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THE
VALE ROYAL OF ENGLAND,
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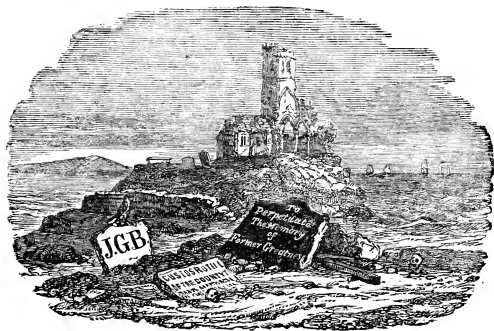
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THE
Dale Royal of England,

OR, THE
County Palatine of Chester

ILLUSTRATED;

ABRIDGED AND REVISED
WITH NOTES, HISTORICAL AND EXPLANATORY,
BY THOMAS HUGHES.



LONDON:
JOHN GRAY BELL, BEDFORD ST., COVENT GARDEN.

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TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ALBERT EDWARD
PRINCE OF WALES,
EARL OF CHESTER,
&c., &c., &c.,

THIS ABRIDGED REPRINT OF
KING'S VALE ROYAL OF ENGLAND,
OR
THE COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER
ILLUSTRATED,

IS BY HIS ROYAL FATHER'S MOST GRACIOUS PERMISSION
HUMBLY DEDICATED; BY HIS
ROYAL HIGHNESS' LOYAL AND DEVOTED SERVANT,
THOMAS HUGHES.

THE
VALE ROYALL OF ENGLAND,
OR,

THE COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER

I L L U S T R A T E D ;

Wherein is contained a

GEOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Of that famous COUNTY,

With all its *Hundreds* and *Seats* of the *Nobility*,
Gentry and *Freeholders*, its *Rivers*, *Towns*, *Castles* and
Buildings, Antient and Modern.

PERFORMED BY

WILLIAM SMITH and *WILLIAM WEBB*, GENTLEMEN,

AND PUBLISHED BY

MR. DANIEL KING.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *John Streater*, in Little St. *Bartholomew's*,
and are to be sold at the *Black Spread Eagle* at the
West End of Paul's, 1656.

THE VALE ROYAL OF ENGLAND.

This County Palatine of *Chester*, which in our common speech is called *Chestershire*, and by corruption, more short, *Cheshire*, lyeth on the North West corner of the Countrey, which was sometime under the Government of the Kings of Marcia: Whose people were called by the Romans *Devani*, that is, bordering on the River *Dee*. The proportion thereof is almost three-cornered, or rather like to the Wing of an Eagle, being stretched forth at length. The longest length thereof, is from the Wood-Head in the East, where the River of *Marsey* (Mersey) springeth, unto the furthest part of *Werall* (Wirrall) in the West, (where the said River falleth into the Sea) which I find to be about 44 miles, following the course of the River.

By Natural Scituation, it lyeth low, nevertheless very pleasant, and abounding in plenteousness of all things needful and necessary for man's use; insomuch that it merited and had the Name of *The Vale-Royal* of England: Which Name, *Edward I.* gave unto the Abbey of Vale Royal, which he founded upon the River of Weever

(Weaver) in the midst of the same Shire. The ayr is very wholesome, insomuch that the people of the countrey are seldom infected with Diseases or Sicknesse, neither do they use the help of the Physicians, nothing so much, as in other countries: For when any of them are sick, they make him a posset, and tye a kerchieff on his head; and if that will not amend him, then God be merciful to him! The people there live till they be very old; some are Grandfathers, their Fathers yet living; and some are Grandfathers before they be married.

The county, albeit in most places plat and even, yet hath certain Hills of Name, as *Frodsham* and *Peckforton* Hills, *Congleton* Edge, &c. It aboundeth also in Pasture, Meadow, and Wood-land, and Waters in great store, of which more hereafter.

The Heaths or Mosses are common, out of which they dig turves in Summer, every man as shall serve his turn, to burn all the year. Moreover, in these Mosses are Fir-trees found under the ground (a thing marvellous,) in some places Six foot deep, or more; which trees are of a marvellous length, and straight, having branches, and roots at the end, like as they had been blown down with Weather; and yet no man can tell that ever any such trees did grow there, nor yet how they should come thither. Some hold opinion that they have lain there ever since Noah's Flood.

The Pasture Ground is reserved, especially, for their Kine, from whose milk they make great store both of Butter and Cheese: In praise whereof, I need not to say much, it being well known that no Countrey in the Realm may compare therewith, nor yet beyond the Seas; no, not even *Holland*. Their Oxen are very large, and big of bone, with fair and long horns; so that a man shall find divers, whose horns at the tops are more than three foot asunder, one from another. Of Sheep, Horses, &c., they keep but so many as to serve their turn: There is also great plenty of Hares and Foxes, in hunting whereof, the Gentlemen do pass much of their time, especially in Winter. Wild Fowl aboundeth there in such store, as in no other Countrey have I seen the like; namely Wild Geese and Wild Ducks; of which a man shall see sometimes flying, near 200 in one flock.

The Soyl of the Countrey is, in most places, Clay, with here and there veins of Sand: Likewise Rocks and Quarries of Stone. And to make an end, I must not forget the chiefest thing of all, and that is, the Salt-wells, or Brine-pits, out of the which they make yearly a great quantity of fine white Salt; a singular commodity, no doubt, wherein this Shire excelleth all other Countries at home, as well as beyond the Seas; one being at *Nantwich*, another at *Northwich*, and two at *Middlewich*; of the which Towns, more hereafter.

The people of the Countrey are of nature very gentle and courteous, ready to help and further one another: In Religion very zealous, howbeit somewhat addicted to Superstition: Otherwise, they are of the stomach, stout, bold, and hardy; withal impatient of wrong, and ready to resist the Enemy or Stranger that shall invade their Countrey: So have they been always true, faithful and obedient to their Superiors; insomuch that it cannot be said that they have at any time stirred one spark of Rebellion, either against the King's Majesty, or against their own peculiar Lord or Governour. Likewise be the women very friendly and loving, in all kind of Houswifery expert, fruitful in bearing of Children, after they be married, and sometimes before. To conclude:—Touching their Housekeeping, it is bountiful as any Shire in the Realm; and I know divers men, which are but Farmers, that may compare therein with a Lord or Baron in some countreys beyond the Seas.

HERE FOLLOWETH THE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.

A Description of the City and County Palatine of Chester; Compiled by Mr. Webb, M.A., and sometimes (1615) Under-Sheriff to Sir Richard Lee, of Lee and Darnhall, in Cheshire.*

The County Palatine of Chester is one of those Shires once inhabited by the people called *Cornavii*.—albeit the

*Knighted at Whitehall, Jan. 10th, 1610.

Name was antiently, by the Saxons, called *Cestrescyre*, vulgarly *Cheshire*. It is bounded on the North, partly, with a Creek, shooting in between *Lancashire*, and *Wirrall* Hundred, a part of *Cheshire*; which Creek is called *Mersey*; and partly with the River of that name; and upon the East is bounded by a River, whose name I find to be *Erwin* (Irwell) Brook; the same bounds then declining to the South-East, between this and *Staffordshire*, till it comes to the South, on which side lie a part of *Shropshire*, and of *Flintshire*; from which, turning South-West, lies a piece of *Denbyshire*, parted from this by the River of *Dee*; and directly West is bounded again by *Flintshire*, and by the Sea itself.

The whole Shire is divided into Hundreds, of the which there are seven, viz: *Broxton*, *Namptwich*, *Northwich*, *Maxfield* (Macclesfield,) *Bucklow*, *Eddisbury*, and *Wirrall*. I place the Hundred of *Broxton* to be first, because it borders upon the City of *Chester*; To which I hasten with all speed I can, which as it is the chief place, head, ornament, beauty, and dignity of the whole County Palatine is fit to have preeminence in our Description.

Broxton Hundred, lying in a wedge-like form, is in length about 20 miles, and in its greatest breadth 8 or 9 miles. At one end thereof is *Coughall*, an antient De-mean of the *Massies* of Puddington, in *Wirrall* Hun-

dred, and now Sir William Massie's, and scituate upon a River or Brook, which, dividing these Hundreds, falleth into *Mersey*: upon which Brook, from *Coughall* towards *Chester*, lies the Lop of *Wervin*, as also *Picton*, the Lands of *John Hurlestone, Esq.*;* next cometh *Moston*,† with the Township of *Upton* also; to which adjoineth, upon the Confines of the Liberties of the City of Chester, a sweet and pleasant demean, called the *Baits*, but more vulgarly the *Bache*,‡ which was once the Seat of the *Chauntrells*. And thus am I quickly arrived at the City of Chester itself.



A DESCRIPTION OF CHESTER, THE NAMES AND FOUNDATION THEREOF.

Although for my part, I see not any but very weak grounds for their conjectures, who would bring our *City of Chester's* foundation from beyond all possibility of Records; yet I will not prejudicate any in their surmizes,

* His descendant; J. H. Leche, Esq. of Carden, is the present owner.

† This manor now belongs to W. Massey, Esq. whose father purchased it in 1790 from the representatives of H. Bennett, Esq.

‡ This estate has lately passed into the hands of B. Hill, Esq.

nor defraud them of the praises that any shall think good to bestow upon those who have laboured in Collections of that kind: and so, as follows:—

The first Name, that I find this City is supposed to have born, was *Neomagus*; and this they derive from *Magus*, the son of *Samothes*, the son of *Japhet*, which *Magus* was the first planter of Inhabitants in this Isle after *Noah's* Flood, and first builded a City even in this place, or neer unto it, as it is supposed. This conjecture I find observed out of the learned Knight, Sir *Thomas Elliott*, who saith directly, in the First Vol. of his "Chronicles," that *Neomagus* stood where Chester now standeth.

Ranulphus, a Monk of *Chester*, hath another foundation (in a rude fashion) from a Gyant, forsooth, called *Leon Gaure*, the vanquisher of the Picts; and saith that afterward *Leir*, King of *Brittain*, brought the City to a more pleasant fashion of building, and then named it *Guer Leir*.* Touching which foundation, I do by so much less, give approbation, by how much me thinks that opinion of Mr. *Camden* most probable, drawn from the antient *Brittish* Language, of whom it hath been called *Caerlegion*, *Caerleon-vaur*, &c.; Which names are derived from that Legion of the Romans, called *Vicissima Victrix*, first placed here in the second Consul-

* or Gaure Leon.

ship of *Galba*. Thus by whom, or howsoever the same City had her first Foundation, it is manifest enough, that it is exceedingly antient; and even the doubtfulness thereof makes it of undoubted antiquity.

The names thereof, indeed, have been variable, and diverse; but I hold most authentical that, which the *Saxons* took from *Castra*, which in Latin signifieth Castles or Camps; from which many other cities and towns also derive a part of their name. But this our City, being the *first* City, made famous by that renowned Legion aforementioned, was more properly or especially called *Cester*, or *Chester*, being indeed an abbreviation of *Legcestria*, the City of the Legion.

The scituation of the City is so commendable, as to make *Lucian*, a Monk, that lived neer the time of the Normans' Conquest, to write thus: "Chester is built as a city, the sight whereof inviteth and allureth the eye; and was, in times past, a place of receipt to the Legions, and served sufficiently to keep the keys, as I may say, of *Ireland*, for the *Romans* to preserve the limits of their Empire."

We find that the same City hath had many variable changes, sometimes in flourishing, and other whiles in depressed condition; the truth whereof will be manifested in the history of its Walls. These aforesaid Walls were first built by *Marius*, King of Brittain, who reigned

about A.D. 73. But *Edelfleda*, that Noble *Mercian* Lady, about the year 908, greatly repaired and enlarged this City, making the Walls thereof anew, and compassing in the Castle, which before that time stood without the Walls : All which that religious Monk, *Henry Bradshaw*, thus expresseth :

“ King *Marius*, a Brittain, reigning in prosperity
 “ In the West part of this noble Region,
 “ Amplified and walled strongly *Chester* City,
 “ And mightily fortified the said foundation.—***
 “ The Year of Our Lord, Nine hundred and eight,
 “ This *Edelfleda*, Dutchess, with mickle royalty
 “ Reedified *Chester*, and fortified it full right ;
 “ Also, she enlarged this old City
 “ With new mighty Walls strong all about ;
 “ Almost by proportion double in quantity,
 “ To the further building brought without doubt,
 “ She compassed in Castle—enemy to hold out,
 “ Within the said Walls, to defend the Town
 “ Against *Dane* and *Welshmen*, to drive them all
 down.”

To this, let me now add, from the *Doomesday Book* of *William* the Conquerour, that “ The Earles of the *Norman's* Line fortified the City both with Walls and Castle.” And afterwards, when the King himself, in person, came thither, “ for the re-edification of the Wall and the

Bridge," an edict was issued, "That out of every Hide in the County, one man should come; and look, whose man came not, his Lord and Master was fined 40s., to the King, and the Earl."

In *Hollinshead's Chronicle*, it is recorded, that "the *Irishmen* did make their appearances, and did homage unto King *Arthur* at *Caerlegion*, now called *Chester*;" about which time, saith *Fox*, this City was a place of great account; and both Grammar and Philosophie, with the Tongues, were there taught.

What we find in *Mr. Harding's old Chronicle*, is not to be omitted, concerning a Parliament, with Coronation of some kings, which set forth the dignity of this place; the which take in his own words:

"In the same year 603* of Christ's Incarnation
 "The *Brittains* all did set their Parliament
 "At *Caerleon*, by good information,
 "Caerlegio Chester hight, as some men meant
 "That Westchester is come of intent,
 "Where they did chuse *Ccdwan* to be their King
 "To defend them from the foes warring.

And afterwards, there is likewise mentioned the crowning, A.D. 626, of the famous *Cadwal*, (son of the said King Cadwan,) at this city, who raigned over the *Brittains* 61

* Or, which is more likely, A.D 613., Cadwan having reigned 13 years.

years after the death of *Cadwan*. And this Chronicle saith also, that King *Ethelwalf* was crowned at Westchester, in the year 839, in most royal manner, and reigned 19 years.

In *Polychronicon*, as well as in almost all the Writers concerning the Dignity of *Chester*, the memory of King Edgar's pompous show he made at Chester, in the 12th year of his Reign,* is specially recorded, when, coming thither after his Conquest of North Wales, caused his Barge to be rowed by eight Kings upon the River *Dee*, himself sitting at the helm.

Geraldus Cambrensis writeth, that *Chester*, about the time of the Conquest, was esteemed a place of great strength and refuge; insomuch as, *Harold* the King, having received many wounds, and lost his left eye by stroke of an arrow, in the Battail with *William* the Conquerour, he fled from the field, and went to *Chester*, where some say he lived many years, after an holy life, as an Anchorite in the Cel of *St. James*, neer to *St. John's* Church, and there ended his dayes: And *Polychronicon* adds thereto, that when the death of King *Harold* was known to *Edwin* and *Mercarius*,† Earls of

* A.D. 971. *Ralph Higden* adds, that *Edgar* was thus rowed by his subordinate princes, in proof of their fealty, from his palace on the *Dee* to *St. John's* Church.

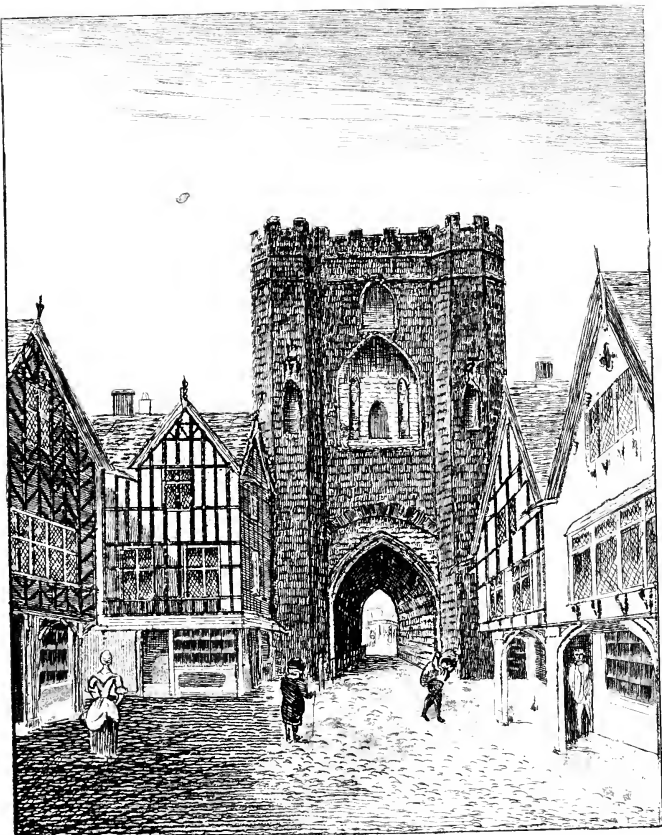
† Otherwise *Morcar*, who with *Edwin*, were brothers of *Queen Agatha*, (or *Algitha*.)

Mercia and Northumberland, they took *Agatha*, *Harold's* wife, and sent her to *Chester* for her greater safety and security; yet this History be indeed doubted by some other writers.

Caxton in his Chronicle of the Raign of Henry I., relateth that Henry the IV., Emperour of *Almaine*, married *Maud*, the King's Daughter of *England*; and that after a wilful exile, He and his Wife both died, and were buried at *Chester*: while *Gerald* in his *Itinerario Wallæ*, saith, that having prisoned his carnal Father, and his spiritual Father, the Pope, with his Cardinals, he afterwards was reconciled, and wilfully exiled, leaving *Maud* his Wife, and lived a Hermit's life at *Chester* ten years; and that afterwards at his death he confessed himself to be that same Henry, the Fourth Emperour of *Almaine*; which Fame ran abroad, filling not only *Chester*, but the Countries also beyond the Seas.

Many the like Notes to these do offer themselves, but these I will refer to be spoken of in their proper places, where opportunity may offer. And now I will describe the City itself, as it is at this day in our view:

The City of *Chester* is inclosed with a fair stone wall, high and strong built, with fair Battlements on all the four sides, and with the four Gates, opening to the four Winds; besides some posterns, and many seemly Towers in and upon the said Walls. The four Gates are, the



The EASTGATE, CHESTER, Taken down in 1766.

East-gate, the North-gate, the Water-gate, and the Bridge-gate. Without the first two of these Gates, the City extendeth herself in her Suburbs, with very fine Streets, and the same adorned with goodly Buildings, both of Gentlemen's Houses, and fair Inns for entertainment of all resorts. And the Bridge-gate opening, on the South, into an antient part of the City, beyond the water, over the Bridge—a part which some suppose was once the City itself, now called Hand-bridge. And the Water-gate only leading forth to the side of the River *Dee*; which River, even there, falls into the mouth of the Sea, having first as it were turned itself aside, to leave a fine spacious piece of ground of great pleasure and delight, called the Rood-Eye, a very delightfull Meadow used for a cow pasture in the summer, and all the year for a wholesome and pleasant walk by the side of the *Dee*; and for Recreations of Shooting, Bowling, and such other Exercises, as are performed at certain times by men; and by running Horses, in presence and view of the Maior of the City, and his Brethren, with such other Lords, Knights, Ladies and Gentlemen, as please at those times to accompany them for that view.

That which we may call the chiefest passage into that City, is the East-gate,* a goodly great Gate, of an

* This Gate, which is believed to have supplanted the original Roman archway during the reign of Edward III., was taken down

ancient fair building, with a Tower upon it, containing many fair rooms within it: At which, we begin the circuit of the Wall, which from that Gate, Northward, extendeth to a Tower* upon the angle of the said Wall.

The North-gate † is of a remarkable strong fair building, and used for the Prison of the City, in the charge and keeping of the Sheriffs successively from year to year, which Prison hath always one sufficient well-reputed Gaoler, to take charge of all such prisoners as shall be thither brought. From the North-gate, still Westward, the Wall extendeth to another Tower; ‡ and from thence to the turning of the Wall, Southwards, where standeth another fine Turret, called

in 1767, when portions of the old Roman structure, consisting of two double circular arches, together with some rude remnants of sculpture were there discovered. The present Gate was erected in 1768, at the sole charge of Richard, first Marquis of Westminster.

* The *Phoenix*, or as it was sometime called, *Newton Tower*; from the roof of which, in 1645, just 30 years after the writing of this History, that truly unfortunate Monarch, Charles the First, was a sad spectator of the defeat of his forces on Rowton Heath.

† The structure here spoken of was removed in 1808, and the prisoners removed to a new Gaol, erected near the Water-gate. Upon its site, the present Gate was erected, by the aforesaid Marquis of Westminster.

‡ The *Goblin's Tower*, now known as Pemberton's Parlour, partially taken down in 1702.

the *New Tower*,* and was pitcht within the channel of *Dee* Water, where was at one time the Key, whereunto Vessels of great burdens as well of merchandise as others, came close up.

From the *New Tower*, the Wall goeth South to the Water-gate,† which Gate is less than any of the other three, serving only for the passage to the *Roodeye*, formerly mentioned; and still South reacheth the Wall in a straight line, before it hath gotten beyond the Castle, and then turns itself towards the East.

From that turning, is the Bridge-gate,‡ scituate at the North End of a very fine and strong stone bridge. This Bridge-gate being a fair strong building of itself, hath of late been more beautified by a seemly Waterwork of Stone, built steeplewise, by the ingenuous industry and charge of a late worthy member of the City, *John Tyrer*, Gent., and hath served ever since to great use, for the conveying of the River water from the cestern in

* Now styled the Water Tower, an ancient maritime fortress, built in 1322, and still existing in much of its former glory; it has been lately converted into the Museum of the Mechanics' Institution, and become a place of great resort to strangers.

† The Gate here mentioned, which was a narrow, inconvenient structure, gave way in 1788-9, to the present handsome archway, the murengers of the city providing the funds for its erection.

‡ Taken down in 1781, and the present Gateway substituted the following year, at the City's cost.

the top of that work, to the Citizens' houses, in almost all parts of the City, in pipes of lead and wood, to their no small contentment and commodity,

The Wall there continueth along the River side Eastward to another remainder of a Turret, and then turneth itself Northward; and certain paces from thence, is a Postern, of old called *Woolfield-gate*,* but of latter times named *Newgate*, which in A.D. 1600, was augmented and adorned with a fair building; and from this gate, our Wall, having another Turret now unto it, called *Wall Tower*,† stretcheth still along, till it meeteth with the East-gate, at which it began.

This Wall is so fairly built, with Battlements on the outward part, and with a footpace, or floor, a yard or more under the Notch of the Battlement, that with the help of some stairs, you may go round about the Walls, being a very delectable Walk, feeding the eye, on the one side, with the sweet Gardens, and fine Buildings of the City; and on the other side, with a Prospect of many miles into the County of *Chester*, into *Wales*, and into the Sea.§ And this Wall, although it serveth not so much

* In some records, called also Pepper-gate, with which name several traditions are associated.

† Now almost obliterated.

§ The rapacity of modern adventurers hath now almost banished the sea from the neighbourhood of the old City.

in these dayes, for defence and safety, against the Invasions of Enemies, and dangers of Siege, as in antient times it did; yet have the Citizens here, by continual care, and no small charge, maintained the same in sound and good Reparations for the ornament, credit, and estimation of the City.*

Upon the South-side of the City, neer unto the said water of *Dee*, and upon a high rock, is mounted a strong and stately Castle, round in form; the Base Court likewise enclosed with a circular wall, which to this day, retaineth one testimony of the *Romans'* magnificence, having therein a fair and antient square Tower, which, by the testimony of all the writers I have hitherto met withall, beareth the name of *Julius Cæsar's* Tower; † besides which there is a goodly Hall, ‡ where the Court of Common Pleas, and also the Sheriffs of the County's Court, with other businesses for the County of *Chester* are constantly kept and holden, and is a place, for that purpose, of such state and comeliness, as is hardly

* The value of this pious precaution was well developed, a few years afterwards, in the long and arduous Siege endured by the Citizens on behalf of their King, in 1545-6.

