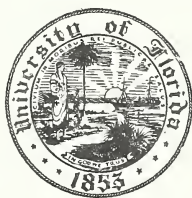




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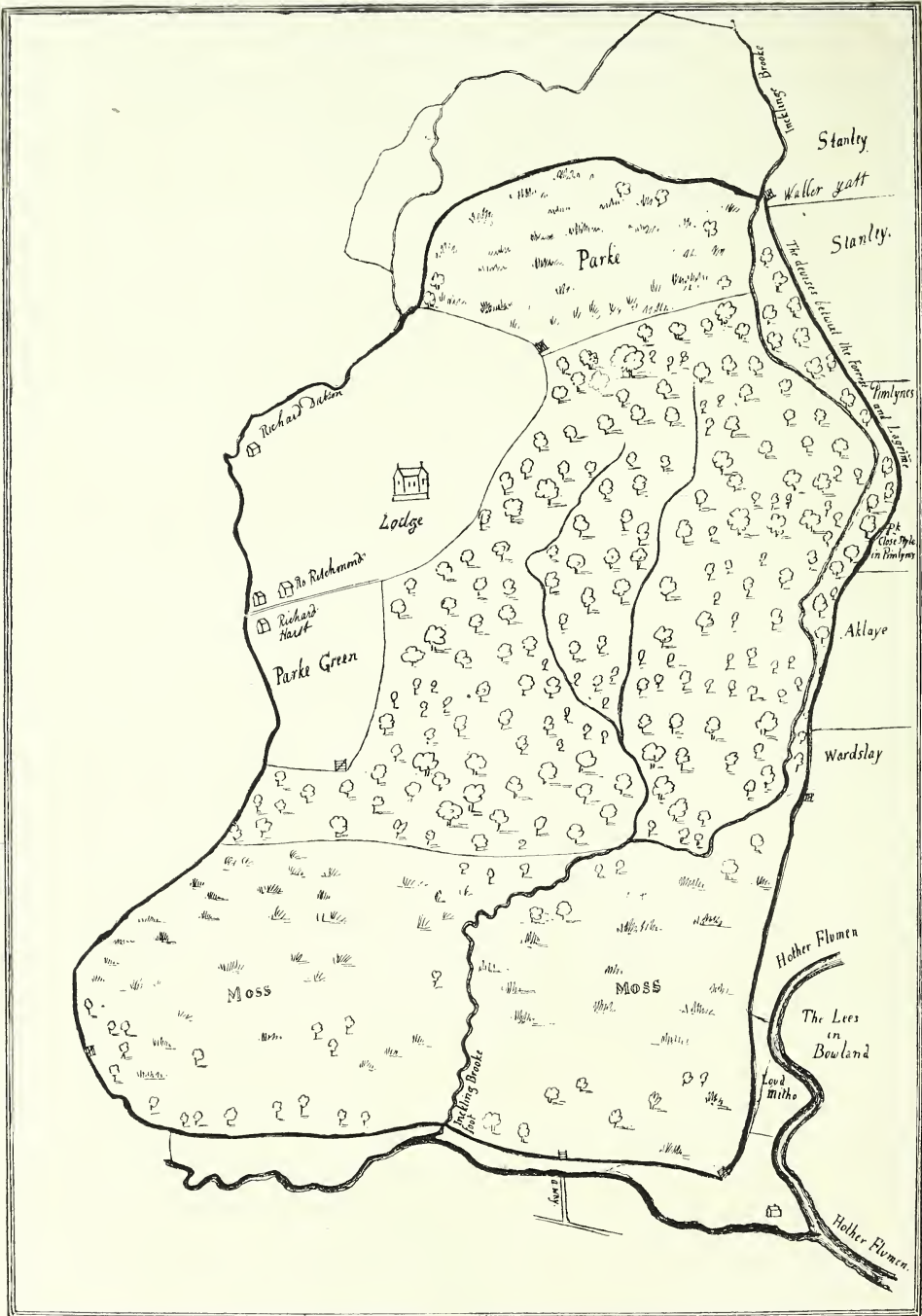
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LEAGRAM PARK.

*From an old Map.*

A  
History  
OF  
LEAGRAM:

The Park and the Manor

BY  
JOHN WELD, D.L., J.P.  
*Of Leagram*

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

1913.

PRINTED BY SHERRATT AND HUGHES  
MANCHESTER AND LONDON



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## PREFATORY NOTE

THE late Mr. Weld of Leagram took a great interest in his inheritance there, alike in its past history and its present condition. He gathered up all the information about it which he could find in the county historians and in his own muniments, as well as what he could glean from neighbours, and with the assistance his life-long connexion with the place supplied he digested the whole into the following account. This has been placed at the disposal of the Chetham Society by the liberality of his daughter, Miss Weld of Leagram, and it is hoped that it will be received with favour as a useful contribution to the history of Lancashire.

More than a century ago Whitaker's *Whalley* laid the foundation for the detailed topography of the central portion of the county. Hardwick's *Preston* and Thornber's *Blackpool* continued the work each in its own way; Col. Fishwick's *Goosnargh* and his later parochial histories, published by this Society, have illustrated almost the whole of Amounderness. Mr. T. Smith's *Ribchester* and *Chipping* supplement Whitaker for the portion of Blackburn Hundred north of the Ribble; and the present volume aims at completing that task by a fuller account of Leagram than has yet been made public.

It is divided into five parts. Of these the opening ones are mainly historical, giving an outline of the story of the place first as a park of the Dukes of Lancaster and then as a manor or private estate of the Shirburne and Weld families. The third part contains a detailed description of the estate as it was about the time when this branch of the Welds made it their home: a description which seems of special value as a record. It is obvious that the author took great pains to make it accurate and complete, and it will of course increase in

value as time brings change even in this remote and tranquil spot. Then follows an account of the chapel and the mission attached to it; a record of piety steadfast through evil days and good in which Mr. Weld naturally rejoiced as regards his ancestors, while himself zealous to add to it. Last comes that section which will perhaps be of the most general interest—the account of the customs and folk-lore of the district. There is little that is new here, but it is important to have trustworthy and fairly complete statements of the habits and modes of thought of particular districts, and in one so secluded as Leagram old habits and superstitions had a better chance of surviving without contamination than in the industrial parts of the county.

As to the opening section of the book, there may be need for some apology, or at least explanation. The late Mr. Weld died in 1888. He had gathered together whatever he could learn as to the ancient history of the locality, but the publication of detailed calendars of the public records has proceeded apace since his time and other sources have become available. Something therefore could no doubt be added from sources now easy of access, but it has been judged better to leave the work as its author wrote it. In time to come the Forest of Bowland will attract its historian, who will be glad to supplement the information afforded by public sources by the details here given from private records. The editor has therefore restricted himself in general to such pruning of repetitions, verbal corrections, and transpositions as the author himself might have made had he lived to supervise the publication. The work seems to have been written chiefly between 1880 and 1885; it will therefore be understood that by “the present time” is meant a period now thirty years ago, and its “present century” is our “last century.”

J. BROWNBILL.

# History of Leagram

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## I. LEAGRAM AS A PARK.

THE Manor, formerly Park, of Leagram forms the most westerly extremity of the parish of Whalley; it is also considered to lie in Bowland and to be part of the Honor of Clitheroe. It forms a township in conjunction with Little Bowland—that part of Bowland situated within the county of Lancaster. It has the parish of Chipping on the south, west, and north-west, the forest or chase of Bowland on its north and eastern sides. A narrow strip of land, also accounted part of Bowland, lies between the out-fence of Leagram (the old park pale), and the Chipping brook on the west, also between the out-fence and the river Loud, on the south, which streams are here respectively reputed as the boundaries of Bowland.

The succession of Leagram is included in that of Bowland from its first acquisition by the Lacys with the fee of Clitheroe about 1102 down to its alienation in 1563.

It remained with the Lacy family until Alice, daughter of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, brought it by marriage to Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. After his attainder and execution at Pontefract, 22 March, 1321–2, the Honor of Clitheroe passed to the Crown, until Edward III granted it, in the first year of his reign (1327), to Isabella the Queen-Mother for her life. The attainder was afterwards reversed, and Henry Duke of Lancaster, the King's brother, and his heirs, obtained these extensive possessions. They remained with the ducal house of Lancaster until they passed by the marriage of Blanche daughter of Henry Duke of Lancaster to John of Ghent, fourth son of Edward III, whose son



Henry Bolingbroke Duke of Lancaster, usurping the crown as Henry IV in 1399, the fee of Clitheroe, including Bowland and Leagram, became part of the royal domain, and remained so until Elizabeth, in the fifth year of her reign, granted Leagram to her favourite the Earl of Leicester.

After Elizabeth's alienation of the Park of Leagram to the Earl of Leicester, it was purchased the same year, 25 June, 1563, by Sir Richard Shirburne of Stonyhurst, kt. It continued with the Shirburnes until the extinction of the direct line in the person of Mary Duchess of Norfolk, the only surviving child of Sir Nicholas Shirburne of Stonyhurst, Bart., in 1754. She devised the estates, including Leagram, to her cousin Edward Weld of Lulworth Castle, Esq., grandson of William Weld, Esq., who had married Elizabeth Shirburne, sister to Sir Nicholas. Leagram still continues in the Weld family.

#### ANTIQUITY OF THE PARK.

Leagram, as already stated, was formerly a park, and had been such from a remote period. It was no doubt included with Bowland in the grant of Henry I (c. 1102) to Robert de Lacy, who had previously held the same of Roger de Poitou;<sup>1</sup> but the earliest distinct record of the "park of Leagram" appears to be that of 1348-9 given below.

After the attainder of Thomas Earl of Lancaster, and the confiscation of his immense possessions to the Crown, the following meagre list of facts occurs relating to Bowland and to the Park of Leagram<sup>2</sup>:

16 Edw. II. (11 Dec. 1322). The King grants the Bailiwick of the forestership of the Chase of Bowland to Edmund de Dacre, during pleasure.

20 Edw. II. (5 Dec. 1326). The same is granted to Richard de Spaldington, during good behaviour.

1. W. Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe R.* 382.

2. See Calendars of Patent Rolls.

1 Edw. III. (3 Feb. 1326-7). The King confirms the same to the same, for life. A few years later inquiry was made as to his alleged misconduct in his office.

1, 5, 8 Edw. III. (1 Feb. 1326-7, 15 Nov. 1331, 1 March 1333-4). The King grants the free chase of Bowland to the Queen-Mother Isabella for her life, saving the reversion to the King and his heirs; it was a dependency of the Castle of Clitheroe. In later years the Patent Rolls notice various trespasses upon the Chase.

4 Edw. III. (26 Dec. 1330). The King appoints Adam de Ursewyke to the bailiwick of the chief forestership of Boghland Chase, 'during pleasure'; soon afterwards (24 Feb. 1330-1) this clause was altered to 'during good behaviour.' There was another grant 'during pleasure' on 14 Sept. 1332.

In an exemplification of the grants made by the same king to John of Ghent, when creating him Duke of Lancaster (1362), Laithgryme Park occurs amongst his lands in Lancashire.

30 Edw. III. (1356-7). In the inquisition after the death of Henry Duke of Lancaster it is named as one of the parks out of which the chancellor, attorney-general, receivers and auditors of the Duchy are to receive deer both winter and summer.

#### KEEPERSHIP OF LEAGRAM PARK.

Parks in their early and original signification were enclosed tracts of forest of limited extent, containing better and more sheltered land where the deer might both more easily fatten and be more readily taken when required.

Such undoubtedly was Leagram Park to Little Bowland, while Radholme Park did the same service on the Yorkshire side of the Hodder for that part of the forest or chase called Great Bowland. Leagram was nevertheless, at least from its acquisition by the Crown, and from the creation of the Duchy of Lancaster, governed by its own officers, separate and distinct from those of the forest or chase of Bowland, with separate charges and fees; which arrangement continued until its disparkment in 1556.

The principal officer was styled the parker, and the office was known as the keepership of the park. The appointment

was by patent direct from the Crown. The following names occur :—

22 *Edw. III.* (1348-9.) The Keepership of Laythgryme Park is granted to Richard de Shrewsbury with the fees, 45s. 6d. per ann. (From wages of officers of the King's Duchy of Lancaster, Harl. MSS. 44, fol. 317. c.)

10 *Hen. IV.* (20 April 1410). Richard de Hoghton is appointed.

1 *Hen. V.* (6 Jany. 1413). The same confirmed.

1 *Hen. VI.* (17 Feb. 1423). The same confirmed.

25 *Hen. VI.* Patent (21 Nov. 1446). Robert Hoghton.

1 *Edw. IV.* Patent (6 Dec. 1461). Robert Radclyff.

13 *Edw. IV.* Patent (4 May 1473). Richard Shireburne.

3 *Hen. VII.* Patent (16 Dec. 1487). Edward Stanley, "unus militum pro corpore nostro," to be parker of Laythgryme and Radeham.

15 *Hen. VIII.* Patent (26 April 1523). Roger Beck, "unus vallerorum hostiar' camere nostre," after the death of E. Stanley.

1 and 2 *Phil. and Mary.* Patent (20 Nov. 1554). Thomas Hoghton, vacant by the death of Roger Beck.

By the above it appears that during more than two hundred years the park had been regularly officered by direct appointment from the Crown.

The parker when he repaired to the park at Leagram for the purpose of the chase, by privilege of his office, or to inspect or look after the interests of the royal domain, resided at the lodge in the park; an ancient building repeatedly mentioned in the Duchy accounts, at least from 1 *Hen. VI* (1422).

Three members of the Hoghton family occur in the list of parkers. The Richard who was appointed 10 *Hen. IV*, 1408-9, appears to have made it his residence; he is generally styled 'of Laithgryme.' He was a natural son of Sir Henry Hoghton, 2nd son of Sir Adam. Joan Radcliffe (sole heir of the Radcliffes of Pendleton and of her mother Sibil de Clitheroe), wife of Sir Henry Hoghton, left by will, out of her inheritance, failing issue of her own, the manor of Salesbury to this Richard Hoghton of Laithgrym, her husband's natural son.

His father is also styled 'of Laithgrym' in some pedigrees. Sir Henry Hoghton, kt., was appointed master forester of Bowland in 1413, so that he very probably resided there sometimes.

The Hoghton family possessed property in the adjoining township of Chipping, as also some messuages in Bowland near the park pale.

The next holding the office of parker was another of this family, Robert Hoghton; who seems to have been a son of his predecessor. Then Robert Radcliffe, 1 Edw. IV, 1461-2. He was succeeded by Richard Shirburne of Stonyhurst, 13 Edw. IV, 1473-4, whose family soon became intimately connected with both forest and park. He was knighted in 5 Hen. VII, 1489-90, and died 3 Hen. VIII, 1511-12. He married Joan, daughter of Henry Langton of Walton, Esq.

Edward Stanley, kt., parker in 1487, was afterwards created Lord Mounteagle in consideration of his great services at the battle of Flodden. Roger Beck became parker in 1523. Thomas Houghton, who succeeded, was the last to hold the appointment, Leagram being shortly afterwards disparked (1555-6).

Besides the parker, who was only required to visit the park from time to time (or might perhaps delegate a subordinate to do so for him), there were inferior officers or servants who had the immediate charge of keeping the park fences and fosses in order. They were styled pallisers or keepers of the pales, and received remuneration according to work done.

Leagram, like all the greater parks, was anciently surrounded and inclosed by a ditch and rampart surmounted by pales. The bank was moreover planted with rows of thorns. In the comptus of the master forester of Bowland from the 1 and 2 Hen. VI, 1422, to 18 and 19 Hen. VI, 1441,<sup>1</sup> repeated instances of this kind of inclosure occur, under Laythgrym Park, together with the costs of making and repairing them.

1. Printed in Whitaker's *Hist. of Whalley* (ed. J. G. Nichols), i, 347.

They appear to have been upon a uniform plan, of formidable proportions, quite sufficient to turn deer, excepting where salters were left to enable them to get in from the adjoining forest. A fosse was dug out, 8 feet in width and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in depth, a rampart being constructed on the outer side with the earth and materials thrown out. The bank was surmounted by a paling of split oak, and the sides were planted with three rows of white thorns. Part of the out fence of Leagram at the present day is still known as the Pale, and a farm adjoining it on the outside, and reputed in Bowland, is called the Pale Farm. Indications of the fosse and bank may be detected in some places.

The cost during the period mentioned (1422 to 1441) was 12d. per hundred pales, including felling the wood. The regular wages to the man employed in the work was 4d. per day. The carriage of the pales from the place where cut to where they were wanted was 12d. per hundred. The total cost of 67 rods of new ditch, 8 feet wide and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  deep, the bank planted with three rows of white thorns, was 8d. per rod—44s. in all. A gate on the north side of the park with the carriage of the timber cost 6s.

Adam del Swynhilhurst and Thomas de Crumbilholme were in 1435 *paliciatores parci de Laythgryme*, or "pallisers," keepers of the pales.

It appears that later, according to the *compotus* of 36 and 37 Hen. VI (1458), the different works done by the palliser in connection with the park were contracted for at a certain fixed sum yearly; for in an agreement of that date made with the *seneschal*, auditors, and receivers, the *parker*, Robert Hoghton, engaged to uphold and keep in proper repair all the pales of the park, and *les railles* of the lands of the same, including all old and new work that in any way appertained to the office of palliser, for 73s. 4d. per annum.

The following are extracts of so much as relate to the costs for the fences of Leagram Park from the *compotus* of the master forester of Bowland, 1 and 2 Hen. VI (1422).



Et solvit Ade del Swynhillurst et Thome de Crumbilholme pro sustentacione palicii per circuitum parci de Laythgryme tam de veteribus quam de novis palis, shoris, et raylis de meremio Regis, per convencionem in grosso, sic factam per Senescallum<sup>1</sup> - xlvijs viiij

(From the Compotus of the Master Forester of Bouland, 13 and 14  
Hen. VI.<sup>2</sup>)

*Custus palicii parci de Laythgryme.*

Et in stipendio Nicholai Swynhilhurst, operantis ibidem in prostracione et fissura quercuum pro palis et raylis inde fiendis pro factura c. dimidii palorum inde dando pro Cna xijd - - xviiij

Et solutis eidem pro cariagio eorundem a loco ubi succidebantur usque diversa loca necessaria reparacione indigencia, dando pro Cna xijd - - - - - xviiij

Et in stipendio ejusdem operantis circa emendacionem palicii predicti in diversis locis magis defectuosis per xx dies, capienti per diem iiijd - - - - - vis viiij

Et solutis eidem pro palis cadentibus reponendis et iterum firmandis per totum circuitum dicti parci pro una parte ejusdem parci in grosso - - - - - vijs vijd

Et in stipendio Thome Crumbilholme alterius paliciatoris parci ibidem pro prostracione bosci pro palis inde fiendis cum factura CC palorum inde dando pro qualibet Cna xijd - - - - - ijs

Et solutis eidem pro cariagio eorundem usque ibidem, dando pro Cna xijd - - - - - ijs

Et in stipendio ejusdem operantis circa emendacionem palicii predicti in diversis locis defectivis per xx dies, capientis per diem iiijd - - - - - vis viiij

Et solutis eidem pro veteribus palis cadentibus reponendis et iterum firmandis per totum circuitum dicti parci ut pro medietate parci in grosso - - - - - vijs vijd

*Custus fossate ibidem lvs. . . . viz.*

Et solutis Henrico Pemberton pro factura lxvij rodarum nove fossate, latitudine viij pedum et profunditate iiij pedum et dimidii, plantate cum albis spinis in iij cursibus de novo factis ex parte boreali parci ibidem, roda ad viiij - - - - - xliiis

1. *Hist. of Whalley*, i, 347. The present reference at the Public Record Office is Duchy of Lancaster Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 76, No. 1498.

2. Records of the Duchy of Lancaster, Class xxix, Bundle 220. Now Duchy of Lancaster Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 76, No. 1499.

Et solutis Ricardo Swynhillhurst pro factura lxxvj rodarum palicii positi super dictam fossatam tam de veteribus palis quam de novis, roda ad ijd - - - - - xjs

(Compotus of the Master Forester of Bouland, 18 and 19 Hen. VI.<sup>1</sup>)  
*Custus palicii parci de Laythgryme.*

Et in denariis solutis Will'o Swynhillhurst pro prostracione et factura de CCC de palesbord ac cariagio earundem pro una medietate parci de Laythgryme Centena ad ijs - - - - - vis

Et in stipendio ejusdem operantis super facturam palicii per lxi dies capientis per diem iiijd - - - - - xxs iiijd

Et solutis eidem Will'mo pro palis cadentibus reponendis et interim firmandis per totum circuitum dicti parci ut pro dicta medietate ejusdem in grosso - - - - - xvs ijd

Et solutis pro factura unius porte de novo ex parte orientali parci predicti cum cariagio maeremii ad idem, ut patet per billam - vjs  
*Custus fossate de Lathegryme.*

Et solutis Ricardo Merseden et sociis suis operantibus super facturam cmaxl rodarum nove fossate in circuitu parci ibidem, latitudinis viij pedum et profunditatis iiij pedum dimidii, plantate cum spinis albis in iij cursibus, capienti pro qualibet roda viiij  
 cvjs viiij

Et solutis Edmundo Crumbelholme pro factura cmaxl rodarum palicii positi super dictam Fossatam tam de veteribus palis quam de novis, roda ad ijd - - - - - xxvjs viiij

(Compotus of the Master Forester of Bouland, 36 and 37 Hen. VI.<sup>2</sup>)  
*Reparaciones.*

Et in quadam convencionem facta per Senescallum, Auditorem et Receptorem cum eodem parcario quod ipse pro lxxiijs iiijd per annum sustentabit et reparabit totum et integrum palicium dicti parci et *lez Railes* lande ejusdem in omnibus operibus novis et veteribus que ad paliciatorem aliquo modo pertinent, sicut pater suus prius fecit, videlicet per predictum tempus hujus compoti - - - lxxs iiijd

According to the above accounts the total expenditure on the park, in keeping up pales, the fosse and other incidental

1. Duchy of Lancaster, Class xxix, Bundle 220. Now Duchy of Lancaster Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 76, No. 1500.

2. Duchy of Lancaster, Class xxix, Bundle 220. Now Duchy of Lancaster Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 76, No. 1516.



(Compotus 13 and 14 Hen. VI.)

*Custus laundee in parco ibidem.* Vs. iiijd.

Et in stipendio cujusdem laborarii operantis in prostracione bosci pro rayles inde fiendis pro laundea de Laythgryme cum factura C rayles inde - - - - - xijd

Et solutis eidem pro cariagio eorundem a loco ubi succidebantur usque ibidem - - - - - xijd

Et in stipendio Ricardi Swynhilhirst carpentarii operantis circa emendationem palicii prediciti per x dies, capientis per diem iiijd  
iijs iiijd

(Compotus 18 and 19 Hen. VI.)

*Custus laundee infra Parcum ibidem.*

Et solutis Edmundo Crumbelholme pro prostracione de lx palesbord pro emendacione de les pailles laundee infra parcum ibidem in grosso

vid  
Et in stipendio ejusdem Ed'i operantis super facturam de lez pynnes ad idem per unum diem - - - - - iiijd

Et solutis Alexandro Huntingden carianti dictos palesbordes in grosso - - - - - vjd

Et in stipendio Ricardo Boys operantis super facturam del railles in circuitu landee predicte per x dies, capientis per diem iiijd - iijs iiijd

## LEASES FROM THE CROWN.

Though Henry VII in the 22nd year of his reign, 1506-7, first turned the forests of the Duchy of Lancaster to profit on a large scale, by empowering the yearly tenants or tenants for lives to hold their lands at an increased rent, as copyhold in perpetuity (encouraging them by this means to erect suitable buildings for themselves and the necessities of husbandry); vaccaries or tracts of upland pasture of greater or less extent in the remoter and wilder districts of these forests, suitable for the breeding of young and depasturing lean cattle, had long been leased to tenants for different terms of years, always reserving "pastura et pasena pro feris domini Regis."

In the parks likewise, Leagram among others, portions had been let on lease from an early period, either for the purposes of fodder, or the keeping of cattle. The agistment of the park, and the herbage and pawnage, reserving sufficient feed for the wild animals, were frequently let by the Crown

distinct from the parker or other officer. This agistment signified the taking in other men's cattle to feed in the King's park or forest, and the profit or payment of such feeding. In this neighbourhood at the present day, cattle when taken in to feed for payment, are termed joice cattle. The following are examples<sup>1</sup> :—

Sir Robert Urswyke, kt., had a lease of the agistment of the park for 10 years for the rent of £13 6s. 8d. according to the compotus of Roger Flore, chief seneschal, 8 Hen. V, 1420. Thirty-six head of cattle belonging to the King were charged at the rate of 8d. in winter, and 9d. in summer during the term of the agistment and 38 young cattle at 8d. in winter and 1s. 6d. in summer.

Et de xiiij vis viijd de agistamento parci de Lathegryme sic dimisso Roberto Urswyke militi ad terminum x annorum hoc anno Vito solvendis terminis Pasche et Michaelis equaliter per placitum de Laurencio de Hamerton et Thome de Urswyke Ricardi de Knolles et Michaelis Levers ut patet per extractam Rogeri Flore capitalis senescalli super compotum anni viti Regis Henrici Vti [1418-9] ostensam ultrat xxxvi boves dicti domini Regis in yeme pec ad viijd eorundem boum in estate durante agistamento pec' ad ix<sup>d</sup> xxxviij bovetorum in yeme pecia ad viijd eorundem bovetorum in estate pecia ad xviiij.

6 Hen. V. Windy Hills in Bowland, yet belonging to the estate, lay outside the park on its northern side, and was let for 12s. per annum for 10 years, according to the same compotus of Roger Flore :—

Et de xijs de firma de Wyndhulles sic dimissa ipsi computanti ad terminum x annorum hoc anno vito per placitum Ricardi Hoghton chevaler et Thome Urswyke ut patet per extractam Rogeri Flore capitalis senescalli super compotum anni viti Regis Henrici Vti ostensam.

Et de vs de firma de Accornhirst prope parcum de Laythegryme nuper in eodem incluso sic dimissa hoc anno Ricardo Henryson.

1 and 2 Hen. VI. Et de vs de firma cujusdam parcelle pasture

1. Whitaker, *Whalley*, i, 344.

vocate Accornhirst incluse ad parcum predictum sic dimisse eidem Ricardo Henryson hoc anno et includit sumptibus suis propriis.

6 Ed. IV, 1466. The pasture called Accornhirst within the park of Leagram was leased for seven years to Robert Radcliffe, Esq., at 13s. 4d. per ann. This pasture, immediately at the back of the home plantations to the north-west of the house, still retains the name it bore in 1 Hen. VI; then lately separated from the park, it was perhaps once famous for its oak trees and acorns. The Robert Radcliffe mentioned was parker of Laythegryme at the time.

22 Hen. VIII, 20 May. The King granted to Thomas Shirburne, Esq., a lease of 40 years of the herbage and pawnage of his park of Leagram, reserving sufficient pasture pro feris domini Regis, and the messuage called the lodge within the park, as also another messuage or tenement called Wyndehills in Bowland adjacent to the pales of the said park, in the occupation of Joana Rider, widow, to pay yearly by equal portions on the feasts of Easter and St. Michael the Archangel 13l. 6s. 8d. for the herbage and pawnage de antiqua firma and 6l. 13s. 4d. de antiqua indentura and 6l. 5s. 6d. de ultimo nitro and for Wyndehills 14s. de antiqua firma. The tenant is enjoined to execute all repairs whether of the lodge or the pales of the park at his own charge, necessary timber to be provided by the master forester, of the King's receivers for the time being, either from out of the park itself, or from the forest or chace of Bowland, at the cost of the said Thomas Shirburne. The King empowers him by the same indenture, to inclose 80 acres of land within the park, with fences, ditches and fosses, 40 acres of it "le launde" of the same park, 20 acres on its upper side, and the remaining 20 acres on "le grene" within the said park, and to reduce the same to cultivation.

The lessee, Thomas Shirburne, was eldest son of Hugh Shirburne of Stonyhurst, Esq. He married Jane, daughter of Sir John Towneley of Towneley, kt., by whom he had several children. Thos. Shirburne was High Sheriff of



Lancashire the 27 and 28 Hen. VIII. He died in the latter year, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Richard Shirburne.

By the herbage and pannage was probably meant the agistment according to the grant made 6 Hen. VI, the old rent being named, though by pannage the feeding of the hogs and swine with the mast was often signified; more strictly speaking the profit of the mast was intended.

The messuage of the lodge, included in the indenture, had to be kept in repair, as well as the park fences, by the tenant at his own charge. The Crown no longer charged itself with these expenses, and consequently the old pales and fosses, which had been formerly so well maintained, were rapidly deteriorating, the tenant doing as little as he could, probably little more than his own convenience required. This economy resulted a few years later in their irreparable decay. The lodge, from the fact of its being made use of as a habitation, was probably to a certain extent better attended to, though not as before, as is evident from the expenses under this head in the *compotus* of the earlier master foresters. The "Laund infra parcum" was immediately contiguous and in front of the park lodge; the name is retained at the present day. This is also the "lande infra Parkum de Laythgryme" continually mentioned in the accounts, from the commencement of Henry VI, as being fenced with "postis and raylis."

The 20 acres in the upper part of the park was known until lately as "The Park," and was probably then (as now) totally devoid of wood. "Le grene" still retains the name of the Greens and yet deserves the appellation. The additional rent of £6 5s. 6d. is probably on account of these 80 acres. On Wyndehills there is only a rise of 2s. since 6 Hen. V. The whole rent amounted now for the park and its enclosures to £26 5s. 6d., and for Wyndehills, 14s.; making a total of £26 19s. 6d.

The present house (Leagram Hall) occupies the same site as the ancient park lodge.

Thomas Shirburne the same year as the last indenture demised on lease certain lands in Leagram Park to John Waller of Chipping, part of the lands he held there from the Crown for pasture and pawnage: "The said lands lie between the Inkeling brook and the east pale, beginning at the gate that goeth to the Stanley, and so following between the said brook and the pale, unto the way that cometh forth of the Pymlines," for the term of 29 years and rent of 22s. The names mentioned in the boundary may be found by consulting the old map. The Inkeling brook is generally known at present as the Leagram brook: the Stanley moor or fell retains its name, and if the gate "that goeth there" is not the original a substitute does service for it. The farmer promised "to uphold the pale as far as the said parcel of land lasts, having timber delivered to him by the officers of the forest," and he engaged to 'defend the said park with such hedges and ditches as shall leave both parties harmless.' This narrow strip completed the amount of land fenced off within the circuit of the park at that date.

38 Hen. VIII, June 6, 1546. The King granted a lease of the herbage and pawnage of the park to Randolph Shuttleworth, Esq., who had married the widow of Thomas Shirburne. After reciting the former lease, and stating that the same had been delivered up to be cancelled, a fresh lease was granted for the remainder of the term and an additional term of 20 years, with the same conditions and rents. Mr. Shuttleworth died 3 Edw. VI, his wife survived him until January 14th, 1 Mary. She left by her first husband (Thomas Shirburne of Stonyhurst) three sons and one daughter :—

1. Sir Richard Shirburne Kt. of Stonyhurst=Maud Bold.
2. Sir John Shirburne of Ribbleton=
3. Robert Sherburne of Little Mitton=
1. Grace=Robert Shirburne of Wolfhouse.

By her second marriage she had one son, Charles Shuttleworth, and one daughter, Ellen, married to Robert Lee of



Henthorne, near Clitheroe. The following deed, dated the last day of February 1591-2 (34 Eliz.), affords some particulars of the descent :—

Robert Lee of Henthorne in the County of Lancaster, yeoman, and Ellen wife of the said Robert Lee and one of the executors of the last will and testament of Jane Shuttleworth widow, her late mother and late wife of Rauffe Shuttleworth, late of Laithegryme in the County of Lancaster, esq., knoweth that in consideration of a certain sum of money paid to me the said Robert Lee at or about the marriage of me and Ellen my wife by the servants of Sir Richard Sherburne of Stonyhurst kt. and unto whom the tuition and guardianship of Charles Shuttleworthe and Ellen Shuttleworth now wife of me the said Robt. Lee, together with all their child's part and portion of goods, was committed by George late Bishop of Chester by and after the decease of the said Rauffe Shuttleworth and Jane Shuttleworth, their father and mother, on 28 March 1555; also for the sum of £20 at another time by Edmund Sherburne &c. paid unto John Lee, father to me Robert Lee, and for other sums of money &c. given and bequeathed to the said Ellen by the said Rauffe Shuttleworth and Jane Shuttleworth her late father and mother; which sums and portions of goods &c. the said Robert Lee and Ellen my wife do acknowledge and confess ourselves to have whollie received &c. and by these presents do fully hereby &c. release and quit-claim the said Sir Richard Sherburne kt., his executors &c.

The lease of Leagram had been settled by Sir Thomas Shirburne as a jointure on his wife and afterwards confirmed by Sir Richard the son, on his mother's marriage with Ralph Shuttleworth, who had obtained a renewal of the lease from the King. They resided generally at Leagram. At her death the lodge was occupied by a Robert Shirburne to whom she bequeathed 40s. and a dun filly. He was not her son, nor son-in-law of the Wolfhouse Shirburne.

As an exemplification of the value of cattle and other matters in this country in 1553, extracts from the inventory made after Mrs. Shuttleworth's death are here given :—

Inventorium omnium bonorum et catallorum Jane Shoottleworth vidue defuncte xvij die Januarii Anno [primo] Regni Marie . . .

appreciatorum per quatuor legales homines Per Robertum Swyllerot,  
Anthonium Rychardson, Edmund Bradeley, & Johannem Gyll.

