

Great Britain's Oldest Candle Works



It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find a parallel in our National Industries to that of which Messrs. J. C. and J. Field, Candle and Soap manufacturers of Upper Marsh, Lambeth, can boast. To the Englishman of to-day the year 1642 sounds like Ancient history. He will find it hard to believe in the establishment of a manufacturing firm which was already an old affair that year, and has carried on its business *en perpetuite*, as our neighbors would say, for close upon three centuries, with an unbroken succession of members of the same family. The French have a proverb "*Le Vrai n'est pas Amjours le Vraisemblable*" (The True is not always the Probable!) which was never more curiously illustrated than in the story of the firm to which we refer.

Started probably long prior to the year 1642, it has been conducted by the Field family, father and son, in successive generations. Previously to the commencement of the century just closed no partnership apparently existed, but in 1800 the business devolved upon two brothers, John and Charles, and the eldest son of the former, named after his father, becoming associated with them, the business was re-constituted under the title of J. C. and J. Field. Of course in the progress of years it was modernized. It was converted into a Limited Liability Company in 1887 and now appears with the usual addendum, Limited. Another interesting fact in connection with the Company is that its business has from the day of starting until now been trans-acted on the same spot—Upper Marsh, Lambeth.

In 1642 Marsh represented half the great Borough of to-day. There are persons living now who will tell you that they remember the whole of the ground on which Waterloo Station with its widely extending area now stands.



The offices of Messrs J.C. and J. Field a century ago.