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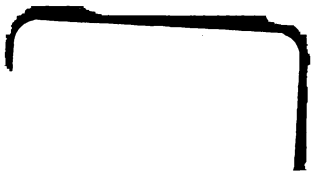
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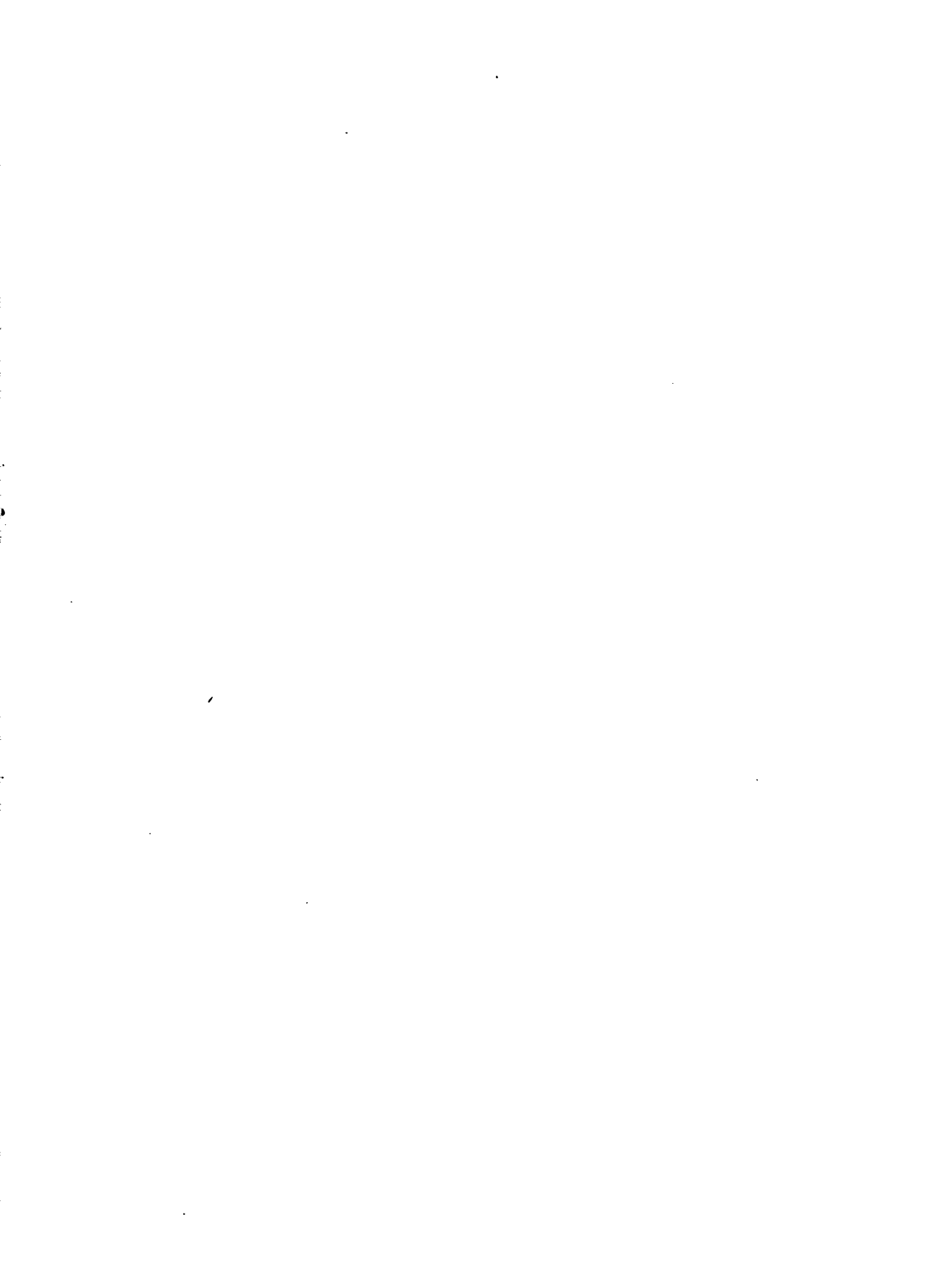


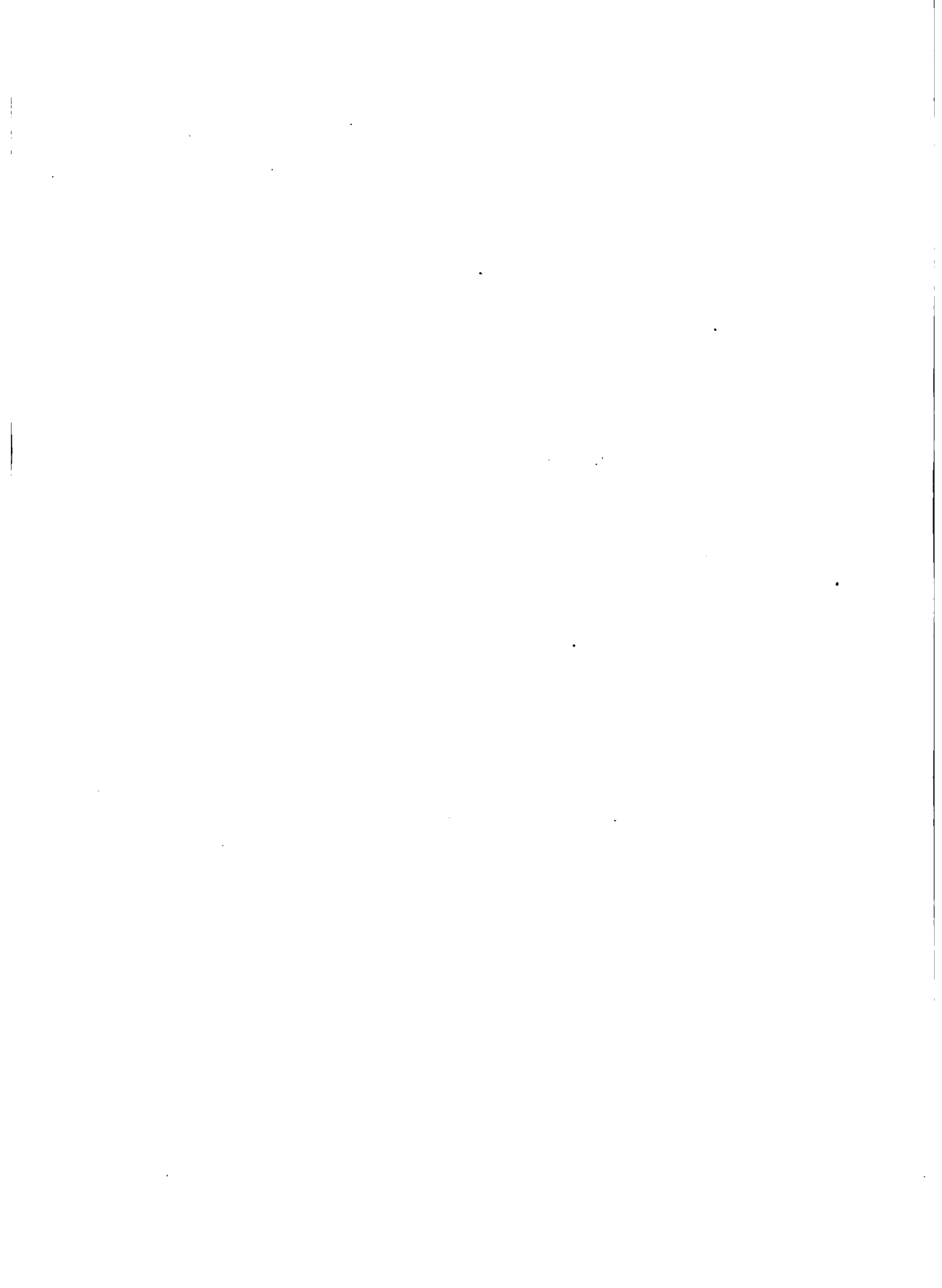
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WIRRAL
NOTES AND QUERIES,

BEING LOCAL GLEANINGS,
HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN,
RELATING TO
THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL,
From many Sources.

EDITED BY
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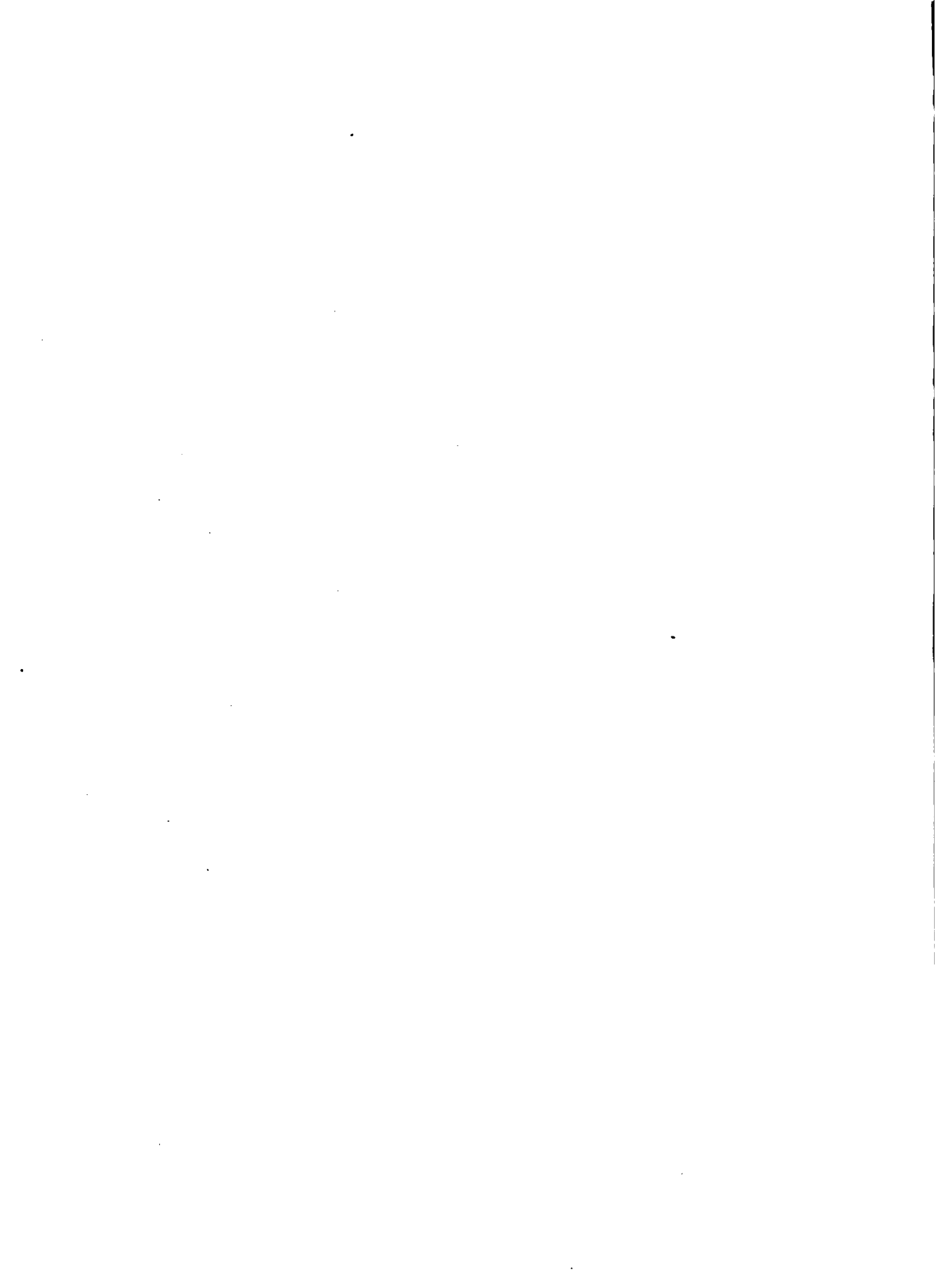
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WIRRAL NOTES AND QUERIES

BEING

HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN GLEANINGS, RELATING
TO THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL.

VOLUME I.

JANUARY 2nd, 1892.

INTRODUCTION.

The following pages contain a large number of short articles relating to the history and antiquities of the HUNDRED OF WIRRAL, which originally appeared in the columns of "*The Birkenhead News*." We trust that they will show that the singular district called the Wirral peninsular, although wanting in important ecclesiastical and secular buildings, yet contains much of great archaeological interest. Our correspondents have thrown considerable light on many of the ancient churches, manor houses, and old families of the district; some of the place and field names have been discussed; while the publication of the *BIRSEY REGISTER* is an important contribution to the early history of Birkenhead.

When the time comes for writing the History of Wirral, we doubt not that our pages will be carefully studied by its author. He will find brought together many facts and many theories which will prove of the greatest value to him in his labours. Here he will see the correction of an error committed by *Ormerod* or *Mortimer*; there an attempt to get at the meaning of some obscure place name. On one page a family pedigree will be traced out; on another valuable information on the construction of an ancient building will be found. Every contribution, no matter how slight it may appear, will thus help to render more complete and more trustworthy the history of a district teeming with archaeological interest and deserving the most attentive study of every lover of bygone days.

[1] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

I.—SIR EDWARD STANLEY, KNIGHT.

The Stanleys of Hooton and Storeton are the oldest branch of that illustrious family. The subject of this article was a natural son of Sir Rowland Stanley, who, born in or about 1518, lived to the patriarchal age of ninety-six, having held the family estates for about sixty-six years. Edward Stanley, who is also called Penleton or Pendleton, was sent to win his spurs in the low countries, where his legitimate brother, the notorious Sir William, held an important position in Elizabeth's army. Here it was that the young man performed the achievement which entitles him to a place among the worthies of Wirral. I give the account of it as it is narrated in *Motley's United Netherlands*.

"During the period which intervened between the action at Warnfeld and the death of Sidney, the siege operations before Zutphen had been continued. The city, strongly garrisoned and well supplied with provisions, remained impregnable; but the sconces beyond the river and upon the island fell into Leicester's hands. The great fortrees which commanded the Veluwe, and which was strong enough to have resisted Count Hohenlo on a former occasion for nearly a year, was the scene of much hard fighting. It was gained at last by the signal valour of Edward Stanley, lieutenant to Sir William. That officer, at the commencement of an assault upon a not very practicable breach, sprang at the long pike of a Spanish soldier, who was endeavouring to thrust him from the wall, and seized it with both hands. The Spaniard struggled to maintain his hold of the weapon, Stanley to wrest it from his grasp. A dozen other soldiers broke their pikes upon his cuirass, or shot at him with their muskets. Conspicuous by his dress, being all in yellow but his corselet, he was in full sight of Leicester and of five thousand men. The earth was so shifty and sandy that the soldiers who were to follow him were not able to climb the wall. Still Stanley grasped

his adversary's pike, but, suddenly changing his plan, he allowed the Spaniard to lift him from the ground. Then, assisting himself with his feet against the wall, he, much to the astonishment of the spectators, scrambled quite over the parapet, and dashed sword in hand amongst the defenders of the fort. Had he been endowed with a hundred lives it seemed impossible for him to escape death. But his followers, stimulated by his example, made ladders for themselves of each other's shoulders, scrambled at last with great exertions over the broken wall, overpowered the garrison, and made themselves masters of the sconce. Leicester, transported with enthusiasm for this noble deed of daring, knighted Edward Stanley upon the spot, besides presenting him next day with £40 in gold, and an annuity of 100 marks sterling for life. "Since I was born I did never see any man behave himself as he did," said the Earl. "I shall never forget it, if I live a thousand years, and he shall have a part of my living for it as long as I live."—*United Netherlands*, vol. ii., pp. 55, 56.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[3] THE PARISH REGISTERS OF BIDSTON, CHESHIRE, 1581-1780.*

The earliest Register-Book now at Bidston commences in the year 1679, from which date to the present (with the exception of two years, 1727 and 1728, when the marriages have been deliberately out), the register is complete.

One would like to know when and under what circumstances the register book or books previous to 1679 disappeared. This must have taken place more than a century ago, seeing that, in a terrier now in the Diocesan Registry, at Chester, dated 1778, the Churchwardens of Bidston state that the Register commences in 1679.

Fortunately, however, we do not rely solely on the Register at Bidston. Late in the 16th century an enactment was passed which required that a true copy of the names of all persons christened, married, or buried in the year before, was to be transmitted by the churchwardens every year to the bishop of the diocese, within a month after Easter, to be preserved in the episcopal archives.

If this had been more fully obeyed and the early Registrars had taken better care of the transcripts when sent, the loss of a register book would not

* I should like to take this opportunity of thanking those who have so kindly assisted in this work. In the first place I have, particularly, to express my sincere thanks to the rector of Bidston, the Rev. J. F. Buckler, who has allowed me free access to the registers at all times, and without whose invaluable aid these registers could not have been published; also to John Gamon, Esq., the Registrar of the diocese, by whose permission I have been able to make use of the transcripts at Chester; to Mr. Price, the very obliging clerk at the registry; and to J. Paul Bylands, Esq., F.S.A., and J. G. Prentice, Esq., whom I have to thank for doing the tedious, but necessary, task of checking my work.

have been such a vital matter; but unfortunately the number of transcripts of an earlier date than 1666, now at Chester, is very small, and the Bidston ones are no exception to the rule.

By this means, however, the register can be taken back with tolerable completeness to 1666, before which date there is a lamentable gap of twenty-seven years extending over the troublous times of the Civil War and Commonwealth. On picking up the thread again in 1639, it runs back with fair regularity to 1610, when it breaks off once more—the period, from 1610 to 1581, being bridged by only four transcripts, viz., 1606, a fragment of 1596, 1598, and 1581.

Another series of documents of the greatest possible value to the local historian are the early wills, now preserved in the Probate Court at Chester.

There are upwards of a hundred of these between the years 1581 and 1730, relating to the parish, all of which I have carefully copied.

There are two short documents referring to the parish which, so far as I know, have not been published before, and which may serve as a sort of introduction to the register. The first is a list of the tenants of the Birkenhead Priory, about the time of its dissolution in 1537, and the second, a report of the condition of Bidston Church in 1554.

It must be borne in mind that the ancient parish of Bidston included the four townships of Saughall Massey, Moreton, Bidston, and Cloughton-cum-Grange.

The list of the tenants, which is from a document at the Record Office, London, is as follows, viz:—

MORETON.—Margery Billings, Jno. Griffiths, William Pemberton, John Pemberton, William Butter, Richard Pemberton, junior, Thomas Fletcher (?), John Rathbone.

CLAUGHTON.—Thomas Hiccock, Richard Hiccock, Margery Hays, Oliver Deene, Randle Drinkwater, Jakob Woodward, Reg. Walker, — Watt, — Parrott, David Woodward, George Deane.

SALGHALL (SAUGHALL-MASSEY).—George Kempe.

BIDSTON.— — Smyth.

The other document from a MS at the Diocesan Registry at Chester being Visitation Enquiries of George Cotes, Bp. of Chester, is as follows:—

1554.—Bidston: Dominus Arthrus Swift, vic., Dominus William Bymson, cur. (1) Joannes Bennet (2) Georgius Shurlcoers (Shurlock) gardiani ecclesie, Richard Dean, Joannes Belg (Bellinge). The chancell wants repairing—they wante an amiese and a serples (8), the vestry is —, the churchwardens have (? ordered) them and the chancelle is makinge. (4) Also in the returns as to "church goods" made in the third year of Edward VI., is the following reference to Bidston:—Byddeston has one chales and a ringe of iiii bells.

NOTES.—(1) John Bennet, of Moreton; (2) George Shurlock, of Cloughton; (3) An amiese and a surplice; (4) I am indebted to E. M. Hance, Esq., of Liverpool, for this document.

WILLIAM FERGUSSON IRVINE.

Cloughton, Cheshire.

[8] QUERY.

Can any of your readers suggest a more reasonable explanation of the origin of the name Birkenhead than the usually accepted one, viz., that it means the town at the head of the stream called the Birket?
 ENQUIRER.

JANUARY 9th, 1892.

[4] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

L—SIR EDWARD STANLEY, KNIGHT.

[Continued from No. 1. January 2nd.]

Edward Stanley was quite innocent of the treacherous surrender of Deventer to the Spaniards, the act which has rendered the memory of his half brother, Sir William, so infamous. He was sent out of the way to England with despatches, in which he was described as "a discreet, brave gentleman," while his brother and his fellow traitor, Sir Rowland York, were taking steps to consummate their long-meditated treachery. (York to Walsingham, 7th January, 1587.)

Stanley was subsequently employed by Queen Elizabeth to drill and discipline troops to oppose the Spaniards should they succeed in landing in England in the great expedition of 1588. He gave but a sorry account of the choicest soldiers of Cheshire and Lancashire, whom he was sent to inspect. "I found them not," he says in a letter to the Privy Council, "according to your expectation nor mine own liking. They were appointed two years past to have been trained six days by the year or more at the discretion of the muster-master, but as yet they have not been trained one day, so that they have benefited nothing nor yet know their leaders. There is now promise of amendment, which, I doubt, will be very slow in respect to my Lord Derby's absence."

Stanley found a general indisposition in the rural districts to expend money and time in military business until the necessity should become imperative. Professional soldiers complained bitterly of the canker of a long peace. "For our long quietness, which it hath pleased God to send us," said Stanley, "they think their money very ill bestowed which they expend on armour or weapon, for that they be in hope they shall never have occasion to use it, so they may pass muster as they have done heretofore. I want greatly powder, for there is little or none at all." (E. Stanley to Privy Council, February-March, 1588.) These despatches help to show the unprepared condition of England on the eve of the Armada.

I have followed Motley in identifying the hero of the Zutphen sooties with the Sir Edward Stanley employed to drill the troops raised to oppose the Spanish Invasion, though I do not feel quite certain on the point. Someone learned in the Stanley pedigree may be able to correct me. Of the subsequent life of Sir Edward Stanley I can find no particulars.
 F. SANDERS.

[5] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(See No. 2, Jan. 2).

All christenings, weddings, and burials, anno domini 1581, within the parishes of Biddiston.

CHRISTENINGS.

- Ellyinne Hough, christened the xth of Maye.
 Robert Scholesfield, christened the xliii of Maye.
 Thomas Martyn, christened the xxii of Maye.
 Henry Bennett, christened the xxliii of Maye.
 (1) Richard Pemberton, christened the first of June.
 Henry Tallour, christened the vii of Iulie.
 (2) William Tottie, christened the eyght of Iulie.
 Richard Gyll, christened the xxii of Iulie.
 John' Willcocke, christened the xxliii of Iulie.
 (3) William Rutter, christened the xxliii September
 (4) Robert Hancocke, christened the xxliii of October.
 John' Hancocke, christened the xxviii of October.
 Alice Jonson, christened the vii of Januarye.
 Robert Parbold, christened the xxliii of Januarye.
 Thomas Sherte, christened the seconde of Marche.

WEDDINGS.

- Thomas Waide and Ellyn Hande, married the xliii of Maye.
 Thomas Treadgood and Anne Parbold, married the xxix of October.

BURIALLS.

- William Rutter, buried the seconde of Marche.
 William Pemberton, buried the first of Iulie.
 (5) Elisabethe Letherland, buried the xxliii of August.
 Henry Bennett, buried the vi of September.
 Robert Rathben, buried the xvii of November.
 John' Hancocke, buried the ix of December.
 John' Hancocke, buried the seconde of Januarye.
 Jonne Hancocke, buried the xvth of Februarye.

Per me Robertu Urmiston,
 de Biddiston curatu.

CHRISTENINGS AT BIDDISTON, 1588.

- Sara Truman christened the [torn] of Maye.
 Thomas Gylle, christened the [torn] of Maye.
 Richard Hancocke, christened the vii. of June.
 Thomas Rathbon, christened the xi. of June.
 (6) Thomas Bellinge, christened the iii. of July.
 Elizabeth Watte, christened the [torn] of August

(1) A common name in this and surrounding parishes during the 16th and 17th centuries: there was a strong branch settled at Moreton, where the name still exists.

(2) A common name in the 16th and 17th centuries in North Wirral: the earliest mention of the name that I have come across is in connection with West Kirby, which fact gives some colour to the suggestion that it is a corruption of the Norse name *Tostig*.

(3) Probably a son of Wm. Rutter, of Moreton, who died in 1519, and grandson of Wm. Rutter, who was one of the tenants of the Priory in 1537, and who died on the 2nd of March, 1581.

(4) A son of Thomas Hicoock, of Cloughton: the following is from the London Stationer's Company's Records, viz., —"Thomas Hicoock, sonne of Thomas Hicoock, of Cloughton, countie of Chester, husbandman, hath put himself apprentice to John Harrison, the elder, stationer, for 7 years from this day 8 Aug. 1588."

(5) The Litherlands had long been settled in this neighbourhood, and at one time held a third of the Manor at Wallasey, (vide Ormerod, vol. II)—in 1407 Matthew Litherland and others petitioned for and obtained right to "inclose and make a park of 800 acres.....within the Lordship of Bidston"—(of this enclosure I shall speak later on.)

(6) Probably a son of William Billinge, of Moreton, who figures as witness of several wills at this period, and grandson of John Billinge, of Moreton, who was sidesman in 1564.

John Tayllour, christened the [torn] of August.
Elizabeth Parbould, christened the [torn] of September.

Robert Hicooke, christened the iv. of September.

Ellyn Robinson, christened the ix. of September.
Ellyn Pemberton, christened the xxii. of September.

Anne Hicooke, christened the iii. of October.
Edward Pemberton, christened the viii. of October
Richard Lynnachar, christened the xiii. of November.

- (1) Ellyn Jonson, christened the ix. of November.
Randie Kempe, christened the xxx. of November.
(2) Katheren Hirby, christened the [torn] of December.

Thomas Wade, christened the xii. of December.
Thomas Willcooke, christened the x. of January.
Alice Martyn, christened the xiii. of January.
Ellyn Myshaw, christened the xvii. of January.
Henry Dauby, christened the xxx. of January.
Elizabeth Gobbyn, christened the lii. of January
(3) Katheryn Bennett, christened the xii. of March.

WEDDINGS.

Thomas Robinson and Alice Hancock, married the v. of Maye.

Richard Blendell and Maud Wade, married the vi. of October.

- (4) John Worsley and Anne Fell, married the ix. of February.

Thomas Henrison and Ellyn Maddooke, married eodem die.

John Macksayll and Katherine Sthirnyoke, married eodem die.

BURIALS.

Gorge Pemberton, buried the liii. of January.

- (5) John Truman, buried the xiii. of January.

Thomas Pemb'ton, buried the ii. of February.

Thomas Rathbon, buried the v. of February.

Richard Rathbon, buried the ix. of February.

Eddward Martyn, buried the xvi. of February.

Margery Pemb'ton, buried the viii. of February.

- (6) Ellyn Brereton, buried the xxx. of February,

Henry Martyn, buried the xviii. of April.

Elizabeth Drinkwater, buried the xii. of April.

Blanche Helsbye, buried the ix. of Maye.

Katheren Hicooke, buried the iii. of June.

Richard Lynnachar, buried the xv. of June.

[—] Marten, buried the v. of October.

Thomas Smyth, buried the x. of October.

(1) A family long settled at West Kirby and Wallacey. Query—is this another example of Norse names in Wirral?

(2) This should of course be Irby. She was probably a daughter of Richard Erby, of Moreton.

(3) In all probability a daughter of Arthur Bennet, of Upton. [Vide "Bennets of Saughall-Masse," by E. M. Hance, L.L.B.; page 13.]

(4) John Worsley, of Woodchurch, and Anne Fell, of Bidston, daughter of Miles Fell, who seems to have been Lord Derby's steward or bailiff for his Bidston property. Miles Fell was possessed of considerable property in Wirral, and appears in the Liverpool Burgess Rolls for 1565, 1572, and 1589. He died prior to 1603.

(5) A family which existed at Bidston until the middle of last century: there is a field at Bidston called Trueman's.

(6) This family died out about 1670. They have left their name behind in a field in Moreton, called Brereton's meadow. The name was a very uncommon one in Wirral at this period, in fact, I find no other example of it except in Wallacey. This being so, it is suggestive to find in Hari M.S. 2074, p. 148, that "In 1345, William de Brereton, of Brereton, gave by deed one messuage to his son, John de Brereton, Parson of the Medietie of the Church of Waley" (Wallasey.)

Henry More, buried the xxx. of December.

William Lynnachar, buried eodem die.

Alice Adison, buried the xii. of February.

Thomas Bellinge, buried the xvii. of February.

- (1) Per me Robert' Urmiston de Biddiston, curatu, Anno dom 1598.

(To be continued.)

JANUARY 16th, 1892.

[6] BRIEFS IN THE PARISH OF WOODCHURCH.

Briefs, or royal letters patent of recommendation, authorizing collections for charitable purposes, were publicly read in parish churches, when the amount collected and the object of the collection were entered in the parish register. When the Civil War broke out the House of Commons took precautions against the royal prerogative being exercised in issuing briefs to raise money for the supply of the king's wants, or for the relief of sufferers in the royal cause, and on January 31st, 1643, Henry Martin, brought in 'an order for inhibiting any collections upon any brief under the Great Seal.' A further order was made on January 10th, 1648, that no collections should be made on briefs, except such as were issued under the Great Seal under the direction of both Houses of Parliament, and under this order a collection was authorised on May 31st, 1658, on occasion of a great fire at Marlborough. After the Restoration briefs became an abuse, and Pepys has the following note in his diary:—

'1661, June 30, Sunday. To church, where we observe the trade of briefs has now come now up to so constant a course every Sunday that we resolve to give no more to them.'

This note will account for the ludicrously small amount of many of these collections.

Briefs for the redemption of Englishmen out of slavery were better responded to; but the danger of being sold into captivity by Mediterranean pirates was so well appreciated at the end of the seventeenth century that there were insurance offices in London and other capitals, where an insurance could be effected that provided the ransom exacted by the pirates.

Briefs are mentioned in the Rubric of the Prayer Book of 1662, and so long as there was no means of insuring against losses by flood and fire, something of the kind was wanted to relieve individual sufferers and spread the loss over a wider area. But briefs were a clumsy expedient, and it was soon found that the success of the collection depended less on the merits of the cause than on the skill with which the machinery was worked. This led to a bad system of farming briefs by professional undertakers, who contrived to put into their own pockets the lion's share of the proceeds. The abuses of this system engaged the attention of Parliament in 1704, and an Act was passed in the next year "for the better collecting of charity money

(1) See appendix (A)—in next week's issue.

on briefs, preventing abuses in relation thereto." By this Act the Lord Chancellor was empowered to grant briefs for what he considered deserving objects, and a machinery was created for dealing with the proceeds. There were offices in existence at this period to insure houses against fire, although their operations, until 1710, did not extend beyond the bills of mortality. It might, therefore, be expected that, under the reformed system, a brief would be withheld when the loss was occasioned by the wilful neglect of the sufferer to insure. Bowyer, the printer, however, obtained a brief from Lord Chancellor Cowper in 1718, under which £1,514 13s. 4d. was collected towards making good his losses by the fire which consumed his premises and stock in trade on January 12th, 1718.

The statutory fees to patent officers and the charges of the King's printers made briefs an inconvenient and expensive mode of raising money for charitable purposes, inasmuch that the charges of collecting £614 12s. 9d. for repairing a church in Westmoreland amounted to £330 16s. 6d., leaving only £283 16s. 3d. for the charity. Statutory briefs accordingly fell into disrepute, and were abolished by Act of Parliament in 1828, but the royal prerogative was not affected by the statute, and Queen's letters have been granted on several occasions during the present reign in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and other favoured charities.

It should be borne in mind that it was formerly illegal to have any collection in churches for other than parish needs without the consent of the Crown.

The following list of briefs occurs in the Woodchurch Registers for the year 1707 :—

Joseph Wakelin, loss by fire £612 and upwards	
June 18, collected	00 03 01
Sbire-lane, loss by fire £3505 and upwards	
Aug 17, collected	00 03 02
Loss by fire at Iniskilling in Ireland £8166	
Collected in this Parish	00 10 00
Brosely Church, damage £1390 and upwards	
Aug 31, collected	00 03 01
Spilsby loss by fire £5989 and upwards	
Sept 14 (sum collected not stated)	

Another list of briefs, with the sums collected through them, is found in the Registers, but the dates are not given.

Southam Briefs in Co Warwick...	00 03 00
Orford Church.....	00 02 06
Heavitree in the Co of Devon.....	00 03 03
Dursley Church in Co Glos	00 02 06
Shadwell in Co Middlesex	00 02 10
	M.A.

[7] SEVERE FROSTS IN 1607 AND 1688.

The following extracts from the Registers of Wallasey, published in Mr. E. M. Hancock's admirable paper on that parish in Vol. 35 of the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society* throw light on two 17th century winters.

1607.

"Mem'dum. In the yeare of our lord god 1607 there was a *great frost* that people did goe over the Poole (over against Poolto'), vpon the yce (at a full sea)."

1688.

"Memorand' that in the year 1688 there was A *great frost* soe that people went over the pooli any where at any time of the tide and it was thought by severall that a man at A low water at some time might have gone to Luerpoole: all passage out or these pts to Luerpoole was by Warrington or filders ferry, where they went over on Ise, there was noe getting to the Market till the 9th of feb."

HOLLX.

[8]. THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(See No. 5—January 9).

(Appendix A).—THE REV. ROBERT URMSTON, a member of the local family of Urmston, of Moreton, West Kirby, and Wallasey, was probably born at Wallasey, and may have been the son of Martin Urmston, who was buried there in 1580. He held the living of Bidston—certainly from 1581 to 1588—possibly until his death in 1604, though after 1589 his successor, the Rev. John Martin, seems to have officiated at Bidston, (though, he may have only acted as curate), since the fragment of the transcript for 1596 is in John Martin's handwriting and nearly all the wills, from 1589 to 1608, bear his signature both as scribe and witness.

Mr. Urmston died at Wallasey in 1604; his will, which is preserved at Chester, though in a much torn condition, written on paper, is as follows :—

"In the name of God, Amen. The vill daie of [torn]—1608, I, Robert Urmston, slake in bodie, but howle in mynd and of [—] and p'fect memorie, make this my last will and testamente in manner and form followinge. First and before all other thinges, I geve, committ and bequeath my soule to God, etc., and my bodie to be buried in Wallasey Churche."

And for the true p'formance of this my last will and testament, I institute and make my true and lawfl executor, Robert Urmston th' elder of Wallasey, to sey all thinges herein contained truely p'formed kept and done and at my decease I geve to the sonne Robert Urmston all such thinges, as God shall then leude and suffer mee to have at that tyme as howse and all other thinges, moveable and immoveable whatsoever, etc."

Dettes owing unto me the Testator.

Uxor wedew glege (widow Glegg)	xvs
John Billinge	£iii xv
Nicholas Urmston	£iij

Witnesseth—John Harrison, Robert Urmston, the younger, with others.

The inventory of "Robert Urmston, clarke" is appended to the will—it was made by "three honeste men, John Younge, John Harrison, and William White" on the 23 May 1604 and is as follows, viz :

Item one ould fetherbed	xliis liiij
Item one ould frise gowne.....	iis

Item two ould coverlets & two shetes vs
summa totalis xxs. liiij

There are fortunately about a dozen Wills relating to the Parish which help in some degree to bridge the period from 1588 to 1605, during which time (with the exception of the fragment of 1596) the Transcripts at Chester are all missing. The first Will (dated 1589) is that of—

"ALICE SMITH, of Saugham [Saughall Massey], widdowe." She mentions her "sonne Christopher Smith" and her grandson "Thomas Smith," her "sonne Thomas Smith and his children, Peter, Margery, Elinor." She leaves to her servaut "John Gray the bedde that he lyeth inn," and to "Katheren Goyle my newe felte hatt."

The executors are her son Christopher and her two "sonnes-in-law, Thomas Newton and Henry Watts."

Amongst a number of people who owed money to the testatrix are the following:—

John Bridd [Bird] th' elder, of Knocketerne [Noctorum]; Robert Bennett, of Saugham; John Billinge and William Urmoston, of Moreton; Thomas Harrison, of the towne; Thomas Gill, sonne of Ralphe Gill; and Mrs. Bolde, of Upton. One of the witnesses of this will was John Martin, clarke.

In 1590 we have the will of ROGER WATT, of Claghton, husbandman. (1) Mentions his two daughters, Ellen Goodlear, widow, and Jone Holme. In the list of debts are the names Thomas Robinson and Arthur Sherlock, of Claghton, and "Ellen Watt, my daughter-in-lawe."

JANUARY 23rd, 1892.

[9] ANCIENT STONE AT BRIMSTAGE.

A fortnight or so ago, I found at Brimstage a curious piece of stone among some old *débris*, that had partly formed fragments of some ancient building. This stone is about nine inches long, five wide, and four thick. On its upper surface is a perfectly smooth semi-oval cavity, which is distinctly artificial, as if worn by a wooden socket-hinge: the cavity is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 4 wide, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ deep. Possibly this stone has formed part of the contrivance for turning the upper stone of a quern or handmill. One of the modes of working a quern was to place it on a fixed stand, and instead of a handle to the upper stone, a stick was set upright in the hole for the handle, reaching to a beam or stone in some part of the structure above it, like a shaft or axle. Thus the upper quern stone was kept steady, and people of different stature could use it.

The stone in question has apparently formed part of a longer one, probably built at one end into a wall; it has been broken off and broken across. A stone of very similar character was washed out from the remains of primitive dwellings on the Meols shore during last autumn.

PENTACLE.

[10] ACCIDENT IN TRANMERE POOL
IN 1659.

The following verdict of the Coroner's Jury under date 7 Oct., 1659, in the *Liverpool Records*, vol. iii., p. 688, may be of interest, as showing some of the risks encountered by travellers going from Birkenhead to Tranmere and Bebington, 200 years ago.

"Verdict: That the above named Robt. Greene (late Corporall of Major Boulton's Troope), the sixt day of October, in the year of or Lord 1659, about ten of ye Clock in the forenoone of the same day, being on horseback and going towards Chester, at a certaine Place on Cheshire syde of ye River M'rcie called Birkett Poole [the old name for Tranmere Pool] in ye usuall Place of the same roade, hee entered into the Poole, the water being deepe by reason of ye tyde and his horse plunged inn and haveing lost his footing, hee turned severall tymes about in the water, and then they both sunck downe, and for some tyme were undr water; then the horse came up and landed on the further syde, but the said Robt. Greene was then and there by accident, misadventure, and misfortune drowned and found lying there dead in the Bottom, being left by the Tyd's ebbing neere the place where hee entered into ye Poole."

W. F. I.

[11] A CHURCH BRIEF RELATING TO
TRANMERE.

(See No. 6—January 16).

The following extract from the Churchwarden's Accounts of Prestbury Parish, edited by Mr. J. P. Earwaker, should interest your Tranmere readers. Under "Collections by Briefs," in the year 1679, occurs:—

10th August.—Robert Malpas and Margery, his wife, of Holt Hill, in the Parish of Bebington, in behalfe of Andrew Malpas, who was taken by Turkish Pyrates belonging to Argier [Algiers], being in a ship called the John of Dubline.

The sum contributed towards Andrew's Malpas's ransom at Prestbury was eight shillings.

The brief appears to have accomplished its object in restoring the captive to his native land. At any rate I find the burial of Andrew Malpas, of Poole, entered in the Eastham Register, under the date July 6th, 1687. Perhaps the sufferings he underwent in Algiers shortened the poor man's days. F.S.

[12]. THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 8—January 16).

In 1591, WILLIAM LINEGAR, of Moreton, husbandman (1). Mentions "Jane Linekar, my wyffe," "Richard Linekar, my sonne," "Margaret and Ellen, my two daughters." Overseers [trustees] "my brother John Linekar and John Pemberton."

(1) The term husbandman must not be taken in our modern sense of farm labourer; it rather signified "tenant farmer."

In the list of debts are the following names:— "John Meason, my brother-in-law"; "Peers Lowe, of Upton, for a yoke of oxen"; "William Davyes, my brother-in-law."

