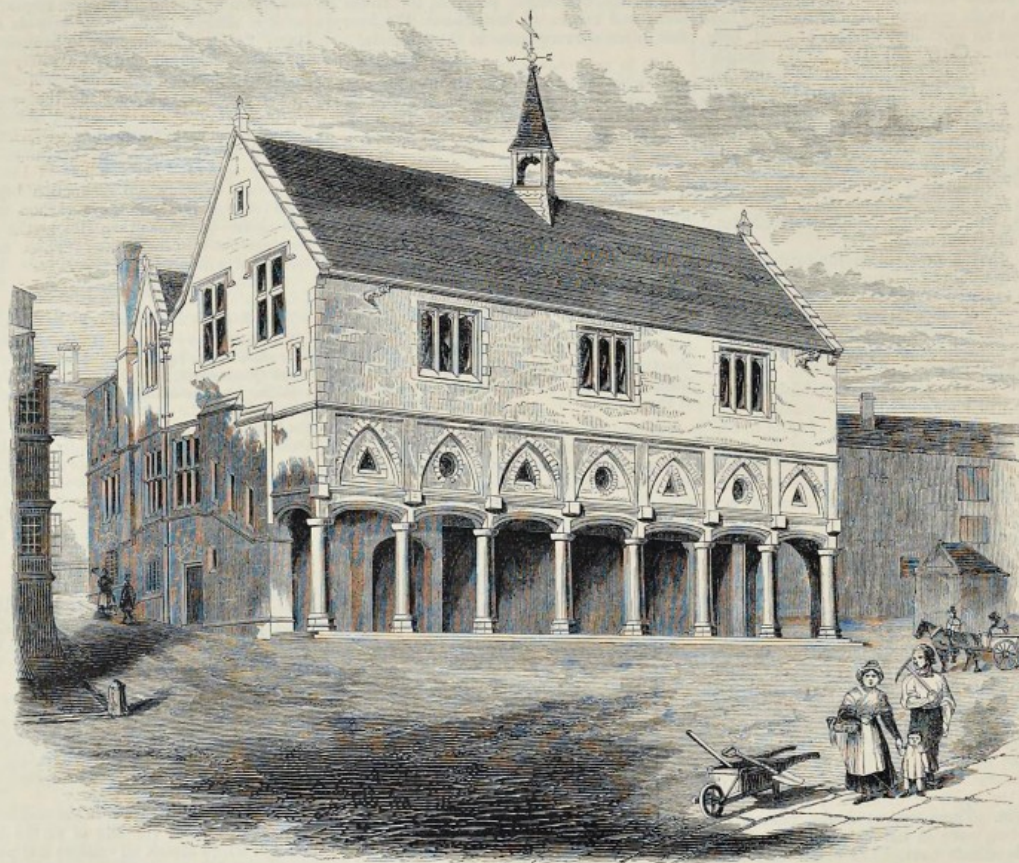




CASTLE CARY MARKET-HOUSE, SOMERSETSHIRE.—MR. PENROSE, ARCHITECT.

## CASTLE CAREY MARKET-HOUSE.

CASTLE CAREY, a small, pleasantly situated, and clean-looking town in Somersetshire, has lately been embellished by the works of two London architects.

The church has been almost entirely rebuilt by Mr. Ferrey, with a new tower and spire of remarkable elegance; and a new Market-house, to which the accompanying engraving refers, the work of Mr. Penrose, was opened on the 2nd of October last.

It is conveniently placed in the middle of the town, and occupies the site of an old Market-house of which almost all vestiges had perished. The shape of the ground is irregular and uneven, and the ground rises rapidly from the south to the north. The main building fronts the south: it is 64 feet in length and 24 feet in breadth (external dimensions). The height to the ridge of the roof is about 45 feet. The lower story is open and used for a corn-market, and on certain days for a cheese-market: it is well lighted, by windows towards the north, and an open arcade on the other sides.

Behind the main building, but forming one front with its western extremity, is a wing, seen

in the engraving, running northwards up the hill: this, as well as the main building, has three stories. The lower is a market for poultry, vegetables, &c.; and the upper stories form reading-rooms and a dwelling for the porter. Over the corn-market, and behind the pointed arches which relieve the flat arches of the arcade from the weight of the superstructure, is a mezzanine story used for a granary and cheese store.

As the street at the back is considerably higher than the ground in front, a slightly inclined platform is formed against the east wall of the wing and over the open court, enabling carts to unload at once on to the level of the granary.

The upper story of the main building is an assembly-room, 51 feet by 20 feet 8 inches; having a small gallery for an orchestra at the western end. It is lighted at the east end by an oriel window. The roof is open to the ridge. The tiebeam is somewhat raised above the plate, and rests on curved struts springing from stone corbels. A convenient staircase, at the north-western corner of the main building, forms the communication between the different

stories and rooms, both of the main building and of the wing. A small court of a somewhat triangular shape occupies the remainder of the space. In this, butchers' stalls are placed, under a covered gallery along the curved wall which forms its northern boundary.

The Market-house is for the most part built of the ochreous coloured sandy limestone of the neighbourhood; and the pillars and other dressings are of freestone from Doulting, a stone much resembling Bath, but rather coarser, harder, and more durable. The roof is covered with Delabole slate. The builder was Mr. M. Davis, of Langport, who was also employed upon the church.

The entire cost of the building, including the market fittings, &c. was about 2,300*l*.