Imprimis in drawen Oxen. xiiij p'ce of	-	-	-	-	xviijli
It. in Steres of v yeres old viii p'e of	-	-	-	-	ixli
It. in Steres of iiij yeres old viii p'e	-	-	-	-	vili xiis iiijd
It. in Steres of iii yeres olde vii at	-	-	-	-	iiiijli
It. in Bulls of iiij yeres olde ii at	-	-	-	-	xxs
It. in whyes of v yeres olde iiij at	-	-	-	-	ixli xijs
It. in ox Twyns ten and in whye twints vij at	-	-	-	-	vjli xvix
It. in Styrks xxxix at	-	-	-	-	vili vis viiijd
It. in olde Bulls ij at	-	-	-	-	xxxiiis
It. in Kye xlv at	-	-	-	-	xlii
It. in iii mayres and ii foles and one old meyre, and one olde nagg	-	-	-	-	vili xiis iiijd
ii horse staggs & ii geldyngs of the p'ce of	-	-	-	-	vili xiis iiijd
It. in shepe of all heeds six score & iiij at	-	-	-	-	vili
It. in Swyene of all heedes six sold for	-	-	-	-	xviijs iiijd
It. ten olde [ ]	-	-	-	-	vijli xs
It. in wool xiiij stone sold for	-	-	-	-	xlvis viijd
It. in corne, videlicet wheate, Barley, Rye & otes	-	-	-	-	xiili
It. two wayns ii plowes with iron yokes teems and other thyngs vt	-	-	-	-	xiili iiijd
unto belonging to the value of	-	-	-	-	xiili iiijd
It. one brass pot, iij pans, iiij spyttis ij racks, xxx peece of pewter,	-	-	-	-	xxvis viijd
one brandreth, a mortar and a pestell with other thyngs that unto	-	-	-	-	xxvis viijd
belonging to ye value of	-	-	-	-	xxvis viijd
It. ffyne candlesticks	-	-	-	-	iijs viijd
It. iii arcks at the price of	-	-	-	-	vis viijd
It. iij chystes at	-	-	-	-	xs
It. iij boordes, xiiij milk troghs, & iiij chesfatts at	-	-	-	-	ijs
It. xv stands, one aile pott & ii barrells	-	-	-	-	vs
It. v ffedther bedds v bolsters & iiij pyllowes	-	-	-	-	xls
It. one lowryng of Tapistre the p'ce	-	-	-	-	xs
It. xiiij coverletts & ten blanketts	-	-	-	-	xls
It. iiij par of lynen shets, one towell iij lynen boorde clothes with	-	-	-	-	xijs
one boorde cloth of dyapyr & vj canvass shetes of the price of	-	-	-	-	xijs
It. vj ye p'ce of [ ]	-	-	-	-	iijs
It. one hanging for a bedd of red and grene sey & ii par of bed-	-	-	-	-	vjs
stocks of the p'ce of	-	-	-	-	vjs
It. vii yards & a halfe of blanket cloth	-	-	-	-	iijs vid
It. vi fallen hydes backyd-	-	-	-	-	xiijs viijd
It. a heyre for a kyllne	-	-	-	-	vis viijd
Summe totale with the wyene & the woole	-	-	-	-	Cxliiiijli iijs xd
beyng solde as aforesaid	-	-	-	-	Cxliiiijli iijs xd

## LEAGRAM DISPARKED.

Within two years of the death of Mrs. Shuttleworth, an important alteration was effected by the Crown with regard to its ancient park of Leagram, entirely changing its character. Philip and Mary in the 2nd and 3rd year of their reign (1555-6) by letters patent under the seal of the Duchy and warrant of a bill disparked their park of Leagram and demised the same with Wyndehills in Bowland to Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., of Stonyhurst for 80 years.

The grant recites that their park, used until lately "pro feris et damis," is now so wasted in game that few or no "fere aut dame" at present exist in it, and that the woods and timber are so wasted and destroyed that there is not now sufficient to repair or replace the pales of the said park, and considering the great charge it would entail to restore with new pales the fence throughout its circumference, they decide for this and other reasons to dispark, reduce and convert the said park to cultivation and husbandry. Therefore they grant to Sir Richard Sherburne kt. his heirs and assigns, all their lands, tenements, &c. within the circuit of the said park or inclosure of Lagram *alias* Laythgrame Park, and the messuage called the lodge within the same park, also the messuage or tenement in Bowland called Windyhills, lying near the pales of the said park, to have and to hold the same for the term of 80 years, commencing on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next, paying for the same annually 26li. 19s. 6d.

The said Sir Richard was to keep and maintain in proper repair the lodge and all messuages and tenements, whether existing or that might be erected, for the purposes of husbandry, within the park or inclosure of Lagram to the termination of the lease, at his own proper charge and expense.

The said Sir Richard to have firebote, hedgebote, and ploughbote, to be used on the premises; housebote, waynebote, and great timber, for repairs of the premises, from the officers for the time being of the forest or chase of Bowland, the expense of carriage or damages incurred to be at the charge of the said Sir Richard.

The tenant was also permitted to enclose all or any parts within the said ground lately park, with such hedges and ditches as he might think proper, and to reduce the said enclosed ground to purposes of husbandry, whether for the growing of grain, or the pasture of cattle.

Also small wood and underwoods within the said ground and 'ollers, thornes and hassilles' might be cut down or eradicated.

Leagram, which had for so lengthened a period been used as a park by its royal owners and had been so well attended to as respects its woods, game, and fences, was now through wasteful neglect during later years so reduced in wood and game as to be no longer worth retaining for its ancient purposes. The repairs had been during some time left to the tenants and at their own charge, and the timber, upon one excuse or other, had been taken and misapplied, so by this date the once well wooded parks and forests likewise had become terribly denuded, leaving but little shelter for the deer, and less timber to repair the ancient lodges and even the pales of the inclosures.

A few years later, in the first of the ensuing reign, Elizabeth bitterly complained of this waste to Sir Richard Shirburne, then master forester of Bowland and lessee of Leagram. She said that the timber that had been granted him from time to time, through the officers of the forest by her Majesty's predecessors, had been wrongfully used in the erection of new buildings instead of the reparation of her ancient houses, so that these had fallen into utter decay; and she charged him to see that for the future none but the old buildings should be repaired by timber from the royal domains.

A great increase of buildings both for the copyhold tenants and for the requirements of their cattle had necessarily taken place throughout the forests, since the increased development of the farm system encouraged by the Commission of Henry VII. The tenants appear to have helped themselves liberally to the timber, or at least availed themselves of that furnished by the forest authorities for repairs, in erecting their new habitations. Consequent on the augmented population, the deer were reduced in number or had abandoned in great measure their accustomed haunts. For the first time in the leases of Leagram no reservation was made for them.

The few deer that remained henceforth might fare ill or otherwise; they would only be trespassers, and the tenants might protect their crops as they could.

As heretofore, the repairs were at the charge of the tenant, wood for his fires, fences, and farm implements, being allowed him; "ollers (alders), thornes, hasulles and small wood" might be eradicated, to clear the ground for tillage. With these they seem to have made small progress, as so late as the end of last century there yet remained in Leagram a considerable extent covered with natural underwood, which the tenants had not succeeded in uprooting.

Houses and farm buildings might also for the first time be erected within the precincts of the park. One large cross-shaped barn, like the nave and transepts of a church, with beams formed of entire oak trees, resting on the ground and arching overhead, existed a few years ago (the dairy barn). It was probably of this period, or shortly after, when timber, however reduced in quantity, evidently existed in the district.

#### MASTER FORESTERS OF BOWLAND.

The year following the disparking of Leagram by Philip and Mary and their lease of the same to Sir Richard Shirburne, he was appointed by letters patent from the Crown seneschal of the forests of Bowland and Quernmore and master forester of the same.

The government of the forest or chase of Bowland after it became included in the Duchy of Lancaster was confided to a seneschal or master forester by letters patent. He was the lieutenant and deputy of the Crown, and enjoyed certain fees and advantages belonging to his jurisdiction. His duty was to oversee and look to all trespasses committed against either vert or venison, and to attach all such offenders in the court of attachment.

The following are some of these officers:—

Walter Urswyk; Pat. 30 June, 46 Edw. III (1372).

Henry de Hoghton, kt.; Pat. 5 April, 1 Hen. V (1413).

Thomas de Hoghton occurs 1 and 2, 2 and 3 Hen. VI (1423-4).

Thomas Tunstall occurs 3 and 4 Hen. VI (1425).

William Assheton, chev.

Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury; Pat. 15 Feb., 12 Hen. VI (1432-4); beheaded 1461.

Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, slain at the battle of Barnet, 1471.<sup>1</sup>

Richard Duke of Gloucester; Pat. 4 July, 11 Edw. IV (1471).

James Harryngton, "miles pro corpore nostro"; Pat. 16 Feb., 2 Ric. III (1485).

Edward Stanley, knt., to be "Magister Forestarius Foreste de Bouland et custos sive Parcarius parci de Quernemore"; 6 Dec., 10 Hen. VII (1494).

Richard Tempest, "miles pro corpore nostro," to have the same offices immediately after the death of E. Stanley (who died 6 April, 1523); 7 June, 11 Hen. VIII (1510).

Thomas Clifford, knight, to be "Senescallus forestariorum nostrorum de Bowland et Quernemore, et Magister forestarius forestarum predictarum et deductus ferarum in forestis predictis," vacant by the death or forfeiture of Ric. Tempest, knt.; 10 Feb., 17 Hen. VIII (1525-6).

Arthur Darcy to be "Senescallus Forestarum de Bowland et Quernemore, et Magister Forestarius, &c.," and also to be Seneschal of Blackburnshire; 26 June, 35 Hen. VIII (1543).

Thomas Talbot.

Richard Sherburne, knight; Pat. 16 Nov., 3 and 4 Ph. and Mary (1556).

Richard Harynton, esq., to be Seneschal, Master Forester and Master of the game in Bowland and Quernemore and Parker of Radome; 36 Eliz. (1593-4).

Richard Houghton, knight, and Gilbert his son, esquire, to the same office in Bowland and Quernemore, also Master Forester and master of the game of Myrescough, Master Forester of Amounderness and Bleasdale, and Seneschal of the domains and manors of Amounderness; 1 Jas. I (1603-4).

Henry Brogden (Sir Gilbert Houghton having died 1647) to be "Senescallus Foreste de Bowland et Magister Forestarius dicte Foreste, necnon custos parci de Radome aliter Radham"; 18 Aug. 1660.

1. James Haryngton, knt., was associated with the Earl of Warwick's deputy in the computus of 1463, and was himself deputy of the Duke of Gloucester.



The seneschal could grant or alienate in part the advantages of his office to another. Sir Arthur Darcy, kt., was seneschal of Bowland and Quernmore by patent from the King, 35 Hen. VIII. He appointed the same year Richard Shirburne, Esq., of Stonyhurst, eldest son of Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., to the office of head steward and master of the game within these forests, together with the office of seneschal of Blackburnshire. He in his turn appointed as his deputy Richard Greenacre to the latter office, as appears by a bond of the same date in which the said Richard Greenacre agreed to pay him, his attorney or agent the sum of 200*l.* on the feast of St. Mary Magdalene next ensuing. The Crown, however, acknowledged no substitute in the office of seneschal. When issuing letters patent nominating a successor to the office, the last appointment to the office by the Crown alone was alluded to, though it had virtually been held by another person for some years.

The letters patent appointing Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., seneschal of Bowland, 16 Nov., 3 and 4 Philip and Mary (1556), recite the former ones to Sir Thomas Talbot and Sir Arthur Darcy, kts. The translation of this instrument is given nearly at length:—

Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, both the Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Burgundy, and Brabant, Counts of Hapsburgh, Flanders and Tyrol, to all &c. greeting. Whereas we, the aforesaid Queen, by other of our letters patent bearing date at Westminster the twelfth day of April in the first year of the reign of the foresaid Queen, had given and granted to our dear servant Thomas Talbot knight, amongst other offices that of Seneschal of our Forests of Bowland and Quernemore, and Master Forester of the foresaid forests and [ ] of the wild animals in each of them, parcel of our Duchy of Lancaster, in our counties of Lancaster and York: To be held, enjoyed, possessed, and exercised, the said offices &c. by the foresaid Thomas Talbot knight, by himself or his sufficient substitute or substitutes, during the natural life of the said Thomas Talbot, together with all and each of the fees, regards, profits, advantages, commodities, rights, emoluments, and liberties and whatsoever may

anyway regard and appertain to the said offices &c. To be held and received by the same Thomas Talbot knight, and his assigns &c. In as full and ample measure as Arthur Darcy knight or others &c. may have held or exercised &c. the same &c. And as appears more fully by the same letters patent, the foresaid Thomas Talbot knight entered into the foresaid offices, and that there is, and has been from that time but one person seised for the term of his natural life, and being alone seised has delivered it up into our hands in presence of the Chancellor and Counsel of our foresaid Duchy in the Court and Chancery of the same Duchy we deign to grant the foresaid offices &c. to a certain Richard Sherburne knt. in the following form.

Know therefore that we, as well in consideration of the forementioned surrender, as for the faithful and acceptable service formerly conferred and bestowed upon us and the progenitors of us the foresaid Queen, by the foresaid Richard Sherburne knt. &c. Have given and granted, and by these presents, for ourselves, the heirs and successors of our foresaid Queen, give and appoint to the foresaid Richard Sherburne Knt., the forenamed offices of Seneschal of our forests of Bowland and Quernemore, and Master Forester of the same and [ ] of the wild animals in the forenamed forests, parcel of our forenamed Duchy &c. to be held, enjoyed, occupied, and exercised, the forenamed offices, and any one of them, by the forenamed Richard Sherburne, Knt., by himself, or by his sufficient substitute, &c. during his natural life, together with all fees, regards, profits, advantages, commodities, rights, emoluments, and liberties whatsoever, that may any way regard or appertain to the forenamed offices or any one of them. To be held by the same Richard Sherburne and his assigns by his own hands &c. and to be retained in his own hands, as well as by the hands of receivers, bailiffs, and other officers or ministers whatsoever of the same, in the forenamed Counties, in as much and ample a manner as the foresaid Thomas Talbot and Arthur Darcy, or either of them, or any others &c. have held, exercised or received. In testimony of this we have granted these letters patent, given at our Palace of Westminster, under the seal of our Duchy of Lancaster, the 16th day of November the 3rd and 4th years of our reign.

Elizabeth in the first year of her reign (14 March, 1559) issued an order to Sir Richard Shirburne regarding the misapplication and waste of the timber in the forest of Bowland by the tenants:—

Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to our trusty and well-beloved Sir



Richard Sherburne knt., Steward of our forest of Bowland, parcel of our Duchy of Lancaster, in our Counties of York and Lancaster, and to his deputy there and to either of them greeting. Whereas our farmers and tenants for leases for life, for years, and at will, and within the said forest, have heretofore from time to time had delivered to them by our steward there for the time being, or his deputy, certain timber for the repair of their ancient houses, and as we be credibly informed our said farmers and tenants [ ] bestowed the same timber on and upon the new edifying and building of other new houses, so that by means whereof [ ] consumed and wasted, and also our ancient houses in very utter ruin and decay. Wherefore the premises considered and regarding the reformation of the premises, we Will and command you that you or your deputy from henceforth at any of our courts from time to time do impanel a jury of our said farmers and tenants and do give them in charge to survey only our said tenants' and farmers' houses, being ancient houses, within our said forests, and what timber shall from time to time be [ ] and [ ] for the said ancient houses, and any of them, and the said jury from time to time to certify their pretention unto you our said Steward or your deputy, or to either of you. and upon any such presentment, we send these to you, our said Steward or your deputy, to deliver all such timber to all and any our said farmers and tenants from time to time, whatever shall be found or thought by you needful and just only for the reparation of our said old houses. [ ] Made unto you our said Steward or your deputy or to either of you by the said jury and not otherwise [ ] for the building and repairing of any new house not being of ancient continuance there. [ ] you or your said deputy do from time to time certify all and every such presentment with the allowance that you shall make unto them. Thereupon from [ ] our auditors and other officers of our said Duchy for the time, to grant that view of our auditor to be holden [ ] and these our letters shall be as well to you as to your deputy and either of you from time to time. [ ] failing hereof as ye will answer [ ] at your peril, Given at our said Palace under the seal of our Duchy the xiiij day of March, in the first year of our reign.

The seal of the Duchy in red wax is attached to the above order.

The following recites the boundary of the forest of Bowland from a copy in Sir Richard Shirburne's handwriting, time of Elizabeth :—

The out-tred of the bounds of the Queen's Majesty's Forest of Bowland in the County of Lancaster, beginning at the Forest of Blesdale.

At the Queen's Majesty's forest of Blesdale, at a certain clough that devides Chepin from Blesdale, called the [ ] clough, and so following the bounds between Chepin and Bowland unto Westyn Cloughhead, and from there to green cloughhead to the height of Gadill and to the quirke of the sadyll, and to Sadyllend, and then to the end of the trepelly, then following Trepeley to Wyndehilles, and to a place called Bredeley, and to Pockock brook, and as it wends downwards to Chepien brook, and so down the mid-stream of Chepen brook, to Lowed, and so to Hodder, and so following the tred of Hoder to Hoderfoot what meets with the water of the Rybbyll.

On the same paper is the following note in the same handwriting:—

There are some of latter years that have set meares, stakes, stones, and made hills and ways, mears without commission or any authority, but have gone about, to meer parcell of her Majesty's forest of Bowland, the Queen's Majestie's own domain lands, to be parcell of other made land adjoining to the said forest of Bowland. Except it be stopped in time, and with speed, the Queen's Majesty shall lose acres at least.

The Queen on 13 July, 1576, issued a commission to Sir Richard Shirburne and others to survey the Queen's lands in the forests and wastes of Amounderness, Blesdale, Wyresdale and Bowland in the counties of Lancaster and York, whereof the tenants were willing to become copyholders. Though this is some years later in point of time, it is given here to complete the account of Bowland and the Lancashire forests as connected with Sir Richard Shirburne.

Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland &c. to our trusty and well-beloved Sir Richard Sherburne knt., Francis Samwell deputy auditor of our possessions parcel of our Duchy of Lancaster in the north part, Ralph Ashton, John Bradyl, and Brian Parker esquires and every one of them. Whereas we are informēd that our noble ancestor and Grandfather King Henry VII for the improvement of his inheritance, did in his lifetime grant commissions under the seal of the Duchy of Lancaster which by reason of his death were not so fully executed as should have been :

And for as much as we be likewise informed, that the doing of the like unto divers of our tenants in Amounderness, Blesdale, Wyresdale and Bowland in the Counties of Lancaster and York, desiring the same, will not only be very profitable to us our heirs and successors, but also very beneficial and commodious to them, and make them the more able to give us and our realm, and our country, then likely to be the better multiplied with people, a thing for the more strength and better defence of our said realm very near [        ] We therefore minding to do that therein which may tend to the benefit and commodity of ourself and our said tenants and subjects there, and the strengthening of our commonwealth, and trusting in your wisdomes, fidelity and good discretions for the better accomplishing and good consideration of the same, will and require you v, iij, iii or two of you at the least to repair yourselves at times convenient, unto our grounds and Forests of Amounderness, Blesdale, Wyresdale, and Bowland aforesaid and to view and survey our lands, tenants and possessions there, wherof our said farmers and tenants do now require to have a customary hold and estate of inheritance by copy of Court roll and also to view and survey all other our lands and waste grounds there, as the time will give; and thereupon not only to note and consider what hath been done therein heretofore by our said noble Ancestor and Grandfather King Henry VII, but also whether their request be convenient to be granted, and whether the same being so granted, any commodity will grow either to us and our heirs and successors, or to our said farmers and tenants and their posterity which being diligently viewed and considered by you, v, iij, iij, or two of you, and noted in writing with your v, iij, iii, or two of your opinions concerning the same, we will you certify under your v, iij, iii, or two of your hands and seals, unto us, in our Duchy Chamber at our Palace of Westminster before our Chancellor and Council there in the xv of St. Michael next coming; not failing hereof as we trust you. Given at our Palace of Westminster, under the seal of our Duchy, the xiii day of July in the xvij year of our reign.

## II. LEAGRAM AS A MANOR.

Some years after the letters patent of Philip and Mary disparking Leagram, Elizabeth alienated the estate to add to the possessions of her favourite Dudley, by letters patent dated June 9th, 1563. By these she granted it to Robert Lord Dudley and his heirs and assigns to hold and enjoy for ever, and to make the gift as complete as possible nothing was omitted that place or circumstances would allow, temporal or spiritual. The following are extracts:—

After mentioning the former grants of Laithgryme &c. by her father, Hen. VIII and by Philip and Mary to Sir Richard Sherburne, she gives and grants for herself heirs and successors, to Robt. Dudley knt. commonly called Robt. Lord Dudley his heirs and assigns, to hold and enjoy for ever, her Park, closure and hereditament called Lagram or Lathgryme, with the appurtenances in the lordship of Clitheroe and part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Windyhills in Bowland, "all the lands, tenements, meadows, mills, houses, edifices, barns, stables, pigeon-houses, gardens, orchards, lands, commons, wastes, moors, marshes, woods, underwoods, waters, fishponds, fishings, parks, chases, liberties of park and forest, warrens, mines, quarries, rents, reversions and services of all rents" &c. "all fee farms, franchises, knight's service, wards, marriages, reliefs, fines, glebes, tenths, pensions, portions, advowsons, donations, free dispositions, and rights of the parsonage of any churches, and also courts leet and courts baron, and all appertaining to these courts, and courts of the hundred, courts of record, cognizance of all pleas and complaints and power and authority to hold pleas of all lands, tenements, hereditaments, debts, trespasses, and constraints, and all other things whatsoever, and strayed cattle, cattle of fugitives and felons, and suicides, and all deodands, homages, tenants in villeinage and tolls, customs, dues, and all other her jurisdiction, franchises, privileges, liberties, profits, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever as well spiritual as temporal.<sup>1</sup>

1. From the exemplification of the letters patent to Robert Lord Dudley at the request of Sir Richard Sherburne, knt.; seals of the Duchy in yellow wax attached.

Leagram, which had shared the fortunes common to the rest of the possessions of the Crown in the forests of Lancashire, by this transaction saw the connexion that had so long subsisted finally severed. From henceforth it acknowledged other owners. The intimate tie existing from time immemorial with the adjoining forest or chase, excepting during the lifetime of Sir Richard Shirburne (who was seneschal of Bowland), was likewise effectually broken. Bowland itself continued for nearly one hundred years longer subject to royal masters, until granted by Charles II at the Restoration to General Monk, Duke of Albemarle, in part acknowledgment of his services.

On the 20th June, 1563, by a letter of attorney, the Queen's orders were given to Thomas Blunt, John Somerfeld, John Blunt, John Bradell, William Hudson and Alexander Rigby, to deliver possession of Leagram Park, the Lodge, and Windyhills to Robt. Lord Dudley. The same day he had a licence of alienation empowering him to sell the above estates to Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., by letters patent at Westminster. Four days later (June 24, 1563) Robt. Lord Dudley, Earl of Leicester, sold his estate of Leagram Park and Windyhills to Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., for the sum of £1,618 10s. od., by indenture of bargain and sale:—

An indenture between the right honourable Robert Duddleley of the most honourable order of the Garter knt., otherwise called Lord Robert Duddleley, Master of the Queen's Majesty's horse, upon one part, and Sir Richard Sherburne of the Stonyhurste in the County of Lancaster knight on the other, Witnesseth that the said Sovereign Lady the Queen, by her Letters Patent 9th of June the 5th year of her reign &c. for faithful and acceptable service &c. by the said Robt. Lord Duddleley did give and grant to the said Robert Lord Duddleley her Park closure &c. known as Lagram Park, otherwise as Lathgryme Park, her Lodge, houses, &c. within the compass of the said Park (lately devised by our Sovereign Lord and Lady King Philip and Queen Mary to the said Sir Ric. Sherburne knt. for a term of 80 years) and the said Robert Lord Duddleley to hold the said premises of our Sovereign Lady the Queen her heirs and successors<sup>s</sup> in capite for the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, as appears by the said



Letters Patent under her Highness' great seal of England and under the seals of her Duchy of Lancaster and County Palatine. Now the said Robert Duddeley knt. in consideration of the sum of one thousand six hundred and eighteen pounds &c. paid to the said Robt. Lord Duddeley by the said Sir Richard Sherburne knt. and fully and clearly bargaineth and selleth unto the said Sir Richard Sherburne knt. &c. all the said Park and closure called Lagram &c. also all the said messuage and tenements called Windyhills &c. now in the tenure and occupation of the said Sir Richard, to have and to hold all the said Park, closure &c. and all the Lodge houses edifices lands &c. within the circuit of the said Park. &c. and also all that said messuage or tenement called Windhills in Bowland &c. to the sole use of the said Sir Richard his heirs and assigns for ever, &c.

The deed of feoffment from Robert Lord Dudley to Sir Richard Shirburne of Leagram Park and Lodge, &c., was signed and sealed as in the preceding (29 July, 1563), but Dudley's deed of release of Leagram was not executed until four years later (29 Nov., 1567). By the above transfer the Shirburnes from having been lessees of Leagram under the Crown from the 22 Hen. VIII became now possessors in fee simple of the estate, in which family and their heirs general it has since remained.

#### THE SHIRBURNE FAMILY.

I. Sir Richard Shirburne and his family had been long intimately connected with Leagram, as well as with the forest of Bowland and its other park of Radholme, as has already been shown.

Sir Richard Shirburne, besides being possessed at this time of Leagram in his own right, was lieutenant or master forester of the adjoining forest or chase of Bowland. It would seem that when Leagram was disparked the deer were so reduced in quantity that few or none remained on it. Two years later, having the command of the forest as well as of the park, he had the means at hand of replenishing its coverts, and accordingly shortly after its purchase, Leagram was reputed to be well stocked with deer, both red and fallow, and

calves and fawns were yearly bred in its precincts. He is said to have carried out the laws of the forest with rigour, punishing with severity all infractions of her Majesty's rights, and equally so all depredators on his own property of Leagram. Though the park had been disparked to enable the tenants to use the land for pasture and crops more conveniently and without loss, Sir Richard Shirburne, being the lessee and afterwards the owner in fee, could do as he pleased, and apparently but little progress was made in agriculture or inclosing additional land for some time. Anyway a respectable head of deer might be and were kept, and probably not much to the prejudice of the existing cultivation. The sum total given for the estate to the Earl of Leicester plainly indicates that the enclosed lands were of very limited extent, and the rents proportionally small.

Sir Richard Shirburne died 26 July, 1594. He was a man of great worship and position in his county, and well considered and trusted during a long life by the different Sovereigns whose subject he successively became, holding through their favour many important trusts and offices.

At the death of his father Thomas Shirburne of Stonyhurst, Esq., in 1536, while High Sheriff of Lancashire, he was 13 years old. His marriage was soon arranged for. By an indenture 6 Oct., 1538, between Thos. Holcroft, Esq., on one part, and Dame Margaret Bold, widow of Sir Richard Bold, kt., on the other, it was agreed that the marriage of Richard Shirburne, Esq., son and heir of Thomas Shirburne, Esq., deceased, with Maud Bold, one of the daughters of the said Dame Margaret, should take place before the Feast of All Saints next coming; the said Dame Margaret to pay 420 marks to the said Thomas Holcroft, and the said Thomas Holcroft during the nonage of the said Richard Shirburne, to find him one coat for the summer, and another for winter use. The said Thomas Holcroft was to give 40s. a year during nonage.

At an early age he distinguished himself in arms. Having

joined the expedition into Scotland, in 1544, he was knighted by the Earl of Hertford after the battle of Leith with many other Lancashire gentlemen.

In 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, he represented Preston in Parliament with Jo. Leyland, Esq. He was returned also for the same borough 2 and 4 Phil. and Mary, with Sir Robt. Southwell, kt. He was appointed the same year by Philip and Mary steward and master forester of the forests of Bowland and Quernemore.

The Queen's commission, 3 July, 1585, appointed Henry, Earl of Derby, to be lord lieut. of the county of Chester and city of Chester, as well as of the county of Lancaster, and commanded that her trusty and well-beloved Sir John Biron and Sir Richard Shirburne, kts., should be his deputies in the county of Lancaster.

A great intimacy seems to have existed between Sir Richard Shirburne and Edward, Earl of Derby, which was probably strengthened by the marriage of his son Richard, after his elder brother's death, to Catherine, daughter of Lord Stourton by Lady Ann Stanley, sister to the earl. He was held in great esteem by him, and filled the honorary post of steward of his household, a distinction much considered in the county at that time. For his services to the earl he was rewarded with many advantages and honourable trusts and appointments. On 22 July, 1555, the earl granted by letters patent to Sir Richard Shirburne the custody of Greenhalgh Castle and Park for his life with the fees. On 1 July, 1567, he had a grant from the same of the stewardship of Bolton in Lonsdale, the stewardship of the wapentake of Ewecross, and the master-forestership of the chase of Ingleborough. Sir Richard Shirburne was lieut. of the Isle of Man, under the earl as Lord of Man and the Isles.

He added largely to the house at Stonyhurst, or more properly commenced a new house on a large scale, the oldest and principal part of the present edifice. By his last will, dated Oct. 2, 1593, the year previous to his death, he specially



left to his son all his iron to finish the building already begun, and all the lead provided to cover the house, that he should cover the same, as far as it would extend, and use all the building stone and wrought timber at Stonyhurst for the same purpose.

Sir Richard Shirburne likewise erected a family chapel on the site of a more ancient one at his parish church of Mitton. In the vault underneath he was afterwards buried. A handsome table monument bearing the recumbent effigies of the knight and his lady, with a commemorative inscription on the edge of the slab, occupies a central position in the chapel. His wife, Maud Bold, daughter of Sir Richard Bold, died 10 Nov., 1588. Sir Richard had by her four sons and three daughters:—

1. Thomas Shirburne, who died before his father.
2. Richard Shirburne, who married three times (see below).
3. Hugh Shirburne.
4. Thomas Shirburne, founder of the Shirburne family of Twistleton; = a daughter of —. Edmonton, Esq.
  1. Maria, = Thomas Fleetwood, Esq.
  2. Elizabeth, = John Edwards, Esq.
  3. Margaret, = Lawrence Towneley of Barnside near Colne, Esq.

Sir Richard Shirburne was succeeded in the possession of Leagram and the family estates by his eldest surviving son, Richard Shirburne, Esq.

#### A FOREST RIGHTS DISPUTE.

After the death of Sir Richard Shirburne the lieutenancy of the forest was granted to Sir Richard Hoghton of Hoghton, kt. He was nearly connected by marriage to Richard Shirburne, who now succeeded to the possession of Leagram, he having taken as his second wife the widow of Thomas Hoghton, Esq., and mother to Sir Richard Hoghton. This did not prevent differences arising between the parties.

Richard Shirburne, following the example of his father,

made use of the deer in Leagram according to his pleasure, though by doing so he often killed deer that had only come from the forest to feed. This, if done continuously, would soon greatly diminish the forest herd. Had this been the custom of Sir R. Shirburne when lieutenant of the forest, his office would protect him from complaint; but with his successor the case was different. The new lieutenant soon perceived a diminution of the game, and viewed Mr. Shirburne's proceedings with increasing dissatisfaction, which culminated immediately after the accession of James I in open quarrel, and a contest was inaugurated from this time between the parties which lasted for some years.

Mr. Shirburne claimed, as owner of Leagram, the right to kill the deer found within its precincts whether they came from the forest or not. Sir Richard Hoghton, on the part of the Crown, complained that Mr. Shirburne by doing so killed the King's deer, and that he would not allow himself nor his keepers to enter Leagram to do the same or drive them out again. Sir Richard denied also that any deer were bred in Leagram, but that they were only his Majesty's deer come out of the forest to feed there.

The controversy from the position of the parties aroused great interest and excitement throughout the district, leading to much quarrelling and commotion between their respective servants and dependents in the locality giving rise to the disagreement, fomenting besides much ill-will between two families who from relationship and intimate acquaintance ought to have been on most friendly terms. Many endeavours were consequently made by their neighbours to compromise and arrange their quarrel, but without effect.

Sir Richard Hoghton having at last brought his complaint before the Duchy courts the Chancellor (Sir John Fortescue, kt.) issued a commission to examine and report upon the matter.

The arbitrators appointed by the Chancellor were the following gentlemen:—Sir Thos. Fairfax of Denton in the

county of York, kt., John Ireland of the Hutt, Ralph Ashton of Lever, Lawrence Lyster of Thornton, John Calvert of Cockerham, Nicholas Banister of Altham, and John Talbot Bashall, Esqs. The commissioners met at Whalley accordingly, and being all friends and mostly neighbours of both parties were anxious to bring the matter to a close without offending either. They therefore endeavoured to persuade the Chancellor that it was a trivial affair, and a great pity to interfere further into it, as likely to cause much controversy and bad feeling between persons of very great worship and credit and nearly related by marriage. Richard Shirburne promised to do his best for the preservation of the King's deer in the forest of Bowland, as appears more fully in the letter from the commissioners to the Chancellor touching their proceedings at Whalley:—

For Sir John Fortescue knight,

One of the King's Majesty's Most Hon'ble Privy Council  
& Chancellor of his Highness' Duchy of Lancaster.