Witnesses, "Arthur Pemberton, the elder, William Babon (Rathbone), Edward Urmiston, and John Martin, clerks."

In 1593, JOHN DRINKWATER, of Oughton, "yoman." Mentions "my son-in-law, James Wilson, and his wife Sisselie, my daughter."

His personality was valued by William Molinex, Thomas Hiccoock [of Oughton], Gilbert Blagborne [of The Ford], and William Hare [of Oughton], at £51 2s. 10d.

In the same year there died also HENRY PEMBERTON, of Moreton, yeoman. In his will he mentions his wife "Jane Pemberton," his eldest son "Myles Pemberton," to whom he leaves all his lands, etc., in "Lykert" [Liscard] and Moreton. His other children are "William, Katherine, Thomas, John, and Margaret," the three latter being under 16 years of age. At the close of the will is the following interesting clause, viz., "Item.—I manifeste yt unto all men by this my laste will and testament that whereas I gave unto Mr. William Glegge, of Gatton, esquire, and Marie Glegge, his wyffe, the somme of £8 for and in consideration of Agreements about A certain little closure of grounde called the hobffeilde (1), John web varriance [? is this a legal term], about the saide grounde was begoone Betweene one Edward Plankeneye (2), gent. and father unto the said Marie Glegge, and one George Pemberton, of Moreton, and uncle unto me, the sd. Henry Pemberton. And then I had gotten xviii wytnesses Readie to be sworne about the sayd closure of grounde, and in the meane space the saide Edward Plankeneye dyed, and I doe proteste that the same closure of grounde is conteyned within the deedes of my other Lands in Moreton."

"Overseers: My brother James Pemberton and my brother-in-law William Croese."

Debts due testator from "Meistres Marie Glegge ixs. xd. and Charles Boulde [of Upton] viiis." His personality was valued at £172 12s. 9d.

In 1592, there is also the will of "MARGARET HARRISON, of Saughall Massie, wydowe;" she leaves "to Mr. Pemberton of the Citie of Chester my kinneman, my nagge"—"to the children of Thomas Harrison that is to say, Thomas, Nicholas, William, Ellen and Anne Harrison, 3/4 apeece." "I give unto William Harrison's wyfefe of The Meoles [Great Meols] my browne silke hatt and my bonnett"—a small bequest to "Sir Robert Urmiston" (8). Executors "William Linnaker, Nicholas Harrison, John Pemberton and John Linnaker."

(1) Hobffeilde [hopfield].— There is a field in Moreton still bearing this name.

(2) Edward Plankenay, of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester, gentleman, obtained in 1545 a lease of the Rectorial Tithes of Bidston from the Patron (the Bishop) for 80 years. His daughter (Marie) carried it by marriage into the family of the Glegges, of Gayton, who had the lease renewed for 3 lives in 1619. Edward Plankenay died between 1569 and 1571; in 1571 his widow, Ellen Plankenay, sued Miles Fellis, of Bidston, for the sum of £100.

(3) Sir Robert Urmiston [see Appendix A]. The usual mediæval designation of clergy who were not Masters of Arts. Cf. Shakespeare's Sir Hugh Evans, "Sir Nathaniel (in Love's Labour Lost), etc.

In 1594 is the will of WILLIAM BENNET, of Moreton: he bequeaths his implements of husbandry and his furniture, the latter of which he desires may remain at his house as "irelomes" to his son William; mentions his wife Ellen, his son Edward and his two daughters Margaret and Anne. [I am indebted to E. M. Hanco, Esq., LL.B., of Liverpool, for an abstract of this will.]

A remnant of a Transcript for 1596, still exists, apparently in the handwriting of the Rev. John Martin; of the 17 christenings which took place the following are all that are legible, the marriages and deaths are torn off.

[torn] Wilcooke, xiii June.
[ditto] Wade [torn] August.
["] Urmiston ["] September.
["] Goodiear ["] September.
["] Hiccooke ["] September.
["] Maddooke ["] December.

In 1597 is the will of MARGARET GRIFFITH, of "Moreton in Wirral," "widow," who leaves everything to "Henry Watte th' elder, of Moreton, husbandman" (1), whom she also makes executor.

Among the debts due are various sums from "John Billings, th' elder, of Moreton," "John Man," and "John Pemberton." Witnesses, "Arthur Pemberton, th' elder, and John Martin, clke."

The Inventory, made 28 Nov., 1597, was valued by [inter alios] "Jacobus Biram, cler," (2).

In 1603 is an Inventory of the goods of JAMES HANDCOCKE of Moreton, husbandman, valued by Henry Watt, Thomas Rathbone, John Gyle, and Wm. Handcooke, at £67.

Among the various items occur the following, viz. :—

Item: Money layd out in bestes which
are not dyvided yet iiii
Item: One Byble with other English Bookes 10s
Item: His app'el for his owne bodie 10s

[18] QUNBY.

Can any Cheshire genealogist inform me how the Pooles of Bebington were related to the Pooles of Poole? Ormerod gives four members of the family as Rectors of Bebington, viz., Hugh Poole (1) 1602-1647; Ralph Poole, 1647-1662; Hugh Poole, (2) 1687-1708; and Hugh Poole (8), 1716-1789.

RAJOU.

(1) See Note 1, page 6.

(2) James Biram may have been a curate at Bidston: he appears as witness and scribe of several Bidston wills about this time, and usually describes himself as cler or clerk. It is possible, however, that he was merely a kind of public clerk to the neighbourhood.

JANUARY 30th, 1892.

[14]. WIRRAL WORTHIES.

II. REV. JOHN MURCOOT.

John Murcoot was one of the ablest and most interesting of the puritan ministers stationed in Wirral during the time of the Civil Wars. A biography of him was prefixed to one of his works, now exceedingly scarce, entitled *Moses in the Mount*. From this a full account of him was compiled by the Rev. W. Urwick for *Nonconformity in Cheshire*. This account, with a few additions and alterations, is given below.

John Murcoot was born at Warwick in 1628, of parents both respectable and pious. His father, Job Murcoot, was a lawyer. He was committed to the care and tuition of an able and godly schoolmaster, Mr. Dugard, who instilled instruction both with his lips and his life, desirous to make him not only a scholar but a Christian. Being competently furnished for the university, his father sent him to Oxford, where he continued his studies under the tuition of the faithful and religious Mr. Button, of Merton College. When he had been there two years, in consequence of the occupation of Oxford by the King's forces (1642-3), he was obliged to flee from the university disguised, and repaired to the house of Mr. Leigh (or Ley) of Budworth, "an ancient, grave, able, learned man," and minister of that place, and there he studied hard both day and night, allowing himself but four hours for sleep. The cloud being blown over, he repaired a second time to Oxford, completed his college course, took his degree, and returned to his old friend Mr. Leigh, to whom he was in various ways useful.

He began with much fear and trembling to appear in public and to preach. "Being pressed and egged on," says his biographer, "by his friends, and a call from the inhabitants of Astbury, he entered into the Lord's vineyard, put his hand unto the plough, and was ordained a minister at Manchester. He professed, to use his own words, that he was drawn as a bear to the stake, complaining and often bewailing his want of a sufficient stock of university learning." The following notice of his ordination is extracted from the Minutes' Book of the Manchester classis:—

"Whereas Mr. John Murcoot, B.A., aged about twenty-four years, has addressed himself to us (authorised by both Houses of Parliament of the 26th August, 1646, for the ordination of ministers), desiring to be ordained a Presbyter; for that he is chosen and appointed for the work of the ministry in the church of Astbury, in the county of Chester, as by a certificate now remaining with us touching that his election and appointment appeareth; and having likewise exhibited sufficient testimonials of his taking the National Covenant, of his diligence and proficiency in his studies, and unblameableness of life and conversation;—He hath been examined accordance to the rules for examination in the said ordinance expressed, and thereupon approved; and there having been no just exception made against his ordinance and admission;—These may testify to all

whom it may concern that upon Wednesday, the 9th of the month of February, we have proceeded solemnly to set him apart to the office of a Presbyter and work of the ministry of the gospel by the laying on of our hands with fasting and prayer; by virtue whereof we do declare him to be a lawful and sufficiently authorised minister of Jesus Christ; and having good evidence of his lawful and fair calling not only to the work of the ministry but to the exercise thereof in the church of Astbury in the county aforesaid, we do hereby send him thither and actually admit him to the said charge, to perform all the offices and duties of a faithful pastor there, exhorting the people in the name of Jesus Christ willingly to receive and acknowledge him as their minister, and to maintain and encourage him in the execution of his office that he may be able to give up such an account to Christ of their solemn obedience to his ministry as may be to his joy and their everlasting comfort. We the Presbyters of the first classis in the county of Lancaster have hereto set our hands, this 9th day of February, 1647.

Signed:—Richard Heyrick, Robert Constantine,
John Jones, Edward Woolmer.
John Angier, John Hanson.
Job Finnes, Thomas Holland.

According to this certificate, Mr. Murcoot went to Astbury, and as his biographer says, "the Lord was pleased to own him in his first attempts and endeavours, giving him a seal to his ministry by the conversion of two especially, who being awakened by his sound doctrine, smart expression, and powerful delivery, sadly bemoaned themselves and mourned over their lost condition even in public." He did not, however, remain long at Astbury, but removed in 1647 to *Eastham*, the vicar of which parish, the Rev. William Seddon, had been deprived for his loyalty. Mr. Murcoot was not at Eastham more than twelve months, but we are told by his biographer that "he gained mightily upon the affections of many, especially the godly, whose hearts began betimes to be knit unto him, and here, likewise, the Lord was pleased to water his labours with the dew of his blessing." While at Eastham and in the 25th year of his age, "being resolved to change his condition, and discoursing with a friend about it, there was proposed unto him *Hester*, the daughter of Mr. Ralph Marsden, (minister of West Kirby, of note and useful in his generation) whom he afterwards took to him to be the companion of his life." But before the consummation of the marriage, the people of West Kirby, (Mr. Marsden departing this life) gave him a call which he complied with. He signed the Cheshire attestation in 1648 as *minister of West Kirby*.

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued).

[15] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 12—January 23).

Register for Bydston parishes of Christenings, Weddings, and Burials, for the years Anno dni, 1605. Began the xxvi. of Marcho. John Marting, curate.

CHRISTENINGS.

Randulph Aynsdale, the xxvi. of Aprill.
Peter Bennett the vii. of Maye.

[torn] Richardson, the xxi. of Maye.

[Ka]theren Bennett, the xxiii. of Maye.

[He]nry Wilcocks, the ix. of June.

John Hutton, the xvi. of June.

Thomas Goodiker, the xxiii. of Julie.

Willm Pemberton, the v. of August.

(1) Willm Meoles, the xxt^e of August.

Anne Graye, the xxiii^l. of August.

Willm Pemberton, th^o viii. of September.

John Woodworth, the xx. of September.

Elizabeth Bennett, the xxix. of September.

Myles Addison, the viii. of October.

Henry Bennett, the xvii. of October.

John Penkett, the xvii. of November.

Margaret Bennett, the xv. of December.

Elizabeth Hiccock, the xxiii. of February.

WEDDINGS.

(2) John Martin and Ellen Kemppe, the vi. of April
(8) Xpoph^r Shinglinton and Margaret Mattin, xvi.
Maie.

4) Henry Shepp'd and Ellen Wade, the xvi. of June.
Ric Hastie and Ellen Meadows, the vii. of
Julie.

(5) Thomas Brabon and Ales Graye, the vi. of
October.
Ric Gyll and Catheren Pemberton, the xxii. of
October.

(6) John Hiccock and Margaret Bursoe, the iv. of
December.
Danniell Talier and Catheren Key, the xi. of
December.

Willm Bylling and Elizabeth Key, the 18 of
February.

(7) Henry Brydd and Elizabeth Byllinge, the 27 of
February.
Danniell Meiteere and Elizabeth Martin, the
iii. of March.

BURIALS.

(8) John Penkett, the vii. of Maye.

Anne fiell, the xxv. of Maye.

Thomas Hiccocks, the 26 of Maye.

(9) Ellen Hancock, the iii. of June.

Isabell Hiccocks, the viii. of August.

Thomas Pemberton, the 31 of August.

Elizabeth Uphone, the viii. of October.

Ales Wilcocks, the xvi. of January.

Ales Graye, the xvi. of same.

Ellen Blackburne, the iii. of February.

Elizabeth Rathbon, the vi. of same.

finis.

(1) William Meoles, third son of William Meoles, of Meols, Esquire, by his wife Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Bunbury, of Stanney, Esquire.

(2) Both of Bidston Parish.

(3) Margaret Martin was the only surviving daughter of the Rev. John Martin, incumbent of Bidston at this period—(vide the Rev. John Martin's will, Appendix C.)

(4) Henry Sheppherd, of West Kirby Parish.

(5) Thomas Brabon, of Thurston Parish.

(6) Both of Cloughton.

(7) William Billinge, of Moreton, who died in 1648, mentions in his will my "nephew Henry Bird."

(8) See Appendix B.

(9) "Ellen Hancock, of Moreton, widdow" in her will dated 21st May, 1605, mentions "my brother Thomas Rathbone,"—"John Rathbone's childer,"—"my daughter Elizabeth Hancock." Among the debts owing to testatrix occurs "Myles Benne of Saughan [Saughall Massey] for one yoke of oxen to be paid at midcomr nexre 23 4" "Robert Urmiston—married man 23." Her personality was valued at £112 5 4.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1892.

[16] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

I.—REV. JOHN MURCOOT.

(Continued from No. 14—Jan. 80).

Murcot's anonymous biographer gives this quaint account of his labours in his parish:—"Two villages of the parish of West Kirby are sorely visited with the pestilence and the Lord scatters abroad the black tokens of his displeasure, the products of which are many fasts, tears, prayers, importunate requests that the Lord would shew unto his people why He had thus contended with them. Mr. Murcot had his ears open to instruction. This thundering providence awakens him to a more exact scrutiny, and he is now persuaded that he had been too lax and general in the administration of the sealing ordinances, so that he resolves to forbear; however he perseveres in preaching work, and waits on providence to see how the Lord will dispose and incline the people's hearts. An Irish lord, quartering at West Kirby, being bound for Ireland, was observed to be a prodigious swearer, belching out most horrid oaths in great abundance. Mr. Murcot hearing of it is impatient of brooking these high dishonours that were done unto his Majesty. Wherefore taking with him a friend, he rides the same night six miles to a magistrate, and procures a warrant; the trembling constables at first are astonished to think of approaching in such a way to guilty greatness, but being animated by Mr. Murcot, they served their warrant, and the horses of the nobleman were seized and kept till he paid 20*l.*, which was employed as a stock for the poor of the parish. This exemplary act of justice procured and prosecuted by Mr. Murcot's active zeal, so daunted and overawed his lordship that during his abode there, he held his tongue and mouth as it were with bit and bridle."

"It was a common practice in those parts to have *Ales*, as they called them, *alias* good fellow meetings, in which the night was consumed in rioting and drunkenness, the creatures abused, and God most shamefully dishonoured. One revelling night, he and a good neighbour (Captain Johnson) went to the constables, engage their assistance, advance and enter the house, or rather the den of dragons, at whose approach and presence, the rabble rout scatters like a mist before the rising sun. Some run affrighted out of doors, and leave their ale behind them, others hide in secret places; the flight was so full of confusion, you would have thought it occasioned by the incursion of the enemy, and that their lives were rather invaded than their purses and reputations. One only of the company assumes the confidence to stand it out, and, having a brow of brass, thinks to outface both sacred and civil officers, and saith, "Shall I fear Murcot?" calls for more beer and in a bravado drinks to him, who pledged him with stern silence and frowning aspect. The names of the ringleaders are returned to the justices, and they constrained to pay their imposed fines. But did this son of impudence (who dares thus affront God's ministers) thus escape? Though

that sickness at the time was comfortably abated, and the family to which he was related not in the least tainted, yet this man is very shortly after visited, and by that signal stroke from the hand of the Lord hurried out of the land of the living. The following Sabbath Mr. Murcot chose a subject to treat on suitable to the occasion, laid before them the blackness of guilt contracted, the dreadfulness of wrath deserved, and so severe and cutting were his rebukes that they caused in the congregation strong pangs of affection and unwonted transportation."

These quaintly told stories illustrate for us, not only the zeal and courage of Mr. Murcot, but also the habits of the ungodly and the beliefs of the godly in those times. They show how strong was the faith of the people in special providences and divine judgments, and how unhesitatingly the power of the magistrate and of law was made use of in order to enforce morality and religion. The drunken and disorderly habits of the people were owing, in part, to the continual travelling carried on from Chester, through West Kirby to and from Ireland.

F. S.

(To be continued.)

[17] THE NAME "BIRKENHEAD."

(See No. 3, January 2nd).

I was interested to see the question in the first number of your "Notes and Queries" as to the origin of the name, "Birkenhead."

The usually accepted one, as your correspondent points out, is that it means "the town at the head of the stream Birket." Now, though I do not profess to understand much about the origin of place-names, I must join issue with the advocates of this meaning, for the very good reason that there never was a stream called the *Birket*, until the name was invented by the Ordnance Surveyors fifty years ago. The stream called the *Birket* in the map, rises in West Kirby parish, and flows into Wallasey Pool; but if you speak of the *Birket* to the old inhabitants of Meols and Moreton, they will one and all tell you, "Well, they calls it the *Birket* now, but we never heard it called ought but the *Fender* when we was young."

The stream which flows down the valley between Upton and Bidston Hill, is also called the *Fender*; both names being, I understand, simply a very slight corruption of an old British word, meaning "a slowly flowing brook."

The only water that ever bore the name of *Birket* was Tranmere Pool; but is it not much more likely that this name was derived from the place or headland of the birch-trees than that the name of the place was derived from that of the pool?

I might add that *Birket-head*, or *Birkenhead* proper, is some three miles from the mouth and eight from the *head* or source of the so-called *Birket*.

HOLLY.

[18] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 15—Jan. 30.)

[Appendix B.]—John Penketh's will being an interesting one, as well as the earliest recorded of a Birkenhead man, I give it more *in extenso* :—

"In the name of God Amen. I, JOHN PENKETT, of Birkett alias Birkened, of the Diocesses of Chester, yeoman, sicke in bodie but of sounde and p'fecte memorie, doe make this my laste will, etc."—"bodie to Parishe Churche of Bidston."

"Item.—I give to my sonne Thomas Penkett 27, alsoe my table with frame and forme belonginge to hit, and I give him more my greates brasse panne."

"Item.—I give and bequeath unto Richard and Thomas Charnock, my wyeffe's two sonnes, xii sheepes, to be equallie devyded between them."

"Item.—It is my will that xx s. be delivered to my brother-in-lawe, William Heare, of Cloughton, and that ye sayde William Heare doe sett hit forthe yearlie after at ii shyllinges the yeare, and [with] the sayde iis., upon the Monday in Rogation weeke, the sayd William shall p'vide drinke with hit for the Curat of Bidston and the parishoners that com with hym, and that the drinke be drunken on the grene in Cloughton when they come thether as their acoustome is, and that the sayd William Heare shall see it so done yearlie, as my truste is in hym, duringe his lyffe, and after that he take suche order that hit may be so used yearlie for ever." (1)

Remainder of his property between Jane, his wife, and his son and daughter Thomas and Ann Penkett.

Executors: Jane and Thomas Penkett.

Witnesses: Richard Bennet, Thomas Burscowe, Richard Penkett, and others.

John Penkett's personality was sworn at £151 19s. 10d. In the Inventory occurs the following: "Imprimis ii oxen, whereof the landlord had th' one for the hariot [heriot], 27 5s. 6d.

The following are some of the names of those who owed the testator money :—

Thomas Bennet, Arthur Bennet, James Lowe, John Gill, and Robert Rathbone, John Hough, Henry Young (all of Upton); Henry Smith, Thomas Lyne [Leen], Thomas Robinson, William Ball (all of Lancocan, [Landicau]); William Pemberton, of Moreton; Mylles Bennet, William Rutter, John Bennet, William Martin, John Bordman, Lawrence Robinson, Edward Burscowe, Thomas Harrison, and Henry Wilcooke, Thomas Martin, and Thomas Moss, John Tottie, the father, John Tottie, the son, Robert Hiccocke, Richard Hiccocke, Robert Biding,

(1) In Bishop Gastrell's *Nottia*, vol. I., p. 155 [A.D. 1720], in the list of Bids'on charities, occurs the following :— "Interest of £3 left by 3 persons unknown to be spent in Bread and Drink upon persons yt walk ye Bounds of the Parish."

Rogation Monday was the usual day for perambulating the various parishes to ascertain their exact limits.

I am informed by the Rector of Bidston that this bequest is not now "so used yearlie."

William Formbie, Thomas Denton, Richard Pemberton, and John Moneley (of places unspecified), Richard Young, of Greshie, John Pemberton, of Oxen [Oxton], Mr. William Dunsterville [of Raby], Mr. Henry Bold, Mr. Thomas Bold [of Upton], and Thomas Borscove, of Thornton. The amounts of the debts ranged from £9, in the case of John Bennet and William Martin, to 2s., in the case of John Moneley.

The following is a short abstract of a document (which is printed in *extenso* in vol. iv. *Trans Hist Soc. Lane and Chesh*) bearing on the subject.

Depositions of witnesses at the King's Court of Exchequer, Chester Castle, 7th May, 1607.

Upon the plea and behalf of GILBERT URMESTON defendant against JOHN URMESTON complainant.

HENRY WATTS of Morton, husbandman, aged 8 score years and upwards, sworn, saith he knoweth the parties and hath known them for 30 years, and also knew Wm. Urmeston and that defendant is son and heir to William.

A survey was taken by Henry Connye, John Roberts, and Myles Fells, officers for Henry late Earl of Derby present at survey, William Bennett, and Richard Roberts.

Other witnesses, Wm. Martin of Saughall Massie, yeoman, Thos. Rabon [Rathbone] of Moreton, husbandman, Henry Smith, Arthur Urmeston, and Henry Irby of Moreton, husbandmen.

FEBRUARY 13th, 1892.

[19]. WIRRAL WORTHIES.

II. REV. JOHN MURCOT.

(Continued from No. 16—February 6.)

Mr. Murcot being dissatisfied with the condition of his congregation, and not deeming it right to celebrate the ordinances promiscuously among them, resolved at length to leave West Kirby. He received an invitation to settle at Chester in the place of Mr. Knowles, who had been propagating Socinian doctrines here. In the words of the old biographer:—

"There appears to be a formidable and blazing comet at Chester, one Mr. Knowles, who exercised as public preacher to the garrison there, and in public sermons, private conferences, and by a manuscript by him framed, denied Jesus Christ to be the Most High God. Several in the city, professing godliness, are dangerously ensnared, and swallow down that poison which will turn to gall and wormwood in their bowels. Mr. Murcot, with others, especially Mr. Eaton, labours to establish the people in the truth received, and to pluck up the stinking weed which has begun to spread and fasten its contagious roots. Upon complaint made, the flaming firebrand is removed, yet left behind him those unquenched sparks that break forth into fresh flames. Some godly people in Chester being embodied, and wanting a pastor to take the

charge of them, expressed their desires of enjoying Mr. Murcot, who is sent unto and requested to preach among them by way of trial and in order to his future establishment, but withal entreated not to intermeddle with the present controversy or engage against Mr. Knowles."

The writer goes on to say that Mr. Murcot visited Chester, and preached from John xxi, 17, vindicating the divinity of Christ, but that he declined the people's invitation to become their pastor, saying, "I cannot live without the ordinances at West Kirby, nor like a Salamander in the fire at Chester."

Murcot crossed over to Dublin, where he became pastor of an Independent Church, and died greatly regretted in that city at the close of 1654. He was buried in St. Mary's Chapel, near Christ Church, Dublin. His death is thus mentioned by Henry Newcome:—"The next day (May 30, 1655), I called at Harding (Hawarden) of Mr. Eaton, who had then lately returned from Ireland, and precious Mr. Murcot was then just dead, and he told me of the precious name and savour he had left behind him there."

Mr. Eaton says of John Murcot, "He was, while he lived in Wirral, the glory of that country. A very quick and lively and powerful preacher he was, and mighty in prayer. Eminent for piety, gravity, and holy innocency. Dearly loved he was by some, and greatly revered by others. In a word he was a most industrious, vigilant pastor, and a most austere and self-observing Christian. He may be reckoned among the Lord's worthies, of whom the "world was not worthy."

The printed works of John Murcot are for the most part expository and practical sermons, namely, *Circumspect Walking*, on Ephesians v. 15, 16; *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*; *The Sun of Righteousness*, Malachi iv. 2; *Christ's willingness to receive humble sinners*, on John vi. 37.

F. SANDERS,

[20] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 18—Feb. 6th.)

In 1607, HENRY WATT, of Moreton, husbandman, left his "goodes to be devyded into two partes," "the one parte to Anne my nowe wyfe," "th' other parte to my children." "Anne my wyfe my executor;" "my well-beloved friendes, Robert Watt my brother & John Bennet of Saugham," Overseers.

Witnesses, John Tassie, William Bylling, James Byram.

Inventory taken 16th January, 1607, [o.s.] by William Rutter, William Bylling, Thomas Harrison, of the Carr, Thomas Handoccke; Summa totalis £144.

In 1609 JANE PENKETH, of Birket Wood, widow, in her will dated 3rd August, left "to my two sonnes Richard and Thomas Charnock either of them £20, also the corne growinge in the old wood." "To Thomas Penketh my biggest potte;" "to my sonne John Charnock one potte;" "to my daughter Anne the great combe;" "to brother Hare his children 20/-;" "to Margaret Penketh one caulfe." The will

closes with a bequest similar to the one left by her husband John Penketh, in 1606, as follows: "I geve and bequeathe xxs. to ye towne of Claughton to be sett forthe at ii shillings for the pounds, the sayde two shillings to be yearlie upon Mondae in Crosse weeke drunken in the same town & the stocks to remain whole for ever."

Executors: Richard and Thomas Charnock. "And I heartilie desire my lovinge friende Mr. Edward Vawdrey, gent, to be my overseer." (1).

Witnesses: Thomas Penkith, Richard Hiccock. Codicil: "I give & bequeathe all intereste which I have in the grounds in the oid wood aforesaid to my sonnes Richard & Thomas Charnock except one halfe which I give & bequeath to my son Thomas Penketh."

"Debtes oweinge to the testator.

Imprimis: John Tottie for ye hyre of two kyne xviiis," also from Peter Gill, John Gill, Richard Hicooke, Thomas Harrison, Richard Nitchell, of Saughan-on-the-hill, Peter Guyle, and Richard Hastle.

"Dettes which I owe.

Imprimis: To my sonne Thomas Penkith, £4 12s."

Inventory taken 8th August, 1609, by James Wylson, Robert Ryding, James Woodward, and William Hare. The following are interesting items:—

"Imp: one cowe wh was taken for ye harlot £3.
Item: one browne cowe given unto Anne Bennet."

[Appendix C]. There is not much to be said about the Rev. John Martin, except that he was incumbent of Bidston, certainly from 1604, possibly from 1589, until his death in 1610.

As will be seen from his will, printed below, he was a married man, and had at least one daughter, who married, in 1605, a certain Christopher Shinglington; (2) he wrote a beautifully clear hand, which one wishes he had exercised it more in sending up transcripts to the Bishop's Registry.

His will is written on paper, and is as follows:—

"In the name of God, Amen. The six and twentieth day of September, An. domini, 1610. Witnesseth that I, John Martin, clarke, sicke in bodie, but whole in mynd, make this my last Will and Testament as followeth. First, I leave my soul to Almighty God, and my bodie to be buried within the chancell of Bidstone, at the north end of the table where I was wont to read the commandments. As for the other causes, I leave Alis, my wife, in the same state [estate] that I am in, together with the lease of the sayd cottage during her life, and, after her decease, the remainders of the said lease to come to my daughter Margaret according to the terms thereof. All my worldlie goods I give to my wife Alis, giving to my daughter's children a noble a-peece to goe forward with. And for the true p'formance of this present, I make my lawful executor, Alis, my wife being god [good] to my daughter's children at her decease. I joyne Christopher Shinglington (2) my sonne-in-law, executor with my wyffe Alis to p'forme this present."

(1) Edward Vawdrey, of the Biddings, Esquire.
(2) Vide marriages for year 1605.

Debtes oweinge unto mee the said testator:—

Imprimis.—Mr. Edward Glegge (2) of Geton oeth unto me behinde with wagis due at All Saint's next the some [of] nineteen nobles and iij.

Item.—P'son Younge, for six bookes, ten shillings, or else the bookes againe.

Item.—Schoule Mr. Wm. Flecher in money lent, iij.

Item.—Mr. Thomas Billinge (3), the preacher, is indebted unto mee for a satchell full [of] bands, iiiiij., havinge [them] in his custodies foure years past.

Debtes that I owe:—

I owe unto James Wilsonn, of Claughton, iij., if he will have foure lett my executors satisfie him some waye.

I owe unto my daughter Margaret viij.

These being witnesses—

John Gill, the elder.
Edward Pemberton.
William Rutter."

Attached to the will is the following Inventory:—

"A true Inventorie of all such goods and implements as were Sir John Martin's, clerke, who dep'ted this life the xxiiij. daie of November last past. Ano Dom 1610, the same praised, the thirde of December, 1610, by Gilbert Urmston and Wm. Rutter.

Imprimis.—In Bookesxlj.

Item.—In Brasse, one small pottle, with two pewter dishes, fire tongues, pot hooks, rerkons, and one little pannexliij. iiiiij.

Item.—His bed and bed stocke.....xliij. iiiiij.

Item.—His apparell and clockexxij.

Summa totalis (4) x. xliij. iiiiij., per me, William Rutter.

FEBRUARY 20th, 1892.

[21] ON CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANCIENT CHURCHES OF WIRRAL.

Before the remnants of the ancient churches of this district disappear, from natural decay, or the frequent overkindness of the "restorer," in substituting his peculiar theories of art, or his so-called "copies" of old work for the invaluable originals, which, if once lost, can never be replaced, it would be well if those entrusted with the care of such buildings, or others who are interested in their preservation, would make careful notes of such fragments as remain. Hardly as our old buildings

(1) The Gleggs of Gayton was lessees at this time of the Rectorial Tithes of Bidston, and were bound by the terms of the lease to pay half the curate's stipend, namely £6 13s. 4d. per annum.

(4) Thomas Billinge was Rector of West Kirby.

(5) Mr William Rutter's arithmetic seems somewhat inaccurate.

have been used in this neighbourhood, and more especially in the well-to-do parishes, by praise-worthy, but often ill-judged liberality, there still are many traces of extreme interest to the antiquary, from which the original buildings may be understood. The smallest fragments of ancient stone or woodwork showing any character, or even plain masonry, will often reveal to a practised eye the date or style of a building, and should be carefully preserved. Old foundations when uncovered should be drawn, measured, and planned, and the nature of their materials exactly recorded. If this were carefully done, much could be learned of worth to the antiquary and the historian. Take only one or two instances of what may be done. In a pile of stones, carefully kept, perhaps a score altogether, from the materials of Bromborough Church, we can recover traces dating from the Saxon period down to the sixteenth century of the original structure. From one fragment only a few inches in length and breadth, we recognise the style and date of the North doorway.

In another case where the original church is wholly destroyed, a single stone enables us to recover the date of the building, the dimensions of its main doorway, the thickness of the wall, the existence of a former porch, and many other details.

It may be of some use to those who care to study our ancient buildings, to know what were the prevailing types of the old churches in Wirral, at the various periods of the Middle Ages, as they may be thus enabled to follow with greater exactness the indications that they find.

Of British churches the only trace is to be found in place-names, such as "Landican" and "Poulton Lancelyn." The word "Llan" signified "a village or town with a church," that is "a churchtown." The old British name of Wirral, *Kilgury* is said to mean "an angle": it is quite as likely that the word *Kil* signified "a cell or monastery," as it does in Ireland, and that it indicates some early Christian settlement. This would be the more likely, were the long-disputed geological question settled in favour of an entirely different coast-line from the present one having existed in British times.

Saxon remains are numerous: they consist, so far as I have been able to ascertain, entirely of churchyard and sepulchral crosses, or tombstones. One found at Upton is an inscribed Saxon stone. None of these are structural remains: doubtless nearly all the Saxon churches were of wood or wattled-work. This is quite consistent with Saxon practice. A crop, usually highly ornamented, was set up in the sacred enclosure, around which the people assembled for worship. The church was a very small and simple structure, often only sufficient in size for the ministering priest to use as a sanctuary. It is no marvel that we have no trace of Saxon building, when it is considered how Wirral was the track, over which Dane and Norseman marched, scarcely opposed, against the great city of Chester.

In the Norman period we have the earliest indications of building in Wirral. None now existing are very early. Curiously enough some of the Norman work of Birkenhead Priory, which from its extreme plainness might be mistaken for early work, has the known date of A.D. 1150. Two types of Norman churches are to be found: none of them are now entire,

and the Norman work has to be separated from later additions. The first type consists of a nave and chancel without aisles. Such were the Norman Churches of Wallasey, Bromborough, Shotwick, Ince, and Overchurch, of which only Overchurch had a tower. The second type was a church with one aisle on the North, or on either side, and an aisleless chancel. The class with a North aisle only was the more numerous. Bebington and West Kirby are instances. In the latter church a Norman base *in situ*, and a detached capital remain. Neston is the only Church in Wirral that seems to have had in the Norman period both North and South aisles, and this was extremely late in the style. I am quite prepared for a contradiction in the case of Bebington; but I may hereafter show the curious system of changes to which that building was subjected, which will confirm this view.

Lower Bebington.

EDWD. W. COX.

(To be continued.)

[22]. THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 21—February 18th.)

The next Transcript preserved at Chester is dated 1612, and is in the handwriting of the Rev. Evan Piers, who succeeded to the living of Bidston, on the death of Mr. Martin; unfortunately it has been exposed to damp at some time, and is now hardly legible, the marriages and deaths having completely perished. The following is all that can be deciphered:—

BIDSTON.

Baptizat hoc anno dom 1612.

Margareta Watte, baptizata fuit []
Maria Milner, baptizata fuit, xxviii die []
Rodulphus Kempe, baptizatus viii die Juni.	
Anna [?] Rathbon, baptizata xxiii die Juni.	
Ellen Hancocke, baptizata * * die Juli.	
[] Pemberton, baptizatus ii die Augusti.	
[] Taller []
[] Kempe []
Elizabetha Copp[ock] []
Margeria Lath, bap []
Johannes Rathbon, baptizatus []
[] Wilcock []

Then follow four or five more christenings quite illegible.

In this year, probably late in December, died "Mr. WILLIAM FELLS, yeoman," of Bidston, a man of considerable substance, who rented the recently built Manor House and the Manor Farm of Bidston (1) from the Earl of Derby, and a moiety of the Manor of Arrowe in Woodchurch Parish from

(1) In Hart MSS Index.—Vol II. p. 478 is following, "Original Articles of Agreement made between Richard Kellie of London gentleman, and William Felles of Arrowe yeoman. 10 May, 1609.

For a lease of the Manor House and Park etc., of Bidston in Wirral, which Kellie held of the Earl of Derby for which Felles was to pay Kellie £140 per annum, and a chief rent to the said Earl of £50 6s. 3d."

the Glaseours of Lea (2) as well as owning freehold property in Liverpool, Leighton, and The Hoose.

As he states in his will, much of this property had descended to him from his father, Miles Fells, who seems to have been Lord Derby's bailiff for his Bidston property.

His only daughter, Cicely, married, in 1607, John Sherlock, of Orton, a brother of the Rev. Richard Sherlock, sometime Rector of Woodchurch, and possibly cousin of Dr. Richard Sherlock, Rector of Winwick, the celebrated theological writer. Dr. Sherlock is, perhaps, not as well known as his saintly nephew, Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, ancestor of the present Lord Winmarleigh.

The fact that Mr. Fells left £5 to the school of Bidston is interesting, as showing the existence of a school at that date, 1603. This fact is corroborated by the mention in the Rev. John Martin's will in 1610, of the schoolmaster, Mr. William Fletcher; the old schoolhouse which is still standing bears the date 1636, and is said to have been built by subscription, on land given by James, Lord Strange, afterwards the Martyr Earl.

It will be noticed that the following will is dated 1603, but Mr. Fells did not die until some ten years later.

"In the name of God Amen, etc 28 Dec 1603 . . I William Fells of Arrowe [and Bidston] yeoman being in sounde mind and bodie etc; I give to the Parish of Bidston towards the mentynance of their schoole as tha reste of their stocke and sett out to that use the summe of five pounds. Also I give to the Parish of Woodchurch five pounds to be employed for the use of kine as their order is, to the use of the poore of their parishes."

Lands in Leighton, "which I purchased of the Rt Hon Wm Earle of Derby," together with residue of property "equallie between Margaret my wife, Henry Jones her sonne and Cecely Fells my daughter."

Lands in Liverpool and also "my lands upon the Houise [Hoose], Countie of Chester, I give and bequeathe to my brother Stephen Fells, and his heirs male forever, in default of such issue to my brother Christopher Fells and his heirs male forever," in default to go to the rest of "my brethren and their heires, whose names are Fells; for as these lands came unto me from my Father Myles Fells, I leave them unto one of the name of Fells."

Executors: "Margaret my wife and said Henry Jones her sonne."

Overseers, Thomas Betson, John Sharpe of Neston, Thomas Coventry of Knocktorum and Edward Gwyn of Greasbye.

FEBRUARY 27th, 1892.

[23]. ON CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANCIENT CHURCHES OF WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 20—February 20).

It is singular that though the *Early English* period was very prolific in building, and that Chester had fine examples of it, the only buildings in Wirral that showed anything in this style were Wallasey and Bidston* Churches. Out of the ruined walls of Wallasey, taken down after the Church was burned, came beautifully sculptured capitals and bases, showing that a North aisle had been then added to the nave, and a chapel to the chancel.

Towards the end of the thirteenth, and during the fourteenth century, North aisles were added to the Norman churches; and the churches generally were re-modeled. At West Kirby a South aisle was added, making it a church with centre and side aisles to the nave. Shotwick was extended by a North aisle throughout its length, and by the elongation of the chancel. At Bebington the church was remodeled in the fourteenth century, but retained its plan, having a North aisle only in the Norman period, which was afterwards changed into the main body of the church.

Eastham was built in the early part of the fourteenth century, with a north nave aisle; afterwards a north chancel aisle was added, and a south aisle to the nave, but at no distant period, making it a three aisled church. The church of Stoak is a different type from the rest: it seems to have been built in the fourteenth century, and had a south transept, but is aisleless. Backford dates late in the fourteenth or early in the fifteenth century. The nave is lost, but it has an aisleless chancel.

A further peculiarity in the Wirral churches is that none of them show any indication that they possessed towers either in the Norman or early English period, except Overchurch. The earliest steeples are Eastham and Bebington, dating about 1320. Neston is a little later; every other tower in the district is fifteenth and sixteenth century work. Probably all these latter, except West Kirby, Woodchurch, and Heswall, are of the sixteenth Century. In this late period towers were added to Wallasey, Bidston, and Backford, also to Shotwick, almost identical in design; and many of the exterior walls were repaired and windows altered by the insertion of new traceries in the fashion of the time; but little or no change was made in the plans of the churches, with the notable exception of Bebington.

It will be noticed from this sketch that there is in the district no example of a cruciform church. Only one church, Stoak, has a single transept. There

(2) In the will of William Glaseour, of Lea, Esquire, dated 1588, he leaves to his son Hugh, "one mylne of the manor of Arrowe and lands thereunto belonging which are in the occupation of Myles Fells of Byddeston."

*The nave of Bidston was very fine Early English, with round pillars and moulded capitals. The restoration is not comparable with the old work. It had two aisles of this period, but the outer walls were later.

is no instance of a central tower, and in all cases the tower occupies a position at the western end.

