

Synopsis

A description of the expansion of Manchester and the changes that came with it.

Themes: Impact of the railway upon cities;

Text Includes the following lines:-

There's Newton Lane I now shall name, has had an alteration
They've knocked a great part of it down to make a railway station

There's the Bolton Railway station, in Salford, give attention
Besides many more, too numerous to mention.

Glossary:

Source of Text: Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads; Harding B 20(105)

Music. No tune given

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Printer: John Harkness,

Where Printed: Preston

Author : Anonymous

Date: 1840

Notes of the Song and Its Historical Background

Large numbers of stations were being built at the time of this song. Manchester was soon encircled by termini.

The station in Newton Lane opened in 1839. It was initially called Manchester Oldham Road but later renamed Victoria Station. "*the Bolton Railway station, in Salford*" opened the year before.

This is very similar to Bar503, "*Liverpool's an Altered Town*". It is clear that one is a re-working of the other but it is impossible to establish which came first. The geographical detail of each is correct; both songs mention the new police that were established in Liverpool in 1836 and Manchester in 1839 http://www.manchester-family-history-research.co.uk/new_page_33.htm.; both songs make mention of Zoological Gardens and both cities had zoos (Liverpool's opened in 1833 <http://www.flickr.com/photos/44435674@N00/5643461269/> and Manchester's in 1836 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belle_Vue_Zoological_Gardens); and, both songs were printed by Harkness of Preston.

Roy Plamer (Touch on the times ISBN 0140811826), says that a version dealing with Preston also exists.