† Still perfect; the lower portion is now occupied as a Magazine. The upper chamber has a vaulted and groined stone roof, and was at one time a Chapel, as appears by the Tax Book of Henry VIII.

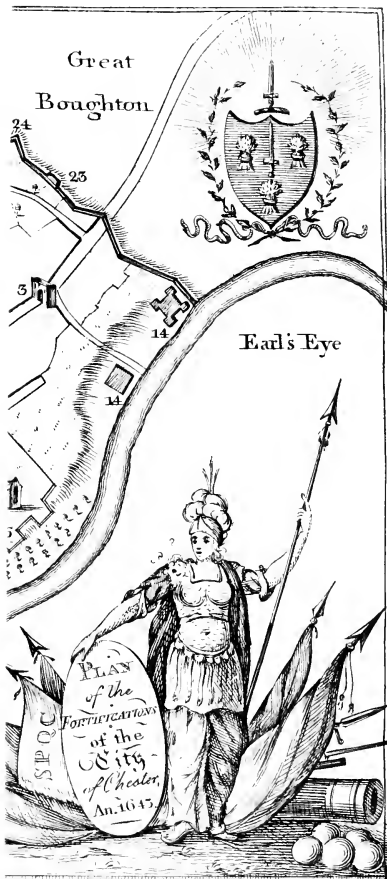
‡ Usually styled *Hugh Lupus's* Hall. Taken down in 1790, together with the Exchequer Court (where the Earls held their

equalled by any Shire Hall, in any of the Shires in England. And next to the said Hall is another convenient Hall, where is holden the Princes Highness' most honorable Court of Exchequer. Within the precincts of the Castle, is also the King's Prison for the County, with a deep Draw-well of water, in the midst of the Court; besides much of the antient Building, for want of use, fallen to ruine and decay. And I find that the Castle, with the precincts thereof, were reserved out of the *Charter of King Henry VII.*, by the which the City was made a County of itself; and accordingly, hath ever since been used for the King's Majesties' service of the County of *Chester*, and esteemed a part thereof, and not of the County of the City. And now to step from thence into the City itself.

The Streets, for the most part, are very fair and beautiful, and the buildings on either side of seemly proportion; and for a singular property or praise to this City, (whereof I know not the like of any other,) though there be towards the street fair rooms, for shops and dwelling houses, yet the principal dwelling houses and shops are mounted a story higher, and before the Doors a continued Rowe on either side the street, for people to pass to and fro all along the said houses, out of all annoyance of

Parliaments) to make room for the present magnificent County Hall, Gaol, and Barracks.

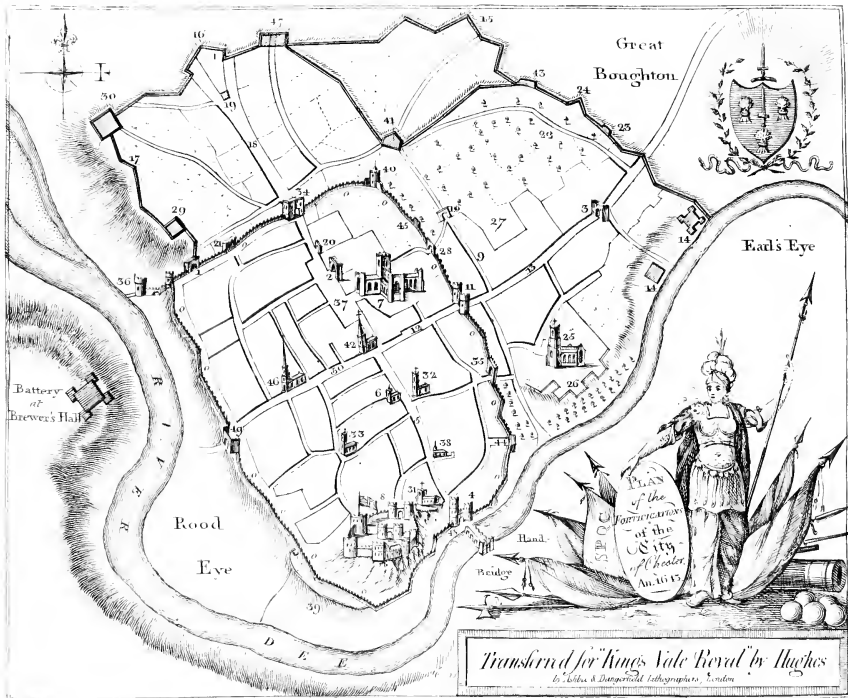




for "Kings Vale Royal" by Hughes.
Bee & Dangerfield Lithographers, London.

REFERENCES TO THE PLAN OF CHESTER
DURING THE SIEGE.

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| <p>1. Pemberton's Parlour.</p> <p>2. Abbey Gate,</p> <p>3. Bars Gate.</p> <p>4. Bridge Gate.</p> <p>5. Bridge Street.</p> <p>6. Bridget's Church.</p> <p>7. Cathedral.</p> <p>8. Castle.</p> <p>9. Cow Lane.</p> <p>10. Cow Lane Turnpike.</p> <p>11. Eastgate.</p> <p>12. Eastgate Street.</p> <p>13. Foregate Street.</p> <p>14. Flankers on the River.</p> <p>15. Flankers at Flookersbrook</p> <p>16. Flankers at Upper North-
gate Street.</p> <p>17. Flankers at Stone Bridge.</p> <p>18. Upper Northgate Street.</p> <p>19. " " Turnpike.</p> <p>20. Upper Abbey Gate.</p> <p>21. Gunmount.</p> <p>22. Horn Lane.</p> <p>23. Horn Lane Mount.</p> <p>24. " Flanker.</p> <p>25. St. John's Church.</p> <p>26. " Church Yard
Battery.</p> | <p>27. The Justing Croft.</p> <p>28. Kaleyard Gate.</p> <p>29. Mergan's Mount.</p> <p>30. Mount leading to Stone
Bridge.</p> <p>31. St. Mary's Church.</p> <p>32. St. Michael's Church.</p> <p>33. St. Martin's Church.</p> <p>34. Northgate.</p> <p>35. Newgate.</p> <p>36. New Tower.</p> <p>37. Northgate Street.</p> <p>38. St. Olave's Church.</p> <p>39. Outworks on Little Rood-
eye.</p> <p>40. Phoenix Tower.</p> <p>41. Phoenix Mount.</p> <p>42. Reed's Mount.</p> <p>43. St. Peter's Church.</p> <p>44. Raised Platform on Walls.</p> <p>45. Sadler's Tower.</p> <p>46. Trinity Church.</p> <p>47. Dr. Walley's Mount.</p> <p>48. Water Tower.</p> <p>49. Watergate.</p> <p>50. Watergate Street.</p> <p>o. The Walls.</p> |
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REFERENCES TO THE PLAN OF CHESTER
DURING THE SIEGE.

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| <p>1. Pemberton's Parlour.</p> <p>2. Abbey Gate,</p> <p>3. Bars Gate.</p> <p>4. Bridge Gate.</p> <p>5. Bridge Street.</p> <p>6. Bridget's Church.</p> <p>7. Cathedral.</p> <p>8. Castle.</p> <p>9. Cow Lane.</p> <p>10. Cow Lane Turnpike.</p> <p>11. Eastgate.</p> <p>12. Eastgate Street.</p> <p>13. Foregate Street.</p> <p>14. Flankers on the River.</p> <p>15. Flankers at Flookersbrook</p> <p>16. Flankers at Upper Northgate Street.</p> <p>17. Flankers at Stone Bridge.</p> <p>18. Upper Northgate Street.</p> <p>19. " " Turnpike.</p> <p>20. Upper Abbey Gate.</p> <p>21. Gunmount.</p> <p>22. Horn Lane.</p> <p>23. Horn Lane Mount.</p> <p>24. " Flanker.</p> <p>25. St. John's Church.</p> <p>26. " Church Yard
Battery.</p> | <p>27. The Justing Croft.</p> <p>28. Kaleyard Gate.</p> <p>29. Morgan's Mount.</p> <p>30. Mount leading to Stone
Bridge.</p> <p>31. St. Mary's Church.</p> <p>32. St. Michael's Church.</p> <p>33. St. Martin's Church.</p> <p>34. Northgate.</p> <p>35. Newgate.</p> <p>36. New Tower.</p> <p>37. Northgate Street.</p> <p>38. St. Olave's Church.</p> <p>39. Outworks on Little Road-eye.</p> <p>40. Phoenix Tower.</p> <p>41. Phoenix Mount.</p> <p>42. Reed's Mount.</p> <p>43. St. Peter's Church.</p> <p>44. Raised Platform on Walls.</p> <p>45. Sadler's Tower.</p> <p>46. Trinity Church.</p> <p>47. Dr. Walley's Mount.</p> <p>48. Water Tower.</p> <p>49. Watergate.</p> <p>50. Watergate Street.</p> <p>o. The Walls.</p> |
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Rain, or other foul weather ; with stairs fairly built, to step down out of those Rowes into the open streets ; and the said Rowes built over the head, with such of the chambers and rooms, for the most part, as are the best rooms in every of these said houses.

The City is also adorned with many fine and decent Churches ; there being within the Walls eight Parishes, and Parish Churches : *St. Oswald's* (or *Werbung,*) *St. Peter's*, *Trinity*, *St. Martin's*, *St. Marie's*, *St. Olave's*, *St. Michael's*, and *St. Bridget's* ; and in the Suburbs without the Walls *St. John the Baptist*, and *Little St. John's*. All which Churches, as they are of a very antient, so are they of a very comely building, and are so well maintained, that they are so many beautiful ornaments to the City. But here I thus pass by them, and come again to describe the principal streets by name.

The East-gate Street is the fair street, where the City opens itself to your eye, as soon as you enter within the East-gate, and reacheth in a straight line, beautified with Rowes, and very fine buildings on both sides, to the High Crosse* at *St. Peter's* Church.

The North-gate Street beginneth neer the upper end of East-gate Street, turning where the Milke market is kept Northward ; which after it hath led you to the Common

* Levelled and defaced by the fanatic zeal of the Parliamentarians, on their obtaining possession of the City in 1546.

Hall of Pleas, it then spaciously opens itself to a goodly Corn marketplace, scituate before the fair Gates of the antient and famous Abbey, and now used for the Palace of the Lord Bishop, and fine dwellings of the reverend Dean and Prebend of that Foundation; from thence narrows itself to the North-gate, on the one side, with fair houses, and on the other with the wall* of the Abbey.

The Bridge-gate Street begins at the Bridge-gate, and ascendeth leisurely from South to North, even up to the High Crosse aforementioned, being in the upper end thereof, for the beauty and scituation, a special part of the comely splendour of the City, and boasteth itself with the shew of four or five of the Churches, Cross-conduit, and greatest Traded Shops, very seemly to all beholders.

The Water-gate Street beginneth at the Water-gate, and so in the like straight line, well furnished with buildings, both antient and new, up to the said High Crosse.

The Fore-gate Street reacheth, from the East-gate, directly East, in a fair continued street, to another Gate of stone, called the *Bars*, † without which the liberties

* This wall has of late years been replaced by a row of houses and shops, the Abbey Gate and another, about 80 yards further Northward, alone remaining to denote its former position.

† Condemned as unsafe, and totally removed in 1770. This Gate, with the outworks, became a prey to the Parliamentarians, in a night surprise, on the 19th September, 1645, and was so held until the City capitulated the following year.

of the City disperse themselves into the several wayes, that give passages into many countries.

The Street without North-gate, is likewise a fair street, giving passage Northward towards the Sea coast. *Pepur* (Pepper) Street goeth out of the Bridge street by the side of *St. Michael's* Church, and butteth on the *Fleshmonger's Lane*, to *Newgate*; which sometime had a hollow grate, with a Bridge for horse and man; and it butteth upon *Sowter's Load*, and *St. John's* Street. And this Gate was, in times past, closed up, and shut, because a young man stole away a Maior of Chester's daughter, through the same Gate, as she was playing at Ball with other Maids, in the Summer time, in *Pepur* Street.*

St. Nicholas Street, an antient neighbour to the Seats of those Friars, black, white, and gray Nuns, is a seemly passage from the Water-gate Street to *St. Martin's* Church, and so on, by the Nunne's wall to the *Castle Lane*.

Fleshmonger's Lane (*Newgate* Street) meets with the East end of *Pepur* Street, and thence goeth straight up to the *East-gate* Street; and meet over against it, lyeth another Lane, called *St. Werburg* Lane, the passage out of the same street to the *Minster*.

Our antient surveyes describe two other Lanes on the same side of *East-gate* Street, towards the *Minster*, one

* With this legend originated the old Chester proverb "When the daughter is flown, shut the *Pepurgate*!"

called *Peen Lane*, and the other *Godstall's Lane*;* but the places where they were, are now the soyl of other tenements.

A little without the East-gate, on the South side, turneth down a fair street, called *St. John's Street*; of the which I find, in an old written parchment book, called *Sancta Prisca*, being an Evidence belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Chester, there is mention made of a street called *Iremonger Street*, in these words: "*Inter terram, quæ fuit Adæ * de Paris, et terram Hospitii Hospitalis Sancti Johannis,*" &c.; and that from that, at the corner of the Mansion-place of the Petty Canons (of *St. John's*) there is a Lane after the Wall of the Churchyard, named the *Vickar's Lane*, and it butteth upon *Barker's* and *Love Lane*; and at the end of this street, there goeth a Way down to water of *Dee*, which way is called the *Sowter's Load*." By this we may see what alterations the times have made both in Streets and Lanes.

The Water-gate Street hath on the North-side, near unto *St. Peter's Church*, a Lane called *Goslane*; and a little further West *Gerrard's Lane* (Crook Street;) and beneath, just at the end of *Trinity Church*, lyeth *Trinity Lane*. An old Lane, sometime called *Berward's Street*

* Said to have been the retreat of *Henry Emperour of Almaine*.

† *Ædes* is possibly here intended.

(Linen Hall Street), lyeth at the lower end of *Parson's Lane*, and out of it in antient time went a Lane to *St. Chadd's Church*, now ruined and gone, and thence to the Walls.

As you descend from the High Crosse down the Bridge Street, upon the West side lyes a Lane, antiently called *Norman's Lane*, and many yet call it *Common Hall Lane*, because it had a great Hall, where the Pleas of the City, and meetings of the Maior and his brethren were there holden. Over against *St. Olave's*, lyeth the Castle Lane, that goeth to *St. Marie's Church*. And lower down, also towards this Church, lyes another way, which antiently was the way to Shippegate,* which was then a fair Gate in the Wall, belonging to the Ferry, at which, before the building of the bridge over *Dee*, both horse and man had passage into the City.

Having thus gone through most of the Streets and Lanes, I suppose it will be objected, I should set down somewhat of the Churches, how antiently their foundations are, and how they have continued in these days.

It appeareth from our best Antiquary, *Bradshaw*, Monk of this City, that the Christian Faith and Baptisme came into *Chester* in King *Lucius'* time, a King

* Of Roman construction, standing originally 20 feet high. It was some years since removed from its ancient position, and is now the property of J. Finchett Maddock, Esq., late M.P. for Chester.

of the *Brittains*, which is within lesse then 140 years of the sufferings of our Saviour *Christ*; and that then a Church was here builded, and at that time entituled by the name of *St. Peter and St. Paul*. But then after, as appeareth in the same Authour, *Elfleda*, that noble Lady, wife to *Ethelred*, King of the *Mercians*, altered its name to *Trinity* and *St. Oswald*; and that no losse should be to the memory of those Patrons, another Church was soon builded in the middest of the City, called by the same name of *Peter and Paul*, which now is called *St. Peter's* only.

A DISCOURSE OF THE FOUNDATION AND
 ENDOWMENT OF THE ABBIE OF ST.
 WERBURG'S IN CHESTER.

Touching the Original Foundation of a Monastery in this place, I do by circumstance conclude that *Wulpherus*, King of the *Mercians*, who flourished about A.D. 660, perceiving his Daughter *Werburge* much disposed to a religious life, caused her to be veiled, and first built it for her, and such other pious ladies, who resolved to dedicate their lives to the service of God therein; for *William of Malmesbury* says "That she was buried at Chester, in the Monastery there." Neither doth the

Charter of King *Edgar* import less, then that the Abbey here was of great antiquity ; for it appears that he, for the health of his soul, as also for the souls of King *Edmund* his Father, King *Athelstan* his Uncle, and other his Ancestors, gave to the Abbey of St. Werburg 17 houses scituate in the Town of *Hodesnid* (Hodnet), *Ceosale* (Kelshall), *Huntingdon*, *Huxton*, *Eston* (As-ton), and *Barne* (Barnshaw), whose Charter bears date in the year 868. After which, viz. : in the time of *Edward* the Confessor, the famous *Leofric*, Earl of Mercia, not onely enricht it with the Graunt thereto of fair Possessions, but repaired the buildings thereof which inclined to decay.

How long it continued a Monastery of Nuns, I cannot say ; but do conclude that it was so till towards the Norman Conquest ; and then it seems that Canons Secular were placed in their stead, till that *Hugh*, Earl of *Chester* (who, being a near Kinsman to King *William* the First, and advanced to this Earldom about the fourth year of his Reign, when he grew in years, disposed himself to several works of Piety, as his munificence to the Monasteries of *Bec*, and *St. Severus* (both in Normandy) do well witness) began the Foundation of a new one for Monks of *St. Benet's* Order in this place, having procured *Anselm*, Abbot of *Bec*, to come over into this Realm, chiefly for the ordering of that great work ;

which being accordingly performed, one *Richard*, a Monk of *Bec*, and Chaplain to the said *Anselm*, was by him first instituted Abbot here. How large and plentiful an Endowment it had by the munificence of this Earl, and *Ermentrude* his Countess, I shall here briefly observe from his Original Charter, viz.: the Mannours of *Ynes* (Ince), *Salthone* (Saighton), *Sutton*, *Cheveley*, *Huntingdon*, *Bocthon* (Boughton), *Weversham*, *Croxton*, *Troeford* (Trafford), *Clifton*, *Eston*, *Wisdleth* (Willaston) *Hodslei* (Huxley), *Weapre*, and half of *Rabbi* (Raby), and the third parts of *Weston*, *Solchale* (Saughall), *Stannie*, *Burwardeslie*, and *Sotewie* (Shotwick); the half of *Leche* (Lache), and one Carucate of the Land in *Pulford*. In the City of Chester, of his own Demesne, he gave thereunto all the street from the North-gate to the Church, and a Mill at the Bridge. In *Anglesie* likewise two Mannours; one in *Ros*, and one in Wirrall, called *Erberie* (Ireby). In *Lindsey*, ten oxgangs, and *Weston* in Derbyshire; the Church of *Aston*, and the Tithes of *Elthon*, *Frodesham*, *Weversham*, *Lech*, *Rocester*, *Haurdine* (Hawarden), *Coleshul*, *Bissopestred*, *Uppetune* (Upton), *Campden*, *Eastham*, and of his Mills in *Deueford*. And to this Charter was the said *Anselm*, (now Archbishop of *Canterbury*) a Witnessse, together with *Hervey* (Bishop of Bangor) and divers eminent persons.

William Malbanc (one of his Barons) gave the lordship of Witteby (Whitby), the third of *Wepre*, the Church and Tythes of *Tatenhalle*, a Salthouse in *Wich* (Nantwich), and two Oxgangs of Land. Likewise gave his other Barons portions of their estates, for the Endowment of the Monastery.

And lastly, the said Earl gave unto them the Toll and all the profits of the Fair at the Feast of *St. Werburge*, for three dayes, appointing that for all forfeitures in the Fair, Triall should be in the Court of *St. Werburge*, for the benefit of the Monks. To the honor of which Saint, he likewise granted, that whatsoever Thief or Malefactor came to the Solemnity, should not be attached, while he continued in the said Fair, except he committed any new offence there. Which special Priviledge, as in tract of time it drew an extraordinary confluence of loose people thither at that Season, so happened it to be of singular advantage to one of the succeeding Earles. For being at *Rodelent* (Rhuddlan) Castle in Wales, and there besieged by a power of the *Welsh*; at such a time, he was relieved rather by their numbers than strength, under the conduct of *Robert de Lacy*, Constable of *Chester*, who with Pipers, and other sorts of Minstrels, drew them forth, and marching towards the Castle, put the *Welsh* to such terrour, that they presently fled; in memory of which notable exploit, that famous meeting

of such Minstrels hath been duly continued at every *Midsummer Fair*.

But I return to Earl *Hugh*, the pious Founder of this great Monastery, whose affection thereto was such, and devotion so great towards his latter end, that three dayes before his death he caused himself to be shorn a Monk therein; and so departing the world 6th August, *Anno*, 1101, left issue *Richard*; who, succeeding him in the Earldom, not only confirmed his Father's Grant to this Abbey, but added amongst other gifts, certain lands without the North-gate, whereof he gave possession to the Monks; first, by an Ear of Wheat offered upon the Altar; and afterwards by a Knife; further adding the Tenth Salmon taken at the Bridge, with the place for a Mill below the bridge, and other matters; which Charter bears date at *Gratram*, in the year 1119.

Earl *Ranulph Meschines*, when he translated the body of his Uncle, Earl *Hugh*, out of the Church Yard into the Chapter House, gave the Lordship of *Upton*, for the health of his own, and the said Earl's soul. Also gave succeeding Earls various Mannours and other properties; wherewith being so plentifully enricht, about the Reign of King *Edward III.*, they rebuilt their Church, as the form of its Architecture plainly discovereth.

And thus in great glory, as the greatest ornament of that City, stood this opulent Monastery, till the 30th of

King Henry VIII., his Reign, that all the great Houses went to wrack, and that by a public Instrument the then Abbot, and his Convent surrendred it to the King; who thereupon, of the six new Bishopricks then made, constituted one in this place; designing the buildings of the Abbey for the Bishop's Palace, and the Conventuall Church for his Cathedrall, wherein were instituted a Dean and secular Canons.*

The said *St. Werburg*, of whom this Minster had the name, was a virgin and a great Princesse, daughter of *Wulpherus*, King of *Mercia*; and was so vertuously disposed, that she cared for no worldly honours, but gave herself to godly and holy contemplations, and had command in her lifetime over four Monasteries, namely *Weedon*, *Trentham*, *Repton*, and *Hambury*. In her tender age she was professed under *Audria*,† her aunt, at *Elie*; she lived much at *Weedon*, deceased at *Trentham* in 708, and was first buried at *Hambury*; thence translated, after remaining there above 100 years, in 875, to *Chester*, for fear of the spoyles and outrages of the *Danes*, her Shrine being placed in the mother Church of *St. Peter and Paul*, now the Church of *St. Werburg* onely.

* The deposed Abbot, Thomas Clarke, was appointed the first Dean.

† Otherwise *Etheldrida*, Abbess of *Ely*.

The whole body of the Minster, as now we find it, makes the form of a Crosse, the steeple being in the middle juncture, as likewise we see in the great Church of *St. Paul's* in *London*. In the furthest end of the same Eastward, it is enlarged into a fine square Chappell, called by the name *Our Ladie's Chappell*, adorned with a fair Window of very curious workmanship in glasse, being the story of the blessed Virgin her discent from the Loines of *Jesse*,* though now, through injury of Time and Weather, the same is much blemished. The Chappell itself long since converted into the Consistory Court of the Lord Bishop; which that it was so in the dayes of Queen *Mary*, the proof is yet in the memories of some, because in that place Doctor *George Coates*, then Bishop of *Chester*, gave sentence of condemnation against *George Marsh*, a blessed Martyr and Sufferer for Christ's truth, and burned to ashes † in *Chester*, A.D. 1555.

The Quire itself is most finely beautified, with a very deep and tuneable Organ; and on either side with very fine Seats or Stalls, for the Reverend Dean, Prebends, Queristers, and others, and adorned with fair and curious carved work, and of as excellent proportion as almost is possible to be made by the hands of workmen.

* An elegant stained window, erected in 1844, now occupies the place of the one here mentioned, of which all trace had long before disappeared.