In no case do we find a clerestory as an original feature, nor is there any instance of a foliated capital to any of the arcades (Wallasey excepted, to which a special legend is attached) though modern specimens have been stuck into ancient work. There are scarcely any carved bosses or corbel heads, except on the fifteenth and sixteenth century towers. The character of the architecture throughout is grave, simple, and well proportioned, and depends for its effect on good proportion and effective mouldings: all is suited to the climate and to the material, a red or grey freestone, and shows an agreeable contrast to the overdone, modern restorations, which have supplanted too much of its original simplicity.

It is proposed to make separate notes of some of the churches, and I shall be grateful for the loan of any particulars, plans, or drawings of any kind made previous to late alterations, to assist in this purpose.

Lower Bebington.

EDWD. W. COX.

[24] THE MEANING OF THE ENDING BY IN PLACE NAMES.

A large number of townships in the Wirral have their names ending in the suffix *by*, thereby showing their Norse origin. Such are Kirby, Frankby, Greasby, Pensby, Irby, Whithy, &c. The following extract from Canon Atkinson's delightful book, *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, gives a clearer notion of the real meaning of the suffix than is to be found elsewhere.

"What is the meaning of the term *by*? Much too generally this question is answered in a half flippant, careless, inexact way, with the explanation 'a house, a dwelling.' Canon Taylor himself writes, 'The word originally meant a dwelling, or a single farm, and hence it afterwards came to denote a village,' and he delegates to a note what is not merely the most significant part of the requisite explanation of the syllable in all such names, but the altogether essential idea that ought to be conveyed; for in that note he says that the *by* at the end of place names 'denotes Danish colonisation. In places visited only for purposes of trade or plunder, no dwellings would be required.' Just so, 'it denotes Danish colonisation,' and colonisation, in all cases of possession and occupation for cultural purposes, meant a good deal more than merely a dwelling to cover the head of the colonist himself against the assaults of the elements or the winter's cold. True, there must be the settler's 'shanty,' but there must be also shanties, meaner than the master's, for the men who came with him for the colonist's work in the forest and on the land; there must be stables for the horses, byres for the cows, sheds for the oxen, refuges for the sheep, the swine, and the other live stock necessary to make the settlement efficient from all the requisite points of view. So that a *by* from the first, instead of being an isolated dwelling,

was a farmstead in the old full sense, when the men who worked the land were all thought of and provided with adequate dwelling-places, however rough, as well as the live and dead stock of the agriculturist. It was in this way that, when the clearings and the cultivable area became enlarged, and the population increased and went on increasing accordingly, the *by* afterwards came to denote a village." *Forty years in Moorland Parish*, pp. 264.5.

Canon Isaac Taylor tells us that a *by-laws* is so called as being the local law enacted by the township. M.A.

[25] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 22, February 20.)

The Inventory which includes a list of the debts due to the deceased is an interesting one; the following extracts are worth recording:—

"Inventory of Mr Wm Fell, lately deceased praised at Bidston 28 Jan 1612 by John Sharpe [of Neston], Gilbert Blackburn [of the Ford], Thomas Coventry, and John Houghe [of Noctorum]."

All corne in the newe barge at Bidston...85li Os. Od.
All corne in the Hall barge..... 9li Os. Od.
Mault and barleys in the lower kilne
at Bidston.....15li Os. Od.
45 young beasts at Bidston.....64li Os. Od.
2 young bullocks at John Shurlocks4li 18s. 4d.
etc. etc.

For plate that is pawned10li Os. Od.
Wheat and Rye sown in Bidston Park 11li Os. Od.
Halfe of the barke called "The Bride"
and a quarter of the barke called
"The Mayflower".....45li Os. Od.

Tacks of Ground.

The tacks of Mr.Thomas Bould's ground 13li 6s. 8d.
The tacks of Richard Hattons [of
Landiean] ground, 50li. Os. Od.
The tacks of Geo. Langford's ground 9li. Os. Od.

Goods and chattels of Mr. Fells, at Arrows, praised by aforesaid.

Thomas Worrall, of Warrington, oeth
for 200 new measures of wheat 64li Os. Od.
Richard Griffin, by bill..... 8li Os. Od.
Thomas Bould and Henry his son 6li 9s. Od.
Mr. Peter Bould for wheat 5li Os. Od.
Mr. Glegg, of Geaton, in barleye 5li Os. Od.
Mr. Adams [of Woodchurch] oweth
for a cow 3li 6s. 8d.
John Mason and Edward Griffiths
for a cow 2li 13s. 4d.
Richard Bird of Liverpool oeth by bill 5li Os. Od.
John Hey of Lancan [Landiean] for mault 1li 15s. Od.
Thomas Young of Upton..... 7s. Od.
George Umstey [?] of Puddington 1l. 6s. Od.
William Urmston, drover, oeth by bill 2li. 13s. 4d.
William Whitmore 2li. 6s. 8d.
Richard Corder 1li. 16s. Od.
Mr. Henry Bould for beef and mault 8li. 7s. 4d.
William White oweth lent money 2l 10s. Od.
Thomas Robinson 2l 6s. Od.

Sander Young	2l 16s. 0d.
Mrs Jane Brian	5l 0s. 0d.
Henry Jones [deceased's stepson]	2l 0s. 0d.
Mr. Charles Bould	9l 18s. 4d.
Richard Golbourne, of Dublin	15l 0s. 0d.
Lawrence Rathbon of Colerane, by bill 10l 0s. 0d.	
Robert Gill, of Wallizey	8l 0s. 0d.
John Young, of Wallizey	2l 10s. 0d.

Smaller amounts from Richard Erbie, Robert Stanney, and Thomas Robinson, of Wallizey, Joan Green, of The Derry, in Ireland and Roger Whitehead.

The total amount of his personalty was about £500.

MARCH 5th, 1892.

[26] WIRRAL VESSELS IN 1544.

The following list of vessels hailing from Wirral ports which paid town dues at Chester, between the 27th of October and the 30th December in the year 1544, is worth preserving. The original is amongst the splendid collection of city documents at Chester

xvii October.—The Nottorke, of Halbre, of which the master is Ric Lytill.

xxx October.—The Michaele, of Hilbre, of which the master is Thomas Lytill.

ii November.—The ——— of Hilbre, of which the master is Robert Radoliff [of Greasby].

iii November.—The Marten, of Neston, of which the master is Richard Kempe.

x November.—The Peter, of Hilbre, of which the master is Richard Sheppard.

xii November.—The Trinitie, of West Kirkebye, of which the master is Peter Warrington.

xiii November.—The Rose [?], of West Kirkebye, of which the master is Thomas Wright.

xiii November.—The Christopher, of Hilbre, of which the master is John Wright.

xxi November.—The Marten, of Neston, of which the master is Richard Kempe.

xxix November.—The Pride of West Kirkebye, of which the master is John Countreie.

— December.—The Goodlocke, of Code [Galdey] of which the master is Thomas Hogg.

xxix December.—The Nuttock, of Hilbre, of which the master is Richard Lytill.

The cargoes, which are in each case detailed in full in the original document, consisted chiefly of herrings, sheep skins, wool, and corn; and the tonnage of the vessels ranged from five to sixteen tons.

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

[27] THE NAME "BIRKENHEAD."

(See No. 17, Feb. 6).

Touching the origin of the name "Birkenhead," I cannot give an opinion as to the true original meaning, but the following notes which I made some time ago may interest your readers, and perhaps lead to a solution of the problem.

In A.D. 1158 Hamon de Massie founded a priory at *Birkened* (so spelt in the original document).

In the time of Edward III., Hamon de Massie granted to the Monks of *Birkened* the right to elect their own Prior.

In the grant to the Prior to keep an inn [27 Edw. III.], the place is spelt in the same document, *Birkenhed* and *Birkened*.

In Bowden Church there is, or was, a window placed in 1580 to Sharp Priore *de Birkenhead*.

In the Report of the Commissioners prior to the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Monastery *de Birked* is spoken of, as well as lands called *Birket Grange*. Strange to say *John Birkenhed* was one of the commissioners.

In a Return of Ministers' profits, temp 25 and 26 Henry VIII., *Birkenedensis* is named.

In 1545 the Priory estate and township or hamlet of *Byrkenhedde* were (amongst others) granted to Ralph Worsley.

In the 16th century Leland speaks of *Birket*, "late a Priory of sixteen monks."

In King's Vale Royal written in 1615 various places in the locality are named, among others, "*Birket Wood*, which hath been a famous priory."

In the Liverpool Corporation Records [1541], I find a payment of eleven shillings to a "monke of *Birket* for byndynge a boke.

I myself possess an engraving of *Birkenhedde Priory*, published in 1785.

So much for the different ways of spelling *Birkenhead*.

Birkenhead.

A. G.

[28] DEAN SWIFT AT DAWPOOL.

Dawpool in the township of Little Caldy was formerly a starting and landing place to and from Ireland.

Dean Swift set sail from Dublin for England, 28th Nov., 1707, and landed at "Darpool," and next day rode to Parkgate, on his way to Leicester. He spent 1708 in England and set sail from "Darpool" for Ireland 29th June, 1709, and landed next day at Ringsend, and went to Laracor, where he was vicar.

Birkenhead.

W. LOWNSBOROUGH.

[29] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 25—February 27).

Apud Bidston Anno dom, 1614.

- Margreta Milner baptizata fuit 30 die Martis.
- (1) Ellena Martire baptizata xxix die Aprilis.
Thomas Martin, filius Tho. Martin, bap. xx die Maii.
Elizabetha Lea bap. iiii die Julii.
Henricus Addison bap. vii die Julii.
Richardus Parboite filius Ris Parboite, bap. x die Julii.
- (2) Elizabetha Anderton bap. fuit xxiii die Julii.
Maria Charnocke bap. xxxi die Julii.
Jacobus Wilcocke filius Jo. Willcocke bap. xxxi Julii.
- (3) Margareta Shingleton bap. ultimo die Julii.
Johannes Waley bap. fuit xiii die Augusti.
- (4) Elizabetha Jones filia Hen. Jones, bap. xxi die Aug.
- (5) Johannes Goudiker bap. fuit xi die Septembris.
Anna Sefton baptizata fuit eodem die.
Henricus Kettle baptizatus fuit eodem die.
Gulielmus Stoneton baptizatus fuit eodem die.
Henricus Gobin baptizatus fuit eodem die.
- (6) Thomas Gill bap. fuit secundo die Novembris
Henry Watte baptizatus fuit xiii die Novembris.
Georgius Handcocke bap fuit xx die Decembris.
Janeta Lathe bap fuit ultimo die Decembris.
Johanes Martin filius. Jo. Martin, bap ii die Jan.
Richardus Taller filius. Willm. Ta. bap xii die Martis.

Matrimonia.

- (7) Jacobus Gerrard et francisca Poole xxx die Maii.
- (8) Jacobus Anderton et Margareta Hamnet xiii. die Junia.
Johannes Hancock, et Anna Gill, 17 die Decembris.
Richardus Lea et Anna Wade quinto die Februarii.
- (9) Johanes francisson et Alicia Troughton, xix. die Feb.

(1) Daughter of Daniel Meitser by his wife Elizabeth Martin. Vide weddings 1605.

(2) Daughter of James Anderton by his wife Margaret Hamnet. Vide weddings same year.

(3) Daughter of Christopher Shingleton by his wife Margaret daughter of the Rev. John Martin. Vide weddings 1605 and the Rev. John Martin's will.

(4) Henry Jones, of Bidston Hall, "gentleman," as he is described in his will; he occupied Bidston Hall Farm from 1613, having succeeded to the lease on the decease of his stepfather, Wm. Fell's (vide Wm. Fell's will) until his death in 1618.

(5) See burials same year.

(6) The Gill family had been settled for many generations in this and the surrounding parishes; the head branch seems to have been at Wallasey. In the previous year to this namely 1613, a cert. in John Gill, of Poulton, "disclaimed" at the Herald's Visitation.

(7) James Gerrard of Bidston, and Frances Poole, probably of Bebbington.

(8) James Anderton, of Cloughton: this his first wife, Margaret, died on the 12th of August, 1624 (q.v.), and in the following November he married for his second wife, Anne Hancock, of Moreton.

(9) Neither of these names occurs again in the Register there was a family of Troughton at Woodchurch about this period.

Sepult.

Thomas Kettle sepultus xxxvii die Martis.

Alicia Newton sepulta ultimo die Martis.

Alicia Bennett sepulta xix die Junia.

- (1) Johannes Goudakar sepultus xi die Septembris
- (2) Johannes Billings sepultus xiii die Novembris
Anna Dean sepulta x die Decembris
Isabella Clayton sepulta xviii. die Januarii.
Ellena Skowfield sepulta xix die Januarii

Per me, Evanu Piers.

MARCH 12th, 1892.

[30] BISHOP PEARSON AND THE WOOD-CHURCH COW CHARITY.

In 1625, James Goodacre (miscalled Goodier by Ormerod), of Barnston, gave 20 marks, that is £18 6s. 8d., to buy 20 yoke of bullocks for the poor of the parish of Woodchurch. By order of the "Commissioners for Pious uses," (the Charity Commissioners of the time), the said bullocks were converted into cows—a notable miracle even for a Puritan board to accomplish! The bullocks had been doubtless intended to plough the land. The change seems to show that grazing was increasing, while corn growing was diminishing in the parish.

The management of the charity led to frequent disputes, to put an end to which it was agreed to refer the matter to the Bishop of Chester. The bishop at that time was John Pearson, the world renowned author of the *Treatise on the Creed*. Dr. Pearson devoted a long summer's day at Wigan, where he was then residing, to the full hearing of the case, and then the vindicator of St. Ignatius did not disdain to employ his pen in writing down some business-like rules for the prevention of further disputes, and the use and improvement of the stock. To give the arbitration more authority, it was agreed to have it enrolled at Chester, where it may be seen in the Bishop's Act Book. It has never been printed in full, though it is, I think, sufficiently curious to deserve to be so. I accordingly subjoin it here:—

"To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, be seen or may any wise appertaine, and especially to the inhabitants of Woodchurch in the deanery of Worrall, within the county and diocese of Chester, John, by divine permission, Lord Bishop of Chester, sendeth greeting:

(1) See christenings same year.

(2) John Billings, in his will dated 10th November, 1614, mentions "my wife, Margaret Billings," and "my son William Pemberton," whom he constitutes Exors.

He appoints "my trustie and well-beloved frendes, John Deane, Gilbert Urmston, and William Billings, overseer rs."

"Dettes owinge by testator.

To Henry Rawlinson, of Neston, £3 6s. 8d.

To Isabell Mory (?) £3 3s. 0d.

To William Billings 50 7s. 6d.

There are small debts due testator from Mr. Henry Bould, Thomas Kettle, John Irbie, and John Parboth. Witnesses: Henry Watt, and Evan Piers, clerk.

His personalty was valued at £83 3s. by Gilbert Urmston, William Butter, William Billings, and Thomas Hancock.

Whereas there have been for several years past great differences amongst the parishioners of the said parish of Woodchurch, concerning the disposing of the parish cows and stock from thence arising, being the improvement and increase of twenty marks given of a pious intention by one James Goodaere, of Barnston, in the said parish of Woodchurch; now, in order to the quieting and composing the said differences, a full hearing of the said parishioners in all matters relating thereto being lately held before us, it was there unanimously agreed and consented unto, that all former order obtained, concerning the management of the aforesaid charity, should from thenceforth be void and of none effect, and that the disposition of the said parish cows and stock from thence arising for the benefit of the said parish, shall always for the future be managed according to the particular directions in the following order.

Know ye therefore that we the said Bppe. of Chester in pursuance of the said agreement doe hereby order and decree, That from henceforth there shall alwaies be twelve Governors, whereof the owners of the House of Prenton successively to be one, the Parson of the said Parish of Woodchurch for ye time being another, and the Churchwardens of the said parish alsoe for the time being two more. The other eight to be elected yearly out of the eight townships of the said parish, one out of each by the votes of the inhabitants of each particular township. That each man soe elected may oversee and take care of the cowes of his particular township and upon the abuse or embezzlement of any of them may give notice to the two overseers of the whole to take care of them.

It is also hereby further ordered that the twelve governors shall jointly have power to nominate and elect two overseers yearly. And if it shall soe happen that upon the nomination and choice of the two overseers, the governors shall be equally divided in their votes, That the owners of the House of Prenton successively shall alwaies have the casting vote, and the two overseers duly elected with the consent of the twelve governors or ye major part of them, shall have power to dispose of the Cowes that shall be bought for their year, and if they see occasion to alter or cause to be exchanged any of these Cowes for younger; and every person having a parish Cow or Cowes, shall pay into the hands of the two overseers for every Cow the sum of two shillings and eightpence a Cow, on the Friday before Whitsuntide; and the overseers shall have power to dispose of the hire of these Cowes to keep up and improve the stock; and they shall give up their accounts to the twelve governors every year, both of the receipt of ye moneys and improvement of the stock. And the said twelve governors or the major part of them shall have power to allow and approve of their accounts.

It is also further ordered that every Cow shall be marked on the one horse with W.P. (signifying Woodchurch Parish), and on the other horse with the two first letters of the parson's name for the time being, that they may be known to proceed from the aforesaid charitable gift, and used accordingly. And the parsons of the said parish successively shall keep a book wherein shall be written yearly the accounts of ye two overseers for the time to come.

It is also further ordered, That every person who hath a parish Cow or Cowes shall bring them or cause them to be brought every Friday before Whitsuntide into the parson's court, and tie them to ye staples that are there provided for the same use, that soe they may be viewed by the governors and overseers, and, if they be over twelve years of age the overseers shall cause them to be exchanged for younger. And if any person shall faile either paying his hire at the day appointed, or not bring his Cow or Cowes into the parson's court to be viewed as aforesaid. That then he shall not only forfeit his Cow or Cowes to be taken from him, but shall be rendered incapable of having any other for the space of three years.

Lastly it is hereby ordered and decreed, That a copy of this order shall be entered in the Bishop's Registry at Chester, and the Order itself deposited in the parish chest of which the Parson of the Parish and the Churchwardens for the time being are to keep the keyes.

In witness whereof wee have hereunto caused our seal episcopall to be set, and have subscribed the same. Given at Wigan this seventeenth day of July, in the year of our Lord God 1679, and in the seventh year of our consecration."

JO. CESTRIENSES.

The charity is still in existence, and the rules laid down by Bishop Pearson are still observed, except that the cows are not brought annually for examination to the Rector's Court. But since the Enclosures Act, there has not been the same amount of free pasturage as in former times, and consequently, not the same demand for cows. There are now only twenty-five, by far the greater number of which are hired in the township of Barnston. F. SANDERS.

[31.] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 25—March 5.)

Christenings, Anno dom, 1615.

- William Willson, baptized the 4th of Aprill.
 Elizabeth Pemberton, baptized the 6th of Aprill.
 Nathanaell Kettle, baptized the xxv of Aprill.
 (1) Edward Bennett, baptized the xth of June.
 Thomas Coppowe, baptized the viith of July.
 William Rutter, baptized the 29th of July.
 Robert Bennett, baptized the x of August.
 (2) Adam Kempe, baptized the 29th of August.
 (3) Ales. Bennett, baptized the 3rd of September.
 (4) William Pemberton, de rake, baptized the 8th of October.

(1) Probably a son of William Bennett, of Moreton, by his wife Ellen; William Bennett died 1st March, 1638 [o.s.]

(2) A son of Thomas Kemp, of Saughall-Massey; (vide Lettice Kemp's will in 1667.)

(3) Probably a daughter of Richard Bennet, of Saughall Massey, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Ley, of Saughall; she married about 1635 John Godwyn, of Bromley, County Stafford, and had at least one son Arthur, afterwards of Saughall-Massey, some of whose descendants are now living in Birkenhead (vide Arthur Godwin's will 1696.)

(4) Rake: name of a farm in Moreton. Some two hundred yards before reaching Moreton, approaching by the road from Bidston, on the right hand side is a white cottage which stands in a field called "The Rake Hay;" this is no doubt the site of the old Moreton Rake Farm.

William Prenton, baptized the xii of October.
 William Pointon, baptizd the xxii of October.
 Margery Rathbon, baptized the same day.
 William Rutter, baptized the xii of November
 John Lea Christened, the 20th November.
 John Williamson, baptized the 21st of
 November.

- (1) Stephen Willcocks, baptized the 26th December.
 Ellen Pemberton, baptized the 23rd of February.
- (2) Elizabeth Willson, baptizd the 4th of March.

WEDDINGS.

- (3) Stephen Fells and Jane Wrighte, married xx. of
 July.
 William Hesketh and Anne Hiccocks, married
 the iii. of August.
 William Robinson and Barbara Howe, married
 the viii. of October, at Neston.
- (4) Henry Willcocks and Katherine Brereton,
 married the vi. of October.
 Richard Linaker and Margaret Rutter, married
 the ii. of January.
 William Hodgeson and Margery Goudiker,
 married the xi. of February.
 Gilbert Pemberton and Joan Smythe, married
 the v. of February.

BURIALS.

- Ellin Martin, buried the xxix. of March.
- Robert Buckley, buried the v. of June.
- Robert Coney, buried the last of September.
- Jdus Gobin, buried the xi. of October.
- Katherine Smyth, buried the xxth of October.
- Ellin Martin alias Gunston, buried xiii. of
 January.
- (5) Elizabeth Willson, buried the xii. of March.
 Per me Evann' Piers.
 curata' ibid.

MARCH 19th, 1892.

[82] THE NAME HAZLEHURST.

My attention has been called to the frequent variations in the spelling of *old names* by the contributor to your "Wirral Notes and Queries," upon the name of our town "Birkenhead."—(See No. 27.) I think I can make an interesting communication upon the subject of the variation of the spelling of names. We are aware how illiterate clerks, and sometimes divines (?) *murdered* in old time the names of those whom they had to write down, but it will, perhaps, be a curiosity to find the surname of

(1) Son of Henry Willcocks by his wife Katherine Brereton; vide marriages same year. Katherine Brereton was the daughter of — Brereton, probably of Bidston, by his wife Margaret, who, on his decease married secondly — Jones, of —, and thirdly, William Fells, of Arrowe and Bidston; (vide William Fells's will 1613.)

(2) Vide burials same year.

(3) Stephen Fells, of Bidston, and Jane Wrighte, probably of Greaseby; Stephen Fells was a son of Miles Fells, of Bidston and brother of William Fells of the same, mentioned in preceding note.

(4) Vide supra note No. 1.

(5) Vide christenings same year.

one family spelt in *eighteen* different ways, as it is in the Bidston Registers. The family is that of "Hazlehurst."

Owing to a dispute about the ownership of very considerable lands and property in Lancashire (a dispute which I believe is yet unsettled), I was asked some four years ago to investigate the Registers in order to give the history of the Hazlehurst family, from the marriage of John Hazlehurst and Grace Roscoe (1734 or thereabouts) to the present day. This marriage does not appear in the Bidston Books, but John and his wife must have settled in Bidston immediately after it, as nearly all their children were baptized, married, and buried there; and their descendants on the female side are still to be counted by the score or more in the parish. *Seventy-seven* entries occur in the Registers between the years 1744 and 1877, the last of these being that of the burial of an old John Hazlehurst, aged 93. The name is spelt in the following various ways:—*Hazler, Hazlehurst, Hazwell, Hazel, Hasel, Hassel, Hazelhurst, Haselhust, Hasehurst, Hasel Hurst, Hazlehurst, Halsuhust, Hasehwhurst, Hazler, Haselhurst, Haselhurst, Hastlehurst, Hasselhurst.* The different entries of these are appended:—

BAPTISMS.

- 1744 Decr. 16 James ye son of James (?) and Grace *Hazler* of Claighton.
- 1747 Feb. 2 Benjamin son of John *Hazlehurst* of Bidston Hill, Labourer, and Grace his wife.
- 1749 (or 1750) Catherine d. of John and Grace *Hazwell*. Feb 18th.
- 1752 Martha d. of John and Grace *Hazel*. July 26th.
- 1754 Grace d. of John and Grace *Hazel*, born Novr. 21. Baptd Decr 22.
- 1758 Thomas s. of John and Grace *Hassel* Feb 12th.
- 1769* Samuel s. of Samuel and Margaret *Hazlehurst*. Feb 8th.
- 1770 Jane d. of James† and Margaret *Haselhust* of Carr. April 8th.
- 1772 Catherine d. of James and Margaret *Hasehurst* of Carr. Sept 13th.
- 1773 William s. of Samuel and Margaret *Hasel Hurst* born Augst 2 Augst 29.
- 1775 Peggy d. of Samuel and Margaret †*Hazlehurst* Decr 17th.

There is a *break* in the Baptisms of this family from 1790 to 1809.

- 1809 Augst 27 Mary d of John and Catherine *Halsuhust* (sic) Bidston.
- 1811 May 5 Ann d. of John and Catherine *Hasehurst* Bidston.

MARRIAGES.

- 1761 March 26 Samuel *Hazler* of Bidston and Margaret Gibson.
- 1769 May 30 James *Hazlehurst* and Margaret Meadow both of Bidston.
- 1781 Janr 1 Thos *Haselhurst* and Nancy Lineker both of Bidston, witness John *Haselhurst*.

BURIALS.

- 1752 Martha *Hastlehurst* Janr 11th.
- 1796 Oct 30 Wm s. of John and Sarah *Hasselhurst* of Liverpool aged 1 year.

*Samuel was (eldest?) son of John and Grace Hazlehurst. †James was probably the third son of John and Grace Hazlehurst.

†This is the *first* entry among the Baptisms in the present form of the name.

The families with whom the Hazlehursts intermarried were those of *Roscoe, Gibson, Meadow, Leavy, Whittle, Linaker, Carter, Owens* (Woodchurch), *Price, Corfs, &c.*, and the present representatives of the family in the Parish of Bidston are to be found among the Whartons, Povalls, Williams, and others.

Curious variations of spelling can be noted also in the *Roscoe* family, of which ten or a dozen entries are found in the registers. It is spelt indifferently, *Roscoe—Roscow—Rosshall—Rosco—Rosioce—and Roskoe*. The name altogether disappears after 1770.

Bidston Rectory. J. F. BUCKLER, M.A.

[33] PARKGATE & DAWPOOL.

The following extracts from the *Gentleman's Magazine* respecting the above-named places may be interesting to your readers:—

"September 14th, 1806. The King George packet of and from Parkgate for Dublin was lost this night near Hoyle Bank, and it is said all on board except 3 or 4 perished. She had upwards of 100 passengers, but only 4 cabin passengers."

Vol. lxxvi, pt. ii, p. 869.

1822. "The establishment of the Port of Dawpool near Chester is in progress and a speedy report is expected on the subject from the engineer Mr. Telford.

Independently of the general accommodation which packets would afford at that station, the ready communication between Dublin and the depot at Chester, where nearly 40,000 stand of arms are kept and the warlike stores, is of vital importance, especially at a time when the sister island is in a state of dangerous fermentation."

Vol. xciii, p. 864.

Birkenhead.

W. LOWNSBOROUGH.

[34] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 31.—March 12.)

BIDSTON. Anno Dni 1617.

A Register of all christenings, weddinges & burials at Bidston. Anno pdi.

CHRISTENINGS.

- (1) Thomas Watte christened the iiii of April.
William Lath christened the vi of April.
Jo: Parbold filius Rici Parbold the 27 April.
- (2) John Bennett christened the xii of May.
Elizabeth Martin christened the first of June
- (3) Ellen Kempe christened the x of June.

(1) Son of Robert Watte, and grandson of Henry Watt, of Saughall Massey, husbandman, who was witness at the trial between Gilbert and John Urnston in 1607 (vide page 13); vide also following wills: Alice Smith of Saughall Massey, 1589; Margaret Griffiths, 1596, and Henry Watt, 1637.

(2) Son of Christopher Bennett of Saughall Massey died same year, vide burials 22nd June.

(3) Ellen Kemp, daughter of Thomas Kemp, married, about 1640, John Fasakerly, of Barnston (vide Lettice Kemp's will 1687).

- (1) William Hesketh christened the xviii of July.
Jane Tallier christened the 19 of July.
William Kempe christened the 20th of August
- (2) Katherine Brereton christened ultimo September er.
Elizabeth Lea christened the vi of October.
Ellin Lea christened the 9 of October.
- (3) William Calvin christened the xvi of October.
- (4) Gilbert Wilson christened the xi of November.
- (5) William Gobin christened eod die
- (6) John Hodgesson christened the xiii of November.
Christopher Bennett christened the 23 of November.
- (7) James Wilson christened the xxii of December
Thomas Kettle christened the 9th of January.
Hester Rathbon christened the 13th of January.
Elizabeth Woodward christened the 19 of February.

WEDDINGS. Eod Anno.

Henry Robinson and Jone Pemberton, married ye iiii of May.
William Gill and Ellen Harrison married the last day of January.

BURIALS. Anno dni.

- William Lynaker buried ye 4th April.
Tho: Oney buried ye xvi of May.
Elizabeth Pemberton buried ye vii of Juné.
John Bennett buried ye 22nd of June.
Ellin Truman buried ye xvi of September.
- (8) Katherine Lurting buried ye last of September
Tho: Coppowe buried ye 10. h of October.
Henry Hamnett buried ye 7 of January.
Thomas Urnston buried ye ixv of January.
John Lea, buried ye 25th of January.
William Adkinson, buried ye 26th of January.
 - (9) John Hodgesson, buried ye 28th of January.
 - (10) William Gobbin, buried ye 20th of February.
Margery Rathbon, buried ye xi of March.
Elizabeth Martin, buried ye 20th of March.

per me Evanu' Piers
curat ibid.

(1) Vide weddings, 1615.
(2) Daughter of John Brereton of Moreton and Margaret his wife; this child died in 1624 (vide burials 1624, also will of John Brereton of Moreton 1664).

(3) Son of Henry Calvin or Colvin of Moreton.
(4) Gilbert Wilson, eldest son of Richard Wilson, of Claughton who died in 1629 (vide Richard Wilson's will of that date); Gilbert, who is described in 1649 as "Yeoman" of Claughton, signed the Cheshire Remonstrance, at Bidston in 1642; see also Note 10.

(5) See burials same year, 20th Feb.

(6) See burials same year, 29th Jan.

(7) James Wilson, son of James Wilson of Claughton; nephew of Richard Wilson of Claughton (vide note 7), and grandson of James Wilson of the same township, by his wife Cecily, daughter of James Drinkwater, of Claughton (vide also will of James Drinkwater, 1592). About this period there only appear to have been these two households in the parish bearing the name of Wilson; later in the century, however, the family increased very rapidly, so that it is the name that occurs most frequently in the Register, between 1581 and 1730.

(8) An honoured Liverpool name, but one that was not at all common in Wirral at this period; this is the only occurrence of the name in the Register.

(9) Vide Christenings same year, xliii Nov.

(10) Vide Christenings same year, xli Nov.

MARCH 26th, 1892.

[35] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

III.—ARCHDEACON TRAVIS.

George Travis was the only son of Mr. John Travis, of Heyside, in the parish of Boyton, near Oldham. His grandfather, also named George, who died in 1739, was descended from the family of Travis, of Inchfield, in Rochdale parish, which had migrated thither from Blackley, near Manchester, in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Young Travis received the early part of his education from his uncle, the Rev. Benjamin Travis, then Incumbent of Boyton, and had a high opinion of the learning and ability of his first preceptor. At the beginning of 1756, he was sent to Manchester Grammar School, then under the headmastership of Mr. Purnell. Some of the pupils of this gentleman attained to high positions both in church and state. Among the contemporaries of Travis may be mentioned Cyril Jackson, afterwards Dean of Christ Church, Oxford; Arden, who became Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and was raised to the Peerage as Baron Alvanley; Arnald, Senior Wrangler in 1766, and sub-preceptor of George IV.; and Bower, afterwards Archdeacon of Richmond.

On Dec. 9, 1759, the Manchester Grammar School boys performed Addison's *Cato*, despite the remonstrances of John Byrom who had a correspondence with Purnell on the subject. Arden represented *Cato*; Travis, Juba; Arnald, Marcus; and Bower, Marcia.

Travis entered St. John's College, Cambridge, as a sizar in 1761, and was placed under the tutorship of Mr. Abbot. That he employed his time at the University well was shown in 1765, when he appeared as 6th Senior Optime, and the Chancellor's Senior Medallist, that is, he was the best classic of his year. In the same year he was made deacon by Bishop Young of Norwich (March 3) and ordained priest by Bishop Green of Lincoln (Dec. 22).

In 1766 he was nominated by the Crown, to which the presentation had lapsed, to the Vicarage of Eastham, in which Wirral village he resided for the remainder of his life.

It seems somewhat strange that a scholar of such eminence as Travis did not become a fellow of his College. This is probably accounted for by his marriage, which took place in 1766. His wife was Ann, daughter and coheir of James Stringfield, Esq., of Whitfield, who survived her husband many years.

Mr. Travis appears to have been in very easy circumstances, which enabled him to hold a living of such small value as Eastham then was. At the time of his appointment the entire value of the benefice was little more than £30 a year. The preceding vicars of Eastham had, as far as the memory of the parishioners went back, "lived for the greatest part of their lives on charity, and died

insolvent." "Unable," says Travis, "to assert the rights of the vicarage, they bartered them away in unequal compacts, or abandoned them through a despair of enforcing their payment." The new vicar was resolved to vindicate these rights to the utmost. Having first made himself a master of the Law of Tithe, on which he became an eminent authority, he commenced proceedings against the principal land owners in the parish, who, headed by Sir William Stanley, of Hooton, leagued themselves together under the formal objection of a bond to resist Travis's demand. Single-handed the vicar carried on the contest, knowing that the law was on his side. His opponents sought to stop him, by carrying the case from court to court. "Relying on their wealth," he writes in 1778, "they are determined that even my successes shall be ruinous to me, and have accordingly carried the principal of the causes, after two unanimous decrees in the Court of Exchequer against them, before the highest court of judicature in the kingdom. . . . They do not depend on their own strength, but on my weakness and inability to pursue them."

In spite of the strength and wealth of his opponents, Travis succeeded in defeating them on every point; and after expending some £2,000 in the struggle, he had the satisfaction of raising the value of the living to over £100 a year.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[36] WIRRAL VESSELS IN 1571.

(See No. 26—March 5.)

Licences to sail from the port of Chester to certain other specified ports were granted on the 23rd and 25th of May, 1571, by Sir Lawrence Smith, Mayor of Chester, to the following men and for the following vessels. It is interesting to compare this list with the one dated 1544:—

Thomas Warrington, of Hilbre, mariner, and Simon Montford, of the City of Chester, merchant, *The Michael, of Hilbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Thomas.

William Radoliff, of Chester, and Thomas Radoliff, of Hilbre, *The Elizabeth, of Hilbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid William.

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

Cloughton.

(To be continued.)

[37] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 34—March 19.)

A Registry of all Christnings, Weddings, and Burials at Bidstone, an. dom. 1618.

Elizabeth Williamson baptized the laste of March.

- (1) Thomas Golburne baptized ye vii of Aprill.
Thomas Dod baptized the xvii of Aprill.
Anne Wilcocke baptized the iiii of Maye.
- (2) John Bennett baptized the vi of Maye.
- (3) William Wilcocke baptized the xiii of Maye.
- (4) Ann Smyth baptized the vii of June.
Alice Gill baptized the xvi of June.
Thomas Handcooke baptized the vi of July.
Thomas Butter baptized the xiii of July.
Jane Bennett baptized the xxx of July.
William Bolton baptized the xv of September
Elizabeth Smyth baptized the xxvii of September.
Elizabeth Pemberton baptized the vii of October.
Mary Bennett baptized the same day.
- (5) Gilbert Waley baptized the xxviii of October.
Stiven Pemberton baptized the xxii of November.
Henry Wilcocke baptized the xxv of November.
Mary Anderton baptized the xv of December.
Alice Lea baptized the xxiii of December.
Margery Hale baptized the xiii of January.
Elizabeth Welsh baptized the xxv of January.
- (6) Henry Bould baptized the xxviii of January.
Dorothy Pemberton baptized the xv of February.
Roger Kempe baptized the xxi of February.
Weddings Anno pd.
Robert Heaketh and Joana Pemb'ton maryed xiii of Aprill.
- (7) Thomas Smyth and Mary Bennett maryed the x of June.
Robert Lunt and Anne Yewdes maryed the iiii of July.
- (8) Richard Pelin and Ellin Robinson maryed the xvi of August.
Lawrence Okill and Jane Moores maryed the vii of January.
Thomas Lea and Elizabeth Higginson maryed the last of January.
Nicholas Hale and Mary Lloyd maryed the iiii of February.
- BURIALLS.**
- (9) William Erby buried the vth of Aprill.
Walter Chambers buried the xviii of Aprill.

(1) Possibly a son of Richard Golburne, of Dublin and Liverpool, vide list of debts in Wm. Fell's will, and in Henry Jones' will; the name is not a common one, and this is the only case in which it occurs at Bidston.

(2) Probably son of Christopher Bennet, of Saughall-Massey, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Coney, of Parkside, in the county of Lancaster, gentleman.

(3) Son of Henry Wilcocke, vide weddings, 1615.

(4) In the Bromborough Registers for this year, is the following entry under burials: "Anna filia Petri Smith de Birket Wood sepult xx die Decembris."

(5) Vide Burials same year.

(6) A son of one of the Bolds, of Upton, a branch of the Bolds, of Bold. Mr. Peter Bold, of Upton, who died in 1605, had six sons, several of whom were settled in Upton parish at this period.

(7) Thomas Smyth, son of Thomas Smyth, of Saughall-Massey, and grandson of Alice Smyth, of the same, who alludes to her grandson Thomas Smyth in her will dated 1589 (q.v.) Mary Bennet, third daughter of John Bennet, of Saughall-Massey, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Potter, of Prescott, in the county of Lancaster, Esquire.

(8) Richard Pelin, probably of Woodchurch parish.

(9) William Erby, of Moreton, Tanner (vide his will *infra*).

frances Rawley buried the last of Aprill.
George Handcooke buried the vi of May.
Gabriell Jones buried the vii of May.
Thomas Kettle buried the vii of June.
Thomas Coney buried the same day.
Jane Lathe buried the iiii of July.
Ellen Pemberton buried the xii of July.
Elizabeth Williamson buried the xxiii of August.

Anne Moson buried the last of August.
Roger Williams buried the ixth of September.
Hugh Mosse buried the same day.
Henry Bennett, infant, buried the xxviii of October.

Alice Gill buried the same day.

- (1) Gilbert Waley buried the vi of November.
Ellin Pemberton buried the vii of November.
Anne Bennett buried the xxiii of November.
Ellen Rutter buried the xix of January.
Elizabeth Welsh buried the xxx of January.
Thomas Rutter buried the second of March.
- (2) William Goglin buried the v of March.
- (3) Gilbert Urmston buried the vi of March.
Henry Watte buried the xviii of March.

p. me Euanu' Piers
de Bidston curat.

APRIL 2nd, 1892.

[88] INSCRIBED AND DATED HOUSES.

Before the days of the Jerry Building Fiend, when a man erected a house, he meant it to remain for some years at least, and being proud of his work he frequently had his initials and the date of building cut on a stone and built into the wall in some prominent place. Many of these simple inscriptions are still to be seen in our Wirral villages, some of which have weathered two and three hundred winters.

These relics of a former time are yearly diminishing in number, and it has occurred to me that it might be worth while publishing in your column, from time to time, particulars of those still existing; it would also add very much to the interest of such a list if the names for which the initials stand could also be added. This can be done with a little trouble, as such information can usually be derived from the Parish Registers.

The following are from Bidston Parish, with suggested explanations of the initials:—

The earliest, so far as I have been able to discover, is the old school house standing on the left hand side of the lane leading from the church to the Moss. It bears the date 1686 over the old and now disused doorway.

(1) Vide christenings same year.

(2) The only case in which this name occurs in the Register. The name still exists at Lingham, near the Leasowe lighthouse, where there is a field called Goglin's Yard.

(3) Gilbert Urmston, of Moreton, yeoman (vide his will *infra*).