Pleaseth it your honour to be advertised that we whose names be hereunto subscribed, receiving his Majesty's commission forth of his Highness' Court of the Duchy of Lancaster unto us and Mr. Auditor Fanshaw directed for the examination of certain supposed misdemeanors, heretofore by information to his Majesty suggested by Sir Richard Houghton knt. against Richard Shirburne Esq. for killing his Majesty's deer of the forest of Bowland, within the Park of Laigrame, and by petition and articles presented to his Highness in excuse thereof the same Richard Sherburne against the said Sir Richard Houghton his under-officers and servants, we appointed the 6th day of this instant October at Whalley to sit in examination of the same his Majesty's commission, and intending the examination thereof. And calling the said parties before us and hearing at large their several allegations and grievances we could not (for anything appearing unto us by any manner of credible information, the truth whereof to find out we endeavoured by all convenient means other than by oath) be satisfied that either the said Sir Richard Houghton or Richard Shirburne is, or be, anyways to be touched as offenders in any such degree or manner as the heat of some discontented conceits grounded upon misinformations made to themselves seem to purport; and in regard that by that court of examination by us herein holden

we are satisfied, if it should have appeared, by examination of witnesses upon corporal oath by us to have been taken, that any under-officers were to be taxed or charged with any kind of misdemeanors in any sort complained of, yet that the same were and would have fallen out to be matters of small importance and within the late most gracious pardon of the King's most excellent Majesty (the offense, if any such were, being committed in her late Majesty's time), the examining thereof (albeit of never so little touched in . . .) would have tended to the increasing of much debate and controversies between the said parties, they being persons of very great worship and credit, and nearly bound and linked by marriage and otherwise in friendship and alliance. And for that the said Richard Shirburne of his own accord before us promiseth and yieldeth all duty and endeavour (as he protesteth ever he hath) for preservation and safety of his Majesty's game within the said chase or forest of Bowland, we, moved with these considerations, have made bold at this time to forbear to proceed to the examinations of his Majesty's said commission until your honour upon consideration hereof shall otherwise direct and appoint in that behalf; the which if your honour shall not hold to be fit (the premisses considered) we rest in all duty to be further in that commanded as to your Honour shall be thought meet. And so we humbly take our leave. From Whalley the 6th day of October [1603].

Your honor's to be commanded.

THOS. FAIRFAX, JNO. IRELAND, RA. ASHTON,  
JOHN TALBOTTE, LAWRENCE LYSTER, JO. CALVERT,  
NICHOLAS BANISTER.

The foregoing letter appears to have been of no avail. The plaintiff on the part of the Crown was not satisfied. The Chancellor a few days later ordered the commissioners to meet again at Whalley. They did so accordingly, and having had both the parties before them and taken depositions on oath, came to the decision that Richard Shirburne should use the game within the park of Leagram so that it should not be hurtful to the game of his Majesty's forest or chase of Bowland. The award runs thus:

To all Christian people to whom this present award indented shall come to be seen, redd, or hard, Sir Thomas Fairfax of Denton in the County of Yorke, knight, John Ireland of the Hutt, Ralph Asheton

of Leaver, Lawrence Lyster of Thornton, John Calvert of Cockerham, Nicholas Banester of Altham, and John Talbott of Bashall Esquires send gretinge in our Lord God everlastinge. Whereas certain very unkind controversies have been lately by way of petition to his Mat'ie and otherwise moved and depending between Sir Richard Houghton knight and Richard Shirburne Esquier the which semeth unto us by very credible information to have originally grown and arisen by some synister conceits and misinformations, sett forward the rather by the abetement or procurement of some persons not duly consideringe or desiringe the good and quyett agremente of the said persons, their houses and posterities, they being lynked in very near bonds of friendship and amity. The due consideration whereof by the urgente persuasion and means of sundry their worshipfull and good friends hath so much prevailed with the said parties that they have absolutely condiscended to passe their faithfull promises to abyde and performe such order and award as we the aforementioned Persons Arbitrators in this behalf should upon consideration of their several alligations and informations thinke fitt and sett downe as our order award and judgmente upon and concerninge the matters so in debate and controversy between them. And hereupon we the before-named Arbitrators taking upon us the care and charge of the same arbitrements, and having called both the said parties before us, and deliberately harde their causes of grevance and informed ourselves touching the material substance hereof by the credible information of sundry very sufficiente and credible persons and fyndinge also that there ys no prejudice proposed or intended by any of the said parties to the King's Majestie's game or deare within his Highness's Forest or chase of Bollande but all dutifull and respective regard desired and intended for the preservation thereof by all due means to the principall and uttermoste indeavors of the said parties, have thought yt fitt and for a fynall ending of the said controversies thinke yt fitt and do hereby publishe declare and pronounce our award order and arbitrement between the said parties concerninge the said controversies in manner and form ensuinge—that is to say that the said Richard Shirburne shall so use the game within the Park of Laygrame as that yt shall not be hurtfull to his Majesties game of the Forest or chase of Bollande but rather helpfull for the nourishinge and increase thereof, and that henceforth the said parties shall be accorded and lovingly agreed.

In Wytnes Whereof unto this parte of this our award indented we the before named Arbitrators have sett our handes and seales, the twelfth daye of October 1603, and in the firste yeare of the raigne of



our most gracious Sovraigne Lord James by the Grace of God King of England, France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c. and of Scotland the seaven and thirteenth.

THO. FAIRFAX, JOHN IRELAND, RA. ASHETON,  
LAURENS LYSTER, JO. CALVERT, NICHOLAS BANESTER,  
JOHN TALBOTT.

Notwithstanding that both parties had "absolutely condescended to pass their faithful promises to abide and perform such order and award" it would seem their "condescension" was only in view of its being satisfactory, which unfortunately they did not consider to be the case. Neither thought his own grievance met, and accordingly the threatened appeal to law became an inevitable necessity. Mr. Shirburne's brief explains the case and argument:

An information exhibited by Mr. Attorney General of the Relation of Sir Richard Houghton, knight and Baronet pl<sup>t</sup> against Richard Sherburne Esquier defentt.

*The effect of the information.*

Shewing that his Majesty is seised in fee in right of his Duchy of the forest and chase of Bolland and of the Park of Radholme and of and in free chace and feed for his Majesty's deer of the said forest or chase in all the enclosures and inclosed grounds called Laithgrime, which lieth within the bounds, mears and limits of the forest and chase and is parcel of the said forest or chase and within the liberty thereof.

That the same neither is nor ever was severed or . . . from the forest but the deer have always feed there.

That there have been not game nor deer bred in Laithgrim but only the deer of the forest.

That the defendant hath unlawfully entered and intruded in and upon his Highness's liberties of the said forest or chase, and hath unlawfully hunted and killed divers of his Majesty's deer in Laithgrim.

That he withstandeth the said Sir Richard, being his Majesty's Lieutenant of the forest, and the underkeepers and foresters of the forest and chase and will not suffer them to have access to the said grounds called Laithgrime and to view the game or chase or rechase the game as time out of mind they have done.

*The Answer.*

That the liberties of Bowland time out of mind hath been a chase but not a forest.

That there hath always been a park called Laithgrim Park, abutting in one part to the said chase, and that the same hath always been employed as a park of red and fallow deer, and hath been and is distinct in office charge, and fee, from the said chase.

That the late Queen Elizabeth was seized as well of the chase as of the park, and being seized by her highness' letters patent in 5th year of her reign did grant Laithgrim Park *cum membris* unto Robt. Lord Dudley, Earl of Leicester, in fee as largely as she or any other her progenitors had the same.

That the said earl for good considerations in 5 Eliz. conveyed the same to Sir Richard Shirburne and his heirs.

That Sir Richard Shirburne conveyed the same to use of himself for life and after to the use of the defendt. in tail; by force whereof he is seised.

That the said park hath always been used in severalty as a park; but that some part thereof was not so fenced but that the deer of other grounds might have recourse, and the rather, for that his father was officer of the one and owner of the other.

That he hath laboured to keep the same severall until he was hindered by the relator.

It seemeth that of ancient time, before the creation of the County Palatine of Lancaster, this inheritance of the free chase of Bolland did belong to the Crown, and was granted to the King's mother then being to hold for life, saving the reversion to the King and his heirs (in 3 Ed. III); and that the same was a free chase and no forest, as appeareth by the Register *ad quod damnum* fol. 258, where the same is termed a free chase and where and in the same title of *ad quod damnum* fol. 257, the difference is manifest between the *ad quod damnum* sued forth concerning the liberties for the enclosing or renting of any part of a forest and the writ of *ad q'd damnum* sued forth concerning the enclosing or renting of any part of a chase. The first is always directed to the justice *vel custodi foreste*, and the enquiry is by oath of the foresters, regarders, verderers and others, and the enclosures without restraint, for the manner of offence or reservation of any liberty for the chase within the parcel enclosed.

It doth not appear that the said chase was ever since made by letters patent and proclaimed by the sheriff for a forest, and officers of verderers regarders and agisters, as in creation of forests, made within

time of memory as by law required. Howbeit in divers records of the Duchy the same liberty is often and most usually called the forest or chase of Bolland, viz. in the accounts and patents of the officers of the same liberties.

Upon one part of the said forest or chase one park or ground enclosed called Laithgrim Park doth adjoin, but whether the same be within Bolland or no, is the question; for by the lease of 2 & 3 Phil. and Mary hereafter mentioned it is leased as lying in Bolland, and by the purchase of the inheritance the reversion is granted accordingly, and with a further grant in possession supposing it to lie in Dominio de Clitheroe; and it is said to be out of the known mears and boundaries of Bolland and yet it payeth taxes with the possessions of Bolland for so much of Bolland as is in Lancashire.

This park or ground enclosed by all the time of memory until 2 & 3 Phil. and Mary was used and reputed as a park and several liberty in itself, distinct from the liberties of Bolland by . . . officers and fees. Howbeit the same park and the same liberty of Bolland by all the time of memory of anything that appeareth to the contrary have been in our hands, viz. since the creation of the Duchy of Lancaster with the same Duchy and before as parcel of the possessions of the Crown; and yet the officers thereof have been several in charges and in fees, for there [were] always until 2 & 3 as aforesaid as well keepers of the park and fees to them belonging as masters of the forest or chase aforesaid and . . . fees to them belonging.

King Philip and Queen Mary 2 & 3 of their reigns reciting by letters patent under the seal of the County Palatine of Lancaster by warrant of a bill . . . that their Park of Lagrim in Bolland, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, was decayed in game and in wood, so that there was not sufficient to repair the pales of the said park, and in respect of the great charge [there] would be in the repairing of the pales of the same park, here followeth: Nos premissa considerantes pro causis supradictis et pro aliis volumus et decrevimus dictum parcum disparcare et in culturam et husbandriam redigere et convertere. Sciatis igitur quod nos de gratia nostra speciali ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris tradimus &c. unto Richard Shyreburne Knight, all our lands, meadows &c. with all profits and advantages jacent' infra circuitum cumbitum et proximitatem dicti Parci nostri de Laithgryme alias Lagram Park in Bolland et parcella possessionum of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the lodge within the park, and one tenement adjoining the park by special . . . great trees excepted habend' omnia et singula predicta mesuagia. . . unto the said Sir Richard Shirburne from the Feast of St. Michael then last past, for



80 years then next following, yielding xxvili xixs vid—viz. for the lands and premises within the circuit of the Park xxvili vs vid and for the other xiiijs, with covenants for the farmer to repair the lodge and other husbandry, houses to be built upon the premises, with liberty for the farmer and his assignes during the term to take fyrebote, hedgebote, plowbote in and upon the premises growing, and here to be spent, and to have housebote waynbote and great timber by the delivery of the officers of the forest or chase of Bolland without determining out of what place the same shall be assigned.

And in the same lease is an express grant and liberty unto the farmer and his assignes to enclose the said park and all the grounds within the same with sure and so many hedges and ditches as they think good and the same to reduce and bring to tillage pasture or husbandry, and the same to use in sowing of corn, or feeding of cattle for their profit and the same to continue during the said term without impediment of the said King or Queen or of the successors of the Queen.

After which, 5th Eliz., her Majesty reciting the said lease as a demise of all the lands within the circuit of the said park in Bolland, granted the reversion of the same to the Earl of Leicester the Lord Dudley, and his heirs, and further by the same letters patent amongst many other manors parks and lands granteth unto him and his heirs all that her park called Lagram with the lordship of Clitheroe in Com. Lanc. and all those lands within the said park and likewise the lodge and tenement by special. . . . And by the same letters patent is granted further to the said Lord Dudley and his heirs and assignes that he and they from henceforth may have and use from henceforth within all and every the premises within every part thereof. . . .

The Lord Dudley afterwards, viz. the same year of 5th Eliz. by deed bargaineth and selleth all that the said park closure and hereditaments within the circuit of the same park to Sir Richard Shirburne and his heirs, who ever sithence hath preserved game and deer here and officers and keepers to look to the said park and game.

The said park or enclosed ground then and long before was, and so as yet continueth, enclosed and fenced by ditches and hedges, but so as the deer of the said forest or chase of Bolland may at their pleasure usually come into the said park or ground of Laithgrym at or in such parts of the said park or enclosed ground as do confine or adjoin upon the said forest or chase; and there are and have been in and ever sithence Queen Mary's time yearly deer bred and remaining in the said park or enclosed ground called Lagram. And

now information being given to the King's Maj'ty that great spoil hath been made of his Highness' game in his Highness' park of Lagram, his Highness hath signified by letter that his Highness' pleasure is to restrain all killing of deer in his Highness' park of Laithgrim for three years then following.

*The questions considered are as follows:*

1. Whether upon the whole matter the liberty of Bolland be to be holden as a forest or chase.

2. Whether the park of Laithgrym [be] actually disparked both in possession and reversion, or for either, and whether of them by the lease of 80 years before mentioned.

3. If the same were wholly disparked by the lease, and the entire liberty of the park as touching the inheritance of the liberty dissolved by the same lease.

Then if the same ground do lie within the circuit of the same forest or chase is to be considered :

1. Whether the same lands so leased were during the said term freed from the liberty of the chase or was hereby disparked.

2. Or whether the reversion after the same lease ended or determined be free from the liberties of the said forest or chase; or by the ceasing of the liberty of the park, by which the same grounds were freed and exempted from the same forest or chase, do then return subject and as a member or parcel of, within the liberty of the said forest or chase.

3. And whether the same be not presently, by the extinguishment of the term in respect of the purchase of the reversion, not free by reason the liberty of the park was determined.

4. Whether if the park were actually disparked as before said, the letters patent are of such force to the patentee of the reversion, as the same shall be as a park to him his heirs and his assigns either by way of interest, as a park in reversion, expectant upon land disparked in possession, or otherwise, as a liberty to make a park hereafter, or else that the same be a present grant of such liberties of a park, to be incident to the reversion, as at any time before used with the possession.

5. Whether the liberty of the park being granted to the reversion shall presently extend to the possession upon the extinguishment of the term of years by the purchase of the reversion.

6. Whether after the said charter or letters patent of 5th [Eliz.] aforesaid the said park or enclosed ground do lie or is within the liberty of the said forest or chase, or that the patentee be by the law

bound to enclose the same so as the deer of the forest or chase cannot come into the said park or enclosed ground, or may kill any deer of the forest coming here.

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| <p>1. Si Bolland soit forrest ou chase.</p> <p>2. Si Laigram soit Parke.</p> <p>3. Si Laigram soit parcel de Bolland.</p> <p>4. Si Laigram soit tout . . . dispark per lease.</p> <p>5. Si par lease se soit hors de charge de forrest.</p> <p>6. Si soit in chardge per purchase de inheritance.</p> <p>7. Si Park soit Reveve per grant de Reversion et per le Patentee compellable de inclose.</p> | <p>1. par les vieles Records est forrest ou chase.</p> <p>2. pr les veiles Records prouve ces un parke.</p> <p>3. les depositions le boundarie de Bolland.</p> <p>4. dispark tout.</p> |
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*Proof ex parte Dñi Regis.*

That they have known the forest of Bolland in the county of York and Lancaster for the space of 30 years, and that it hath been called by the name of a forest.

James Parker.  
 James Parkinson.  
 John Parker.  
 Hen. Bleasdale.  
 Willm. Baines.  
 Thomas Turner.  
 John Threlfall.

That they have known enclosed grounds called Legram in the occupation of deft. and that they are environed from a . . . called the Church . . . to the foot of Chippen brook with the forest of Bolland . . .

James Parker.  
 James Parkinson.  
 John Parker.  
 Hen. Bleasdale.  
 Thos. Turner.  
 John Threlfall.  
 Ric. Marsden.  
 Robt. Parker.

That Chippen brook where upon these grounds called Legram Park do abut hath been reputed to be the boundary of the said forest.

James Parkinson.

That these grounds called Legram have been walled or paled round about with old pales, yet never so but that the deer of the said forest might come in and go forth.

James Parker.

James Parkinson.

John Parker.

Hen. Bleasdale.

Thos. Turner.

That there have been deer bred in the said forest of Bolland, but never of any that have come from other places. That there is great decay and spoil of deer and by that means there is no such great store of deer as there was in Sir Richard Shirburne's time.

James Parker.

James Parkinson.

John Parker.

Willm. Baines.

John Threlfall.

Ric. Marsden.

That the officers or keepers of the forest of Bolland have had liberty to pursue the coursed and stricken deer fled into the grounds called Laygram, and if any were killed the said keepers used to take the same without gain saying of any . . . .

James Parker.

James Parkinson.

John Parker.

Thos. Turner.

That if the owner of Laithgrime might be permitted to kill all the deer that come into the grounds called Laithgrime [it] would shortly destroy all the Kings Majesty's game.

James Parker.

James Parkinson.

Willm. Baines.

Thos. Turner.

That some of the inhabitants of Laithgrime in Sir Richard Sherburne knight his time have done suit and service at the court of woodmote and swainmote of the said forest, kept yearly at Whitewell in Bolland, and there did service upon juries.

James Parker.

James Parkinson.

John Parker.

That the inhabitants of Laithgryme have ever paid taxes and gawdes assessed by Parliament or otherwise rateably with the inhabitants of that part of the said forest of Bolland being within the county of Lancaster.

James Parker.  
James Parkinson.  
John Parker.  
Hen. Bleasdale.  
—. Bleasdale.  
Ric. Marsden.

That as he hath heard when Sir Richard Sherburne purchased the same it was thoroughly disparked and the deer driven out, and that afterwards affidavit was made by the said Sir Richard Sherburne that there were few or no deer left, but since his said purchase there was great store of deer both red and fallow which came forth of the forest of Bolland.

James Parker cannot depose  
but as before in his first  
part he hath set down.  
Willm. Baines.

That Sir Richard Sherburne knight deceased, being Master Forester of Bolland, hath divers times punished the persons for killing deer in Laithgrime, but whether in her Majesty's right or in his right, knoweth not.

James Parker.  
John Parkinson (makes men-  
tion of one Cooke that was  
punished for stealing of  
one deer).  
Christopher Parkinson.

That the deer that are hunted and stricken do sometimes fly into the forest of Bolland and into Chaidgley, confining upon the said Park.

James Parker.  
Thos. Turner.

That the inhabitants of Laithgrim do yearly pay tithes or money in consideration for tithes to deft. who payeth the same to Thomas Parker gent., farmer to Ralph Ashton Esqre, and the tithes of that part of the forest in the county of Lancaster.

James Parker cannot depose.  
John Parker.  
Thos. Turner.  
Ric. Marsden.

That this deponent with others about fifteen or sixteen years ago in the night were in the forest of Bolland to have hunted and killed ; but missing there, they went to Laithgrim Park and there hearing that her Majesty's officers of Bolland were laid to watch them they departed for fear they should have been apprehended.

Willm. Barnes.

That Richard Marsden, Gilbert Marsden, Roger Startivant, James Fletcher, & James Parkinson have been called to appear at woodmote or swainmote courts of the said forest, yearly kept at Whitewell, and that this deponent Marsden hath appeared and the rest presented for not appearing ; and that he hath paid tithes to Mr. Parker due within the said forest of Bolland which [is] in the chapelry of the Castle parish of Clitheroe, parcel of the rectory of Whalley.

James Parkinson.

Thos. Turner.

John Threlfall.

Ric. Marsden.

That during the time of this deponent's remembrance, the deer of the forest of Bowland have used to come and go out of the grounds of Laigram at their pleasures, and that there have been salters and lopps made for the purpose.

Willm. Barnes.

That this deponent without licence of Sir Richard Sherburne, then being the Master Forester of Bowland and owener of the grounds of Lathgrim, killed a brace of deer. Which presently came to the forester's ears ; whereupon he caused them to be served with a privy seal to appear in the Duchy Chamber to answer the offence committed.

Willm. Barnes.

Xtofr Parkinson.

*Ex parte defen'tis.*

That they knew the said Park called Laigram alias Laithgrim Park, and as they think it doth not lie within the precincts or liberty of Bolland.

James Fletcher.

Richard Dobson.

John Hayhurst.

Jo. Cromblyholme.

Charles Shuttleworth.

That Laygrim Park is an exempted and distinct thing from the forest of Bolland and that neither any officer or master forester had



anything to do there, until Sir Richard Sherburne purchased the same.

James Fletcher.  
Ric. Dobson.  
Jo. Hayhurst.  
Jo. Cromblyholme.  
Charles Shuttleworth.  
Jo. Waller.

That they have seen Laigram Park empaled with a pale of wood, and divers salters left therein for the deer to come out of the forest, and that the defendt hath begun to fence with a strong wall and rails to enclose the same park.

James Fletcher.  
Ric. Dobson.  
Jo. Hayhurst.  
Jo. Cromblyholme.  
Charles Shuttleworth.  
John Waller.

That the walls and rails notwithstanding is reputed the boundary between Laigram and Bolland, and the fence where the old pale stood between the copyhold land of Loud Mythum and the head of Laithgrim towards the north is a mile long.

James Fletcher.  
Ric. Dobson.  
Jo. Hayhurst.  
Charles Shuttleworth.

That the plaintive and defendt are inheritors of some houses and lands and grounds lying on the west part of Laigram and Chippin brook; that James Wood, Roger Startivant, John Waller, and Ric. Marsden have lands of their own; that the said lands do lie within Chippin, and not in the forest or chase of Bolland within the parish of the castle of Clitheroe, and that the farmers of Chippin have tithe out of the same lands.

James Fletcher.  
Ric. Dobson.  
Jo. Hayhurst.  
Charles Shuttleworth.  
John Waller.

That they never knew that the officers or keepers used to drive the



deer here into the forest of Bowland, or did ever kill or hunt deer within the park of Laygrim.

James Fletcher.  
 Ric. Dobson.  
 Jo. Hayhurst.  
 Jo. Cromblyholme.  
 Charles Shuttleworth.  
 Thos. Turner.  
 James Parkinson.  
 Jo. Waller.  
 Jo. Parker.

That they never knew or heard that the late Queen's Maj'ty nor the King's Maj'ty warrants that now is, or of either of their highness's officers warrants of Duchy of Lancaster, heretofore granted for deer in Bolland, were ever sued in the park called Laithgrime.

James Fletcher.  
 Jo. Hayhurst.  
 Jo. Cromleyholme.  
 Tho. Turner.  
 Jas. Parkinson.  
 Jo. Waller.  
 Jo. Parker.

They never knew any the tenants inhabitants within the park called Laygram did ever appear or sue at any courts holden in the forest of Bolland, but appeared and sued at the court of Clitheroe.

James Fletcher.  
 Jo. Hayhurst.  
 Ric. Parkinson.  
 Jo. Cromleyholme.  
 Tho. Turner.  
 James Parker.  
 Jo. Waller.  
 John Parker.

That the park of Laygrim hath been used and kept ever for breeding and feeding of deer, red and fallow, and keepers kept to look to the same; that there hath been yearly calves and fawns bred

there, until the defendt's keeper was put out; and that now there is few or none at all remaining, neither stag, buck, nor other deer.

James Fletcher.

Ric. Parkinson.

Jo. Hayhurst.

Jo. Cromleyholme.

James Parkinson.

Jo. Waller.

John Parker.

That this deponent never killed (nor any other to his knowledge) any deer in the said Park unlawfully; but that one Edward Bond and this deponent, walking in the said park, found a doe killed, but knoweth not by whom it was so killed, and that Bond bestowed it on his neighbours.

James Parkinson.

Willm. Cloniger (that he with one Livesey and Beesley killed a doe in Leygrym Park in the night time).

That he knoweth not how they pay their taxes and gaulds; but saith when he was constable of Chippin, he received taxes and gaulds of one Waller and Startivant and that he paid rent to Mr. Parker.

James Parkinson.

That this deponent was in company when Will'm Barnes, when he was brought before Sir Richard Sherburne for the . . . [taking] of deer in Leygrime Park, where he kneeled down to the said Sir Richard intreating him to forgive him his offence. Sir Rich'd Sherburne being very angry bade him kneel to the Queen's Maj'ty and not to him, for that he had offended her in stealing her Maj'ty's deer in Bolland; and for killing his deer in Laygrym he would punish him himself.

Ric. Dobson.

Mr. Shirburne, in order to prevent the deer of the forest entering Leagram, had commenced to fence the park with a strong wall and rail. This, however, did not suit the complainant, who insisted on the right of the forest deer to feed there. He accordingly procured an injunction to restrain him from so fencing during the continuance of the proceedings. Mr. Shirburne, disregarding it and proceeding still with his

wall, he was commanded to desist in a letter from the King through Lord Gerard, the Chancellor of the Duchy, dated 17 June, 1605 :

*By the King.*

We greet you well, and whereas variance is depending before our Chancellor and Council of our Duchy of Lancaster in our Duchy Chamber at our Palace of Westminster between us and you Richard Sherburne, Esqre, being for and concerning our ground or park commonly called Lathgryme Park in the County of Lancaster; but for as much as it was contested in open court, as well on our behalf as on yours the said Richard Sherburne, that the said park or ground doth adjoin to our forest or chase of Bolland, and that same park or ground is not so fenced, nor hath not been for many years, but that our deer of the said forest may and do at pleasure come into the said ground or park to feed there without any interruption or chasing away from the same; and when it was also ordered that the matter touching the state of the said cause should be respited until the hearing of the same; yet notwithstanding you the said Richard Sherburne, contrary to the true meaning of the said order and our pleasure therein signified to you, are about to wall and fence the same otherways than the same hath been walled or fenced for the space of forty years, both in contempt of us and also to our prejudice; Wherefore we will and command and also straitly charge and enjoin you the said Richard Sherburne and all and every your workmen, servants, factors, and agents and every other of them, immediately upon the sight or knowledge therof, as well upon pain of 20li levied of your lands, rents, goods, and chattels, and of the lands, rents, goods and chattels of every of yours, to our use, and also upon pain of our displeasure, forthwith to cease and stay, and no further to proceed in the walling or fencing of the said ground otherways than it hath been by the space of forty years last past, until our pleasure shall be therein signified to the contrary, or that you the said Richard Sherburne be otherwise licenced for the fencing of the same by us or by our said Chancellor and council. Not failing hereof, as we trust you and yours and every of you will answer to the contrary at your peril. Given at our Palace, under the seal of our said Duchy the seventeenth day of June, in the third year of our reign of England, France and Ireland and of Scotland the eight and thirtieth.

To Richard Sherburne, Esq.

GERARD.

The King's letter effectually stopped Mr. Shirburne continuing the wall, and Leagram remained open to the inroads of the deer, without its being in his power whilst the law proceedings lasted to take any other means of getting rid of them.

Sir Richard Hoghton (who had been created a baronet by the King) and his son Sir Gilbert Hoghton, kt., on one side, and Mr. Shirburne and his son Richard on the other, carried on the suit about the park and other matters which had grown out of it, into various courts, and finally into the Star-chamber, without coming to any decision. At length, after more than fourteen years of litigation, Richard Shirburne obtained in the Chamber of the Duchy Court at Westminster an exemplification of an order of dismissal of information brought against him by Sir Richard Hoghton, in which, after recapitulating the complaint of both parties, it goes on to say :

And whereas heretofore upon several motions made on his Majesty's behalf several injunctions have been granted against the defendant and all other his servants, officers, and agents, as well to restrain the said defendant and all others under him or his title, from hunting chasing killing or intermeddling with any deer of or within the said park called Lathgrime Park, or any the grounds called Lathgrime, and from walling fencing, or making several the said park from the said forest or chase; and also [enjoining] the defendant and his servants officers and keepers to permit and suffer the said relator and all others the under-foresters or keepers of the said forest or chase to view, chase, or re Chase the deer feeding or being in the said park called Lathgryme; and also restraining all suits at the common law for or concerning any trespass or other matter done within the said park called Lathgrime Park, and further as by the same injunction appeareth. And whereas after full examination of witnesses taken in this cause and publication thereof had, the same cause hath often been heard but no final order herein taken, and whereas by order of the viii of February last Tuesday the ninth day of this instant May was appointed for the hearing and final determining of the said cause; upon which day the defendant being ready with his council for the hearing of the said cause, but no one for his Majesty did attend, further day was given to the said relator to show cause at or before this day why the said injunctions should not be

dissolved; Now forasmuch as the said defendant did again attend all the day in court with his council ready to give this court satisfaction, and to maintain his answer the title therein as well by many ancient records of his [ ] and others his Majesty's records, as also by ancient evidences and many proofs, and neither the said relator nor any other for his Majesty did attend: Therefore it is ordered by the Chancellor and Council of this Court that all and every the said injunctions and all other injunctions granted in this cause be from henceforth dissolved, and that the said defendant be clearly dismissed this court; saving unto his Majesty his heirs and successors, in the right of his Duchy of Lancaster, all such rights and title as he or they shall have or hereafter lawfully pretend to have [to] all or any the premisses contained in the said information, anything hereby contained or any order to the contrary notwithstanding &c.

GERARD.

Though the case was dismissed and all former injunctions against Mr. Shirburne removed, the matters in dispute remained unsettled, and the defendant liable at any time to a recurrence of litigation. It was thought advisable for the interest of both parties that this and the many other suits pending between them should again be referred to arbitration. Accordingly Sir Richard Molyneux, Sir Thos. Gerard, with Lord Gerard as umpire, were appointed and agreed to, the parties being bound over one to the other in £2,000 to stand to their award. The Shirburne case was thus stated:

Instructions to inform my arbitrators of the matters I find myself and my inheritance much incumbered withall, as followeth:

*In primis*, Sir Richard Houghton, minding to encumber me and my inheritance procured a restraint from his Majesty of all the grounds in his charge and therein he put down my Park of Lagram as one of the King's Parks. Not so contented, but he procured an injunction to restrain me killing any of my own deer in mine own park, and to put out my keeper, and to put in a keeper of his own for his Majesty.

2nd *Item*, the said Sir Richard Houghton, under colour of his Majesty's title hath kept me in suit for the space of 14 or 15 years, to my great charge and loss, in laying open my hedges within my said park.

3rd *Item*, this controversy hath been severally ordered by divers

gentlemen of good worth, as by writing may appear under their hands and seals, but not preformed by Sir Richard Houghton.

4th *Item*, I find covenants from Sir Richard Molyneux and Sir Thomas Holcroft knights in Sir Richard Houghton his behalf, for the redelivering certain goods, delivered, prized, and inventoried to and for the use of my late wife his mother, to the value of £8 or thereabouts—which said goods were greatly undervalued; and neither the said goods or the price thereof as yet answered or paid unto me, which I should have had long ago.

5th *Item*, the said Sir Richard Houghton sueth me for the fines of the improvements in Dilworth, and for the rents of the same which are proved and certified by commission, viz, in fines and rents and hundredths.

6th *Item*, the said Sir Richard Houghton doth sue me for arrears of rents at Fairhurst Croft and Fanshawe Moor, the sum of . . .

7th *Item*, the said Sir Ric. Houghton doth go about to encumber me for my lease from his Majesty of the lands in Chipping.

Lord Gerard made the following award :

Indenture of award made by Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromeley, the 13th Sept. the 13th year of the reign of James 1st (1615), between Sir Richard Houghton of Houghton Tower, knt. and Richard Shireburne of Stonyhurst Esq. Whereas divers suits, variances and controversies, and differences have been heretofore moved, stirred up, &c., between the said Sir Ric. Houghton Kt. and Ric. Sherburne Esq. and Richard Sherburne his son, and divers others of their servants, friends, and followers, in several of his Majesty's courts at Westminster, and whereas there were divers other matters of controversy between the said Sir Richard Houghton, and Richard Sherburne the father whereupon suits might grow; Sir Ric. Houghton and Mr. Sherburne are bound the one to the other in £2000 to stand to the award of Sir Ric. Molyneux and Sir Thos. Gerard, or to the umpirage of Lord Gerard, being made or delivered or tendered to them before a day. Sir Richard Molyneux and Sir Thomas Gerard made no award. The Lord Gerard before the day makes an award under hand and seal and delivered to the parties :

1. It is awarded that Sir Ric. Houghton and his son and heir apparent and Mr. Sherburne and his son, their several servants friends and followers, shall be friends and all their suits cease.

2. That Sir Ric. Houghton and Sir Gilbert his son their servants and under-keepers shall permit and suffer the said Ric. Sherburne



and his heirs to impale Laithgrime Park, and that none of them shall intermeddle with the grounds at Laithgrime.

3. That of the suits presented in the Star-chamber by Sir Ric. Houghton against Richard Shereburne, the son, and others, being by information of Mr. Attorney General, without relation they shall be acquitted and discharged against the said Sir Ric. Houghton and Sir Gilbert, and that he shall not execute that nor any other suit for any matter before the date of the award.

4. That Sir Ric. Houghton shall pay at a day £100 to Mr. Sherburne in full discharge of a bond judgment and execution which the said Mr. Sherburne or some other in his behalf had against the said Sir Ric. Houghton or some of his servants or followers for £206 and the bond upon payment to be delivered.

5. That Mr. Sherburne or his assignees, having an assignment of an annuity to Brian Jacson, shall not demand the same, that the said Sir Ric. and lands shall be discharged thereof. That Mr. Sherburne before a day shall deliver the deed to be cancelled.

6. That whereas Sir Ric. Houghton claimed certain instruments of music and armour as heirlooms, which were in the possessions of Mr. Sherburne, that it shall be in the election of the said Mr. Sherburne whether he would deliver them or not.

7. That Mr. Sherburne shall procure William Swinglehurst and all other persons claiming under him his heirs or assignees, before a day, to deliver possession of a messuage and tenement in Chipping to Sir Ric. Houghton and his heirs, and permit and suffer them to enjoy the same, and convey and release the same, as by Sir Ric. or Counsel shall be devised; and if Mr. Sherburne find occasion to use the aid of Sir Ric. Houghton or his son for removing Swinglehurst, he shall have it.