† At a place called the *Spital*, in *Boughton*.

Many have been the Monuments of Burials within the said Quiery, whereof time hath devoured the memory. There now only remains the Shrine of *St. Werburg*, the which now serves to be a supporter to a fair Pue for the Lord Bishop. Also one fair stone in the midst of the Church, where was buried one worthy Bishop of the same Diocesse, called Bishop *Downham*, and dated Dec. 3rd 1577. Near unto that lyes another Stone, being the burial place of the Lord Bishop *Lloyd*, of late years. In the South Ile of the said Quire, in the wall thereof, divers antient burials have their Tombs artificially made within the Wall, arched over in the same, but without inscriptions; and upon the other side of that Ile is a fair square Tomb of Alabaster without inscriptions also, but believed to be that Emperour's Tomb, *Henry* the Fourth, of whom we made mention before.

The Body of the Church, toward the West end, is a very spacious and stately Edifice, distinguished into a broad middle Ile, and two lesser Iles on either side; the Pillars of the Ile recording the memory of a famous Abbot of that Abby, *Simon Ripley*, who died about 1492, a great Benefactor of that House, and a bountiful Repairer of that Church, as by the letters of his name on those Pillars is yet manifest.

At the upper end of the Body of the Minster, is the entrance into the place now used, and so named, by the

name of the Chapter House, and specially serves for the meetings and businesses of the Dean and Chapter. And this piece of building, of all others, sheweth the most venerable face of antiquity, both for the most antient fashion of vaulting over head, and of open walls with partitions within side. It is most certain, it is as old a fashion for building with stone, as I think can be showed in any place that hath stood in its own native form, without alteration or reparation. It is supposed, and indeed most likely, that many of those famous and renowned Earles of *Chester* have been buried in this place, though there appear no proof thereof by Monuments: only there are some Gravestones in the floor thereof, and one of them of a very antient manner of making, with an Inscription about the border of it, defaced.

On the same side of the Church likewise, are several Entrances into the *Cloysters*, that lead into the several parts of the Abbey, now disparted to several uses and employments; such as, a Paliace for the Lord Bishop, another for the Deane; and in like manner for all the Prebends, Canons, the Free School, the servants of the House, and other uses.

The South end of the Minster hath been either the Fabric itself, or else the place of the Church, first dedicated to the memory of the Apostles *Peter* and *Paul*; and

afterwards altered to the blessed *Trinity* and *St. Oswald*, King and Martyr; and after that again, to *St. Oswald* and *St. Werburg*; and after all that, the rest of the Minster joined to the North end of that, this Church still retaining her dedication to *St. Oswald*, from the which, the whole Parish had its name. But the Abbot and the Convent, wishing to retain their whole Minster to themselves, afterward erected for the Parishioners a fair Chappell at the South West end of the Minster, intituled *St. Nicholas* Chappell; whereunto the said Parishioners repaired, as their *Parish Church*; which so continued unto the time, that the Parishioners, with the Maior of the City, obtained again for their Service the Church of *St. Oswald's*, compounding with *Simon Ripley*, Abbot of Chester, about the year 1488, as by an Instrument yet remaining upon record, doth appear.

The Chappel of *St. Nicholas* then serving to little use, the Citizens purchased it to themselves, and dividing the same by a floor in the middle thereof, the lower Room was appointed for the stowage of Wool and other commodities, to be vented and sold at allowable times. And the upper room for a stately Senate house,* for the Assemblies, Elections, Courts of Maior, and Aldermen, the Pentice Court, and others, as the law appoints.

* Now converted into a *Theatre*, to the great honor and credit of the City.

The Church of *St. Marie's*, usually called *super montem*, standeth upon the brow of a bank that riseth not far from the Bridge-gate. It carryeth the same shew of Antiquity with the rest of the Churches, being in all likelihood erected in that place for speciall use of the Earles, when they held their residence in the Castle. Upon the South side of the Chancel standeth a fair Chappel,* reported to be there erected by the ancestors of a great and worshipful race of the *Troutbecks*, of great reputation in this County of *Chester*, and of whose lands many of the gentlemen of the Shire have now no small portion; in which Chappel the bodies of some of them, and by all likelihood the Founders of the Chappel, lye in a fair vault in the midst thereof; and others of that progenie in other parts of the Church.

Almost in the middle of the Water-gate Street, on its North side, standeth the Church dedicated to the blessed *Trinity*, which both for the high Spire steeple,† and for the workmanship, seemeth to be of little less antiquity than the others.

The Church of *St. John's*, without the Walls of the City, an author affirms to have been founded in A.D. 689, in these plain words :

* The Roof of this Chapel fell in 1660, and the present South aisle was erected on its site in 1690.

† This steeple has been for many years without a spire.

“The Year of Grace six hundred fourscore nine
 “As saith my author, a Brittain, *Geraldus*,
 “King *Ethelred* minding most the blisse of heaven,
 “Edified a Colledge Church notable and famous
 “In the suburbs of *Chester* pleasant and beautiful,
 “In the honor of God and the Baptist *St. John*
 “With the help of Bishop *Wulfrice* and good
 exhortation.”

I will not suppress that which they further write of this foundation, which being either true, or a thing supposed, shall, for me, speak of itself.

“King *Ethelred* minding to build a Church was told,
 That where he should see a *White Hinde*, there he
 should build a Church; which *Hinde* he saw in the place
 where *St. John's* Church now standeth; and in remem-
 brance whereof, his Picture was placed in the Wall of
 the said Church, which yet standeth on the side of the
 Steeple towards the West, having a *White Hinde* in his
 hand.”

It remaineth that we speak somewhat of the River
Dee, to which water no man can now express how much
 this antient City hath been beholden. Even there, where
 the Sea hath determined that Creek, which shoots in
 between *Flintshire*, and the West part of *Werall* Hun-
 dred, was founded this beautiful City, and made the
 Receptacle of merchandize from all Kingdoms and Na-
 tions, who traded into the *Brittain*, or *Irish* Ocean.

The mouth or opening of this River into the Sea lies very bleak upon the North Eastern and Western winds, and the ground or bottome of the Creek is altogether of a loose, light, skittering Sand, which upon any powerful drift of Wind or Water, will give place like drifts of Snow. And these mighty heaps of sand, having been brought by fierce and strong winds up into the narrowness of the Creek, the Haven, which in time past received Ships of great burthen up to the City skirts, scarce now hath sea room for small Barques, which onely at higher waters do bring in their unladings of Great Vessels from the Keyes which can receive them, 9 or 10 miles off. And hence it is, that even within this few years there hath been such losses and gainings between the shores of *Cheshire* and *Flintshire* as will scarcely be believed of such as do not behold that with their eyes.

Proceeding now with the rest of *Broxton* Hundred, which we made but an entrance into, we will take occasion to leave *Handbridge*, that antient part of the City, lying close to the Bridge, and take view of that part of the Hundred, which lyes on that side of the said River of *Dee*, and between it and *Flintshire*. The first is the lordship of *Lache*, in times past partly the lands of the Earles of *Oxenford*; and the chief house* in the Town-

* *Lache* Hall, garrisoned for the Parliament, during the Siege of Chester, by Sir William Brereton.

ship is now the holding of *George Manly*, Gent., and no small portion was the Lands that belonged to the Nunnery of *St. Mary* in Chester, and now belonging to the *Breretons* of *Handford*. More then a mile Eastward standeth *Eccleston* Church, by the Town so called, whereof the chief lordship is the lands of the *Venables*, Baron of *Kinderton*, while down lower towards the South, lyes *Dodleston*, a goodly lordship of the Earle of *Bridgewater*, and the Church there is the burying place of that most wise and worthy Lord *Ellesmere*, Viscount *Brackley*, Lord Chancellor of England, whose body, by his own appointment, his course being finished, was brought down to rest in the Church of *Dodleston*. This said lordship adjoineth to *Kinarton*, and next to that lyes *Burton*.

Turning now to the South East, you come to *Pulford*, a great lordship* of the *Warburtons* of *Arley*, standing upon the River *Alen*, which coming from the midst of *Cheshire* leads you on full East unto *Poulton*, sometimes the antient seat of the *Manleys*, now belonging to the house of *Eaton*, at *Eaton boat*,† the Mansion of the worthy family of the *Grosvenors*; the heir of which house, Sir *Richard Grosvenor*, Knight and Baronet,

* Belongs now to the noble House of Westminster.

† Eaton Hall, now a princely edifice, erected in 1807, by the Father of the present Marquis of Westminster.

enjoys the Seat, and shewes his own worthiness, better than I were able, if I would attempt, to do it.

Returning then to Chester, our way is to pass over the Bridge, and along the Wall Eastward, to Fore-gate Street; which being done, you presently go to *Spittle Boughton*,* so called of an antient Hospitall there scituate. Neer unto which lyes *Boughton* itself, by the River of *Dee*, where is now that fair new Waterwork, even now in finishing, to bring the Water of a fine spring neer it, unto the middest of the City, to a Cestern, scituate by the High Cross, at *St. Peter's* Church, a thing pleasant and commodious. By the River side, a mile further Southward, lies *Huntington* lordship; from whence we soon come to *Churchen Heath*, where stands a Chapel belonging to the Parish of *St. Werburg* of *Chester*, and next to it lies a rich demeane, and a fair antient Timber mansion house † of the great family of the *Calvelics*, which house had, in times past, one addition of honour, when the owner thereof Sir *Hugh Calvely* was Captain of *Calleys* ‡ (Calais) and married the late Queen

* Here was, until the present century, the common place of Execution, where also *George Marsh* suffered martyrdom for his Religion, in 1554.

† Lea Hall, now a farm house. The Calvely family, extinct in the male line, is now represented in the female line, by Viscount Combermere, of Combermere Abbey.

‡ Under Edward III., in 1374. His marriage with Queen Margaret is, doubtless, a myth.

of *Aragon*, and another of the late presence of our gracious Sovereign King James, Anno 1617, who came thither from *Chester*, and advanced there the said Sir *George Calvely* to the degree of Knighthood.

Beneath this demean we must step over a stone bridge to *Aldford*,* and on past an antient inheritance of the *Fittons of Gawsworth*, to *Churton*, where is scituate two gentlemen's habitations of the *Barnstons* and the *Bosstocks*; and so leaving *Aldersey* on our left hand, a place that gave beginning to Gentlemen of that name there, some famous Citizens of *London*, and Aldermen of *Chester*, and whose posterity do there still flourish.

We come now to *Farndon*, where is a fair new Church, † with the town itself reaching down to an exceeding fair stone bridge, built, no doubt, together with that old substantial Castle in the *Holt*, the bridge being the onely partition between the two Towns.

Pursuing the course of our River, northward of the town of *Barton upon the Hill*, we come still Easterly to *Crewe*, ‡ and *Carden* § whereof both have given names

* Since 1729, Aldford has belonged, by purchase, to the Grosvenor family.

† This Church was garrisoned during the Civil War, and was burnt at the siege of Holt Castle in 1645.

‡ Now the seat of Roger Harry Barnston, Esq., a descendant of the Barnstons of Churton.

§ J. Hurleston Leche, Esq., the present proprietor derives in

to gentlemen's families, the latter being now the mansion of *John Leche*, Gentleman, a man of good descent; and extendeth to *Caleot* (Caldecote) a fine seat; near which is also another antient seat, once of the *Yerdlcys*, but since purchased by Lady *Cholmley*.

Next we come unto *Tilston*, which standeth by a fair demean, heretofore the inheritance of the *Massies*, of *Grafton*,* but lately purchased and new builded by Sir *Peter Warburton*, one of his Majestic's Justices of Common Pleas, who left his onely daughter and heir, the now Lady *Grosvenor*, who by her former husband was Lady *Stanley* of *Alderley*.

Upon our left hand, lyeth adjoining *Horton*, antiently a seat of the *Golborns*; and *Overton*, another Lordship: and passing thence by the Hamlet of *Chorleton*, we come presently to the two Lordships of *Shoelach*; one is called *Church Shoelach*, having a little Church in it, but as for the Castle † which Mr. *Camden* saith hath been here, I can say but little. The goodly seat here, of late years the Mansion of Sir *Randle Brereton*, is now brought unto the possession of a most worthy Knight, Sir *Richard*

the female line from William de Carden, with whom the original name became extinct.

* *Grafton* has passed, by descent, to the present Lord *Stanley*, of *Alderley*.

† Of this Castle no remains exist, beyond the moat which surrounded it.

Egerton, heir of the house of *Egerton* of *Ridley*.*

From thence we come to *Kidington*, the uttermost confines of the County, in which is also a fine seat of one antient branch of those *Breretons*; and neer unto it is a brook which divides us from the Parish of *Worthenbury*, in *Flintshire*, from which we turn full Eastward to *Old castle*, which it is like got name from that very Castle, which our writers speak to have belonged to the *Arderns*, or the *Ormsbees*.†

And looking further Eastward is *Chadwick* (St. Chad) Chappell; from whence Northerly, upon a high hill, is situate the Town and Church of *Malpas*, one of the Baronies of the Earls of *Chester*, which by Hugh, the first Earl, was given to *Robert Fitzhugh*; and having passed through divers Lords' hands, came at last to the renowned family of the *Breretons*, and the greatest part now rests in Sir *William Brereton*, and no small portion in the heirs of Sir *Randal Brereton* of *Shochlach*.‡ The Castle is now ruined and decayed; but the goodly Church

* From this branch of the *Egerton* family is descended the present Earl of Ellesmere.

† This is an error, *Aldford* Castle being most probably meant. *Old castle* is now the property of J. W. Dod, Esq., M.P., of Cloverly, Salop.

‡ Sir *William's* portion of the Manor is now vested in the *Drake* family—the remainder belongs to the Marquis of Cholmondely.

yet stands mounted on the highest part of the Town, and the same Church well supplied for God's service, there remaining two Rectories for the residency of two Divines, the patronages thereof belonging to the Knights of *Breton* and *Shoclach*, either of them one. In the Church are Memorials of Sir Hugh *Cholmley*, of *Cholmley*, father and son, and of the Lady *Mary*, mother of Sir *Robert Cholmley*, now living.

The name of *Malpas* comes from *Mala platea*, a name borrowed from a foul, narrow, combrous way that led into it, called *Illstreet*, and of which *Geraldus Cambrensis* records the pleasant story, how a Jew travelling this way towards *Shrewsbury*, in company of the Archdeacon of *Malpas*, whose surname was *Peaehe*, which signifies sinne, and of a Dean, named *Devil*; which Archdeacon was telling the Dean, that his Archdeaconry began at *Illstreet*, and reached as far as *Malpas*. "Wonder it is," quoth the Jew, "and my fortune indeed good, if ever I get safe out of this place, where *sinne* is the *Archdeacon*, and *Devil* the *Dean*, *Illstreet* the entrance, and *Malpas* the passage out of the Archdeaconry.

Returning now further Northerly, we come next to *Hampton*, with a fair house* there scituate, being the seat of *Hugh Bromley*, Esq., learned in the law. Along the way to Chester, we come to see *Edge*, a fair Lordship,

* Hampton Hall, now occupied as a farm house.

and now the Mansion House of *Edward Dod*, Esq.,* Baron of the Exchequer at *Chester*, an office of much esteem in the County.

Neer to that lies *Dokkington*, a lordship of Sir *William Brereton*; but more Easterly is that antient seat of *Egerton*, which gave name to that noble and honourable family of the *Egertons*,† which had beginning here from one of the Sonnes of *David of Malpas*. From thence, still Northerly, we enter upon the goodly demean of *Cholmondeleigh*,‡ now the seat of Sir *Robert Cholmley*, Bart., who hath added great honour to his house, by his marriage with a virtuous daughter of the Lord *Stanhope*. From the confines of this lordship we proceed to *Bickerton*; to which adjoineth *Clutton*; and neer unto the same, the lordship and habitation of *John Massie*, Esq., and *Coddington Church*.

Next to *Bickerton*, lies *Bulkeley*, where there is a fair demain of the *Calvelies*, and a fair new house of

* His lineal descendant, the Rev. J. Y. Dod, at present holds the family seat.

† Sir P. G. Egerton, Bart, M.P., of Oulton, has now possession of this Estate. The old Hall was taken down in 1760, the ancient domestic chapel being now used as a barn.

‡ Cholmondely House, alternately a garrison, during the Civil War, both for the Parliament and the King, was taken down in 1801. Cholmondely Castle, about half a mile distant, is now the seat of that noble family.

Thomas Brassey,* Gent., of antient descent; and neer unto this the lordship of *Chowley*, belonging to the *Duttons* of *Hatton*; beyond which, we come next to *Handley*, with its antient Parish Church. Bending thence, more Easterly, we come to those mountains, called *Broxton* Hills, with the lordship of *Broxton*; the chief seats of which, is that one of *David Massie*, Esq.; and the other, the antient breeding place of the *Dodds*, a great family in this County, which seat now lately, for want of issue male, begins a foundation of another name, and possessed by Mr. *Edward Tannet*, of *Shropshire*.

The said Hundred of *Broxton*, stretching still Northward, brings us next to a goodly Common, called *Tattenhall Wood*, whereof there are two parts appertaining now to *Peter Egerton*, Esq., together with the lordship and town of *Tattenhall*; in which there is a fair house † newly erected by *Richard Bostock*, Esq., made all of brick, with a fair demean adjoining. And not far from it, a fair house and demean of the *Duttons* of *Hatton*, called *Rushall*,‡ and another called the *Cleys*, being the seat of a branch of the *Golbornes*, which were antiently

* The ancient family of *Brassey* traces, in a direct line, as far back as the year 1543. *Thomas Brassey*, Esq. the eminent railway contractor, is its present representative.

† *Tattenhall Hall* is now a farm house, and belongs to the Manor.

‡ Afterwards the residence of Sir *Peter Pindar*; now a farm house.

owners of that spacious demeane and seat, now the lands of the Barons of *Kinderton*, called still by the name of *Golborne Bellew*, and is watered by a part of that *Beeston* water, which runs that way to *Lea Hall*.

At the entrance of which Brook into *Broxton* Hundred stands *Huxley*, wherein are two goodly demesnes, with antient seats to both; one of which is the inheritance of the *Savages* of *Rock Savage*, and hath long been in the holding of the *Birkenheads*; the other is of *Clive** of *Huxley*, of whom hath been a famous descent, both of Knights and Esquires; this demeane is accounted most fertile and fruitful, and held to be the best ground in *Cheshire*.

The next lordship to *Huxley*, is a very large demeane of *Hatton*,† a seat of one branch of the *Duttons* of *Dutton*, and the house, a fair antient building, is now possessed by Mr. *Dutton* of *Hatton*. And from thence you come next to *Waverton*, with its antient Parish Church.

From thence, leaving *Saighton* ‡ on the Hill, which

* Upper Huxley Hall, garrisoned for the Parliament in 1644. It now belongs, with other properties in this township, to Randle Wilbraham, Esq., of Rode Hall.

† Hatton was sold in 1699 to an ancestor of the Cholmondely family.

‡ Saughton Hall, partially rebuilt by Abbot *Simon Ripley*, was

hath been a Grange little lesse than an Abbey, belonging to the Abbey of *St. Werburg*; and it seems some of their Religious Society had this for their nest; we come presently to *Christleton*, an ample lordship, with a Church, and the chief Segniory there resting in the Heir of the *Harpers of Swarson* in Derbyshire.

Beneath, and Eastward on our right hand, lies the *Cottons*, the chief town of the two of that name, called *Abbots Cotton*, with a capital messuage, in the holding of *Thomas Partington*, Gentleman, and other great Tenements of the said Baron of *Kinderton*, which reaching *Stumford Bridge*, we shall follow the Water straightway, till it bring us to our first entrance into this Hundred.

But first let us keep aloof, and take a view of *Hoole*,* which confirms upon the Liberties of the City of *Chester*, and contains a pleasant and sweet seat belonging to Sir *Henry Bunbury*; and then falling downwards with Great *Trafford*, and beholding on our left *Newton*, the lordship of *John Hurlestone*, Esq.,† which was once one of those sweet morsels that the Abbot and his Covent kept for their own wholesome provision, which *William*, Son of the Constable of *Chester* gave them, so also, I sup-

the chief country residence of the Abbots of Chester. It has since degenerated into a farm house.

* The Earl of Shrewsbury is lord of the manor of Hoole.

† Upon the death of Charles Hurlestone, Esq., this manor passed in marriage to the father of the present Earl of Kilmorey.

pose, much of Great *Trafford*; go but through *Guilden Sutton*, another fat and fruitful lordship, replenished with good and commodious tenements, you are presently upon that Vale of goodly rich Meddowing; and onely taking view of that antient Chappel of *Plemstowe* (Plemstall), that stands in it, being a Parish of itself, and a place well frequented by the neighbours thereabouts, for the service of God, we have here finished our course for our Hundred of *Broxton*.

THE HUNDRED OF NAMPTWICH,

So named of the principal Town therein, we begin with where the famous Water of *Weever* enters into this Hundred neer unto *Cholmondely*; and running along by *Chorley* and *Norbury*, members of that great Seigniory of *Cholmondely*, it receives there a fair increase by a Water that comes from a great Meer, which gives name to *Merbury*,* a Parish with a Church in it, howsoever a member of the great Parish of *Whitchurch* in *Salop*, two miles distant; extending itself to *Coisley*, and another lordship called *Wyrsal*, which hath some-

* This manor, formerly in the Shrewsbury family, is now held by the noble house of Ellesmere,

time been the lands of the *Hintons*, an antient family ; we then turn Easterly neer *Marley*, a seat of the *Pooles** of *Marley*, a fair house and demean ; and by *Hadley*, the seat antiently of the *Hulses*, but now the lands of a worthy Knight Sir *Thomas Brereton*, descended from the house of *Shoclach* and *Malpas*, we enter upon that goodly demean of *Combermere*, contained of that spacious lordship of *Newhal juxta Merbury*, and which in divers particular respects, we may call a most famous seat : it hath been an Abbey, builded by *Hugh Malbanc*, one of the Barons of *Namptwiche*, in Anno 1133, upon the bank of a goodly Mere of a large length and breadth, and of a depth beyond credit. What the Indowments were of that Abbey, I am unacquainted ; all I find concerning it is, that “ the Foundation Charter of Combermere Abbey in *Chester*, founded in the year 1133, by *Hugh Malbanc* ” was witnessed by *Ranulph* Earl of *Chester*, *Roger* Bishop of *Chester*, *Adelia* the Mother, *Petronilla* the Wife, and *William* the Son of *Hugh Malbanc*, *William* Abbot of *Chester*, *Robert* and *Odo* Chaplains, and many others who both saw and heard.

Upon the very brow or bank of the Mere is the Abbey

* The *Poole* family, established at *Marley* so far back as 1540, became extinct in the direct male line early in the 18th century. The ancestor of the present owner assumed the name of *Poole* on his becoming seised of the property.

scituate, with the Park and all other parts, for profit and pleasure surpassing; and that which I make the greatest ornament of it now is, that after the change of the idle owners it formerly had, it hath been since possessed by a branch of that renowned name of the *Cottons*, who have been of great account in many Shires, and of whom the present owner thereof, *George Cotton*, Esq.* is a man of singular accompt for his wisdom, integrity, gentleness, godlinesse, facility, and all generous dispositions: not to say much of *Burladame* † wherein is a little Chappel for the ease of the farthest remote Tenants of this Abbey, this whole tract bearing the name of *Dodcot* and *Wilksley*; a brook called *Combrus* falling from this, a great Mere, which hath also been called *Comberlake*, meeteth shortly with the Water called *Weever*, about *Broomhall*, a great township, the greatest part of which hath been the lands of the Lord of *Shavington* in the edge of *Shropshire*, now Sir *Robert Needham's*; and neer whereunto is scituate a demean of the *Whitneys*,

* Sir *Stapleton S. Cotton*, his lineal descendant, commanded the forces in the East and West Indies, and also particularly distinguished himself in the Peninsular War, receiving a barony in 1814, for his numerous services, and was further created Viscount *Combermere* in 1826.