The next oldest dated house is in Sanghall Massey (it must be borne in mind that Sanghall Massey, Moreton, and part of OUGHTON, were included in Bidston Parish until about 80 years ago); it stands on the right hand side of the road as one goes towards Moreton: the inscription is ^S and the date below it 1670. I take this to be George Sutton and Ann his wife, though I am not quite clear about it; it may allude to a family of the name of Sefton, who were in Sanghall-Massey about this date.

Going towards Newton from Sanghall-Massey, on the left hand side of the road, built into the western gable of the last house in the village is a stone bearing the inscription, ^G and the date 1690. About this there is no doubt; it alludes to Arthur Godwin and Ellen his wife, who were the ancestors of a widespread family, some of whose descendants are living in Birkenhead to-day.

In Moreton village, on the chimney stack of a cottage, which is on the right hand side as one goes towards the Railway station, is the inscription ^B and the date 1690. This refers to William Bennett and his wife Margaret. Wm. Bennett was a yeoman of considerable substance, and representative of a junior branch of the ancient family of Benet of Sanghall-Massey.

One has to travel across the parish to Mr. Much's farm at The Ford to get the next house. The inscription and date, irregularly cut on a stone in the North gable, are ^W. 1694, and refer to John Wilcock, described in the Register, as of 'The Ford' who married in 1685 Mary Day of West Kirby Parish.

Mr. Royden's house in Bidston Village furnishes the next example, which is however not quite clear: it is either ^W. or ^W. and the date is 1697. This house belonged in 1697 to Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall, and he bequeathed it in that year to his son Obadiah, whose wife's name was Blanche, so that the meaning of the initials is not quite apparent.

It is interesting to notice that all these houses are built in stone, whereas all the dated houses in the parish, for the next century, with one exception, are built in brick.

HOLLY.

(To be Continued).

[89] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 37—February 26).

WILLIAM IABIE, of Moreton, in the county of Chester, Tanner, mentions in his will "William Pemberton, Henry Bennet, Thomas Younge, George Pemberton, Miles Pemberton, my son-in-law, and his two youngest children, Thomas and John; my brother, Richard Erbie; my sister, Margaret Lowe."

He leaves "to the poore of the Parish, xlii xviii iiii, oweinge unto me from Richard Hogge and Richard Johnson, the intereste on the said sum, to be given to the blinde, lame, and impotent, of the parish, upon Good Fridaye yearlie for ever, in Bidston Churchyard." (1)

Executors: Miles Pemberton and Ellen his wife.

Witnesses: Evan Piers.

Richard Lane [?] clerke.

William Kemp.

Inventoire praised iii April, 1618, by John Bennet, William Rutter, Robert Pemberton, Thomas Handcooke, John Gill, Richard Erby.

Summa totalis, colxxiv, iiii, iid.

Dettes oweinge unto William Erbie.

Peter Pemberton.....	£1	8	0
William Billinge and Henry Willcoke....	8	5	0
Thomas Bennet.....	1	4	0
Henry Pemberton de Wallizey	1	2	0
Henry Bennet and Thomas Young.....	34	13	0
John Bennet and Christopher, his son....	33	13	4
John Pemberton de Car.....	19	19	4
William Maddock.....	10	10	4
Thomas Bould.....	4	8	0
Thomas Martin.....	22	0	0
Richard Johnson and Richard Hogge....	9	16	4
John Martin and Thomas Kempe.....	9	18	0
Thomas Smythe and Thomas Martin.....	7	14	0
Henry Lowe and Peter Pemberton.....	9	14	0

also from John Tottie, John Tassie, John Truman, John Gill, John Rathbon, and Thos Hankin.

GILBERT URMSTON of Moreton, yeoman, requests that his "bodie be buried in the church or chapele of Bidston."

"Item.—I give and bequeathe to Robert Pemberton the younger of Moreton, his two children *xxs* a piece."

"Item.—I give and bequeathe to Mr. John Hookenhull his children *xxs*. a piece."

"Item.—To my servants, Edward Burges, Edward Jones and my maid servante Elizabeth Brownrigge, a heffer a peece."

"Item.—To my sister Ellen Pemberton *vs.*"

Rest and Residue to "Elizabeth my wife."

"Item.—I make John Hookenhull of Prenton Esquire and Elizabeth my wife my Executors, 8 March 1618.

In Witness: Robert Pemberton.

Edward Burges.

Edward Jones.

Richard Lane [?] cler.

Inventorie of Gilbert Urmston, of Moreton who deceased 5th March, praised the x of March 1618 by John Bennet, Henry Bennet, Raphe Acksen (of Landican) and Robert Bennet.

Dettes due to the said testator.

Imprimis.—Henrie Bould

Item.—Thomas Bennet and Thos.

Smyth of Sanghan-Massey

£9 8s. 3d. £7 8s. 3d.

(1) This bequest was in existence in 1710, as there is a note in the Register Book relating to the appointment of overseers to distribute the interest; in the official returns of charities, however, made in 1787-8, it is not mentioned, so it was probably lost between these dates.

Item.—William Rutter.....	£6 12s. 0d.
Item.—John Benet and Christopher Benet of Sangham-Massie	£19 6s. 4d.
Item.—Richard Chamberlaine	£8 6s. 8d.
Item.—Richard Kinge	£1 0s. 0d.

The will was proved xix March 1618 by Elizabeth Urmston, widow.

Tied up in the bundle, with the will, is an autograph letter from Mr. John Hockenhull, the other executor, to someone whose name he does not mention, probably an official at the Probate Court. This letter is as follows :

“ Lovinge Cozen,

I commend my selfe unto your goodness; this is to lett you understand, that whereas I am joyned executor with this widdowe, which was my cozen Ormstons wife and should have come to paie probert the will, I give all the authority for the probacon at this tyme, into her handes by reason, I have some urgent occasions [occasions] that I could not come and you know that my health is coarse, and that I am loth to ryd so far as yett. Receive my beste wishes, I am your loveinge cozen,

John Hockenhull.” [sgd.]

[40] QUERY.

Can any of your readers inform me whether the Cheshire Domesday Book is still in existence ?

Cowdroy, in his short account of Cheshire, published in 1791, thus speaks of it :—Peter Leycester, in his “ History of Bucklow Hundred,” says, “ There was a Domesday book in our Exchequer at Chester formerly, wherein many deeds and records were enrolled; but this book is now lost.” And again “ In the roll of the ancient Charters called Domesday, anciently remaining among the records at Chester, but now lost and taken away,” &c.”

Cowdroy proceeds to say : “ But with the leave of this great antiquary, this invaluable record was at least a record which ascertains the lineal, and uninterrupted succession of almost every single acre in Cheshire, for at least five hundred years, is now in my possession. I should be sorry to suppose it was stolen, and the precious casket of ancient charts, which Sir Peter tells us was taken away. But I own my heart leaps with a provincial joy when I reflect that accident has put in my power to oblige my countrymen with this *opus aurum*, this golden record, so infinitely superior to any record now existing, either in the archives, or in the annals of any other county in Great Britain.

If this were not the Cheshire Domesday, what was it? and what has become of so valuable a document or set of records ?

E. W. Cox.

Lower Bebington.

APRIL 9th, 1892.

[41] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

III.—ARCHDEACON TRAVIS.

(Continued from No. 35—March 26.)

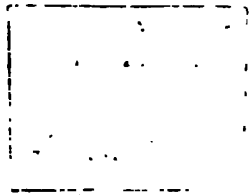
Travis appears to have been an excellent parish priest. His answers to the Visitation Articles of Bishops Porteus and Cleaver throw a great amount of light upon the state of his parish at the time. The Vicarage-house and out-buildings, which were in ruins at his accession, were put in a state of complete repair by him at an expense of upwards of £500. The church which was exceedingly dilapidated was also put in good repair. The church services were frequent, and two sermons were preached every Sunday—a somewhat unusual occurrence in the eighteenth century. Everything with which Travis had to do bears evidence of the careful and conscientious work of a good man.

With Eastham, Travis held from 1767, the perpetual curacy of the adjacent parish of Bromborough, the annual value of which was then about £13. This living was held in conjunction with Eastham through nearly the whole of the century.

In 1783 Travis was made a Prebendary of Chester by Bishop Porteus, and three years later, 1786, was appointed Archdeacon of Chester by the same prelate. Porteus was certainly a promoter of men of learning and merit. Few bishops of the age were assisted at the same time by two such archdeacons as George Travis and Thomas Townson.

The publication in 1781 of the third volume of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, with its reference to the persecution by the Arian Vandals, in Africa, and an offensive passage and note on the text concerning “ The Heavenly Witnesses ” (I John v. 7), brought Travis before the notice of the learned public. He addressed some letters to the historian which originally appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, but were afterwards collected by their author and published in a volume in 1784 under the title of “ Letters to Gibbon.” These letters commonly known under the title of the “ Defence of the three Heavenly Witnesses,” established Travis's character as a very able controversialist. They show that he was a learned theologian and an able dialectician, with the power of expressing his meaning lucidly and well.

Travis's book produced in 1790 a rejoinder from the famous Richard Porson, who pronounced strongly against the authenticity of the disputed passage. It is no reproach to the memory of our learned archdeacon to say that the progress of our critical knowledge of the manuscripts of the New Testament has established in the opinion of the most competent scholars the spuriousness of the verse. The Christian Church does not rest on any particular texts of scripture for its foundation, but on the traditionary teaching of the church from its commencement. And in this point of view the





SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
THE REVEREND GEORGE TRAVIS M.A.
LATE ARCHDEACON OF CHESTER,
AND VICAR OF EASTHAM IN THIS COUNTY,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE FEBRUARY XXIV MDCCLXXVI.
HE WAS A MAN, WHOSE EXTENSIVE LEARNING,
ACTIVE MIND, AND GENEROUS HEART
WERE ABUNDANTLY EXERTED IN THE SERVICE
OF BELGIUM, HIS COUNTRY, AND HIS NEIGHBOUR.
HIS LOSS WILL BE LONG REGRETTED, AND HIS VIRTUES EVER REVERED.
READER,
THIS EULOGY IS NO FLATTERY,
BUT THE SINCERE TESTIMONY OF
A SURVIVING FRIEND.

MURAL MONUMENT TO
ARCHDEACON TRAVIS
IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

Letters to Gibbon will always retain some value as a clear and succinct collation of some principal passages from the Fathers, tending to prove that the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity was received by the Church Catholic in their time. The Archbishop's style is, as may be expected from the period when he lived, not free from acerbities, then too common among controversialists. Putting aside altogether the question of the authenticity or spuriousness of the verse, we must always owe a debt of gratitude to Travis for having called forth Porson as an antagonist, and thus being the means of producing one of the most delightful critical works in the language, a rare compound of learning, acuteness, keen severity, and controversial skill.

Macaulay writes:—"25 December, 1850. In bed, and at breakfast, I read Porson's letters to Archbishop Travis . . . it is a masterly work." In another place he says "Read Porson's Letters to Travis. I am never weary of them."

In 1797 Travis was appointed to the Rectory of Handley, which he held with his other preferment till his death. This took place at Hampstead, where he had gone for change of air, on February 14, 1797. He left no children.

There is a monument to his memory in the north aisle of the choir of Chester Cathedral, with a profile portrait. It bears the inscription:—

"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. George Travis, M.A., late Archbishop of Chester, and Vicar of Eastham in this county, who departed this life Feb. XXIV, MDCCXCVII. He was a man whose extensive learning, active mind, and generous heart were assiduously exerted in the service of religion, his country, and his neighbour; his loss will be long regretted and his memory ever revered. Reader, this eulogy is no flattery, but the sincere testimony of a surviving friend."

F. SANDERS.

[49] WIRRAL VESSELS IN 1571.

(Continued from No. 36—March 26.)

Richard Lytel, of ———, and Xfer Morville, of Chester, *The Eagle, of Hylbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Richard.

Thomas Miiner, of ———, and William Goodman, of Chester, *The Marten, of Hylbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Thomas.

WM. FERGUSON LEVINE.

(To be continued.)

[48] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 89—April 2.)

CHRISTENINGS, ANNO DOM. 1619.

Richard Adkinson baptized the 29th of March.
Elizabeth Martin baptized the 26th of April.

- (1) John Gruffith baptized the ii of May.
- (2) Henry fells baptized the 4th of May.
- (3) John fells baptized the same day.
Elizabeth Lath baptized the 18th of May.
Katherine Ireland baptized the 19th of May.
Susanna Ricklage baptized the 23rd of May.
- (4) Elizabeth Lynaker baptized the 21st of June.
Katherine Williamson baptized the xi July.
John Gobin baptized the 15th of July.
William Lea baptized the last of August.
Jane Smyth baptized the 9th September.
- (5) Michaell Kemp baptized the 29th of September.
Judith Earle baptized the 11th of October.
Rebecca Martin baptized the 14th of October.
Katherine Copooke baptized the 25th of October.
- (6) John Brereton baptized the 23rd of November.
Anne Smyth baptized the 28th of November.
William Gill baptized the 5th of December.
Margaret Pemberton baptized the 19th of December.
Anne Smyth baptized the 14th of January.
John Moore baptized the 27th of January.
Margaret Butter baptized the 6th of February.
Jane Watt baptized the viith of February.
- (7) Margaret Hodgeson baptized the 27 of February.
- (8) Peter Gill baptized the 1st of March.
William Pemberton baptized the 15th of March.
Margery Handcooke baptized the 19th of March.
James Wilson baptized the 20th of March.

WEDDINGS.

- William Wyrall and Anne Young maryed the xxxth of May.
- (9) Peter Gill and Susanna Truman maryed the vth of June.
John Tittle and Ellen Irby maryed the xxii of November.
 - (10) William Hammet and Mary Coplin maryed the 19th of December.
John Scarsbrick and Katherine Williamson, maryed the 15th of February.
 - (11) James Tassie and Cleely Bedson, maryed the 20th of February.

- (1) *Vide* Burials same year, xii May.
 - (2) Henry and John Fells, twin sons of Stephen Fells, of Bidston, by his wife Jane, daughter of — Wright. *Vide* Weddings, 1615.
 - (3) *Vide* Note 2.
 - (4) Probably a daughter of Richard Lynaker, who was born in 1583. (*Vide* christenings that year), and who married in 1615, Margaret Butter. (*Vide* weddings 1615).
 - (5) Signed The Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston in 1642.
 - (6) Son of John Brereton, of Moreton, and Margaret, his wife. (*Vide* will of John Brereton, 1664).
 - (7) *Vide* weddings 1615.
 - (8) *Vide* weddings same year, v June.
 - (9) *Vide* christenings same year, 1st March.
 - (10) Wm. Hammet of Moreton, husbandman.
 - (11) James Tassie of Moreton, and Cecily Bedson, probably of West Kirby Parish; James Tassie signed the Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston in 1642. Wallacey seems to have been the headquarters of the Tasseys family; a Thomas Tassie was for many years curate there, where he died in 1582.
- The name still exists at Bidston, in a field on The Moss, called Tasseys's Thwaite, though the last of the family left the Parish about 1650.

BURIALS.

- Margaret Bennett, buried the 9th of April.
 Richard Bennett, buried the same day.
 Margery Hale, buried the 23rd of April.
 William Opocke, buried the xii of May.
- (1) John Gruffith, infant, buried ye same day.
 - (2) Thomas Bennett, buried the 23th of May.
 Jane Hamnet, buried the x of July.
 William Ballard, buried the 30th of July.
 - (3) Henry Jones, buried the 1st of August.
 - (4) Peter Smyth, buried the 15th of August.
 William Rutter, buried the 17th of August.
 Richard Talyer, buried the 23rd of August.
 Henry Davy, buried the 17th of October.
 Katherine Williamson, buried the 22nd of October.
- Randle Hill, buried the xiii of January.
 Thomas Kemp, buried the 9th of March.
 Anne Smyth, buried the 28th of March,
 per me, Evann' Piers,
 de Bidston Curat'.

APRIL 16th, 1892.

[44] RANDLE HOLM'S HOUSE IN CHESTER IDENTIFIED.

The Holms of Tranmere were a well-known Wirral family. Their pedigree may be found in Helsby's Ormerod, vol. II., p. 456. Three members of this family, all bearing the name of Randle, father, son, and grandson, are known as the most industrious, careful, and accurate collectors of local history in the County of Chester. Their MSS. records extend to over 250 volumes, and are deposited in the British Museum. These volumes have never been completely printed, although later historians are greatly indebted to them for the details they contain of the Heraldry, Genealogy, and history of the district in the 17th century. It was supposed that all trace of their residences had ceased to exist. In examining one of the ancient timber houses in Bridge-street, Chester, near to the corner of Castle-street, I was fortunate enough to find the coats of arms and crest of the first Randle Holm, over the mantelpiece of one of the rooms. Through the kind assistance of Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A., documentary evidence was found showing that Randle Holm possessed this house, which appears to have been built in 1615 or thereabouts. In that year the first Randle Holm was Sheriff, and in 1688 Mayor of Chester.

The house is an admirable example of these timber-framed structures, once plentiful in Chester. It is now divided into two and is in a dilapidated

- (1) Vide christenings same year, ii May.
- (2) Probably 2nd son of Henry Bennet of Saughall-Massey by his wife Alice, daughter of Henry Marjot, of Saughall-Massey.
- (3) Henry Jones of Bidston Hall, step-son of Wm. Fells of the same, (vide his will &c.)
- (4) Peter Smyth of Birkenhead Wood.

condition. Two of the rooms contain handsome ornamental fireplaces, and one is panelled with oak. It is much to be desired that this most interesting structure should be duly cared for.

Lower Bebington.

Edwd. W. Cox.

[45] WIRRAL VESSELS IN 1571.

(Continued from No. 42.—April 9.)

Thomas Coventrie, senior, of ———, and Xier Morrille, of Chester, *The Bride of Hilbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Thomas.

Thomas Radoliff, of Great Hilbre, mariner, and William Radoliffe, of the City of Chester, merchant, and Nicholas White, of the City of Chester, merchant, *The Elizabeth, of Hilbre*.

Henry Allen, of Bebington, mariner, and William Smith, of the City of Chester, glover, *The John, of Tranmor*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Henry.

John Wright, of West Kirkeby, and David Richardson, of the City of Chester, fishmonger, *The Georg, of Hilbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid John.

Robert Ghell of Much-Melase [Great Meols] and Robert Dawby of the same. *The Peter of Helbry*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Robert Ghell.

Robert Dawby of Much-Melase and Robert Ghell of the same. *The Nuttock of Helbrey*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Robert Dawby.

Thomas Wright of West Kirkeby and Henry Lynacer of the same. *The Galley of West Kirkeby* which belongeth to the aforesaid Thomas.

Henry Lynacer of West Kirby, and Thomas Wright of the same. *The Margaret of Heswall*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Henry.

Robert Madock of Heswell and Henry Brid of the same. *The Elizabeth of Heswell*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Robert.

Henry Brid of Heswell and Robert Madock of the same. *The James of Heswell*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Henry.

Richard Bennet of Neston and William Waley of the same. *The Trinitie of Neston*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Richard.

William Waley of Neston and Richard Bennet of the same. *The Marton of Neston*, which belongeth to the aforesaid William.

Roger Garret of Neston and John Lawnsley of the same. *The Katherine of Neston*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Roger.

John Lawnsley of Neston and Roger Garret of the same. *The Margaret of Little Neston*, which belongeth to the aforesaid John.

John Ledsam of ——— and Thomas Wright of West Kirkeby. *The Trinitie of Helbry*, which belongeth to the aforesaid John.

Thomas Coventrie of the City of Chester, mariner, and Wm Wall of the same city, ironmonger. *The Jesus of Hilbre*, which belongeth to the aforesaid Thomas.

The original of this document, in Latin, is preserved in Chester among the City Records.

Cloughton.

Wm. FURNESSON IRVING.





**THE STANLEY ARMS, EASTHAM.
PREVIOUS TO RECONSTRUCTION.**

[46] THE 'STANLEY ARMS' INN AT EASTHAM.

This inn has just been altered and enlarged, almost rebuilt in fact. But an interesting relic of the time when the Stanleys ruled in the neighbourhood has been brought from obscurity, and placed in a conspicuous position. This is nothing less than the old Stanley crest, carved in stone, which was removed from over the principal entrance of Hooton Hall, when Mr. E. C. Naylor made his extensive alterations there. It has now become the sign of the village inn.

In spite of the great improvements made in the 'Stanley Arms,' one cannot but regret the changed appearance of the old house which was made historical by Nathaniel Hawthorne. He visited Eastham with his son Julian on Sunday, April 1, 1854. After describing the churchyard and the exterior of the church, he writes:—"After passing through the churchyard, we saw the village inn on the other side. The doors were fastened, but a girl peeped out of the window at us, and let us in, ushering us into a very neat parlour. There was a cheerful fire in the grate, a straw carpet on the floor, a mahogany sideboard, and a mahogany table in the middle of the room; and on the walls the portraits of mine host (no doubt) and of his wife and daughters—a very nice parlour, and looking like what I might have found in a country tavern at home, only this was an ancient house, and there is nothing at home like the glimpse from the window of the church and its red ivy-grown tower. I ordered some lunch, being waited on by the girl, who was neat, intelligent, and comely, and more respectful than a new England maid. As we came out of the inn, some village wretches left their play and ran to me begging, calling me 'Master.' They turned at once from play to begging, and, as I gave them nothing, they turned to their play again."

The house, thus described by Hawthorne, was formerly a farmhouse, which was converted into an inn about 1840.

F. SANDERS.

[47.] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 48—April 9.)

Henry Jones, of Bidston, gentleman, in his will proved in 1690, desires "that his bodie be buried in Bidston Church," mentions "my eldest sonne William Jones and his mother Katherine, that is my wife," and he desires that "my brother (1) Stiven Fells and my kinsman Thomas Coventry, shall have my tenement called the Carre House in Saughan [Saughall-Massey] untill such time as they shall have taken out of it profits equal to £150," and directs them to pay "the sum of £50 a-piece unto Margaret, Stiven and Elizabeth Jones my three children,"—then the said Carre House to become

(1) In reality a brother of his stepfather, William Fells. The terms, brother and cousins, were used in a very loose way, even until a hundred and fifty years later than this.

the property of "Nathanael Jones my second sonne." "I bequeath unto my mother Margaret Fells a chamber that she doth usually inhabit. Executors: My sonne William Jones and Katherine Jones my wife."

	Henry Jones doth owe	£	s.	d.
To Mr.	Williamson of Liverpool	11	12	8
"	Richard Tatlock of Consoowe [?]	11	0	0
"	Thomas Fox of Tranmoor	12	0	0
"	Myles Fells	10	0	0
"	John Dod of Moreton	5	0	0
"	John Urnston of Wallissey	8	0	0
"	Henry Williamson of Cloughton	1	10	0
"	William White my servant about	4	0	0
"	Thos. Young of the Hulse [Hoose]	1	0	0
"	Peter Bennet of Chester	1	0	0
"	William Talier of Bidston	2	5	0
"	Peter Bould of Upton	2	5	0

Debtes oweinge to Testator (1)

Thomas Heaketh of the Meoles in Lanca-	8	0	0
shire			
Richard Gillbrand of Lathom	1	5	0
Margery Gulle of the Meoles	8	0	0
John Addison in the right of my daughter			
Margaret	18	0	0
Christopher Bennet of Saughan-Massey	0	18	8
Richard Golburne of Dublin	20	0	0
Richard Griffin by bill	8	0	0
Lawrence Rathbon of Coleraine, by bill	10	0	0
Christopher Ensdale, attendant on my			
Lord of Houth	1	0	0

Inventory valued by Thomas Wilkinson, Thomas Handcocke, William Billings, and James Woodworth.

[Inter alia].

Item.—Four Hives of Bees	1	2	4
Item.—Peas and beans in Gregory's			
Croft (2).			
Item.—Barley in the Mosse Hey (3).			
Item.—Wheate in the Killcoalife (4).			
Item.—Barley in the nearer Marked			
Hey (5).			
Item.—Silver spoons and plate	18	6	8
Item.—Pewter and Brass	15	0	0
Summa totalls	207	5	6

APRIL 28rd, 1892.

[48] EASTHAM IN 1778.

As a supplement to the account of Archdeacon Travis, which lately appeared in your columns (see Nos. [85] and [41], I send you his answers to the Visitation Articles of Bishop Porteus in 1778. These answers are interesting, both as showing the

(1) It is interesting to compare this list with the similar one appended to William Fells' will in 1613.

(2) There is no field in Bidston which now bears this name, though it was in use as late as 1750, as I find it mentioned in several old leases of the Hall Farm; I find, from an old survey taken in 1665, that it lay to the North of Wooton Hey, across the road from the East end of the Rhododendron Gardens.

(3) This field lay to the North of Gregory's Croft, both are now mowed in Orick Lez.

(4) This field is still in existence, it lies across the road from the West end of the Rhododendron Gardens.

(5) The Marked Hey lies to the West of Killcoalife.

condition of a well-worked Wirral parish a hundred years ago, and as giving evidence of the careful and business like nature of the writer.

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY AS TO EASTHAM.

(1.) What is the Extent of your Parish? What Villages or Hamlets and what Number of Houses does it comprehend? What families of Note are there in it.

Answer.—The parish of Eastham is in length about 6 miles, and in breadth, upon a medium, about 3 miles. It is bounded on the East by the River Mersey; on the West by the parish of Neston; on the North by the parish of Bromborough; and on the South by the parishes of Backford and Stoke. It comprehends seven townships and part of an eighth, confessedly within the parish, viz:—

(1.) Eastham cum Plymyard and Carlett; (2.) Childer Thornton; (3.) Little Sutton; (4.) Great Sutton; (5.) Hooton cum Bovacre; (6.) Over-pooles; (7.) Nether-pooles; and (8.) Whitby, half only of which township lies in this parish, the rest belonging to the adjacent parish of Stoke.

There are two other hamlets, or townships, adjoining to this parish called Stanlaw and Great Stanney which, if testimony of ancient records, supported by traditions, may be credited, formerly belonged to this parish. These however now claim to be extraparochial, and prescribe in *non-decimando*.

The eight townships contain exactly 190 houses, which are inhabited by 968 persons. Stanlaw has one house, and Great Stanney, two; the number of inhabitants in which are 17.

It appears by the certificate of William, bishop of Chester, to the Privy Council (13 Eliz.) that this parish then contained only 143 houses.

The only family of note now resident within the parish is that of the Stanleys of Hooton. They came thither A.D. 1401, by an intermarriage with the only daughter and heiress of Adam de Hooton. The present head of the family is Sir William Stanley, Bart, a Roman Catholic, unmarried and about 24 years of age.

(2.) Are there any Papists in your Parish? and how many, and of what rank? Have any persons been lately perverted to Popery, and by whom, and by what Means? How many, and who are they? Is there any place in your parish in which they assemble for Worship; Does any Popish Priest reside in your parish, or resort to it? Is there any Popish School kept in your Parish? Has any Confirmation or Visitation been lately held in your Parish by any Popish Bishop, and by whom and when? And how often is this done?

Answer.—There are no persons within this parish who dissent in any respect from the Church of England save Papists, whose number in 1767, by an accurate survey, was found to be 49. The only persons of rank in this number are Sir William Stanley before mentioned and his sister.

Few, or none, of the parishioners of Eastham have been perverted to Popery during my incumbency

which began in 1766; but the number of Papists within the parish was, about 4 years ago, increased to 61 by the accession of the household of Sir W. Stanley, who was abroad and under age in 1767.

The place of worship to which the Papists of this parish resort is a private chapel within the Hall at Hooton. The domestic chaplain of Sir W. Stanley for the time being officiates therein each Sunday morning, whether the family at Hooton are at home or abroad.

There is no Popish school within the parish nor have any confirmations or visitations been held there by any Popish bishop within my incumbency, as far as I know or have reason to believe.

(3.) Are there in your parish any Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, Quakers, Methodists, or Moravians? And how many of each Sect, and of what Rank? Have they any Meeting Houses in your Parish, and are they duly licensed? Is their number lessened or increased of late and by what Means?

Answer.—Answered under the last head of Enquiry.

(4.) Are there any persons in your Parish who profess to disregard Religion, or who commonly absent themselves from all public Worship of God on the Lord's Day? From what motives and principles are they understood to do so? What is the Number and Rank of such Persons? And are they increased of late, and by what Means?

Answer.—There are no families within the parish who profess to disregard religion; and none (save such as are disabled by age or infirmities) who commonly absent themselves from all public worship, except two or three persons, whose evil habits in this respect, I hope soon to be able to overcome by affectionate and earnest persuasion.

(5) Do you reside constantly upon your cure and in the house belonging to it? If not, where and at what distance? How long in each year are you absent? And what is the reason of such absence? Have you a licensed curate residing in the parish? Or at what distance from it, and who is he? Does he serve any other, and what cure? What salary do you allow him? And is he in deacon's or priest's orders?

Answer.—I reside constantly on my cure in the vicarage house at Eastham, except during some short occasional absences, when I am compelled to watch over the concerns of this vicarage in another place. The cause of these occasional absences is humbly stated in the answer to the last of these enquiries.

I keep no resident curate, but on these occasional absences (which never exceed the limits prescribed by statute), the duty of this parish is discharged by the curate of the neighbouring parish of Burton.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[49] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 47—April 16.)
1620 [so endorsed].

[The upper portion of this transcript has been torn off.]

Henry Pemberton baptized the xvii of January.

- (1) Thomas Urmston baptized the xxx of January.
- (2) John Gill baptized the last day of January.
- (3) Henry Calvin baptized the xxii of March.

WEDDINGS.

- (4) Thomas Howell and Margaret Foster married the xiii of May.
- (5) Thomas Gill and Ellen Dun married the xxi of May.
Robert Gylbert and Elizabeth Erby married xvii June.
- (6) John Robinson and Isabel Pemberton married xxi of June.
- (7) Thomas Urmston and Margaret Pemberton married xxix June.
- (8) Richard Bennett and Margery Radley married iii of August.
William Billings and Mary Johnson married xiii of August.
- (9) Richard Greene and Jane Towson married vii of January.
John Stoneton and Margaret Robinson married the last of November.
- (10) Edward Fryer and Elizabeth Orme married ix January.
Thomas Williamson and Katherine Bailey married x February.
- (11) Robert Robinson and Margaret Gill married xi February.

BURIALS.

- Katherine Charnocke buried xvi of May.
Mary Anderton buried the first of July.
(12) John Gerard buried the xxxi of August.

(1.) Son of Thomas Urmston of Moreton, (*vide* wedding xxix June, also Thos. Urmston's will 1678).

The Urmstons were at this period the wealthiest and most influential family in the Parish; they were considerable land owners in Moreton, as well as in Wallasey and West Kirby, in both of which parishes branches of the family existed.

From as early as 1450, possibly even earlier, down to within the last few years, the Urmstons have been amongst the foremost, if not the foremost family in the Parish.

(2.) Probably a son of Thomas Gill, (*vide* wedding xxi May, and burials liii February).

(3.) Son of Henry Calvin or Colvin of Moreton; either the father or son, signed the Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston in 1642.

(4.) Probably both from some neighbouring parish, the name Howell does not occur again in the Register, and Foster only once.

(5.) *Vide* christenings 31st January.

(6.) John Robinson, probably of Wallasey, where the name was a very common one.

(7.) *Vide* christenings 30th January, also Note 1.

(8.) Possibly Richard Bennet of Thingwall, who was baptized at Woodchurch, 8th July, 1593; the name Radley does not occur again in the Register.

(9.) Richard Greene, probably eldest son of Edward Greene of Poulton-Lanellyn, Esquire, he died without issue, before his father (*vide* "Cheshire and Lancashire Funeral Certificates," p. 98).

(10.) Edward Fryer, probably of Neston Parish; Elizabeth Orme, probably sister of John Orme of Torbock, who married about this time, Anne daughter of John Bennet of Bangall-Massey.

(11.) Probably the "Robert Robinson of Orton, gentleman," who in 1658 left £10 to the poor of the Parish of Bidston.

(12.) A son of James Gerard of Bidston, (*vide* wedding 1614).

- (1) Thomas Handcooke buried the ix of October.
Mary Handcooke buried xxiii of October.
Margery Tassie buried the ix of January.
- (2) John Gill buried the iii of February.
Ales Martyn buried x of March.
William Handcooke buried the same day.
Ales Wilcooke buried the xi of March.

Per me Evann' Piers,
Curat' de Bidston.

APRIL 30th, 1892.

[50] EASTHAM IN 1778.

(Continued from No. 48—April 23.)

(6) Is Divine service duly performed twice every Lord's Day in your church and one sermon preached? If not, what is the reason? On what days besides are prayers read there? How often, and at what times do you catechize in your church? Do your parishioners duly send their children and servants to be instructed and catechized by you? Do you either expound it to them yourself, or make use of some printed exposition, and what is it? How often is the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered? How many usually receive at each time? In particular, how many received it last Easter Sunday?

Answer.—Divine service is duly performed twice, and two sermons are preached on every Lord's Day within the church at Eastham, except on the first Sunday in each month, when I officiate one part of the day at the neighbouring curacy of Bromborough, and except on such occasional absences as are mentioned under the last preceding article of enquiry. At these times one sermon only is preached on the Lord's Day in the church of Eastham.

Prayers are read here on each Wednesday and Friday in the season of Lent, and on each usual Feast or Fast Day observed by the Church of England throughout the year.

It has not been the custom to catechize publicly in this church save for some weeks previous to an expected Confirmation; at which time the children and servants of parishioners duly attend. I make use of no printed exposition of the Catechism, but endeavour to collect from the catechumens their own sense of its meaning and intention, which explanation of their own, if in any respect deficient or misconceived, I supply and set right in the best manner I am able.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered at Eastham eight times in each year. The usual number of communicants on common occasions is from 40 to 50; and on the great Festivals from 90 to 100. Upwards of 90 received the Sacrament at Easter last in the church of Eastham.

(7.) Have you any Chapels within your Parish? What are the names of them? How far are they distant from the Parish Church? How are they

- (1) *Vide* baptism vi July 1618.
- (2) *Vide* baptism xxxi January.

endowed? By whom, and at what times are they served? Is the Curate duly qualified and licensed? By whom, and when, was he nominated? Have you any Chapel in Ruins, in which no Divine Service is performed? Has your own Church, or any of the Chapels belonging to it, or in your Parish, received any augmentation by benefaction or lot from Queen Anne's Bounty, and how much, and at what time? Has there been any purchase of lands, &c., in consequence of that augmentation? And what does that purchase consist in, and amount to yearly?

Answer.—There are no Chapels within this Parish. This vicarage hath received no augmentation from the Bounty of Queen Anne.

(8.) Who is the patron of your benefice. Are your parsonage-house and outhouses, your church and chancel, in good repair? Have you a perfect terrier of your glebe lands, buildings, tithes, and other ecclesiastical dues? Is there a proper register of baptisms, marriages, and burials in your parish, and is it regularly and accurately kept.

Answer.—The right of presentation to this benefice is in the Dean and Chapter of Chester. The Stanleys of Hooton did formerly dispute this right; but during the present vicar's incumbency this matter hath been thoroughly investigated, and the claim of the Stanley family is now totally abandoned.

The vicarage-house and outhousing were in ruins on the present vicar's accession. The church also was exceedingly dilapidated. They were, however, soon after his induction, put in completely good repair, the former by the vicar at the expense of upwards of £500, and the latter at the expense of the parish at large; in which state they still continue.

There are two terriers of glebe and tithes of this vicarage now preserved in the Episcopal Registry, dated respectively 1696 and 1709, besides a third which relates to the glebe land only. But they are imperfect and inaccurate. When the appeals which the present vicar found himself compelled to make to the laws of his country, or to submit to the alternative of betraying the rights of his vicarage shall have received their final determination, it shall be his first and most anxious care (life and health permitting) to supply the deficiencies of former terriers by one complete in its details of facts, and conclusive by its attestation in law.

The parish registers are proper and regularly kept.

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued).

[51] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 49—April 23.)

A true and perfect Register of all Christenings Weddings and Burials at Bidston, Anno Dni 1621.

John Johnson baptized the last day of March.

- (1) Henry Hamnett baptized the iiii day of April.
- (2) Margerie Tassie baptized the xi of April.

(1.) Son of William Hamnet of Moreton (*vide* weddings 1619).

(2.) Daughter of James Tassie of Moreton (*vide* weddings 1619).

- (1) Thomas Kempe baptized the xxix of April. William falls baptized the x day of May.
- (2) James Anderton baptized the xvii of May.
- (3) Alice Wilcocke baptized the xviii of May.
- (4) Mary Wilson baptized the xxv of May.
- (5) John Charnocke baptized the vii of June. Symon Handcooke baptized the xxi of September.

(6) William Gerrard baptized the xxiii of September.

Henry Brereton baptized the vii of October.

Elizabeth Griffith baptized the same day.

(7) Mary Bennett baptized the xxvi of November.

(8) Christian Lynaker baptized the ix of January.

Margaret falls baptized the x of January.

Barbara Kempe baptized the xiii of January.

Ellen finlowe baptized the xxii of February.

William Adkinson baptized the last of February.

(9) Margaret Bennett baptized the second of March.

Katherine Wilcocke baptized the iii of March.

Elizabeth Rutter baptized the v of March.

Weddings eodem anno.

William Robinson and Katherine Erby married the xvii of April.

William Bradshawe and Ellen Kettle married the first of May.

(10) John Chadocke and Mary Hugges married the last of June.

(11) Peter Bennet and Margaret Brereton married the vi of July.

Thomas Croxon and Margaret Wade married xviii of October.

Robert Browne and Dorothy Handcooke married the viii of December.

William Parbold and Ellen Tassie married the xii of January

William Urmaton and Anne Davy married the iii of February.

(12) Thomas Inglesfield and Elizabeth Man married the v of March.

(13) Robert Williamson and Katherine Jones married the v of March.

(1.) Son of Thomas Kemp of Saughall-Massey (*vide* burials xxix Oct., 1622).

(2.) Son of James Anderton (*vide* weddings 1614); also burials xviii May same year.

(3.) Daughter of Henry Wilcocke (*vide* weddings 1615).

(4.) *Fide* burials xvii September same year.

(5.) *Fide* burials xviii June same year.

(6.) Son of James Gerrard (*vide* weddings 1614).

(7.) Probably daughter of Richard Bennett of Saughall-Massey by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Ley of Saughall; Mary Bennett married Austin Kitts of—Co. Dorset.

(8.) Daughter of Richard Lynaker, (*vide* weddings 1615, also burials vii March 1621-2.)

(9.) Daughter of Peter Bennett of Claughton, (*vide* wedding vi of July same year.)

(10.) John Chadocke, probably of Wallasey Parish.

(11.) Peter Bennet of Claughton, yeoman, son of Richard Bennet of the same township, by his wife Ellen daughter of Arthur Sherlock of Claughton, webster; (*vide* Arthur Sherlock's will *infra*, Richard Bennet's 1555, and Peter Bennet's 1662).

(12.) Thomas Inglesfield, possibly of Woodchurch Parish; a Thomas Inglesfield, who lived in Castle Street, was one of the Bailiffs of Liverpool in 1565.

(13.) Katherine Jones, was widow of Henry Jones of Bidston, who died in 1619. Robert Williamson was the "Mr. Williamson of Liverpool," mentioned in the list of creditors, appended to Henry Jones' will. He resided in Dale-street, was Bailiff of Liverpool in 1619 and again in 1624, and was subsequently twice Mayor.—In 1629 and 1634. His son Richard was admitted a freeman of Liverpool on the 15th Dec., 1636, and his son Matthew on the 22nd Sept., 1643, when he (Robert) is described as "Aid[erman]," but he probably died soon after the latter date, as his name does not appear in the Burgess Roll of 1644.

Burials eodem anno.

