

## THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, MALVERN.

DURING the last few years we have discovered that our hotel accommodation is of a very limited character, and that the majority of hotels only afforded the lowest amount of accommodation at the highest cost. A move, however, is now being made in the right direction, and the example set by France, Germany, and America is being so well imitated in the metropolis, as also in various parts of the United Kingdom, that everywhere we may soon hope to meet with a class of hotels superior in general arrangement and comfort to the old-fashioned, ill-furnished, and extortionate hostelries, established in an age when travel had no facilities, when it was scarcely a necessity as now, when wealth was less evenly divided, and travelling society was less exacting in matters of luxury than at the present day. We are induced to make these remarks by an event which took place last week at Great Malvern—the opening of the Imperial Hotel, a truly magnificent building, not unworthy of the unrivalled scenery amid which it stands. It is situated on the east side of the West-Midland Railway, closely adjacent to the station, with which it has a covered communication for the accommodation of visitors.

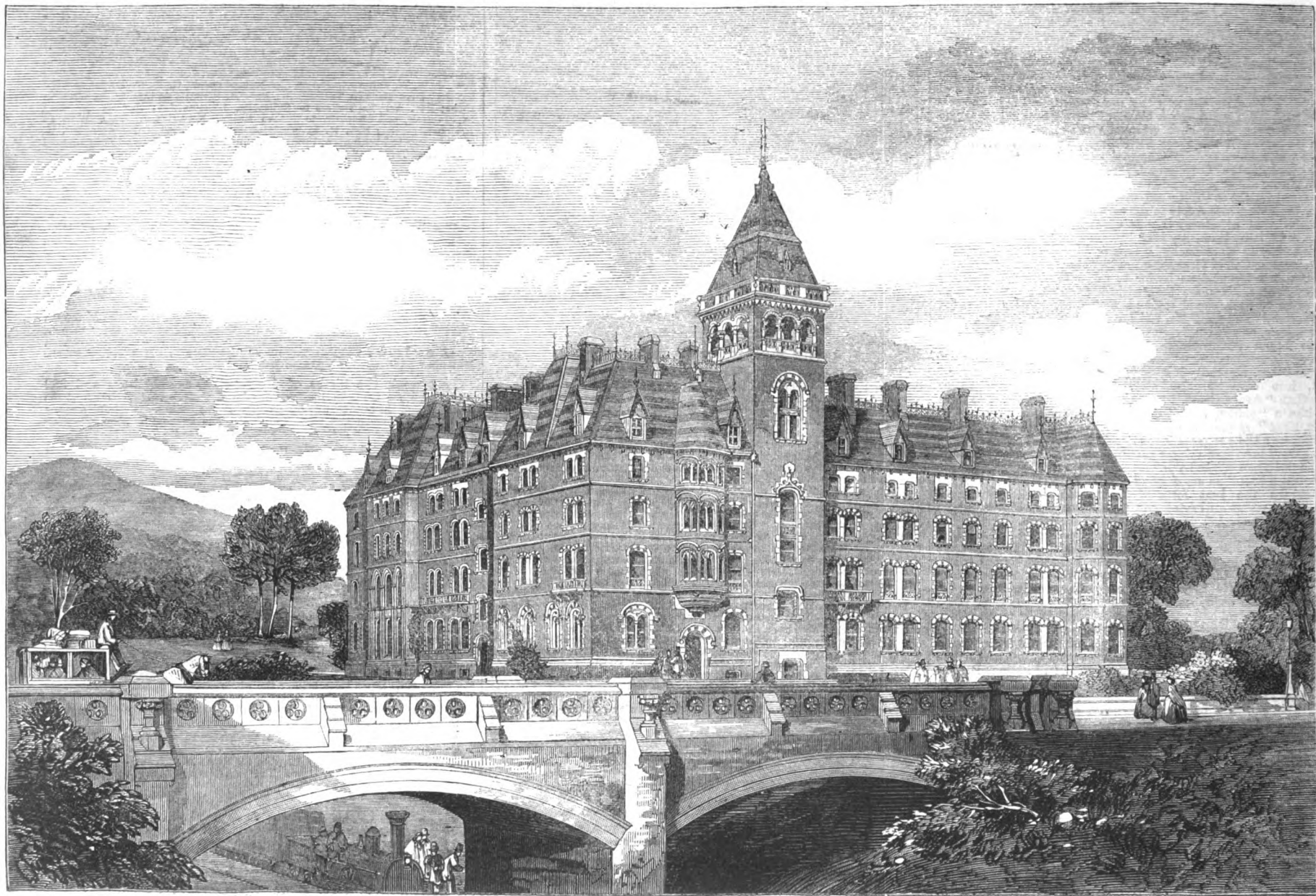
On the one side is the famous Malvern range of hills, and from the other may be seen a most rich, varied, and wide-spreading panorama. Hanley Castle, Malvern hills, Cheltenham, Worcester, and Gloucester are clearly visible.

The Imperial Hotel has been built from designs and under the superintendence of E. W. Elmalie, Esq., a gentleman who has attained a high reputation. The style of the building is Continental Gothic; it is built of red brick, with Bath and Forest stone dressings, at a cost of £25,000. It is L shaped on plan, is six stories high, with a sub-basement for heating apparatus and cellaring. The basement consists of a kitchen of a baronial character, the usual domestic offices, baths of every kind, with separate entrances for ladies and gentlemen. The ground floor has a large entrance-hall, with ribbed ceiling, and from it lead (north and east) two spacious corridors paved with Maw's tiles.

At the end of the north corridor is a remarkably fine coffee-room, 64ft. by 30ft., and 27ft. high, with a ribbed panelled and carved ceiling, divided into three bays by enriched beams, supported by marble

shafts, with elaborate carved caps and bases, the shafts and caps to the windows being treated in the same way. Messrs. Clayton and Bell, of London, are to decorate this room, which is remarkably fine, and may be considered one of the best of its kind in the kingdom. Leading from it is a reading-room, with smoking and billiard rooms over. The ladies' coffee-room and table d'hôte, also on the ground floor, are beautiful apartments, as are also the several suites of rooms fitted up for the reception of private families. The bedrooms, of which there are upwards of a hundred, are lofty and well ventilated. On the south front, and immediately over the principal entrance, is a large oriel window, three stories high, fitted with elegant tracery, and forming the terminal of the corridors. On the same front is a tower 146ft. high, containing the grand staircase, the top story of which is at an altitude of 100ft., and is intended for a belvidere and summer smoking-room. The roofs are covered with green and purple slates laid in bands, and the ridges, formed of the same, have an ornamental iron cresting. The boundary walls are built of blue lias stone, with Bath stone dressings, and finished with ornamental iron railings. The gate piers are surmounted with ornamental lamps, and the gates are of wrought iron, richly foliated. The carpets throughout the building are of the most costly design, and the furniture and upholstery, by Rough, of London, are elegant in the extreme, securing to the patrons of this palatial home those comforts and elegant amenities to be found in the well-appointed private mansion. Every room is provided with a clock, and the chimney-pieces in the various apartments are ornamented by bronzes of elegant design. The gas-fittings, which are in keeping with the style of the building, are by Skidmore, of Coventry. The chairman of the company is Dr. Gully, of Malvern, and the manager is Mr. Curtis, from whose well-known catering powers we augur that this hotel will prove a prosperous speculation.

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