† Near *Burleydam* Chapel, a skirmish took place, April 11th, 1643, between a party of Royalists from *Whitchurch*, and the Parliamentary garrison at *Nantwich*.

called the Mannour of *Cole Pilate* ; * and another of the *Cheswis*, called the hall of *Mickley* ; from whence we have on our right hand the Parish Church and Township of *Wrenbury*, and neer adjoining unto it, the hall of *Wrenbury*, a very pleasant seat of that great name of the *Starkies*.

We step over the said Water of *Weever*, at *Stamford Bridge*, where the said River first saluteth a Village called *Aston*, neer which is an antient seat of the *Eger-tons* of *Christleton* and *Newhall*, and then bendeth more Easterly to *Aulderline* (Audlem) adorned with a fair Parish Church, and is a goodly lordship of great extent, shooting as it were into the County of *Sallope* with *Tit-tenleye*, and on the Southwest enlargeth itself with a great lordship called *Buerton*, where the *Pooles* of *Werrall* Hundred, a race of great antiquity † and worship have great possessions ; and also the *Gamulls* of worthy repute, the heir being *Francis Gamull*, ‡ *Esq.* yet under

* This manor, anciently attached to the barony of *Wich Malbank*, is now the property of Lord Kilmorey.

† The *Pooles* had possession of this manor from the reign of Henry VII, until after the year 1662.

‡ The loyal and distinguished Sir Francis Gamull, created a baronet by Charles I, and Mayor of Chester during that Prince's residence there, in September, 1645. For his ready zeal in the service of his royal master he was dispossessed of this estate by the Cromwellians, and died in 1654

age, hath a stately house and good possessions: And on the right hand of it a Township called *Hankelow*, wherein is a fair house and demean of *Hassalls*, gentlemen of great worth.

Which lordship takes up (together with another called *Bridgemere*, being the lands late purchased by Sir *Roger Wilbraham*, Knight, one of the Masters of Requests to the King's Majesty, and now, by marriage appertaining to that *Wilbraham* of *Woodsey*) the whole confine of this Hundred, till we come to *Wormehill** the goodly mansion of the *Egertons* of that house; from whence we turn full South, to take view of *Checley*, a beautiful timber house† and fine seat of the *Persalls* of great worship; and so bend almost back again to two great lordships and antient seats, both of them Knights of renowned worth, *Hather-ton* ‡ of the *Smiths*, and *Doddington* § of the *Delves*, both of them at this day honoured with the owners' singular

* Or *Wrinchill*; now the property of the Broughton family.

† This "beautiful timber house" is now occupied by a farmer.

‡ For nearly two hundred years a portion of this manor has been in the possession of the *Twemlows* of *Hatherton*, descendants of the *Twemlows* of *Arelyd*. *Hatherton* Hall and manor, as also *Hankelow*, is now the property of Charles J. Mare, Esq., M.P.

§ Old *Doddington* Hall was pulled down, and the present handsome edifice erected about 1780. *Doddington* Castle, of which but few remains exist, was a garrison for the Parliament during the Civil War. Sir Henry Delves Broughton is the present owner of this and other large estates.

merits and high estimation,—the one, Sir *Thomas Delves*, being a Knight lately advanced to the degree of a Baronet, and the other, Sir *Thomas Smith*, for his great wisdom, at this time graced with the government, both of this Honourable City (*Chester*), as Maior; and of the County, as High Sheriff.

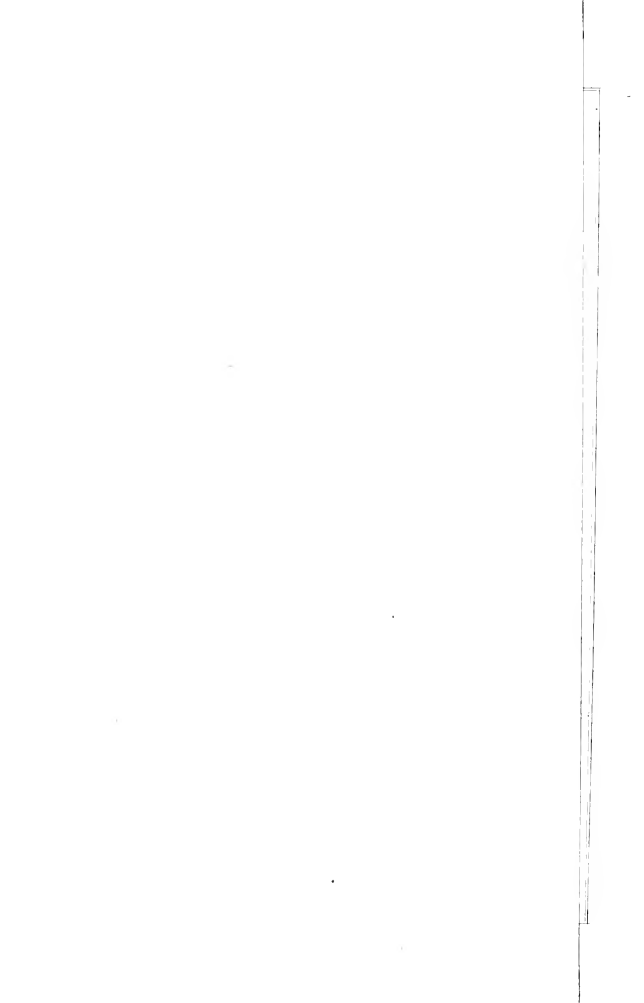
Weever holding his course toward *Namptwich*, hath on the other side of it *Baddington*, a fair Demean, where also hath been an antient seat, being the lands of Sir *Robert Needham* of *Shavington* beforementioned, and *Awstaston* (*Austerson*)* where he hath goodly Woods, that hath been the Nursery of that fuel they call *Wichwood*, which wood is sold to the Town of *Namptwich*, for the boyling of their salt: and it is now worth recording that, in this age of ours, hath been found out by the side of the said *Weever*, at *Baddington*, a Seth or Pit of that Brine, whereof they make great plenty of very good white Salt; as also upon the bank, on the other side, since the finding of this, is also the like within the lordship of *Hatherton*, in the lands of Sir *Thomas Smith*.†

But *Weever* approaching now unto *Bartherton*,‡ an

* Both *Baddington* and *Austerson* have descended to Lord *Kilmorey*, the present noble representative of the *Needham* family.

† This family became extinct, with the last baronet, almost a century and a half ago.

‡ Shortly after the first publication of the “*Vale Royall*,” *Bartherton* was purchased of the *Griffin* family, by an ancestor of the present Sir *H. D. Broughton*, Bart.



antient seat of the *Griffins*, of long continuance, receiveth into the bosom thereof one stout Water that they call *Betley* water. Let us step a little Easterly towards the head of this water, and take view of *Wybunbury*, a Church town, and a Parish Church * to a great precinct, and on every side so garnished and adorned with the seats of Baronets, Knights and Gentlemen, as is scarce to be found the like in any country Parish; the Vicarage is in the gift of the Bishop of *Lichfield and Coventry*.

Neer unto the same Church is scituate a fine lordship and Town, with a decayed house and demean of Sir *Thomas Smith*, called the *Hough*; and next adjoining unto it, the *Lee*, being an antient seat of Knights and Esquires of that name, and now Sir *Richard Lee*, a Knight of worthy account, to whom I stand particularly bounden.

But let us look a little more to the West, where stands the lordship of *Blaikenfall* (Blakenhall); and next to that *Hunsterton*, † both the lands of Sir *Thomas Delves*, and so come to *Bartomley*, ‡ a Parish and a Church; in which Township we see an antient handsome house and

* We are indebted to *John Twemlow*, Esq., of *Hatherton*, for the accompanying engraving of *Wybunbury* Old Church, taken down in 1790.

† This and the three previously named lordships now belong to the *Broughton* family.

‡ During the Civil War, *Barthomley* Church was attacked by



WYBUNBURY

1760. Taken

*Presented to this edition of
"by John Swinburn Esq."*

Drawn by J. Turner in 1832.



OLD CHURCH

down 1832.

*Kings Vale Royal
of Hatherden, Cheshire*

Engraved by J. Swinburn Esq. in 1832.

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demean, the lands of the *Lawtons* of *Lawton*; and from a lake hereabout runneth *Wolwern* brook, by *Weston*, a lordship with an antient seat and demean, belonging to Sir *Thomas Delves*, of *Doddington*, running along by *Basford*, a sightly habitation,* sometime the lands of the *Bromlees*, but now of Sir *Robert Cholmondeleigh*; and so crossing the *Lee* brook again, we may first take notice of *Shavington*, an antient seat of the *Woodnoths*, the present owner thereof, *John Woodnoth*, Esq., † a great antiquary, and learned in the laws; and on the other hand *Rope*, ‡ a Township, reaching unto *Stapely*, in which there is another fair house and demean, antiently the seat of Gentlemen of good esteem of that name, but now the possessions of Mr. *Green* of *Congleton*, by the sister of *Rope*, now like to begin another name, but a stock of the same tree still.

And from hence, having taken notice of one Township, called *Willaston*, and a little parish called *Wistaston*, which hath in it the habitation of the *Walthols*, gentlemanly

a party of Lord *Byron's* horse, when several of the inhabitants were cruelly stripped and murdered.

* This "sightly habitation" was demolished by fire in the year 1700.

† This gentleman was the last heir male of his race; he died A.D., 1637. The Hall was taken down in 1733. *Charles J. Mare*, Esq., M.P., is the present lord of *Shavington*.

‡ On the decease of *Laurence Rope*, Esq., in 1600, this property passed by will to the family of *Delves*.

men of good worth ;* and it had in it a discent of gentlemen, the *Brindleys*, now all worn out and forgotten. We are here to enter upon the head Town of that Hundred, and of all the County, called *Namptwiche* vulgarly, but in our antient deeds *Wich Malbanc* ; and had the name from one *William Malbanc*, who had this place given him at the Norman Conquest, and afterwards it grew to be one of the Baronies of the Earls of *Chester*.

We doubt the first raising it to the greatnesse it hath, was from the goodnesse of the Salt there made ; whereupon the Brittaines called the place *Hellath-wcn*, (the White Pit), which made them frequent it exceedingly, till after that King *Henry* the Third had stopped up these pits, and restrained all relief which was hence gotten by the *Welshmen* for their needful sustenance. When peace flourished again, the Market here began to be of great frequency, besides that it grew to be a special through-fair, for entertainment of all passengers from *London* to *Chester*.† To which I may add, that special

* *Wistaston Hall* is now the seat of *J. W. Hammond*, Esq.

† At the commencement of the Civil War, *Nantwich* was garrisoned for the Parliament, taken for the King by Lord *Grandison* in October 1642, but recaptured by Sir *W. Brereton* shortly afterwards. Lord *Byron* besieged the town in January 1644; he was however ultimately driven back with loss, retiring to *Chester* on the 25th January, on which day the Siege of *Nantwich* was raised.

gift which God hath bestowed on the soyl in and neer to that place, for the excellency of the Cheese there made ; which, notwithstanding all disputations, and all the tryalls that our ladies make in their Dairies in other parts of the County and Kingdome, yet can they never fully match the perfect relish of the right *Namptwich* Cheese, nor can that Cheese be equalled for pleasantnesse of taste, and wholesomenesse of digestion, even in the daintiest stomachs of them that love it.

The Buildings within the Town are very fair and neat, and every street adorned with some special mansions of gentlemen of good worth, the principal parts of the Town being all new buildings, by reason of a lamentable fire which happened there in Anno 1583, that consumed in one night all the dwellings from the River side to the other side of the Church ; which Church itself escaped, and was left standing without neighbours, saving only the Schoolhouse, in a few hours ; yet such were the estates of many of the inhabitants, and so graciously did Queen *Elizabeth* favour them, by a collection through the whole kingdom, and the businesse so well managed by Sir *Hugh Cholmley*, Mr. *John Masterson*, and others, that the whole scite and frame of the Town, so suddenly ruined, was with great speed reedified in that beautiful manner that now it is.*

* Many of the houses then erected are still standing, and give

The Church* is a very large and beautiful structure, composed in form of a crosse, and the Steeple erected in the middle juncture of the crosse, with fair Iles on either side. That it belonged to the Abbey of *Cumbermere* is plain from the same being claimed by the Parishoners of *Acton*, a great Parish Church within a mile of it, as it were but a Chappelry of that Church; the Rectory of them both being appropriate to the said Abbot and his Covent; the one hath a Vicaridge, the other a poor maintenance.

The noble Barony of *Wich Malbane*, given by the first Earl *Hugh Lupus*, at the Conquest, to his kinsman *William of Malbenge*, hath since come by several branches to a number of great families in the County, and in remote parts; yet by continuance of time have almost all knit together again, within two or three portions, in the inheritance of Sir *Robert Cholmley*, Bart.,† who hath here the greatest sway and jurisdiction.

One happinesse I will not forget to report, which it

the town a very picturesque effect. A monument erected to Mr. *Masterson's* memory is still extant in *Nantwich* Church.

* The Church, during the seige, was occupied as a prison. It is a spacious and beautiful Gothic structure.

† His descendant, the present Marquis of *Cholmondely*, holds, in addition to his other titles, the ancient barony of *Wich Malbank*.

pleased our most gracious King (*James I.*) to adde unto them on August 25th, 1617, who vouchsafed to make that Town the lodging place for his Royal Person; and after he had for some hours accommodated himself in the house of *Thomas Wilbraham, Esq.*, it pleased him to walk so far as the Brineseeth, and with his eye to behold the manner of the Well, and to observe the labours of the Briners; and after that his Majestie's gracious enquiry among the poor Drawers touching the nature of the same Brine, and how they converted it into Salt, most princely rewarding them with his own hand, his Majestie returned. The next day his Majestie appointed a Sermon to be preached before him in the Church by a Divine of our own County, both by birth and dwelling, Mr. *Thomas Dod*, Archdeacon of *Richmond*, thereafter appointed one of his Majestie's Chaplains in Ordinary; and also to stay while an Oration was pronounced by one of the scholars of the School.

There hath been a little Chappel scituate neer this Brineseeth, dedicated, as some say, to St. Anne, of which I can make no further relation. A strong timber bridge over the stream of *Weever* is maintained by the Town. The School founded there by *John* and *Thomas Thrush*, of *London, Woolpackers*, is well and sufficiently maintained.

To this I must not omit to adde the late charitable

erection of an Alms house for six poor aged men at the Town's end, which Sir *Roger Wilbraham*, Knight, there new builded, he having here, at the end of *Namptwich*, had his birth and breeding. Here are also fair and profitable Mills for the service of the Town, the inheritance of Sir *Richard Egerton*, Knight.

And so taking only notice of a fine Common called the *Croach** belonging to this Town, extending itself by *Weever* side to the length of a mile and a half; and of *Alveston*, where the *Prestlands* were sometimes owners of great Lands, so take leave of *Namptwich*.

Having first viewed on the South West of *Namptwich* a lordship called *Eddlaston*,† antiently belonging to the *Foulshursts* of *Crewe*; and another called *Sound*, a town well replenished with good farms; we see *Baddiley*, with a little Church, and an antient Seat of Sir *Randal Mainwaring*, Knight, sometime the seat ‡ of the *Praers*,

* *Croach* or *Beam* Heath was given to the Town of *Nantwich* as a "free common and pasture," by *Richard Alveston*, and others, in 1825.

† *Eddlaston* belonged to the *Foulshursts* as far back as the year 1298. Since the reign of *Elizabeth*, it has been vested in the *Cholmondeley* family.

‡ The moated site of *Baddiley* Hall, erased during the last century, is now occupied by a farm house. The *Praers* family, settled at *Baddiley* from the time of the Conquest, became extinct in the reign of *Richard II.*, and is now represented, in the female line, by Sir *Harry Mainwaring*, of *Peover*.

who were in this Country a race of great possessions, but since utterly worn out, and swallowed up of other names. Part of this Lordship hath descended to the *Breretons* of *Handford*; in it there is a rich farm called *Blackhurst*, the birthplace of one race of the *Davenports*.

From the West of *Namptwich* begins *Acton*, leading almost a mile unto the Church, upon which as you passe offers itself to your view, a most neat and beautifull house of brick, lately erected by *Ralph Wilbraham*, Esq., another younger brother of those *Wilbrahams* of *Namptwich*, in the place of an antient capital Messe, called *Dorfold*,* which belonged antiently to the Earls of Derby.

We may take notice also of a goodly Common lying near this Church, by name *Ravensmore*, a very sweet and fruitful piece of ground. Upon the side of it Westward, we observe an antient gentleman's Seat, called *Swanley*,† which hath belonged to the *Mainwarings* of *Charringham* (*Carincham*) another great branch of that famous name; and so we come to two Townships, the

* *Dorfold* Hall was during the Civil War garrisoned by the Parliament, but was on the 29th January, 1644, taken for the King by Lord *Byron*. It passed, by purchase, to the *Tomkinson* family, in 1752.

† *Swanlow*, as also *Durland* and *Brindley* Halls, have now degenerated into farm houses.

one *Burland*, and the other *Brindley*, wherein I only note a fair Seat and demean of Mr. *William Allen*, Gent.

And so we come to *Faddiley*, another Lordship, divided between the houses of *Peover* and *Handford*, and hereunto adjoineth the demain and Hall of *Woodhey*, at which I could long dwell upon the remembrances of that ever worthy owner of it, *Thomas Wilbraham*, Esq., if even here my ink were not forced to give place to the tears that fall from mine eyes. Much, too, might be said concerning the now possessor of his place and virtues, Sir *Richard Wilbraham*, Baronet,* but for me to say it, were to discover my own weaknesse, and to argue my folly, that I knew not his wisdome, whereof all others take so much notice.

So we return Northward, and take view of *Hurlstone*, where the honourable Sir *Thomas Savage* hath worthy lands; and by it *Stoke*, a fine Lordship, and a neat capital house purchased from *Aston of Aston*, and now possessed by *Edward Minshull*, Gent.†; beneath which lies *Henhull* ‡ where once stood a fair seat of the *Clay-*

* This title became extinct in 1692, on the death of the third Baronet. *Woodhey* passed by marriage into the hands of the first Earl of *Dysart*, in whose family it still remains.

† The third wife of the poet *Milton* was of this family.

‡ Since 1573, *Henhull* has belonged to the *Cholmondely* family.

tous and *Worlestone*, wherein are Seats of the *Wilbrahams*, *Graftons*, and *Chetwoods*,* from which last mentioned house, the Father of an honourable and worthy Knight, Sir *Richard Chetwood*, of *Workworth*, *Oxon*, did descend.

The next to these are three Townships of the names of the *Pooles*, and in them three fair demesns, and seemly houses, of the *Elcocks*, and *Leycesters*,† where also was an antient house of *Boydells*, a race of Gentlemen of worship in the County; and adjoining, is *Aston juxta Mondrem*; and there is a Seat of the *Astons*, and another of the *Weevers*, Gentlemen, and of the *Braynes*;‡ with a demean and Mill, the inheritance of Sir *Robert Cholmley*, Bart.

From hence we come to *Cholmeston*, antiently the lands of the *Leighs* of *Rushall* in *Staffordshire*, but now of the Earl of *Bridgwater*, who hath in the same the Hall of *Cholmeston*,§ an antient seat, now much ruined.

* Sir *John Newdigate Chetwode*, Bart., of *Oakeley*, *Staffordshire*, and of *Whitley* and *Agden*, in this County, is the present representative of this family.

† The *Leycesters* of *Poole* are of a younger branch of the ancient family of the *Leycesters* of *Toft*.

‡ *Brayne's* Hall is now a farm house. Of the other two Seats named no traces now exist.

§ *Cholmondeston* Hall is also now a farm house. The manor

We see next *Minshull*, a little Parish; and near unto it, the Hall of *Minshull*, a very antient Seat of a Worshipful race of that name of long continuance, and now of *John Minshull*, Esq., whose only daughter and heir is now married to *Thomas Cholmley*, Esq., brother of that said *Sir Robert*.* And upon the other side of *Weever* a very fine house, cull'd *Hoogrades* (Hulgrave) the inheritance of the *Astons*.

And here we must again step over the *Weever* at *Minshull* Bridge, another inheritance of the *Minshulls*, and a fair house and demean call'd *Erdswick*; from whence to *Leighton*, where is a fine seat of the *Erds-wicks*, now a race of great worship, at *Sand* in Staffordshire. In *Leighton* is also another fine Seat, which hath been possessed by a race of antient Gentlemen, the *Brookes*,† from which house those of *Norton* are lately descended, but the same now, by purchase by the Lady *Cholmley*, assured to *Thomas Cholmley*, her youngest son, a gentleman of much regard, and towardlinesse.

was held in the reign of *Edward I.*, by the service of guarding the gates of *Chester* during the fair.

* *Minshull* was purchased about 70 years ago from the Cholmondely family, by the father of the present *Sir Richard Brooke*, Bart., of *Norton Priory*.

† The *Del Brookes* family, from which that of *Norton* is descended had a Seat at *Leighton* as early as the reign of *Edward I.* The estate is now in the *Cholmondely* family.

From hence, leaving on the right *Woolston Wood*, we come unto the *Coppenhalls*, whereof one is a Church town; the other is called *Monks' Coppenhall*, but to which Society it belonged, I know not. Within the Township of *Church Coppenhall* is an antient Seat of the *Foulshursts*, late Lords of *Crew*, called *Shaw*,* now almost gone to decay, and the lands thereof sold and dispersed.

Eastward hereunto, advanced to the view of many miles every way, lifts up itself that stately fabrick of the Hall of *Crew*,† of the which Mr. *Cambden* hath in these words: "A place inhabited in old time by a notable family of that name, which having been the possessions, for some ages, of the *Foulshursts*, men of great revenues in these parts, is now again made happy by the purchase of Sir *Randall Crew*, Knight, one of the King's Majesty's Serjeants at Law, who hath brought into these remote parts a modell of that excellent form of building which is

* *Shaw* Hall, with its moated site, has for some time been transformed into a farm house.

† *Crew* Hall, erected in 1615-36, is a beautiful specimen of the enriched architecture prevalent at that period. It was made a garrison by the Parliament, during the Civil War, but was taken for the King in December, 1643, by Lord *Byron*. After the siege of *Nantwich* it again fell into the hands of the Puritans, on the 4th of February, 1644. It is now the seat of Lord *Crewe*, whose patent of nobility bears date, 1806.

now grown to a degree beyond the building of old times for loftinesse, sightlinesse, and pleasant habitation." The next neighbour Eastward is *Haslington*, being a handsome street in the roadway, and adorned with a Chappel that belongs to the Parish of *Barthomley*; but the chief ornament of this Lordship is the Seat* of that family of the *Vernons*, descended from those Barons of *Shipbroke*, of which the owner is now a worthy gentleman, *George Vernon*, Esq., well known as a great learned lawyer. Another gentleman's Seat there is in this precinct, (Hall o'Heath) of good account, now descended to that name of the *Walthols*, in the which is that great Mere called *Oakhanger Mere*, from whence begins the water of *Fulbrook*, which meets with the *Whelock*.

Beyond this there remains only *Alsager* † township, and the race of a good family in the same, and *Hassal*, from whence great families have gotten their name; and then, to confine this Hundred, lyes *Bechton*, a goodly large Seigniory, the most part of which hath been the possession of the *Davenports* of *Henbury*, but now

* *Haslington* Hall is at present held by the *Broughton* family. *George*, afterwards Sir *George Vernon*, was made a Baron of the Exchequer in 1631.

† The *Alsager* family, of *Alsager* since the reign of *Henry III.*, became extinct in the male line in 1768.

parted to some other owners, and one great part the present inheritance of *Thomas Wilbraham* of *Namptwich*,* Esq., formerly mentioned.

NORTHWICH HUNDRED.

The point of *Lawton* Gate gives us good occasion to begin there our view of this Hundred, as being next to *Bechton*, where we ended the other. It is part of the parish of *Lawton*, which Church is near unto it; and by the same, the antient Seat and Hall of *Lawton*,† where have continued many descents of Esquires of the same name, the Heir now in minority, and matcht into the noble race of the *Sneyds*, of great worship and account, and of ample revenues in *Staffordshire*.