8. That in regard Sir Richard protested as he is a gentleman that the Earl of Cumberland offered £300 to him for his consent to the impaling of Laithgryme, Mr. Sherburne shall pay £200 to Sir Ric. Houghton on the 20th day of October next coming in the porch of the parish church of Preston in Amounderness.

9. That if any question or doubt be concerning the exposition thereof the same to be explained by the Lord Gerard.

GERARD.

The award not proving satisfactory to Richard Shirburne, the opinion of leading counsel was taken as to whether he was bound to stand by it. Their answers seem to have been sufficiently vague and ambiguous. It was suggested that he



was undoubtedly bound by certain of the articles, though on some doubts might be raised; but whether an action at law would lie on account of some being defective, and enable him to evade the performance of the bond and escape the penalty, was a matter open to consideration.

Probably the award gave satisfaction to neither party, and having adjusted minor differences, the original and principal cause of dispute was allowed to drop. All law proceedings connected with the different subjects of disagreement terminated. The Shirburnes paid no penalty, they did not wall or empale the park, but continued to kill the deer as heretofore when found in Leagram, and prevented all trespassers, keepers or others of the forest or chase of Bowland or elsewhere, from doing so or entering within its precincts. Neither does it appear that the Crown through its officers, at any time afterwards whilst the forest of Bowland continued part of its possessions, interfered or caused any annoyance or attempted any hindrance to the Shirburnes in the exercise of the rights claimed by them in regard to their park of Leagram.

#### THE LATER SHIRBURNES.

II. Richard Shirburne died 17 April, 1629, about 14 years after the termination of the controversies respecting the game in Leagram. He was upwards of thirty-seven years of age when he succeeded to his estates on the death of his father, Sir Richard Shirburne. He married three times.

1st, Katherine Stourton; as appears by the indenture of marriage settlements between Henry Earl of Derby, K.G., and Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., of Stonyhurst, 20 Eliz., by which it was covenanted and agreed that Richard Shirburne son and heir of Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., should before the feast of St. Bartholomew next ensuing marry Katherine Stourton niece to the said Earl of Derby and daughter of Charles late Lord Stourton deceased. Sir Richard within three months of the solemnization of marriage was to grant to

the said Richard and Katherine the annual rent of three-score and six pounds thirteen and fourpence issuing out of Leagram Park, &c. The estates were settled on Richard Shirburne and the heirs male in succession; in default to his brothers and their heirs male in succession.

Richard Shirburne, Esq. = Katherine (first wife) daughter of Charles Lord Stourton, niece to Hen. Earl of Derby.

1. Henry Shirburne eldest son, died before his father in 1612.	= Ann daughter of Francis Dacre. Issue died young.	Elizabeth dau. of Sir Ric. Molyneux. Knt., 1st wife.	= 2. Richard succeeded his father.	= Elizabeth daughter of Thos. Walmsley of Showley, Esq., 2nd wife; d. 1667.	Catherine = Thomas Pennington, of Muncaster, Co. Cumb., Esq.	Twin daughters died with their mother in childbirth at the Isle of Man.
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His wife Katherine died at Castle Rushen in the Isle of Man in 1591 in childbirth of twin daughters, her husband being at the time captain of the island under the Earl of Derby. She is buried in the church at Castle Rushen.

2nd. After her death he married Ann the widow of Thomas Hoghton, Esq., of Hoghton Tower, and daughter of Henry Keighley of Keighley, co. York, Esq., the mother of Sir Richard Hoghton, kt. and baronet, his opponent and plaintiff on the part of the Crown in the long suits respecting the right of killing the deer in Leagram.

Thomas Hoghton, of Hoghton Tower, Esq., slain in a duel with Langton, of Newton, commonly called Baron of Newton, 49. Eliz.	= Ann daur. of Hen. Keighley son & heir of Sir Thomas Keighley, of Keighley, Co. York. Marries secondly Ric. Shirburne, of Stonyhurst, Esq. as his 2nd wife.	= Ric. Shirburne, Esq.	= Katherine daughter of Charles Lord Stourton, Esq., by Lady Eleanor Stanley, daughter of Edw. Earl of Derby, 20 Eliz. 1st wife of Ric. Shirburne.
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Sir Ric. Hoghton, Kt. and Bart., created such at institution of the Order 1611.

3rd. Richard Shirburne married Ann daughter of Thomas Holden of Greengore near Stonyhurst. She survived her husband many years. Leagram Hall and Park, together

with the manor and all appertaining to the estate, had been settled 20 Jac. I. by Richard Shirburne as a jointure on his wife Ann Holden, she paying £105 per ann. Previous to his death he further settled 100 marks on her by an annual charge on the Stonyhurst estate. It was afterwards arranged in 1632-3 between herself and his son and successor that she should pay only the difference £38 6s. 8d., in lieu of the £105 named in the original settlement. She resided during her widowhood up to her death entirely at Leagram, exercising and enjoying all rights, privileges and suits belonging to the park or manor. The deer when found within its precincts were from time to time killed by her orders, and taken to the hall for her use or disposal.

Richard Shirburne served the office of High Sheriff of Lancashire the 14 Jac. I. He was captain of the Isle of Man under the Earl of Derby from 1614 until his death. He continued the works commenced by his father at Stonyhurst, completing the great south or garden front and as much of the quadrangle and west front as remains of the old building at the present day. He died 17 April, 1629, aged eighty-three years, and was buried in the chapel erected by his father in Mitton church. A mural canopied monument, with kneeling figures facing each other, commemorates himself and Katherine Stourton, his first wife; smaller effigies in relief underneath represent their children.

III. Richard Shirburne, Esq., surviving son of the last-named Richard Shirburne and Katherine Stourton, succeeded to the family estates on the death of his father in 1629. He was not troubled with vexatious lawsuits respecting the rights of his inheritance in Leagram; but is recorded during a great portion of his long life to have suffered much persecution both on account of his faith and through loyalty to his Sovereign Charles I. He died in 1667, aged eighty-one years, and was buried in the family vault at Mitton church.

Richard Shirburne married twice; (1) Elizabeth daughter to Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton, kt., by whom he had an

only daughter who died young; (2) Elizabeth daughter to Thomas Walmesley of Dunkenhaugh, Esq., by whom he had two sons and two daughters. By an indenture made 17 Aug. 14 Jac. I (1616) between Richard Shirburne the elder, of Stonyhurst, Esq., and Richard Shirburne the younger, his son and heir apparent, on the one part, and Thomas Walmesley of Dunkenhaugh, Esq., on the other part, it was agreed, &c., that the said Richard Shirburne the younger should and would before the 1st of September next ensuing, espouse and take to wife the said Elizabeth Walmesley one of the daughters of the said Thomas Walmesley, if the said Elizabeth would thereunto agree and the laws of God and of Holy Church would the same permit and suffer. In consideration of which intended marriage the said Thomas Walmesley had paid unto Richard Shirburne the father the sum of £2,600.

Richard Shirburne, Esq. = Elizabeth Walmesley.

Richard Shirburne, Esq., eldest son and heir, died 1689.	= Isabel daughter of John Ingleby, Lawk- ley, Co. York, Esq. d. 1693.	Ann Shirburne = Sir Marmaduke Con- stable of Everingham, Yorks.. Bart.
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IV. Richard Shirburne, Esq., eldest son of the last-named Richard Shirburne by Elizabeth Walmesley his second wife, succeeded to his extensive inheritance on the death of his father in 1667. Previous to this the forest of Bowland, adjoining to his estate at Leagram, and belonging to the Crown for so long a period, had at last been alienated, Charles II having granted it at the Restoration to General Monk as part acknowledgment for his important services rendered to the Monarchy on that occasion. His son and successor, Christopher Monk, second Duke of Albemarle, threatened to renew the old suit about the right of killing the forest deer when found in Leagram. Mr. Shirburne accordingly prepared to maintain his rights, and resist the claim set up by the Duke, the same cause that his grandfather had formerly so long and successfully defended against the Crown. Depositions were taken from old people to prove his rights,

that it had been always the custom during the last fifty years, as previously, for the Shirburnes to kill the deer found in their park at Leagram, and also to prevent the keeper and others of the forest from following them to kill or drive them out again : and that the park fence had never been in better order than at present, having never been fit to turn deer.

Depositions taken by Richard Sherburne Esq., at Leagram Hall.

Hugh Dobson of Laithgrim says : Mr. Thomas Houghton being the Bow-bearer as he supposed, came to hunt and fetch deer out of Laithgrim, upon which he took them up, and Mr. Thomas Houghton went away, and before he went, would have had Mr. Swindlehurst of Fair oak house, to come over the pale hedge and he refused it, and said he neither would nor durst without leave of Mrs. Sherburne, and the said Hugh Dobson further says he has coursed and killed several deer in Laithgrim by six or seven in a year by Mrs. Sherburne's order : and had order from her to take all people up that came to course or kill deer within Laithgrim, and he did take up the keeper in Bowland for fetching any deer out, except they had shot a deer in Bowland, and showed blood—then they might follow him into Laithgrim, but no other deer. And as for the pale hedge he can never remember it any other than for turning of goods and never fit to turn deer : and Van Gray who is alive for anything he knows and once keeper in Bowland was taken by me

Hugh Dobson.

Ronald Waler of Lawnd in Laithgrim does affirm that the pale hedge has never been fit to turn deer in his remembrance, which he has known these 70 years, but only in some places of the hedges.

Ronald × Waler's mark.

Captain Marsden of the Pale does affirm that William Bolton did kill a hind within Laithgrim, and he and John Townley brought it to the Laund, and laid it in the court and dressed it in the day-time for Mrs. Sherburne at Laund, being about 50 years since. He likewise says that the pale fence is now as it has ever been, since he can remember it, being 85 years of age. He likewise says, that Thomas Sherburne of Hessiam killed a deer in Laithgrim as long since as he can remember.

Ric. Marsden.

John Holden of Laythgrim does affirm that the Pale edge is as good now as it has been any time in his remembrance which he has known these 46 years, and that he has known deer killed all that



time for Mrs. Sherburne's use and by her order, without any disturbance at all.

John Holden.

Mr. Richard Marsden junior does say that he has not known the Pale hedge any better than it is, since he can remember, and he has known it these 40 years.

Ric. Marsden.

The lawyers seem to have been busy on both sides during some time. At last, about four years after the above depositions had been taken by Mr. Shirburne, the Duke of Albemarle's keepers, to bring the dispute at issue to a head at once, took three of Mr. Shirburne's servants prisoners for killing a buck in Leagram Park. By an assumpsit of Richard Shirburne, to the High Sheriff William Spencer, Esq., dated 18 Feb., 1686, 3 James II, it appears that the three prisoners, Lancelot Bolton, John Parker, and Richard Holden, all of Leagram, had been given up to the custody of Henry Hodgkinson, gent., at the special instance and request of Richard Shirburne, he engaging that they should be kept in safe custody until the said High Sheriff should give notice to have them delivered up at the Castle of Lancaster, which would be at least two clear days before the next assizes.

Mr. Shirburne appears to have thought it courteous or necessary by the following letter to explain to the Duke of Albemarle that if he did go to law it was not his own seeking but entirely through the action of the Duke himself:—

. Stoneyhurst March ye 16th 86-7.

I humbly begg,  
of your Grace, pardon for giving the trouble of these lines, which are occasioned by Mr. Rowlinson, who hath putt upon me several inconveniences, as offering to make ways, where I have already proved there is none, and taking my servants prisoners for killing a deer in Laithgrim, which I have power to do. I would not willingly contend with any that concerned your Grace, butt if they force me to it, my humble request is that I may use Your Grace's name in the action, in regard he is your Grace's servant, and pretends to do all these things upon that account; and since Mr. Rowlinson hath forced me to suit, I hope I shall not incur your Grace's displeasure by going



aboute to vindicate myself; which, and to serve your Grace is all aimed att by

Your Grace's

Most obedient

Humble Servant

RI. SHIREBURNE.

The trial having taken place at Lancaster Assizes, 19 March, 1687, it was decreed:—

Whereas Lancelot Bolton, John Parker, and Richard Holden were formerly committed to His Majesty's gaol for the County of Lancaster, for killing a buck in Lagram Park, and for their respective fines of twenty pounds apiece by them, said to be forfeited for the said offence, which said sums of twenty pounds apiece, amounting in all to sixty, is deposited into the hands of William Spencer Esqre High Sheriff of the said County: Now in regard Ri. Shireburne of Stonyhurst Esqre claimeth a right in the said Lagram Park, and for that a feigned action is intended to be brought to try the said right, it is ordered by the court that the said sixty pounds be paid unto the said Richard Sherburne, he giving security to the Sheriff, to repay the same in case a verdict shall pass against the said Mr. Sherburne upon the trial of the said action, and likewise ordered that the said Bolton, Parker, and Holden be set at liberty.

The prisoners were accordingly discharged. This was the last of the law proceedings, neither the Duke nor his successors preferring their claims again. From that time the deer were taken by those authorised by the Shirburnes, when trespassing in Leagram and afterwards, when this property came with the other Shirburne estates to the Weld family after the death of the Duchess of Norfolk, the daughter of Sir Nicholas Shirburne, bart., in 1754, the latter family continued to exercise the same rights and privileges on the estate as the Shirburnes had done.

Later on, in the commencement of the nineteenth century, the entire destruction of the deer in the forest was decreed by the Duke of Buccleugh, the then owner of Bowland, on account of the complaints of his tenants. Many deer, however, for a long time contrived to elude the pursuit of their enemies, and escape for a time the general destruction, falling

one by one during several years, until the last, as late as 1817, a tenant of my father's killed the last surviving buck of the ancient herd that had ranged the forest and the park for so many centuries. Christopher Monk, Duke of Albemarle, died in 1688, leaving the Bowland estate to his wife Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, daughter and heiress of Henry Duke of Newcastle. She left it to John Duke of Montagu, son to her second husband Robert Duke of Montagu, by a previous marriage to Lady Elizabeth Wriothsesley, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Earl of Southampton.

Richard Shirburne did not long survive the trial nor the death of his antagonist. The Revolution breaking out, he suffered much for his loyalty to James II, and died in his cause in prison at Manchester in 1689, aged sixty-two. He married Isabel, daughter of John Ingleby of Lawkland in the county of York, Esq., by whom he had issue—Richard, Nicholas, Elizabeth, and Catherine who died in infancy.

Richard Shirburne besides founding a free school at Hurst Green near Stonyhurst for poor boys and girls, and an almshouse at the same place (removed afterwards to Longridge Fell by his son Sir Nicholas Shirburne, bart.), left several charitable bequests to the townships of Carleton, Chorley, Hambleton, and Leagram in Lancashire, and Wigglesworth and Guiseley in the county of York. He likewise endowed a chapel at the hall at Leagram in 1687 for the good of his own soul and that of Isabel his wife and others of his family. This chapel and endowment is the first of which there is any record at Leagram.

His wife survived him about four years, dying 21 April, 1693. The four recumbent marble effigies in the Shirburne chapel at Mitton church, commemorating herself, her husband, his father, and her eldest son, were erected at her sole charge.

V. Richard Shirburne, Esq., eldest son of Richard Shirburne and Isabel Ingleby, became the owner of Leagram with Stonyhurst and the family estates, on the death of his

father, 16 August, 1689, but he only enjoyed them a few months, dying the 6th April the following year, 1690. He had applied through his kinsman, Father Joseph Shirburne, to James II for a baronetcy, which it seems the King very willingly granted gratis, but owing to his death the patent was not taken up. He married Ann, daughter and heiress to John Cansfield, Esq. She died without issue on 4 February, 1693. Both were buried in the family vault in Mitton church.

VI. Leagram and the Shirburne estates now passed, after the death of the last-named Richard Shirburne, to his brother Nicholas, who had been created a baronet in February 1685.

He married Catherine, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edward Charleton of Hesleyside, county of Northumberland, bart. He resided after his marriage principally at Cartington Castle near Rothbury, until he succeeded on the death of his brother to the family estates. He then took up his residence at Stonyhurst, where he lived in great credit and hospitality, making many improvements and additions to the house, laying out the gardens in what was then termed the Dutch style, with yew hedges, labyrinths, &c. He made the embankments and canals on the west front, added the cupolas to the towers, and intended to have completed the front, as also the quadrangle, but the death of his only son in 1702 caused him to relinquish all his projects of embellishment. Sir Nicholas Shirburne besides doing much good to all his neighbourhood by his great charities, and the employment of many people in the improvement of his estates, introduced the spinning of wool to the great advantage of numbers of poor persons, who came to Stonyhurst to be taught there by teachers appointed for the purpose.

Sir Nicholas died 16 December, 1717. Lady Shirburne survived him about ten years, dying 27 January, 1727. By his wife he had three children: Isabel, who died 18 October, 1688; Richard Francis, his only son, who died 8 June, 1702; and Mary, who survived her parents many years and married Thomas Howard eighth Duke of Norfolk,

VII. The Duchess of Norfolk, only surviving child, succeeded her father in all his extensive estates. These were left absolutely to her by his will, excepting only the mansion and demesne lands of Stonyhurst, which he settled on Lady Shirburne for her life, with certain other reservations for her jointure. The Duchess was born 26 October, 1692, and married Thomas Howard eighth Duke of Norfolk in 1709. He died in 1732 without issue. Both duke and duchess spent much time at Stonyhurst and in visiting their Lancashire estates. After the death of her husband the duchess resided there entirely, occupying a detached post and plaster building, the most ancient part of the house, which was afterwards re-faced with stone, and became known as the duchess's apartments. It was taken down at the close of the century to make way for the south front of the college. She lived in great state and hospitality, and on excellent terms with the county families and her neighbours; but though a Catholic, and her political sympathies not with the reigning House, she managed to keep well with the ruling powers and even to protect and shelter some less fortunate friends who had compromised themselves in the disastrous Jacobite risings and plots of the period.

She died 24 Sept. 1754, at Stonyhurst, and was buried in the chapel of her family at Mitton church, the last of her ancient race. Her large inheritance was devised by her will to her cousin Edward Weld of Lulworth Castle, grandson to her aunt Elizabeth Shirburne, her father's sister, who had married William Weld of Lulworth Castle, Esq., eldest son of Sir John Weld, kt. banneret.

#### THE WELD FAMILY.

I. Edward Weld of Lulworth, who obtained the great possessions of the Shirburnes by the will of his cousin, the Duchess of Norfolk, had succeeded to Lulworth and the family estates on the death of his father, Humphrey Weld of Lulworth Castle, in 1722. He inherited also extensive proper-

ties in Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, &c., through his mother, the heiress of the Simeons and Hevinghams.

He married (first) Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Lord Aston of Forfar, co. Angus, by Mary Howard, the only daughter of Thomas Howard, and sister to Thomas and Edward Dukes of Norfolk. She died without issue 25 October, 1739, and is buried in the church of Great Standon, Hertfordshire. Mr. Weld married (secondly) in 1740, Mary Vaughan, daughter of John Vaughan of Courtfield, co. Monmouth, Esq., by whom he had several children. She died 21 June, æt. 40.

Edward Weld suffered much annoyance from the Government, partly on account of his Catholicity, and consequent supposed sympathy with the Jacobite party. Some of his wife's brothers were deeply implicated in the recent rebellion, which increased the suspicions against him. He had to appear several times and undergo examinations before the Privy Council, but the Government were obliged to acquit him, finding no excuse to do otherwise. He died 8 December, 1761, æt. 57, and was buried at Lulworth. He enjoyed the Stonyhurst estates, including Leagram, from 1754. He was succeeded in his different estates by his eldest son, Edward Weld, Esq.

II. Edward Weld married (first) in 1763, Juliana, daughter of Edward eighth Lord Petre of Thorndon. She died 16 July, 1772, without issue, and was buried at Lulworth. He married (secondly), 16 July, 1775, Mary Ann, daughter of Walter Smythe of Brambridge, co. Hants, second son of Sir John Smythe, of Acton Burnel, co. Salop, bart. He died 23 Oct., 1775, aged 34, barely three months after this marriage. His widow married (secondly), in 1778, Thomas Fitzherbert of Swinerton, co. Stafford. Mr. Fitzherbert died at Nice in 1781. Four years later his widow was privately married to George, Prince of Wales, 21 December, 1785.

An extensive survey of the Shirburne estates was made and completed in 1774 by John Sparrow, land surveyor, of



Hammersmith, afterwards resident at Stonyhurst, and later at Leagram, as agent of the family for these estates.

It seems probable that the old post and plaster south front of the house at Leagram was taken down shortly before the death of Edward Weld. The present south front was built while the old one was yet standing, immediately at its back, in the courtyard. The new stone house was intended for the priest, and was used for this purpose until the steward, Mr. John Sparrow, came to reside there in 1794 or 1795.

III. Edward Weld was succeeded in the Lancashire as well as in the other family estates, by his brother, Thomas Weld, Esq. He married 27 February, 1772, Mary Massey Stanley, daughter of Sir John Stanley Massey Stanley, of Hooton, co. Chester, bart. She was born 9 October, 1752, and died at Pilewell House, near Lymington, 1 August, 1830, leaving a numerous family.

Mr. Weld took much interest in his Lancashire estates, and made almost yearly journeys to Stonyhurst to visit them, sometimes accompanied by his wife. He came over on these occasions to Leagram, especially after the removal here of the steward, always riding across country from Stonyhurst. He made several alterations and additions at Leagram, building a new chapel on the site of the west wing, extending it a short distance beyond to the south, as the older chapel on the north-west side of the court had become too small. The new chapel was commenced in 1787. The house for the priest, built by his brother in place of the old south front, not having sufficient accommodation for the agent likewise, it was given up entirely to the latter, and a cottage especially for the priest was erected in 1797, a short distance from the house on the north side.

Mr. Weld died in 1810, whilst on a visit to Stonyhurst, and was buried at Lulworth in the vaults of the chapel he had erected there. He had previously, in 1794, made over the mansion and grounds of Stonyhurst to the Jesuit Fathers, driven out of Liège by the advancing storm of the French Revolution. He devised his landed estates to his surviving



sons, and Leagram, with some adjoining property in the townships of Chipping and Thornley, came to his son George.

IV. George Weld, eighth son of Thomas Weld, succeeded to Leagram by the will of his father in 1810.

He was born at Lulworth 28 September, 1786, educated at Stonyhurst, was put by the Earl of Dorset on the Commission of the Peace for Dorsetshire in 1808, with his father and brothers, some years in advance of their co-religionists. After the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act he was placed on the Commission for Lancashire, and also appointed D.L. by the Earl of Derby. He held for some years a commission in the Dorsetshire Yeomanry.

He married, in April 1812, Maria Margaretta, daughter of John Searle, Esq.

He came with his family to reside at Leagram in the summer of 1822. He took down what was remaining of the old house, more particularly the north-east wing, forming at that time the house of the tenant, and built on its site the present north-east front. He laid out the plantations and grounds, formed roads, levelled and sloped down the irregularities of the surface; made many improvements, where all before was rugged and open, and totally devoid of trees, with the exception of some narrow belts close to the house on the west and north sides. During many years he continued making additions and improvements to the dwelling. Many farmhouses and buildings also were materially altered or re-erected on an improved plan. When he first came to the estate the farm-buildings were without exception thatched and old, and were new slated in his time. The change from corn-growing to dairy and cattle-raising necessitated great alterations in farm-buildings; but, working by degrees, he succeeded in accomplishing much.

He died 30 March, 1866, æt. 79, at Leagram, and was buried in the vault of the domestic chapel. His wife survived him only six months. She died at Broxwood, co. Hereford, and was buried with her husband at Leagram.

V. John Weld, eldest son of George, succeeded to Leagram on the death of his father. He was born at Rock-cliff, near Lymington, 7 February, 1813, and was educated chiefly at Stonyhurst. He married Eleanor Selby, daughter and co-heiress of Nicholas Tuit Selby of Acton House, Middlesex, Esq. He was J.P. and D.L. for Lancashire, and sometime Captain in the 5th Lancashire Militia. He erected the domestic chapel in 1853, during the lifetime of his father. After his accession to the estate he made many alterations and improvements in house and gardens. He planted the upper portion of Buck Banks, Birchin Lea Clough, and Mercer's Clough. He built new farm-houses at Birchin Lea and Higher Greystoneley, rebuilt (excepting outside walls) the old house of Loud Mytham, made new cottages at Kirklee, besides many minor alterations in different places.

NOTE.—Mr. Weld was the author of the account of Leagram here printed. He died 25 Nov. 1888, leaving two daughters—Matilda (Miss Weld of Leagram) and Frances, wife of Mr. Francis Rowland Berkeley, youngest son of Mr. Berkeley (Robert) of Spetchley Park, Worcestershire. Mr. Weld is described as a tall, very handsome man, over 6 feet 1 inch in height, of erect bearing and genial manner. He was at one time an active magistrate, a good sportsman, and went a good deal into society, besides entertaining friends at home. In later years indifferent health led to greater retirement, although he continued to take interest in public matters, politics, etc., and found ample occupation and amusement in the care of his estate, the pursuit of various studies, painting, and classifying and arranging his collections. He was a good antiquary and archæologist, but natural history was perhaps his favourite hobby; and being an excellent artist and draughtsman, he has left volumes of interesting studies on all these subjects (chiefly water-colour), besides a large number of landscapes and English and foreign architectural sketches, of quite exceptional merit.

## III. THE HALL AND ESTATE.

Concerning the house at Leagram as it existed in ancient times, or down to the extinction of the Shirburne family in 1754 in the person of Mary Duchess of Norfolk, there are very few evidences left to give any correct idea of its appearance or importance. Houses of any kind were few and far between in the extensive tract of woodland and waste country constituting the royal domain of the Lancaster forests. What did exist, especially in early days, were either for those who exercised in them the privilege of the chase, where they might temporarily sojourn for that purpose, or as dwellings for the officers and keepers, who had the vert and venison in their particular charge. These houses were almost always entirely timber structures, of greater or lesser consequence, often probably rudely constructed by local builders out of the material ready to hand in the immediate vicinity.

## THE ANCIENT PARK LODGE.

In the letters patent to Sir Richard Shirburne in 1555-6, disparking Leagram, the house is called "le loge," which he was enjoined to sustain and repair at his own proper charge. He was allowed housewood, and large wood, only by the order of the officers of the forest for the time being. Elizabeth in 1559, as already stated, complained that the wood which had been allowed for repairs, had been used in building new houses. This would apply to the lodge in Leagram, it being one of the few houses belonging to the Crown in the forest of Bowland. It, like the rest, would seem to have deteriorated through time and neglect, though until 1553 it had been the residence of a family of high respectability, the Shuttleworths of Hacking.

Though different members of the Shirburne family are incidentally mentioned as connected with the lodge in the time of Elizabeth, there is no mention of its regular occupation until 20 James I, when the park and "Laythgryme Hall" were settled in jointure on Mrs. Ann Shirburne, third wife of Richard Shirburne, Esq., eldest son of Sir Richard Shirburne, kt., of Stonyhurst. Mrs. Ann Shirburne survived her husband many years, and always resided at Leagram Hall. This is the last recorded instance of the house being occupied as a family residence.

After the foundation of the chapel here in the reign of James II by Richard Shirburne of Stonyhurst, father of Sir Nicholas Shirburne, bart., the priest is supposed to have occupied a part of the old mansion, whilst the rest was divided between one or two tenants who farmed the neighbouring land, which arrangement continued more or less, until nearly the end of the eighteenth century.

Of the great antiquity of the original building there is no question. It had been the lodge of the park in remote times, and might have been used by any of the parkers or their deputies who had held it from the Crown, when repairing to this district for the purpose of the chase. Richard Hoghton, appointed parker of this park, 10 Hen. IV, resided altogether here. His father, Sir Richard Hoghton, lieutenant of the forest of Bowland, 5 Hen. V, 1413, was also styled 'de Laythgryme' in some pedigrees; and he probably made use of it from time to time.

• In the comptus of the master forester of the forest of Bowland in the Duchy of Lancaster, besides the costs incidental to the different forests, and to keeping up the parks, detailed accounts are given of the current expenses in the repairs of their ancient houses or lodges.

In the Duchy accounts of the 1st & 2nd Hen. VI the houses of the lodge of Laythgryme are spoken of as being repaired during two days at the cost of 4d. per day.

For repairing the walls and for "dawbinge" for two days at

4d. per day. Expenses on the roof during ten days come to 3s. 4d. at 4d. per day.

In the same accounts 13 & 14 Hen. VI the outlay on the lodge amounted to 11s.

Three days carpenter's work in repairs at 4d. per day.

Four days work "circa dauburum et wyndings" of the walls, at 4d. per day. A gate at the same time for the north side of the park cost by agreement made with the seneschal 2s. Ten days' work on the roof of the different houses of the lodge at 4d. per day each for two men.

18 & 19 Hen. VI. Edmund Crumbleholme received for one day's carpenter's work in repairs at the lodge 6d. Alexander Huntyngdene received for 10 days work on the "dauburum" of different walls of the lodge, 1s. 8d. Richard Boyes received for two days cutting rushes for "thak" for the roofs of the lodge 6d. per day. The carriage of same cost 1s., at 1d. the load. The same Alexander received for 10 days' work on the roof of the different houses within the lodge 4d. per day. Thomas Penhulton assisting for 10 days had 3d. per day.

36 & 37 Hen. VI. Amongst divers expenses incurred by Robt. Hoghton, the parker of Laythgryme at this date, in the repairs of the lodge, are 3s. 4d. for moving rushes, 3s. for their carriage. The wages of a thatcher came to 4s. and assistants to 6s., the wages of a carpenter and a dauber hired for renewing or redressing the walls of the Lodge, including the repairs of a gutter, came to 2s.

By these accounts it is evident that a house existed at Leagram at least from 1422, and in all probability from a much earlier date. It seems to have consisted of a group of buildings, as many items enumerated refer to the different houses of the lodge. They were certainly constructed entirely of wood. In the repairs mention is often made of the carpenter's work, both at the lodge at Leagram, as well as the other houses in Bowland, as Radholme Laund, and the manor-house at Whitewell, but nothing occurs indicating the presence of a mason or stone-builder. The repairs of the walls consisted in "daubyng," probably renewing the clay or plaster between the frame-work of oak, of which they were constructed. The roofs were a continual source of expense: they were covered with thatch. At Whitewell a kitchen was roofed with stone slate, as the accounts testify, a seemingly

necessary precaution, which was perhaps observed at the lodge of Leagram also, but existing previous to the dates of these accounts. As no corn was grown in the forest district, the thatch or "thak"—still so denominated here—was always of rushes, which abounded throughout the entire neighbourhood. The rush harvest was an important season. The wages obtained were good, being for cutting as much as 6d. per day; they received 1d. a load for carting, a man cutting and getting three loads in the day, whilst carpenters and other artizans received 4d. per day, and assistants usually 3d.

The lodge occupied nearly the same site as the present house, the ground-plan, as far as can be ascertained, forming as now an irregular letter H. In sixteenth century maps of the park a rude representation of a house is given styled the lodge, showing a centre with a gabled wing at either side, the whole resting on what might be supposed to be a terrace wall in front. The centre, or south-east front, was a little in advance of the present; the north-east wing extended further back, and was nearer to the centre by about 12 feet; while the south-west wing extended to the south as far as the corresponding side, and nearly as far back. A wall on the remaining side enclosed a court-yard. The centre existed until about 1777, when it was taken down; a new stone building had been erected as a residence for the priest, immediately behind it, in the court-yard, about two years before. The terrace wall, forming three sides of a square, surmounted by a white palisade, was not removed, or the site sloped, until some time after the new north-east front had been completed.

The centre was considered the oldest part of the ancient park lodge. It was built exclusively of timber, in the style usually called post and pattern. It had considerable decoration, the panels being filled with wood quatrefoils, lozenges, and other ornamental details. The upper storey projected, supported by oak pillars, forming a covered arcade underneath, extending from wing to wing on either side. Having fallen into great decay it was taken down, partly from the



difficulty of renewing a timber house satisfactorily in a district which had become denuded of large wood, and also from the inconvenient arrangement of its rooms. It formed the last portion of the old place. The original north-east front or right wing had been taken down previously, probably shortly after the acquisition of this estate by the Weld family in 1754.

The large range of stone buildings (occupied by the tenant of the land, and hereafter to be described) that stood in this position in 1821, is supposed only to have retained the site of the north-east front. This older building, if only as ancient as the commencement of Elizabeth's reign, would also have been built exclusively of timber, and old persons living when my father first came to reside here in 1822, always spoke of having heard when they were young that there had been a great building on that site, built with much timber.

Many rooms are specially named in agreements from 1690 to 1795, in which portions of the house are let to one or two tenants. In the first-named year, "The Hall," "the Hall chamber next above the Hall," the "Mistress's chamber," with certain parts of the farm buildings and lands, were let to James Parker, the younger, for twenty-one years. At the same time the "Old Parlour," "John Holden's chamber," "My Lord's chamber," and the "Cross chamber," with certain other portions of barns and buildings and closes of land, all part and parcel of the capital messuage and demesne of Laund, were also let for the same term. It was still in the Parker family in 1745, Robert Parker in that year contracting for the same part of the old messuage of Chipping Laund, with 182 acres, for eleven years at a rent of £70.

These rooms seem to have belonged to the old house, and to have continued in existence at least to 1775 or 1776. The new building must have been erected shortly after that date, and would be scarcely forty-five years old when taken down in 1821. Only two rooms in this last erection answered in part to those mentioned in the above agreements, viz., "The Hall" and the "chamber next above the Hall." These two rooms

were also traditionally reported to have been preserved, though perhaps curtailed in dimensions and probably considerably altered in appearance. Their west walls rested against the old centre buildings which continued in existence to 1777. It was most likely on that account thought safer to preserve them, with part of their side walls, as giving greater security to the ancient building that was retained. The rest, being much out of repair, and chiefly of wood, was taken down to its foundations. It seems to have extended further back towards the higher ground than its successor did, as remains of large foundations were discovered in 1869 when removing the bank on the site of the new wood and cinder sheds. They extended nearly fifteen feet beyond the line of the old wall that bounded the courtyard on the north-west.