- (1) Arthur Sherlocke buried the xii of April.
David Dod was buried the v of May.
- (2) James Anderton infant buried xviii May.
William Dannatt buried the iiii of June.
- (3) John Charpoote infant buried the xviii of June.
- (4) William Pemberton de Gorse buried the xxv June.
Margaret Urmston buried the xiii July.
Isabell Beeby buried xxx July.
- (5) Mary Wilson buried xvii of September.
Jane Wade was buried the xxi of November.
- (6) Margaret Urmston de Gorse buried the iiii of December.
Ellen Taller was buried the xvi of December.
William Upshon buried the same day.
Ellen Robinson buried the second of February.
- (7) Margaret Fells infant buried the viii February.
- (8) Christian Lynaker buried the vii of March.
Anne Gray buried the x of March.

p. me Ewann' Piers.
De Bidston Curatu'.

MAY 7th, 1892.

[52]

EASTHAM IN 1778.

(Continued from No. 50—April 80).

(9.) Is there any Free School or Charity School endowed or otherwise maintained in your parish? If there is, when and by whom was the school founded? How is it now supported? Who is the master or mistress? What number of children, boys or girls, are taught in it, and in what language? Are they clothed, maintained and lodged? What are they taught? Are they employed in working, and afterwards put out to husbandry, trades, or services? More particularly is care taken to instruct them in the principles of the Christian religion, and to bring them regularly to Church?

(1.) Arthur Sherlocke of Claughton, wobster, in his will proved shortly after his death, mentions, "my wife Anne Sherlock and my sonne Richard Sherlock," to whom he leaves the bulk of his property. He also leaves small bequests to Anne Bennet, daughter of Richard Bennet, his son-in-law, and Ellin his wife, testator's daughter, and to his grandson Peter Bennet son of Richard Bennet. Among the debts due to testator, is the following—"For money layd out for my landlord, at the prime sessions holden at Eastham, in his suit against Mr. Fawdrey, £1 2s. 0." Witnesses, James Woodworth, John Truman, William Curry (his servant) and Ewann Piers, clerk. Inventory valued by Henry Hill, James Wilson, James Woodworth and Henry Williamson. "Item: The loomes and all things thereunto belonging £5: mention of "The Married Hey," "a tacke in Watte Heath," "The Gille wood in Birkenhead."

- (2.) Vide christenings xvii of May same year.
- (3.) Vide christenings vii of June same year.
- (4.) Gorse, is that part of Moreton township, which is bounded on the East by Bidston, on the south by Upton, on the west by the highway from Upton to Moreton, and on the north by the Fender-lane.
- (5.) Vide christenings xxv of May, same year.
- (6.) Vide Note (4).
- (7.) Vide christenings x January same year.
- (8.) Vide christenings ix January same year.

Answer.—There is a free school at Ohlder Thornton, within the parish. When or by whom it was founded is not within the reach of any evidence or tradition. Its established annual income arises from the yearly interest of £75 left to it by divers benefactors, and from a perpetual rent-charge of 20 shillings per annum payable from an estate in the neighbouring parish of Stoke. In consideration of this income, the master is bound to teach 14 poor children of the parish, nominated by the trustees, without expense to their parents, but not to cloath, maintain, or lodge them. The rest of the scholars, about eighty in number, pay for their instruction. The present master's name is John Williamson, and he professes to teach the Latin and English languages, writing, and arithmetic.

The children come regularly to Church on Sunday, and two Bibles are annually given by the parish to two of the most deserving of the fourteen poor children who are on the foundation.

The vicar for the time being is a trustee of this school. Several others are selected for life by the parish (which also keeps the school in repair) as his assistants in the management of this school.

(10) Is there in your parish any almshouse, hospital, or other charitable endowment? Have any lands or tenements been left for the repair of your church, or to any other pious uses? Who has the direction of such benefactions? How are they managed? Do you know, or have you heard of any abuses committed in the management of them? By whom and to what uses is the money given at the offertory disposed of.

Answer.—There are no almshouses or hospitals in the parish. The money given at the offertory is annually distributed among the poor of the parish at the discretion of the vicar and churchwardens, at Christmas in each year, together with an annual sum of £5 charged on the estate at Stoke, mentioned in the answer to the last enquiry, and the yearly interest of £8 left as a legacy for that purpose.

(11) Is there any other matter relating to your parish of which it may be proper to give me information, and what is it?

Answer.—It will not, I humbly hope, be thought entirely foreign to the object of these enquiries if I shall presume briefly to subjoin a few particulars which seem to distinguish this parish from most, if not all others, from which your Lordship hath required an information.

The vicars preceding the present incumbent, as far back as the remembrance of living persons can reach, lived for the greatest part of their lives upon charity, and died insolvent. Unable to assert the rights of the vicarage, they bartered them away in unequal compacts, or abandoned them through a despair of enforcing their payment. From these and similar causes the income of this vicarage, when the present vicar succeeded thereto, amounted to very little more than £30. Almost the whole of his incumbency hath been spent in unremitting efforts to rectify these abuses, and to remove these usurpations. The inflexible integrity of the Court of Exchequer hath given a sanction to his claims by four successive decrees in his favour. But the combination which is leagued together against him under the formal obligation of a bond (at the head where-

of is Sir W. Stanley) is powerful and persevering. Relying on their wealth, they are determined that even his successes shall be ruinous to him, and have accordingly carried the principal of these causes after two unanimous decrees in the Court of Exchequer against them, before the highest Court of Judicature in the kingdom. They do not, it is presumed, expect that their opulence or interest can, even in the smallest degree, influence the decisions of that most august house. They do not depend on their own strength, but on the vicar's weakness and inability to pursue them.

Conscious of my obligation to lay every fact in my power before your Lordship, I humbly beg leave to add that in these contests, to which I hope I may say a sense of duty alone originally impelled the present vicar, he hath expended upwards of £1,500, and that the income of the vicarage doth not yet amount to £100.

F. SANDERS.

[58] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 51—April 30.)

A register of all Christenings and Weddings and Burials at Bidston, Anno Dm 1622.

Baptizat.

- (1) James Anderton christened the xi of Aprill
Stephen Talier christened the xxvii of Aprill
John Wilcooke christened the first day of May
Anne Pemberton christened the v of May
- (2) Anne Croxton christened the vii of July
- (3) Richard Leftwich christened the xx of July
Jane Charnooke christened the xvi of August
Mary Weekes christened the vii of September
Bridget Williamson christened the xiii of September
Robert Urmston christened the xv of September
Margery Woodworth christened the xx of September
[Th]omas Gobbin christened the vi of October
Elizabeth Watt christened the xvii of November
- (4) Katherine Kempe christened the xxi of November
Anus Martyn christened the xxiii of November
- (5) Lettise Martyn christened the xxix of November
- (6) John Dod christened the xxvi of December
- (7) John Rathbon christened the xxvii of December
- (8) Judith Rathbon christened the xxviii of December
- (9) Margery Upshon christened the 1st of January

- (1.) Son of James Anderton (*vide* weddings 1614).
- (2.) Daughter of Thos. Croxton (*vide* weddings 1621).
- (3.) Posthumous, son of Richard Leftwich, schoolmaster of Bidston, who died vii May same year.
- (4.) *Vide* burials xxv April, 1623.
- (5.) *Vide* burials xxx January same year.
- (6.) *Vide* burials xxx December same year.
- (7.) *Vide* burials xxv October, 1623.
- (8.) *Vide* burials vi January same year.
- (9.) *Vide* burials xxx January same year.

- Elizabeth Smyth christened the vi of January
- (1) John Hall christened the xi of January
Thomas Kempe christened the xiii of January
John Gill christened the xviii of January
 - (2) Richard Linaker christened the xv of February
Anne Hancock christened the xxiii of March
Thomas Davisson christened the xxv of March

Matrimon :

John Ormston and Elizabeth Coney alias Kitchin maryed the xxv of of July
John Harrison and Anne Meeres maryed the the xxviii of October
John Pierson and Margaret C[o]e the xxiii November

Septul :

- Richard Leftwich Schoole Mr buried the vii of May
Elinor Lath was buried the xviii July
[. . . W]ade was buried the xxx July
Ellen Handooke was buried the xix August
Ellen Parbott was buried the xx September
Margaret Erby was buried the ix of October
Elizabeth Pemberton buried the x of October
- (5) Thomas Kempe, Infant buried the xxix of October
 - (4) Elizabeth Urmston, widowe, buried xxi December
John Pemberton, Infant, buried xxx December
 - (5) John Dod, Infant, buried the same day
 - (6) Judith Rathbon, Infant buried vi January
Isabell Searsbrick buried the xiii of January
Anne Seares was buried the xviii of January
 - (7) Margery Upshon Infant buried the xxx January
 - (8) Lettuce Martyn Infant buried the same day
 - (9) Anne Sherlocke wydowe buried the xxx January
Margery Gyll was buried the viii February
 - (10) Margaret Billings, widow, buried ii March
Alice Pemberton buried the xv March
Ellen Parbott buried the xxiii March
- p: me Evanau' Piers de Bidston, Curate'

John Parbott } gard ibid
Henry Watt }

Richard Bennett
Gylbert Blagburne
Thomas Handooke
John Brarston } Jurat :

- (1) *Vide* burials xxv October, 1623.
- (2) Son of Richard Lynaker (*vide* weddings 1615).
- (3) *Vide* christenings xxix April, 1621.
- (4) Widow of Gilbert Urmston, of Moreton, who died vii March, 1618 19 (*vide* his Will also Elizabeth Urmston's Will *infra*).
- (5) *Vide* christenings xxvi December same year.
- (6) *Vide* christenings xxviii December same year.
- (7) *Vide* christenings i January same year.
- (8) *Vide* christenings xxix November same year.
- (9) Widow of Arthur Sherlock, of Cloughton, who was buried xii April, 1621.
- (10) Widow of John Billing, of Moreton, who was buried xiii November, 1614.

MAY 14th, 1892.

[54] INSCRIBED AND DATED HOUSES.

(Continued from No. 38—April 2).

The dated houses of the 18th century in Bidston Parish, so far as I have been able to discover them, are only 5 in number, of which Saughall-Massey yields three.

The earliest example is on the right hand side of the road as one goes towards Moreton from Saughall-Massey, where, within a very florid border, are the initials, ^P I J, and the date 1714, which stand for John Peacock and Jane (*née* Webster), his wife. The Peacocks were a family of considerable substance, and a little later in the century owned the advowson of Woodshurch, from whom it descended by heirs female to the family of the present incumbent, the Reverend Canon Robin.

The next house in point of date is the one which stands at the four cross roads called "Three lanes end," near Newton, almost on the boundary of the Parish, and the initials are ^D T K and the date 1721. This seems to refer to Thomas Dalby, of Saughall-Massey, and Katherine, his wife, though of this I am not quite certain.

As to the next inscription, however, there is no doubt: it is to be found on a house standing in close proximity to Mr. Peacock's (mentioned above), and is as follows ^H T E 1728. The allusion being to Thomas Harrison and Ellen, his wife, who lived in it for many years, and were parents of a numerous family.

A gap of 50 years has to be crossed before the next date is reached; on the eastern slope of Bidston Hill some two hundred yards below the observatory stands a house with the date 1775 and the initials ^O WE cut in a stone over the door.

I have not been able to find out to whom this refers, tho' it is probably to a family to the name of Corfe.

The last dated house for this century stands at The Ford, on the right hand side of the road, as one goes towards Upton: the date is 1790, and the initials ^B T S, the letters representing Thomas and Sarah Burrows; the date, I take it, does not refer to the house, which is evidently of an earlier date (probably a hundred years earlier), but to the out-building, into which the stone bearing the inscription is built, at the east end of the house.

I trust that these few notes may interest your readers and be the first of a series from various pens, until there is placed on record a complete list of these interesting memorials of past generations in Wirral.

Cloughton.

HOLLY.

[55] MILITARY TRANSPORTS IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

The following document, from a bundle of Assembly Orders of the Chester Corporation, is interesting from several points of view, and is, I think, worth printing.

In reading it, what puzzles one, is to know where they stowed the wretched soldiers,—200 men on board a vessel of 70 tons, not to mention the arms, ammunition, officers' horses, and the sailors? A voyage to Ireland in those days sometimes took *three weeks*: What a subject for an Elizabethan Mr. Plimsoll!

Shipping stayed for service into Ireland by virtue of lres [letters] from the lds [Lords] of Her Majesties most honorable pry [Privy] counsell of the 22nd of October, and Red [received] the 26th thereof for takinge up shippinge for 900 men.

26 October, 1588.

80 [men]: *The Margaret of Chester*, of the burthen of 20 Tonnes, whereof Mr. and owner John Warton.

200 [men]: *The Trinity of Chester*, of 70 Tonnes whereof is owner and Mr. Nicholas White.

—————: *The Michael of Helbry*, of 80 Tonnes, whereof is owner Thomas Constantine (1)

80 [men]: *The Daie Star of Helbry*, of the burthen of 20 Tonnes, whereof Wm. Coventry is Mr.

300 [men]: *The Frances Susan of Lisuerpoole*, whereof Thomas Wotall is part owner, of the burthen of————,

70 [men]: *The Henry of Chester*, whereof part owner is Henry Falls, of the burthen of 24 Tonnes.

Your etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IREVELL.

Cloughton.

[56] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 58.—May 7.)

ELIZABETH URMSTON, of Moreton, in her will dated shortly before her death in 1623, desires, that her body be buried in Bidston Church, as "neare to my late beloved husband Gilbert Urmston, as may bee,"

She leaves, "to John Smith of Storeton all that land, which I hold by lease from the Right Hon. William, Earle of Derby,"

To John Smith of Lankonne, [Landican] she leaves, "the greate cupborde, one pott one turnell, [a brewing tub] one dressing panne, one pair of gebottes and one of the best pewter dishes."

To Edward Pemberton of Chester, one cowe. To her god children:—"Katherine, daughter of Edward Pemberton; John Kemp's daughter; Henry Watte's daughter; Isabel Robinson; the two children of Robert Urmston of Wallisey;—various small sums.

(1) In a rough draft appended to the document this name is Winstanley.

To "Anne Smith my sister v.s."

To "Ellen Pemberton my husband's sister v.s."

"One hoopes of barley," to the following, viz., Margaret Shingleton, Henry Calvin, Wm. Hamnet, James Handcooke, Isabel Morris, Thomas Conney, Elizabeth Copooke, Elizabeth Hamnet, Wm. Kempe and Margaret Kempe.

"I bequeathe the sume of xx s to be delivered into the Churchwarden's hands, and the same from yeare to yeare for ever to succeed, the vth of it to be dealt upon every Good Fridaie to the poore of this Parish in the Church Porch of Bidston" (1)

Further bequests to "William Smith of Thornton, his eldest daughter."

To "William Bennet's children."

To "Children of Hugh Bennett, and Edward Pemberton."

To "David Dod's wife,"

Executor: "John Smith, of Storeton."

Witnesses: "John Urmoston de Wallisea,
William Rutter, junior,
Evan Piers, clerk."

Inventory, valued by Thomas Sharpe, Thomas Handcooke, William Billinge, and Thomas Inglesfeld. [Inter alia.] "Item: Six cowgates in the Duan" (2)

"Dettes owinge testator :

Stephen Fells oweth for sheep ..	iv.	vii.	l.
John Parbold, for wheat ..	..	xii.	ii.
John Bathbone, of Upton, for malt ..	..	xvi.	iv.
Margaret King, of Shotwick ..	l.	ii.	iii.
Richard Chamberlain the elder ..	viii.	vi.	viii.
John Bennet, of Saugham, gent ..	..	ii.	x.

Richard Pemberton, Thomas Kempe, William Billinge, and Hennerie Lowe, for small amounts."

[57] THE CLOSING OF FOOTPATHS IN WIRRAL IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

The following abstract of a document from the Welsh Recognisance Rolls (*vide* 86th Rep of Dep-Keeper) is of interest, as showing the importance attached, even at his early period, to the claims of the general public in the matter of rights of way:—

"April 11, 1397. License from the King to Hugh Holes and Margery, his wife, to close [*inter alia*] two ways on the land of the said Hugh, one leading from Thyngwall towards Thorneton Mayow, and one from Bruastath [Brimstage] towards Thorneton; on an inquisition taken before Adam de Kyngelegh, escheator of Chester, finding that the

(1) This is interesting as showing the existence of a Church Porch, at Bidston, at this time.

(2) A cowgate is the right of pasturage for one animal, generally used with reference to common lands or town meadows.

The Duans are a series of fields in Saughall Massey running westward from near the Leasowe Lighthouse; they were town meadows at this time, in which the various tenants had rights of pasturage in proportion to the quantity of land held.

same ways were never used as common ways, but by consent of the Lords of Brunstath, the said Hugh to make other ways in lieu of those closed.

Yours, etc.,

HISTORICUS.

[58] THE CHESHIRE DOMESDAY BOOK.

(See No. 40—April 4.)

In reply to Mr. E. W. Cox's recent enquiry in your column, concerning the Cheshire Domesday Roll, and Dr. Gower's grandiose statement with reference to it, may I point out that in 1851 the late Dr. Ormerod printed, for private circulation, a catalogue of as many fragments of this lost record as he had been able to collect from existing M.S. abstracts. The original document seems to have been lost between the years 1580 and 1647, and there are, so far as I am aware, no grounds for Dr. Gower's effusive self-congratulations. He no doubt made the statement under some misapprehension, and possibly also with an eye to encouraging subscriptions to his proposed History of Cheshire. The document in question is entirely distinct from the Cheshire portion of Domesday Book, with which it is sometimes confused.—Yours, &c., X.

MAY 21st, 1892.

[59] HAWTHORNE'S HOME IN ROCK PARK.

The celebrated American author, Nathaniel Hawthorne, was appointed United States Consul at Liverpool in 1853. On his first arrival in England he took rooms for a month at the Rock Ferry Hotel, of which he speaks in warm commendation. He then took a house in Rock Park, where he resided till the autumn of 1855, when he removed to 153, Duke-street, Liverpool.

Being anxious to ascertain the house in Rock Park where Hawthorne lived, I made some recent enquiries on the subject, in which I was greatly assisted by the Rev. W. Paige Cox, the vicar of St. Peter's. Our investigations established, beyond any doubt, the fact that the house now numbered No. 26 was that occupied by the great author. He took it furnished, from a widow lady named Campbell.

In his English Notebook Hawthorne speaks of his residence as "a stone edifice." In this he was mistaken, as it is a brick building, plastered over, and painted cream colour. The house is conspicuous by a dome-shaped erection at the top. This was built after Hawthorne's time, as an observatory, by Mr. Roberts, so well-known in the scientific world by his astronomical discoveries. He now lives near Tunbridge Wells, but still owns the house in question, which is at present tenanted by Mr. Murphy.

In the course of his enquiries, Mr. Paige Cox wrote to Thomas H. Sherman, Esq. the United



No. 26, ROCK PARK,
THE HOUSE OCCUPIED BY
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.



States Consul at Liverpool. Mr. Sherman was kind enough to write on the matter to Mr. Julian Hawthorne, the son of his predecessor, and himself a writer of no mean repute. To his letter Mr. Hawthorne sent the following letter, which I have received permission to publish:—

Sag Harbour, N.Y., December 11th, 1891.

My Dear Sir:—

I have just received your letter of November 28th. I am much gratified to hear of the proposed placing of a tablet on the house formerly occupied by my father in Rook Park.

The houses, so far as I am aware, were not numbered at the time we lived in Rook Park. I find in my mother's diary, under the date of October 2nd, 1858, that the house was "of castellated form with large pleasant rooms, a pretty trim garden, and tolerably furnished." You are correct in your surmise that the house was not built of stone. The walls were covered with dark grey plaster, made to represent stone. Our next door neighbours on the left, as you faced the house, were, I believe, named Banner. Mr. Watson also lived in the Park at that time.

This, I regret to say, is all the information towards fixing the identity of the house that I am able to give. All letters addressed to us were directed simply to "Rook Park, Rook Ferry."

Believe me, with great respect, Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

Thomas H. Sherman, Esq.,
Liverpool.

Hawthorne's own account of the house shall be given in your next number. F. SANDERS.

(To be continued).

[60] CARGOES OF WIRRAL SHIPS IN
1541-2.

The following particulars of the cargoes of Wirral vessels, which discharged in Chester in 1541-2, are from the original documents in the possession of the Chester Corporation:—

vth die Oct: Introit' ejujdm Naviculi voo' le *Trinity de Hilbree* ejuj sub Deo William^o. Lynygar est magister.

Mercator: Thomas Rog'son: iii paco shepells
iii paco chekkers
and a wey of Tallow

xix die Oct: Introit' le *Lawrence de Hyllbree* ejuj sub Deo Ric'us Shepp'd est magister.

Mercatores: Ric'us Grymsdloh sen^r. lib: v ton'
sam' [?] salmon]
and j barral of herynges
Ric'us Shepard: viii barrels of
Herynges
Ric'us Anderton, lib: v barrels of
Herynges

eod die: Introit' le *George de West Kirbey*, ejuj sub Deo Willm's Coventrye est magister.

Mercatores: Jobes White lib: ii tonnes of
Herynges
Williams Coventrye: vi barrels of
Herynges

eod die: Introit' le *Godelocks de West Kirkeby*, ejuj sub Deo Thomas Hogg est magister.

Mercatores: Willms Dabe: iii tonnes of
Herrynges
Thomas White: x barrels of
Herrynges
Thomas Hogg: i tonne of Herrynges

xx Oct: Introit' le *Katrina de Neston* ejuj sub Deo John ——— est magister.

Mercator: Henry Hop': iii tonnes of herynges

eod die: Introit' le *Margaret de West Kirkebye*, ejuj sub Deo Thomas Hogg est magister.

Mercator: John White: vi barrels of herynges
John Coudtyre: x barrels of herynges

iii Nov: Introit' le *Katherin Hiccock* de West Kirkeby, ejuj sub Deo Ric'us Hiccock est magister.

Mercatores: Nicholas Pentony: iv pacos chekkers
Thomas Rogers, ii pacos chekkers
Thomas Burrow jun, j paco de shepe-
skynes
Ban' Maynwarving, ii rolls de
roggs [?]

xx Jan: Introit' le *Scot de West Kirkebye* ejuj sub Deo Willms Lynager est magister.

Mercatores: Ric'us Marten, unu' H [ogs] H [eod]
Alles.
Ric'us Percivall unu' H [ogs] H
[eod] Alles.
Ric'us Snedye, ii barrells halles
[sic].
Johes Smyth, Cart' ii barrells
[?—].

xx Feb: Introit' le *Bryde de Hilbree* ejuj sub Deo Henry framway [?] est magister.

Mercatores: Johes Warton liii townes of herynges.
Thomas Whyte, vii barrells of
herynges.

W. FRAGUSSON IAVINX.

(To be continued.)

[61] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 56—May 14.)

A true and perfect Register of all and singular Christenings, Weddings and Burials at Bidston. Anno. Dom, 1628.

- (1) Gilbert Urmston baptized the ix of April.
John Urmston de pale baptized the vii of
September.
Thomas Willson baptized the xxi of September.
John Pemberton baptized the vi of October.

(1.) Son of John Urmston of Moreton, who died xxi December, same year.

Anne Wesley baptized the same day.
 John Pemberton, alias Richard i Pemberton
 de Sanghan baptized xx October.
 Richard Gill de Birkest bap. xx November.
 Jane Hale baptized the xv December.
 Amy Cowles baptized the xviii February.
 Henry Williamson baptized the same day.
 Nathaniel Brereton baptized the xxiii of
 February.

- (1) Richard Lunt bap. the last day of February.
 John Dod baptized the xv of March.
 Anne Gill baptized the xx of March.

Weddings.

Richard Griffith als Tudyr and Susanna
 Bellin, married the ix of November.
 Thomas Robinson and Anne Asmore were
 married the second of February.
 Richard Bennett and Ellen Hill were
 married the ix of February.

Burials.

- Ellen Pemberton buried the vi of April.
 (8) William Kempe, Infant, buried xv April.
 Margery Kempe, Infant, buried xviii April.
 Edward Pemberton, buried xxii of April.
 Mary Kempe, buried, xxiii of April.
 (8) Katherine Kempe, Infant, buried xxv April.
 (4) John Hill of Moreton, buried second of May.
 Robert Coventry buried v of May.
 Margery Hancock, the xxiii of September.
 Henry Bennett, Infant, buried the same day.
 (6) Thomas Hancock buried xxvii of September.
 (6) John Rathbon, infant, buried xv October.
 Henry Pemberton, buried xxiii October.
 (7) John Hall, infant, buried the xxv October.
 Anne Gray, buried. vii of December.
 (8) John Urmoston, buried the xxi December.
 (9) Robert Ladge, huntsman, buried xxiii
 December.
 (10) Margaret Fells, widow Chester, and buried
 between the vestry and my lo [rds] pwe
 the 4th of January.
 Margery Parbott, buried the iii of January.
 Henry Gobin, buried the xii of January.
 Joane Hill, buried the xvii of [—]
 William Rutter, senior buried [—]

- (1.) Son of Robert Lunt (*vide* weddings iv July, 1618).
 (2.) *vide* christenings xx August 1617.
 (3.) *vide* christenings xxi November 1622.
 (4.) John Hill of Moreton husbandman (*vide* his will
infra).
 (5.) Thomas Hancock of Moreton (*vide* his will *infra*).
 (6.) *vide* christenings xvii December 1622.
 (7.) *vide* christenings xi January 1622.
 (8.) John Urmoston of Moreton, yeoman (*vide* his will
infra).
 (9.) In spite of Webb's assertion, in his Itinerary of
 Wirral, (*vide* King's Vale Royal), that William, the 5th
 Earl of Derby, affected Bidston Hall greatly, and spent
 most of his time there in seclusion, I think there is little
 doubt that the Egerions rented the Deer Park of Bidston,
 if not the Hall, about this period, and used it for hunting
 and racing. The Deer Park, consisted of some 80 acres of
 land, lying on the western slope of Bidston Hill, bounded
 on the east by the wall running along the west ridge of the
 hill, on the south by the Ford Hill, on the north by Bidston
 village and Fender-lane, and on the west by the Ponder.
 (10.) Margaret Fells, eldest daughter of John Hockenhill,
 of Prenton, Esquire, by Margery, his wife, daughter of
 Peter Hockenhill of Hookenhull. She was married four
 times; 1stly to Edward Marten, of —; 2ndly to —
 Brereton, probably of Moreton; 3rdly to John Jones, of —
 and 4thly to William Fells, of Bidston Hall, yeoman, who
 died in 1632. (*vide* Wm. Fells' will, 1613 and Henry Jones'
 will 1620)

[—] Infant, buried xii [—]
 [—] Pemberton buried xvi [—]
 [—] nesals Williamson [—]
 buried the fourth day of March
 p: mae Evann' Fleam
 Curat ibid

MAY 28th, 1892.

[69.] HAWTHORNE'S HOME IN BOOK PARK.

(Continued from No. 59—May 21.)

Nathaniel Hawthorne writes of his house as
 follows:—

September 2nd, 1858.—We got into our new house
 in Book Park yesterday. It is quite a good house,
 with three apartments besides kitchen and pantry on
 the lower floor; and it is three stories high, with
 four good chambers in each story. It is a stone
 edifice, like almost all the English houses, and hand-
 some in its design. The rent, without furniture,
 would probably have been one hundred pounds;
 furnished, it is one hundred and sixty pounds.
 Book Park, as the locality is called, is private
 property, and is now nearly covered with residences
 for professional people, merchants, and others of the
 upper middling classes; the houses being mostly
 built, I suppose, on speculation, and let to those
 who occupy them. It is the quietest place imagin-
 able, there being a police station at the entrance,
 and the officer on duty allows no ragged or ill-
 looking person to pass. There being a toll, it
 precludes all unnecessary passage of carriages; and
 never were there more noiseless streets than those
 which give access to these pretty residences. On
 either side there is a thick shrubbery, with glimpses
 through it of the ornamental portals, or into the
 trim gardens with smooth-shaven lawns, of no great
 extent, but still affording reasonable breathing
 space. They are really an improvement on anything,
 save what the very rich can enjoy, in America. The
 former occupants of our house (Mrs. Campbell and
 family) having been fond of flowers, there are many
 rare varieties in the garden, and we are told that
 there is scarcely a month in the year when a flower
 will not be found there.

The house is respectably, though not very elegantly
 furnished. It was a dismal, rainy day yesterday,
 and we had a coal fire in the sitting-room, beside
 which I sat last evening as twilight came on, and
 thought rather sadly, how many times we had
 changed our home since we were married. In the
 first place, our three years at the Old Manse; then a
 brief residence at Salem, then at Boston, then two
 or three years at Salem again; then at Lenox, then
 West Newton, and then again at Concord, where we
 imagined that we were fixed for life, but spent only
 a year. Then, this further flight to England, where
 we expect to spend four years, and then another year
 or two in Italy, during all which time we shall have
 no real home. For, as I sat in this English house,
 with the chill, rainy English twilight brooding over
 the lawn, and a coal fire to keep me comfortable on

the first evening of September, and the picture of a stranger—the dead husband of Mrs. Campbell gazing down at me from above the mantel-piece—I felt that I should never be quite at home here. Nevertheless, the fire was very comfortable to look at, and the shape of the fireplace—an arch with a deep cavity—was an improvement on the square, shallow opening of an American coal grate.

It will be remarked that Mr. Julian Hawthorne speaks in his letter of a tablet which it is proposed to place on the house, to commemorate its occupancy by his distinguished father. In France and Italy we always see a small tablet with a suitable inscription on the houses which have been inhabited by great men. Hawthorne's fame is great and growing, and it is surely to be desired that the fact of his abode in our peninsula should be commemorated in this way. It would be very easy, with the consent of the owner and occupants of 21, Rock Park to raise the small sum needed for the purpose. All who are willing to assist are asked to communicate with the Rev. W. Paige-Cox, St. Peter's Vicarage, Rock Ferry, or with yours, &c.,

Hoylake Vicarage

F. SANDERS.

[63] CARGOES OF WIRRAL SHIPS IN 1541-2.

(Continued from No. 60—May 21.)

iii Mar. : Introit' *le Michaell de West Kerkebye* enjus sub Deo Thomas Babon est magister.

Mercator : Ric'us Babon viii H[ogs] H[ead] Alles.

xx Mar. : Introit' *Le Trinitie de Hilbre* enjus sub Deo Willms Brabon est magister.

Mercatores : Johes Challoner : viii paco yarne, paco chekkers, iiii lose roules of chekkers, one pese [piece] of whyte blankyt, one flooke bed.

Thomas Case : vi paco yarne.

Martin Blaker : iiii paco yarne.

: iiii paco more yarne.

xxvi April : Introit' *Le Martin de Lytell Neston* enjus sub Deo Thomas Blacune est magister.

Mercator : Johes Offeley : i tonne trayne oyl.

: xv bushell barleye.

: xvii H[ogs] H[eads] salt

ix May : Introit' *Le Cristofer de West Kerkebye* enjus sub Deo Johes Whyte est magister.

Mercatores : Ricus Hanket : iiii paco chekkers yarne and lamfells

Arthur Skelnor : ii paco chekkers and lamfells.

Johes Young : i fardell chekkers and ii H[ogs] H[eads] tallow.

: i paco more.

Ricus Kowtroke : iiii paco, ii chekkers i yarne, vi rolles chekkers, i small fardell chekkers i floke bed.

Johes Challoner : i paco fleyhes [f]

iii June : Introit, *Le Peter de Bessall [Hessall]* enjus sub Deo Johes Warton est magister.

iiii belles & a paco & certayne brass pottes.

W. FRERGUSON LAYMAN.

[64] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

II.—REV. JOHN MURCOT.

(See No, 19, Feb. 18.)

Since writing the account of Murcot, given in [14], [16], and [19], I have gleaned some additional information as to the latter part of his life.

In 1653 he styles himself in the Vestry Book of St. Michan's Dublin, as preacher of the Gospel at St. Owen's. He seems to have been previously engaged in the same capacity at St. Michan's, for the Vestry Book (29 August, 1651) mentions the engagement of Mr. Thomas Seels as preacher, "before Mr. Moorecott was settled in the parish.

Murcot came to Dublin in 1651 at the invitation of Sir Robert King, whose guest he became. He soon attached himself to the congregation of Dr. Samuel Winter, Provost of Trinity College, which worshipped as Independents in the Church of St. Nicholas Within; and he undertook at their request the whole of the 'teaching' among them, the pastorate being left to Dr. Winter. Murcot became subsequently the pastor of the Independent congregation worshipping at St. Michan's; and in 1658 we find him still established as pastor at St. Crudeon's. He died aged 29, 20 November, 1654.

F. SANDERS.

[65] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 61—May 21.)

JOHN HILL, of Moreton, in his will dated 30th April, 1623, mentions, "Alice Hill, my wife," "Margaret Hill, my daughter," "John and Thomas Hill, my sons," "Thomas Hill, son of John Hill, my son," and the "four children of my son-in-law, John Deanes;" he leaves the bulk of his property, including "my land leased from Sir John Egerton, Knight, late deceased, for fourscore years," to his wife and daughter, whom he makes his executors.

He appoints William Billinge, John Gill, Henry Willcocke, and Richard Gill, overseers.

Debts are due to testator by John Mason, of Little Neston, butcher, and Elizabeth Harrison, of The Meoles, widow.

The following is the list of testator's liabilities:—

To Elizabeth Harrison, for a yard and a quarter of kersey.....	0	8	4
To James Wilson for oates	1	1	0
To Robert Gill of Brombro' for oats	0	10	0
To Thomas Sherlock of Seacombe for oats 0	4	8	
To Thomas Dunne of Poulton	5	0	0
To Thomas Picke of Greaseby.....	8	17	0
To John Smyth of Stourton for Eye	8	2	4

Witnesses: John Gill, Thos. Rathbone, John Young, Evan Petres, *clia.*'

Inventory taken by John Gill, Wm. Billings, Wm. Bennett, and Thos. Wilcocke.

Summa totalis, £37.

THOMAS HANDCOCKE, of "Mooreton," in his will dated 26 September, 1628, leaves the bulk of his property to "my onely sonne Henry Handcocke," whom he constitutes sole executor, he also leaves small bequests to "my sister Margery Pemberton and her children," and to "my youngest sister Ellen Hand."

Witnesses: Richard Gill, Robert Malpas, *cler* (1).

The following persons owed testator money, *viz.*, Wm. Rutter, Ales. Hill, Henry Wilcocke, Robert Rimmer, Mr. John Whitmore, John Tottle, Richard Hatton and Wm. Fleetwood, Humphrey Wood and Thos. Spencer, William Gill, Peter Younge.

The testators liabilities were as follows, *viz.* :—

To Richard Coventry.....	£10	0	0
To Thomas Dunne.....	8	0	0
To William Coventry.....	8	0	0
To Henry Pemberton.....	9	0	0

Inventory taken by William Rutter, John Gill, William Billings and William Bennett.

JUNE 4th, 1892.

[66] RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD TRANMERE.

Both the houses at Tranmere once occupied by the eminent theologian Bishop Lightfoot have now, alas! disappeared. In his early boyhood, he was accustomed to spend part of the summer at Tranmere Old Hall, once the seat of the lords of the manor. A good description of this house, by the late Mr. Joseph Mayer, is to be found in the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society* vol. 8.

During his residence at Rook Park, Nathaniel Hawthorne visited the old house, which he thus describes :—

"March 7th, 1855. J—and I walked to Tranmere, and passed an old house, which I suppose to be Tranmere Hall. Our way to it was up a hollow lane, with a bank and a hedge on each side, and with a few thatched stone cottages, centuries old, their ridge poles crooked, and the stones time-worn, scattered along. At one point there was a wide, deep well, hewn out of the solid red freestone, and with steps, also hewn in solid rock, leading down to it. These steps were much hollowed by the feet of those who had come to the well; and they

(1.) There was a Mr. Malpas, schoolmaster of Wallasey about this period, who, according to old Mr. Robinson's account in his *M.S. history of Wallasey, 1721*, was discharged for misconduct.

reach beneath the water which is very high. The well probably supplied water to the old cotters and retainers of Tranmere Hall five hundred years ago. The Hall stands on the verge of a long hill which stretches behind Tranmere and as far as Birkenhead.

It is an old, grey, stone edifice, with a good many gables, and windows with mullions, and some of them extending the whole breadth of the gable. In some parts of the house, the windows seem to have been built up; probably in the days when daylight was taxed. The form of the Hall is multiplex, the roofs sloping down and intersecting one another, so as to make the general result indescribable. There were two sun-dials on different sides of the house, both the dial plates of which were of stone; and on one, the figures, so far as I could see, were quite worn off, but the gnomon still cast the shadow over it in such a way that I could judge that it was about noon. The other dial had some half-worn hour marks, but no gnomon. The obinks of the stones of the house were very weedy, and the building looked quaint and venerable; but it is now converted into a farmhouse, with the farm yard and the out-buildings closely appended. A village, too, has grown up about it, so that it seems out of place among modern stuccoed dwellings, such as are erected for tradesmen and other moderate people who have their residences in the neighbourhood of a great city. Among these there are a few thatched cottages, the homeliest domiciles that ever mortals lived in, belonging to the old estate. Directly across the street is a wayside inn, "licensed to sell wine, spirits, ale, and tobacco." The street itself has been laid out since the land grew valuable by the increase of Liverpool and Birkenhead; for the old Hall would never have been built on the verge of a public way."—*English Note Books.*

Tranmere Hall was demolished in 1862, and its site is now occupied by mean cottages. Bishop Lightfoot wrote of it in 1888:—"The house, when I knew it, was occupied by a farmer, whose name was Hitchmough or Hitchman (1); but the greater part was let as lodgings during the summer. During my father's lifetime, we used to occupy these lodgings for several weeks during the summer. I think that our first year there must have been 1886, when I was eight years old; and so far as I can remember, we returned every successive year till 1841, when we took up our residence at the 'New Hall' which I believe, is still standing. There we lived till the beginning of 1844.

Last year, 1891, the so-called New Hall also disappeared. On the occasion of its demolition, the following interesting communication appeared in print.

"There has just disappeared, through the pulling down of a farmhouse and outbuildings on the estate of Major Orrod, adjoining the line of Church Road, Higher Tranmere, one of the relics of former days. The farm-house in question was a stone building, its walls, and those of the brick-built barn rising sheer from the roadway on the east or river side, the outbuildings stretching on the same line in a southerly direction towards the white cottage house, now enclosed by a front garden and wall, which, for

(1) Mr. Joseph Hitchmough, father of the late Alderman Hitchmough.

more than a century, was a little country ale house, known as "The Hare," and in the bar parlour of which, it is more than probable (seeing there were well stocked game preserves not far off), many a company of poachers have quaffed their beer after a successful foray and trolled out some such stave as, "It's my delight on a shiny night, in the season of the year," &c. At any rate "The Hare," which is now a private house, the residence of Mr. Sam Jones, a veteran and much respected employé of the Mersey Dock Board, will go down to posterity embalmed in the literature of the late Nathaniel Hawthorne, the graceful American writer, who in his *English Note Books* describes a summer day's stroll from Cloughton or Oxtou across the fields, busy with harvesting, to Rock Ferry, and a call for "refreshment by the way," at the little ale-house whose foaming nut-brown ale and neatly sanded floor, laid out in curious patterns, he admiringly mentions. The adjoining farm-house, near which stood the Old Tranmere Hall, with its stone doorway into the orchard garden, carved overhead "Labor Vincit Omnia," and the ancient cross long since demolished, is said to have been one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the neighbourhood, and to have been built A.D. 1660. From Mr. Richard Lee, who is well-known in Birkenhead and Tranmere, and was a schoolfellow of the late Alderman Hitchmough, we have gained some interesting gossip. He says, "My father resided at the old farmhouse which has just disappeared. He resided there in 1819, and died there in 1839. I was born there in 1824, and left with the family in 1839, after my father's death. Since then the farm has been occupied by Mr. Quirk, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Hitchmough, Mr. Ross, Mrs. Mary Jones (the late), for her son-in-law Mr. Thomas Ravenshaw, and others. Latterly it had been divided into tenements for farm labourers, and for some years past had no occupant, being, in fact, untenantable. It was a quaint structure with little comfort about it, according to modern ideas. The stone walls inside the house were lined with rushes and twigs interlaced, and plastered over with clay. The farm buildings were erected long after the house, and as could be seen during the recent operations of pulling down, were of modern design and construction. M.A.