From thence we turn Northward to *Rode*,‡ the name

* *George Wilbraham*, Esq. of *Delamere*, is the present owner of *Bechton*.

† *Lawton* was purchased of *Henry VIII*, by *William Lawton*, whose ancestors had been tenants thereof as early as the reign of the third *Henry*. *Charles B. Lawton*, Esq. is the present owner.

‡ The *Rodes* sold their ancient family seat, in 1669, to *Roger Wilbraham*, Esq. whose grandson *Randle Wilbraham*, Esq. the oldest magistrate in the County, now resides in a handsome mansion erected on the site of the old Hall, in 1752. His son and heir, *Randle Wilbraham*, Junr. Esq. resides at *Rode Heath*.

of a Town, and of a race of gentlemen of the same name ; and so by *Kent Green*, a Hamlet near the foot of that famous mountain called *Mowcop*, whence begins the water of the *Whelock*, making his first passage neer unto *Moreton*,* wherein are two very fair demeans and houses of worthy gentlemen and Esquires, of most antient continuance,—the one of the same name of *Moreton*, and which, as I have heard, gave breeding to that famous Bishop *Moreton*, who, in the time of *Richard III*, contrived that project of the marriage of the two Heirs of the Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, from whence proceeded the happinesse that we enjoy at this day ;—the other is of the *Bellots*, who both in this County and in *Wales* have been, and are, Esquires of great worth,—the owners now, *William Moreton*, and *John Bellot* † of *Moreton*, Esquires.

The *Whelock* shall now lead us to the West, and here gives name to a Township, ‡ with an antient Seat of

* The manor of *Moreton*, with its ancient timber Hall is now the property of *George H. Ackers*, Esq. the present High Sheriff of *Cheshire*. The tower on *Mowcop* Hill is the property of *Randle Wilbraham*, Esq.

† This gentleman was created a Baronet in 1663. He was descended from the daughter and heiress of *Stephen*, last male representative of the house of *Moreton*.

‡ The Manor of *Whelock* is now the property of *George H. Ackers*, Esq. of *Moreton* ; the Hall is occupied as a farm house.

Liversage of *Wheelock*, Esqrs. of speciall accompt ; from whence we turn again Northerly to view *Sandbach*, whose Church and lofty Steeple draws our eye to behold it. *Sandbach* is a pretty Market Town,* and hath belonged long to the noble race of Knights of the *Ratcliffes* of *Ordshall* in *Lancashire* ; its scituation is very delightful. The chief Seigniorie thereof now belongs to Sir *Randal Crew*. The Ale here at *Sandbach* is no less famous than that of *Darby* for a true nappe ; and I have heard men of deep experience in that element contend for the worth of it, that for true dagger stuffe, it should give place to none.

When we have looked a little behind *Sandbach*, and taken notice of *Arelid*, a little Township, and of *Smethwick*, a Township, with a house of the *Smethwicks* there to this day continuing ; we turn again to follow our *Whelock* water, which after it hath shewed at *Wintley*, the lands of *George Vernon*, Esq. ; and *Moulton* ; we go by *Elworth*, in which Mr. *Raven* hath a fair new house.

And then, holding still by our River side, we step into that goodly Lordship of *Warmicham*,† where lies a spa-

* At *Sandbach*, in September 1651, a skirmish took place between some country adherents of the Parliament, and a party of Royalists from the field of Worcester.

† At *Old Haugh*, in this lordship, *William Smith*, one of the original authors of the "Vale Royall" was born.

cious demean, parish church, &c., all now belonging to *Crew Hall* beforementioned. And here, again approaching *Weever* side, are scituated the two great Lordships of *Occleston*, and *Wimboldsley*, in which are freeholders of the *Venables*, and of the *Kinsies*; and neer unto these, lies *Minshull Vernon*, so named by some owner antiently of the house of *Vernon*, and belongs now to one of the *Warburtons*, a native of *Cheshire*, dwelling in *Hampshire*.

A little Eastward again there lies *Ley*, a fine house and demean, the lands of *William Brereton*, of *Ashley*, Esq.; and next to that *Clive*, a great precinct; neer unto which is scituate a demean, and fair old house, called the *Nunhouse*,* antiently belonging to Sir *Thomas Holcroft*, and now to *Thomas Marbury* of *Marbury*, Esq.

From thence we note on the East bank of the *Weever*, first *Wharton*, a fruitful vein of land; then, *Eaton*,† a Lordship of Sir *William Brereton*; and *Davenham*, on the River *Dane*, where we observe a good, fair, and most antient built Church, with a great parsonage just by it. And not far from hence the Seat of the *Holfords*

* This House, which probably at one time belonged to the Nuns of *Chester*, is now metamorphosed into a farm house.

† *Eaton* now belongs to Lord *Delamere* of *Vale Royal*.

of *Davenham*,* gentlemen of very antient descent, seated there by marriage of one of the daughters and heiresses of *Brett*, antient gentlemen of that parish: another of the same co-heirs was married to Mr. *Wyeh* of *Alderley*.

Betwixt this and the *Northwich*, lies the Township of *Leftwich*, with a fair house and demean, whereof the owner, *Ralph Leftwich*, Esq. hath continued the same name of the place of great antiquity; yet now, by marriage, is like to passe into another name, to wit, *William Oldfield*, Esq.†

We must needs take a little pains to retire back again, to passe by the Lordships of *Tetton* and *Moston*, which are members of *Warmincham*. We see next *Bradwall*, a seat antiently of the *Baringtons*, but now of the *Oldfields*, by marrying a daughter of *Barington*; and so we passe along by that famous Mere, called *Bagmere*. I should not passe in silence that common report of the trees in the Pool, which are said to lift up themselves into sight above the water, before such time as any Heir of the house of the *Breretons*, the owners thereof, dieth: but I could wish that those trees may lie long

* *Davenham* passed from the *Holfords* to the *Harpers*, by purchase, in 1796. It is now the residence of *J. H. Harper*, Esq.

† *Leftwich*, after remaining for upwards of a century with the *Oldfields*, several times changed hands, and is now in the possession of *John H. Harper*.

unseen, so that we still see the worthy owner of that magnificent place, Sir *William Brereton*,* Knight, to continue still a worthy Governour in his Countrey, a man whom the world acknowledgeth to have spent his years in the upright management of the Military Forces, and Political Government of the Countrey, with admirable commendation, and singular integrity.

I might speak of the stately house of *Brereton*, being one of the finest complete buildings of brick in this County. But I passe it over, hasting to other places, and so come next to the Parish and Church of *Astbury*, which Parish boasts itself to be the mother of *Congleton*, a fine frequented mercate Town, upon the River *Dane*, and graced with the dignity of a Maior and six Aldermen for their government; and they have had a handsome Chappel in the Town, though they acknowledge *Astbury* their Parish Church.

And hence this stream of *Dane* shall lead us through the rest of this Hundred. Beyond *Hulme-Walfield* lyeth the water called *Dane Inch*; from whence, West-

* Afterwards, in 1624, created Lord *Leighlin*, in the Peerage of Ireland. A member of this family, named also Sir William Brereton, of *Handford*, was Parliamentary General of the Forces in Cheshire during the Civil War, and highly distinguished himself in that capacity.

erly, we take view of *Radnor*,* a fair Lordship, which gave name to an antient family, now extinct. We come next to *Somerford*, a fine Lordship, and pleasant Seat of an antient descent of that name, though now of the *Oldfields*; within this is also a fair House and demean of another antient descent of gentlemen, the *Swetenhams*, enjoyed now by *Edm. Swetenham*, Esq.|| These gentlemen had their names from the next Parish, called *Swetenham*, which stands upon the same side of the *Dane*, and hath a little Church and Rectory by it.

Here we step over *Dane*, and take notice of the Seat and scite of *Davenport*,† a most antient possession of the *Davenports*, Knights and Esquires of good account; the present owner whereof is Sir *John Davenport*, who in 1617, being High Sheriffe of the County, and performing his service and duty to His Excellent Majestie here, in His Highnesse progresse, was honoured with the degree of Knighthood; the King gracing him with a pleasant princely farewell, “*You shall carry me this token to your wife,*” graciously so meant by His Majes-

* *Radnor*, as also *Somerford*, is now the property of Sir *C. P. B. Shakerley*, Bart. the latter of which he occupies as his family Seat.

† *C. Swettenham*, Esq., is the present owner of *Somerford Booths*, and occupier of *Radnor Hall*.

‡ The *Davenports* of *Davenport* became extinct, in 1677, by the death of *John*, son of the abovenamed Knight.

tie; but the gentlewoman having indeed before that attained to a better Ladyship, being gone to her Lord and Saviour in Heaven.

Holding our course then full West, we come next to *Holmes Chappell*, a place well known by the Church in the same, and where also that Bridge is built by *Jo. Needham*, Esq. And next to this, we come to *Cotton*,* a seat of an antient descent of the same name; to which adjoineth *Sproston*, † a member of *Kinderton*, where there is of the *Trevits* and other Freeholders. *Bileigh* (Byley), a fair demean, lyes here in sight, belonging to *Peter Shakerley*, of *Hulme*, Esq.; and so we come to the antient Barony of *Kinderton*, which hath since the Norman Conquest continued in a successive line of the Heirs male, the owner at present being a towardly young gentleman, *Peter Venables*, Esq., who has added a heir

* *Cotton* passed from the ancient family of that name in 1738, when it was purchased by *Thomas Byley*, Esq., *L. Armitstead*, Esq., is the present proprietor.

† The Manor of *Sproston* belongs to Lord *Vernon*. At *Sproston Wood*, near *Wrenbury*, (omitted in our notice of *Nantwich Hundred*) resides *Samuel Sproston*, Esq., a nonogenarian philanthropist, descendant of an ancient family settled there since the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*,—a gentleman, whose active benevolence and liberality have been the theme of universal commendation throughout a long and truly well spent life.

male * to his race, by the daughter of Sir *Richard Wilbraham* of *Woodhey*, Bart.

It is neighboured by the second Town of the Hundred, *Middlewich*, a Market Town, having therein two Salt pits; and great store of Salt is there made and vended into parts both near and remote. The Church is a very fair one, and the Chancel lately reedified by Sir *William Brereton*, Kt. In the Church is a fair Chappell, and peculiar burial place of that great race of the *Venables*. And in another part thereof, the antient name of the *Buckleys*, as appears by some antient glasse windows yet there remaining.

Through this Town runs the *Croco*, on the far side of which we will take view of *Newton* Township, and then, more Northerly, of *Stanthorne*, wherein is an antient Seat and discent of the *Walleys* of *Stanthorne*; and next to it *Bostock*, a Seat of Knights of that name, † which by a daughter came afterwards to a more famous name, and

* This child never reached maturity, for in 1679, on the death of the aforesaid *Peter Venables*, last Baron of *Kinderton*, the estate fell, by the marriage of his only daughter, to the Earl of *Abingdon*. It now belongs, with *Sproston*, to the noble house of *Vernon*.

† The *Bostocks* derived from *Osmerus*, Lord of *Bostock*, in the reign of the Conqueror, and became extinct in the last century. *J. France*, Esq., is the present owner of this manor.

yet remaineth the inheritance of Sir *Thomas Savage*, Baronet.

But now we must again step over the *Croco* neer where it gives name to *Croxton*, an antient Seat of one race of the *Mainwarings*, of whom it is now come to the possession of *Michael Oldfield*, Esq. ;* and to another descent of gentlemen of long continuance, and owners of a large demeane and house, *Croxtons* of *Ravenscroft*, which place also hath given name to another worshipful family, now called the *Ravenscrofts* of *Bretton*.

While here, let us take view of *Lees*, a Township ; and of *Cranage*, † a Township, that extends itself to that ancient Seat, called the *Hermitage*, having a goodly demeane lying to it, the inheritance of *Lawrence Winnington*, Esq.

Near unto which lyes *Twemlow*, ‡ and therein an antient seat of the *Booths* of *Twemlow*, Gentlemen. And

* From the *Oldfields*, this manor passed to the *Wilbrahams*, and afterwards to the *Tomkinsons*, of *Dorfold*. The hall is now a farm house.

† *Cranage* is now the property and seat of *L. Armitstead*, Esq.

‡ Prior to the reign of *Richard I.*, this manor belonged to the *Twemlow* family. *Lidulphus Twemlow*, lord of *Twemlow* in the reigns of *Richard I.*, *John*, and *Henry III.* was High Sheriff of *Cheshire*, and common ancestor to the *Twemlow* families, now residing at *Arclyd* and *Hatherton*. The manor now belongs to *Thomas Booth*, Esq.

so we passe into that spacious precinct of *Rudheath*, a wide Common, which hath in old time had a Sanctuary in it, with priviledges thereunto. This *Rudheath* is bordered towards the East part by *Carincham* and *Barnshaw*, two houses and demeans of the *Mainwarings* of *Carincham*, a race of every great account, the possessour thereof now *Henry Mainwaring*, Esq. From thence we may see *Goostrie* Chappell, a great Township, in which is an antient Seat of the *Eatons* of *Blagden*; the Chappelry belongs to *Sandbach*: And so to the West side of *Rudheath* again, where, behind *Ravenscroft*, we passe along by *Wharton*, and *Whacroft*; where we may note the goodly demean of *Drakelow's*, now in the possession of the house of *Woodhey*. Leaving *Shurlach* upon our right hand, we take view of *Shipbroke*, which once gave name to a Barony,* in the Earldom of *Chester*, the owner thereof now, Sir *Thomas Savage*.

And now where the *Dane* embraceth the *Weever*, we see *Northwiche*,† a very antient Town, and the third of

* Of the antient family of *Vernons*, Norman Barons of *Shipbroke*, was descended, about 1250, the celebrated Sir *Ralph Vernon*, surnamed "the old," who lived to the great age of 150 years.

† During the Civil War, *Northwich* was held by the Parliament, under Sir *William Brereton*. Sir *John Birkenhead*, author of the first English Newspaper, the '*Court Journal*,' in the reign of Charles I., was a native of this town,

those saltmaking Wiches. The chief Lordship appertaineth to the Earl of *Derby*: it is a Market Town well frequented, gives name to the Hundred, and is often allotted to the meetings of the chief Governours in the County, for the great affairs. They have a very fair Church, called *Wyttton*, the name of the Lordship, mounted aloft upon a bank that overlooks the Town. There is also a free Grammar School endowed with good lands, founded by Sir *John Dayn* (Deane), Priest, born in *Shurlach*, Parson of *St. Bartholomew's* in *London*; who, amongst other lands, gave unto this School the *Saracen's Head* in the City of *Chester*.

Let us passe on to *Wincham*,* where there is a Seat of the *Harcourts*, and now of *Richard Harcourt*, Esq., of antient descent. And so through the Lordship of *Los-tock Gralam*, we come to *Holford*, a stately house, lately the seat of the *Holfords*; whereof the last owner, *Christopher Holford*, Esq., left no issue male, and so the same descended to the only daughter, the Lady *Mary Cholmley*, wife of the last Sir *Hugh Cholmley*, a Lady of great worth, dignity, and revenue.†

Along this Lordship runs the River *Peover*, which

* *L. P. Townshend*, Esq., is the present owner and occupier of *Wincham*.

† The manors of *Holford* and *Plumley* belong now to *L. Brooke*, Esq., of *Mere*.

hath given name to two great Lordships, *Nether Peover*, the Chappell of which onely is in this Hundred, and *Over Peover* in *Bucklow* Hundred; and so casting an eye upon the goodly demean, lands, and Mosse, called *Holford Mosse*, and the farms in *Lostock* of the said Seat of *Holford*, we have finished our walk through this Hundred of *Northwich*.

MACCLESFIELD HUNDRED.

We step over that Water that runs through *Allostock* into the large precinct of the *Withington's*, whereof one part is called *Old Withington*, in which is a fair Seat, antiently derived from his ancestors to *Thomas Baskervyle*, Esq.*

Here, at the right of the Hundred, taking *Marton* in our way, a great Lordship of Sir *John Davenport's*, wherein there is a goodly Mere, and then going by *Eaton* and *North Rode*, we enter upon the huge precinct of *Bosley*, where the *Dane* circles in one side of the spa-

* The *Baskervyles* have been uninterrupted possessors of this manor since 1266. *J. B. Glegg*, Esq., their direct lineal descendant, is the present owner, his grandfather having assumed the name of *Glegg* in 1758.

cious Forest of *Macclesfield*, in which is that lofty top of *Shutlingham* Hill. More Northerly towards *Macclesfield* stands the *Chamber* in the Forest, and, pointing you to a hill, where are set the three Shire-stones; we turn our course back Westward to *Rainow*, and next thereunto, *Sutton*, where hath continued a family of great worship, the *Suttons*, which now lately, by the marriage of a Sister of the last owner, is enjoyed by *Humphrey Davenport*, Esq., of the house of *Bramhall*.*

Hereabouts do several little Brooks make a fair stream, called *Bollin*, which shall conduct us to *Macclesfield*, a Town which gives name to the whole Hundred, and is of great antiquity, having been a Maior-town of an antient foundation. In this Town are yet seen some ruines of the antient Manour-house of the renowned Duke of Buckingham, who kept there his princely residence about the time of King *Edward IV*. Here is also a very fair and large Church, founded by *Thomas Savage*,† a great

* Afterwards Sir *Humphrey Davenport*, made Barou of the Exchequer in 1640. At *Holinshed*, in the township of *Sutton*, *Holinshed* the Historian was born.

† The Archbishop was a native of *Macclesfield*. He was first consecrated Bishop of Rochester, shortly afterwards translated to *London*, whence, on February 12th, 1501, he was raised to the Archiepiscopal See of *York*, which dignity he held until his death, on September 7th, 1502,

learned Bishop of *London*, and Archbishop of *York*. The present Sir *Thomas Savage* hath finished therein a stately and costly tombe for his grandfather, Sir *John Savage*, who is here interred with his Ancestors. He was the eleventh Knight of that antient race, being matcht with the Lady *Manners*, daughter to the Earl of *Rutland*, by whom he had two sons, and five daughters. He was six times High Sheriff of the County, thrice Maior of this City of *Chester*, and for retinue and good housekeeping, ever right nobleman-like.

There is also a fair free School, founded long since, which, about the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, had a Schoolmaster of great fame for learning, *John Brownswerd*, styled by most men that knew him, *Grammaticus*, who, lying buried here, had his Epitaph worthily inscribed by one *Newton*,* one of his Scholars.

On the South of *Macclesfield*, we see first *Ridge*, a Lordship, with a fair house and demean of the *Leighs* of *Ridge*; from whence we Westerly go to *Gawsworth*,† where there is a Church; and close by it the stately Seat

* *Thomas Newton*, a Latin Poet of eminence, author of a History of the Saracens, and editor of an English translation of Seneca's Tragedies. He was Rector of, and died at *Little Ilford, Essex*, in 1617.

† Now the property, and occasional residence of the Earl of *Harington*.

of the *Fittons*, Knights of a long continued race, and of great worth; the last of the name, Sir *Edward Fitton*, advanced to be a Baronet, which dignity hath descended to his Son, Sir *Edward Fitton*.*

The next goodly Lordship and demean is *Henbury*, an antient and continued Seat of one race of that name, once Knights and Esquires of great account; near which is *Capesthorn*,† a great Lordship and demean of the *Wards*, gentlemen of good worth; and so, by *Pephall* (Pexall), to *Chelford*, a Chappelry and fine Lordship, near which stands a Brick House built by one antient descent of the *Fallowes*;‡ and not far off, another house of the *Wards* of *Monk's Heath*. And here we turn Northward by *Birtles*,§ where one or two gentlemen of that name have their antient Seats, scituate upon a fine Brook that runs into the River *Peever Eye*.

But now passing along by *Smelston* (Snelson), we come to *Alderley*, where is a very gallant house and Seat of that worthy stem of the *Stanleys*, derived from the

* With the latter named Baronet the title became extinct.

† From the *Wards*, *Capesthorne* passed by marriage to the *Davenports*, and now belongs to *A. H. Davenport*, Esq.

‡ *Fallowes* Hall, belonging to *John Dixon*, Esq., of *Astle*, as also *Monksheath*, are now occupied as farmhouses.

§ *Birtles* Hall, rebuilt about 30 years ago, is now the property of *Thomas Hibbert*, Esq.

honourable descent of the Earls of *Derby*, now the possession of *Thomas Stanley*, Esq., a man like to uphold the worthy accmpt of his ancestors.* A beacon, mounted upon an eminent hill over the Town, may serve to great purpose in time of invasions, or insurrections. The descent of this Hill brings us presently to *Chorley*, where a Seat, late of the *Davenports*, shows itself; and a little further, a fair old house of the *Traffords* of *Trafford* in *Lancashire*.

And so we come to *Wilmslow*, a Parish of large extent, with a Church. Here is a fair house and Park of Sir *George Boothe's*, Knight and Baronet, called *Bollin*† Park, and on the other side a fine new house, possessed by *John Mainwaring*, Esq., a younger son of the House of *Peever*; and below, a very antient Seat and demean, in the Township of *Pownall*, the possession of the best race of the *Newtons*.‡ From whence, taking with us a little Chappelry called *Romily*, our next view must be of *Handford*,§ a very goodly Lordship, and demean of the

* Lord *Stanley* of *Alderley*, his lineal descendant, is the present owner of this estate. The Beacon has lately been replaced by a neat pyramidical monument.

† *Bollin* belongs now to the Earl of *Stamford and Warrington*, representative of the *Boothes*.

‡ The *Newtons* became extinct early in the 17th century:—the Hall now belongs to — *Pownall*, Esq.

§ *Hanford* Hall, a fine old "wood and plaster" building is now occupied as a farm-house.

Breretons, whereof have been many famous Knights and Esquires.

Next to this, let us fetch the view of *Cheadle*, a goodly Lordship, divided between the *Savages*,* and the *Bulkeley*s, of great accompt in *Anglesea*, who have here a fair house of the old timber building, near the Church.

Northerly we have now only *Northenden*,† whence we will bend our course to *Stockport*. Upon one round Hill hath this Town been built, the summity whereof affords the Market-place, and convenient room for the Church and Parsonage, the skirt of the Hill beautified with many fair buildings; and half about the skirt of it, runs *Merzey* with great fury, under a great stone Bridge.‡ It is a great Market, much frequented by dwellers far remote; the Seigniorie there chiefly belonging to the owners of the antient Barony of *Stockport*, which hath descended to the *Warrens of Poynton*.

From *Stockport* we come to *Bramhall*, a very fair

* *Lloyd H. Bamford Hesketh*, Esq., of *Gwrych Castle*, *Denbighshire*, is Lord of the *Savage* portion of the Manor of *Cheadle*.

† *Northenden* manor belongs to *Thomas W. Tatton*, Esq., of *Withenshaw*.

‡ This Bridge was blown up at the time of the Scotch Rebellion, to cut off the retreat of the Pretender, after his march through *Stockport*. The town was an important garrison during the Civil War, in possession alternately of both King and Parliament.

Lordship and House of the great name of *Davenport*, to which house lies a Park, and all things fit for a worshipful seat.* *Woodford* is another house and demean of the *Davenports*, a branch of that of *Bramhall*.

Passing along by *Newhall*, we come to that spacious and fertile demean of *Addington*,† the chief seat of that race of *Leighs* of *Addington*, one of the great names of Gentry in this County, the present owner thereof Sir *Urian Leigh*, Knight, who hath made it a stately and commodious house of late, and hath added a Park and Chappel thereunto; of which worthy Knight, I might say, that he fetched his Knighthood from the famous surprising of *Cadiz*, by the Earl of *Essex*, in 1595. In the precinct of this Lordship, he hath also built another fine Seat, called the *Mill-house*, standing near a Mill upon the Brook called *Fallibrome*; and so, by *Newton* Chappel, we come to the spacious Lordship of *Butleigh*; and so to *Bollington*, on the *Bollin*, on the other side of which lies the fair house and demean of *Mottram Andrew*; and next unto that, the great parish of *Prestbury*,‡ which hath

* *Bramhall* is the property and seat of Lady *Maria Davenport*. *Woodford* belongs to the *Capesthorpe* branch of this ancient family.