Of the south-west wing of the ancient house there is nothing known more than that it terminated in a gable on its southern side. All had been cleared away in 1786 to make room for the chapel built on its site at that time. There were vestiges of old walls discovered when sinking for foundations for the present domestic Gothic chapel in 1854, at its southern extremity; and the remains of a cellar, under the end of the former chapel, were supposed to have belonged to the older erection. In enlarging the boiler-house under the present sacristy in 1871 a wall was broken into and removed, on its west side, a yard in thickness, and built in courses of half-dressed masonry on the outside. Beyond it was discovered a narrow passage, filled with rubbish, flagged, and about three feet in width, having the outer wall of the old chapel as its outside boundary. It seems as if it had been the way to some secret outlet, or else another entrance to the ancient cellar. The floor descended rapidly to the south-east.

The only other vestige of the past on this side of which there is any tradition, are the remains (consisting of some foundation walls) of an older chapel which stood on the high ground at its northern extremity, and of which old men

recently living remember to have seen the ruins. It was the earliest religious edifice here of which there is any knowledge

## LEAGRAM HALL IN 1821.

Leagram Hall, or as it was generally styled "Chipping Laund" or "the Laund" during all the last and commencement of the present (nineteenth) century, consisted in 1821, the year before my father and his family came to settle here, of a central building, the oldest part of the existing house, with a wing on the left, occupied principally by the chapel, and a long range of building on the right facing the north-east, or nearly the same site as the present new front.

*The South-east front.*—The centre building had been built, as already stated, either by Thomas Weld, my grandfather, or by his elder brother Edward Weld shortly before his death in 1775. This house was erected in the court-yard immediately behind the central wooden house, a few feet only intervening between the back of the old building and the front of the new. The old building remained standing for nearly two years after the erection of the new, the priest remaining in it until the new one was ready for him to occupy.

On taking down part of the east wall of the library in November 1878 it was found to be an outside wall, in regular pointed courses, and two feet in thickness: the inside was plastered; a small window looked into the room, formerly the court.

The new house (the oldest part of the existing building), constructed of stone in a plain but substantial manner, was the work of a mason named John Cooper. He had previously built, in 1758, the "Sun Inn" at Chipping. He was a good workman, as his buildings, here and in the neighbourhood, testify to this day.

Mr. John Sparrow, the agent, who came to reside here in 1794 or 1795, was succeeded at his death, in 1801, in his office and house by his nephew, Mr. Stephen Sparrow, who lived

here till the advent of my father, in the spring of 1822, when he removed to Clitheroe.

*The Right Wing.*—This wing, the part facing the north-east, was remembered and has been minutely described by many persons living a short time since, who knew it previous to its being taken down. Some of these were born there, being sons of the tenant, or were helpers or servants in the farm, and resided on the premises. They testify to the following particulars:—

The wing stood at right angles to the centre building or steward's house, and formed a long uniform range of equal height, facing the north-east, divided into several rooms having the same aspect. A large hall, eight or nine yards square, occupied in part the site of the present drawing-room. This hall had probably communicated directly with the old centre timbered house, as a made-up door on the corresponding side is spoken of.

To the right of the hall, and entered from it, was a room called the "house," the principal living room of the tenant. Another door, in the hall on the same side, opened into a long passage which communicated with all the rooms to the right of the hall.

The next room beyond the tenant's living room or "the house," was what they styled the parlour, entered from the passage. A staircase followed, also approached from the passage, and it led to the bedrooms above. Beyond the staircase was a room called the dining-room, then a small apartment called the buttery, and, lastly, the kitchen, all communicating with the passage which extended from the hall on one side to the kitchen on the other. It had a door at the end opening into the court-yard.

To the left of the hall was a separate building, added more recently, containing two small apartments to accommodate a hind and his family; there were two rooms above, accessible by a staircase out of one of those underneath. This building, a sort of continuation of the north-east wing, had no communi-

cation with the hall or the rest of the house, but was entered by a door on the outside protected by a small porch.

The south-east end terminated in a gable. The entire exterior was of gritstone, substantially built in courses, with thick walls, devoid of ornamentation. The windows were of different sizes, generally long and low, with stone mullions, dressed stones, and small lozenge panes in lead casements. The rooms on the ground floor to the right of the hall were on a much higher level than the hall, and were approached by a flight of several steps in the passage that communicated with them. The room to the left of the hall was also entered from it by several steps. The windows of the bedrooms, excepting that over the hall, called "the best room," looked over the court. The ceilings in the different rooms were supported by large oak beams. There was no fireplace at that time in the hall. Over the kitchen was the granary. The roof was covered with heavy stone slates, rising very steep in the centre and flattish at the sides.

All this north-east side of the house was taken down to make way for the new north-east front, commenced in the spring of 1822. The stone of the walls was used as material to form the road from the house to the township road at the bottom of the hill, and also the way to the quarry at Parkgate, since called Butcher Clough; on the latter road no stone had previously been laid. Portions of the walls as they stood were set to different parties to take down, take away, and afterwards break up; much was also made use of in the foundations and walls of the new house, which is only faced with Longridge stone.

*The South-west or Chapel side.*—The left wing in 1821-2 consisted of the chapel, a plain barn-like structure, with long round-headed windows, on one side, facing the garden, to the south-west. The greater part of this edifice yet remains, though turned to other uses, being divided into different offices and rooms. The space between the chapel and the north-west corner of the court, including the present laundry, was also



occupied by offices connected with the steward's house; these were afterwards taken down by my father, and in their place a building was erected, forming on the garden side a continuation of the chapel with long round-headed windows to correspond. It contains the present servants' hall, bakehouse, wash-house, with laundry and men-servants' rooms above.

*The North side.*—The court-yard at the back of the house was wider than at present by the whole length of the entire centre building, the original boundary of the court on its east side being about the site of the west wall of the present passage at the back of the dining-room. This side extended as far as the corresponding wall, terminating with the laundry on the west side, then occupied by different offices built by the steward for his convenience. The north side of the court was enclosed by an ancient wall of rough limestone of great thickness, like the walls of the old kitchen garden, and evidently of the same period. It was taken down about 1869, to enlarge the court by throwing the bank further back. Coal and wood sheds were erected at the same time on the additional space, with a flight of twelve steps in the centre leading from the court to the wood.

An opening in the north-east corner admitted of a road into the yard. The covered passage and projecting building on the south side were additions by my father several years after he settled at Leagram.

In the south-western corner was an entrance to the chapel; the congregation, coming through the yard, entered a covered passage which led to it. This was altered, and a walk walled off the garden and made to open into the chapel passage at the opposite side. This latter continued to be the entrance for the people until the new chapel at Chipping was built and opened for divine service in 1829. The pump placed in the north-west corner in 1822 replaced an old draw-well. Previous to 1775 the court extended much further back to the south, some feet more than the width of the present centre building which was built in the court at the back of the ancient front.



*Barns and other Out-buildings.*—Besides the steward's house, the left wing or chapel side, and the right or north-east, there existed also at the commencement of 1821 an extensive range of farm buildings, ancient and modern, standing on the site of the present grass-plot, in a straight line, west and east, at nearly right angles with the old east front, and commencing at a short distance from it. This end had only been built about thirty years previously for the convenience of the steward, and consisted first of a cow-house for four cows, and, secondly, a stable for three or four horses. Joining on to this, but of less elevation, was the more ancient building containing stables for the tenant, a large barn, and, finally, a cart and turf house. The more ancient part was of rough grit-stone from the fells, the door sides dressed in several pieces and bevelled as well as the lintels. There were no windows, but three or four rows of slits in dressed stones. The east or further extremity of the building had a large door, the interior space being divided into two bays or compartments, the one for carts, the other for storing turf. The older portion was about eighteen yards in length, the part occupied by the steward about twelve yards more. The width was about eight yards all through. The roof was covered with heavy stone slate.

Further on was a small building called the calf-house; further again, on the high ground, but just below the present carriage road, and in a line with the previously-mentioned buildings, was an old thatched house or barn, and lower down the hill (in the middle of the wood, as at present, but at that time in the field to the right of the old road leading up to the hall) were two other large barns, one very ancient, made with much timber and thatched, the other of recent date and slated with stone slates. These contained much space for the farmer's corn and hay, accommodation for many horses, and shippens for forty milk cows. The piggeries stood on the north side, and at right angles to the range of buildings on the site of the present grass-plot. The cottage erected for the

priest and occupied at that time by the Rev. John Reeve, and a barn containing a small shippon and stable for his convenience—partly altered, and used as stables for the hall—are all remaining of the various external buildings, ancient or modern, that existed at the commencement of 1821, and escaped the general levelling and destruction of a few months later.

*Gardens and Plantations.*—Immediately facing the north-east wing were two small enclosed gardens with a walk between them leading from the road, through a large gate to the hall door. The upper one was on higher ground, and was approached by a flight of steps in the centre. The road in front passed between the gardens and the farm buildings, and ascending the bank led direct both to the court-yard and to the priest's cottage. In the opposite direction, after leaving the front, it passed below the different farm buildings immediately adjacent, and descended the hill through open unenclosed land, at a very rapid decline, direct to the lower barns, whence it turned, continuing the descent in a straight line to the township road at the bottom, a limestone quarry and a lime-kiln being left on the right-hand side on the way down. The present carriage road, near the second gate, passes just above the site of the old kiln, and below the quarry, now enclosed in the wood on its upper side.

In a contract made with the Duke of Norfolk by Robert Parker, the tenant occupying the Laund in 1731, the latter is enjoined to permit the tenants in Leagram to obtain limestone here, the tenants paying reasonable trespass.

*South-east side.*—On the south-east, in front of the steward's house, was a large square platform, forming a terrace supported by an embankment wall having a white wooden palisade on the top, on its east, south, and west sides, the latter terminating at the south-east corner of the chapel. This enclosure overlooked a precipitous descent, and commanded a very extensive prospect, without a single tree in the foreground to interfere with the view. In the centre of the

south side a flight of steps, with a gate, led into the field below (called the Calf's brow), and also to a path which passed under the wall and led to Chipping. This platform or terrace was divided into four parts by a walk leading direct from the door of the steward's house to the gate and steps, and by another walk which crossed it at right angles, leading on one side to the road on the north-east front, and on the other past the gable of the chapel to a door communicating with the old kitchen garden. On this platform had stood formerly, in advance of the present front, the ancient 'post and pattern' building with its projecting upper storey and arcade underneath. The space between the supporting wall and the old house was of course much smaller at that time, and partook perhaps more of the character of a broad terrace walk.

A hiding place, or place of refuge, where men and horses and perhaps cattle in troubled times or on sudden alarms could be temporarily secured and protected, was traditionally said to have existed on the hill side, and a blocked-up door in the terrace wall was supposed by some to have been the entrance to it. It was further believed and conjectured that there was a subterranean communication between it and the old house. One of the earlier alterations made was the removal of the wall, and at the same time sloping away the terrace itself, making a gradual though rapid decline, instead of the precipitous descent that existed previously. Many foundations belonging to the ancient front were exposed and cleared away; those of the supporting embankment wall still exist on the slope, immediately below the surface of the ground.

*The West side.*—The old garden faced the west side of the chapel and offices and was fenced by a low embankment wall on the south side, commencing at the door by the chapel corner and forming a continuation of the terrace from that point. It was enclosed on the west and north sides by very rough ancient walls, which yet remain and are the boundaries on those sides of the present flower-garden. The new terrace

walk on its south side lies much further to the south-east than the embankment wall of the old kitchen garden. It had a level surface divided by walks, having one on each of its four sides, with another across the centre.

The gable and west wall of the chapel were covered with fine and productive fruit trees, cherries, jargonelles and green chisel pears. The garden also boasted of some large and old damson trees. The apples were principally of the burr kind. Besides being well stocked with vegetables, it was in summer gay with hardy old-fashioned flowers.

Outside the garden was a narrow plantation or belt of young trees, which was continued also on the north side and on the high ground at the back of the house, between the court-yard and garden of the priest's cottage; these trees had been planted, in 1796, by Mr. J. Sparrow. The barns and stables on the site of the present grass-plot were protected from the north by a plantation planted a few years later. Another narrow strip, probably of the same date as the last, at the back of the present cow-house, and a few as a shelter behind the cottage, were the only trees anywhere on the hill-side at and immediately before the arrival of the family at Leagram in 1822.

The trees were indeed very few and small at that time, and scanty shelter they afforded in so exposed and elevated a situation. There were, however, old persons yet alive in 1870 who recollected the house much less protected, when there was only one tree near the house or anywhere on the hill, when on every side all was open grass land and unbroken virgin sward. That tree was an ancient sycamore, standing on the high ground between the back of the house and the site of the priest's cottage. It was called "the milking tree," because in summer time some forty cows were assembled night and morning to be milked under the shelter of its wide-spreading branches. Here the boys of the congregation on Sunday afternoons after catechism used to play at football. It is remembered that Fr. Lawrenson, the priest, on one

occasion placed the ball at the foot of the old tree and with a good stroke sent it right over the house and the terrace beyond, so that it went to the bottom of the Calf's brow. This tree, the last of its generation, and sole surviving tree in the near neighbourhood of the hall, broke down at last through old age and decay. Fr. Lawrenson left the mission here in 1795, and the narrow belt of trees occupying its site was planted in 1797; the old tree fell and was removed between these dates.

The field to the south-west of the cottage, then called the Dove-cote Field, was planted by my father the spring preceding his arrival in 1822.

My father and family, having arrived at Leagram, took up their abode in the first instance, as best they could, in the cottage, the residence of Mr. Reeve, the priest, who removed to Chipping for the time. The cottage at this date was enclosed in a nice garden, commanding from its windows to the south-west an uninterrupted view to far beyond Preston. The new building, or the east front, was only a few feet above its foundations, the centre, lately the steward's house, though it had been repaired, was not yet in readiness to receive the family, nor was it for six or eight weeks later. The architect of the new building was Mr. Roper of Preston. Though the work proceeded rapidly, the finishing, and particularly furnishing the rooms was effected gradually. Mr. Roper's account for building the east front was £4,150 17s. 2d., to which was added for percentage, journeys and expenses £200.

On the site of the new front much excavation was necessary. The bank also rose abruptly to the middle of the dining-room windows, and had to be removed to a considerable distance. On the south-east the old square terrace platform had to be sloped away to a gradual incline; walks, shrubberies, plantations and woods had to be traced out and made by degrees where nothing existed but the green sward of a steep hill-side, ungarnished by a single tree.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTATE ABOUT 1800.

In 1822, with the exception of the narrow belts of trees, already spoken of, there was no wood of any kind on the hill-side.

The view was open all round. In front to the south-east, at three miles distance across the valley, extended the long crescent-shaped (though apparently straight) line of Longridge Fell, its extremities receding considerably to the east and south, attaining a general height of 1,000 or 1,100 feet above sea level. There was nothing in the foreground to break the monotony of its outline, rising rapidly from the Loud, which in its course from west to east forms the Leagram boundary on this side, separating it from the township of Thornley in the parish of Chipping.

Directly to the south the prospect was equally exposed. The village of Chipping lay immediately to the left at the bottom of the hill, the valley extending beyond to Longridge (a mere hamlet at that time), and for six miles further to Preston, then distinguished by few of those tall chimneys so conspicuously numerous now. Far beyond, in the same direction, the hills about Chorley shewed themselves, and occasionally, in certain conditions of the atmosphere, the blue peaks of the Welsh hills cut the sky in the distant horizon.

About a mile to the west the high ground of Chipping hid the silver streak of the Ribble estuary and the low coast line beyond, both of which could be seen from the higher lands a little to the north of the house. Here the view embraced the lofty and barren range of the Chipping and Bowland moors, extending from N.W. to N., two miles distant at their nearest point. They commenced with the semi-detached salient dome of Parlick Pike, 1416 feet above the sea, and were followed by the loftier fells that form the eastern slope of Bleasdale and Chipping moors (respectively known as Wolf-house Fell, Sheep Fell, the Saddle, and Bowland Slack), terminating due



north with Totridge Fell; rounded forms of massive proportions, with a general level of 1,600 feet.

At the outside of the Leagram fence due north of the house, the low-lying Stanley Fell, the forest of Bowland with its elevated limestone knots, sprinkled with ancient thorns, and also the high ground above Whitewell, could be seen on the Yorkshire side of the Hodder. This river's picturesque and rocky banks and rapid course were only traceable by a line of woods, sunk in the deep recesses of the valley.

Following the circle eastward the Browsholme heights appear, with Radholme Laund in advance; next, the extensive plantations of Browsholme Hall, with Waddington Fell in the distance above, and Bashall township below, all on the Yorkshire side of the Hodder stream and sloping rapidly to it, the opposite bank rising abruptly through Chaighley to the top of Kemble End (the eastern extremity of Longridge Fell), which, clothed with its fir plantations, forms with the opposing side a framework to the central eastern prospect, with the grand outline of Pendle Hill in the distance, and the ancient town of Clitheroe and its castle-crowned rock in the centre of the valley at its base.

The general appearance of the country far and near, both within the Leagram boundary and also in the distant landscape, was very open and barren, being devoid of almost anything like trees. Only in the cloughs and the shelter of rugged hollows, a lingering growth of wild wood—dwarf oaks with birch and alder—yet remained, but these exceptions formed no feature in the landscape, being from their situation mostly out of view.

*Divisions of the land.*—The land was more divided than at present, both within the Leagram fence and beyond its borders. Many fences were necessary to protect the numerous cornfields from cattle. Afterwards, when this cultivation ceased, these fences, being of less consequence, were by degrees neglected, and as wide gaps continually occurred the cattle ranged unimpeded from one end of the farm to the

other, stopped only by the boundary fences or those which protected the meadows. The unsightly, half-denuded cops have now been in many cases removed, the banks and ditches levelled and drained, enabling the tenants to keep up with greater facility the lesser number required to subdivide the land into convenient enclosures.

*Corn cultivation.*—Oats were extensively grown throughout the district; the high prices given for corn making it remunerative, notwithstanding the difficulty of securing the crops through the general rainy nature of the district. At that date (1822), in fact, scarcely any land escaped the plough, the cultivation of corn being all but universal. High up the hills the furrows are still plainly visible. It was only on the mountain tops, and the precipitous sides of rugged cloughs, and places where the land was still undenuded of its natural wood, that the surface remained as nature clothed it.

Light and mossy soils were chiefly tilled with marl, procured on the spot, marl pits being opened in every farm. The last load carted was often made the occasion of a festival. Horses and drivers were decorated, returning in procession home. The evening was spent in jollity and dancing. Lime was much used in the stiffer clay lands. There was abundance of lime rock, and many limekilns were worked in the neighbourhood. The general system of husbandry, however, was careless and improvident. The land was used as long as it would yield a return, and when thoroughly exhausted, left to recruit with no other help than nature gave. No grass seed was ever sown; cattle were allowed to enter on the weedy stubbles, when saturated with rain, trampling them into numberless holes, all holding water, thus encouraging the growth of rushes, which speedily re-asserted their supremacy. On the other hand, where moderate care was taken and sufficient rest afforded, abundance of white clover and other grasses, the natural product of the soil, covered the land afresh. Sod draining was in use, but being generally of insufficient depth was of very partial advantage.

*Turf and Rushes.*—Great quantities of turf were cut in the mosses for home consumption, and much was sent out of the district. At length most of the moss became pared away, leaving little but the cold retentive clay close to the surface, and it yielded shortly nothing but rushes. Much turf is secured at the present day on the tops of the fells, where a lasting supply is assured from the depth and extent of the overlying bog soil.

The general appearance of the land was wet and marshy, especially in the lower grounds. The luminous meteor Will o' the Wisp was then a usual object, rising and falling over the swampy places that remained, puzzling the benighted rustic with its uncertain and wandering light, or, as they say in the vernacular, "It war terrible for madling folk o' dark neets."

Wonderful beds of rushes covered the fields, growing so high and luxuriantly that dogs were at once lost sight of when ranging for game. The rushes were no longer made use of, as formerly in the district, to "thack" the lodge houses in the park, there being then plenty of oat straw for the purpose; but much was selected and cut by persons coming from Preston and elsewhere, for the manufacture of rush lights, a branch of industry which has long since disappeared.

At the present day, owing to improved draining, the rush, though far from being extirpated, covers the land neither so densely nor so extensively as formerly. What remains, generally but a sickly representative of the plant of former days, is used by the farmer as bedding for his pigs and cattle, though bracken from the fells is made much use of to make up deficiencies in the supply.

*Milk and butter; Dairy farms.*—When at last the great increase of population in the towns, consequent on the development of the cotton industry, rendered a large supply of milk and butter necessary, prices in the markets in consequence continually advancing, the farmers were not slow to

perceive that much greater profits could be made, with much less outlay, by laying aside the plough and establishing dairy farms instead. This system was soon adopted and prevails exclusively to the present time, to the farmer's advantage, as well as to that of the land they occupy.

*A Wild and Forest Country.*—In the recollection of men living a few years since, who remembered the latter years of the last, and commencement of the present century,<sup>1</sup> the aspect of the country then approached much more closely than at present to its original wild and forest character. None of the land in the vicinity of the hall, the ancient Laund of the Park, had at that time been broken by the plough. It remained as nature formed it, covered by a virgin sward. The high price given for corn during the war proved at length too strong an inducement, and the last piece of the old turf, excepting the steep declivity below the house called Calf's Brow (part of which remains), was sacrificed to the considerable, though temporary, increase of rent which the tenant was able to offer for the privilege. The rest of the ancient pasture throughout Leagram had been broken up at an earlier date, where the situation would allow, or the quality of the soil would render it remunerative, or the natural growth of scrub and underwood that at one time covered it had been sufficiently cleared. Before this last part of the sward had been invaded by the husbandman, there yet remained standing here and there a few venerable thorns and some ancient and almost branchless oaks, worthless for their timber but highly picturesque.

The Hollins field at the commencement of the century retained at its northern corner more than four acres of wild hollies growing luxuriantly together, whilst many others, mixed with thorns and patches of alder, at intervals ornamented the rest of its surface, pointing to the then not remote period when this part of the land was covered with its primeval wood.

1. That is, of course, the end of the 18th and opening of the 19th century.

The large fields known by the name of Buck Banks were still at the end of last (18th) century but indifferently cleared; and many acres in smaller or larger masses of scrubby wood, or bushes of different kinds, still held their ground against cultivation.

Hodder Moss had only lately been enclosed, and divided by hedges into four portions, on a part of which the Moss plantation was afterwards planted.

Chipping Moss, a tract still so called, lying between Moss Lane in Leagram and the fence bordering on Chipping, consisted also of heather and bog: much turf was obtained, and in the proper season many cranberries gathered.

These tracts of low-lying ground were nothing but marsh and swamp in more or less ancient times, as is evident from still existing maps of the middle of the 16th century, but at an earlier period they were undoubtedly covered by forests of old oak. Everywhere large spreading roots and vast trunks of prostrate trees of ebony black, untouched by the axe, were continually met with, at a short distance below the spongy surface. The trees seem to have fallen where they grew, from want of sustenance in the soil, perishing in their own decay, the natural fall and drainage of the land being choked and stagnated with the decomposition of succeeding generations of trees.

Late in the commencement of the 18th century portions of the original woods, probably with little weight of timber but forming in some places considerable masses of wood, yet gave a certain sylvan character to the land in Leagram. In a survey taken in 1733, Buckbanks Wood alone contained, exclusive of the clough, 75 acres, and the Hollins Wood 25 more. The different cloughs were all more extended than at present, the wild and natural wood with which they were clothed reaching much further into the adjoining lands.

Outside the Leagram fence, on the Bowland side, up to the beginning of the present (19th) century, the land was nearly all enclosed. Beyond Leagram Mill, where there still



remained a gate into Leagram, it was wild open waste, relieved only by the natural gullies and hollows of the land, covered with thorns and scattered bushes or trees extending to the Hodder side. In the neighbouring townships, large tracts were still waste and common. Chaighley moor was a wide extent of heath unbroken by a fence. In Chipping mosses and extensive wastes extended with intervals all the way to Longridge.

*Roads.*—As late as the beginning of the 19th century, in Leagram and the neighbourhood, the means of communication were few. Roads, as understood at present, did not exist. Parties travelled throughout the district solely on horseback. Mr. Weld (my grandfather) rode across the country from Stonyhurst, when he came to see his steward or visit his property here. Will Bamber, who died in 1872, aged 84, remembered, when a little boy at the Laund, being called to hold a horse, on one of these occasions, when he came with a large party of gentlemen, riding in two rows, six abreast.

A short time previous to the memory of living witnesses, parties attempting to drive their cattle through Leagram into Bowland or elsewhere, were prosecuted, and damages given against the offenders, as witness submissions and orders in court of that period.

A bridle road existed, as it does to-day, skirting for the most part the out-fence of Leagram, on the north, leading into Bowland towards the Trough, and to Lancaster. This was the highway from the south, to the north-east of the Bleasdale moors. Some of the Slater family, tenants in Leagram for more than two hundred years, were residing in 1745 in Goose Lane near Chipping, and gave meat and drink to a couple of mounted officers of the Jacobite army, retreating by this route to join their comrades further north.

So late as a year or two previous to my father's settling in Leagram, the road from Chipping to Preston led over Longridge Fell: and it was principally through the exertions of



Mr. Stephen Sparrow, the agent residing at the Laund, that the present zig-zag road through the valley was contrived to join the already existing road beyond Longridge to Preston, along which Cromwell and his army marched Aug. 16, 1648 (after resting the previous night at Mr. Shirburne's at Stonyhurst), on his way to engage and rout the Royal armies on Ribbleton Moor.

Owing to the paucity of roads, and difficulty of locomotion, very few four-wheeled vehicles of any kind were used. The tenants made use of trails without wheels, drawn by horses, as a substitute for carts, to carry their hay or corn to their barns. On the lower side of Leagram, for the first ten years of the present (19th) century, the farmers and cottagers got across the country to Chipping and elsewhere as best they could, without any kind of road to assist them.

Roads, though certainly none of the best, exist now, supported by rates on the townships through which they pass. Neither at present nor at any time has there been a turnpike in any direction between Chipping and Preston, Garstang, Clitheroe, or Whalley, within a circle of twelve miles; and as that institution seems to have reached its final development, we are not likely to have them introduced.

A single line of railway now reaches from Preston to Longridge, six and a half miles distant from Chipping, opened in 1840. It was originally only intended to carry stone from the quarries, but passenger carriages were soon added.

*Post Office at Chipping.*—Previous to Sept. 30, 1858, no postman with his letter bag penetrated these wilds, even to Longridge, and only after much personal exertion of my father's was this necessity of life obtained. The postmistress of Preston had reported to Colonel Maberly, the Postmaster General, that no letters were addressed to Chipping, through the Preston office, which was very likely to be the case, there being no organized arrangement for forwarding them to their destination. The authorities at length agreed to give a

fortnight's trial, and a postman was accordingly appointed for the time stated; due notice having been given to all correspondents, more than the requisite number 200 per week was at once attained. This number has steadily increased, the postman bringing more than a hundred letters every day to Chipping, and probably taking as many back.

The telegraph has also been established to Longridge from Preston since 1872 (June 22).

*Bridges.*—There were no bridges for wheeled vehicles over the Loud, at either of the two fords leading into Leagram on its south-western side, until many years after the roads leading in these directions had been made. A very narrow, steep stone bridge, of a single arch, existed at Loud Mytham, near the junction of the Loud with the Hodder, over which a horse might be led, when the ford was too dangerous; but at the pool at Gibbon, the river was crossed by a single plank and rail. The present bridges were erected at these localities by subscription in 1835.

The entrance into Leagram over the Chipping brook from the village of Chipping was formerly also by a stone foot-bridge, the entire width, including both parapets, measuring only  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet. It was materially widened by adding to the arch on the south side. This also having become ruinous and dangerous, a new bridge is being erected this year (1883), at the expense of the county.

Doeford bridge over the Hodder, leading into the neighbouring county, was built about 1770. It replaced an older structure which crossed the river about 100 rods lower down and was carried away by a great flood after much snow. It was a low narrow bridge of several arches. It is related that between the destruction of the ancient bridge and the completion of the new, a bridal party returning from church found that the river, since crossing it in the morning, had become much swollen with recent rain. The bride, however, led the way into the stream, but the horse missing its footing, was

carried with its rider into deeper water, and before assistance could be given, she was unfortunately drowned.

The new bridge was built by a contractor named Charnley for £700, which proved to be too low an estimate, and he accordingly lost by the agreement. The stone came from Kemble End. James Slater, the tenant at Loud Mytham, who died at a great age shortly after my father's settling at Leagram, helped to make it.

*Farm buildings, houses and cottages.*—Of the old houses and buildings that existed a few years after 1822, within Leagram and in the adjoining property in Bowland, scarcely any remain; nearly all having been removed or remodelled so as to preserve in appearance but few or no recollections of the past. The old hall and its numerous dependencies and offices having been taken down, the remaining houses on the estate were altered or removed by degrees according to circumstances, or as extensive changes became necessary.

The farm houses and cottages were generally low extended edifices, of one storey. The roofs, often with attic windows in them, were always thatched, and green with much grass and many weeds and flourishing patches of house-leek. The rooms were lighted by low, many-mullioned windows, filled with small quarrel panes, a dripstone running above them the entire length of the building. The doorways had chamfered heads and sides, sometimes with dates contemporary with the second Charles or James. Within were large open chimney places, and huge oaken arks or chests, the fronts of which were often profusely ornamented with curious carving, dating from the middle of the 16th to the commencement of the 18th century. The ceilings were supported by many well-seasoned blackened beams.

There were still "rattle and daub" houses and out-buildings existing, at the same date and a few years later, both here and in the neighbouring townships. They were rudely constructed, when wood was still abundant, built of oak trees, resting on large stones, the tops being united by a

“chilly beam.” The roof was thatched before the walls were built, to protect the “daub” from the weather. The living rooms were open above to the roof, with rafters overhead, the bed occupying the centre of the floor. Daub Hall in Chipping retains the name; perhaps it was formerly a remarkable specimen of the style.

The barns were often large open church-like structures, in some cases (as in the Dairy Barn, probably erected in Queen Mary’s reign) made of large baulks of timber, entire oak trees, springing from a low wall and meeting in the centre in a pointed arch. The building projected in one part crossways, like transepts. The shippons occupied the floor following the walls, the centre being given up for hay and corn, with a space reserved for thrashing out the grain.

Those were the days of oaten cakes, when the farmers grew their own corn and sent it to the township mill, as they were obliged by their leases to do. Many lived in great measure upon the meal they thus obtained, and every cottage and kitchen ceiling was well stored with pendant cakes. After discontinuing the cultivation of corn, it became necessary to purchase meal in the market, and wheaten bread gradually superseded the ancient cake of the district. It is still, however, to be seen in every farm house and cottage, though often purchased from those who make a small business in retailing it.

The thatched roofs rapidly disappeared, being replaced in the first instance by heavy stone slates, and afterwards by the better slate of the Welsh quarries. In most cases their supporting walls had to be taken down, the roofs being often unnecessarily extended, and consequently new buildings had to be substituted, with improvements in their arrangements.

A storm of unprecedented violence, though of short continuance, from the south-west in November, 18—, effected a revolution in the roofs of the district. Every thatched barn and building was more or less stripped, and there being no straw to renew them, all repairs were made with the more

serviceable material. In Leagram at least thatched cottages disappeared from that date.

Many cottages, irrespective of the farm houses, existed. They formed dependencies of the latter, and in the days of hand-loom weaving, the sound of the shuttle was heard from morning to night, the different members of the family, young and old, taking their turn, and making among them a livelihood and securing the rent for their holdings. Weavers who had a numerous family and farmed a few acres made much money, and rivalled the larger farmers in expenditure at fairs and feasts, so that landlords were wont to say, "Get up farmers; weavers sit down." After the break-up of this industry, consequent to the introduction of the power-loom, the cottager became a burthen. His occupation gone, he migrated with his family to the towns of the neighbourhood to seek another subsistence. The cottages soon fell into decay, and at last were gradually taken down, there being no use for them. The change from arable to dairy and pasture also affected the population of the district. Previously, the farmer, however large his family, had had sufficient work for all on his farm. This was no longer the case. The rising generation were soon sent from the parental roof, to seek and make their own living in Preston, in the factories or other employments, the two eldest alone usually remaining to assist their parents at home, perhaps eventually to succeed them on the land. Many farms descended thus, without any pre-arrangement, from father to son, during many generations. The families of the present tenants of Loud Mytham and Moss Lane have in this manner continued on their land from the time of Charles II.

The old house of Loud Mytham, situated near to the junction of the Loud with the Hodder, had a claim at one time to be something more than a farm house. It is supposed to have been built by a Captain Marsden of the Pale, about the commencement of Charles I.'s reign, or the end of his predecessor's. Captain Marsden was living in 1682, being



then 83 years of age. It is a heavy-looking building, of rough walling, containing a ground floor, and rooms above, with one long chamber under the roof occupying its entire length, and lit by a window in the gable at either end. The house had many blocked-up windows with numerous mullions. The principal entrance used to be on the north side, approached by a descent of several steps; it is now closed. The old door had, a few years since, a large bar of oak used as a bolt, without any other fastening. Some oak panelling remains in the rooms. Two enormous arks of oak testify to the abundance that once existed, one being capable of holding at least fourteen loads of meal. There are also one or two supposed hiding-places, where temporary concealment might have been found in troubled times. The chimney in the centre of the building fills a large space, the fire-place being altogether out of proportion to present wants, containing room for several persons to sit down on either side within its extensive arch. Above is a soot chamber eight or nine feet square, occupying the entire height to the roof.

