

MR. NATHAN GOUGH was born at Holt-Town, Manchester, in 1790. His father, Mr. Joseph Gough, a dyer, originally from Kendal, Westmoreland, having a large family, could not afford his children the benefit of even the ordinary rudiments of education, and at ten years of age, young Nathan was set to work, for an elder Brother, in a cotton mill, where for seven years, he worked on an average about seven days and a half per week, and at the age of seventeen he had risen to the position of manager of his Brother's mill. In the course of time he became a spinner on his own account, at Ancoats, and during his career encountered many vicissitudes, the mills he occupied being twice burnt down, and at the mill, built for him at Salford, by Mr. Bateman, the building fell, whilst the hands were at work, unfortunately causing the death of nineteen workpeople; yet he persevered in his endeavours to work his way upwards, and being always fond of mechanical pursuits, he abandoned cotton-spinning, to become a manufacturer of small portable engines and other machinery, chiefly employed by contractors for buildings and engineering works, for which a large demand was then springing up. He thus became the medium of introducing several simple and ingenious machines for saving labour and was ultimately very successful.

He was an ingenious, self-educated man, who owed his ultimate position entirely to his own industry and perseverance. He was extensively employed by Civil Engineers and Contractors, by whom he was much respected, and at his decease on the 9th of January 1852, in his sixty-third year, he left a considerable engineering establishment now conducted by his son Mr. Henry Gough.

He was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, of Birmingham, and joined the Institution of Civil Engineers as an Associate Member in the year 1845; he took great interest in the proceedings and attended the meetings whenever his avocations permitted his doing so.

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MR. ALDERMAN WILLIAM THOMPSON, M.P., the second son of Mr. James Thompson, of Grayrigg Head, Westmoreland, was born at that place in the year 1793, and after receiving there the first rudiments of his education, was removed at about fifteen years of age to the Charter House School, London, and was in due time placed in the counting-house of his Uncle, the late Mr. William Thompson, then the head of the eminent iron firm of Thompson, Forman, and Homfray, married the daughter of the latter gentleman, and at the death of his Uncle, succeeded to his position as head of the firm, inheriting at the same time a con-