† *Addington Hall* was a Royalist Garrison in 1645, but capitulated after a fortnight's seige, on the 14th of Febrnary.

‡ *C. R. B. Leigh*, Esq., is Lord of the Manor of *Prestbury*, and patron of the Living.

a Vicarage. Taking notice onely of a fine Brick house, called *Upton Hall*,* we turn us almost Northward again to *Titherington*, an antient seat of the *Worths*, and may wander awhile in the hills and downs of the *Forest*, till we come to *Overton*; and then taking with us *Pott-chapel*,† and *Shrigley*, we come through *Upton* to *Taxall*. And when we have first cast our eye on *Whaley Bridge*, at the confines of *Derbyshire*; and *Disley*, we turn on Westward to *Lyme*; the stately seat and park of which, may well shew the worthy discent of that great family and name of the *Leghs* of *Lyme*; of whom, though there have been many famous Knights and renowned owners, yet none more so than Sir *Peter Legh*, a noble gentleman, now possessor thereof.

From thence we come to *Poynton*, a very antient and fair old seat of the *Warrens* of *Poynton*, with a fair park lying to it; and next to it the gallant Lordship of *Norbury*, and therein the seat of the *Hydes* of *Hyde*,‡ another antient and famous discent. Between this and

* *Upton Hall* came from the *Stapletons* to the *Booths*, and is now a farm-house.

† *Pott Chapel* gave name to an antient family once resident at *Pott Hall*, of whom *Henry Potts*, Esq., of *Chester*, is the present representative.

‡ *Hyde*, from a simple village, has of late years risen to the dignity of a very considerable Town, carrying on extensive cotton

the *Goit* Water, lies *Torkington*; beyond which we come next to *Merpool* (Marple) where the *Goit* meets the *Merzey*.

We will take a little view of a fair House at *Millend*; and next to that, of *Offerton*, where was an antient race of *Winningtons*, now by marriage come unto *Lawrence Wright*, Gent. And here passing over the *Goit* to *Goit* Hall, a mansion of the *Davenports* of *Henbury*, we view next *Bredbury*, the lands now of the *Ardens*, Esqrs.

And now, upon that water of *Tame*, we see first *Portwood Hall*, whence we go over the new bridge beyond *Stockport*, to see *Harden*,* a fair House, and great demean of the *Arderns*; from whence, leaving on our right hand *Werneth Lowe*, that great mountain at the foot of which lies an old Chappel, called *Chad Chappel*,† where seems to have been some Monkish Cell; we come by *Dukinfield*,‡ a very antient seat of Esquires of that

manufactures. *Robert Ashton*, Esq., of this town, has lately purchased the manors of *Picton* and *Croughton*, from *J. H. Leche*, Esq., of *Carden*.

* *Harden* Hall, now belonging to *Robert Ashton*, Esq., has been for some time uninhabited, and is in a very shattered and ruinous state.

† This Chapel, after lying in ruins for upwards of 60 years, was rebuilt by subscription in 1746.

‡ The then owner, Mr. *Robert Dukinfield*, was celebrated Col.

name. Near unto which is also *Newton*, the Seat of a race so called; and beyond it *Matley*, a Township belonging to the Lordship of *Stayley*, wherein Sir *George Booth*, Bart., hath a fine old Mannour house called *Stayley* Hall, and other good possessions. But we will bend our course Eastward, coming next to *Godley*, a Township where Mr. *Massie* of *Sale* hath Lands; and beyond it *Hattersley*, another Township, reaching down to the *Merzey*, where stands another Hall of the *Booths*, called *Bottoms* Hall, which hath antiently had a Park.

Along by *Merzey* water lies the stately Lordship of *Mottram*, in *Londendale*, and on the top of the hill, the Town, and the goodly fair Parish Church, and antient Parsonage. The chief lordship belongs, by grant from the Crown, to Sir *Richard Wilbraham*, Bart. Within its precincts lies an inferiour Lordship, and therein an antient seat* and discent of *Hollingworth* of *Hollingworth*, and within it also a branch of two Gentlemen of the same name.

Beyond this lies *Tingetwassel*, which, I have heard, in

Dukinfield of the Civil War, and was made Governor of *Chester* for the Parliament in 1650. His son was afterwards graced with a Barouetcy by King *Charles II.*

* After an alienation of several years, the old Hall has returned to its ancient owners, and is now the seat and property of *Robert de Hollingworth*, Esq.

old time carried the name of a Burrough, and had a Leet within itself. And all this tract goeth yet under the name of *Londen*, at the furthest end of which Westerly, stands *Micklehurst*, and further Northerly, a Chapel for the ease of remote Parishioners from *Mottram* Church. And then *Woodhead*, a place well known to those weary travellers that come over those mountains and craggy ways in *Yorkshire*; and here also we rest in our journey through *Macclesfield* Hundred.

BUCKLOWE HUNDRED.

Not amiss may it seem to begin our view of this Hundred at *Weston*, a Lordship that hath long belonged to the Lords of *Dutton*. And so we next behold the magnificent Fabrick of *Rock Savage*,* which, as you approach neer to it, fills your eye with delight at its beauty. Never since its foundation was it more graced, than when our gracious Souveraign (King James) accepted, with His train, the princely entertainment of Sir *Thomas Savage*;

* This "magnificent fabrick," after a proud existence of nearly 200 years, sank rapidly into decay on its coming, by marriage, into the hands of the Cholmondeley family, It is now a mass of ruins.

His Royal Majesty taking his repast there, and killing a Buck in *Halton* Park. This stately house was built by Sir *John Savage*, whose mansion before was *Clifton*, a seat of great antiquity, the remains whereof stand in the Park, like an aged matron, well contented to go to her grave, having seen in her lifetime her daughter advanced to such honourable dignity.

We behold from hence, upon the hill beyond *Rock Savage*, the Town and Castle of *Halton*.* The Castle is still a goodly piece of building, and was at first fit to be both the dwelling and safe hold of a great Commander. The founder was either *Hugh Lupus*, first *Norman* Earl of *Chester*, or else *Nigellus*, to whom *Lupus* gave this, when he made him Constable of *Chester*. By his posterity, this Castle came afterwards to the House of *Lancaster*, and remains yet a principal member of that great Dutchie. Beyond this stands *Runcorn*,† where now we see nothing but a fair Parish Church, a Parsonage, and a few scattered tenements; there was sometime a religious house of great receipt, the foundation of *Elfreda*, that noble *Mercian* Lady, who here and elsewhere did such wondrous works.

* *Halton* is now held of the Crown by the Marquis of Cholmondely.

† *Runcorn* has since generated into an important and populous Town and port.

And so we step to *Norton*, a goodly and fruitful demean; where *William*, son of *Nigel* above-mentioned, founded the Abbey of *Norton*, and richly endowed the same; which afterwards came to the possession of the *Brookes*, a worthy race of most antient gentlemen, and now belongs to Sir *Richard Brooke*,* Kt., a man of much esteem for many worthy vertues. Whose grandfather, the first owner, after the dissolution of the Abbey, was Sir *Richard Brook*, a valiant Knight of the *Rhodes*, discended from the *Brooks* of *Leighton*, in *Namptwich* Hundred.

Next this lies *Stockham*; † and towards the *Mersey*, we take notice of *Keckwick*, and of that spacious Vale called the *Moor*; then we see *Acton Grange*, some of the pretty dairy plats that belonged to the Abbot. We take with us *Daresbury*, a pretty Parish Church; and by the side of it, a fair house and demean of the *Daniels*, and *Preston on the Hill*; and so pass by *Grimsdich*, a very antient seat of gentlemen of the same name; coming to

* *Henry Brooke*, Esq., the next owner after Sir *Richard*, was an ardent partisan of the Parliament during the Civil War, and was besieged in his house by the Royalists in 1643, but succeeded in gallantly maintaining his position. *Norton*, with its numerous manorial dependancies, is now the seat and property of Sir *Richard Brooke*, Bart.

† *Stockham*, together with the manors of *Keckwick*, *Moor*, and *Acton Grange*, all belong to Sir *Richard Brooke*, Bart.

Stretton, a Chappel standing there in the roadway to *Warrington*; and in that town, the Hall of *Stretton*,* a most antient seat of the *Starkies*.

From hence, towards the *Merzey*, we see *Grappenhall*, a Parish reaching even to the limits of the Shire; where viewing upon our left hand, a proper seat of the *Merburys* of *Walton*, gentlemen of great antiquity, we so come even to *Warrington* bridge end; with which fine Town and Church, my fingers itch to be meddling a little; but it is out of my precincts. We turn us, therefore, to *Theilwall*, a goodly Lordship, having belonged to the Abbey of *Norton*, which hath been, as appeareth from antientest records, a walled Town of no small bigness and account, built by King *Edward*, Father to the Confessor.

Upwards, on our right hand we see then *Bradley*, of the *Greggs*; and next, *High Legh*, which, I should think, gave names to all the renowned races of that name in this County: this much is plain, that two distinct descents of the same name † have their seats in the same

* *Thomas Lyon*, Esq., of *Appleton Hall*, is the present possessor of *Stretton*.

† These two branches of the same family now spell their names differently from each other. *George Cornwall Legh*, Esq., M.P., is the present worthy representative of *High Legh Hall*, while the West Hall has descended from his ancestors to *Eger-ton Leigh*, Esq.

place, and there have continued in a long succession of their ancestors, Knights and Esquires of much worth. Beyond this we take with us *Millington*,* which gives name also to a house of a long and good descent; and *Rostherne*, the Parish Church standing over a spacious and goodly Mere. More Westerley, we again pass *Lymme*, in which precinct we see the Houses of *Domville*, antient Esquires of that place.

And here we go to *Warburton*, from whence that great name of worth took first beginning, and where the most worthy and chief of them, Mr. *Warburton*, of *Arley*, hath now the scite of an antient House, demean and stately Park. Whence, turning a little, we see the beautiful Seat of *Dunham*, whose hap it hath been, as in her first raising to be the Seat of one of the Earl of *Chester's* Barons, so ever since hath had honourable owners, from Sir *Hamon Massey*, the last of those Barons, to the *Fittons* and *Venables*, and so to the *Boothes*, and never more graced than in the now possessour, Sir *George Booth*, Bart. †

* From the *Millingtons*, this estate passed, in 1666, to the *Hayfords'* afterwards to the *Thorolds*, and is now the property of *Wilbraham Egerton*, Esq., of *Tatton Park*.

† His Grandson, Sir *George Booth*, for his long and meritorious services, and persecutions in the cause of the second *Charles*, was created Baron *Delamere* of *Dunham Massey*. His lineal descen-

Next to this is the well known Parish Church and Township of *Bowdon*, conspicuous far off, on a hill, in the road to *Manchester* and *Stockport*; at the foot whereof is *Altrincham*, a fine little Market Town, with a Maior of an antient foundation. Beyond which we see the *Riddings*, a seat antiently of the *Vaudreys*, of long continuance; and on the left, *Partington*, where have been seated also gentlemen of that name; and along by *Merzey* side, *Carrington*, giving name to one of great descent, and yet gentlemen of good accompt, so called; we come by *Ashton*, to *Sale*, the antient seat of the *Massies* of *Sale*.

We now turn, Southward, to *Withenshaw*,* a stately mansion of the *Tattons*, men of great worship and dignity; a race, for a discent or two, much eclipsed by troubles and encumbrances; and the chiefest hope now of raising the house, remains in this grand child, now in minority. Next neighbour is an antient seat of the *Leghs* of *Baguley*; from which we come immediately to a Lordship, and therein a fair antient seat called *Timperley*;

dant, the present Earl of Stamford and Warrington, still resides at Dunham Massey Hall.

* *Withenshaw* was garrisoned for the King, during the Civil War, by Mr. *Tatton*, an ardent Royalist, but capitulated after a long siege on Feb. 25th, 1644. The Hall and estates are now the property of *Thomas W. Tatton*, Esq.

neer which is the chief demean and goodly seat of *William Brereton of Ashley, Esq.*

We come thence to *Mobberley*, whereof the chief parts have belonged to the Earls of *Shrewsbury*, and part also to the *Leyeesters of Toft*. And here is also a fine contrived new house of Brick, the owner whereof is *Mr. Robinson*.

So our next view lyes upon *Tatton*, sometime the demean of the *Breretons of Worsley*, now failing through want of heirs, and invested in the Earl of *Bridgewater*.* Thus we are come to the principal Market Town in this Hundred, *Knutsford*: that part where the Market is kept is called *Nether*, and the other part *Higher Knutsford*, Somewhat remote from thence is the Parochial Chappell; the *Nether Town* has also a Chappell, and a Town House, where the Justices of the County keep their Sessions and other meetings.

Near unto this is scituate that fair Seat called *Booths*, which hath been long possessed by those *Leghs*, called the *Leghs, of Booths*.† Northwest, we will view the

* From the *Bridgewater* branch of the *Egertons*, *Tatton* passed in 1780, to *William Tatton, Esq.*, of *Withenshaw*, whose grandson, *Wilbraham Egerton, Esq.*, is the present owner, his father having assumed the name of *Egerton* in obedience to his uncle's will.

† *Norbury Booths Hall*, rebuilt in 1745, has come, with *Over Knutsford*, into the present possession of *Peter Legh, Esq.*

Town, Antient Hall, and demean of *Mere*,* so called of the great Mere within the same, now possessed by *John Mere*, Esq., of *Mere*; neer which is a place they call *Bucklow Hill*, the name of the Hundred; and we come from thence by the two *Tableys*, one the seat of *Peter Daniel*, Esq., and the other, *Peter Leycester*,† of *Tabley*, Esq. Betwixt those two fair houses and demean, stands the Chappel in the Street, well known in the road that leads into *Yorkshire*.

We here turn a pretty way Southward, to view *Marthall*, a large precinct, and *Ollerton*; and then we come to the *Over* and *Nether Peover*; the first, being a Parochial Chappel, hath neer it that stately house and demean, the continued seat of that great name of the *Mainwarings*, from whence all the great races of that name do desire to derive their original, and now possessed by Sir *Randle Mainwaring*, Knight.

From thence we go Westward again, and take with us the

* In 1652, *Mere* was purchased from the family of that name, by *Thomas Brooke*, Esq., whose descendant, *Thomas J. L. Brooke*, Esq., is the present owner.

† His son *Peter*, afterwards Sir *Peter Leycester*, was imprisoned in 1655, for his services in the Royal cause; but is principally known as one of our most learned antiquaries and County historians—King Charles II. created him a Baronet in 1660; a few years after which he published his “*Historical Antiquities*” and died at *Tabley*, Oct. 11th, 1678.

view of *Toft*, a fair House and demean of an otherhouse of the *Leycesters*, whereof have been a large race of Knights and Esquires. And not farre from this *Plumleigh*, a Lordship antiently belonging to the great house of *Holford*; we go by *Pickmere*, where *Hugh Cocker*, Gentleman, hath a house; and so come to that beautiful house of *Arley*,* that doth, as it well may, shew itself to beholders a farre off, as a place worthy to be regarded; and the famous Seat of the *Warburtons* is now come, by succession of many renowned Knights of great worth and estimation, to *Peter Warburton of Arley*, Esq. The name *Warburton*, though in itself antient, as taking beginning from the Town whereof he is still Lord, yet originally came to this house from the *Duttons*, who also vouched that their name is *Hudard*.

Taking with us a view of *Marston* Township, the scite of a beautiful house and demean of the Baron of *Kinder-ton*, we come to the stately Church of *Budworth*; in which is a fair Chappel built by the *Duttons*, and *Leycesters* of *Tabley*. Passing thence by *Bromslowe*, we go through the Township of *Comberbach*, on the side of the Mere, that at *Marbury* † giveth name to that Seat.

* This "beautiful house of *Arley*," which was built in 1495, was taken down and rebuilt about 1755, and belongs, with *Warburton*, *Great Budworth*, &c., to *Rowland E. E. Warburton*, Esq.

† Now possessed by *James H. Smith Barry*, Esq., who resides at *Marbury Hall*.

Passing hence by *Powsey* Chappel, and *Newborough*, the seat of *George Holford*, Esq., and so through a certain Park belonging also to *Dutton*, we come to *Aston Grange*, a Township of Sir *Richard Brooke's*, and so, by *Weever* side, to *Aston*, the seat of a worshipful race of *Astons*, the Heir now, *Thomas Aston*, Esq.,* who hath to his said house, a fair Park, and a Chappel near the house, of great use; and next adjoining to it is *Sutton* Lordship, and in it an antient Mannour house and demean of Mr. *Warburton* of *Arley*. And thus we go along the *Weever* side, till it brings us to a very stately stone Bridge, called *Frodsham* Bridge, built upon four fair arches, where we finish our view of *Bucklow* Hundred, and passe over this Bridge into

EDDISBURY HUNDRED.

Our view of this Hundred shall begin from *Frodsham* Bridge, whence we go to *Frodsham* Town, a fair continued street with handsome buildings, and at the Westend of it a fair House or Castle, *Frodsham* Castle, a relying seat of pleasure to the honourable owner thereof, Sir *Thomas Savage*.† The Church is fair and pleasantly scitu-

* Afterwards Sir *Thomas Aston*, created a Baronet by *Charles* I., in 1628, from whom the estate has descended to the present owner, Sir *Arthur Ingram Aston*, Bart., of *Aston* Hall.

† *Frodsham* passed from the *Savages* to the noble house of *Ri-*

ated on the Hill over the Town; and over them all, a high trowning Hill, with a Beacon upon it; and between these and *Merzey*, a fair and fruitful Marsh of large extent, all belonging to Sir *Thomas Savage*, and next unto it another Lordship called *Helsby*, on the high road to *Chester*.

Let us here, if you please, take with us a sight of the Parish of *Ince*,* a goodly lordship of the *Cholmleys*; and of *Thornton*, another of Sir *George Booth's*, extending her limits to the Towns on this Side *Hapsford*, where *Edward Greg*, Gent., of the Exchequer Court at *Chester*, hath a fair seat; and *Dunham on the Hill*, where *Robert Whitby*, Alderman of *Chester*, hath a pleasant house, seen far off. And unto this, adde that third of *Elton*, where hath been a long descent of the *Frodshams*.

But let us go on, and being come to the *Beeston* water, we see on our left *Manley*, where is an antient seat of the *Birkenheads*, now *Adam Birkenhead*, Esq.; and of Little and Great *Mouldsworth*, where is the goodly antient seat of *Peele*,† the habitation of the *Hardwares*,

vers, from them to the Earl of *Barrymore*, and is now vested in the Marquis of *Cholmondeley*.

* *Ince* formerly belonged, as recited in a previous portion of this work, to the Abbot and Canons of St. Werburgh, but are now held by the trustees of the late *E. Yates*, Esq.

† King *William III.*, on his passage into Ireland, was enter-

but belonging to Sir *Robert Cholmley*; and so we leave *Ashton* Township behind us; and turning to look upon *Bridge Trafford*, in which a long continued race of that name have a seemly seat, the owner now Mr. *Trafford*,* we see *Barrow*, a lordship and mansion of *John Savage*, Esq. Alderman and Magistrate of the City of *Chester*.

We passe on to *Kelshall*, very high in the skirt of the Forest, a lordship of Sir *John Done's*, Kt.; beneath which taking with us an antient house of the *Trevices*, called *Horton*, we come to the Town and Parish of *Tarvin*, in which, besides the fair Church and Vicaridge, we see an antient ruined seat of the *Bruines*, of long continuance, but this house and demean is come to the heir of a late famous lawyer, *William Brock*, a younger house of the *Brocks* of *Upton*; and a little way from the Town, a large sweet Farm, called *Holmstreet*. The Lordship of *Tarvin* belongs to Sir *Thomas Savage*.

Not half a mile distant we see *Hockenhull*, a comely house, giving name to gentlemen of long continuance, the now owner *John Hockenhull*, Esq.; on one side of which lyes *Hockenhull Plot*, on our great *London* roadway to

tained at *Peele Hall*, by Col. *Roger Whitley*, who was a zealous royalist, and had followed the fortunes of King *Charles II.*, into exile.

* Capt. *Trafford* was killed at the Battle of *Naseby*, and the estate shortly afterwards passed to the *Barnstons* of *Churton*.

Chester. Our River leads us by another fair and fruitful demean and lordship, called *Stapleford*, for an antient continuance the seat of the *Bruines*, the owner now *John Bruine*, Esq.

And now we turn Eastward to *Burton*, wherein is a house belonging to *John Werden*, Gent.; next which lyes *Duddon*, where Mr. *Done* has a seat; and more towards the Forest a house called *Pricehall*; and a little further the Township of *Clotton*, and *Idenshaw*, the mansion of *John Hurlestone*, Esq., and neer unto it *Howfield*.

Towards the River side we come to *Tiverton* Lordship, where is a house and demean of the *Brassies*, which have been a great race of gentlemen. And so we cannot but stay to look up at the stately house and demean of *Beeston*, the name also of that famous and far seen Castle,* built there by the last *Ranulph*, Earl of *Chester*, mounted on the top of a steep Hill of stone, the chief tower whereof, in the summity of it, had a draw well of water of incredible depth. To the which place I wish all good, and to the name of *Beeston*, the demean being now in the pos-

* This ancient fortress, of the ruins of which we here present our readers with an illustration, was several times taken and retaken during the Civil War; on the conclusion of which it was dismantled by the Puritans, and has since sunk into the imposing ruin it now exhibits.





session of an antient Knight, Sir *Hugh Beeston*, without issue male.

We come next to *Spurstow*, a fair house and demain of *George Spurstow*, Esq., one of an antient continued race; *John Aldersey*, Gent., termed also of *Spurstow*, hath a fine antient demean, the birthplace of that most worthy *Aldersey*, Alderman of *London*. Eastward lies *Haughton*, of the *Haughtons*, and another seat of the *Buckleys*; and on the West, *Ridley*, the possession of that honourable discent of the *Egertons*; and upon the North-west lies the lordship of *Peckforton*, sometimes belonging to the great name of the *Corbetts*, but now to Sir *Hugh Beeston*.* And herein is a fine antient seat of the *Calveleys*.

Now we see the Mother Church of all these Townships, *Bunbury*, a fair Church, with, on the South side of the Chancel, Chappel and a burial place of the *Egertons* of *Ridley*. Not far from the Church, we see the ruines of the Colledge, founded there for six priests by that famous *Hugh Calveley*. But now, farther East, is the Lordship of *Wardle*, where hath been a Seat and demean of the antient family of the *Prestlands*,† of long continuance, and the Heirs male now failed.

* On *Peckforton* Hill has lately been erected (1842-51) a magnificent Norman baronial Castle, of great beauty, now the residence of the worthy owner, *John Tollemache*, Esq., M.P., who is also the possessor of *Beeston* Castle, and other Cheshire manors.

† The *Prestlands* of *Wallford*, *Salop*, are descendants of this family.

Neer the West end of this is the *Cleys*, a fair house of the *Davenports*; and upon the North side stands the Township of *Calveley*,* whence that great name had first their denomination. The principal seat therein remains yet, and hath been long the habitation of one race of the *Davenports*, the owner thereof now *Arthur Davenport*, Esq.; and neer unto it another fair house of the *Mainwarings*. More Northward lies *Wettenhall*, with an antient seat of the *Breretons* of *Wettenhall*.

Hence, Westward, is *Alpraham*, where was antiently a Seat of the *Pages*, now wholly extinct. And here the lofty pile, the Hall of *Tilstone Fearnal*, shews itself. Neer unto this, we see the ruines of the House of *Flaxyard*, the antient seat of the *Dones* of *Flaxyard*, afterwards united by marriage with the *Dones* of *Utkinton*, neer hereunto, the owner now Sir *John Done*, Kt., who by his well pleasing service to His Majesty, who took His pleasure and repast in His Forest of *Delamere*, A.D. 1617, of which he was chief forester, ordered so wisely His Highnesse's sports, that He freely honored him with Knighthood, and graced his house of *Utkinton* with His royal presence.