The above is a description of the house previous to 1879, in which year it was entirely rebuilt, except the outside walls. The roof, which had been covered with heavy stone slates, and had given way in some places, was repaired, and recovered with Welsh slates. The central chimney and soot chamber were done away with, and the whole interior re-arranged more in conformity with present requirements. The old blocked-up windows, souvenirs of the window tax, were all re-opened and filled with large panes.

Out of doors are traces of a strong wall, and embankment on three sides, which enclosed formerly a garden to the south, forming as well a very necessary defence against the encroachment of the river in time of floods.

The house, if built by Captain Marsden of the Pale, must have been placed on the site of a more ancient one, as a house is indicated in the same place, in an old map of the park, at least as early as Henry VIII.'s reign. It stands in that part



of Bowland which is in the angle between the two rivers and the out-fence of Leagram. It was purchased by Sir Nicholas Shirburne, bart., about the end of the 17th century, and has formed part of the estate since.

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#### IV.—THE CHAPEL.

OF an early religious foundation in Leagram there is nothing known. The chapel belonging to the township in common with Little Bowland is that at Whitewell. The Shirburnes had seats there as belonging to Leagram, and such of the tenants as belong to the Church of England can make use of them. These pews, before the chapel was rebuilt in 1817, occupied the front and principal places, but owing to the neglect of the steward at the time of the alterations, they were removed to the bottom of the chapel, in which situation they have continued. The few inhabitants of the Park Lodge in early times and especially those of Little Bowland, doubtless repaired when so inclined to the forest chapel, but those of the Park, perhaps more frequently, from its greater accessibility, to the church of the neighbouring parish at Chipping. After the Reformation, the Catholic occupiers of the Lodge would have for some time to practise their religion by stealth, and content themselves at rare intervals with the ministrations of some ecclesiastic who could risk discovery in face of the terrible penal enactments against the missionary priest.

The Lodge, as shown above, was occupied in the 16th and early 17th centuries, and in all probability there was a chapel of some kind, more or less hidden or secret, the greater part of this time.

The oldest chapel of which there is any knowledge was situated at the north-western extremity of the court-yard, beyond the site of the present laundry, and on the high ground. According to the testimony of one or two old

persons yet living in 1871, it was existing, though in ruins, when they were children. William Bamber, born at the Laund in 1788, says the walls were in part standing for many years, apparently ancient. It was very small. The door was on the north side on the high ground; it was also approached by a flight of steps on the opposite side. Richard Rogerson, born a month later the same year, remembered it being taken down; his uncle, he said, who lived on the estate at Dairy Barn and died in 1831, remembered it in use, also that the floor was of oak and on a level with the top of the hill.

Many portions of mullions and worked stones belonging to its windows were found when digging for foundations for the laundry in 1823 or 1824. In the winter of 1869 a passage was cut through the high ground at the back of the laundry down to the level of the court-yard, in order to make some additions to the premises. In doing so the ancient wall supporting the hill at this side of the court was removed. It was three feet in thickness of large irregular blocks of rough limestone, the whole as solid and hard as rock. At the same time a strong embankment wall was discovered running parallel to the gable wall of the laundry, at six feet distance from it, with its base below the level of the court, and rising to the height of the ground above, which it supported. It extended to a point beyond the centre of the laundry, where it met a short wall, four feet thick, at right angles with it. On levelling the surface on the top of the bank on the north side of the supporting wall, the foundations of the side wall of the old chapel were exposed, running south-west and north-east, about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart. They extended beyond the wall about 20 feet; a paved walk or road leading to the northern end and entrance, was likewise laid bare, indicating the extent of the chapel on this side. On the opposite end, owing to numerous vestiges of walls at different depths, it was not possible to determine its exact limits.

A large covered drain or sewer three feet in depth, and nearly the same in width, passed from below the court-yard,

following the laundry wall nearly its whole length, turning underneath it at last to join the great drain that passes under the present flower garden. A blocked-up narrow doorway,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, was visible under the laundry wall and above the top of the drain, and beyond the centre cross wall. The different cross walls discovered may have been chiefly to support the embankment wall and bank on which the chapel stood. A room or sacristy may have also been supported by them, forming at the same time, by means of a staircase, an approach to the chapel for the family. Outside the chapel foundations, between them and the embankment wall of the court-yard, and nine feet above its level, was a regular paved walk which may have led at its southern end to a flight of steps, forming the approach on that side: it also led in the opposite direction round the corner of the chapel to the walk and entrance on its northern side.

A small French religious silver medal of the 17th century, perhaps belonging to a rosary, was found in the process of excavating on the side of the site of the chapel.

This chapel, whatever its age, was probably of some antiquity, its small size at least pointing to a time when Catholic worshippers were very few. At last it no longer sufficed for the increasing numbers of the congregation, and accordingly a new chapel of much larger dimensions was commenced in 1787.

This second chapel was erected on the site of the old west wing, which had been taken down a few years previously. The building, of which a considerable portion still exists, though used for other purposes, was 60 feet in length, and 25 in width, internal measurement. It had five long round-headed windows on the west side, and a gallery erected in 1803 to give greater accommodation, and place for an organ, at the northern end. The altar was plain, with an antependium; the tabernacle of wood, and handsome, was afterwards removed to Chipping. The exterior was of the plainest description, built in courses of rough stone, ending with a

gable, without a line of ornament, having the appearance of a barn. The amount paid to the contractors, Messrs. Emmet and Co., for building and other items came to £368 12s. 8d., the last payment being Aug. 27, 1790.

This chapel was in use by the congregation when my father first took up his residence at Leagram, and continued to be their place of worship until the chapel at Chipping was ready for divine service in 1829. The family entered by a door through the sacristy, to the left of the south entrance of the house; a door out of the same also conducted by two or three steps in the thickness of the wall to the pulpit. To the left of the altar was a marble mural ornament to the memory of Mr. John Sparrow, who was buried in the church-yard at Chipping, Feb. 27, 1801. The monument was afterwards removed to the chapel at Clitheroe.

The congregation entered the chapel under the gallery originally by a covered passage that was open to the court yard. Shortly after my father's arrival a walk leading from the back of the old garden was made to communicate with the covered passage on that side, the congregation being by this means kept out of the court yard and removed further from the house.

In 1826, the congregation having further increased, a larger chapel was again called for. This new chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, and chapel house, were built in Chipping and completed and opened in 1829.

This severed the connection which had so long subsisted between the congregation and the chapel at the hall. A portion of the old chapel was made use of by the family for some years after for private devotion, and Mass was often celebrated. The building becoming at length much out of repair, it was agreed to discontinue religious services there, until such time as a more suitable chapel could be built.

It had been a favourite project of myself and my wife, since our marriage, that the new domestic chapel, when built, should be erected at our sole expense, the style to be Gothic,

and the appearance more suitable and worthy of its purposes than its predecessors at the hall had been. The plans having been decided on late in 1851, Mr. Charles Hansom of Clifton being the architect, the work was commenced in the spring of the following year. The contract for the shell of the building and corridor as far as the centre of the south-east front, including the entrance doorway, with the timber, roofing and slate, was taken by Thomas Catterall of Poulton-le-Fylde, for £421 10s.; for the rest of the corridor £60. To the same builder was paid in addition, for deviating from the original contract (in having the exterior of the chapel faced with ashlar work, instead of plain dressed stone, and other minor alterations) £130 6s.; making a total of £611 16s. 10d. This was exclusive of the ordinary walling stone, lime, sand, fittings, carting materials, heating apparatus, and architect's percentage, bringing up the total to £852 10s. 6d. The stained glass cost about £141 4s. 9d. This brought the total, without altar furniture, to £994 1s. 1d.

The chapel was opened by midnight Mass the Christmas of 1854.

The stained glass over the altar is by Wailes of Newcastle, the tracery being filled in by representations of the implements of the Passion, and accessory emblems. The three lights underneath have medallions set in arabesque foliage, illustrating the seven sorrows of the B. Virgin, the last containing the taking down from the cross and the entombment combined in one medallion. The side windows, by Hardman of Birmingham, are commemorative, representing the patron saints of the donor or members of the family, with an inscription underneath, giving their names with invocations for their good estate. The quatrefoils above contain their armorial bearings. The altar, of Caen stone, and the piscina came from Clifton, the work of Messrs. Lane and Lewis. The tabernacle was also from Clifton. The reredos, decorated by Mr. Henry Cock of Preston, is divided into panels, the compartments containing paintings of saints



on zinc in two rows; the upper represent St. Matilda, St. Frances, St. Walburga, and St. Winefride; the lower, St. Joseph, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis of Sales, and St. Benedict, the three last being the founders of religious orders of which individuals of the family are members.

#### THE MISSIONERS AT LEGRAM.

Of the early missioners at Leagram there is absolutely nothing known. The Jesuit fathers are supposed to have watched over the spiritual interests of this neighbourhood from an early date; but, from the practice of adopting different aliases to escape the pursuivants continually on their track, it is now, in most instances, impossible to ascertain their true names, or connect them with particular localities.

In Baines's *History of Lancashire* a presentment is recorded on 10th September, 1586, made by the vicar of Chipping, of one Guile, a priest, harboured by James Dewhurst, of Chipping; through the information of John Salisbury of Chipping.

A tradition still lingers that Fr. Arrowsmith, who suffered for the faith at Lancaster, August 28, 1628, acted at one time as a missioner here, or at all events that he occasionally exercised his priestly ministrations in this neighbourhood; and also that Richard Hurst who suffered at the same assizes the following day, was arrested while following the plough at this place. Whether such is the fact or not, in the old maps a house is indicated as Richard Hurst's, situated in Leagram, close to the village of Chipping. He was betrayed to the pursuivant of the Bishop of Chester by two persons named Wilkinson and Dewhurst.

In the worst periods of persecution, religious ministrations would be by flying visits few and far between; when times were less dangerous, and public opinion more liberal or indifferent, greater freedom for the exercise of religion became possible for Catholics. Accordingly, after the accession of



James II., Richard Shirburne of Stonyhurst, father of Sir Nicholas, endowed the chapel here with £20 per annum, for the good of his own soul and that of his wife and those of several of his family, up to his grandfather. By this foundation the priest was enjoined to spend one week in every month with the Catholics of Long Preston and Giggleswick; in the other three weeks he was expected to devote his attentions to the faithful in the parish of Great Mitton and Leagram, residing among them.

In answer to enquiries made by Fr. Brooke, S.J., in 1834, of Mr. Sparrow, nephew and successor to the old agent Mr. John Sparrow, he says: "I find an entry to Mr. P . . . for three years ending March 1700, £30. I suppose this to mean Mr. Penketh. I have heard a tradition that a Mr. Penketh served or supplied the mission at Chipping Laund; but it appears that Sir Nicholas Shirburne fixed the salary for the priest at Chipping Laund at £20 per annum, whereas the payment to Mr. Penketh is only £10 per annum. Mr. P. might serve one of those missions and the other afterwards." This was thought to be Fr. John Penketh, S.J., who also passed by the name of Rivers. He was incumbent of Leigh in Lancashire in 1693. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1664. In the delirium of the public mind occasioned by Oates's plot, he was arrested in Lancashire, his native county, tried at Lancaster, and condemned to death for his priestly character. At the accession of James II he was discharged from Lancaster prison, and lived till 1701. Fr. John Penketh, S.J., was at Leigh in 1693, and though he may after that date have officiated at the Laund until 1701, the year of his death, the Mr. P. mentioned as receiving three years' salary in 1700 is more likely the Rev. Richard Penketh or Pencoth, who undoubtedly lived at the Laund, and died there 1721, as appears from the register of burials at Chipping:—

Richard Pencoth a popish priest buried 7th Aug. 1721, of Chipping Lawnd.

After the death of the Rev. Richard Pencoth, the Rev. — Moor is the first chaplain of whom the tradition of the neighbourhood has preserved the name or any particulars, but it is not certain that he was the immediate successor of Mr. Pencoth, for the exact time of his taking the mission is uncertain. He seems to have been missionary here at least as early as 1745. William Bamber, born at the Laund in 1788, stated that his mother and grandmother both lived in Mr. Moor's service when chaplain at the Laund, and that he had often heard them say that, being in Preston that year, he had to be secreted in a hiding-place there, by a Catholic woman, during several days, before he could venture to return to the Laund. Mr. Moor resided exclusively here, confining his ministrations to his co-religionists in the immediate neighbourhood. The Giggleswick estate and house had been sold by the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, and the Catholics in Great Mitton were assisted from elsewhere. He occupied the old centre 'post and pattern' building, where the Weld family found him on their succession to the Shirburne estates in 1754. He was the first to inhabit the new stone house erected in its place about 1775. He received from Mr. Edward Weld an augmentation of his salary, viz., £40 per ann.

Mr. Moor is said to have been a nervous man, and a very timid horseman. On one occasion it was reported to him when in Preston that the vicar of Chipping was there likewise, and had been heard to say that, "if he overtook the popish priest on his return, it would be the worse for him." This alarmed him so much that he put spurs to his horse and rode home as fast as he could, risking a fall rather than meet the parson. The vicar of Chipping was at this time Mr. Milner, 1739 to 1777. He is said to have been very inimical to Catholics, and especially to his neighbour, the priest at the Laund. Mr. Moor died, or left this mission, in 1780. He is believed to have died at the Laund and to have been buried in the churchyard at Chipping, but there is no record in the parish register.

Mr. Moor was succeeded by the Rev. J. Lawrenson, who came to take charge of this mission September 2, 1780. He lived in the new house built for his predecessor until Mr. John Sparrow removed from Stonyhurst to reside there in 1794. After Mr. Sparrow's arrival he had to share the house with him, which arrangement not proving comfortable, he left shortly after, taking lodgings at Abbot's Barn, a farm near Chipping, where he continued until he gave up the mission a few months later, in 1795. Mr. Lawrenson was the last to officiate in the old chapel on the high ground at the back of the court. Mr. Lawrenson went in the first instance to Scorton, but afterwards retired to Garstang, where he died. He was greatly respected both by his own flock and also by the non-Catholics of the neighbourhood. Mr. Carlisle, the vicar of Chipping, a liberal and friendly man, was on intimate terms with him. William Bamber's traditional recollection of Mr. Lawrenson only testifies that he was a "plump, red-faced mon, vara hearty and vara keen o' shooting."

After Mr. Lawrenson's retirement from the mission at the Laund, the vacancy was supplied for a short time by a Mr. Kemper, who received for three months and four days £11 4s. 10d.

The Rev. J. Hart came to serve this mission in August, 1795. The arrangement by which the chaplain should reside in the house with the steward having proved unsatisfactory in Mr. Lawrenson's case was not repeated. A cottage built apart, expressly for the chaplain's residence, was erected by my grandfather on the high ground beyond the court-yard. Mr. Hart took lodgings in Chipping, the upper storey of Brabin's School, then approached by a flight of steps from the outside in the street. He continued there until the new cottage was ready to receive him, about two years after, in 1797. Mr. Hart received, at least latterly, as his salary, £60 per ann. He is reported to have been of very delicate constitution, and his health obliged him eventually to give up the mission in 1803.

The mission was then undertaken by the Rev. John Reeve. He took up his residence at the new cottage, where he remained until he removed to Chipping in 1827. On the death of Thomas Weld in 1810, this estate devolved to my father, the late George Weld, who maintained the chapel until the removal of the mission to Chipping. Mr. Reeve's salary, first at £60 per ann., was afterwards increased to £100. The congregation feeling themselves now sufficiently numerous to undertake the support of their pastor, and wishing for a larger chapel and one at the same time nearer to the majority of its frequenters, the chaplaincy was discontinued, and the present large and commodious chapel erected by subscription, the family largely contributing; my father likewise gave land, worth £20 a year, adjoining Chipping village as a site and also as an endowment. Mr. Reeve from the time of his taking the mission in 1803, to the time of the arrival of the family at the hall in 1822, besides his priestly functions, exercised the privileges of the manor. He was a very keen sportsman, and a good shot for the time. He was a hearty and friendly man, and like other rural priests of the period, entered largely into the occupations of the people, mixing much with them, besides looking to their spiritual wants, joining in their pastimes, which were legalised and regulated by the priest's presence, even, in some instances, to the following and keeping of hounds, as his neighbour Mr. Barrow of Claughton did for many years. The chaplains had occupied an exceptional position at the Laund. Having no superior on the estate, enjoying the game, and supposed to hold patronage and influence altogether separate, in the opinion of their flocks, from any spiritual ascendancy which naturally belonged to them, they were considered accordingly. This position was somewhat modified when the steward came to reside here on his removal from Stonyhurst, but circumstances completely changed with the arrival of the family; and shortly after the completion and opening of the new chapel at Chipping, Mr. Reeve was removed by his superiors. It was

thought better that another missionary, unconnected and unassociated with former arrangements, should enter on the new situation. Mr. Reeve, shortly after his departure from Chipping, was appointed to Courtfield in Monmouthshire, where some years later he died.

Thus with the transfer of the congregation to Chipping a great change was inaugurated; the pastor, from being the chaplain at the hall, became more particularly the parish priest. The old chapel at the Laund was situated in the parish of Whalley; the new mission lies in the parish of Chipping. They are included in the Hundred of Blackburn form a part of the Catholic diocese of Salford.

There is no account or tradition of any episcopal visitation taking place at the Laund. William Bamber, who was baptized there in 1788, was confirmed by Bishop Gibson at Fernyhalgh chapel near Preston, five congregations going there on that occasion for that purpose.

## V.—LOCAL MANNERS AND FOLK-LORE.

IN 1822 and for some years later the farmers and people of Leagram and the neighbourhood had a more homely and old-fashioned appearance than at the present day. There was but little intercourse with the outside world. Few people stirred beyond their own district. They had little polish, but a more friendly and less constrained address when accosted by their superiors in education or position than their present representatives. They were obliging without being subservient, and although wanting in manners, their natural demeanour contrasted favourably with the rough and often surly independence of the present time.

At that date the boys of the school, as well as others of the rising generation, nodded their heads vigorously to passing strangers, at the same time pulling heartily their one lock of hair, left in front (perhaps for this exposition of civility), the rest being closely cropped all round. They are now more fashionably cropped, but the pull and the nod have alike mostly departed.

Their dress had more character, with more simplicity. The same style prevailed universally. The men and boys invariably wore stout cloth or cord breeches, fastened below the knees by a strap or buttons, unsupported by braces but strapped on either side of the waist by a button; coarse blue or grey stockings of home manufacture, and a widely skirted cloth coat. The women wore full printed cotton jackets, tied at the waist, with short linsey petticoats of some dark colour. Wooden shoes were all but universal. A Belgian servant who had accompanied the family from abroad used to remark that they were just like his own countrywomen in Flanders.

The dialect spoken by nearly all was perplexing, though



not generally impossible to understand. Good Saxon words were plentiful: some were of Danish origin, and many Norman-French were also to be found in their vocabulary. This has been gradually disappearing, and it is at present rare to meet with any one who possesses more than a trace of the ancient idiom.

#### RECREATIONS AND GAMES.

In the commencement of the 19th century, and the latter years of the preceding one, as recorded by recently living witnesses, young people in Leagram and the neighbourhood amused themselves to a great extent with public recreations. Besides the more exciting diversions of bull and bear baiting and badger-drawing and the national sport of cock-fighting (still prevalent in the neighbourhood until the end of the first quarter of the century), games were continually taking place in which numbers participated. The present home meadow was a favourite arena for their friendly contests. On Sunday afternoon (or holiday afternoons) after vespers, great football matches were much in vogue, and other pastimes in which many could join.

It was usual also on fine summer evenings for two or three of the farmers' families to meet and play at football, or at spell and knur, bag and trippers, chase boggart, chasing bough, and many other games.

There were likewise great public matches, township contests, one township against another. A great football match is spoken of between Goosnargh and Whittingham in which the former was victorious, the successful party forcing the ball over the moat and through the house at Gingates Hall, and so on to Goosnargh, the bells of the church ringing them in. There was much excitement, and, it is said, much pushing each other besides footing the ball. There were also great contests at spell and knur with Ribchester and many other townships. John Bolton, many years a tenant on

Leagram, who died in 1868 in his 91st year, was a noted football player in this neighbourhood when a young man.

There was little frequenting of public-houses then. In the long evenings of winter, there was much story-telling round the fire, which, with card-playing and different indoor games, served to amuse the young folks and keep them at home.

#### BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CUSTOMS.

In a retired district like this, many local or more marked observances and peculiarities prevailed fifty years ago which have been gradually disused and are now nearly forgotten. Much of what may be called the folk-lore of the neighbourhood of Leagram is common to the rest of the country, more especially to the north of England. Some customs may still linger here that have disappeared in other localities; others have already become traditional, and are only remembered as of ordinary occurrence long years ago, when the narrators were in their youth. Almost everywhere retired districts have been brought into contact and daily intercourse with advanced civilization, which has rapidly supplanted with its opposing ideas the traditional customs or superstitions which had been faithfully carried down unchallenged and accepted by the simple inhabitants. This district, like others, has materially changed within a few years. Although so retired (and in its intercommunication with the outer world less accessible than most neighbourhoods) nevertheless its people are fast losing their old-fashioned peculiarities, and the customs and observances common in the first years of the century are dying out.

All events of importance, from the birth of an individual until death has closed his career and his obsequies are concluded, are celebrated by feasts or entertainments of greater or lesser degree under the plea of hospitality.

A custom prevails in the farmhouses and cottages throughout the neighbourhood of Leagram, when a child is born, for the family to have an entertainment amongst themselves and

their immediate neighbours, consisting of tea, spirits, cake, etc. It is called "The Merry Meal," but is more usually known about Chipping as the "Shouting." "A ye ben to the Shouting?" is the question. In some cases the husband provides a cake to be ready for the occasion. This practice seems to be identical with the "Groaning Cake" and cheese, formerly customary in the Fylde and other parts of Lancashire<sup>1</sup>. A small piece of the cheese used sometimes to be kept for many years, it being considered lucky to do so. A piece was likewise placed by young people under their pillows, to influence their dreams and realize happy anticipations for them.

In the adjoining township of Chaighley, on similar occasions, the old women of the neighbourhood are invited, and are entertained with rum and tea, and when the birth has taken place, they are called upon to dance, and are further regaled with a renewed supply of the good things before mentioned, and the neighbours who are not invited to join in the merry-making are anything but pleased.

Then, almost before the mother is sufficiently well, it is usual for her to entertain the neighbours to tea, especially amongst the poorer families. Sometimes numbers attend. It is generally known as the "*Shilling Day*," the visitors each paying a shilling towards the expenses.

A feast is usual also after the christening, much more so formerly than at present.

When the child is baptized, if a boy, it is customary to have two men and one woman as sponsors; if a girl, one man and two women. The godfathers and godmothers are known as "Gossips."

In some parts of the extensive parish of Whalley, as about Huntroyde, many people give their children titular names, as

1. At the present time, a peasant bride, in some parts of Sweden, on the first night of her marriage, places a bread cake and a cheese by her side on the nuptial couch, as a provision for her future children.

Lord, Marquis, or Squire; thus, a man of the name of Robinson was only known as Lord Robinson, and his daughters who were married were, in joke at least, sometimes termed Honourables.

In many parts of the country the seventh son is invariably styled "the Doctor," although without any pretensions to the healing art, or attempting it. The general ancient belief in the North of England was that the seventh son of a seventh son was born a doctor, with an intuitive knowledge of how to cure all ailments, often by touch only. The superstition now generally prevailing is that if a woman has seven sons born to her in succession, should the seventh be brought up to the medical profession, he is certain to be successful.

Amongst other superstitious notions prevalent here relating to childbirth, it is considered very unlucky to turn the bed on which the mother was confined before a month has elapsed, and when done through inadvertence, it is usually turned back again.

Evil consequences are thought likely to ensue if the child's hands are washed before it is a month old. Many think it would become light-fingered and given to stealing. Some hold that it is only the palms of the hands which should not be operated upon.

Equally strong and general is the objection to have a child's nails pared before it completes its first year. In some parts of the country they say, that if they require shortening, before that time, they should be bitten off.

In this neighbourhood no woman is admitted into a neighbour's house before she is churched, for it is said to be very unlucky for the household if she should be.

#### COURTING, BRIDAL OR WEDDING CUSTOMS.

In this neighbourhood, the addresses paid by young men to their sweethearts take place generally on Saturday nights, and are styled the "sitting up." When the opportunity

serves, any night will do, excepting Friday. Should a party attempt it on that evening, the neighbours interrupt them, by clashing pans, pokers and tongs, or otherwise creating a disturbance. This "keeping company," the recognised term for young men and women engaged to each other, whilst courting or seeking each other's society, continues for an indefinite period. Should a young man out of Leagram or Chipping court a girl in another township, the young men of the neighbourhood waylay him and demand a fine, and if it is not immediately forthcoming they sometimes handle him very roughly, perhaps even putting him in a sack and carrying him back from whence he came. About Browsholme, Bowland, and that neighbourhood, a man out of his district for the same object is followed about and annoyed in different ways. They also bring him back, cover him with flour, etc. A servant from the hall, the evening before he left (1885), went to take leave of a girl in Chipping, whom he had been visiting for some time. On leaving Leagram township at the bridge, he was waylaid by several young men, who demanded a fine; not obtaining it they used him very roughly and tried to put him into a sack. He was, however, rescued by some one who was passing at the time.

When at last a marriage is arranged and the day fixed upon has arrived, the parties having been "asked," as publishing the banns is usually termed, the requisite number of times, the rustic candidates for matrimony proceed with their friends to church. Groomsmen and bridesmaids are not omitted, nor does the bride neglect to wear her best, with long flowing veil, and chaplet of white.

It is considered very unlucky to lose your wedding ring and very lucky to be married with a borrowed one.

Music sometimes precedes the marriage procession, but not usually now. About Enfield, Clayton-le-Moors, Great Harwood and many other places, the wedding party until quite recently used to be led by a fiddler, who fiddled all the way to church and, after the ceremony, on the return home.



Formerly music of some kind was a universal accompaniment to a wedding here as elsewhere, and was better or worse and on a greater or less scale according to the means to pay for it. In retired country districts it is not much indulged in at present. In some cases those who can afford a band hire one to play in the street, or before the house where the marriage feast is held.

Often at Chipping, when the ceremony at a rustic wedding is nearly over, some one behind the bride will lightly touch her shoulder. Should she turn her head to see who it is, she forfeits a pair of gloves to the party. In the same class of weddings, the individual who first kisses the bride is sometimes declared to have won them.

If the father of the bride cannot attend to give his daughter away another person is appointed for the purpose, known at Chipping as "the old father." The best man is recognised as "the Man."

A very general custom for the newly married pair, on leaving the church or chapel, is to throw some small coins to the crowd to be scrambled for, which they term "the Perry." Should this custom not be complied with, the parties are assailed with cries of "Trash, trash," and "Penny wedding." In Scotland this last expression signifies a wedding where the expense of the subsequent entertainment is defrayed by the guests.

In the neighbourhood of Chipping, in the village itself, in Bowland, and about Browsholme, etc., the bridal party is often stopped on its way home from church. In the street, or where a few people can be collected, they obstruct the way by drawing a cart across, or extend a pole to impede the progress of the married couple, until they have paid toll, in some small change, which is afterwards spent in drinking their healths. This payment is known here as "Hen silver."

It used to be customary at Chipping and elsewhere in the district, within a few years, for the bride's friends to meet her on her return from church and throw biscuit or bride-cake



over her head as she entered her house. The wife of John Atkinson (for many years butler at Leagram and afterwards tenant) when married at Garstang, had sweet wheaten cakes broken over her head, as she entered the public house on her return from the church. Two men stood at the door with outstretched arms, holding the cakes, which they broke as she passed underneath. Grains of corn and spikes of wheat were dropped on the bride's head as she returned from the church. Afterwards again thin cakes were used and broken in the same way. Rice is now thrown on leaving the church, but it seems to be a modern revival, not having formerly been customary in the district. Flowers are sometimes strewn in the path of the newly-wedded bride on her way from the church or on entering her home.

The ancient and almost universal custom of throwing old shoes and slippers after the bride on leaving the church, or afterwards on leaving her home, is always complied with in this district.

Until the end of the first quarter of this (19th) century, and perhaps a few years later, it was very usual after a marriage at the parish church, at Chipping, for the young men of the bridal party to race from the church to the house where the marriage feast took place, the first to arrive receiving from the bride a ribbon (her garter), a prize much coveted. This was a modification of a very indecorous custom exercised anciently in many country churches of taking the garter from the bride by force, even at the altar, immediately after the ceremony.

The breakfast or marriage feast, which has descended to us from high antiquity, used often in the rural districts to be the occasion of much unseemly conduct, from a too protracted hospitality. This has quite passed away, and general decorum and sobriety now prevail. A wedding feast, held sometimes at the inn, but usually at the house of the bride's parents, is always provided, on a greater or less scale according to the circumstances of the parties. There is likewise a bride-cake.

The person who gives the bride away, when the time comes, holds the bride's hand to give it sufficient pressure to cut right through the cake, as it is considered unlucky if she fail in doing so.

There is likewise often provided at a marriage entertainment a pudding into which a ring has been introduced, and he or she to whose share it falls will be the next of the party married. This last custom is observed in many parts of the north of England, and the one who holds the knife when it comes on the hidden ring is usually thought to be certain of happiness for twelve months at least.

On the occasion of the marriage of two daughters of Robert Dewhurst, the tenant of the Dairy Barn farm, Leagram, in 1879, most of the old observances were complied with. On leaving the chapel at Chipping, where the marriage services had taken place, slippers and rice were thrown after them, followed by a "perry," at which all the school children and many others assisted, scrambling for the small coins thrown amongst them. Barricades were also formed in the street, and the wedding parties had to pay toll before they could pass on to the Dairy Barn. There refreshments—tea, coffee, wine and biscuits, cold chickens, &c.—were served about 10 a.m. in one or two rooms, in relays to the assembled guests. Between 3 and 4 p.m. more substantial fare was introduced—rounds of beef, joints of mutton, and spirits—while later on dancing commenced, and continued until 2 a.m. next morning.

A dance always concludes the day's rejoicing. At Chipping and in the neighbourhood, should either the bride or bridegroom have an elder brother unmarried, he always dances at the wedding without his shoes, sometimes with a different coloured stocking on each foot. In the neighbourhood of Colne, when a younger sister marries before her elder sister, the latter dances at the wedding without her shoes, but in green stockings. At a dance on the occasion of the marriage of a servant man at the hall, given at his father's

house, his elder brother danced without shoes, with a red stocking on one foot, and a blue one on the other. About Accrington, an elder brother is made to dance in a washing tub. The custom as regards the absence of shoes, seems to prevail throughout the north as far as Scotland, from South Lancashire to Dumfriesshire. It is alluded to by Shakespeare in the "Taming of the Shrew." Bianca, jealous of her younger sister, exclaims to her father:—

She is your treasure, she must have a husband,  
I must dance barefoot on her wedding day.

The difference of colour in the stockings does not appear to be so general.

The dance most in favour on these occasions, at least in this neighbourhood, was the "Cushion Dance," or Joan Sanderson, more popularly known as "Kiss-in-the-ring." It is still known in the district, and danced at weddings, or, oftener, at merry-makings at Christmas. At the present time, however, at every cottage, in every public house, at which a dance or ball takes place, all the dances of society, quadrilles, mazurkas, galops, and waltzes, concluding with a cotillon, are exclusively performed.

The custom, of comparatively recent introduction, for the newly-married couple to leave after the breakfast for a few days of seclusion, known as the Honey Moon, has not yet been adopted by the lower classes or rustic couples in this retired neighbourhood. They remain with the company until the end, and then retire to rest. Sometimes the bridal pair are conducted by the best man and bridesmaids to their chamber, and occasionally the old ceremony of throwing the stocking is still performed. As usually done here, the person chosen to throw it is blindfolded and placed at the foot of the bed, with his back to the married pair, who are in bed in a sitting position. He then carelessly throws a stocking over his shoulder, and it is thought that the party he hits will be the future master.

Where the custom was fully carried out, as formerly over all England, the groomsmen held the groom's stockings, sitting back to the bed, on the groom's side. The bridesmaids, in the same way held the bride's stockings, on the opposite side. The groomsmen then threw a stocking, over his left shoulder, aiming at the bride's pillow. The first bridesmaid then did the same, endeavouring to hit the head of the groom. This was repeated by the remaining groomsmen and bridesmaids. If one of them hit the head at which it was thrown, it was considered a sure omen of a speedy marriage to the fortunate thrower, who was congratulated accordingly. The stocking was thrown over the nuptial bed in all ranks of life. George III and Queen Charlotte were the first royal couple at whose marriage the ceremony was not observed. In Catholic times, the priest, vested and attended by thurifers, witnessed it, and afterwards solemnly blessed the couch of the newly-wedded pair, previous to leaving them for the night. In this neighbourhood and elsewhere in Catholic marriages, the house and chamber of the bride are blessed by the priest when requested to do so.

Old people in Chipping still remember that young couples in this neighbourhood went first to the house of the bride's parents to kneel at their feet and receive their blessing.

#### FUNERAL CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

No one in this neighbourhood would purchase a feather-bed that was thought to contain any pigeon feathers. They believe that a person could not die in such a bed, and in the case of a dying person whose agony is protracted, the bed is sometimes drawn from underneath, and replaced by another, in case it might contain some of the unlucky feathers. This superstition is widely spread. In some parts of Lancashire game-cock feathers are supposed to have the same effect.

It is also a common belief about Chipping that a sick person's last fancy in the way of food is often pigeon, and

consequently, if asked for by an invalid, is considered an almost certain sign of approaching death. This superstition is very general about the country, and has believers among a higher and more educated class. An acquaintance called on another woman in the neighbourhood who had been ailing for some time, and, asking after her was told that she had just fancied a bit of pigeon that the children were eating. She answered: "Poor thing! I did na' reckon hoo'd ha' come to this."