(To be continued.)

[67]. THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 65—May 28).

JOHN URNSTON, of Moreton, yeoman, in his will made a few days before his death in 1623, mentions, "my lands in Moreton," "my wife Anne," "my eldest sone John, towards maintaininge and bringing of him upp," "my youngest children, Gilbert, Ellen, and Ann," "my tenement in Wallasey, until Gilbert come to the age of 21 yerres," "my fields, which I rent, called the Handstaek Hey and the Long Ditch Hey," [1] "my brother Robert Urnston," "my brother's daughter, Katherine."

(1) The name Handstaek Hey does not now exist in Moreton; Long Ditch Hey, now called Ditchfield, lies on the west side of the road, about half way between Overchurch Hill and Moreton village.

Overseers: William Bennett and Robert Tassie,
Witnesses: Robert Pemberton, Thomas Enstale.

Robert Malpas, cler.

Debtes owinge to sd testator.

John Bayluff.....viii.—
William White.....i:xiis—
John Chaddock.....x—
William White.....xxi. — ' —

Debtes owinge by Testator.

John Younge.....x — ' —
John Robinson, jun.....ii . iiis —
Doctor Snell [1].....iii . vs —

Inventory taken 18 December, 1623, by Wm. Billing, Henry Willecoke, John Robinson, Wm. Parbutt.

MARGARET FELS, of Bidston, widow, in her will dated xxix December 1623, leaves, "to Stephen Jones sonne of Henry Jones late deceased five pounds; "

- "To Margaret Jones ten pounds.
- "Elizabeth Jones five pounds.
- "John Brereton three pounds.
- "Mary Brereton three pounds.
- "Thomas Brereton three pounds.
- "Stephen son of Henry Willecoke three pounds.
- "William son of Henry Willecoke three pounds.
- "Alice daughter of Henry Willecoke three pounds.
- "My daughter Katherine, the wife of Henry Willecoke ten pounds."

Item: I give and bequeathe all my plate unto William Jones and my will is that Mr. Parker and Stephen Fells shall have the custody of ye same, untill ye said Wm. Jones be married."

"I give to ye said Stephen Fells his children, either of them two ewes a-peece."

"And lastly, I assign all the rest of my goodes, etc. towards the maintaininge and bringing upp of Henry Jones his children."

Executors, Mr. Thos. Parker and Thomas Coventry of Knooktorn.

Witnesses, Stephen Fells and Evan Piers, clerk.

JUNE 11th, 1892.

[68] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

It has frequently been pointed out by writers on the subject, that the Hundred of Wirral is possessed of a particularly interesting set of place names, and it has occurred to me that it would be very instructive to arrange all the names, as far as possible, under the three headings of Celtic, Norse, and English, and then to compare their relative positions on a map.

(1) Dr. George Snell, Rector of Wallasey, Prebendary of Chester 1621, afterwards Dean of Chester.

There is, however, perhaps no subject on which "doctors differ" more completely than on the origin of words, and so though we cannot expect to be able to classify the names with anything like complete accuracy, still, let us hope, it is possible to get sufficiently near to learn a good deal from the result.

To this end, I would suggest that the following names are British, and trust that this and succeeding articles may elicit correspondence on the subject from those who are far better able to pronounce an opinion than the writer:—

FENDER: The second syllable being the Cymric word *dwr*, meaning water.

LANDIGAN: The first syllable being the same as the Welsh *llan*, a church; it is worthy of note that though there are no traces of a church now, Domesday mentions a priest there.

TRANMERE: In old documents always spelt Tranmoll, or Tranmoel, being a shortening of the words *Tre-syn-moel*, the town on the hill, a very good description of that salubrious neighbourhood!

ARROWS: Canon Isaac Taylor, in his *Words and Places*, classifies the name as Celtic when used as a river name.

DOVE POINT: Dove from the word *Dhu*, signifying black, a very good description of the Point in question, distinguished as it is for its "black earth," or peat bed.

NOCTORUM: The early form of this peculiar name was, according to Domesday, Chenotrie (the *Ch* having the value of *k*); if this be so, and not due to the blunder of a Norman official, the terminal syllable is, probably, the Cymric *tre*, town. In a document dated 1272, however, preserved at Eaton, the name is spelt Knocktorum, and in all subsequent documents which the writer has had an opportunity of examining—some score between the years 1800 and 1800—this form is retained, subject to trifling variations of spelling.

If, therefore, as seems very probable, the present spelling fairly represents the original name, the derivation seems to be from the Gaelic *knock* a hill and possibly the Irish word *drum* (modern Irish *drum*) a ridge; one could hardly wish for a better description of Noctorum to-day than the *hill ridge*.

The other place names which may be Celtic, and which will be treated more at length in the next article, are Liscard, Poolton, Seacombe, Carlet, and Poole.

The foregoing is merely a tentative list, and put forward in the hopes of obtaining suggestions and opinions from those interested in the subject.

Yours etc.,

Cloughton.

HOLLY.

[69] RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD TRANMERE.

(Continued from No. 66—June 4.)

My great grandfather, Richard Lee, resided at the Old Priory, Birkenhead, in 1758, and farmed nearly the whole township of Birkenhead.

The nearest farms were Grange Farms, standing where Grange Mount now is, and Rhode Hill, opposite to the Flaybrick Hill cemetery. My great grandfather, his wife, my grandfather and grandmother, my mother's great aunts, and nearly all the Lees were buried in the Old Abbey Churchyard at Birkenhead, in the enclosure adjoining the present Old Abbey Chapel. My father's aunts who were born at the Priory—a distinct building from the old monastic establishment known as the Birkenhead Priory, and standing in a spacious wooded enclosure about where St. Mary's-gate and White-street now are—long resided at Tranmere Hall (the present building, not the Old Hall pulled down in 1862). They were living there in 1793, and the last Miss Lee died in 1842, having left the hall the year previous. They were well posted up in the contemporary history of Birkenhead and Tranmere affairs; and it is upon their authority that I fix the age of the old farm just demolished, for they used to say,—
"It was built in the year of our Lord 1660."

Whether the site will be built upon remains to be seen. Major Orred does not take kindly to the idea of selling any of his land for the purpose of running up "jerry" houses thereon. The removal of the farmhouse and buildings, which stood on an elevated position, have opened up a fine view of the river Mersey and the south end of Liverpool to the occupant of Dial House (immediately opposite), Mr. Thomas Mouldsall, and to the traveller along that part of Church-road it discloses a very picturesque view of Mersey Park. As showing the comparative antiquity of some neighbouring buildings, it may be stated that the Black Horse Inn, No. 359, Church-road, bears a tablet in front inscribed

L
I M
1757,

While Mr. Steel's farmhouse, a little further on, No. 345, the last house in Church-road, has a similar tablet inscribed

S O
O
1754.

M.A.

[70] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 66—June 4.)

A Register of the Parish of Bidston for the years 1624.

CHRISTENINGS.

Bridget Rathbone, crism'd the seventh of November.

Elizabeth Kempe, the one and twentieth of December.

(1) Margaret Garrard, the xvith of Januarie.

(2) Ann Taylor, the xiith of March.

William Kellie, the xth of Aprill.

Ellen Ley, the xiith of Aprill.

(1). Daughter of James Gerrard (*vide* Wedding, 1614).
(2). Probably daughter of Daniel Taylor (*vide* Weddings, 1635).

- (3) Peter Orme, the xiiiith of Aprill.
- (4) Ann Fells, the xvith of May.
Cicelic Benet, the viiith of August.
Martin Pemberton, the xxixth of August.
Thomas Tassie, the xiiiith of September.
Christened Ano Domin 1625.
Katherine Butter, the iiiith of Aprill.
Buried in the P'ish of Bidston Ano Dom 1624.
- (5) Anne Gill, infant, buried the first of Aprill.
John Gobbin, Junior, buried the eighth of Aprill.
Mary Brereton, buried the twenty of May.
- (6) Katherine Brereton, buried the xiith of May.
- (7) Thomas Lea, buried the xiiiith of July.
Henry Williamson, buried the last of July.
John Urmston, buried the first of August.
- (8) Anne Fells, buried the viiith of August.
- (9) Margaret Anderton, buried the xiith of August.
- (10) Jane Fells, buried the xxixth of September.
- (11) Evan Piers, buried the xviiiith of February. 1625.
Margery Truman, buried the xxvith of Aprill.
Married within the P'ish of Bidston 1624.
William Curryn and Margaret Galloway, iii April.
Thomas Robinson and Jane Gill, the iiiith of July.
- (12) Stene Fells and Cicely Lynaker, xxv of November.
- (13) James Anderton and Anne Hancock, xxx November.
- (14) John Erby and Elizabeth Sharplesse, xiii February.
William White and Elianor Williamson, xxvii February.
William Keile and Margaret Hare, xxvii of February.

(Appendix D). There is little to be said of the Rev. EVAN PIERS, beyond the fact that he seems to have held the living from 1610 until his death, and also that he never appears to have been married.

The miserable pittance on which the unfortunate Incumbent of Bidston, at this period, had to subsist, is brought forcibly before one by the following simple document from the Probate Court at Chester:—

“An inventory of the goodes of Evan Piers, curate of Bidston, made ye xxvth day of Aprill, 1625.

Imprimis: Pephus [?puce] shute [suit], dublet and breeches and and a frize jerkinxliiis.

(3). A son of John Orme, of Torbock, by his wife Anne, daughter of John Benet, of Saughall-Massey, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Potter, of Prescott, Co., Lanc.

(4). Vide burials vii August same year.

(5). Vide christenings xx March, 1623 4.

(6). Daughter of John Brereton, of Moreton (vide christenings xxx September, 1617).

(7). Thomas Lea, of Moreton, yeoman. Administration of his goods was granted on the 14th of August following, to Elizabeth, his widow and relict; his personality was valued by John Pemberton, Wm. Billings, Wm. Pemberton, John Tassy, and John Urmston, smyth, on the same day, at 850 4s.

(8). Vide christenings xvi of May same year.

(9). Margaret Anderton, wife of James Anderton (vide weddings 1614, also wedding xxx November, 1624).

(10). Jane Fells, wife of Stephen Fells (vide waddings 1615, also wedding xxv November, 1624).

(11). The Rev. Evan Piers, Perpetual Curate of Bidston (vide Appendix D).

(12). Stephen Fells, son of Miles Fells of Bidston, yeoman (vide Note 10) supra.

(13). James Anderton of Oughton (vide Note 9) supra.

(14). Probably a son of Edward Erby, of Moreton.

Item: Two pair of stockings, one pair of shoes, one pair of slippes shoes and a paire of garters.....liiis.

Item: Two flaxen shirts and three bandsliiis. vid.

Item: All his books.....xs
Summa totalis...xxxiis . vid.

Richard Gregory,
one of ye witnesses.

Praisers:
Wm. Talier.
John Truman.
Peter Gjll."

JUNE 18th, 1892.

[71] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

IV. SIR ROWLAND STANLEY, KNIGHT.

Rowland, the second son of Sir William Stanley, of Hooton and Storeton, by Grace, daughter of Sir William Griffiths, of Penrhyn, Chamberlain of N. Wales, was born in or about 1517. In 1536 he succeeded his elder brother William, in the possession of the family estates, and became the head of the various branches of the house of Stanley. He married at a very early age, Margaret, daughter of Hugh Aldersey, of Chester, and, according to the pedigree in Ormerod, widow, of Henry Bunbury of Stanney, Esq. By this lady young Stanley became the father of two sons, William, afterwards the celebrated Sir William, of Deventer notoriety, and John, afterwards a member of the Society of Jesus. The birth of the elder son was probably about 1534. By his second wife, Ursula, daughter of Sir Thomas Smith, of Hough, in the Nantwich Hundred, he had two daughters, Margaret, who became the wife of Sir John Egerton, of Egerton, and Mary, who married (1) John Poole, junior, of Capenhurst, heir apparent of John Poole, of Poole, Esq., whom he predeceased in 1600, and (2) a gentleman named Browne, whom I have so far failed to identify. Mary Browne was buried at Eastham, April 1st, 1638.

Rowland Stanley was knighted on the morrow of Queen Mary's coronation, 1553 (Machin's *Diary*, p. 34.) Four years later, the Queen having declared war against France, in support of her husband Philip, the French, in retaliation, incited the Scots to invade England. Levies were hastily raised to oppose the intended invasion, and Sir Rowland Stanley's name occurs as captain of a hundred men in the Cheshire levy (Lodge's *Illustrations* I. 281.)

In 1560, Elizabeth sent a force under Lord Grey and a fleet under William Winter, to assist the Scotch Lords of the Congregation against the French troops, brought over by the R-gent, Mary of Guise. Sir Rowland served under Grey in this expedition. (Stowe, *Illustrations of Queen Mary's Reign*, Maitland Club, p. 82).

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued).

[72] THE CHAPEL AND PARSONAGE HALL
OF S. NICHOLAS, CHESTER.

At a short distance from the centre of Chester, on the eastern side of Northgate, a narrow passage leads to the ancient and now desecrated chapel of St. Nicholas, which stands in the rear of the street, and reaches to the Cathedral close. It has been a large and important structure, of which the outer walls, west door, and the traces of two or three decorated windows, and others of the later Gothic fashion, remain. A short distance southward of this, the parsonage of the chapel is believed to have stood. The chapel itself was given for the use of the parishioners of St. Oswald's Church, when the site of that edifice was taken by the monks of St. Werburgh's to build the great south transept of their church, now the Cathedral, in the 14th century; but in the latter part of the 15th century they, the parishioners, again obtained leave to occupy the south transept of the Cathedral, which has always borne the name of St. Oswald's; and until 1880, when Dean Howson once more added it to the Cathedral, it was occupied as a separate place of worship. The chapel of St. Nicholas, with its appurtenant buildings, stood just within the south-west angle of the great enclosure wall of St. Werburgh's Abbey. A plan made by Randle Holm, showing the Monastic buildings at the date of the dissolution, shows this chapel and its adjacent buildings, so that we are partly able to identify what was then standing. During the rebuilding of the premises of a wine and spirit merchant in Northgate, several cottages and poor buildings were cleared away, and during the excavations a fine Roman hypocaust was discovered below the passage, about thirty yards in rear of Northgate, and the fact was duly recorded. A Liverpool antiquary was the first to observe the exposure of this relic. When I afterwards went to examine this, my notice was attracted by a massive piece of oak framing of early character, and having obtained permission to examine it, I found it to be the eastern side of an ancient hall or house which, having been enclosed by recent brickwork, had been wholly forgotten and overlooked, though a valuable relic of antiquity. It went by the name of the "Chapel" among those occupying the premises, and was used as a lumber room. I communicated this information to some of the Chester antiquarians, who did not know of the building. The building had originally been wholly of timber, most of which remained sound and in good condition, though poorly repaired with brick; and the date of the structure, judging from the mouldings and style of the roof, was about A.D. 1320. No other domestic building in Chester dates so far back as this very perfect example of a small domestic hall. The edifice was built in three stories, the lowest being a half-sunk basement on the same level as the floor of the Roman hypocaust. Above this was a low but handsome room on the level of the row, showing that the Roman and Medieval cities were nearly on the same level. The ceiling was divided into square panels by handsomely moulded beams. At the intersection of one bay of these, a finely carved rose boss still remained. At some time in the 17th century these panels had been enriched with good plaster ornaments consisting of fleurs de lys, with a centre of delicately wrought scrolls and roses, one of which

was still entire. The room above was, however, the most interesting; part of its walls still showed the ancient framing, with braces formed into pointed arches at the sides, and to the east were traces of the original long windows. The fine and massive open timber roof was its chief ornament; it was framed with three principals, the southernmost formed like a depressed arch, with curved braces above the apex, pierced with good flowing decorated tracery on each side of the king post, from which sprang fore and aft braces from a moulded and ornamented corbel.

E. W. Cox.

(To be continued.)

[73] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 70. — June 11.)

Between the years 1624 and 1632, no Transcripts seem to have been sent to the Episcopal Registry: at all events there are none now to be found between these dates, and so we have to fall back once more on the wills from the Probate Court, in order to bridge the gap in some degree.

GILBERT BLACKBORNE, of the Ford [1], in his will dated 20th April, 1628, leaves his property to be divided between his wife [Jane], his son, John Blackborne, and his daughter, Ann.

Executors: John Blackborne [son of testator] and Mr. Thomas Parker [of Bidston].

Debts are due from testator to John Deane [of Bidston], James Wilson, the elder, James Wilson, the younger [of Cloughton], Henry Williamson, of Cloughton, and "my son-in-law, Richard Yoxen."

Debts are due to testator from John Tottie, of Upton, and "Ould Thomas Boul'd."

Inventory taken a few days later by John Gill, of Pulton, Thomas Coventrie, of Knocctorine, James Wilson, of Cloughton, and Richard Yoxen, of Bebington.

Summa totalis, £101 6s.

RICHARD WILSON, of Cloughton, carpenter, in his will proved in 1629, leaves to James Wilson, his brother, all his lands, tenements, etc., towards the "maintaining and relief" of his wife and children.

Witnesses: Gilbert Wilson,
Wm. Corvin [?]
Richard Bunchorne.

Inventory valued by Thos. Burscove, of Thorleton, Jas. Woodward, senior of Cloughton, Richard Bennet, Thos. Williamson, of ye same towne yeomen.

Summa totalis, £123 15s. 10d.

Debts unto testator,
Richard Parbott, xxs.
Richard Gregory, lxviii.

JOHN BENET, of Saughall-Massey, who died 28 September, 1631, in his will which is witnessed by William Maddooke, John Martin, and Robert Malpas, clerk, mentions his eldest son, Christopher, his other sons, John, Thomas, and Henry Bennet, and his daughter, Elizabeth, "Osen Robert Gryse" and "Osen Sherlocke" [probably his

[1] He occupied the farm on the right hand side of the road as one goes to Upton from Birkenhead.

nephew by marriage, the Rev. Richard Sherlocke, Rector of Woodchurch], and his wife, Elizabeth.

Executors: Testator's wife, Elizabeth, and his sons, Christopher and John.

Mention is made of the following fields, "Car Hey," "Awebut Hey," "Illison Hey," and "land in the New Car."

The Inventory was made 12 Oct 1631, by George Bennet, Thomas Kempe, John Mortayne [? Martin], and Henry Bennet, and in the list of debts owing by deceased, are various sums, to Wm. Bennet of Irby, Richard Bennet of Oughton, and John Totty and Wm. his son [2].

JUNE 25th, 1892.

[74] THE CHAPEL AND PARSONAGE HALL
OF ST. NICHOLAS, CHESTER.

(Continued from No. 72—June 18).

The Northern end had a similar arrangement, but plainer, and the central principal was formed into a fine high pointed arch. Each pair of the rafters was strengthened by a collar beam, and a moulded longitudinal rib ran below them, connecting them with the principals. The design, though simple, was very good and was an exceedingly ingenious piece of ancient carpentry. No trace was found either of fire place or louvre above the centre of the roof, to carry away the smoke from the hearth that usually was placed in the midst of such a hall, upon an appropriate stone hearth; but in the southern gable there had been two three-light square windows: the original mullions and jamba showed they had never been glazed, and these served to carry off the smoke. This feature, so far as I know, does not exist in any other ancient hall. Below the southern principal had been fixed the screen: the sockets still remained, apparently fitted for two doorways through it, and a still more curious feature was that a similar screen had divided the first floor room on the same line; thus there was a kind of double hall, one over the other, a most unusual and interesting feature. These rooms had been reached by a staircase on the west side, now removed, and on the same side were traces of another large room similar in style to the hall.

It is greatly to be regretted that the plans of the alterations did not admit of these remains being left *in situ*, and that they were not carefully taken down for re-erection. One of our most enterprising men of business in Cheshire would have been willing to do this, and it is hoped that some portion may still be saved.

This age claims to be one of "culture" and intelligence; professions of regard are lavishly made for ancient art and history. Yet I venture to think that no period has been more destructive of ancient monuments than our own. We respect such things

[2] I am indebted to H. M. Hance, Esq., of Liverpool for this abstract.

only conditionally, and are not willing to sacrifice any of them that stand in the way of our convenience, our pleasure, or our interest. Even our aestheticism does not scruple to trim into the form of the latest fashion of taste our priceless antiquities out of mere desire to conform them to modern standards of beauty or supposed fitness. So St. Nicholas Chapel, after being a storehouse and a theatre is now a music hall, and its parsonage hall will be a billiard room and a drinking bar. Now and then, but too seldom, the voice of protest is heard to stay the loss of some venerable shrine. Would that it would break in as loudly as the roar of the curfew bell that in that same music hall startled a great music composer in the midst of a concert, and compelled ten minutes of silence. Well might its warning voice cry over the dishonouring of the past by those who sacrifice too much to the pleasures of the senses. "The day is far spent, the night at hand, be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer."

E. W. Cox.

[75] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 68, June 11.)

LISCARD: From the Gadhelic word *lis*, an earthen fort; (in Ireland the word is embodied in some 300 names). Liskeard in Cornwall is no doubt the same word; the medieval spelling of both places being usually Liskert, Liscart, or Liskeret, though the Wirral one was also sometimes spelt Lisakirk and Liscark.

SEACOMBE: Canon Isaac Taylor says, "The word *com* is frequently used in Wales, where it denotes a cup shaped depression in the hills. This word in the Saxonised form *combe*, often occurs in English local names, especially in those counties where the Celtic element is strong, thus in Devonshire we have Ilfracombe, Yarcombe, etc." (*Taylor's Words and Places*, p 151).

POOLTON: The same authority (p 331) says, "Pool" Welsh *puwl*, an inlet or pool.

Dr. Veitch, in his *History of the Scottish Borders*, says, "of the Celtic root-words in the valley of the Tweed, we have . . . *pol* (Irish *pol*, Arm, *puill*, Welsh, *puwl*) . . . *Pol*, is usually softened into *pow*, in the vernacular of the district."

It is interesting to notice that the above three names are those of the three townships in Wallasey which, it is generally admitted, means the *Wallias* (or *Britons*) *ea* (or *island*).

CARLET: From the word *caer*, a hill-fort, and afterwards used to denote the hill itself.

There is an English word *car* frequently used in Cheshire, meaning a damp marshy place, but Carlet can hardly be described as damp and marshy.

POOL: Has been discussed under the head of Poolton.

Oughton.

HOLLY.

[76] AN EARLY LEASE OF BIDSTON HALL FARM.

In Vol. 2107 of the Harleian Manuscripts at the British Museum, is "An agreement between Richard Kellie, of London, gentleman, and Wm. Fells, of Arrowse, in the Countie of Chester, yeoman, relative to the Manor House and Farm of Bidston." As reference is made in it to such a very local matter as the Bidston Hill Wind Mill, it is possible that a short abstract may interest some of your readers.

The document is dated 10th May, 1609, and Richard Kellie, on the one part, undertakes to let to Wm Fells on the other part, "the Manor House of Bidston and the Court and Orchard, and one close or pasture invironed about with the ston wall, together with all the parke and lands called Bidston Parke, etc., and the Wyndmillne standings on the east syde of the said parke upon the Comons thereunto belonginge, situate and being in Worrall, in the Countie of Chester, and now of late in the tenure and occupation of the said Richard Kellie, of London, etc., etc., duringe the continuance of all such term and intereste as the sd, Richard Kellie nowe hath or claimeth to have by force [?] of a certaine Indenture of Lease bearing date 10 August, xxxviii, late Elizabeth, by and from the late Right Hon. Margaret, late Countess of Derby, and the Right Hon. William, then and yet Earle of Derby, to one Richard Lusher, gentleman, etc., etc."

The rent of "£140 to be payde yearlie on the 10th October" and a chief rent of 288 5s. 8d. to be paid yearly to the Earl of Derby.

Wm. Fells, on his part "to keep up all houses, walls, pales, ditches, fences, etc." and Wm. Fells to "have liberty to marle one close or pasture called the middle close, whersin the crosse standeth, containing 16 acres or thereabouts, the same to be done and performed this present year 1609."

And "Wm. Fells to find pasture for 2 geldings for said Richard Kelly and also lodgings within the Manor House, of Bidston, at such tyme or tymes as he shall repair or have occasion to come thither."

Witnesses, Richard Hartley,
Wm. Wright.

It would be interesting to find where the Village Cross stood, which is alluded to above.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

[77] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 78.—June 18.)

ROBERT PEMBERTON th' elder of Moreton in his will dated 4 Feb. 1631 [1632], mentions his son Edward Pemberton, daughter Ellen, son Myles Pemberton, son [in-law] Robert Gill, and his grandchild Henry Pemberton, also his grandchild Robert Pemberton.

Mention is made of "a reversion of a tache which I have in a field of John Tottie of Upton called Overchurch Hill," "another tache in Moreton called the Black Loundes, also two loundes and the Pocket Hey which I hold of Thos. Rathbone." [1]

Residuary legatee, Robert Pemberton; Overseer, "my cousin Charles Pemberton."

"My grandchild Robert Pemberton to be brought upp with learning at the schole."

Witness: Wm. Rutter, Miles Pemberton, Ric Runcoorne, clerious.

Debts due to testator from Wm. Kempe, John Litherland, Robert Malpas, John Young, and John Brabon.

Inventory taken 20th Feb 1631 [1632] by Peter Pemberton th' elder of Upton, Wm. Bennet the younger, Wm. Rutter of Moreton, and Richard Hill of Wallazey, yeom. Summa totalis £84 8s. 4d.

On the xvth of February 1628-9 the goods of ARTHUR PEMBERTON of Moreton, deceased, were valued by Henry Watt, James Low, Henry Hancock, and Thomas Hand, at £52 6s. 0d., and administration of them was granted, on the 1st May following, to Margery Pemberton, his widow and relict.

Debts were due testator by Thomas Hand, Robert Bennet of Brinston, Wm. Buckley and John Martin.

JULY 2nd, 1892.

[78] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

IV.—SIR ROWLAND STANLEY, KNIGHT.

(Continued from No. 71—June 18.)

Unlike the Lancashire branch of the family, the Stanleys of Hooton remained firm opponents of the reformed religion. They did not hesitate, however, to add to their already large possessions some of the abbey lands, which at that time were to be procured at very easy rates, as the original grantees were, as a rule, ready to dispose of them. But a friendly relation seems to have subsisted between the two branches of the family, as we find Sir Rowland assisting the chief mourner at the funeral of Edward, Earl of Derby, in 1572, on which occasion he and Lord Stourton offered on the altar the deceased nobleman's coat of arms, having Clarenceux, King of Arms, before them.—(Seacombe's *History of the House of Stanley*, Ed. 1840, p. 111.)

[1] The Black Loundes, or, as it is now called "The Black Looms," is a field in Moreton, about 150 yards to the north of the road leading from Moreton to Saughall-Massey, just before one reaches the bridge over the Arrowse Brook.

Pocket Hey is now divided into two parts by the Hoylake Railway, it is situated almost at the western boundary of Moreton township.

A "lound," "lond," "loom," or "land" in Cheshire, is nearly synonymous with the word "bush," and signifies a strip of land, divided from a similar strip lying beside it by some mark, other than a hedge or fence, usually by a large stone; one field will sometimes contain a dozen "lands," let to different tenants.

In 1573 the Knight, "together with his friends, laboured to obtain to be High Sheriff of Cheshire," but without success, since "he was doubted to be a person corrupt in religion." It was moreover asserted that he sought the shrievalty in order to resist the processes issued against him in a suit with his wife; and also to summon a jury in another cause which he had depending respecting the living of Bebington.

To control the movements of her Northern subjects, Elizabeth appointed Lord Huntingdon Lord President of the Council of the North. When Sir Rowland met this nobleman "he would not vouchsafe to salute him, burthened belike," as his enemy Fletcher charitably suggests, "with a guilt of conscience." (*Styrye's Grindal*, p. 183) Whether Huntingdon afterwards subjected Sir Rowland to the same surveillance which he exercised over Lords Derby and Sussex does not appear. To his other pursuits Baines assigns to the owner of Hooton that of being a rover on the sea. He states that Sir Thomas (*sic*) Stanley, of Hooton had, temp. Eliz., a privateer on the Mersey. The Christian name would appropriate the vessel to Lord Derby's second son and connect it with the means calculated on for Mary Stuart's escape. (*Murdin*, p. 99.)

By 1576 Sir Rowland must have regained his Sovereign's confidence since he became Sheriff of Cheshire in that year. But the treacherous conduct of his son, Sir William, who in 1587 betrayed Deventer to the Spaniards, must have brought the father once more under the Queen's suspicions. It was perhaps to avert these that he subscribed in 1588 £100, a large sum in those days, towards opposing the Armada.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[79] THE POOLLES OF BEBINGTON.

(See No. 13.—January 28.)

No reply having been given to your correspondent asking for the relationship of the Poolles of Bebington to the Poolles of Poole, I beg to send the following information:—

In Vol. VI. of the Record Society, p 158, is the funeral certificate of Edward Poole, gentleman, dated 1618. He is described as the "eldest sonne to Raffe Poole, who was second sonne to Sr Willm Poole, Knight, sonne to Sr Thomas Poole of Poole, in the County of Chester, Knight. The aforesaid Edward Poole was never maryed."

This certificate is signed by Hugh Poole, and a facsimile of his signature is given in the above mentioned volume. Now on comparing this signature with some thirty signatures of Hugh Poole, who was Rector of Bebington from 1602 to 1647, there is not the least doubt that we see in the handwriting of the same person. The only point to be settled is the relationship of this Hugh Poole with Edward Poole. The certificate was generally signed by the nearest relative, and this seems to point to the fact

of the two men being brothers. If this is the case, the descent of the Bebington Poolles from the main stock is made clear. M.A.

[80] A NOTE ON DOMESDAY BOOK.

I have occasionally met with the name Gomull or Gumal Pool in 16th century documents, relating to Wirral, and in such a connection that I have been forced to consider it a disguised name for what is now known as Bromborough Pool, though I had no direct evidence to prove that such was the case.

A few days ago, however, in going through that portion of Domesday Book which relates to Wirral, I was interested to notice, under the head of Pontone, [Poulton-cum-Spittle] the statement that "Gamel, who was a freeman, held it."

The juxtaposition of the names is suggestive, and it may be that the Pool continued to be called by the name of its former owner, 500 years after he had ceased to be its lord.—Yours, etc.,

Claughton.

WM. FERGUSSON IRVING.

[81] THE BIDSTON REGISTER.

(Continued from No. 77.—June 25)

Nomina singula Baptizat, sepult et Nupt, in Parochia de Bidston in Worrall in Ano Dni 1682 incipiendo et finendo Marti 25 die Ordine ait de scrivuntr.

Baptizat.

- (1) Lettice filia Thomae Kempe die 27 Martis.
- (2) Gullelmus filius Jacobi Wilson 30 Martis.
- (3) Margareta filia Nathanieli Jones, April 5.
Arthurus filius Johannis Pemberton die Ap. 6.
Thomas filius Jacobi Tassie, Maii die 18.
Gullelmus filius Richardi Yewds Maii die 20.
Gullelmus filius Gullelmi Holt Maii die 31.
- (4) Gullelmus filius Gullelmi Jones Junii die 19.
Margareta filia Edwardi Scophton Junii 24.
- (5) Petrus filius Christopheri Bennet, August 19.
- (6) Maria filia Johannis Willcooke Septembris 20.
Johannes filius Thomae Pemberton Octobris 11.
- (7) Elizabeth filia Arthuri Parbolt, Novembris 11.
Samuel filius Gilberti Wilson, Novembris 14.

- (1.) Of Saughall Massey (*vide* Lettice Kemps' will 1668).
- (2.) James Wilson the younger of Claughton (*vide* Wm. Wilson's will 1678).
- (3.) Nathaniel Jones, son of Henry Jones late of Bidston Hall (*vide* Henry Jones' will 1678).
- (4.) William Jones, eldest son of Henry Jones, late of Bidston Hall (*vide* Henry Jones' will 1620).
- (5.) Christopher Bennet, of Saughall-Massey, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Coney, of Parkside, in County Lancaster, gentleman.
- (6.) *Vide* Buriall, xiii December same year.
- (7.) Arthur Parbolt, of Bidston; the Parbolt family was one of some substance or antiquity in the Parish; a William Parbolt, of Bidston, was assessed at £3 for the Subsidy levied in 1545, and in 1665 an Arthur Parbolt (probably the Arthur mentioned in the text, or his son) was tenant of the farm in Bidston now occupied by Mr. Parkinson.

- (1) Helena filia Thomae Madocke Novembris 20.
Thomas filius Gulielmi Dod, Decembris 9.
Helena filia Johannis Harrison, Decembris 16.
Alles filia Jacobi Anderton, Decembris 30.
Helena filia Johannis Erbie, Januarii die 7. e
Margeri filia Johannis Wilcock et Margari
Simner, Januarii die 12.
- (2) Carolus filius Thomae Parker, Januarii 22.
Anna filia Randolphi Cowleye Martis die 24.
Sepult.
- Alie Pemberton die Martis 27.
Richard Jarrett April die 1.
Thomas Rathbone Junii die 18.
Jane Holme Octobris die 2.
Elizabetha Goodiker Octobris die 9.
- (3) Maria Wilcocke Decembris die 28.
Margerie Coppock Martis die 12.
- (4) Helena Madocke Martis die 19.

Nupt.

Matrimonim' solemnizatu' fuit inter
Johannem Bennett et Margaretam Whittinge
ambo de hac Parochia, Octob die 21.

Gabriel Bordman, curat.

Thomas Williamson } guardiani.
Thomas Smyth } ecclisae.

JULY 9th, 1892.

[82] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

IV.—SIR ROWLAND STANLEY, KNIGHT.

(Continued from No. 78—July 2nd.)

The critical condition of Roman Catholics under Elizabeth had forced Sir Rowland to make some settlement of his estates several years before the treason of his son; but he does not seem to have entirely relinquished the possession of them, as Ormerod supposed.

When over 80 years of age Sir Rowland contracted a third marriage with Joan Brown of Capenhurst (June 23rd, 1599). This lady survived him, and took as her second husband Henry Stanley, a natural son of Henry, fourth Earl of Derby.

Sir Rowland lived to extreme old age, being reputed to be the oldest knight in England. His son, Sir William, indeed survived him in sad exile, but the old man saw his grandson laid in the family tomb, and was succeeded in his estates by his great grandson, William, a lad of about seven years.

Our knight, who died at Oldfield, in the parish of Heswall, was buried at Eastham on April 23rd, 1614, at the age of about 96. A brass to his memory

- (1.) *Vide* Burials xix March same year.
(2.) Mr. Thomas Parker, as he is usually described, was Lord Derby's steward at this time for his Bidston and Wallasey property, and probably lived in the Hall; one of his daughters, Charlotte, married Thomas Meoles, of Meoles, Esquire.
(3.) *Vide* Christenings xx September same year.
(4.) *Vide* Christenings xx November same year.

let into a tomb of a later date is carefully preserved in the church. It bears the following inscription: "Here lieth the body of Sir Rowland Stanley of Hutton, Kt., who deceased the 5th day of April, Anno Dni 1613 (it should be 1614) and was here buried the 23 day of the same month in the yeare of his age 96."

A full abstract of his will has been printed by Mr. Earwaker in the *Cheshire Sheaf*, June 10, 1891.

In the name of God Amen, the 27th January, 1613 (14) I SIR ROWLAND STANLEY of Oldfield, Co. Chester, Knt. being in good health. My body to be buried within my chapel at Eastham Church. All my debts funeral expences and legacies shall be paid out of all my goods and chattels. I will that the sum of £140 shall be bestowed upon my funeral in blacks and other funeral rites, and to be given to my children, nearest kinsfolk, servants, and the poor. I bequeath to my son *John Stanley* 40s to buy him a ring. I give to my daughter *Mary Browne* my ring a signet with the hart's head. To my daughter *Anne Burrowes* 40s to buy her a ring. To my coosen *Anne Stanley* 60s to buy her a ring. To my coosen (i.e. his great grandson) *William Stanley*, son of *William Stanley*, late of Hooton Esq. deceased, one gilt cup of plate in the case with the scollop shell, my cross of gold which my son *Sir William Stanley* sent me, and also my seal of arms. I give to *William Bennet* and *Richard Brooks* my servants, if in my service until my decease, either of them £5. To *John Anglizer* for his honest faithful service to me done £10. To my servants *William Spruceley* and *Bartholomew Spruceley* if in my service till my decease either of them 40s. After my funeral expences performed and my debts and legacies paid, I give all the rest of my goods &c real and personal to *Dame Joane Stanley* now my wife and make her sole executrix.

"And for the better execution hereof I make and ordain my loving friends, Edward Glegge, of Gayton, Esq., and William Glegge, of Grange, Esq., overseers of my said will, and I give to either of them one broad silver boule gilt, and to either of them a mourning cloak."

These being witnesses.

[not signed by the testator.]

Edward Glegge,
William Glegge,
William Glegge de Geaton,
George Bennet,
John Anglizer,
Richard Brooks, his marke R.B.

Proved 11th May, 1614, by the sole executrix.

Besides his legitimate children, Sir Rowland had a son Edward [see No. 1, January 2], whom, on the authority of Motley, I have identified with a famous English soldier. F. SANDERS.

[83] THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1625.

I propose to send you an extract from the Subsidy Roll of 1625, containing the names of all the Wirral contributors. These names will show who were as that date the persons of most importance and wealth in the hundred, and the amounts which they were required to pay. The commissioners appointed to collect the money were four in number, viz.:—Sir Henry Bunbury, Sir William Massie, Henry Birkenhead, Esq., and William Glegg, Esq.

Their names and contributions head the list.

COMMISSIONERS	}	Henry Bunbury Miles	in terr xli	..	..	xls.
		Willimus Massie Miles	in terr xli	..	..	xls.
		Henricus Birkenhead, ar	in terr ivli	..	..	xviiis.
		William Glegg, ar	in terr xls	..	..	viiiis.
WALLASEY.						
		Willimus Meoles, gen'	in terr iiiii	..	..	xiiis.
		Johes Robinson	in bonis iiiii vs	..	..	viiiis. viiid.
		Johes Smyth	in bonis iiiii vs	..	..	viiiis. viiid.
LISCART.						
		Peter Rawley	in bon viii [7. 6. 8 exd]	(1)		xiiiis ivd.
PULTON CU' SECU'.						
		Johes Litherland gen'	in terr xls	..	..	viiiis.
		Johes Gill gen'	in terr xxxs	..	..	vis.
		Henricus Bird	in bon iiiii	..	..	viiiis.
		Thomas Dobb	in bon iiiii	..	..	viiiis.
MEOLIS MAGNA.						
		Miles Pemberton	in bon iiiiii xs	..	..	xiiiis.
MEOLIS PARVA.						
		Thomas Wright	in bon iiiii ...	..	..	viiiis.
(2) HOULAM.						
		Henricus Dalbie	in bon iiiii	..	..	viiiis.
WEST KIRBIE.						
		Thomas Raburne	in bon vii	..	..	xiiiis. iiiiid.
GRANGE.						
		Willimus Coventry	in bon iiiii [8. 19. 4. exd]	(1)		viiiis.
NEWTON CU LARTON.						
		Willimus Newbott	in bon iiiiii	..	..	xs viiid.
GREBBIE.						
		Robtus Younge	in bon iiiiii	..	..	xs viiid.
FRANKBIE.						
		Thomas Raburne	in bon iiiii	..	..	viiiis.
CAULDEY.						
		Henricus Pemberton	in bon vii	..	..	xiiiis iiiiid.
THURSTINGTON.						
		(3) Johes Whitmore	in terr iiiiii	..	..	xs viiid.
		Simon Warton	in bon vii	..	..	xiiiis iiiiid.

(1) The amounts in square brackets are added in a different hand from that of the scribe of the document.
 (2) Houise—Hoose, now Hoylake.
 (3) In the original, after the name "Johes Whitmore," comes the word "ar" [armiger—esquire], but the same hand that added the amounts in brackets has drawn his pen through this description of Mr. Whitmore.