But let us take with us the view of *Tarporley* Church and Town, on the great Roadway to *Chester*, a Lordship

* At *Calveley*, that celebrated warrior, Sir *Hugh Calveley*, Governor of *Calais* in the reign of King *Edward III.*, was born.

of the said Sir *John Done*; from whence we go by *Eaton* and *Rushton*, to *Darley*, a fair seat and demean of the *Starkies*, now *Henry Starkey*, Esq.; near which is the great seat and house of another worthy race, called the *Egertons* of *Oulton*,* whereof have succeeded for some descents Knights of note, and the owner now Sir *Rowland Egerton*, Bart. In the edge of the Forest lies the little Church and Town of *Little Budworth*, in which Parish is a Mere; a Brook from which leads us to *Darnall Grange*, once a famous place, the residence of some of the Earls of *Chester*, of whom the seventh and last, *John Scot*, dyed there. It is now a fine seat, with a sweet house of brick lately erected, and now the possession of *Henry Lec*, Esq., heir to Sir *Richard Lee*, before-mentioned. Along the Park side of *Darnall*, lyes *Swanlow*, and therein many good Farms.

By the water of *Weever*, we soon come to that famous seat of the *Stanleys* of *Weever*,† now the mansion house of *Thomas Stanley* of *Alderley*, Esq. And so we come to *Over Church*, scituate half a mile from the Town itself, which, being the main possession of the Abbot and

* The *Egertons* of *Oulton*, ever held to be one of the first families in *Cheshire*, are now represented by Sir *Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton*, Bart, M.P., of *Oulton*.

† Early in the 12th century *Weever* became, by purchase, the property of the *Wilbrahams* of *Delamere*.

Convent of *Vale Royall*, obtained by their means to be made a Maior Town, which government they hold to this day. Neer unto which is a fine seat, called *Knight's Grange*, and not far from this, a very pleasant house of *Thomas Mainwaring* of *Marton*, Gent. A little further, we passe by *Whitegate*, and so come to that famous *Vale Royall*.

Methinks it probable that *King Edward* the First, who founded here the Abbey, to which place the Abbey of *Darnhall* was translated, gave this name to the goodly tract of grounds, betwixt the Forest and the River *Weever*, by his hunting, or other princely sports; as, on the late occasion of our gracious Sovereign, his making the house here four days his Royal Court, while on his return out of *Scotland*, he solaced himself by his disports in the Forest, he confirmed it indeed to be a Royal Vale. This *Vale Royall* was the seat of the *Holcrofts* for two discents, but of late is come by purchase to the Lady *Mary Cholmley*,* a Lady of great possessions, and who for her

* Her son *Thomas* was the immediate ancestor of the Right Hon. *Thomas Cholmondeley*, the present noble owner of *Vale Royal*, who was raised to the peerage in 1821, by the title of Baron *Delamere*. The original MSS., purporting to be the Prophecies of *Robert Nixon*, the *Cheshire* Prophet, are here deposited. *Nixon* is alleged to have been born at *Bridge-end House*, in the Parish of *Over*, in the reign of *Edward IV.*, or *James I.*

wisdom, virtue and great hospitality, deserveth worthy remembrance.

We see beyond this *Sandyway*, and *Hartford*, and so we look as far as this Hundred reacheth to *Winnington*, where is a bridge over the *Weever*; which going first by *Wallerscote*, an antient seat of the *Littlers*, it hastens to *Weaversham*, a pretty Church Town, with a Court and Prison, the Lordship now of *Thomas Marbury*, Esq.; in which I must not omit one antient seat of the *Warburtons* called *Helperstone Grange*. From hence *Weever* shall part with us at *Acton* bridge; Westward of which is *Acton* Township, where is an antient seat of the *Farrars*, and so we take with us *Crowton*, where Sir *Gilbert Ireland*, Knight, hath a house and demean. Next lyes *Kingsley* Lordship, and therein an antient seat of the *Rutters*, of long continuance; and not far off, a fair brick house of the *Gerards* of *Crownwood* (Crewood).

Passing thence to *Newton*, and *Alvanley*, a pretty Township, we passe by *Norley*, and *Cuddington*, and fall into the spacious Forrest of *Delamere* itself; which Forrest maintaineth a convenient being and preservation for His Majesty's Deer, both Red and Fallow, whereof there is no small store. Upon the highest hill of all, and about the middest of the Forrest, is seen the very delicate house of the chief forester, called the *Chamber in the Forrest*.

I might wade into a long discourse of those two Cities, *Eadsbury* and *Finborow*, which writers, antient and modern, do make report of; which I will leave untouched, because I suppose my long journey in this little Hundred hath well nigh tired my Reader already.

WERALL HUNDRED.

That this was in old time a Forrest, I think cannot be doubted; but when it was disafforested I will not contend, only that it is now one of the most fertile parts in the whole County: We will set in at the Stone Bridge, almost at *Chester*, and follow the water dividing this from *Broxton* Hundred; which will bring us, a little behind *Upton*, to *Chorlton*, and then to the *Lea*, a fair house and demeane, for some discents of the *Glaseours*, Esqrs., of special note; and next unto it lyes *Backford* Town and Church, and hard by it the Seat of our worthy Prothonotary *Henry Birkenhead*,* Esq.; from whence, as we see on the West

* The *Birkenheads* of *Backford* became extinct in the male line in 1724, and are now represented by *E. H. Glegg*, Esq., who has been for some time engaged in rebuilding *Backford* Hall for his future residence. The manor of *Chorlton*, as well as *Backford*, are now the property of Mr. *Glegg*.

of us *Capenhurst* Lordship, belonging to the houses of *Cholmley* and *Poole*,* and in the same, a gentleman's Seat.

By our Brook lyes *Croughton*,† a member of the Lordship of *John Hurlestone*, Esq. ; and from thence we come to *Stoke*, a little Parish adjoining that fair demean and antient seat of the *Bunbury's*, called *Stanney Hall*, the worthy present owner Sir *Henry Bunbury*, Kt.,‡ of special good estimation. We turn us now towards our journey more Westward, passing by *Whitby*, from whence it may seem the *Whitby's* of *Chester* derived their name.

Then holding on our course, we go by *Great Sutton*, a goodly Lordship, and where hath been a famous Seat, called *Sutton Court*, the inheritance now of Sir *Robert Cholmondley* ; and upon our other hand, *Pool*, a fair antient Seat, with a Park, of which the long continued race of the *Pools* have borne that name, and it is very probable have been the ancestors of some very great families of that name in other Counties, the present owner there, *John*

* *Capenhurst* is now the property of the Rev. *Richard Richardson*, whose ancestor purchased it from the *Cholmondeleys* in 1770.

† *Croughton* has been purchased this year (1852) from *J. Hurlestone Leche*, Esq., of *Carden*, by *Robert Ashton*, Esq., of *Hyde*.

‡ His descendant, Sir *E. Bunbury*, Bart., is the present possessor of this estate.

Poole, Esq,* Neer unto which, we see also *Stanlow*, now a Farm of the said Mr. *Pool's*; here was also a Monastery founded by the famous *Lacy*, Constable of *Chester*, about A.D. 1173; but from the unrulynesse of *Merzey* water, they misliked their seat there. and translated themselves to *Whally* in *Lancashire*.

Next come we to *Hooton* † a goodly antient Mannour and fair Park, which ever since the reign of King *Richard* the Second, hath been the seat of the *Stanleys* of *Hooton*, gentlemen of great dignity and worth; where have continued the same *Stanleys* in a direct succession, and was late possessed by Sir *Rowland Stanley*, Kt., who lived there to the age of well neer a hundred years, where his fourth generation, his Son's Son's Son was, at the time of his decease. Neer unto this lyes *Eastham*, the Parish Church and Lordship.

Next beyond it, we leave on our left hand *Brimstage*; and so come to *Poulton*; and the next to that is *Bromborough*, a pretty Town, with a Chappel; and therein

* The *Pooles* afterwards removed into *Sussex*, and became extinct in the direct male line a few years since, by the death of the Rev. Sir *Henry Poole*. The manor now belongs to the *Marquis of Westminster*.

† The "goodly antient mannour of *Hooton*," which for five centuries had been uninterruptedly the seat and possession of the *Stanley* family, passed by purchase in 1849, with *Eastham*, to *R. C. Naylor*, Esq.

Daniel Bavand, Esq., hath a fair house and demeane; next which lyes *Nether* and *Over Bebbington*; the one, a Church Town, with a fine Church and Parsonage; the other, where *John Minshull*, Esq., of *Minshull*, hath great store of fair possessions.

Upon our left, we leave *Stourton* Lordship, and so go by *Prenton*, where one race of the *Hockenhulls* have a fine house and demeane; beyond which lyeth *Landican* Township, the lands of Sir *Richard Wilbraham*, Bart., and from thence we go to *Woodchurch*, a Parish Church, with a neat Parsonage; beneath which, looking towards *Merzey*, lyes a goodly Vale, in which we see *Upton* Lordship, wherein stands the house and demeane of the *Boulds of Bould*, in *Lancashire*, now *Peter Bould*, Esq.; and next unto this, *Oxton*. And then more neer to *Merzey*, is the Township of *Tranmere*; and neer it, a fine seat of that worthy gentleman, *John Minshull*, Esq., of *Minshull*, called *Derby House*.

Thence on our left hand, we see *Claughton*, where Mr. *Thomas Powell* hath fair lands; and then, leaving the Ferry leading over unto *Liverpool*, we step into *Birket Wood* (*Birkenhead*),* where hath been a famous Priory,

* *Birkenhead*, in the days of old *King*, and for 150 years afterwards, merely a little hamlet, has now risen, as if by magic, to be the second town in the County, containing upwards of 20,000 inhabitants. *William Jackson*, Esq., M.P., is one of the principal land owners.

but now a very goodly demean. and which has come, by discent from the *Worsleys*, to a gentleman of much worth, *Thomas Powell*, Esq.,* the heir of that antient seat of *Horsley*, in the County of *Flint*.

Beyond which we have onely *Poulton cum Seacombe*, till we come to the North-western shore, where is scituate the Township of *Kerby* in *Wallasey*, where lye those fair Lands, which for the fitnessse for such a purpose, allure the gentlemen and others oft to appoint great Matches, and venture no small sums, in trying the Swiftnesse of their horses.

And so we come to *Bidston*, a goodly house, demean and park of the Earl of *Derby*, which for the pleasant scituation and the variety of noble delights appendant to it, his lordship seems much to affect the same, and enlargeth the convenience therein for his pleasure and abode many ways.

Following the circuit of the Shire, we come next to *Great Meolse*, which gives name and seat to an antient family of *Meolse*; whence we go by *Morcton*, and *Saug-hall Massie*; and leaving *Overchurch* on our left hand, we passe by *Newton* and *Greasby*; where we hold on nearer the shore, and take with us *West Kirby*. Here, divided from the land, lyes that little barren Island,

* This gentleman was created a Baronet in 1629, but the title became extinct in the early part of the 18th century.

called *Hilbree*, in which it is said there was sometime a Cell of Monks.

From whence, we come next to the *Grange*, which I would rather think to be the seat where those Monks eat their Beef and their Brewis, and which is now possessed by *William Glegge*, Esq. ;* upon the East side of this lyes *Frankby*, and so we come to the Townships of *Great* and *Little Caldey*. Neer unto which lyes the Station or Landing place, called the *Red Bank* ; and neer unto this lyes *Irby*, wherein the *Balls* have a good seat. And we come thence to *Thurstaston*, the antient seat of the *Whitmores*, of which race have been many Maiors of the City of *Chester*. On the East side lyes *Barnston* ; and upon the shore side, we come next to *Oldfield*, where is the narrowest place of the Hundred.

Our next remove is to *Heswall*, a Town with a Parish Church and Parsonage, extending to *Thornton Mayo*, and *Raby*. But neer the sea side, we come to *Gayton*, the seat of that antient race of the *Gleggs* of *Gayton* ; †

* The *Gleggs* continued in possession until the death of *William Glegg*, Esq., in 1785 : shortly after which it was purchased by *John Leigh*, Esq., of *Liverpool*, whose son, *John Shaw Leigh*, Esq., is the present proprietor.

† *J. B. Glegg*, Esq., of *Thurstaston*, is the present lord of *Gayton*, King *William III.*, on his passage to *Ireland*, lodged at *Gayton Hall*, then the residence of *William Glegg*, Esq., who was thereupon honoured with Knighthood.

and next lyes *Leighton*, wherein is a very antient house and demean of the *Whitmores*, of a very great descent, and next neighbour is the well known Town and Parish Church of *Great Neston*, where our passengers into *Ireland* so often lye waiting the leisure of the winds; and here is the station of the ships, called, the *New Key*, where they imbark and disimbark, on the back of this *Neston*. To the East lyes a Township, in a large Tract of heath and common, called *Childer Thornton*.

Keeping still our shore, we have *Nesse*, and next to that, more landwards, *Willaston*. And then we have *Burton*,* a pretty Town, and a landing place, called *Burton Head*; and next to this, we come to that lofty seat of *Puddington*, overlooking the sea, and the mouth of the *Dee*, wherein have continued the race of the *Massies*, derived, with many branches, from that *Hamon Massey*, one of the Earls' Barons, the owner now, Sir *William Massey*, Kt. A great spacious Common, vulgarly called *Motherlesse Heath*, lyes a great way further Eastward; at one side whereof we see *Ledsham*; and so come to *Shotwick*, and neer unto it an antient house of the *Hockenhulls*; and so we come to *Shotwick Park*, where yet remain the ruines of a fair Castle, on the brink of the *Dee*, in the holding, under the King,

* In this Township, Dr. *Wilson*, Bishop of *Sodor* and *Man*, in 1742, was born. *Richard Congreve*, Esq., is the present owner, his father having purchased the manor from the *Massies* in 1715.

of Sir *Richard Wibraham*, often before mentioned ; from whence we come to *Great and Little Saughall* Township; and along by these lyes a place called antiently *Kingswood*.

And next to this, lyes a goodly antient seat upon the browe of *Dee* Banks, called *Blacon* Hall, and Lordship,* the lands of Sir *William Norris*, K.C.B., whose chief residence is in *Lancashire* ; and then adjoineth *Crabhall*, the demean and most delicate fine house of *William Gammull*, a prime Alderman of the City of *Chester*. Round about it we have nothing left, but on our right hand the two *Mollingtons*, a fair Lordship, whereof much of the lands have belonged to the *Mordaunts*, of *Ocley* in *Bedfordshire*, but now to several purchasers in those parts. And thus we arrive at the tip of the toe in our description, being come home presently to our famous City again.

* The manorial rights of *Blacon* are enjoyed by Lord *Crewe*. *Crabwall* and *Blacon* Halls are now both occupied as farm houses.

THE EARLS OF CHESTER.

MANY Authors have written of some noble persons, to whom they have given the Title of the Earls of *Chester*, before the coming of *William* the *Norman*, called the Conqueror; but our late and more judicious writers give little credit to such reports. We therefore here fitly fall upon the rehearsal of those noble Earls of *Chester*, of whom no man need doubt either their persons or their successions, which began with the gift of *William* the Conqueror to his Sister's Son. This was *Hugh*, named *Lupus*, or as the *Normans* sound it, *Loup*; whether so



called, because he bare the Wolf's head in his coat armour, or because his name was so, we cannot determine.

The first Earl then, after the Conquest, was *Hugh Lupus*, Sister's Son, and so Nephew to King *William* the Conqueror. This young Nobleman came into *England* with his Uncle *William*, and was so high in grace and favour with the said Conqueror, that it pleased him to create this his kinsman, Earl Palatine of *Chester*, and Sword bearer of *England*; granting unto him and that Province, most ample privileges, even as large and great as could reasonably be required.

This Earl was of most excellent parts for Rule and Government, both in war and peace; he erected many Barons, whom he placed in several parts of his jurisdiction, giving unto them great possessions, and special privileges; which Barons were of near employment about him in matters of Councils, and attendance for all services.

This *Hugh Lupus* lived in great honour and renown all the days of *William* the Conqueror, his uncle, and of *William Rufus*, his second Son, and some years of *Henry* I., the third son; for he dyed not till the year 1102. He performed great services for the Conqueror all the time of his reign, being employed both at home and abroad; and in *Rufus'* time, he was sent to subdue *Anglesea*, and to suppress the high and haughty stomachs of the *Welshmen*, which he did with great valour. He altered part of the foundation of St. *Werbung's* Church in *Chester*, about 1093, and turned the same into an Ab-

bey. He governed the Earldome of *Chester* 40 years, and dyed about Anno 1107, the 8th year of King *Henry I.*, on the 27th July, the 9th year after the foundation of the Abbey of *Chester*.



The Second Earl was *Richard*, Son and Heir of the said *Hugh*, at his Father's death, an infant seven years of age, and married to *Matilda*, Daughter to *Stephen*, Earl of *Blois*, and Niece to King *Henry I.*; by reason whereof, the King took into his tuition and custody the young Earl; from whence, they say, this of a Custome grew to be a Law, that young heirs in their nonage, became pupils, or wards unto the King. The King sent him, with his own children into *Normandy*, to be educated; but, growing towards man's estate, it fell out so, that King *Henry* having had successe in his Wars in *France*, came home to *England* to solace himself; and

for the furtherance of his joy, sent into *Normandy* for his children *William* and *Robert*, and *Mary* their Sister, together with this noble young Earl *Richard*, and *Matilda* his Wife, and *Ottewel* his Brother, who with the Archdeacon of *Hereford*, and attendants, took ship at *Harflew*; where it pleased God, little heed being taken in the carriages of the Marriners and Saylor, they fell into such disorder, that putting out to sea, they split the ship upon a rock, and so cast away all this princely company; not one of them escaping, excepting one butcher, that catching hold upon a broken mast, swam unto the land. Thus, Anno 1120, perished this hopeful young Earl *Richard*, and his Brother *Ottewel*, leaving his Brother *Robert*, made Abbot of *Edmonbury*, and so incapable of this princely Earldom; the same was therefore transferred to the sonne of *Margaret* his Aunt, the sister of *William Lupus*, having married *John Bohune*; and thus the Earldom fell to the Cousin German of this *Richard*, who also, in his very infancie, escaped a great perill; for, before going into *Normandy*, they led him a pilgrimage to *Winifred's* Well in *Wales*, where he was beset by a rebellious rout of *Welshmen*; but by a valiant rescue of *William*, then Constable of *Chester*, he was recovered out of their holds, and brought back safe again to *Chester*, and lived Earl of *Chester*, from the 8th of *Henry I.*, to A.D. 1120, about 14 years, and was in that year drowned, as aforesaid.

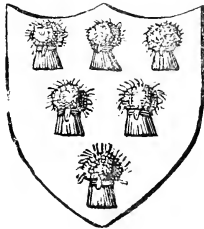


The Third Earl was then *Ranulph*, some of *John Bohune*, a nobleman of *Normandy*, to whom the Conqueror had given the Town of *Carlisle*, and made him Earl of *Cumberland*. This *Ranulph*, surnamed *Meschines*, inclined rather to peace and civill government, than to warlike affairs, and great enterprises; and I read of few great occurrences within the time of his government, which also was not of any long continuance. He married *Matilda*, or *Maud*, daughter to *Aubrey Vere*, Earl of *Oxford*, and great Chamberlain of *England*, by whom he had issue *Ranulph*, surnamed *Germoyse* (Gernons) from the place of his birth, who succeeded him in the Earldom. And for his second Wife, he married *Lucia*, sister to *Edwin*, Earl of *March*, and had by her *William* Earl of *Lincoln*, who dyed without issue. He began to govern A.D. 1120, continued Earl about 10 years, and dyed, A.D. 1130.



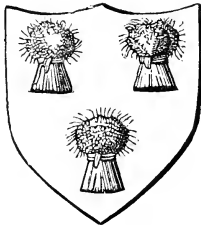
The Fourth Earl, *Ranulph*, son of the former *Ranulph*, was the great Commander in that War, wherein he with *Robert* Earl of *Gloucester*, did with noble prowess defend the cause of *Matilda* the Empress against King *Stephen* the Usurper, fighting with his army against the King at the Siege of *Lincoln*, A.D. 1146, when he gave the King, and the Earl of *Flanders*, and others, a notable overthrow, and brought the King a Prisoner, and the Castle of *Lincoln*, to the Empress. But after the King was delivered in exchange for *Robert*, Earl of *Gloucester* (taken by the King's party) this Earl *Ranulph* coming peaceably to the King, under pretence of a Parliament to be held at *Northampton*, was put in prison, and constrained to deliver up the Castle of *Lincoln*, and other strong holds, which he had kept for the use of the Empress, and *Henry* her son. And about this time the *Welshmen*, in his absence, made horrible destruction in

the Earldom of *Chester*, yet at length were vanquished in a battel near *Wich Malbanc* (Nantwich). The Earl still defended the cause of the Empresse and her son, resolving upon that purpose of his heart, never to serve other King than Duke *Henry*, saying often, "The Earl of *Chester* thinks scorn to serve the Earl of *Blois*," from which resolution he could never be moved. He married *Alicia*, daughter of *Robert*, Earl of *Gloucester*, by whom he had issue *Hugh Kevelioc*, that succeeded him, and *Beatrix*, married to *Ralph*, Baron of *Malpas*, and dyed, or according to *Hollinshed*, was, through *Peverell*, Earl of *Nottingham*, poisoned, in the 17th year of King *Stephen*, A.D. 1152, when he had been Earl 22 years.



The Fifth Earl was *Hugh*, surnamed *Bohun*, son of the last named *Ranulph*. When *Henry*, the young Prince, took up arms against his Father, *Henry II*, and in *Nor-*

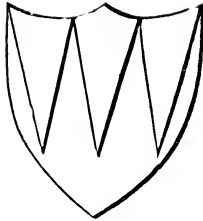
mandy and *Brittain*, animated by the young *Louis* King of *France*, and *William*, King of *Scots*, he allured unto him this Earl *Hugh*, and other English nobles, who were in the end overcome by King *Henry*, led captives into *Normandy*, and kept prisoners in *Falois*: but after a year's imprisonment, the Father and Son were reconciled, and the King of *Scots* and this Earl of *Chester* were put to their ransome, which the said *Hugh* paid, and got him home, A.D. 1174, being taught by his folly to be more wise afterwards, and lived peaceably the rest of his dayes. He married *Beatrice*, daughter of *Richard Lancy*, Chief Justice of *England*, and by her had one son *Randulph*, and four daughters. He continued Earl until A.D. 1180, about 28 years, und then deceased, his burial place being the Town of *Leek*, in *Staffordshire*.