The ancient custom of bidding relatives, friends, and neighbours to the funeral, by sending a person round to their dwelling requesting attendance, is always observed in the neighbourhood of Leagram and Chipping, the number of the invited being more or less limited by the circumstances of the family inviting. Refreshments are provided, and after the burial a funeral feast is prepared on a scale commensurate with the means of the deceased. Formerly much expense was entailed and unseemly behaviour often ensued in consequence of the prolonged continuance of the entertainment. At present matters are usually conducted in an orderly manner. In the case of a well-to-do farmer's death, the chief mourner sends a messenger round to bid his relatives and others to attend the funeral, stating the day and hour. On the arrival of the invited at the house of mourning, they are received at the entrance by two women in black, bearing trays, the one containing a tankard of spiced ale, the other with cakes and biscuits, both of which are offered to the guests, who partake, and bowing or curtseying to the givers, pass on into the house. The ale, or sometimes wine, and cake are carried round several times during the stay of the guests. Tea and coffee are served also. Where the circumstances of the deceased are but small, or the station in life humble, less is given or expected.

The landlord is often bidden to the funeral of a tenant. In exceptional cases it is responded to; sometimes a small donation is sent instead.



The tankard of spiced ale used at the funeral gathering is prepared in the following manner: After the ale has been sweetened with sugar, the rind of a lemon is carefully removed in one long strip nearly to the end, which is left attached; the rest is cut into slices and stuck full of cloves and transferred to the ale. A pointed stick to serve as a handle is inserted into the remaining portion of the fruit, and the accompanying rind wound round it. In many places it is usual to apply to the priest or the squire for the loan of a silver tankard to contain the hot ale and spices, which is everywhere prepared in the same manner.

Previous to the removal of the body, all are invited to see it before the coffin is finally closed, and each guest on leaving places a shilling in the hand of the chief mourner, who invariably sits at the head of the coffin. This money gift is made only in cases where the family is of small means, and assistance is welcome towards paying expenses. The well-doing farmer or others in easy circumstances never accept any pecuniary aid. All are anxious that when their time comes they should not be wanting in a respectable funeral (or rather a suitable entertainment), and carefully provide for it.

Some years since music had a conspicuous part in the arrangements of a funeral at Chipping and in the neighbourhood. Singers and musicians with different instruments led the procession from the house of mourning to the church or place of interment. This seems to have been a very ancient practice throughout Christian Europe, and survived in some retired places in this country to a comparatively recent period. Later the custom was modified here to singing anthems or hymns before the door of the house previous to the departure of the procession to the church. This was done in Chipping itself at the funeral of Parkinson, father of the late post-master there; also on the death of Richard Mercer of Abbot's Barn, Chipping. Singers were invited for the purpose when the relatives were bidden to the funeral. These are about the last instances in this neighbourhood.



Singers were afterwards invited to sing in the church after the service was concluded.

The corpse is carried by the nearest male relatives—parents by their children; the rest of the relatives following immediately after.

Catholic funerals always stop on their way to the graveyard opposite to any ancient cross or the remains of one, or where tradition records that there has been one. They do so on coming out of Leagram, before crossing the bridge into Chipping, the tradition of a cross in that place being all that remains. They have done so from time immemorial. One or two basements still exist in the neighbourhood of the village, as also elsewhere in the township, and in Thornley and Chaighley. The same observance is made when funerals pass them. They also stop at the church gate at Chipping, opposite to where the churchyard cross used to stand, of which the steps are now the only existing memorial. At these stoppages the attendants kneel and repeat the *De profundis* or some other short prayer. In many cases Protestant friends attending kneel with the rest.

After the service is concluded at the grave, the chief mourner throws a small quantity of earth on to the coffin, the rest doing the same in succession.

Old people in Leagram or in the neighbourhood remember that, when they were young, sprigs of box, the stem enveloped in a strip of white paper, were usually given at the house of mourning to each of the mourners. They wore them in the buttonhole, and afterwards threw them into the grave when the coffin was lowered. The custom is not altogether extinct in the neighbourhood, especially amongst Protestants, who sometimes carry sprigs of box or rosemary in the funeral procession, throwing them afterwards on the coffin in the grave. At Brindle, the sprigs of rosemary are always carried and disposed of in the same way.

After the funeral is over, the mourners adjourn to a public

house, before agreed upon, where the funeral feast has been prepared; to this the priest or parson is often invited.

The ale and cake, or perhaps more properly the funeral feast, in some parts of the parish of Whalley and elsewhere in the county, was called the "Arval." This name, although originally in general use, is no longer known about Chipping. The diary of Peter Walkden (a Nonconformist minister officiating in this neighbourhood) states, under the date Jan. 6, 1725, that a certain William Jenkinson was buried that day at Chipping, and that after the burial, the "Arvall being at Anne Webster's, I went thither, and dined as the rest did."

Cakes, called biscuits, folded in white paper, are given to each guest to take away. They are often sent to relatives and friends at a distance, when unable to attend. Cards are also often sent with some short verse or scriptural sentence.

The gatherings on these occasions are sometimes very large, parties attending from a great distance. Relatives often meet who have never met before, and near relatives are often introduced to each other for the first time.

At Chipping, the Passing Bell tolls for a lengthy period after the death has taken place, the large bell of the church being made use of. No distinction is made between man and woman, but after a short pause, the age of the deceased is struck upon a smaller bell. On the day of the funeral, the large bell tolls as the procession approaches the church and again after the service is concluded. At Longridge, the bell is struck once for a child, twice for a woman, and thrice for a man; the age is not given.

Doles (or, as they call them here, "Dolos") of bread and money are generally given to the poor, after the funeral of a Catholic. In the upper classes of society, a loaf of bread and a shilling, according to the number of years of the deceased, is distributed to each needy applicant.

Within recent years it was customary among the inhabitants (Protestants as well as Catholics) to watch or wake the corpse during the night previous to the burial. Two men

sat up in a room adjoining that in which the body lay. They kept themselves awake with something to drink, and about every half-hour or so looked into the room. Two candles were kept burning beside the body, or in the room. The Catholics continued the practice later, but it is now all but given up.

They are very careful in this neighbourhood to lock up all cats and dogs while the body is in the house, lest, through any inadvertence of the watchers or through their temporary absence, it might be outraged by these animals. There is a superstition prevalent that it would be a bad omen if one of these animals were to leap or pass over the corpse. The custom of securing the animals is prevalent as far north as the Orkneys.

The custom of opening the windows during the last moments of a dying person, as also of unlocking all doors and fastenings, is usual in many parts of this district. The idea is entertained by some people that any lock fastened causes discomfort to the parting soul, hindering its departure. The windows are opened for the same reason. A general superstition used to prevail that the soul left the body by the mouth, flying out like a bird. The windows are closed and the blinds drawn down immediately after death has taken place.

A plate with salt is sometimes placed on the corpse before it is consigned to the coffin. The same is done in some parts of Northumberland and elsewhere in the north.

In the parlours of farm-houses and cottages in this neighbourhood the walls are often decorated with large mortuary cards framed and glazed. They sometimes take the form of samplers, large needlework pictures, in which several members of the family are commemorated in doggerel verses. The people term them "Memories."

Mourners always appear at church or chapel the first Sunday after a funeral, with their long hat-bands and black gloves.

## SEASONS AND FESTIVALS.

*New Year's Eve.*—It is still usual in many of the farm houses, cottages and public houses to sit up on the New Year's Eve, until after midnight, and drink a happy new year to each other.

Formerly in Chipping the church bells rang merry peals in adieu to the passing year, followed by a cheery welcome to the new, but the practice has been discontinued. In Preston and many other towns it is always done. A complete set of grandsire triples, consisting of 1872 changes, was rung in one hour and ten minutes on New Year's Eve, 1872, in the parish church at Preston.

The custom of making New Year's gifts is not usual in the small villages of the district. Tradesmen in the towns send neatly got-up almanacs to their customers, and many illuminated or ornamented cards, with good wishes inscribed, are received by the post at this season, from friends at a distance. It is a common practice in farm-houses in many parts of the country, and in some towns, as in Accrington, for the head of the family to place some money on the table the last thing at night for the first up on New Year's Day. The kindly wish of "a happy New Year t'ye and mony on 'em," is repeatedly exchanged in the early morning of the new year's first day.

*Luck of the Year.*—In this part of the country, and generally in North Lancashire, it is a matter of great importance who first crosses your threshold on New Year's Day, as good or evil fortune is supposed to depend on it. Should a woman or a light-haired man enter your house the first, bad luck will be the inevitable consequence. To avert this calamity, in some places a black or dark-haired man is engaged to make a round of the different houses in the neighbourhood at an early hour and bring the luck of the year to the inmates: a small gratuity is given by the different parties

he calls upon. This custom is generally observed about Leagram, Chipping and Bowland, and throughout the north-eastern part of the county. In some houses the inmates are so particular that they pretend not to hear if they have reason to suspect the caller is an 'unlucky' person.

This very ancient superstition differs in different localities as to the colour of the hair and complexion of the first callers, but in this immediate neighbourhood and generally on the western border, the dark-haired man is most approved.

In some parts of the district the policeman calls first on this day to ensure the safety of the house during the ensuing twelve months.

*Candlemas Day* (Feb. 2).—Servants engage themselves in the farm-houses for a year from this day, having been previously hired at the hiring fair. Farmers from this neighbourhood, requiring servants, used formerly to go to Garstang but the hiring there has been discontinued for some years. They now go to Lancaster and elsewhere for that purpose. The men seeking engagement carry a white or peeled willow wand, and the women display a white handkerchief. On engagement, they receive from their masters a new shilling which they term "fastening money."

On Candlemas night the men and women who are about to enter on service in the neighbourhood of Chipping, meet at one of the inns, and hold a merry-meeting, feasting and dancing. The young men treat the girls to a particular kind of cake bun, which is made for the occasion. The entertainment is known as "The Candlemas Team." Formerly the day was kept as a holiday, and Chipping had the appearance of a fair. Stalls and booths were erected, and the usual fair merchandise was exposed. The public houses were thronged, and much conviviality prevailed.

Outgoing tenants give up the possession of their land to the new tenants on this day.



They have a common saying in this neighbourhood, in allusion to the increasing length of the days:—

It is time on Candlemas Day  
To throw cards and candles away.

In this part of the country card-playing is much indulged in in the farm-houses during the winter months, from Christmas until about this time. A game called "brag" is usually played. Formerly much gambling used to take place. A farmer, the owner of Loud Scales, in Chipping, staked his farm and lost it at a game of "Put," on an ace, deuce, and tray, exclaiming:—

Ace, deuce, and tray!  
Loud Scales, go thee way.

*Shrove Tuesday.*—On this day, designated Pancake Tuesday in North Lancashire, it was the custom, previous to the change of religion, for families to eat pancakes or fritters, by way of using up what remained of lard or dripping, previous to the commencement of the ensuing fast. The great bell in the parish church originally rung on this morning to summon people for confession or "shriving," continued to ring in many places in Lancashire until recent times, but with a different signification: it was known as the Pancake Bell.

The custom of pancake throwing is still very general in the cottages and farm-houses in the neighbourhood. In some of them, all the inmates are expected to turn a pancake successfully, and eat it before the next is ready, or else submit to be carried out in a basket. Young men in Chaighley go about from one house to another, and say to the mistress, "Please, ma'am, I am come to bake my pancake." After one has been successfully turned, and the young man is engaged in eating it as fast as he can, his elbow is nudged, or his face wiped by the daughters and servant maids of the house, to his great hindrance and their amusement.

Not a household in Leagram or Bowland in 1877 but made pancakes for all who came for them: in some, as at Park



Style, they carried out those who failed in turning them in proper style, on a hand-barrow on to the midden.

In Preston many of the shops closed after 2 p.m. according to custom on this day (1877).

*Cock-fighting and Cock-throwing.*—On Shrovetide, in Chipping as elsewhere, cock-fighting was a favourite amusement. The farmers throughout the neighbourhood were all obliged by their leases to keep a game-cock for the use of the landlord. Although cock-fighting was popular at any time, the great day for this barbarous amusement was Shrove Tuesday. It continued to be of frequent occurrence in and about Chipping to the end of the first quarter of the 19th century. Some places still retain names commemorative of these fights, as Cock-hill in Chipping, and Cockfield. In both places cock-fighting took place. At the back of the Sun Inn, afterwards in a room in the inn itself, and a field also at Arley Brow were favourite resorts for this purpose.

Cock-throwing is mentioned in England in the time of Henry II as common to school-boys on Shrove Tuesday. It consisted at throwing at cocks with sticks—short broom-handles. The birds were tied to a stake, with a certain length of cord allowed to enable them by dodging to escape, for a time at least, the blows aimed at them. The throwers, who stood at a stated distance, threw in their turn, the successful hitter taking the bird as his prize.

This amusement was indulged in regularly at the Grammar Schools of Citheroe, Burnley, the old school at Pleasington, Lancaster, and most public schools in the county. A fee called cock-penny used to be paid by the scholars to their master, who provided the cocks.

At Chipping, at Brabin's School, it used to be customary on Cock-Thursday (the Thursday previous to Ash Wednesday), for the scholars to throw for live cocks, with dice—the vicar finding three or four for the purpose—the master receiving from the boys 3d. a head as a customary fee. The birds were separately thrown for, the highest winning in each case.

Battles were then fought between the cocks, in the presence of the master of the school. The custom survived there until 1822. The Catholic boys carried on the custom in their own school for a few years longer. They threw with dice for the cocks, but took their prizes home without fighting them. Those who could afford it paid sixpence to the master, who provided the birds.

Bear and bull baiting were exciting amusements, heartily appreciated by the inhabitants of Chipping, and Lancashire generally, and they seem to have been much in vogue here to the end of the first quarter of the 19th century. The last recorded bear and bull bait took place about that time. Although the sport seems to have been popular at any time, it was an established custom at Shrovetide.

Bearfields at Chipping House, Hesketh Lane, used to be the arena where bears and bulls were most frequently baited, and where people from this part of the country went to gratify their taste for the savage amusement. Bears were also often baited at Baily Hey, about two miles from the village of Chipping.

*Frottis Thursday.*—The day after Ash Wednesday used to be called Frottis Thursday in Bowland, within the memory of old people living there in 1869. They eat Frottis cakes on that day, composed of flour, sugar, cream and currants.

*Mid-Lent Sunday.*—Mid-Lent Sunday was generally known in this neighbourhood as “Brag Sunday,” or “Fig-Pie Sunday.”

Fag or fig pies used commonly to be made, and people visited at each other's houses to eat them. The custom is discontinued here, but is remembered by many persons. Mulled or spiced ale called “Braggot” is still drunk at some of the public houses at this time.

“Mothering Sunday” was another name for Mid-Lent Sunday, derived from the ancient custom of visiting the mother church of the parish on this day. Later the idea was extended to visiting among relations. It is remembered under

this appellation also in Bowland, by old people, as customary when they were young. They remember likewise that simnel cakes were always used as well as "braggart ale."

*Simnel*: a cake of fine flour and sugar with a layer of currants, candied lemon, and spices, used as an indulgence half-way through Lent. Bury in this county has long enjoyed a reputation for the manufacture of simnel cakes, and great numbers are made and consumed there at this season.

*Holy Week*.—The children in this part of the country go about from house to house, in Holy Week, "pace or pasch egging," begging for eggs. These eggs are afterwards boiled hard, and coloured different tints, and are used by the children to play with. They are sometimes blown besides being coloured, and strung, and formed into garlands and festoons. The children themselves are often dressed out fantastically with ribbons, and other finery. A few years ago, in Chipping and in the neighbourhood, the custom was more general than it is at present: but several parties of children come yearly to the hall for eggs or money to buy them.

*Good Friday*.—This day was (1860) remembered by very old people in Bowland as "Cracklin Friday." Children went about begging for small wheaten cakes, called "Cracklins," having butter or lard mixed with the flour.

*Easter Monday and Tuesday*.—A curious custom, "lifting" or "heaving," used to be prevalent on these days in many parts of Lancashire. It has been discontinued in this neighbourhood for some time; it was, however, remembered by many old persons a few years since, as having been customary here.

Up to noon on Easter Monday parties of young men used to perambulate the roads and streets, in the villages and outskirts of towns, and seize upon any woman they might meet with, raising her by the body and limbs, in a horizontal position, three times. She might generally release herself by a small payment. The late Fr. Smith, O.S.B., of Brindle chapel, remembered the practice as an annual occurrence in

his neighbourhood for some years after his appointment to that mission.

Up to noon on Easter Tuesday the women had their turn in heaving or lifting. Any man they could master by force of numbers, they seized, and lifted, in the same way as had been done the day before. This rough custom continued to be practised in many places in Lancashire until after the first quarter of the century, in some localities considerably later. It was still in vogue quite recently in some parts of Derbyshire. Money was readily taken in lieu of the lifting, and was spent in conviviality afterwards.

Another amusement, common to the time, and remembered by old people in Bowland as customary in that district in their youth, was "Old Ball." The skeleton of a horse's head held together by wires was enclosed in the skin of a calf's head, with a continuation of some other material to form an open sack; this concealed the youth who played Old Ball, by whom the mouth was made to open and shut or snap. Running and snapping at parties was the principal part of this horse-play.

Whipping top was another game particularly popular at this season in this part of the country.

*April 1st: All Fools' Day.*—Young men and girls in the farm houses, in this district, try to take each other in, the morning of this day, chiefly by sending each other on fool's errands. The party taken in is then called an "April Noddy."

*Mayday Eve.*—This is known as "Mischief Night" in this district from the young men amusing themselves with practical jokes on their neighbours, taking off gates from their hinges, overturning carts, getting them into ditches, removing the wheels, and many other annoying performances.

Besides direct acts of mischief, "May Booing" used to be customary, and is still often done. Young men place boughs of different shrubs and trees, having a particular and recognised signification, at the door of houses where a young woman is one of the family. The thorn is an indication of

scorn ; the mountain ash or wicken is an expression of endearment, " my dear chicken " ; the holly, a folly ; an elder branch for a scold ; one of ash for a swearer ; a plum-tree in bloom, to be married soon ; a briar, a liar ; a nut, a slut. Sprinkling salt at the door intimates that the young woman enjoys but an indifferent reputation.

*May Day.*—Farmers and carters about the district decorate their horses with ribbons on this day ; the harness is often decorated as well as the manes and tails of the animals.

On May Day, 1882, the dray horses in Preston were profusely decorated with gay ribbons, and along the road to Chipping the cart horses were similarly ornamented. At Chipping, children (boys) were covered with paper ribbons from head to foot.

The procession of " Jack in the Green " has been discontinued in this neighbourhood for many years, but was yet in vogue for a few years after the arrival of the family at Leagram in 1822.

*Rogation Days, or Gang-days.*—In former times, on one of the three days before the Ascension, it was customary to walk the boundaries between parishes or townships here, as elsewhere throughout England.

Henry Bleasdale, many years working about the hall, states to-day (Jan. 10, 1883) that when living at Crow-trees near Chipping, about 40 years ago, the present tenant, Will. Tomlinson, being then a little boy 8 or 9 years old, was taken with other lads to join in walking the boundaries of Chipping township. They commenced at the village of Chipping, going up the brook separating it from Leagram and Little Bowland, over the fells round Parlick, along the boundaries of Bleasdale and Goosnargh, and so on round the township. He says they made the perambulation every year, but had discontinued the practice for some time.

Roger Marsden, also a long time employed about the hall (aged 79, 1883), remembered living in Bashall Eaves about 50 years since. On one occasion, when walking the boundaries



of the township, a boy, the son of the clerk at Waddington Church, was sent up a ladder on to a house called Trewer Nook, and so pulled by a rope over the roof to the other side, the house standing across the boundary between the townships of Waddington and Bashall Eaves.

*Ascension Day.*—This is the Chipping Catholic Club day. Previous to the chapel's removal from the hall to Chipping, all the Catholic tenants, and others belonging to the club from the neighbourhood, walked in procession up the hill to the chapel at the hall, carrying staves, and wearing broad sashes, preceded by a band and a standard-bearer who waved a large flag to right and left, in a marvellous manner. After Mass, with a band accompaniment and a suitable discourse from the pulpit, the procession was reformed, and accompanied by the priest they walked in the same order to the Talbot, where they dined. This continued for some years, but has been gradually diminishing in numbers. They still meet at chapel, but in a very quiet way, and latterly without band or standard.

On the day after the Ascension at Chipping, a number of convivial spirits meet at the Talbot Inn. The association is known as the Henpeck Club. They elect a mayor from one of their number (it is said often the most inebriated) for the ensuing year. A chair for the mayor is placed on a lorry and a procession formed; he is drawn to the different public houses (some of the party beating irons and tongs), preceded by drums and fifes. They afterwards return to the Talbot, to dine and spend the rest of the day. On the occasion of this celebration in 1881, the policeman considered that they had exceeded in their potations what was good for them and for the peace of the locality, and took out summonses for 30 to appear before the magistrates at Clitheroe. But the bench took a lenient view of the matter, stating that it was an old Chipping custom and that a little licence was excusable, and so dismissed the case.

*St. Swithin* (July 15th).—Should any rain fall on this day,



however small a quantity, the belief in this neighbourhood as elsewhere is that it will rain each day for 40 successive days. Farmers usually try to secure their hay crops previously, or else wait and see how the day turns out.

*Michaelmas* (Sept. 29th).—The Curfew bell, called “8 o’clock bell,” used to be rung in the parish church of Chipping during the winter months, commencing at Michaelmas, and continuing to Shrove Tuesday. The large bell was rung for ten minutes, and afterwards the day of the month was struck on a smaller bell. The sexton, who rang the bell at Chipping, was remunerated by a voluntary contribution of corn and meal from the farmers of the neighbourhood. Every one having plenty of meal, a small quantity was readily given when applied for, and a considerable amount was thus collected. Afterwards, as the cultivation of corn gradually ceased, the contributions became less, and at last discontinued altogether. The custom of ringing the bell survived many years after the remuneration had ceased. An effort was made to get up a small subscription, as a compensation to the ringer, but after two years it fell through owing to the apathy of the people, and the ringing of the curfew from Michaelmas to Shrovetide was discontinued about 1871. After the appointment of a new sexton, after the death of Parkinson (Dec. 1879), who for some time had done little through infirmity, another attempt was made to re-establish the curfew; but after two years’ continuance it was given up and is not likely to be resumed.

*Chipping Fair*.—This fair is at present held the first Wednesday in October. It used to take place on the feast of St. Bartholomew (24 Aug.), the patron saint of the parish church. It is now chiefly a sheep fair, a good many being bought and sold. There are also, usually, some cattle, and plenty of stalls containing the usual fair commodities.

The old parish church of Great Harwood, near Clayton-le-Moors, is likewise dedicated to St. Bartholomew. The fair is

held there for three days previous to the feast, commencing on the 21 August.

*All Hallow E'en: the Teen-lay.*—On the night of 31 Oct., the eve of All Saints', it was customary for Catholic families in the district to assemble at midnight outside their different farmsteads, one of the party holding up aloft at the end of a fork a large bunch of ignited straw. The rest knelt in a circle and prayed for the souls of their friends who might be in purgatory. William Bamber, aged 83, says that the priest at the Laund (as the hall was then called), the Rev. F. Lawrenson, used himself to hold the fork with the blazing straw, and was particular about making them pray as long as a spark remained. The ceremony usually took place on a hill or rising ground, the highest in the immediate neighbourhood of the farmer's dwelling. The popular idea was that the souls were temporarily released from the pains of purgatory whilst the flames continued: many considered that they were released altogether, and hence they shouted: "Go away, go away," until the last spark was extinguished.

At Leagram Mill, Townley Farm, Birchen Lea, and every Catholic house in the district, the custom was once universally observed, but became gradually discontinued through the difficulty of getting straw after corn-growing had been given up in the district.

Robert Dewhurst, of the Dairy Barn farm, Leagram, who used to send to Preston for straw for this occasion, kindled the Teen-lay fire in 1871, on the rising ground in the Barn field, and the custom was continued for some time by other Catholic farmers in Leagram and neighbourhood, when the night in question was not too wet or rough to turn out in. William Bamber remembers, when he was a young man and living in Whittingham, seeing fires on the eve of the 1st of November blazing in every direction, and forming a circle all round the horizon.

A field in Alston, near the Catholic chapel between Chipping and Preston, is still called Purgatory field. Other plots

of land in the Fylde and elsewhere in the county are known by the same name. In these localities great numbers of persons met at this time and kindled fires in the manner above related.

*November 5: Guy Fawkes' Day.*—Large bonfires continue to be made on this night in many places in the parish of Chipping and neighbourhood and guns and small cannon and squibs are often discharged. Formerly it was more extensively celebrated, and Guys were carried about, and an anti-Catholic demonstration made of the occasion. Will Bamber says that in his recollection large fires used to blaze on Parlick and Beacon fell, also in every hamlet, and on the high roads where a few houses were collected together.

*Christmas Eve.*—The bells of the parish church at Chipping rang for an hour on Christmas Eve, beginning at midnight. Formerly carols were chimed by the bells on the eve of Christmas Day, but this custom has been discontinued some years. Carols were also sung by people or children going about from house to house this evening and during the ensuing days, money or drink being generally given. The practice is still partially kept up here, but is general in some parts of the parish of Whalley and elsewhere in Lancashire.

Grocers in Chipping give their customers candles on the eve of Christmas. They are burnt on this night, and are called Christmas candles. They used to be given until lately at Preston, Lancaster and many other towns. Small ornamental almanacks are very generally sent at present by tradespeople at Preston and Chipping to their patrons at this time.

The eve of Christmas was formerly called *Flesh Day* here, and many other parts of Lancashire; great store of meat being exposed in the shops and booths of the different towns and villages.

*Barring out at schools.*—The school-masters used to be "barred out" at schools at this time at Brabin's School in Chipping and at the schools in the adjoining townships,

Whittingham and Goosnargh, and elsewhere in the county. The triumphant boys celebrated the victory afterwards in the village streets by blowing tin horns and other noisy demonstrations.

James Bamber, the bailiff, says (1887) that when he was at school at Chipping, the boys before breaking up for the Christmas holidays commenced proceedings before five in the morning (often two or three hours earlier) by disturbing Mr. Wilkinson, the vicar, blowing horns and making all manner of din before his house. He resided at that time at Wynd Street, not far from Brabin's School. Having put on the worst suit of clothes he possessed, he went to meet his rebellious scholars at the usual time at the school. These, having already broken up the canes and sticks, instruments of their punishment during the past year, made a combined attack, pulling him on to the floor. They then carried him down the stairs at the outside of the building, into the street, where being released he ran for his house, the door of which was left open for his retreat—his clothes being literally torn from his back in shreds before he could make his escape. This custom was given up many years before Mr. Wilkinson's death. As a young man he was supposed to enjoy the rough practice as much as his boys.

*Christmas Day.*—As at the New Year, the first caller on Christmas Day should be a dark-haired man to bring luck to the inmates during the holidays. The custom is observed partially in Chipping and the neighbourhood.

Holly with its red berries, and other evergreens, are in great request for decorating the windows of cottages, as well as in the dwellings of the higher born. Mistletoe is also obtained from Preston market to hang up in halls and kitchens and underneath its mystic branches the laughing girl bashfully submits to the merry licence of the customary kiss.

The parish church of Chipping is also decorated with evergreens, mistletoe and yew excepted.

Mince pies are everywhere made by those who can afford it, and eaten from Christmas to Candlemas.

Much card-playing used to take place at this time. Brag and the game of "Put" were most popular in the cottages of this neighbourhood, and much gambling once took place. It is very usual now to play for poultry, cocks and hens.

Young men dressed as mummers used to come up to the hall at this time and perform in the court-yard. On one occasion, as late as 1864, there were five men, one wearing a large wig, with a three-cornered hat, personating a doctor. He carried a small box supported by a strap in front, containing his medicines. The other four wore a sort of uniform—blue coats with gold lace and white trousers. These recited some doggerel verses, being a dialogue between St. George, the King of Egypt, attendants and the doctor. They fought among themselves with swords, resulting in all being killed except the doctor, who restored them to life through the efficacy of his pills.

A scanty substitute, this, for the elaborate performances formerly usual throughout the district, and maintained during the first thirty years of this century. Father Christmas, St. George, a Turkish knight, the dragon, and a doctor were the usual *dramatis personæ*. Sometimes the performance was limited to three—the king of Egypt and prince George, who engage in mortal combat, and the doctor, who cures the wounded prince. These representations are still occasionally given, but generally with little wit, and the traditional story is mostly forgotten.

Parties of young men, fantastically dressed, used likewise to come at this season as morris-dancers, and perform the ancient sword dance. This used to be a pretty sight when well performed, but the combined figures and sword exercises, of ancient origin, are now forgotten, and, when attempted, the entire exhibition is only a burlesque got up by those who have no knowledge of the old performances.

*Friday*.—Nothing was ever commenced on this day. Cattle



were never turned out, or taken up for the first time. Pigs were never killed on Friday, as it was believed the meat would not take the salt. It was thought highly objectionable to have your nails cut on Friday, and your hair shorn on Sunday.

“ On Friday clipt  
And Sunday shorn,  
Better never been born.”

*Saturday.*—Servants object to entering service on Saturday, believing they will not remain long if they do. It is thought unlucky also to enter a farm on this day.

“ A Saturday flit  
Makes a short sit.”

#### WEATHER PROGNOSTICATIONS.

If cattle lie out in cold weather in an exposed part of a field, there will be much wet during the coming night.

It is considered here a certain sign of continued heat, in the summer, when the cattle are observed collected on the highest part they can attain in the pastures on the hillside.

Although a very fine day, if the cattle have been seen in the morning standing with their tails to the wind, it is considered certain that there will be heavy rain before evening.

When frogs change their colour, becoming dark, it is considered a sure sign of approaching wet.

When curlews are seen or heard in the lowlands, rough weather may be expected.

When sea birds are observed inland, flying in the direction of the sea, fine weather may be expected; when from the sea rough weather may be looked for.

When swallows fly high, it is a sign of fine weather; if very low, it is likely to rain.

Peacocks are noisy before rain.

When swine are uneasy and noisy, rough weather may be looked for confidently.

The cowman here (Henry Bleasdale), one day in hay-time



said he was sure there would be rain before twenty-four hours had passed, as he had noticed Noah's ship the previous evening, extending across the sky from north to south, the wind being west, at right angles to it; a sure prognostication of rain. He described it as a long white cloud resting on the horizon at either end, wider in the centre, and tapering to the extremities, having the general appearance of the body of a ship bottom upwards. He mentioned that it was usually known by that appellation, especially in the neighbourhood of Lancaster, and that side of the country.

Richard Rogerson, of Leagram, who died in 1872, aged 84, considered by his neighbours as a weather prophet, used often to make use of the word *haver*: "We are like to have fine weather, the wind is in a good *haver*," or favourable quarter.

When the moon is on her back, the horns pointing upwards, it is considered here as a sign of fine weather. When the horns point downwards it is a sign of wet.

Near the coast they say that a Saturday moon brings the boat to the doors, and rough and wet weather.

"Saturday change, and Sunday full moon,  
If once in seven years, it comes too soon."

"The storm's far off when the ring's near the moon,  
When the ring's far off, the storm's coming soon."

If the sun shines on Christmas Day, you may expect a white glove in the window.

"March wind and April sun  
Makes clothes white, and old maids dun."

"If there's ice in November that will bear a duck,  
There'll be nothing after but sludge and muck."

"Rain before seven, fine before eleven."

"A wet and windy May  
Fills barns with corn and hay."

Rainbows in the morning denote showers during the day.

“ Rainbow in the morning  
Is the Shepherd’s warning ;  
Rainbow at night  
Is the Shepherd’s delight.”

It is said that thunder at night seldom brings rain, but thunder before noon is sure to do so.

“ Bright rain makes fools fain” ;

*i.e.*, gleams of light on a rainy day indicate a continuance of wet.

It is said when the oak comes into leaf before the ash, there will be a dry autumn and fine harvest weather : but when the ash leaves precedes the oak then the contrary takes place.

“ If the oak precedes the ash,  
Then you’ll only get a splash.  
If the ash precedes the oak  
Then you may expect a soak.”

“ When the mist goes up in sops,  
It will soon fall down in drops.”

#### SUPERSTITIONS RELATING TO ANIMALS.

Many persons believe that cattle go on their knees at midnight on Christmas Eve. This superstition is said to be very general throughout the country. It is said also by some in this neighbourhood that three-year old oxen go down on their knees at midnight on the eve of old Christmas Day.

On letting a cow dry, they milk her the last time in the morning, with the expectation that she will then calve in the daytime ; a common practice in this part of the country.

It was considered a good thing by farmers here to keep a donkey with their cattle ; they were thought to be luckier, and no witchcraft had any power over them. Many kept one for

no other reason. It was also considered lucky to keep a goat with your horses.

When weasels are seen much about in the daytime a change of weather may be expected.

All through this neighbourhood hedgehogs are believed to suck the milk from cows when lying out in the fields at night.

If a cock comes on to the threshold of a door, and crows, it is held a sure sign that someone will come to see you or the inmates that day.

“ When the cock crows at door at noon  
It’s a sign of a stranger soon.”

Should the cock enter the house and crow, it is held a sign of death.

A crowing hen is said to be very unlucky. The undergardener, F. Atkinson, when he hears one among his own poultry, invariably kills it.

“ A whistling woman, and a crowing hen,  
Will fetch the devil out of his den.”

Hens are always set on 13 eggs, or at least with odd numbers (unlucky to do otherwise), and during the daytime, before sunset.

It is held very lucky for swallows to build about your house and buildings, and very unlucky to disturb them or take the nests.

Roger Marsden says of magpies :

“ One for anger,  
Two for mirth,  
Three for a wedding,  
Four for death.”