BIDSTON.			
(1) Johes Deane	in bon iiiii xs	..	ixs iiiiid.
SAUGHALL MASSEY.			
Johes Bennett	in terr xxs	..	.. iiiis.
Henricus Bennett	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Johes Pemberton	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Willimus Billinch (Billinge)	in terr xxs	..	.. iiiis.
MOBETON.			
Miles Pemberton	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Willimus Bennet	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
CLAUGHTON CU' GRANGE.			
Jacobus Willson	in bon vii [5. 16. 0. exd]	(1)	xiiiis iiiiid.
URTON.			
Petrus Bould gen'	in terr iiiii	..	.. xiiis.
Thomas Bennett	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Ricus Gill	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
IRBIE.			
Willimus Ball	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Thomas Younge	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
OXTON.			
Thomas Pemberton	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
KNOCKTORUM.			
Thomas Coventry	in bon iiiii xs	..	ixs iiiiid.
WOODCHURCH.			
Jacobus Hancooke	in bon iiiii xs	..	ixs iiiiid.
(2) LANCAN.			
Thomas Leene	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
Arthurus Hay	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
ARROWE.			
Nicholas Birkbie	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
PRENTON.			
Johes Hookenhull ar,	in terr vii	..	.. xxs.
Henricus Rosin	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
TRANMERE.			
Georgius Langford gen'	in terr xxs	..	.. iiiis.
Willimus Willson	in bon iiiii	..	.. viiiis.
W. FERGUSSON IRVINE.			

(To be continued.)

JULY 16th, 1892.

[84] WIRRAL COW CHARITIES.

(See No. 80—March 12th.)

Mr. Goodacre's example in bequeathing cattle to the poor of Woodchurch found an imitator in Dr. Richard Sherlock, rector of Winwick, one of the best known divines of his time. He was a native of Woodchurch, and I hope before long to include an account of him among your Wirral Worthies. In 1677 he gave £50 for the purpose of providing cows for the township of Oxton. His deed of gift which I have extracted from the parish books of Oxton is as follows:—

To all Christian people unto whom this writing shall come, I Richard Sherlock, Doctor of Divinity, and rector of the high church of Winwick, in the

(1) John Deane occupied a farm at the Ford.
 (2) Lancon—Landican.

county of Lancaster, send greeting. Know you that I the said Richard Sherlock out of the affection which I have and bear unto the inhabitants of the town of Oxon in the hundred of Wirral in the county of Chester, and unto the poor people born within that township have given and by these presents do freely give the sum of Fifty Pounds of current English money stock to their use and according to such conditions as is herein and hereby mentioned and expressed, *videlicet*.

1. That fifteen cows be bought by the feoffees hereafter mentioned, and by them disposed into the hands of the poorer sort of the inhabitants of the town of Oxon.

2. That no person shall have or enjoy the use and benefit of any of the said cows, but such as are born within the said town of Oxon.

3. That no person enjoying the use of any of the said cows shall sell or exchange the cow without the consent of the said feoffees or the major part of them first had and obtained.

4. That no person enjoying any of the said cows if they remove out of the said town, shall carry the said cow or cows into another lordship, but shall deliver them up to be disposed by the said feoffees to other persons that do reside and dwell in the town of Oxon.

5. That every person or persons enjoying any of the said cows shall, upon the Feast Day of St. Mark, yearly bring them into the court or yard belonging to my father's house there to be viewed and disposed of by the said feoffees unto such persons as shall be in most need.

6. That every cow shall be burnt in the further horn with these letters, R.S.

7. That every person enjoying any of the said cows shall give meeting to the said feoffees upon the aforesaid St. Mark's Day, and pay for every cow two shillings and sixpence yearly as the hire thereof.

8. That no person shall lay claim to any of the said cows, as if, by several years' possession, they were as good as their own, which to prevent, the possession of every cow shall yearly be surrendered and yearly disposed of by the said feoffees, either to the same persons for the year following, or to others at their discretion.

9. That the said feoffees shall have out of the said stock of the said cows five shillings yearly, to pay for their dinners when they meet to view the said cows.

10. That the hire of the said cows shall be deposited into the hand of one of the said feoffees chosen by themselves, and that every year a new election shall be made of a Treasurer of the stock.

R.S.

(To be continued.)

[85] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 81. — July 2).

(Anno Domini, 1634.)

CHRISTENINGS.

- (1) John, ye son of Thomas Parker, April 6 h.
Ann, ye daughter of John Ords, April 25th.
(2) William, ye son of John Parr, May 7th.

(1) Mr. Thomas Parker, of Bidston Hall. *Vide* note (9) 1632, *supra*.

(2) John Parr, died 16th Feb. 1670. *q. v.*

- (1) Ellen, ye daughter of Christopher Bennett, bapt. May xi.
(2) Robert, ye son of John Pemberton, May 15th
An, daughter of Thos. Maddocke, May 15th.
(3) Samuel, son of John Wilcooke, June 15th.
(4) Joseph, ye son of Richard Lynacer, June 22nd
(5) Thomas, son of James Woodward, Aug. 10th.
(6) Margaret, daughter of Wm. Bennett, Aug. 24.
Ellen, daughter of Myles Pemberton, Oct. xith
(7) William, son of James Upshon, Oct. first.
(8) George, ye son of Wm. Martyn, Nov. 5th.
(9) Anne, daughter of James Wilson, Nov. 25th.
(10) Margery, daughter of Arthur Parbut, Nov. 26.
(11) Alice, daughter of Raph Rollison, Mar. 8th.

WEDDINGS, 1634.

- (12) Richard Lathe and Elizabeth Simpson, marr.
April 26th.
Richard Woodworth and Elizabeth ffoster,
marr. May xiih.
(13) Thomas Lynaker and Margaret Mossop,
marr. June 25th.
(14) John Pemberton and Elizabeth Gill, married
July 10th.
Henry Goldacre and Alice Addison, marr.
Sept. ye 4th.
Thomas Sconce and Ellen Willoocke, marr.
Nov. 25th.
(15) Robert Whiteside and Anne Morecraft,
January 7th.

BURIALLES, 1634.

- Alice, ye daughter of Thomas Hancock, bur.
April 19.
Anne Erby, buried April ye 22nd.
Henry Lathe, buried May ye 23rd.
(16) Samuel Wilson, buried July ye xth.
Ellen Martine, buried November ye 5th.
Jone Lange, buried January ye 5th.
Richard Erby, buried January 27th.
(17) Robert Pemberton, buried March ye 8th.
(18) Alice Rollison, buried March ye 13th.

(1) Christopher Bennet, of Saughall Massey, by his wife Elizabeth dau and co-heiress of Henry Coney, of Parkside, County Lancashire. *Vide* note (5) 1632 *supra*.

(2) *Vide* burials, March 8th, same years.

(3) Of the Ford, he occupied a farm on the left hand side of the road as one goes towards Upton.

(4) Richard Lynaker Junior, he signed the Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston, in 1642.

(5) James Woodward, of Cloughton; he died in 1612, administration of his goods was granted on 10th July of that year to his eldest son John.

(6) William Bennett, of Moreton.

(7) James Upshon. Signed Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston in 1642.

(8) George Martin lived to be 62 years of age. *Vide* burials 27th March, 1636.

(9) James Wilson, the younger of Cloughton.

(10) *Vide* note (7) 1632 *supra*.

(11) *Vide* burials 13th March, same year.

(12) Richard Lathe, signed Cheshire Remonstrance at Bidston in 1642.

(13) Thomas Linaker, probably of West Kirby Parish; a Thomas Linaker signed the Cheshire Remonstrance at West Kirby in 1642.

(14) John Pemberton, probably of Great Meoles.

(15) Robert Whiteside of Bidston.

(16) *Vide* christenings, 14th November, 1632.

(17) *Vide* christenings, May 15th, same year.

(18) *Vide* christenings, March 8th, same year.

Register of all ye christenings, weddings, and burials within the Parish of Bidston for ye year 1636, ending March ye 25th daye.

CHRISTENINGS.

- (1) Thos. sonne of Edwarde Sephtonne, March 27th.
 Hester, daughter of Richard Ewds. April 17th
 Miles, son of Richard Pemberton, June 26th.
 Charles, sonne of Thomas Pemberton, July 5th
 William, sonne of Thomas Goodiker July 10th.
 Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Rowlinson, August 7th.
 Margaret, daughter of John Truman August 8.
 Ellen, daughter of William Bennet Oct. 18th.
 Richard and } twinnes of John Ords Nov. 8.
 Margaret }
 (2) Susanne, daughter of Thos. Parker Nov. 20.
 Robert, sonne of John Dod, Dec. 9th.
 Ellin, daughter of Thos. Martin, Feb. 5th.
 Alice, daughter of Arthur Parbolt, Mar. 16th.
 (3) Alice, daughter of Henry Penrett, Mar. 22nd.

WEDDINGS.

- (4) Thomas Donne and Elizabeth Wilson, Feb. 17th day.

BURIALLS.

- (5) Thomas, sonne of Edward Sephton, Mar. 31st.
 Marie Blanchet a travelow [traveller] April 9.
 Thomas, sonne of James Bennett April 30th.
 (6) Margerie, daughter of Arthur Parbott May 22.
 Joann, wife of Gilbert Pemberton, June 19.
 Robert, sonne of Thomas Urmeton, Feb. 2nd.
 (7) William Bennet, March 1st.
 Marie vulgo Windle, March 8th.
 Gabriel Bordman, Curat.
 James Woodworth }
 William Bennet } Guardiani.

[86] QUERY.

In the Eastham Register of Burials, under the date July 20th, 1608, occurs the name of "Ladie Elizabeth Clyffe." Can any Cheshire genealogist give me any information as to this lady? F.S.

JULY 23rd, 1892.

[87] THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1625.

(Continued from No. 83—July 9th.)

BARNESTON.

Thomas Bennett in bon iiiii viiis.
 Willmus Barlowe in bon iiiii viiis.

1) Vide burials, March xxxi, same year.
 (2) Vide notes (9) and (1), 1632 and 1634.
 (3) Alice, daughter of Henry Bennett of Saughall Massey, by his wife Johan, daughter of Robt. Younge of Greaseby: she married in 1675 Thomas Maddock of Saughall Massey, by whom she had a son Peter, who was married at Bidston in 1711. (a 2).
 (4) Thomas Donne, of Poolton in Wallasey.
 (5) Vide christenings, March xxvii, same year.
 (6) Vide christenings, November xxvi, 1634.
 (7) William Bennett of Moreton, yeoman; on the 13th June, in this year, administration of his goods was granted to his widow Ellen. William Bennett was the son of Wm. Bennett of Moreton who died in 1594 (vide his will under that date).

THYNGWALL.

Robtus Dallamore in bon iiiii viiis.

STOURTON.

Adamus Crabtree in bon iiiii viiis.
 Thomas Sharpe in bon iiiii viiis.

BRINSTON (Brimstage.)

Andreas Taylor in bon vii [9. 8. 0. exd] xiiis iiiid.

OU' BEBINGTON.

Ricus Yockson in bon iiiii viiis.
 Jeffridus Hey in bon iiiii viiis.

LOWER BEBINGTON.

Johes Huntington in bon iiiii viiis.

PULTON-CU'-SPITTELL.

Edrus Greene gen' in terr xis iiiis.
 Edrus Briscoe in bon vii xiiis iiiid.

HESWALL.

Robtus Bennett in bon iiiii viiis.
 Ricus Bennett in bon iiiii viiis.

GETTON.

Willmus Glegge ar, in terr iiiii xis.
 Willmus Presson in bon iiiii viiis.

CROUGHTON.

Ricus Oulton in bon iiiii viiis.

STOKE.

Thomas Carrington in bon iiiii viiis.

STANNEY.

Johes Grace in bon iiiii viiis.

WHITBLE.

Thomas flinlowe in bon vii xs [6. 9. 4. exd] xivs viiid

CHORLETON.

Willmus Ashton in bon vii xiiis iiiid.

BACKFORD.

Nicholas florster in bon iiiii viiis.

LEA.

Thomas Gleasor in terr xis viiis.
 Petrus Coppocke in bon iiiii viiis.

MOLLINGTON TORRITT.

Ricus Coventrey gen in terr xlvis viiid ixs iiiid.
 Willmus Barlowe in bon iiiii vs viiis viiid.
 Ricus Harrison in bon iiiii vs viiis viiid.

MOLLINGTON BANNESTER.

Thomas Peirson in bon iiiii [8. 12. 0. exd] viiis

(To be Continued.)

[88] LADY ELIZABETH OLYFFE.

(See No. 86—July 16th.)

In reply to the question of F.S. as to Lady Elizabeth Clyffe, I send you an extract which I recently made from the Harleian pedigree of the Clives of Huxley. "Geo. Clyffe of Huxley miles m. —flia—Copinger Esq. quae postea renupt John Poole of Poole." No date is given, but the marriage must have taken place after 1587.

In the pedigree of the Olives given in Ormerod, the lady is called Susanna, and is described as the daughter of Henry Copinger Esq.

HOLLY.

Katherine Bennett, March 4.
 Jane Thomasson, March 6.
 Elizabeth Bushell, March 18.
 Richard Gill, March 20.

[89] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 85—July 16th.)

A Register of all and singular weddings christenings and burials as have been within the Parish of Bidston in the year of Christ 1688.

- (1) Mr. Thomas Meoles and Margerie Lytherland, married July 31st days.
 William Woodfine and Katherine Hough, married November 30th.
 William Erbie and Marie Rymmer, married february 27.

CHRISTENINGS.

- Margerie Jones, May 10.
 Anne Williamson, June 10.
 Alice Bruerton, Julie 8.
- (2) Margrett Hiccock, Julie 22.
 John Upshon, Sept. 19.
 Robert Johnes, October 2.
 Alles Lisaker, December 16.
 William Dode, December 16.
 Elizabeth Pemberton, December 23.
 - (3) Henrie Pinchist, Jann 1.
 Alice Jockson, feabru 2.
 Henrie Pemberton, feab 9.
 Richard Willson, feab 14.
 James Robinson, March 3.
 - (4) Robert Rowlinne, March 15.
 Edward Oweley, March 17.
 Thomas Bennett, March 14.

BURIALS.

- Thomas Newport, March 26.
 Cicely Fells, March 28.
 William Holt, March 31.
 Ann Harrison, April 4.
 Katherine Parr, May 6.
 Anne Urmston, Septem 21.
 John Gill, Octob 1.
 Robert Williamson, Octob 24.
 Ann Carr, Januri 3.
 Alice Watte, Januri 29.
- (5) Margret Hicooke, Januri 30.
 Anne Pingist, Feab 5.
 Peter Jeff, Feab 7.
 - (6) Henry Pinchist, Feab 15.
 Anne Bennett, Feab 23.
 Margaret Addison, Feab 28.

(1.) Mr. Thos. Meoles, eldest son of Wm. Meoles, of Meoles, Esquire, by his wife, Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Bunbury, of Stanney, Esquire; he married about 1625, for his first wife, Margery, daughter of John Gill, of Poolton. This Margerie Litherland, his second wife, was widow of Mr. Rowland Litherland, of Wallasey, and 5th daughter of Edward Greene, Esquire, of Poulton-Lancelot; she survived her second husband (who died in 1640) and married for her third husband a Mr. Lloyd of Anglesey.

(2.) Vide burials xxx January same year.

(3.) Vide burials xv February same year.

(4.) Vide burials viii April, 1639.

(5.) Vide christenings xii July same year.

(6.) Vide christenings i January same year.

[90] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 75—June 25th.)

In Wirral, as in most parts of England, a large majority of place names are of Anglo-Saxon, or to speak more accurately, English origin.

Shortly after Æthelrith's victory at Chester in 613, Wirral must have been colonized by the victorious Northumbrians, and from that date until the advent of the Norsemen, early in the ninth century, the English probably held it in comparative quietness.

Their first settlement seems to have been at WILLASTON, which gave its name to the Hundred. Until the beginning of the present century, it was usually described as "Wirral or Willaston Hundred" From this centre, the early colonists threw out a branch station towards the East and called it EASTHAM, and followed it by a further development in a southerly direction to SCRTON, or the south town. HINDERTON doubtless marks their next extension, this time towards the West, and BURTON, or as we should call it now, The Riekyard (*Words and Place* p. 79), was probably an outlying home-seat from the parent settlement.

STOKK, or the stockaded place, situated as it was on the borders of the wild moors and marshes of Ince and Frodsham, would need the protection of its fortifications against the wild beasts which made their lair in the surrounding waste, if not against the unsubdued Britons who may still have occupied the marsh-bound islands of Ince, Elton and Thornton.

The two MOLLINGTONS, or Mill towns, (spelt in early documents *Milneton*, *Mulneton*, and in Domesday *Molintone*) are undoubtedly English.

CAPENHURST, would also fall naturally into the same category, if it were not for Domesday's curious spelling of the same, *viz.*, Capelles. This spelling may, however, almost certainly be put down as the error of a Norman official, since in a document dated 1309, as well as in many later ones, the name is written Capenhurst.

The two SAUGHALLS, near Chester (spelt *Solkare* in Domesday, but *Saighal* in most 13th and 14th century documents), PUDDINGTON, (Domesday *Potintone*, in documents dated 1315, *Podynton*), LEIGHTON, (D., *Lestons*, 1310 to 1350, *Leychtone*, *Lightherton*, and *Lehton*), GAYTON (D., *Gaiston*, 1359, *Gayton*), HARGRAVE, (D., *Haregrave*, 1300 *Hargrave*), STANNEY, (D., *Stannei*, 1278 *Staney*), LEDSHAM (D., *Levetsham*, 1364, *Leuedesham*), CHORLETON, LEA CROUGHTON, OLDFIELD, and LYDIATE, form a group in South Wirral, which one may with tolerable certainty describe as English.

The early forms of Ledsham (Levetsham and Lenedesham) are interesting when one finds from Domesday that the English owners of the neighbouring manors of Prenton and Barnston, were Leuvede and Leviatt, no doubt descendants of one of the

early Northumbrian colonists; who planted the "ham" or home-town of his family in the heart of Wirral, and called his land after his own name.—
Yours, etc.,
HOLLY.

Cloughton.

JULY 30th, 1892.

[91] WIRRAL COW CHARITIES.

(Continued from No. 84—July 16th.)

11. That the men whom I nominate and empower to be overseers to the overseers and disposers of these cows as feoffees accordingly are and shall be the Rector of Woodchurch always for the time being, Robert Chantrell, of Knoctorum in the county of Chester, gentleman, Nathaniel Wilson of Burton in the county of Chester, yeoman, and Thomas Sherlock of Winwick in the county of Lancaster, yeoman.

12. That upon any of the new feoffees dying, I do hereby empower the major part of the surviving feoffees to elect another in the room of the party deceased.

13. That no person enjoying any of the said cows shall at any time hereafter be elected or chosen to be a feoffee.

14. That the hire of the said cows with what may be either by myself or any other in charity added therunto shall be employed, *first* to maintain the full number of Fifteen Cows, and *afterwards* to the relief of any such person within the said township and to binding apprentice poor children born therein according to the discretion of the Treasurer with the consent of any two of the said feoffees, with respect had to the continuance of sufficient stock to maintain the aforesaid number of cows, all which conditions I do hereby require the feoffees in trust to see them faithfully observed to the intent that this my gift of charity to the poor people of Oxton, the place of my birth, may endure and continue towards their relief. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my Hand and Seal the twenty-fifth day of April, in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lord, King Charles the Second. Richard Sherlock.

The funds arising from this charity are now expended in coals, all demand for cows having ceased in the township of Oxton. F.S.

[92] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 90—July 23.)

Going farther up the Wirral, one finds English settlements at STORRINGTON, BEBINGTON, PRENTON (Domesday, *Prestune*, 13th century documents,

Prentune), WOODCHURCH, OXTON, CLAUGHTON, WOOLTON, UPTON, BIDSTON, OVERCHURCH, MORETON, SAUGHALL-MASSEY, NEWTON, AND LARTON.

Wirral at this remote period seems to have been well supplied with churches; North Wirral enjoyed four, Woodchurch, Overchurch, and the two which in the Norsemen's eyes gave the distinctive features to the settlements at the extreme corners of the Wirral, and induced them to call both places Kirkby or Churehtown, though to distinguish them they named the one West Kirby and the other Kirkby in Walea, now Wallasey. Bromborough also seems to have been possessed of a church from a very early period, making five churches within a comparatively small area, and no doubt the rest of Wirral was equally well supplied.

Perhaps the most interesting English names in North Wirral are Moreton and Overchurch; Moreton meaning the "Town on the mere," and Overchurch, "the Church on the shore" (*vide Words and Places* p. 381).

Until the Birkenhead Docks were built 50 years ago, the high tides coming up Wallasey Pool used to spread over the Bidston marsh, as far as the boundary between Moreton and Bidston, and a week's heavy rain would flood 8,000 acres of the low lying lands up to Hoylake.

That these 8,000 acres, which are all below the level of high water, were the bed of a tidal lagoon a thousand years ago, is proved conclusively, not only by the nature of the soil, but also by the field names which, without exception, indicate the fact that they have been reclaimed (some comparatively recently) from the marsh.

The following are a few examples of these field names, Oxholme,—"*holm*" meaning an island in a river or near the shore, e.g., Flatholm, on the Severn, Lingholm, on Windermere,—Big Holme, South and North Holm, Holme Hay, Holme Itch, Holme Intake, and Lingholme, or as it is sometimes written Lingham, (near the Leasowe Lighthouse); Carr—a middle English word meaning a marsh,—Old Carr, New Carr, Saughall Carr, Newton Carr, Moreton Carr, Moory Flagg, Land Pool, Drake Hooks, Big and Little Ley Hook,—Hook being a field jutting out into a lake,—The Moss, the Town Moss, The Lords Moss, The Moss Hay, The great salt thwaite, The Pingle, the little Pingle, Pingle meaning an enclosure entirely surrounded by deep ditches or drains, etc., etc.; there is also a lane leading from Moreton to Lingholme, which, in a survey dated 1665, is called The Lake Way.

It is a significant fact, as showing at how comparatively late a period these islands in the mere came under cultivation, that "*holm*" is a Norse word.

HOLLY.

(To be continued.)

[98] THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1625.

(Continued from No. 87.—July 28.)

SAUGHALL P'VA.		
Jacobus Doe in terr xxviii viiid ..	vs	iiiiid.
Ricus Barlowe in bon iiiii xs ..	ixs	iiiiid.
SAUGHALL MAGNA.		
Ricus Chamblene in bon iiiiii ..	xs	viiid.
SHOTWICKS.		
Thomas Whitehead in bon vii ..	xiii	iiiiid.
WOODBANKS.		
Thomas Hecooke in bon iiiiii ..	xs	viiid.
CAPENHURST.		
Thomas Hesketh in bon iiiiii ..	..	viiiis.
Thomas Harrison in bon iiiiii ..	..	viiiis.
PUDDINGTON.		
Johes Robinson in bon iiiii [3. 18. 4exd]	viiiis.	
BURTON.		
Thomas Browne in bon vii ..	..	xiiiis iiiid.
NEXSE.		
Johes Milner in bon vii ..	..	xiiiis iiiid.
LITTLE NESTON.		
Johes Cottingham in bon vii ..	..	xiiiis iiiid.
NESTON MAGNA.		
Johes Sharpe in bon iiiii vs ..	..	viiiis viiid.
Andrens Blaon in bon iiiii vs ..	..	viiiis viiid.
LEIGHTON.		
Willmus Whittmore ar in terr vii ..	..	xxs.
Lawrentius Woodes in bon iiiii ..	..	viiiis.
THORNTON HOUGH.		
Ricus Rylance in bon iiiii xs ..	ixs	iiiiid.

(To be Continued.)

[94] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 89—July 28.)

The Register for Bidston Parish till March 25th day, 1639, as follows:—

Marie Charnock, baptized March 30.
Edward Copper, baptized March 30.

- (1) Katherine Parr, baptized April 28.
- (2) Margerie Bennet, baptized May 1st.
- (3) Margaret Martine, baptized May 19.
Thomas Ainsdall, baptized May 26.
Robert Holm, baptized May 30.
Robert Ords }
James Ords } gemini baptized June 23.
Alice Urnston, baptized June 30.
John Gowinne }
Ellen Gowinne } gemini baptized Sept. 4.
Edward Truman, baptized September 8
Miles Keire, baptized September 21.
Jane Bennet, baptized November 10.
Anne Hutton, baptized November 14.
- (4) Anne Whalley, baptized December 26.
Margaret Kempe, baptized Feb. 2.
- (5) Ellen Taylor, baptized Feb. 16.
John Erbie, baptized March 1st.
William Werran, baptized March 17.

WEDDINGS.

John Young and Ellen Mosse, July 25th.
William Wayley and Margerie Spenser,
September 17.

BURIALLS.

- Anne Holt [?] buried March 27.
Edward Sefton, April 5.
Robert Rowline, April 8.
George Seftonn, April 23.
Thomas Seftonn, May 7.
Anne Woodworth, May 18.
James Woodworth, May 27.
Stephen Ffells, July 8.
Jane Leftwich, July 23.
William Goodiker, August 16.
Ellen Addison, August 22.
John Addison, August 26.
- (6) Thomas Martine, September 11.
Henrie Rowlinsonne, September 12.
 - (7) Margerie Bennet, September 26.
Alles Rowline, September 30.
Anne Harrison, October 29.
Adam Tarbock, October 29.
 - (8) Margaret Martine, October 30.
Richard Parboul, November 8.
Alles Pemberton, December 6.
Anne Ewds, December 8.
 - (9) Anne Whalley, December 27.
Ellen Erbie, December 30.
William Lee, March 7.
- (10) Gabriel Bordman, Curat.
William Rutter } Gardiani.
Richard Dean }

- (1) Daughter of John Parr.
- (2) Vide burials xxvi September same year.
- (3) Vide burials xxx October same year.
- (4) Vide burials xxvii December same year.
- (5) Daughter of Wm. Taylor of Bidston, who was tenant in the farm now occupied by Mr. Lamb. Ellen Taylor married, about 1660, Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall Farm, and died in 1703, vide her will.
- (6) Administration of the goods of Thomas Martin was granted to his widow 3 December of this year; his personalty was valued at 46l 4s. by Richard Bennet, Thomas Kempe, John Martin and Wm. Ireland.
- (7) Vide christenings i May same year.
- (8) Vide christenings xix May same year.
- (9) Vide christenings xxvi December same year.
- (10) Vide Appendix (B).

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PORTRAIT OF RICHARD SHERLOCK,
FROM AN OLD ENGRAVING.

AUGUST 6th, 1892.

[95] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

V.—RICHARD SHERLOCK, D.D.

Richard Sherlock, a well-known divine of the 17th century, was born at Oxton, November 11, 1618, and, according to the Woodchurch Register, was baptised on the 16th of the same month. From a careful examination of the entries in the Register, the probability seems to be that he was a son of William Sherlock, of Oxton, who died in 1626. A brother of this William, also named Richard, was Rector of Woodchurch for many years, and was buried there September 1, 1643.

Young Sherlock was blessed with an excellent mother, who determined to give her son the best education in her power. Although a widow, she contrived to send him to Oxford, where he is supposed to have been a student of Magdalen Hall. But finding her means inadequate to maintain him there, she removed him to Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his M.A. degree in 1638.

According to Anthony à Wood, he was ordained immediately on taking his M.A. degree, and soon after became minister of several small parishes in Ireland. If this was the case he must have received Holy Orders before the canonical age.

The Irish Rebellion of 1641 drove Sherlock back to England, where he became chaplain to one of the regiments sent by the Marquis of Ormonde to the King's assistance. On the rout of this regiment at Nantwich, he went to Oxford, where he was elected one of the chaplains of New College, a post which he retained till he was ejected thence by the Parliamentary visitors. During his residence at Oxford, he preached often before the Court, became Chaplain to the Governor, and in 1646 had his B.D. degree bestowed upon him. A. Wood tells us that this degree was conferred upon him in consideration of several sermons that he preached either at Court or before the Parliament in Oxford.

On being driven from Oxford, Sherlock became curate to Dr. Jasper Maine, of Cassington, near Woodstock, until both the Doctor and his Curate were ejected. About this time Sir Robert Bindlisse of Borwick in Lancashire, returning from his travels, Mr. Sherlock was well recommended to him, and as kindly received for his chaplain.

"It was at this time, and in this neighbourhood," says Bishop Wilson, the nephew and biographer of Sherlock, "that George Fox began to broach and vent his new doctrines. Mr. Sherlock being of reputation for learning and piety, Fox had the vanity to attempt to make him his proselyte, or, which was more likely, to make himself more famous by so remarkable an adversary. To this end he sends him a set of queries, and demands an answer, in terms exceeding confident of victory.

Mr. Sherlock was a man by no means fond of controversy; "Practical Christianity" was his talent and delight; and but that this proud boaster gave him an insufferable disturbance deluding many poor

people into an opinion that his queries were unanswerable, perhaps he had never engaged in anything of that nature.

At last, to prevent the spreading mischief, he published several small tracts, namely, "The Quaker's Wild Questions Briefly Answered," to which he annexed, "A Discourse to the Holy Spirit, His working and impressions on the souls of men;" as also "A Discourse of Divine Revelation, mediate and immediate;" and another "Of Error, Heresy, and Schism." All which by the blessing of God had their effects, although that heresy spread too fast abroad, by being over much despised in other places. F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[96] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1626.

(Continued from No. 93—July 30th.)

RABIE.

Johes Dunsterfield in bon iiii vs .. viiis viiid.
Thomas Penkett in bon iiii vs viiis viiid.

WILLASTON.

Robertus Bennett in bon iiiiil xs iiiiil.
Thomas Bennett in bon iiiiil xs iiiiil.

LEDSAM.

Georgius Cottingham in bon vii [7.6.8 exd] ..
xiiis iiiiil.

BROMBROUGH.

Elizabeth Bayand vid in terr iiii xlis.
Robtus Gill in terr iiii vis.
Robtus Whittle in bon iiiiil xlis.

POOLE.

Johes Poole ar in terr xii xlis.
Robtus Kinge in bon iiii viiis.

SUTTON P'VA.

Hugo Cowell in bon vii [4.11.4 exd] .. xiiis iiiiil.

SUTTON MAGNA.

Thomas Halewood in terr xxxs vis.
Robtus Watt in bon iiii vs viiis viiid.
Johes Whitehead in bon iiii vs viiis viiid.

CHILDRE THORNTON.

Willmus Huntington in bon vii xs .. xiiis viiid.

HOOTON.

Willmus Standley ar in terr xiiiil vis viiid ..
liiis iiiiil.

EASTHAM.

Johes Anglizer in bon iiii viiis.
Willmus Bnshell in bon iiii viiis.

Henry Bunbury [sgd].

Wm. Massey [sgd].

Henry Birkenead [sgd].

Wm. Glegge [sgd].

WM. FARGUSSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

[97] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 94.—July 30.)

Appendix (E). The Rev. Gabriel Bordman first appears in 1632, when he sends an elaborate and carefully written transcript of his Register for that year to the Bishop.

He seems to have held the living from 1632 to 1647, when he was removed by the Parliamentarians to make way for "a godly orthodox divine."

As the Rev. Evan Piers died in 1625, the living must have been vacant for six or seven years, and was probably served by one of the local clergy, in all likelihood by the Rev. Richard Runchorne, who was the Incumbent of Overchurch, and appears as scribe and witness of several Bidston wills, about this time.

Whatever truth there may have been in the charge against Mr. Bordman, detailed below, it may be said in his favour that he wrote a very scholarly hand, and with the exception of the years 1638 and 1639 took some pains to make his transcripts full and complete, for which, at least, he deserves the gratitude of the genealogist.

Birkenhead chapel seems also to have been in use at this time, since in 1635 the Rev. Charles Adams, described as "Curate of Birkenhead," paid his portion of the ship-money levied by the King.

The following interesting extracts are from three massive MS. volumes preserved at the British Museum, described as "Proceedings of the Committee for Plundered Ministers," containing a vast quantity of most interesting information, which is, fortunately, made easily available by means of a good, though rough, Index Locorum:—

"August 14th, 1647.—It is ordered that ye cause concerning Gabriel Boardman, minister of Bidston, in ye county of Chester, be heard on Tuesday next."

"August 17th, 1647.—It is ordered that ye cause concerning Gabriel Boardman, curate of ye Parish Church of Bidston, in ye county of Chester, in ye presence of ye said Mr. Boardman and counsell of ye prosecutors, and upon hearing his defence therein before this Committee, it appears that ye said Mr. Boardman is a common frequenter of alehouses and oftentimes drunk, and a singer of lewd and idle songs; It is therefore ordered that ye said church and curacie and all profits thereto belonging be forthwith sequestered from him, ye said Mr. Boardman, to ye use of some godly orthodox divine."

"September 4th, 1647.—Upon ye humble petition of Gabriel Boardman, from whom ye curacie of Bidston, in ye County of Chester, is sequestered: It is ordered that ye said Mr. Bordman shall have all rents, stipends, fees, and profits due and payable unto him before ye 17th day of August last, on which day ye said curacie was sequestered from him, and this Committee doe refer ye said Mr. Boardman to ye justices of peace in ye said county to relieve him in his recovery of ye premisses according to ye late ordinance of Parliament in that behalf."

What became of poor Mr. Bordman does not appear, the only other mention of him that I have come across is in the will of Jane Wilcocke, of

Bidston, dated 10th April, 1649, where she leaves to John Whiteside, of Bidston, "a bond for £8, which Mr. Gabriell Boardman is due unto mee long since, if the same can be gott in."

AUGUST 13th, 1892.

[98] THE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL AT UPTON.

1690—1780.

It will probably surprise some of your readers to know that 200 years ago Wirral was possessed of two flourishing dissenting chapels, one at Upton and the other at Bromborough. In the following notes I propose to give a slight sketch of the history of the former:—

Upon the passing of the Toleration Act in 1689, the two dissenting chapels mentioned above were opened and appear to have flourished for 40 years, after which time they died out, and now not even the site of either of them is known.

Upton was at this time a place of no little consequence in Wirral, being regarded as the capital of the Lower Mediety, and having two annual fairs of considerable importance. During the Commonwealth the Parish Church was occupied by the Rev. Henry Hatton, a Presbyterian, who signed the Cheshire Attestation in 1648, but seems to have either died or removed before the passing of the Act of Uniformity.

The first minister of the Presbyterian chapel, which must have opened very shortly after the accession of William III, was Mr. Thomas Lea, who in 1691, signed the Act of Union between the Presbyterian and Congregational Ministers, as "Thomas Lea, of Worrel." (*Urwick's Nonconformity in Cheshire.*)

Mr. Lea entered Mr. Frankland's academy, at Natland, as a student, on May 11th, 1678, and probably became pastor of the Upton congregation, immediately on his leaving college, and continued to labour there faithfully for eighteen years from that date. He attended the meetings of the Cheshire ministers, and was much respected and beloved by his brethren.

At first he seems to have been tolerably well supported, as he had among his congregation several of the minor gentry and better class yeoman from Bidston, Moreton and West Kirby, such as Mr. Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall, some of the Gleggs of Arrow and Grange, the Balls of Irby Hall, the Days of Larton, the Urmstons of Moreton, and the Pembertons of Upton.

Mr. Robert Wilson, in his will, which is dated 1697, and proved a few months later, instructs his "three sons to pay £5 yearly to Mr. Thomas Lea, if he continue to preach to that people to which he now stands related."

We learn, however, from "The Cheshire Minnte Book," (quoted by *Urwick*), that despite Mr. Lea's assiduity, the cause was a losing one and in 1709 when a "clear call" came to him from the chapel at Knutsford, considering that he was labouring, "under great discouragements, the congregation being dwindled to next nothing; but his own communicants and some of those that had been members being a great grief to him," he decided to accept it, and in June of that year preached at Upton for the last time.

(To be continued.)

[99] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 92.—July 30.)

Perhaps the most interesting feature in Wirral Place Names is the presence of so many that can, without any doubt, be described as Norse.

Canon Isaac Taylor, in his book to which reference has been made so frequently in this series of notes (*Words and Places*, p. 116), says, "In Cheshire, with one remarkable local exception, we find no vestiges of Norse Colonists. But the spit of land called the Wirral, between the Dee and Mersey, seems to have allured them by its excellent harbours, and the protection afforded by its almost insular character."

The Dee side seems to have been the part which was most affected by the settlements: in fact, between Burton and Meols, there is hardly an English place name to be found.

Beginning with **MEOLS** (*Domesday, Meles*), we go along the coast through **HOORN** (both names describing the sand hills which still give that part of the coast its distinctive feature), to **WEST KIRBY**; to the east we have the village crowned hills of **FRANKBY**, **GREASBY** (*Domesday, Graevesberrie*, 13th century, and later documents *Graevesbye*), and **LEBY**; before us **CALDY** (*Domesday, Caldere*, 13th century documents, *Caldeye* and *Caldaye*), **THURSTASTON** (*Domesday, Thurstaneton*; 1326, *Thurstaneton*; 1352, *Thurstaston*, later, *Thurstington*), **PENSBY** and **HESWALL** (13th century, *Hasselwell* and *Haselwall*).

Going inland from Heswall, we find a most interesting relic of the Norse settlement at **THINGWALL** (*Domesday, Tuigwelle*), the place of the Thing, or assembly in which the little colony exercised its accustomed privileges of local self-government.

What strange sights that curious abrupt little hill at Thingwall, on which the mill now stands, must have witnessed, when the heathen Norsemen gathered on its slopes to hold their open air Parliament.

BARNSTON (*Domesday, Berneston*), **BRIMSTAGE** (early documents, *Brunstath, Brynstath* and later *Brinston*), **THORNTON** (*Domesday, Torintone*, early documents, *Thornton* and *Thorleton*) and **RABY** (*Domesday, Raby*) form a group in central Wirral.

Returning to the Dee side again, we find the hybrid Norse and English names of **GATTON** and **NEWTON** and the pure Norse. **NESSA**, **DENWALL** and

a mile or two nearer Chester, **SHOTWICK** (*Domesday, Sotowicke*, 13th century documents, *Schotewyk*.)

On the Mersey side of the Wirral, though not nearly so numerous, there are several undoubted instances of Norse place names, viz., **KIRKBY-WALLEY** (now *Wallasey*), **BIRKENHEAD** (12th century documents, *Birkheved*), **BROMBOROUGH** (13th century documents, *Brumbrugh*), **CHILDER THORNTON**, probably **HOOTON** (*Domesday, Hoton*) and **WHITBY**.

HOLLY.

Cloughton.

(To be Continued.)

[100] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 97—August 6.)

For 27 years, from 1639 to 1666, through all the troublous times of the Civil War and the Commonwealth, the Parish Register seems to have been neglected: of course no transcripts were sent into the Bishop's Registry (1).

Probably, too, the living was vacant for some time; it does not appear who was appointed to the living after Mr. Bordman's removal unless it was the Mr. Wright, whom Calamy mentions as having been obliged, in his turn, to give up the curacy at the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662.

(1.) The following are short abstracts of most of the Bidston wills proved during this blank:—

- i. Administration of goods of **WILLIAM BUTTER**, of Moreton, was granted on the xx April, 1642, to **Ann Butter**, his widow and relict. Personality valued at £95 by John Hatton, Robert Pemberton, John Urmston, and Bandle Eansdale.
- ii. Administration of the goods of **JAMES WOODWARD**, of Cloughton, was granted ix. July, 1642, to John Woodward, eldest son of deceased. Personality valued at £96 by Richard Bennett, Robert Hodakin, James Wilson and Thomas Williamson.
- iii. An inventory of the goods of **ANN BUTTER**, widow, of Moreton, was filed xxi. July 1642, valued at £122, by Richard Gill, Robert Pemberton, Bandle Eansdale, and John Urmston.
- iv. Administration of the goods of **JANE BLACKBURN**, widow, of Bidston Ford, was granted xxii September, 1642, to Ann Blackburn, daughter of deceased. Personality valued at £80 by Richard Coventrie, James Wilson, and Thomas Hankin.
- v. In the index of wills is mentioned an inventory of **THOMAS SMITH**, of Saughall Massey, yeoman, in the year 1642, but no such document is now to be found at the Probate Court.
- vi. In his will dated xxviii June, 1643, **HENRY HANCOCKE**, of Cloughton, carpenter, mentions a "deed of assignment of my property to my loving friend John Bowland and Marie his wife."
He leaves a small sum to his nephew Richard Hancockke of Oxton.
Witnesses: Richard Bennett, Robert Robinson, John Holywell, and Henry Coursey.
- vii. In his will dated xx Dec 1642 and proved xix January 1643 [o.s.] **THOMAS WILLIAMSON** of Cloughton yeoman, leaves his property between his wife and his son Henry.