The Sixth Earl, and most famous of all before him,

was *Ranulph* the good, surnamed *Blonderville*, or *Album Monasterum*, of that place in *Powis*, where he was born (which some say is *Oswestry*.) In his youth he waged many battles with *Llewellyn* Prince of Wales, against whose forces he once hazarded himself so venturously, that he was in danger, and glad to retire into the Castle of *Ruthland* (*Rhuddlan*), where *Llewellyn* besieged him. Then it was that *Roger Lacey*, Constable of *Chester*, hearing of his perill, called his friends hastily together, and amongst them *Ranulph Dutton*, his son in law, a brave youthful gentleman; who gathered together a great company of Musicians and others in, and about *Chester*, and gave onset upon the Earl's enemies, raising the seige, and delivering the Earl out of that great distresse; the reward of which was, to have the command of such people and their profession; which right hath continued in the heirs of *Dutton* unto this day. When King *Richard I.*, was warring in *Asia* against the Infidels, his Brother *John* was at home, seeking means to deprive his Brother *Richard* of his Crown and Kingdom; but this valiant Earl loyally withstood Earl *John*, and with others maintained war against him, winning from him the Castle of *Nottingham*, and other strong holds. King *Richard* deceasing afterwards without issue, *John* became now the lawful Sovereign, and the Earl then, with magnanimous valour, took part with the King against his seditious subjects,

and their ally, *Louis* the *French* King. And when the said King *John* departed this life, leaving his son *Henry*, a child ten years old, to be King; yet did not this noble Earl *Ranulph* shew less loyalty to his Sovereign; and being assisted by the brave Earl of *Pembroke*, and others, encountered the said *Louis* in the memorable Battle of *Lincoln*, where he slew and put to flight the *French* and *English* Rebels, and sent *Louis* packing out of this land. This worthy Earl, then created Earl of *Lincoln*, was down by his heroicall disposition to the Wars in *Egypt* and *Syria*, against the *Saracens* and Infidels, which he also managed with the like successe; and after his many victories returned home to his Earldom of *Chester*; and when the affairs of war gave him leisure, he founded the *Gray Friars* in *Coventry*; the Abbey of *Delacross* neer *Leek*, in *Staffordshire*; the Castle of *Beeston*, in *Cheshire*; and of *Chartley*, *Staffordshire*. He left no mean glory behind him, in the excellent parts of wisdom that was in him, having compiled a Book of the Laws of the Realm, with good judgement. He held five Earldoms together, viz. : *Chester*, *Lincoln*, *Huntingdon*, *Brittain* and *Richmond*; he was Earl of *Chester* about 51 years, and dyed without issue, in A.D. 1532, at *Wallingford* in *Berkshire*, but lyes buried in the Chapter House of *Chester*.



The Seventh Earl was *John*, (surnamed *Scot*, being a *Scot* born) who inherited in right of his Mother, eldest daughter of Earl *Hugh*. This said Earl *John* had a great revenue, the possession of his said Grandfather; and for a time did worthily maintain war against *Llewellyn*, the Prince of *Wales*; yet, at length grew into peace with him, which fell out his utter overthrow; for, having married *Jane*, *Llewellyn's* daughter, she instead of cherishing and comforting him, did devilishly plot his destruction, and by poyson brought his life to an end, at *Darnhall*, from whence his body was brought to *Chester*, and interred in the Chapter House, by the grave of his Uncle *Ranulph*, leaving, after him, no issue to inherit. *John Scot*, the last of the Earls of *Chester*, governed, as Earl, about five years, and dyed at *Darnhall*, A.D. 1237. The Earldom then reverted to the Crown.

LIST OF HUGH LUPUS' BARONS.

1. *Nigel*, Baron of *Halton*.
2. *Robert*, Baron of *Montalt*.
3. *William*, Baron of *Wich Malbane* (Nantwich).
4. *Richard Vernon*, Baron of *Shipbrook*.
5. *Robert Fitzhugh*, Baron of *Malpas*.
6. *Hamon de Massey*, Baron of *Dunham Massey*.
7. *Gilbert Venables*, Baron of *Kinderton*.
8. *Nicholas*, Baron of *Stockport*.



ROYAL EARLS OF CHESTER.

1. King *Henry III*, on the decease of *John Scot*, without male issue, bestowed the Princedom of *Wales*, and Earldom of *Chester*, (in 1254), upon Prince *Edward* his Son, afterwards *Edward I*; after which it fell out that the King's Eldest Son was still created Earl of *Chester*,

and Prince of *Wales*; the said King, to maintain still the honour of the County Palatine, continued their antient rights, and Palatine Jurisdictions and Privileges.

2. Prince *Edward* being afterwards King, his son *Edward*, (surnamed *Carnarvon*, from the place of his birth) was by his said Father created Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*, in 1303, and became afterwards King *Edward II.*

3. King *Edward II.*, gave the Earldom of *Chester* to *Edward* of *Windsor*, his Son, then scarce 10 years old; whom he summoned unto the Parliament, in 1322, by the titles of Earl of *Chester* and of *Flint*.

4. King *Edward III* created his Son, *Edward* of *Woodstock* (called the Black Prince) Earl of *Chester* in 1333, which worthy Prince dyed during his Father's life time, leaving a Son.

5. *Richard*, born at *Bordeaux*, created by his Grandfather Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*, Nov. 20, 1376, he being then about 11 years old. On the said *Richard* becoming King, he also styled himself Prince of *Chester*, but this title did not long endure.

6. King *Henry IV.*, created his eldest Son, *Henry* of *Monmouth*, Earl of *Chester*, &c., Oct. 15th, 1399. King *Henry V.*, left his Son, an Infant about half a year old, King, so that there was no creation to him of this Earldom. In the 13th year of his Reign, he created

7. *Edward*, his Son Earl of *Chester*, on March 15th, 1452 ; which Prince, in the civil war between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, together with his Father, left their honours and lives to *Edward IV.*, who obtained the victory.

8. King *Edward IV.*, created *Edward* of *Westminster*, his Son, Earl of *Chester*, in 1471, who by the treacherous Usurpation of *Richard*, Duke of *Gloucester*, was deprived of Crown, Realm, Life and all.

9. The Usurper *Richard* being now King, he made his Son *Edward* Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester* ; but by the revenging hand of God, *Henry VII.*, by a happy War, brought a blessed Peace to this then miserable and distracted kingdom.

10. He created *Arthur* his eldest Son, Earl of *Chester*, Nov. 30th, 1489.

11. This Prince deceasing in his Father's lifetime, King *Henry's* onely remaining Son, *Henry*, became Earl of *Chester*, Feb. 18th, 1502, and was afterwards King, by the name of King *Henry VIII.*

12. There was after this no special creation of Earl of *Chester* until His present Majesty (*James Ist*) in 1610, created *Henry*, his eldest Son, Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*, which most hopeful young Prince, upon the 9th of Nov. 1612, it pleased God to take to an immortal crown of glory in Heaven,

13. The next in succession at his decease was that illustrious *Charles*, His Majesty's second Son, created, in 1612, Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*; for whose health, happiness, and long continuance in the possession of all his just Titles and privileges, never had a people more cause to pray unto God than we have. [Our Author closes his list of the Royal Earls of *Chester* with Prince *Charles*, afterwards the unfortunate monarch King *Charles I.* In grateful remembrance however of the Royal favour and patronage bestowed upon the present edition, the List has been continued down to our own time.]

14. *Charles II.*, born May 29, 1630, though *declared*, was never actually *created* Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*. He died Feb. 6th, 1685.

15. *George II.*, born October 30, 1683, created Earl of *Chester* on his father's accession to the Throne in Sep. 1714, and died Oct. 25th, 1752.

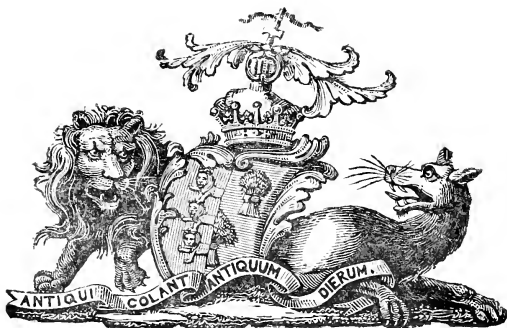
16. *Frederick Lewis*, son of *George II.*, born Jan. 20th, 1707, created Earl of *Chester* in December, 1728, and died, in the lifetime of his Father, on March 20th, 1751.

17. *George III.*, Eldest Son of Prince *Frederick* and Grandson of *George II.*, born May 24th, 1738, created Prince of *Wales*, and Earl of *Chester*, April 20th, 1751, and died Jan. 29, 1820.

18. *George IV.*, Son of the last named, and Uncle of

Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, born August 12th, 1762, and created Prince of *Wales* and Earl of *Chester*, August 17, in the same year. He died June 26th, 1830.

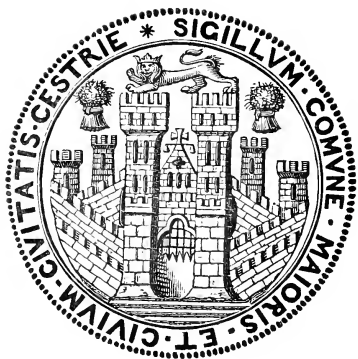
19. *Albert Edward*, Eldest Son of Her present Majesty, born November 9th, 1841, and created Prince of *Wales*, Duke of *Cornwall*, Earl of *Chester*, &c., December 9th, 1851, whom may Almighty God long preserve to this Kingdom and Nation.



LIST OF THE MAIORS OF CHESTER.

THE first certainty of a Maior's government in the City, by the name of Maior, is the 25th Henry 3rd, A.D. 1242.

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1242	} Sir Walter Lynnet.	1279	Randle de Daresbury.
to		1280	The same.
1248		1281	Robert le Mercier.
1249	} Richard Clarke.	1282	The same.
to		1283	Alexander Hurell.
1256	1284	Robert le Mercer.	
1259	The same.	1285	The same.
1265	The same.	1286	Robert de Tarvin.
1268	} Sir John Arnway.		
to			
1278			



SEAL OF THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1287	} The same.		William Doncaster
1288			succeeded him.
1289	Hugh de Meoles.	1318	William Doncaster.
1290	Robert de Tarvin.	1319	William, son of Peter Brickhill.
1291	Robert Mercer.	1320	John Brickhill.
1292	The same.	1321	The same.
1293	Hugh de Brickhill.	1322	William Clark.
1294	Robert Mercenai (or Mercer)	1323	William Brickhill.
1296	Hugh de Brickhill.	1324	Richard Russell.
1297	The same.	1325	Richard le Bruin.
1298	} Alexander Hurell.	1326	The same.
to		1327	Richard Gerves.
1300		1328	The same.
1301	Hugh de Brickhill.	1329	William Brickhill.
1302	Alexander Hurell.	1330	The same.
1303	Hugh de Brickhill.	1331	Roger le Blond.
1304	The same.	1332	The same.
1305	Richard Le Genour.	1333	Richard de Wheatley.
1306	} Hugh de Brickhill.	1334	Roger le Blond.
to		1335	Hugh, son of John le Blond.
1309		1336	Roger le Blond.
1310	Benedict Stanton.	1337	} John Blond.
1311	Hugh de Brickhill.	to	
1312	The same.	1339	
1313	Benedict Stanton.	1340	Roger de Ledsham.
1314	John Blond.	1341	Richard Capenhurst.
1315	The same.	1342	The same.
1316	William Doncaster.	1343	John Blond.
1317	John Blond, who dying		

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1344	Richard Capenhurst.	1376	The same.
1345	The same.	1377	Thomas Bradford.
1346	Henry Terrand.	1378	The same.
1347	John Blond.	1379	John le Chamberlain.
1348	The same.	1380	} David de Ewlowe.
1349	Burtram Northern, who being slain by Rich- ard Dutton, Richard Bruin suc- ceeded.	1383	
1350	} John Blond.	1384	John le Chamberlain.
to		1385	The same.
1352		1386	} John Armerer.
1353	Richard Le Bruin.	to	
1355	} John Blond.	1388	
to		1389	Robert de Marshall.
1358		1390	John Armerer.
1359	} Alan de Wheatley.	1391	Gilbert Trussell.
to		1392	The same.
1362		1393	John Armerer.
1363	Roger Ledsham.	1394	The same.
1364	The same.	1395	} John Capenhurst.
1365	John Dalby.	to	
1366	The same.	1399	
1367	Richard Le Bruin.	1400	John Bebbington.
1368	The same.	1401	The same, who dying, John Marshall suc- ceeded.
1369	} John Whitmore, Jun.	1402	Roger Potter.
to		1403	Ralph Hatton.
1372		1404	John Preston.
1373	Alexander Belleter.	1405	} John Ewlowe.
1374	Richard Bruin, Jun.	to	
1375	Richard Dounfould.	1409	
		1410	Roger Potter.

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1411	John Walsh.	1443	} Nicholas Daniel.
1412	} John Whitmore.	to	
1414			1445
1415	John Walsh.	1446	Edward Skinner
1416	William de Hawarden	1447	The same, who dying, William Rogerson suc- ceeded.
1417	John Overton.	1448	William Rogerson.
1418	William Hawarden.	1449	William Massy.
1419	} John Hope.	1450	William Whitmore.
to			1451
1421		1452	William Skinner.
1422	John Walsh.	1453	Nicholas Daniel.
1423	John Hatton.	1454	The same.
1424	} John Hope.	1455	Jenkin Cottingham.
to			1456
1427		1457	Nicholas Daniel.
1428	John de Bradeley.	1458	The same.
1429	John Walsh.	1459	John Southworth.
1430	Robert Hope.	1460	The same.
1431	Richard Massie.	1461	David Ferrer.
1432	The same.	1462	Robert Brine.
1433	Thomas Wotton.	1463	Robert Rogerson.
1434	Adam Wotton.	1464	Roger Ledsham.
1435	John Walsh.	1465	Richard Rainford.
1436	William Stamner.	1466	William Lilly.
1437	Richard Massie.	1467	John Southworth.
1438	Richard Weston.	1468	John Dedwood.
1439	Nicholas Daniel.	1469	Thomas Kent.
1440	John Pilkinton.	1470	Thomas Cottingham.
1441	Hugh Maddock.		
1442	John Flint.		

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1471	Robert Rogerson.	1501	Ralph Davenport.
1472	John Spencer.	1502	Richard Wright.
1473	John Whitmore.	1503	Richard Goodman.
1474	John Southworth.	1504	Thomas Smith.
1475	Hugh Massey.	1505	Thomas Thornton.
1476	John Southworth.	1506	Thomas Barrow.
1477	The same.	1507	Richard Wirrall.
1478	Robert Notterville.	1508	Richard Wright.
1479	William Sneyd.	1509	Thomas Hawarden.
1480	John Southworth.	1510	William Rogerson.
1481	Roger Hurlestone.	1511	Thomas Smith.
1482	The same.	1512	Pierce Dutton.
1483	John Dedwood.	1513	Sir Pierce Dutton.
1484	Sir John Savage.	1514	The same, deposed John Rathbone suc- ceeded.
1485	The same.	1515	Sir Thomas Smith.
1486	Henry Port.	1516	William Sneyd.
1487	Hugh Hurleston.	1517	William Davison.
1488	George Bulkely.	1518	Thomas Barrow.
1489	Ralph Davenport.	1519	John Rathbone.
1490	John Barrow.	1520	Thomas Smith.
1491	Randal Sparrow.	1521	The same.
1492	Roger Hurleston.	1522	William Davison.
1493	Ralph Davenport.	1523	David Mtddleton.
1494	George Bulkely.	1524	Robert Goulbourn.
1495	Richard Wirrall.	1525	Robert Aldersey.
1496	Thomas Barrow.	1526	Robert Barrow.
1497	Thomas Farrar.	1527	Thomas Smith.
1498	Richard Goodman.	1528	Hugh Aldersey.
499	John Cliffe.		
1500	Thomas Farrar.		

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1529	Henry Bredford.	1554	Foulk Dutton.
1530	Thomas Smith.	1555	John Smith.
1531	William Sneyd.	1556	John Webster.
1532	William Goodman.	1557	William Bird.
1533	Henry Gee.	1558	Laurence Smith.
1534	Ralph Rogerson.	1559	Henry Hardware.
1535	Sir Thomas Smith.	1560	William Aldersey.
1536	William Goodman.	1561	John Cowper.
1537	Foulk Dutton.	1562	Randle Bamvile. 7
1538	David Middleton.	1563	Sir Lawrence Smith.
1539	Henry Gee.	1564	Richard Pool.
1540	Lawrence Smith.	1565	Thomas Green.
1541	Hngh Aldersey.	1566	William Sneyd.
1542	William Beswick.	1567	Richard Dutton.
1543	William Sneyd.	1568	William Ball.
1544	Robert Barton.	1569	Sir John Savage.
1545	William Holerof.	1570	Sir Lawrence Smith.
1546	Hugh Aldersey, who dying, John Smith succeeded.	1571	John Hankey.
1547	Ralph Goodman.	1572	Roger Lea.
1548	Foulk Dutton.	1573	Richard Dutton.
1549	Thomas Aldersey.	1574	Sir John Savage.
1550	Edmund Gee, who dying, William Goodman succeeded.	1575	Henry Hardware.
1551	William Glaseour.	1576	John Harvey.
1552	Thomas Smith.	1577	Thomas Bellin.
1553	John Offley.	1578	William Jewett.
		1579	William Goodman, who dying, R Hugh Rogerson suc- ceede 1.
		1580	William Bird.

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1581	Richard Bavand.	1602	Hugh Glaseour.
1582	William Stiles.	1603	John Aldersey.
1583	Robert Brerewood.	1604	Edward Dutton.
1584	Valentine Broughton.	1605	John Littler.
1585	Edmund Gamull.	1606	Philip Phillips.
1586	William Wall.	1607	Sir John Savage.
1587	Robert Brerewood.	1608	William Gamull.
1588	Robert Brock, who dying, William Hamnet suc- ceeded.	1609	William Leycester.
1589	William Cotgreve.	1610	Thomas Harvey.
1590	William Massy.	1611	John Ratcliffe.
1591	Thomas Lineall.	1612	Robert Whitby.
1592	John Fitton.	1613	William Aldersey, Jun.
1593	David Lloyd.	1614	William Aldersey, Sen
1594	Foulk Aldersey.	1615	Thomas Throp.
1595	William Aldersey.	1616	Edward Button.
1596	Thomas Smith.	1617	Charles Fitton.
1597	“ Sir John Savage, who dying, Thomas Fletcher suc- ceeded.	1618	Sir Randal Mainwar- ing.
1598	Richard Rathbone. ;	1619	Hugh Williamson.
1599	Henry Hardware.	1620	William Gamull.
1600	Robert Brerewood, who dying, Richard Bavand suc- ceeded.	1621	Robert Whitehead.
1601	John Ratcliffe.	1622	Sir Thomas Smith.
		1623	John Brereton.
		1624	Peter Drinkwater.
		1625	Sir Randal Mainwar- ing.
		1626	Nicholas Ince.
		1627	Richard Dutton. ;
		1628	John Ratcliffe.
		1629	Christopher Blease.

ANNO.	MAIORS.	ANNO.	MAIORS.
1630	Charles Walley.	1643	Randle Holme.
1631	William Allen, who dying, Thomas Bird suc- ceeded.	1644	Charles Walley.
1632	William Spark.	1645	The same.
1633	Randle Holme.	1646	William Edwards.
1634	Francis Gamul.	1647	Robert Wright.
1635	Thomas Knowles.	1648	Richard Bradshaw.
1636	William Edwards.	1649	William Crompton.
1637	Thomas Throp.	1650	Richard Leicester.
1638	Robert Sproston.	1651	Owen Hughes, who dying, John Johnson suc- ceeded.
1639	Robert Harvey.	1652	William Bennett.
1640	Thomas Cooper.	1653	Edward Bradshaw.
1641	Thomas Cooper.	1654	Richard Bird.
1642	William Ince.	1655	William Wright.

SHERIFFS OF CHESHIRE.

TEMP.	SHERIFFS OF CHESHIRE.
30th, H. II.	Gilbert Pipard.
35th, do.	Richard de Pierpont.
John.	Lidulphus (de Twemlow).
do.	Richard de Burham.
15th, H. III.	Richard de Sonbach.
23rd, do.	Richard de Wrenbury (or Wybunbury).
52nd, do.	Jordan de Peulesdon.
56th, do.	Hugh de Hatton.
4th, E. I.	Patrick de Heselwall.
9th, do.	William de Spurstow.
15th, do.	Richard de Wilbraham.
26th, do.	William de Praers.
33rd, do.	Robert de Bressey.
2nd, E. II.	Philip de Egerton.
5th, do.	David de Egerton.
13th, do.	William de Mobberley.
16th, do.	Richard Foulshurst.
1st, E. III.	John de Wrenbury.
10th, do.	Adam de Parker.
19th, do.	Richard de Oulston.
22nd, do.	Sir James Audley.
24th, do.	Thomas Danyers (Dainell).
33rd, do.	Thomas le Young.

TEMP.	SHERIFFS OF CHESHIRE.
41st, E. III.	John Scolehall.
44th, do.	Sir Lawrence Dutton.
1st, R. II.	Hugh Venables (of Kinderton).
8th, do.	Thomas del Wood.
9th, do.	Hugh, Earl of Stafford.
11th, do.	Sir John Massey (of Tatton).
12th, do.	Sir Robert Grosvenor (of Hulme).
17th, do.	Sir Robert Leigh (of Adlington).
1st, H. IV.	John Massey (of Puddington).
3rd, do.	Henry de Raveuscroft.
10th, do.	Sir William Brereton, of Brereton.
3rd, H. V.	Thos. (or John) Legh (of Booths).
10th, do.	Hugh Dutton (of Hatton).
5th, H. VI.	Richard Warburton.
8th, do.	Sir Ranulph Breton.
16th, do.	John Troutbeck.
17th, do.	Sir Robert Booth (of Dunham Massy).
22nd, do.	Sir Robert Booth (his son).
2nd, E. IV.	William Stanley (Sen., of Hooton).
10th, H. VII.	John Warburton (of Arley).
21st, do.	Ralph Birkenhead (under-Sheriff).
16th, H. VIII.	Sir George Holford (of Holford).
17th, do.	Sir William Stanley (of Hooton).
18th, do.	William Venables (of Kinderton).
21st, do.	John Dore (of Utkinton).
23rd, do.	Edward Fitton (of Gawsworth).
33rd, do.	John Holford (of Holford).
1st, Mary.	Sir William Brereton (of Brereton).
2nd, do.	Sir Peter Legh (of Lyme).
3rd, do.	Sir Hugh Cholmley (of Cholmley).

TEMP.	SHERIFFS OF CHESHIRE.
4th, Mary.	Richard Wilbraham (of Woodhey). ¹
5th, do.	Sir Thomas Venables (of Kinderton).
6th, do.	Sir Philip Egerton (of Egerton).
1st, Eliz.	William Cholmley (of Cholmley).
2nd, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
3rd, do.	Sir Ralph Egerton (of Wrinehill).
4th, do.	Sir John Warburton (of Arley).
5th, do.	Richard Brooke (of Norton).
6th, do.	William Massey.
7th, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
8th, do.	Sir Hugh Cholmley (of Cholmley).
9th, do.	Lawrence Smith (of Hatherton).
10th, do.	Ralph Done (of Flaxyards).
11th, do.	George Calveley (of Lea).
12th, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
13th, do.	Sir William Booth (of Dunham Massy.)
14th, do.	Thomas Stanley (of Alderley).
15th, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
16th, do.	The same.
17th, do.	Henry Mainwaring (of Carineham).
18th, do.	Sir Rowland Stanley (of Hooton).
19th, do.	John Warren (of Poynton).
20th, do.	Thomas Brooke (of Norton).
21st, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
22nd, do.	Sir Ralph Egerton (of Wrinehill).
23rd, do.	Sir George Calveley (of Lea).
24th, do.	Sir William Brereton (of Brereton).
25th, do.	Peter Warburton (of Arley).
26th, do.	William Liversage (of Wheelock).
27th, do.	Thomas Wilbraham (of Woodhey).

TEMP.	SHERIFFS OF CHESHIRE.
28th, Eliz.	Hugh Calveley (of Lea).
29th, do.	Randle Davenport (of Henbury).
30th, do.	Thomas Legh (of Adlington).
31st, do.	Sir Hugh Cholmley (of Cholmley).
32nd, do.	Sir William Brereton (of Handford).
33rd, do.	Sir John Savage (of Rock Savage).
34th, do.	Thomas Brook (of Norton).
35th, do.	Thomas Venables (of Kinderton).
36th, do.	Peter Warburton (of Arley).
37th, do.	Peter Legh (of Lyme).
38th, do.	John Done (of Utkinton).
39th, do.	Sir George Booth (of Dunham Massey).
40th, do.	Sir Edward Warren (of Poynton).
41st, do.	Sir Thos. Holcroft (of Vale Royal).
42nd, do.	Sir Thomas Smith (of Hatherton).
43rd, do.	Sir Thomas Aston (of Aston).
44th, do.	Sir Richard Grosvenor (of Eaton Boat).
1st, J. I.	Sir George Leycester (of Toft).
2nd, do.	Sir William Davenport (of Bromhall).
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