

# The Greatness of Manchester

by Francis Bennion

On the greatness of Manchester you might also have mentioned the Free Trade Hall (built in 1853 on the site of the Peterloo Massacre), the Manchester Ship Canal, and Britain's longest-established permanent symphony orchestra, the Hallé. My maternal grandfather Laban Robinson, who kept a paint shop in Manchester, used to bore me in boyhood with an old saying: 'What Manchester thinks today, London thinks tomorrow'.<sup>1</sup>

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