

CHAPTER IV

As a Joint Stock Bank—*continued*

1846—1875

FOLLOWING the demise of her husband, Julia Stuckey appointed her younger grandson Vincent Wood to succeed to the estate on her own death. The late Vincent Stuckey's many interests in the bank were then gone into and after being satisfactorily settled the election of a new chairman was the subject of a special meeting of the Directors. Mr Ambrose G. Lethbridge, who had been a member of the board since 1835, was chosen to fill the position.¹ He was a gentleman with considerable influence in the county and his appointment met with general approbation.

It is interesting to note that Julia Stuckey took an active interest in the bank at Langport and often conferred with Thomas Watson Bagehot (then Vice-Chairman) on matters relevant to the bank's affairs.

Apparently it was the policy of the new chairman to concentrate on increasing the business at the existing establishments before opening further offices or negotiating for the acquisition of any other private

1. Ambrose Goddard Lethbridge, of Eastbrook House near Taunton, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, son of Sir Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, Bt., of Sandhill Park, Taunton, by the daughter of Ambrose Goddard, M.P., of Swindon. Mr. Lethbridge had two nieces, Mary who married Vincent Stuckey (formerly Wood) of Langport and Jessie who married Vincent John Reynolds.

