

A condensed account of an Englishman's visit in 1885 to "Yoker Distillery, near Glasgow":

"The easiest and best way to reach Yoker is to go by the North British Railway; you book at the Queen Street Station, which is a short distance from the Victoria hotel {in Glasgow}, and in twenty-five minutes you find yourself in the Distillery. The route lies through the prettiest suburb of Glasgow. Just before we reached our destination we noticed an all pervading

odour of Whisky in the air, and we were not surprised shortly afterwards to see the buildings of the Distillery rearing their heads above the houses, and thick volumes of smoke belching forth from the chimney stacks.

Yoker Distillery has been in the hands of the Harvey family since the year 1770, and was in existence previous to that remote date. It covers five acres of ground, and there is a dairy farm of a hundred acres connected with it, farmed by Messrs. Harvey. The buildings are of an ancient style, and some of the vessels of an antique pattern. We were shown the "Ballman's chair" in the Still-house; it is of oak in the Queen Anne style, and of a great age. There is an abundant supply of water connected with the Distillery.

The Yoker Burn, which rises in the Kilpatrick Hills, flows through the premises into the Clyde; it is the boundary between Renfrew and Dumbarton shires. Across the paddock, about 200 yards distant, flows the Clyde, and it is a grand sight to stand on the wharf, and watch the steamers and ships passing to and fro. The Wharf is a private landing place for the use of Messrs. Harvey

only, and they have enjoyed this right from time immemorial; they can land barley and maize by lighters direct from the ships at Glasgow free of all dues and charges.

On the opposite side of the river Clyde are the beautiful grounds of the Blytheswood Estates, and a quarter of a mile higher up, the Elderslie policies.

The Mash house is designated the "Black Prince" seeing that it was erected and put up in its place on the same day as the "Black Prince" was launched on the Clyde.

At the suggestion of Mr. Glen we climbed by a ladder into the roof of the Still-house, where, from the windows, we obtained a splendid view of the Valley of the Clyde, bounded by the Campsie hills to

the north, the Kilpatrick Hills on the left, and the Gleniffer Braes opposite.

One of the lower floors of the Still-house is used for the Ballman's platform and contains the safe and sampling apparatus...

The No. 7 Warehouse...is a smaller building...and contains a Patent "Ageing Apparatus," where new Whiskey is subjected to an immense pressure of heat. This process is said to have the power of destroying the aldehyde or fieriness of new Whisky and converting it into a mature spirit of three to five years old. This patent is at present in its infancy...

The Whisky is Grain with an admixture of Malt, and no acids have ever been used in the Distillery. At present the output is 600,000 gallons.

We visited the farmsteading to see the cattle...where are one hundred and twenty head of cattle, fed on the Draff of the Distillery.

Across the roadway is the Dairy...Glasgow is only six miles off, and the butter is sent there daily.

Mr. Barnett Harvey resides on the property; his house is quaint and picturesque, with an old-fashioned garden in front, whilst on one side there is a large bowling green, kept up by Mr. Harvey for the use of the men in the Distillery and the village

The whistle of the train in the distance...brought our interesting day's work to a close."