The same Roger Marsden, and John Pinder, were once working at Moss Farm, Bashall Eaves, when they saw four magpies. Roger observed to his companion, “ We shall soon hear of a death, . . . see you them pynets.” Shortly

after, a man came and told them that Mr. Dobson, the foreman at Stonyhurst, had been thrown from his horse and killed. Roger, nudging his companion, said, "Did a not tell ye, John?" Some take off their hat on seeing a magpie, or pynet, others make a cross with the foot on the ground, to avert evil consequences.

It is said the first time you hear the cuckoo sing, you should turn your money over in your pocket, and afterwards spit upon it; you will then never be without money that year, and will be very prosperous in all your undertakings. Many in this neighbourhood believe that cuckoos change into hawks in the winter.

"The cuckoo is a pretty bird,  
She sings as she flies.  
She brings us glad tidings,  
And tells us no lies.  
She sucks little birds' eggs  
To keep her voice clear,  
And never sings 'cuckoo,'  
But at springtime of year."

"Cuckoo comes in April,  
Sings her song in May,  
And the first cock of hay  
Flees her away."

"The spink and the sparrow  
Are the devil's bow and arrow."

"The robin and the wren  
Are God Almighty's cock and hen."

Crows are not looked upon here with more favour than at other places. When corn cultivation was general in the neighbourhood it was usual to have boys appointed to drive them from the newly sown corn, singing out:—

"Crow, crow, get out of me seet,  
Or I'll pull thee liver out at morn to neet."

It is thought very lucky if crickets come to your house, and very unlucky if you destroy them.

Bees are thought by many in this neighbourhood and about Lancaster, Accrington, and other places to go to the sea once in their lives.

Some people considered it advisable to inform their bees of the death of any member of the family, as without doing so they believe they would be sure to lose them. A gardener here at Leagram, on the death of my father, went to each hive, striking it gently three times with a key, announcing at the same time the death of their master (1866). Some people put the hives in mourning, by attaching a small piece of crape to each.

It is considered by some very unlucky to sell a hive of bees.

#### CHARMS.

Many in the neighbourhood of Chipping believe that if you pick a pod containing nine peas and place it under your pillow, you will dream of your future husband or wife, as the case may be. A.S.D. of Blacksticks, Chipping, tried this method, and dreamed of two persons, one of whom she shortly married. Many years later she married a second time, but could not remember whether the other person she saw in her dream was her second husband or not.

It is likewise believed that if you go into your garden alone and pick twelve sage leaves at twelve o'clock on Christmas night, one at each stroke of the clock, you are sure to see the person you will marry. T. C . . . k of Chipping tried this. He plucked a leaf at each stroke up to the eleventh, when a violent wind suddenly rose, and fancying he heard a woman approaching he lost courage and rushed from the spot.

A common method to ascertain when you will be married, one often tried in this district, was to suspend a gold ring by a silk thread inside a tumbler glass, holding it as steady as possible. It would swing to and fro, and as many times as it

touched the glass so many years would you have to wait, and if it did not strike the glass, you would remain unmarried. W. A., of Chipping, says it came true in his case.

Ed. W., a stonemason, says another way to ascertain the same thing was to take a new silk handkerchief that has never been washed, and look through it at the first new moon in the new year. The number of moons seen would be the number of years that would elapse before you were married. If a married man looked, he would ascertain the number of children he would have.

To cure warts tie as many knots as you have warts on your hands, and bury the string, and the warts will disappear. Roger Marsden says that he has tried it, and that "it was so."

M. Eccles had seven warts on her hand. She took seven cinders and wrapped them in paper, and threw them away at the Three-lane-ends near Hesketh Lane. She said they all left her, but if anyone had picked up the cinders the warts would be transferred to that person.

Old Mrs. B. at Park Style, Little Bowland, had the reputation of being able to remove warts by a secret formula of words, passing her hand over them at the same time. Many persons went to her for this purpose, they believed, always with effect.

It is commonly believed here that the water of wells or springs near to old cross stones have all remedial properties. The spring by that at the Town End, Chipping, is said to be efficacious in removing warts, if bathed in it.

N. K. at Hesketh Lane had the reputation of being able by repeating certain words to stop bleeding, however violent. It was feared that a woman at Chipping was bleeding to death. N. K. was sent for, but, being ill, she could not come, but said she would cure her all the same. She then repeated some secret formula to herself in a low tone, bade the messenger go back, saying that he would find the woman cured; which was true.



## MISCELLANEOUS SUPERSTITIONS

White marks on the right-hand finger nails are said to indicate a gift or present probably coming; if on the thumb nail it will come directly.

“ Gifts on the finger  
Oft-times linger;  
Gifts on the thumb  
Are sure to come.”

If the right ear tingles or burns, someone is thought to be speaking well of you; if the left, the contrary is supposed.

It is considered very lucky if you accidentally put on your stocking the wrong side out, or if by chance you try to put the left shoe on the right foot or the right on the left.

A present of a knife or pair of scissors is said to cut friendship, and the parties will soon be at variance with each other.

John Dewhurst, the keeper, says that he has known ‘lucky stones’ used as long as he can remember. They always had some in the shippons at Fair oak House. He says: “They are particular good against cows picking calves.” Old Thomas Holden at the Townley Farm, Leagram, hung up a perforated stone in his cow-house. He said his cattle were nearly always bewitched and everything went wrong, to prevent which he tied up a ‘lucky stone’ and everything went right since.

It used to be customary, and the practice is still remembered, for a man before starting in the morning on a journey to spit on a stone and throw it in the direction he was going, for good luck. Old James Leeman of Saddle End remembers this custom in Bowland when he was a boy.

Old horse shoes are nailed to stable doors and farm buildings, being considered lucky; formerly they were thought to be effective against witches.

It is universally customary in a bargain to return a shilling

or some coin, by the party receiving payment. The recipient generally spits on it before putting it into his pocket, saying "Here's luck to it." Ill luck, it is thought, would inevitably be the consequence if this custom were not complied with.

It is lucky to find a silver coin with a hole in it, or a crooked sixpence.

It is a common belief that if you see a falling star, and wish for anything during its appearance, you are sure to obtain it.

If you see a bright spark in a candle, and give the candlestick a gentle tap, and the spark flies out, there will be a letter for you next morning. If the spark does not fly out the letter is being written. Should the spark be a long one, causing the candle to sweel, beware of a thief.

Should a tree blossom at an unusual time, it is considered unlucky. Marsland, of the Town End, Chipping, on being shown a gooseberry bush in flower at Christmas in his garden said he was very sorry to see it, as bad would come. He was unfortunately confirmed in his superstition, as a short time after he lost a son by drowning.

#### FORTUNE TELLERS AND 'WISE MEN.'

Fortune tellers, predictors of future events, are to be heard of now as heretofore, in our Lancashire towns, and perhaps, if the law did not interfere with their commerce, would be quite as numerous as formerly. There are also plenty of country girls and rustic lads ready to consult the 'wise man' on their future lot in life, if they are to be married, when and to whom, their fortune, and the number of their children. Many profess to have family recipes or traditionary local methods of acquiring the knowledge of these interesting facts hidden from them in the future. Not a few would be dissatisfied with the result thus obtained, and would seek a confirmation or the reverse from some one who was considered an infallible expounder of these difficult problems. This

district was as credulous as other parts of the county, and many persons yet living in the neighbourhood are known to have had recourse only a few years since to the fortune teller or the wizard to obtain the information they so anxiously desired.

A man named Parker, formerly residing at the Old Hive in Chipping, rented a farm near Browsholme, where he had the misfortune of losing some sheep. He supposed them to be stolen. Having made all possible enquiries without effect, he consulted a 'wise man' near Blackburn. Having stated his business to the wizard, he was conducted by him into a dark room, where he presently saw distinctly his missing sheep, driven along a road by a stranger, up a steep hill. He could not recognise the locality or ascertain whether it was far or near; he therefore made no effort to follow and recover them. His daughter, a very old woman (1869), living at the Grove, near Chipping, vouches for the truth of the incident.

A young man, fifteen or sixteen years since, came from Preston to Hazelfield in Bleasdale to seek employment from a farmer there. Being engaged, he was lodged in a room in part occupied by another, who left on the following Saturday. On the Sunday he missed his necktie, and informed his master of his loss. On the Monday morning early, the master went to Preston, and meeting his late servant there with the stolen tie on his neck threatened to give him into custody unless he gave it up at once. Having obtained it from the man, the farmer on his return restored it to its rightful owner. While the farmer was in Preston, the young man consulted a 'wise man' in the neighbourhood about his missing property. The man invited him to his house and said he would tell him; but it being late the youth promised to come next morning. Accordingly early the next morning he repeated his visit, with the tie in his pocket. The 'wise man' related to him its discovery and every particular, and pointed out to him where it was at that moment. Having expressed himself surprised at his knowledge, the wizard replied, "There is much to be

learnt in Scripture, by those who know how to interpret it." Wilson the mason, residing at the Lodge, Leagram, knew Parker well and was living in Bleasdale at the time.

Betsey Ellison, aged 70 years, says, when she was fifteen years of age, she was living at Foulscles in Bowland. They were all much troubled in the house on account of the impossibility of making the cream into butter: do what they would, or churn ever so long, it was always without result. The farmer at last went to consult a 'wise man,' who told him it was bewitched and that he knew who did it, that he would remove the charm, and moreover punish him in any way, in person or goods, he should name. But the farmer declined knowing the name of the person who had injured him, nor would he consent to his being punished, but only asked that the milk of his cows might churn to butter like that of his neighbours. The 'wise man' with much demur consented; and the next morning, to the joy of the farmer and the family, at Foulscles butter was made without any difficulty.

A Mrs. Bailey, living formerly at Blackhouse in Chipping, (a house since taken down), possessed a calf which she was anxious to fatten. But it did not thrive, and despite all she could do it would not grow into better condition. She was soon satisfied that it was bewitched, and was not long in suspecting an old woman who used to come to her for milk, which she gave to her gratis. This woman was now suspected of having bewitched the calf, so that she might insure a continuance of a supply to herself. Mrs. Bailey accordingly stuck a number of pins in the form of a cross, under the seat of a chair, and placed it before a large fire for the witch to sit in. She soon after made her customary call, and was placed in the chair prepared for her. The charm was so potent that she was unable to leave the chair without permission, and was soon nearly roasted. Mrs. Bailey now upbraided her with her ingratitude, and threatened to throw the calf which she had bewitched upon the fire, believing that the malevolent old witch would die at the same time as the calf. She entreated

her not to do so, and promised if she were released and taken to the calf, she would do what she could for it. They went together to the sick calf, and after a few endearing expressions, and some sentences in an inaudible tone, passing her hand once or twice down its back, the animal jumped up, and was perfectly cured, and was soon ready for the butcher. Old Roger Marsden says he knew her very well, and that it was "true for sure."

Jane Parkinson, wife of old Parkinson the stone-breaker in Chipping, says that when she was a young woman, eighteen or twenty years of age, she went with two other girls to Preston to consult a fortune teller. She desired particularly to know who her future husband was to be. On arriving at the fortune teller's house she had to wait a long time for her turn. One was introduced at a time, and there were many there on the same errand as herself. Having stated her wish, she was desired to kneel on a cushion before a table, on which the fortune-teller placed a glass or crystal, something like a large goose egg. She commenced reading loud and rapidly out of a book something which she did not understand. Jane then saw, standing before her, close to the table, the man who afterwards became her husband, though at the time she had a decided aversion to him. She said he stood before her as clear as possible, "and a bonny black tanner he was," and close to him was another man, Henry Threlfall, the carpenter, with a saw in his hand, though they were both working together in Chipping at that very time. She was told that she would be married in two churches, which proved afterwards to be the case—she was a Protestant at that time, and her husband was a Catholic; and that the pulpit in one of the churches would be hung with crimson. Sometime after this consultation, observing that they were draping the pulpit of the parish church with crimson, she said, "Perhaps it will all come true." She was likewise told she should have a large family and survive them all. She has had nineteen children,



and has buried them all. Jane Parkinson said this account "was God Almighty's truth, and no lie about it."

Some fortune telling experiments seem to have been rather hazardous in their application, and had rather too close an affinity to black art or dealing directly with the demon to be often practised, being considered a matter of risk to the actors. Shortly after the last mentioned occurrence, the following method was tried at Chipping, called "Waking the pig's tail."

The same Jane Parkinson, who had already consulted the fortune teller in Preston respecting a future husband, not feeling altogether satisfied with the information obtained, resolved to ascertain the truth beyond all doubt by making use of a means which was looked upon as certain. Three other girls agreed to join her. All were to sit up till midnight, keeping perfect silence, and each occupying one of the four corners of the room. They had to make a cake and bake it before the fire and stick it full of pins, also place a comb, a toilet glass and a knife and fork on the table in the middle of the room. This being done they waited expecting that when the church clock should strike midnight, their future husbands would appear before them. Jane, being somewhat afraid, had the corner nearest the door assigned her. This she had insisted on, threatening otherwise to withdraw. The clock had hardly commenced to strike the midnight hour when a terrible crash was heard and a violent wind seemed to fill the whole house, as if it would shake it to pieces. The door flew open and Jane and two of her companions rushed into the street, frightened and out of their senses. Jane called up her parents, and begged to be let in: they upbraided her for being out so late, and said she had been doing something wrong. She was too terrified to answer, but fainted away. They had to sit up with her for some nights afterwards, being afraid to leave her alone. The fourth girl, Elizabeth Bibby, of the Sun Inn, mustered courage to remain and see the issue. She afterwards told Jane she saw a coffin on the floor before her,



at her feet. The poor girl was buried within the year, having committed suicide by hanging. She was to have been married, but the man to whom she was engaged married another, having, it is said, led her to believe that she was his chosen one until the very evening previous to his marriage. She left a written paper, desiring to be buried in the path in the churchyard, where her faithless lover would have to pass on his way to church, and that the 99th Psalm should be sung; all which was complied with. Jane Parkinson is about 66 years of age, and told her story with great reluctance and fear.

#### BELIEF IN FAIRIES.

That fairies existed was generally believed by the rustic population of the county, until a comparatively recent period, and in this retired and lately sylvan district the popular belief in the 'little people' was universal. Some natural caves in the limestone rock near Whitewell, Little Bowland, were reputed favourite haunts, and to this day they retain the name of the Fairy Holes. Fair oak also, in Little Bowland, is said to be a corruption of Fairy Oak, where formerly on a summer eve merry troops of elves and fairies were wont to meet, to gambol or plan some of their mischievous frolics.

Old Proctor of Inkling Green, Little Bowland, relates that his father always maintained that he once saw a number of fairies on Whitestone. They were all little people, washing their clothes at a spring, and spreading them out to dry. He never doubted the truth of his father's story, for, as he observed, every one knew that there were plenty of them.

Joseph Holden, formerly living at Park-gate, Leagram, is said to have repeatedly seen the fairies, like little men and women, sitting on stones by the brook side, in Buck Banks. He likewise often heard them sing and cry. Old Richard Rogerson, the present tenant, Dan Bleasdale, and old R. Baines, had often heard Holden state this. They seem to

think themselves "that there used to be such things; at least most folk thought so."

The following story received general credit in the district, and the narrator expressed himself as decidedly believing it. A gentleman named Mitchell was hunting in the neighbourhood of Whitewell, and while riding rapidly across the country he came suddenly upon a fairy. He cut at it with his whip, and never afterwards had anything but misfortune; loss succeeded loss, until from affluence he was reduced to beggary. He always attributed his misfortunes to his thoughtlessness in striking one of the "good people." J. Atkinson, many years butler at Leagram Hall, relates this, and states that Mr. Mitchell was considered the most famous hunter in this neighbourhood. He remembers often seeing him, and says that after he had lost everything a subscription was made by his friends, and lodged with Mr. Spenser of Preston, who paid the interest to him annually. Atkinson was often called as a witness to the payment.

Old James Leeman of Saddle End relates the following history, which he always heard to be true. A fairy of the female sex, near Whitewell, was expecting her confinement, and wished for the assistance of a midwife. Her fairy husband, though believing it unnecessary, was willing to oblige, and went to Clitheroe to engage one. Having succeeded in the object of his journey, he returned with her to Whitewell, and touching one of her eyes she immediately saw her patient. Everything went well, and in due time the midwife returned home. Some time afterwards, on a market day in Clitheroe, to her great surprise she saw her acquaintance, the little fairy husband, helping himself out of the different sacks. She at once accosted him, enquiring after his wife and child. He replied, "What, do you see me? Out of which eye?" Receiving the desired information, he immediately touched it, and became then and there invisible to the astonished midwife.

## GHOSTS AND HAUNTED PLACES.

Whatever the truth may be as to the reality of ghosts or supernatural appearances, there is no doubt that in the retired districts of the country it was at one time at least a solemn article of faith, and nowhere, to within a very recent period, was the belief more firmly established than in this neighbourhood. Every old hall, and even every ancient barn, was frequented by a "boggart." Each shady sequestered lane had its apparition; sometimes an ill-favoured dog appeared suddenly to the passer-by and as suddenly disappeared; sometimes an ill-defined but frightful form would terrify the benighted rustic. Headless women in white haunted the brooks, waited for wayfarers on the bridge or expected their approach sitting on the stiles. They are little spoken of now, and faith in them is either dying out, or people think it better to keep their belief to themselves: "It is no use talking on them." There are some, however, who firmly believe they have themselves had ocular demonstration of these supernatural appearances, and many others who have had the history of such adventures from those who are supposed to have been so favoured. As instances of this general belief examples of the different kinds will be recorded, commencing with the boggarts at the hall.

When the old hall still retained its ancient timber front to the south-east, and the rest of the extensive buildings were yet standing—parts of which undoubtedly pointed to a remote antiquity—it had every recommendation in the way of ghostly accommodation, and was said to be well and numerously occupied by these shadowy tenants. For at least twenty years of the present (19th) century, though great changes had been effected, sufficient of the buildings, or portions mixed with those of less ancient construction, still remained to afford shelter to more than one of the boggarts who had made the old mansion a home and had known it in better times.

It is related that one Christmas night two men (strangers) came to sing in the choir, at the midnight Mass in the chapel at the hall—the Laund. When the service was over, the night being stormy and dark, they asked for a bed. The rooms were all occupied excepting one on the east side, called “the best room,” and situated immediately over the hall. This room was never slept in, and rarely entered after dark, except through necessity, as it enjoyed an indifferent reputation. There was, however, no other to offer them, and thinking it would be a good opportunity to test the truth of the current belief of its being a haunted chamber, the room was got ready as speedily as could be, and the two strangers were introduced into it and left to their repose. The next morning one of them related that before he had been long in bed, he heard a noise in the room, and looking up saw an old man with a white beard walking across it. He carried a number of books under his arm and placed them on a table. He sat down shortly after and commenced writing in one of them. The stranger tried to call his companion, but without success, being speechless with terror, nor was he relieved till daylight, when the venerable apparition disappeared.

Mrs. Holden, late of the Townley Farm, Leagram, says that her mother was at the Laund the Christmas night the singers came to sing in the chapel. They both came from Blackburn. The one who saw the apparition was named Clew. He was dreadfully frightened even when telling the story next morning, and declared he would not for any money set his foot in that room again. The same men came again a year or two later, but remained by the kitchen fire all night, refusing to go near the haunted room. The story was believed by the inmates of the house and the neighbourhood at the time.

The same Mrs. Holden, of the Townley Farm, says that her mother one night at the Laund had brought some clothes into the kitchen to mend, but had to go upstairs to fetch some worsted to darn a stocking, when she heard distinctly some-

one (in a stiff rustling silk dress apparently) go up immediately in front of her, step by step, and when at the top of the landing, she heard the door of the best room open and shut, though it was always kept locked, and she had to use her key to open it then. She found no one in the room, but heard the footsteps and the rustling silk dress receding before her.

The dwellers in the old hall were of course continually disturbed, especially in the long winter evenings, by the usual and recognised manifestations of a boggart's presence. Strange and unaccountable noises, the opening and shutting of doors, footsteps and rustling of dresses were, as might be expected, of frequent occurrence.

Old Roger Holden, of Leagram Mill, says the family and servants at the old hall at Laund were regularly called in the morning by the boggart, and laggards had sometimes the sheets drawn off their beds.

William Bamber, living at the Pale Farm, aged 83 in 1870, had often heard his uncle, Richard Horneley, say that when he was a young man he used to come courting William's aunt, Mary Bamber; and one night when all were in bed, and he was talking with his sweetheart by the kitchen fire, they heard something making a great rustling coming step by step downstairs (from the rooms above) to where they were, and fully expected to see the mother, Mrs. Bamber, come in and catch them sitting up. The door opened, but nothing appeared; they looked into the passage, yet still nothing was visible.

In taking down the old house in 1821 a small wooden box was discovered containing bones. It had been placed in the bay of a built-up window, looking out to the west, in the terrible room over the hall. They were submitted to medical inspection, and were pronounced to be the bones of a small human (perhaps female) hand, but they crumbled to dust almost immediately. The neighbours were then quite satisfied that the various disquieting noises, startling raps, and rustling of dresses that had often been heard were intimately



connected with the owner of the small skeleton hand, thus mysteriously enclosed in the old oak box.

Besides the ghostly establishment at the hall, the numerous barns and farm buildings belonging to it (a part of which occupied the site of the present grass-plot) were reputed to have more than their share of boggart residents. Perhaps the accommodation being curtailed in the old mansion—so much having been taken down—they were constrained, *faute de mieux*, to put up with the barns and stables. This may also account for the mischievous actions of these outsiders.

Numerous (of course highly credible) witnesses vouch that it was usual to hear great noises at night in the shippons, as if everything were in commotion, though on examination they were found perfectly quiet and orderly. It is equally an article of faith that the cattle were sometimes found chained together in couples, or out of their places, or where it seemed impossible for them to get. This was naturally attributed to the work of mischief-making boggarts. The lower barns at the Laund, especially one of them (an ancient timber erection) were noted as "terrible places for strange noises." An old man named Proctor yet living (1870) at Hesketh Lane, aged 97 years, says that when quite a young man he once came to pass a night in Leagram, and whilst hiding in this old barn, and waiting the arrival of a companion, he heard the continued and distressed cry of a child outside the building. His friend coming shortly after, they both heard it, and concluding that it was some poor child that had met with an accident, or one in the arms of its mother who had lost her way and was crying with cold, they went out, expecting at once to see the cause of the uproar. The cries continued as before, but retired before them, leading them a long way across the fields, eventually turning back again, past the old barn to the Laund, where they did not venture to pursue it; the cries appeared finally to proceed from a room in the upper storey of the hall.

Thomas Mercer, aged about 60 years, the present occupier of Abbot's Barn, Chipping, had been there all his life and his



father before him. The latter, who died an old man, used to maintain that the house, as long as he could remember, had frequently been disturbed, at uncertain intervals, by strange and supernatural noises and other manifestations. The son and his family state that the same continues to the present time. Sometimes the inmates are alarmed by a great crash overhead, as if a crate of china had fallen on the floor of the room above them. Sometimes the empty rocking chairs begin rocking without any visible agency. On one occasion, when the family had retired to rest, the noise below continued incessantly for more than three hours. One afternoon a man named Thomas Seed, from the Grove, Chipping, called there on business, and in conversation with the mistress of the house, laughed at her for her belief in haunted houses. She replied that she believed facts, and that they had had enough and to spare to convince them. Whilst they were talking a tremendous crash was heard immediately overhead. It seemed to shake the room, and sounded as if a great quantity of crockery had fallen, and as if all the glass in the windows had been broken likewise. The mistress ran upstairs to see what had happened, as her sister had packed up a quantity of china to take away, and she feared there was an accident. All was undisturbed, and no harm done of any kind. The man was so alarmed that he would neither accept a bed, nor go home, but made them sit up with him by the kitchen fire till morning. The mistress says that one evening sitting in the kitchen working it seemed to her as if some one was close beside her, throwing clogs at a round table on the opposite side of the room, though nothing was visible. One afternoon in a room upstairs she saw through an open door a young child come out of the cheese room, walk through the next room, and enter that in which she was. It went to the bed, and disappeared underneath it. She made a diligent search, but without avail, it was not seen again. This is the only occasion on which an apparition has been seen. The strange noises and disturbances have been of such long standing and

have occurred so often that they have lost their terrors, and the family do not seem to think much of them. Their relatives and friends, when assembled there on family gatherings, can never be persuaded to sleep a night in the house.

The old hall at Abbot's Barn was taken down some years since, and the inmates had hoped that the boggart would have disappeared with the building, but in this they were disappointed. When the old place was demolished, a complete skeleton of a child was discovered imbedded in one of the walls. The skull and most of the bones, on being exposed to the air, perished: some of the larger bones were preserved and placed in the china rack of the new house; one of them, an arm bone, remains in this situation at present.

Another history connected with this place is that a former master of the house had an apprentice, a boy from Preston. Being of a very violent temper, and the boy having given some offence, he struck him in the stable, in a fit of passion, and killed him on the spot. This at least was the version or conjecture of the neighbourhood. The master gave out that the lad met his death from the kick of a horse. The stable is said to be haunted by the poor boy. The last manifestation of the boggart at the house was the night preceding the death of the mistress's sister.

Wolf House, the old manor hall of Chipping and the residence of the Chippens, afterwards rebuilt and occupied by a branch of the Shirburnes of Stonyhurst, is now a part of the extensive property in the neighbourhood belonging to Lord Derby. The old hall was mostly taken down some years since, and the portions of the building that escaped demolition at that time were entirely cleared away quite lately. It had lately a porch, a fine old ogee-shaped doorway, with an ancient and massive oak door, its surface studded all over with large oak knobs. There were two perforations in the centre, through which tradition asserted a wolf had been shot. There were also traces of a chapel in what was then an out-building. A small secret chamber was also discovered when

the last of the old buildings was removed. The old house seemed suited to the supernatural, being in a wild and out-of-the-way place at the foot of the dreary and barren height of Parlick; still more so was it formerly, when there were no attempts at roads and the rough and uneven country was mostly forest or barren mountain. It was a fit home for uncanny beings to haunt, and doubtless they were often heard in the wintry night, screaming as they rode past on the driving storms that rushed through the gullies of the hills and searched every crevice of the crazy buildings to find an entrance. Queer noises there would be and rare pranks would be played when on occasions the goblin company held high festival. A few years since there were many ancient people living who could remember the time when the old hall was full of them.

Old Betsy Ellison, 75 years of age, now in Brabin's almshouse at Chipping, says that when she was a young lass she lived for a time at Wolf House, and that then and for years past it had been terribly infested by boggarts. Sometimes after the family had retired at night a tremendous crash might be heard in the kitchen as if all the crockery in the rack had fallen and broken in pieces; but on going to ascertain what had occurred, all would be found undisturbed. The doors opened and shut and strange screams and cries, inside and outside the house, would be heard, filling them with alarm. Sometimes, when assembled in the kitchen at night the fire in the grate would be violently raked and made to blaze up, without any poker or other visible means. The empty chairs were said to move of themselves towards the fire. These and many other strange and annoying occurrences were so frequent that the farmer in despair sent for a priest or parson to lay the troublesome boggart. This was done; the boggarts were exorcised according to rule, and were strictly enjoined to remain under the old yew tree in front of the hall, as long as the tree remained green and the water ran in the neighbouring brook. Proctor, the father or grandfather of the present

farmer, was so afraid in dry summers of the water in the brook failing, that he used to open every drain and spring to ensure a supply. It is a matter of great satisfaction to record that the inmates were never again troubled by boggarts.

On another occasion two men named Lawrenson and James Atkinson were walking along this road on a bright moonlight night. On reaching the top of the brow a woman suddenly joined them, and walked by Atkinson's side down the hill. She turned through the little garden gate as if to enter the cottage. He said: "A fine night," but had no reply. He repeated his Good-night but again received no response. As he passed on with his companion he looked back to see if the taciturn woman entered the cottage, but to his surprise saw her returning up the hill which they had just been descending. Lawrenson then asked him to whom he had been speaking. He answered: "Why, the woman who walked down the hill with us." He said: "I saw no woman." Atkinson replied: "You must have done so. She walked close by my side the whole distance down the hill. I spoke twice, but she never answered, and she has turned back again up the hill." Atkinson, who was convinced that he had both seen and spoken to a woman, was considerably alarmed.

Not far from this place, but higher up the valley, a woman named Mary Bleasdale, now living (about 1870), who, when young, lived at Crag House in the township of Chipping, came one day to the Bottoms, as was her custom, to visit some friend. She did not return as soon as was expected, and her mother and sister went to meet her. A path leads from the Bottoms through an archway, under the higher factory, and a little beyond, after crossing the brook, there used to be an old filled-up lime kiln. Here Mary met her mother and sister, and they all saw at the same moment the extended arm of a man holding a mason's mallet. It protruded from an opening in the old kiln, and gradually disappeared. Many years previous the body of a man, supposed to have been a Scotchman, was found at this spot. He had been seeking

employment in the neighbourhood. Many other people testify to having seen this same apparition.

John Wilson and old Robert Dewhurst, late of the Dairy Barn Farm, were returning one evening in June from sheep-shearing in Bowland and it was towards dusk when they reached the lane leading from the Hollins towards the Dairy Farm. They then parted company, Dewhurst turning homewards and his companion proceeding in the direction of Chipping. They had scarcely separated when Dewhurst saw standing in the middle of the lane what seemed to be a man, but of so horrid and terrible an appearance that he at once rushed back, calling his companion to his assistance. Wilson came back, exclaiming: "What art afeared, Robert? Mon I go wi' ye?" He explained that he dare not go on without him. Wilson accordingly accompanied him through the lane. Dewhurst maintained that the apparition preceded him the whole way. He was dreadfully alarmed, so that his companion had great difficulty in getting him home. Wilson himself saw nothing.

Robert Dewhurst, the son and present tenant (died Nov. 27, 1901), has never seen anything, but has several times heard extraordinary noises when he has been coming through this lane. It has seemed to him as if the noise originated in the bank or hedge at one side, and sounded as if the whole of it from one end to the other was being violently torn up and destroyed, although there was no visible sign of any disturbance whatever. On each occasion he ran to the fence to see whether there was anything visible which might explain the extraordinary commotion, but there were no cattle about or near the place nor anything else that could account for it. One evening, having been rather alarmed by this singular manifestation, he thought to escape a recurrence of it by taking another road. He accordingly turned from the highway, a short distance from the lane, at a stile opposite the Throstle's Nest farmhouse, intending, besides avoiding the lane, to make a shorter way home across a couple of fields.



He had scarcely ascended the top bar of the stile when the noise was repeated, louder than ever, as if directly beneath him, and extending all along the hedge in the direction of the lane. The last time this strange uproar was heard by him was immediately before his father's death.

Thomas Holden, tenant of Townley Farm, Leagram, and F. Leeman, son of James Leeman of Saddle Side, state that once, as they were returning from sheep-shearing in Bowland, coming along the Hollins lane, they saw what seemed to them to be a large black dog, which trotted before them half the length of the lane and suddenly disappeared. They had almost walked on it when it seemed suddenly to vanish. The wife of the same Thomas Holden and a Mrs. Marsden affirm that the same thing happened to them on another occasion; a large black dog seemed to rise out of the ditch at their side, and crossing the road it immediately disappeared.

At a farmhouse called Moor-end in Bowland a tragedy took place about one hundred years ago under the following circumstances: An accepted lover of a young woman who resided here was at last discarded by her, and her admiration and the promise of her hand given to another. The first suitor quickly changed his love to hatred, and by the payment of £50 procured a man to murder his faithless sweetheart. The hired murderer is said to have taken his time, hanging about the neighbourhood for more than a month, before he found what he considered a fit opportunity. Eventually he discovered her sitting outside her door, in the act of making a shirt for her future husband. He shot and killed the poor girl on the spot. The murderer was afterwards tried and executed, and his body sent to this place to be gibbeted. It was exposed in a cage or gibbet on Knot Brow, a small conical hill close to the road side, about 250 yards from the scene of the murder. It is said the murdered girl haunts the precincts of the gibbet, and has appeared to many persons. The narrator of this history, an old man of 80, living on the place,



maintained that he had seen her several times rise out of the road close to him and pass off into the air.

A lane beyond Kemble End is said to be haunted, many persons alleging that they have at different times seen there something which looks like a large dog. It sometimes runs against them, and rubs against their legs and disappears. There is a pit adjoining, in which many years since a woman drowned herself. She was called Jinny Stringer. At the present time even, few persons in the neighbourhood will pass through the lane after nightfall on account of the boggart. Thomas Tomlinson (the present tenant at Windy Hills, 1872), about 45 years since is said to have been driving a cart through the lane one evening when he saw what appeared to be a strange animal close to him. He struck at it with his whip, and immediately his cart and horse were overturned on the road without any visible agency. The other night, February 2nd, 1872, a woman named Ellen Wilson, accompanied by her daughter, was ascending Maltkin Brow, between Chipping and the Bottoms, when she says she saw what seemed to be a headless woman in white coming straight towards her. She screamed with fright and the apparition disappeared. The daughter saw nothing, and was much surprised at her mother's sudden alarm.

There are many other localities in this vicinity where similar or other supernatural occurrences are reported to have taken place, and they retain even at the present time, especially after dark, an unpleasant reputation. A woman draped in white is said to haunt the path leading from Goose Lane in Chipping towards Hesketh End. She frequents a stile and foot-bridge leading out of the first field from the Chipping road, and afterwards seems to move or glide by the side of the little brook towards Sandy Brow.

Strange apparitions are also said to have frightened travellers in the lane leading from Goose Lane towards Pye's nursery (now given up).

At the Three-lane-ends, about a mile from Chipping, on the Garstang road, an ugly black dog makes its unlooked-for and unpleasant appearance.

These and many other boggart histories were the talk and belief of all the country side only a few years ago. They are now spoken of stealthily, as if the narrators felt that they would be laughed at.

THE END.

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