostly very young boys secured from the workhouses of London, Bristol and other large

towns. These boy apprentices were overworked and badly fed, and housed in overcrowded rooms which caused terrible mortality amongst them ; in fact, it was no uncommon thing to find six or seven deaths weekly. For some years this mill prospered, but in 1811 it was closed, owing to the depression prevailing in the worsted trade. No tenant being found for the mill, it was allowed to go to decay and was eventually completely demolished.

The tokens are of the value of 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. The reading on all is identical, with the exception of their respective monetary values, and all are of copper, some being silver-plated, others gilt.

The reading :—

Obverse :—Davison and Hawksley, and a fleece suspended from a tree.

Reverse :—The Roman Fasces with the axe, spear and a cap of liberty in saltire, Arnold Works, a crown, 1791.