- Witnesses: Richard Hunt and James Wilson. In the inventory taken xix Jan. mention is made of "his Barnston house" and of plots of ground which deceased had held on lease at Storeton and Erby. Total value of his personalty, £221.
- viii. Administration of the goods of JOHN PEMBERTON of Moreton, was granted 5th February, 1648, to Elizabeth, his widow and relict, and Thomas Pemberton, of Moreton, husbandman.
- ix. In this will dated xxii Jan. 1645 [o.s.] JOHN MARTIN of Saughall Massey, leaves his property equally between his two daughters Elizabeth and Ellen.
- Executors: "My faithful friends and sonnes-in-law Robert Maddock and Thomas Tassie."
- Witnesses: Christopher Bennett and Henry Bennett. Personally valued vi Feb. by Christopher Bennett, Richard Harrison, John Hatton, Thomas Martin, John Harrison, and Thomas Watt, at £67.
- x. In his will dated xx Feb. 1644, but not proved until xxx May 1648, WILLIAM BILLINGE of Moreton yeoman, leaves "my lands in the House [House] Co. Chester, which I purchased from Wm. Jones of Bidston to Ann my now wyfe and her assigns" and in default of issue to "James Tassie, of Moreton, Wm. Bird and Henry Bird my nephews," small bequests to "Wm. Sharlock the younger," "Margaret Sharlock my niece," "unto him that shall make my grave 5s."
- Executors: "My wife, and nephew Henry Bird."
- Witnesses: John Brereton, John Hatton and Henry Coursey. Inventory xxx May 1648, valued by Henry Handcock, Richard Linaker, Wm. Bird, and Thomas Sharlocke, at £218.
- xi. Administration of the goods of THOMAS IRLAND, of Birkenhead Wood, was granted xlii. Nov. 1649, to Mary Ireland, his widow and relict, and Richard Sharp, of Saughall Massey, gentleman.
- xii. In her will dated ii. April, 1649, JANE WILCOCKE, of Bidston, widow, leaves bulk of her property to John Whiteside, of Bidston, husbandman. Remainder to Joane Margell, her sister-in-law, Jane Gayle and Isabel Smyth, her cousins.
- Executors: John Whiteside and Joan Margell.
- In the list of debts due to testatrix, are debts from William Taylor, the younger, Richard Addison, Ales. Knadale, John Whiteside, Lawrence Little, Richard Lathe, Robert Addison, and Mr. Boardman.
- Witnesses: Thomas Knadale and William Joane, cler.
- Inventory valued by William Taylor, of Bidston and Gilbert Wilson, of Cloughton, yeomen, at £16.

AUGUST 20th, 1892.

[101] THE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL AT
UPTON.
1690—1780.

(Continued from No. 98—August 18).

It seems probable that after this, the two chapels of Bromborough and Upton were worked by the one minister, the Rev. Leoline Edwards, a student from Mr. Owen's academy at Wrexham (*Urwick* p. 87).

The cause seems to have revived somewhat under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Perrot who succeeded Mr. Edwards in 1715, as he is said by Mr. Urwick to have had 180 hearers, 12 of whom were gentlemen of position. Bishop Gastrell in his *Notitia* enumerates 49 families of Dissenters as residing in Wirral in his time (1714-1736), and

mentions both chapels; of the 49 families, Bishop Gastrell locates 17 in Bidston Parish, who no doubt attended the Upton Chapel.

The Rev. Thomas Woodcock appears to have followed Mr. Perrot, being ordained by the Cheshire ministers, August 8th, 1721. The following account printed in Urwick from the "Cheshire Minute Book," relates to his ordination. "In a numerous assembly of ministers and people met together in the New Chapel (Knutsford) he (Mr. Woodcock) was solemnly set apart for the office and work of the ministry. Mr. Lightbown (of Allostock) began with prayer and reading some portions of scripture. Mr. Culbeth (of Macleasfield) prayed before sermon. Mr. Garduer (of Chester) preached from John i. 16. *And of His fulness have all we received and grace for grace.* After sermon ended Mr. Owen (of Warrington) called for a confession of his faith which he made before the congregation and then put the usual questions to him to which he answered *verbis conceptis*. Afterwards he was set apart by prayer and imposition of hands of Mr. Owen, Gardner, Culbeth, Waterhouse, Sydebottom, Jones, Lea, who prayed over him. Then followed the exhortation by Mr. Sydebottom from Numbers xxvii. 18, 19, and so concluding with prayer, thanksgiving, singing, and pronouncing the blessing, the congregation was dismissed."

Mr. Woodcock was resident at Upton from which place he worked both chapels, until his death in 1728, as the following extracts from the Bishop's Transcripts of the Parish Register for Overchurch show (the original Register having disappeared):—

1724: Mrs. Elizabeth Woodcock wife of Mr. Thomas Woodcock of Upton ye Presbyterian Minister ther [buried] June 22.

1725: George son of Mr. Woodcock of Upton the Presbyterian Minister there [buried] July 2.

1728: Mr. Thos. Woodcock ye dissenting Minister at Upton, widower, [buried] March 2.

With Mr. Woodcock, the existence of both the Chapels seems to have been brought to a close, and for eighty years, until 1809, when an Independent Chapel was opened at Parkgate, no effort was made by the Nonconformists to regain their lost footing in Wirral.

Yours etc.,

W. FERGUSSON IRVINE.
Cloughton.

[102] PLACE NAMES IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 99—18 August.)

In addition to the evidence of Norse colonization contained in the names of the various townships, we find scattered throughout Wirral a number of hamlet and field names of distinctly Norse origin, and these in some cases in parishes where the townships are called by English names.

The only parish which the writer has had an opportunity of exhaustively examining, namely, Bidston yields many traces of a Norse settlement, though all the townships, Bidston, Claughton, Moreton, and Saughall-Massey, are English.

Canon Isaac Taylor mentions amongst the test words of Norse occupation, *thwaite, dale, and gill*, all of which we find in Bidston Parish; on the marsh between Wallasey and Bidston we have The Great Salt Thwaite, Tassey's Thwaite, The Little Thwaite, Whinny Thwaite, The Cornhill Thwaite, etc.; *dale*, we find in Lingdale, on the boundary of Bidston and Claughton, (mentioned as *Lynghedale*, in a document dated 1320), and *gill* in the Gillbrook, which has given its name to the Gillbrook estate, belonging to the Birkenhead Corporation.

The following are a few of the *dales* in Wirral, with the parishes in which they occur.

In BROMBOROUGH, *Dibbinsdale*, so well known to all lovers of the picturesque, and close to it, *Anstubbledale* and *Shoddale*.

In EASTHAM, *Coopersdale*, in WOODHURGH, *Carnesdale*, and *Ramsdale* in the township of Barnston, and in Thingwell, *Shockingdale*.

In a 13th century document, relating to Thurston, there is mention of a "certain dale, called Steyncolesdale, which the writer has not had an opportunity of identifying.

Mr. Black, in his report on the Manor of Tranmere, gives it as his opinion, and adduces substantial proof in support of it, that an early name of Tranmere was SOMERFORD, and that it is under this name that Domesday alludes to the manor. If this be the case, the *ford* is no doubt an example of "the *forðs* of the Scandinavian sea-rovers," which Canon Taylor describes as "passages for ships up the arms of the sea, as in the case of the fiords of Norway and Iceland and the *firths* of Scotland," and adds that "these Norse fords are found on the coasts which were frequented for purposes of trade or plunder" (*Words and Place*, p107). Tranmere pool certainly would be admirably adapted for a harbour to shelter the Northmen's keels.

It is probable that we see the Norse word *twistle*, a boundary, in the field name of *Twistle Hey*, at Poulton-cum-Seacombe.

If the field names of the other parishes in Wirral are examined carefully, they will no doubt prove as rich in Norse names as Bidston has done.—Yours truly,

HOLLY.

Claughton.

[108] AN INCIDENT AT BIRKENHEAD IN THE CIVIL WAR.

In making an abstract of the will of "John Smith, late of Birkett-wood, waterman." dated 1648, at the Probate Court, Chester, I was interested to find the following document tied up in a bundle with the Administration—

18 September, 1665.

"Maria Syers, *alias* Smyth, wife of John Syers and late wife of John Smyth, saith, that John

Smyth made a will like unto above, and sett his sign and seal in presence of Richard Walley and John Hill etc.

And aboute two or three months after the deceased's death, [in 1648], she the deponent had about two troupes of horse quartered att her house [at the Wooside Ferry] for aboute eight or nine days altogether, in order to their transportation to Ireland, in those sadd times of warre, at which tyme being in great distraction, the said Will and Inventorie of the goods as they were then praised [valued] was casually lost and other writings with the same, and was never since found that shee heard of."

In the appended Inventory is mentioned :

"Alsoe one ferry-boate worth about twentie pounds."

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

Claughton.

[104] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 100—Aug. 13)

Note (1) continued.

- xiii. In his will, proved in London, June, 1655, RICHARD BENNETT, of Claughton, bequeaths to his son John, £220. The little messuage in Claughton, which formerly belonged to Richard Shurlock, he devises to his son Peter, with remainder to John, and final remainder to his grandson Thomas, natural son of William Wilson, of Claughton.
 Executor, his son Peter.
 Witnesses: Thos. and Wm. Wilson, and Thos. Ensdale.
- xiv. In his will, dated 1st August, 1660, and proved at Chester in 1662, PETER BENNETT, of Claughton, leaves legacies to his brother John, and his sisters Ann and Mary, to the children of said brother and sisters, and appoints his wife Margaret executrix.
 The inventory was made on 24th March, 1661-2, by Robert Chantrell, Wm. and Thos. Wilson, Henry Williamson and Richard Charnock.
- xv. Administration of the goods of CHRISTOPHER BENNETT, of Saighall Massey, was granted in 1663 to Elizabeth, his widow and relict, and his son John; the inventory was prepared by Henry Bennett, Nathaniel Jones, and Thomas Maddock.
- xvi. In her will dated Dec. xii. 1663, ALICE WHALLEY, of Birkett-lease, widow, leaves small legacies to Barbara Walley, "John Brooke, and my sister Anne Jenkinson," "my brother William Walley," Henry Heare, and appoints as her executors and residuary legatees, her "brother Michael Jenkinson" and John Brooke.
 Witnesses: Edward Kenneke (?) and Henry Hayes. Inventory by Thomas Eccleston, Richard Charnock, and Wm. Walley.
- xvii. In his will dated March viii. 1664, JOHN BRERETON, of Moreton, yeoman, leaves his messuages and tenements between his wife Margaret and daughter, Ellen, with remainder to Ellen.
 Small legacies to John Brereton, his eldest son and Wm. Brereton his "other sonne," to Margaret Urmiston, to Thomas Brereton his brother, and to "landlord Urmiston." To his grandchild Wm. Brereton his "fillie" and all his "plowe geare."
 Executors, Margaret Brereton his wife and John Wilcooke of the Ford.
 Witnesses: Henry Dalbe, Robert Urmiston and William Jones cler.

Inventory xvii Maroh made by Robert Urmston and Thomas Gill of Moreton and Nathaniel Joanes of Saugham, total value, £365 5^s.

xviii. Administration of the goods of JOHN SMYTH, of Birkett-Wood, waterman, was granted on the 18th September 1665, to John Brooke, husband of Anne, daughter of deceased, Elizabeth, alias Corfe, wife of John Corfe, Jane and Thomas Smith, all children of deceased.

AUGUST 27th, 1892.

[105] THE SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT IN WIRRAL.

One is sometimes inclined to think of the Solemn League and Covenant, as an exclusively Scotch document, and to overlook the fact, that it was widely signed in England in 1646, in fulfilment of one of the clauses of the treaty between the Scotch and the Parliament.

In Wirral it was probably signed in most of the Parishes, though so far as I have been able to find out Woodchurch is the only Register in which the signatures are still extant.

Robinson, the schoolmaster of Wallasey, in his MS History of Wallasey Parish, preserved in the Church Chest, (date about 1720) recounts how one, Ball by name, cut out from the Register Book of that parish, the list of signatures to the Solemn League and Covenant in which his own name appeared.

At Woodchurch all the signatures are complete, but the preamble has been subjected to such emendations as some enthusiastic Royalist seems to have judged appropriate. The emendations are printed in italics.

"AN EXHORTATION to the taking of the Solemn League and Covenant for deformation [the letter *d* is written over an *r* erased] and pretence [defence erased] of Religion the dishonour and unhappiness of the Kinge and ye exterpation of the peace and safetie of the three Kingdomes of England Scotland and Ireland."

Then follow several pages of the text of the document closely written, after which come the signatures as under:—

THE NATIONAL COVENANT taken by the p'ishioners of Woodchurch in the County Palatine of Chester, the 14th day of Maroh, 1646. Wee, the inhabitants of the Parish of Woodchurch, with our hands lifted up unto the Most High God, doe sweare, etc.

Chas. Adams, rector
Richard Hookenhull
Henry Hookenhull
William Burgess
Georg Ball
Tho Younge
Thomas Bennett
Jhon Smith (a)
Willia Ireland
Tho Platt (a)
Tho Heresse (a)
Richard Dranford
Oriso Bennett
Hen Hammett (a)
Robert Goodaker (a)
John Hancock (a)

Thomas Leene
Richard Mosse
Robert Tylour (a)
Rich Tylour (a)
Rich Ainsworth (a)
William Chantrell
Richard Watt (a)
Henry Ball
Thomas Coventry
Richard Addames
Arthur Lowe
John Gleave (a)
Robert Lee e (a)
John Balye (a)
William Ball
John Richardson

Henry Poster (a)
Robert Watt
Thomas Joaneson
Robt Watt (a)
Henry Hunt (a)
Robt Daniell (a)
William Wise
John Bennett (a)
John Lea (a)
Rich Hunt (a)
John Pepper (a)
John Rowson (a)
Rich Achurley (a)
William Bruscoe (a)

Thomas Goodekar (a)
Thomas Wattmough
John Burscove
Thomas Bally
Henry Coventry
William Ficks (a)
Robert Hogkin (a)
Robert Goujeon (a)
Peter Dason (a)
Rowland Witfild
Robert Frenon (a)
William Lester
Robert Owlin (a)
Henry Wainwright (a)

John Brewell (?) (a)

Thomas Browne
Henry Dobie (a)
Richard Handcocke
Thomas Pierson (a)
Richard Jones (a)
William Traughion (a)
Robt Butcher (a)
Thomas Eccleston (a)
Richard Flarington (a)
William Browne

John Hayes (a)
Anthonie Charnocke
Henry Noblet (a)
Thomas Moase (a)
Richard Coventry
John Ball
Henry Coventry
Cubord Harrison (a)
Thomas Coventry (a)
William Bennett

John Ffaskerly.

Yours, &c.,

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

[106] A BIRKENHEAD NEWSPAPER IN 1642!

The following is an extract from Mr. W. E. A Axon's *Cheshire Gleanings*, pp 101, 102:—

"Mr. James Grant's *History of the Newspaper Press* was the subject of some unfavourable comments on its appearance. Perhaps its most extraordinary mistake escaped the notice of its critics. At page 198 of Volume 8, we read:—'The next newspaper which has any claims to belong to the category of provincial journalism was called *Mercurius Aulicus*. Those who know what an obscure and insignificant place Birkenhead was at that time will be surprised when informed that this newspaper, brought out in 1642, was printed in that locality. But, though printed in Birkenhead, the *Mercurius Aulicus* was not published there. It was avowedly printed for a bookseller near Queen's College, Oxford, and published by him in the latter town.' The notion of scholarly Oxford being unable to print a news pamphlet like the *Mercurius Aulicus*, and sending it to Birkenhead, 169 miles away, to be put in type, is a rich one. Probably everyone interested in the fourth estate, with the solitary exception of the historian of the newspaper press, knows that the *Mercurius Aulicus* was both printed and published at Oxford once a week, and sometimes oftener from 1642 to 1645. Its chief author was John Birkenhead, a Cheshire man, who for this and similar services was knighted in 1662 by Charles II."

M.A.

(a) His mark.

No. [107] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 104.—20 Aug.).

Christenings and Burials and Weddings in ye Parish of Bidston An. Dom. 1666.

- (1) Peter sonne of William Totty March 29.
- (2) John sonne of John Truman Ap 1st.
Elizabeth dau of Wm Dalby Ap 1st.
John sonne of Thos. Hiccock Ap 4th.
Margaret dau of Wm Totty June 29th.
- (3) Daniel sonne of Robcart Wilson July 11th.
Elizabeth dau of Richard Harrison Aug 12.
Thomas sonne of Wm Bennett Sept 9.
James sonne of John Connely Sept 9.
Margaret dau of John Parbolt Sept 9.
Margaret dau of Henry Watte Oct 2.
Thomas sonne of John Whitehead Dec 26.
Paul sonne of Daniel Wilcock Feb 24.

Burials.

Katherine Jones, Buried April 28th.
William Gill, Buried Nov 15th.
James sonne of Wm Pendleton, Dec 5.
John sonne of Henry Kery Dec 26.
Ales Martin, buried March 13.

- (4) Peter sonne of Wm Totty, March 16.

Weddings.

Joseph Phillips and Margaret Pemberton married May 12.
Robert Dunne and Elizabeth Hancock, Aug. 30.
William Williams and Elizabeth Hiccock, Oct 16.
Henry Bennet and Anne Platt Feb 18.

John Rathbone } Churchwardens.
Thomas Gill }

A Register of all Marriages and Christenings and Burials within ye Parish of Bidston for ye years 1668. (5)

(1.) *Vide* Burials xvi March same year.
(2.) John Truman of Bidston; he was tenant of a farm which has since been absorbed in that now occupied by Mr. Walters. John Truman died in 1690 *vide* his will.
(3.) Robert Wilson at this time was tenant of the farm now occupied by Mr. Lamb, he afterwards rented Bidston Hall Farm. He died in 1698 *vide* his will.
(4.) *Vide* Christenings xxix March same year.
(5.) In this year the following will was proved and inventory filed at the Probate Court, Chester:
LEWTON KEMP, of Saugham-Massie, spinster, in her will dated 7th May, 1667, leaves legacies to her sister Ellen Fassarkey, wife of John Fassarkey, of Barnston, and to Ellen's daughters, Mary Hannah and Alice,—to her brother Adam Kemp's daughter Sarah—to her brother Thomas Kemp and cousin Joane Pemberton.
The following clause occurs in the will, "Whereas by the will of my dear father, there was a sum of £50 left to be raised on the lands and to be paid to me by my brother John Kemp, and whereas I have had many suits and controversies for the remainder of the said £50, etc., etc., and as he has promised to pay the balance on his return from Ireland, and hath given me as security the lease for 15 years of the close of land called 'The Backe of the Barne, and the Lower Hay,' etc., etc."
This will is witnessed by

Margaret Phillips,
Edward Litherland,

And is proved by Joseph Phillips, the sole executor, on the 4th April, 1668.

Administration of the goods of THOMAS EGGLESTON, of Cloughton, was granted—November, 1668, to Margaret, his widow and relict; and his personality was valued by Henry Williamson, Thomas Pemberton, John Briscoe, and Richard Yocom, at £86.

Christened.

Thomas sonne of Richard Wilson of Bidston May 18th
Margaret dau of Wm. Dalbie June 7.
Mary dau of John Brookes June 30.
Margaret dau of Robt Enisdall Aug 28.
(1) Thomas sonne of Wm Langford Sept 12.
Obadiah sonne of Robert Wilson Sept 3.
Elizabeth dau of Richard Wilson Nov 1.
Elizabeth dau of Hugh Roberts Jan 31.

Married together.

Hugh Roberts and Ellinor Pae, May 11.
Hugh Roberts and Margaret Powell June 30.
Thomas Buport and Ellen Goodiker Oct 12.

Buried.

William Dod of Moreton March 26.
Jane dau of John Hand April 6.
William Bennett of Moreton, April 14.
Margaret wife of Wm Langford, 12 Sept
(2) John Brookes of Birkett, 13 Sept.
Thomas son of William Langford, Dec. 8.
Edward Leatherland of the parish of Lancaster, January 26.
Margaret wife of Thos. Anderton, Mar 22.
(3) Hugh Burehes, curat.
(4) Wm Taylor } Churchwardens.
(5) Jno Webster }

SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1892.

[108] A RUNAWAY MATCH IN THE 13TH CENTURY.

The following interesting document is published in abstract in the 28th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, and is a refreshing change from the list of legal grants, writs, fines, etc.

The William de Stanley mentioned is a common ancestor of the Earls of Derby, the Lords of Alderley, and the Stanleys of Hooton.

"Writ and Inquisition post mortem, 12 Edward I., [1284].

This Inquisition taken before Brother Robert of Vale Royal, the King's Escheator for Cheshire, relates to the death of Philip de Baunville [Bamville] . . . Chief Forester of the Royal Forest of Wirral.

(1.) One of the Langfords of Tranmere.
(2.) *Vide* John Smith's will 1665.
(3.) Rector of Woodchurch.
(4.) Of Bidston.
(5.) Of Moreton; this the first appearance in the Register of the family of Webster, now of Overchurch and Leasow.

Joan, his eldest daughter, aged 20, Ellen, his second daughter, aged 9, and Agnes, his youngest daughter, aged 8 years, are returned as his coheirs.

Annexed is a second writ and return to inquire into the truth and circumstances of an assertion made by one William de Stanley, that a marriage had been contracted between him and the deceased's eldest daughter Joan, "per verba de presenti," words spoken in the presence of witnesses; and the return of this writ gives the following curious account of the betrothal and the circumstances under which it was made:—

The jurors say that on Sunday after the feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, two years ago, which would be on the 27th of September, 1282, Philip de Bannville, with his wife and family, was at a banquet given by Master John de Stanley, on which occasion Joan, suspecting that her father intended to marry her to her stepmother's son, and not being herself at all desirous of such a match, took means to avoid it by repairing with William Stanley to Ashbury Church, where marriage was contracted between them by the utterance of the following mutual promise; he saying, "Joan, I plight thee my troth to take and hold thee, as my lawful wife unto my life's end," and she replying, "I Joan, take thee William, as my lawful husband." The witnesses of this verbal contract were Adam de Hoton [Hooton] and Dawe [Davy] de Coupeland.

This runaway match brought William Stanley much wealth, and lands (amongst other things the office of Head Forester of Wirral), and from it sprang a race of men who for six hundred years have stood in the front rank of English statesmen.—Yours, etc.,

Birkenhead.

CESTRIAN.

[109] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

Following on the small though complete Subsidy Roll for 1625, which you have been printing for some past, I propose to send you extracts from a very much fuller one for the year 1545.

In the index to the Subsidy Rolls, at the Record office, it is described as "A Fragment," but it is by far the most complete Roll relating to this Hundred that I have been able to discover, containing as it does nearly 700 names, though a few townships are missing.

The following is the list of the inhabitants of Cloughton and Oxton, who paid the tax, and is interesting as being, perhaps, nearly the earliest existing Directory of these now flourishing suburbs.

CLAUGHTON.

Willmo Deane, pro iiiiii.....iiiiid.
 Hugone Hiccocke, pro iiiiii.....iiiiid.
 Alicia Woodward, pro xxs.....id.
 Willmo Hare, pro xls.....iid.

Willmo Wylocke, jun, pro liiii.....iiiiid.
 Johs Parboit, pro xxs.....id.
 Ricardo Hyccke, pro iiiii liiiiiid
 Uxor' Jacobo Woodward, pro xls.....ii d
 Uxor' Rogero Wylocke, pro iii li.....iiiiid
 Uxor' Johs Beynyn' [?] pro xlsii d
 Willmo Penkythe, pro xl s.....ii d
 Johs Hyggyn, pro xl s.....ii d
 Johs Yoxton, pro iii li.....iiiiid
 Willmo Charcocke, pro xx s.....ii d
 Petro Werburton, pro xl s.....ii d

OXTON.

Gilberto Hough, pro v lix d
 Thoma Hough, pro xx si d
 Roberto Hough, pro xxs.....i d
 Margareta Hough, pro xx s.....i d
 Blanche Hough, pro xx s.....i d
 Johs Wau'ton, pro xx si d
 Hamone Wau'ton, pro xx s.....i d
 Jacobo Hoggston, pro xxxsii d
 Henrico Shurlace, pro iii li.....iiiiid
 Alicia Shuffage, [?] pro xxsi d
 Thoma Hyll, pro xx si d
 Henrico Hyccke, pro xl s.....ii d
 Roberto Deane, pro xx s.....i d
 Willmo Whytfield, pro xl s.....ii d
 Cecilia Whytfield, pro xl sii d
 Henrico Chalner, pro xl sii d
 Johs Robinson, pro iiiii li.....iiiiid
 Thoma Hancock, pro xl sii d
 Agneta Chalner, pro xx si d
 Agneta Hancock, pro xx si d

(To be Continued.)

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSON IRVING.

[110] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 107—28th Aug.)

The true Register for Bidston 1669.

CHRISTENINGS.

- (1) John sonne of Wm Dod May 9th
 Mariha daughter of Thos Newbut July.
 Robert sonne of Daniel Peacock, Aug 15th.
 Henry sonne of Thos Jones, Aug 31st.
 Alice daughter of Henry Watt, Feb 6th

MARRIAGES.

- (2) Wm Eudes and Margery Newbut, married July 6th.

(1) William Dod of Moreton,
 (2) William Ewdes of Moreton. This name is now usually
 spelt Youds, and is probably a corruption of Heywood.

BURIALS.

- Evan Hiccock, buried April 19th.
 Robert Pemberton, buried June 12th.
 (1) Arthur Parbut, July 22.
 William Bennett, July 29.
 Martha Wilson, August 15th.
 Richard Sharlock, November 11th.
 Henry Jones, November 28th.
 Anne Wilcock, December 5th.
 William Kemp, December 8th.
 John Wilcock, December 8th.
 William Taylor, December 10th.
 William Bennett, January 18th
 Elizabeth Erby, February 6th.

[Rest of transcript destroyed]

A true copie of ye Register for Bidston for ye years 1670.

CHRISTENINGS.

- (2) Martha daughter of Wm Endes, April 24th
 Martha daughter of Henry Williamson, July 24th
 Henry son of Henry Newport, September 2.

MARRIAGES.

- Thomas Chrooe and Elizabeth Taylor, married 12th of May
 (3) Robert Quale and Catherine Sutton, 16th of August.
 John Curry of Bebbington and Ellen Hiccock, Feb 21.

BURIALS.

- (4) Blaneh Quale ye wife of Robert Quale, died Jan 2
 Francis Cranwich, August 3rd
 Anne Maddocks, August 29th
 Anne Wilson, October 26th
 Richard Littimer, October 26th
 (5) John Rathbone, October 28th
 Henry Bennett, November 27.
 William Jones, December 3rd.
 Mary ye daughter of Henry Williamson, Dec 4th
 Ellen Halton, December 13th
 William Pemberton, December 25th
 John Pemberton, January 4th

(1) The following is a short abstract of his will: "I ARTHUR PARBOTT, of Bidston, yeoman, being sickle in bodie, etc., will and bequeath to, William Parbott my eldest son all that messuage etc., wherein I now dwell, he paying all my dettes and maintaining Margaret my wife in sufficient meate and drinke etc To John Parbott my son 25, when he come out of his apprenticeship." Smaller sums to his daughters Margaret, Ann, Ellen, and Alice.

"I desire me trusty and well-beloved friendes John Fells and Henry Newbott of Bidston to be my executors," 19th July 1669.
 Witnesses: Richard Wilson.
 William Jones, cler
 Proved by both Executors, 15th Jan 1675.
 Inventory valued 14 Jan 1675 by Daniel Peacock and Thomas Maddock at £15 13 8.
 Arthur Parbott (or Parbolt) was tenant of the farm now occupied by Mr. Parkinson
 (2) No doubt meant for Ewdes, etc weddings previous year.
 (3) Vide burials Jan 11 same year.
 (4) Vide Wedding August x1 same year.
 (5) Administration of goods of JOHN RATHBONE, of Bidston, [Ford] was granted 19th January, 1670, to George Bennet, of Saughall-Massey, and John Rathbone. of Upton.

- Mary Williamson, January 10th
 Elizabeth Rathbone, January 18th
 Elizabeth Parr, February 14th
 John Parr, February 16th
 (1) Richard Charnock, February 19th
 Daniel Wilcooke } Church
 John Urmsen (?) } Wardens.

SEPTEMBER 10th, 1892.

[111] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

V.—RICHARD SHERLOCK, D.D.

(Continued from No. 95—August 5th.)

While Sherlock acted as chaplain to Sir Robert Blindlose, he showed a true Christian contempt of his own interest by the uprightness of his conduct.

"His patron," says Bishop Wilson, "had a just esteem for the Church and her Ministers, both at that time under a cloud; and being every way what they call an accomplished gentleman, it was no wonder that very many were fond of the honour of conversing with him; which had this unhappy effect, that it made him in love with company and many of the evils that attend it, and too many of the family followed his example. To make some amends, as they thought, for these liberties, they expressed an uncommon concern for the interest of the suffering Church; not considering that if we shall be shut out of Heaven for our sins, it will be no great comfort to us what Church we were members of on earth.

"The chaplain saw this with grief, and, therefore after general discourses and intimations had had little or no effect, he applied to his patron more closely, and in a letter he wrote to him, laid down his and the vices of the family in terms so serious and yet so mannerly, that one could not imagine a mind so void of goodness, as to be offended with his holy freedom. He desired him to consider what injury he did to the distressed Church, for which he always expressed so commendable a zeal. He intimated to him that this was both the cause of her sufferings, and that which made her the scorn of her enemies; that her friends did her more dishonour than they could do her hurt, so that she may truly say in the words of Zechariah, 'These are the wounds which I received in the house of my friends.' He assured him that for his own part, he durst not seem to countenance such criminal liberties, lest the enemy should say that the Ordinances of the Gospel were profaned with the consent of her Ministers.

(1) Administration of the goods of RICHARD CHARNOCK, of Birkett Wood, was granted 3rd June, 1671, to John Charnock his son, and Dorothy Charnock, his widow and relict.
 His personality was valued 1st March, 1670, by Daniel Wilcooke, William Wilson, and Henry Williamson.
 Administration was also granted of the goods of JOHN SYZES, of Birkenhead Wood, on the 4th April, 1670, to Mary his widow and relict, and Thomas Crane and Richard Burrows, of the city of Chester, and John Crane of Birkenhead.

And then, forgetting, or rather despising his own interest, the uncertainty of the times, and all the expectations he might have from a person of so good an interest in the world, he earnestly pressed either to be hearkened to in this matter, or to be immediately discharged from his office."

It must be remembered that Sherlock took this step at a time when the regular clergy were starving, and he himself would not have known where to procure a subsistence.

"His patron was so far from being offended with this just liberty of his faithful chaplain, that he heard him with submission, knowing well whose ambassador he was, and ever after honoured him as his friend; and would by no means part with him, until he thought his own entertainment too mean for so worthy a person; and then he most effectually recommended him to a true son and lover of the Church, the Right Honourable Charles, Earl of Derby, who made him his domestic Chaplain, and reposed so much confidence in him, that upon the Restoration of the Royal Family, he entrusted him with a commission to settle the affairs of the Church of Man, which during the Great Rebellion had suffered in her Doctrine, her Discipline, and her Worship.

"This difficult work he went through, while his fellow commissioners settled the Civil and Military affairs, to the entire satisfaction of the Lord and people of that island; which, by the blessing of God continues as uniform in her worship, as orthodox in her doctrine, and as strict and regular in her discipline as any Christian Church in the world.

F. SANDERS

(To be continued).

[119] THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1545.

(Continued from No. 109—Sept 3rd.)

TRANSMOR.

Roberto Newton pro xxs	.....id.
Johe Brumbrugh pro vii	.....xd.
Willmo Madocke pro iiii bon	.....iiid.
Johe Robynson pro xxs	.....id.
Thoma Huntynghton pro xls	.....iid.
Johe Home pro iiii	.....iiid.
Margareta Home, vid, pro iiii	.....iiid.
Richardo Home pro xls	.....iid.
Thoma Holme pro xls	.....iid.
Agneta Holme pro xxs	.....id.
Willmo Hyll pro xls	.....iid.
Willmo Younge pro xls	.....iid.
Johe Adelston pro xls	.....iid.
Richardo Hicooke pro iiii	.....iiid.
Johe Hyll pro xxs	.....id.
Willmo Williamson pro xls	.....iid.
Johe Harryson pro iiii	.....iiid.
Willmo Mylner [?] pro xxs	.....id.
Willmo Jenson pro xls	.....iid.
Willmo Hoole pro iiii	.....iiid.
Richardo Inglesfield pro iiii	.....iiid.
Thoma Williamson pro iiii	.....iiid.

Thoma Pynnyngton pro xlsiid.
 Johanna Godelston pro xlsiis.
 Richardo Asthooke pro xxsid.

Yours, &c.,

WM. FERUSSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

[118] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 110—Sept. 3rd.)

A true Register for the Parish of Bidston, 1671. (1)

CHRISTENINGS.

Samuel, the sonne of John Truman, April 18.
 Margaret, ye dau. of Thomas Jones, Oct. 17.
 Samuel, ye daughter [sic.] of James William-
 son, of Leverpoole, Oct. 17.
 Daneall, ye sonne of Daneall Peacock,
 Dec. 12.
 Hugh, the sonne of francis Coventree, Dec.
 12.

MARRIAGES.

William Kemp and Ann Dod, of Moreton,
 April 24.
 (2) Thomas Wilson, of Olighton, and Mary Lene,
 of Woodchurch, were married Oct. 12.
 Arthur Rathbone and Margaret Lath, Nov. 7.

BURIALS.

Elizabeth Kitchin, of Moreton, March 26th.
 Robert Peacock, of Saughall, April 7th.
 Margaret Parboe, of Bidston, April 14.
 (3) Thomas Maddock, of Saughall, April 15th.
 (4) Kathen, ye wife of Robert Quale, April 19th.
 Mary Parboe, of Bidston, was buried April
 29th.
 William Sires, June 16th.
 (5) Susan, ye daughter of Thos. Giall, June 27th
 Elizabeth Cranwich, of Birkett, Sept. 37th.
 John Parboe, of Bidston, Oct. 15th.
 Margaret, dau. of James Anderton, Oct 18.
 Jane, the dau. of Wilkm. Dolby, Nov. 7.
 (6) Dorothy Charnock, of Birkett, widdow, Jazy.
 27.
 Elizabeth, dau. of Henry Nuport, of Bidston,
 March 18.
 Henry, son of Henry Nuport, of Bidston,
 March 18.

Thomas Wilson.
 Joseph Phillips.

(1) In the following year, 1672, administration was granted on xx Jan. of goods of MILES FARRINGTON, late of Saughall-Massey, to Thos. Hull, Joyner of the City of Chester, and Bebecka Famberton, widdow and relict.

(2) In the Transcripts of the Overchurch Register this wedding between Thos. Wilson and Mary Lene is entered as having taken place at that church.

(3) Administration of the goods of THOMAS MADDOCK, late of Saughall-Massey, was granted 30th August, 1671, to Maryery, his widow and relict, and mention is made of his sons Richard, William, and Peter, and his eldest son Thomas.

(4) *Vide* Weddings xvi August, 1670.

(5) There are two copies of this Transcript at Chester; this entry is only present in one of them.

(6) Widow of Richard Charnock, who died 19th February, 1670.

CHRISTENINGS AT BIDSTON, 1678.

Thomas, sonne of Wm. Yeudes, ye 18 Aprill.
 Hester, dau. of Wm. Dode, ye same day.
 Sarah, ye dau. of Thos. Newbut, ye 30th
 December.
 William, sonne of Wm. Kempe, ye 8th of
 February.
 Elizabeth, dau. of Henry Carey, March 8th.

WEDDINGS YE YEARE 1678.

Richard Leadbeader and Alice Leneker,
 married April 2.
 Richard Pemberton and Ann Sottonn married
 7 of July.
 Richard Woodworth and Kathren Washington,
 26 Nov.
 Thomas Goodaker and Ann Batlef, married
 23 Feb

BURIALS YE YEARE 1678.

Gilbeard Willson was buried ye 7th of Aprill
 Elizabeth ye wife of Henry Robinson, of Oxon
 15 April
 Marey ye wife of Richard Pemberton, buried
 ye 18 May.
 Dorothy Exellston was buried ye 2 of June.
 Robert ye son of Richard Willson buried 7th of
 June.
 Ann Ormson was buried ye 26th of June.
 John ye son of Richard Kaye buried ye 14th
 of July.
 Richard Leneker was buried ye 21st of August.
 John Pemberton was buried ye last day of
 October.
 Allice ye wife of William Dode was buried ye
 7th of Nov.
 (1) Daniel Willkoek was buried ye 24th of Nov.
 Margree ye wife of John Parbut was buried
 26 of November.
 Elizabeth ye wife of John Ormson, 28
 December.
 (2) Richard Stokton of ye parish of Medstun-in-
 Kent, buried January 27th
 Jacob ye son of Thomas Charnock buried 22
 Feb.
 Dancall son of John Rathbon was buried 16
 of March.

SEPTEMBER 17th, 1892.

[114] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

V.—RICHARD SHERLOCK, D.D.

(Continued from No 111.—September 10th.)

"Upon the Doctor's return from that happy
 island, by the favour of his noble patron, he obtained
 a presentation (1664), to the Parsonage of Winwick

(1) Administration of the goods of DANIEL WILLCOCK, of
 Bidston-cum-Ford, was granted to Eilen, his widow and
 relict.

(2) The only suggestion that I can make to explain the
 presence of a man of Kent at Bidston is, that about this
 period Sir Robert Vyner became possessed of the Bidston
 estate, and this man may have been his steward or bailiff.

from King Charles II., the patronage being at that
 time in dispute, and immediately after, upon the
 expiration of a lease of ninety-nine years, his living
 became one of the best in England."

Sherlock passed the rest of his life at Winwick,
 with which place his name is indissolubly connected.
 He was in all respects a model parish priest. "The
 first thing he set himself to, besides the ordinary
 duties of the Ministry, was to compose and publish
 a short and plain Paraphrase upon the Church
 Catechism, exceedingly well suited to the capacities
 of his people. After this, to use his own words,
 because "Doctrine without practice is but a body
 of religion without a soul to quicken it," he pub-
 lished a Summary of Christian Practice, under the
 title of "*The Practical Christian*." And having
 freely given a considerable number of both these
 works amongst his parishioners, the good effect soon
 appeared in such a number of constant, devout
 communicants, as at that time was hardly to be seen
 in any parish in England.

His preaching was like his devotions, plain and
 practical. And, although, till he grew much into
 years he was a constant preacher, yet he always
 entertained in his house at least three curates for
 the service of his Church and Chapels. So that
 both on account of the Doctor's primitive example,
 as also the choice he made of persons to serve at the
 Altar, Winwick became a very desirable place for
 young divines to improve themselves in the work of
 the Ministry.

Sherlock set himself very earnestly to bring
 his people to a decent uniformity in the
 public worship of God. And this he
 brought about in a short time chiefly by the
 example of his own most humble and devout
 behaviour; and where that would not do, he made
 use of rebukes, and a zeal which few people were
 proof against.

As an instance of this, it is stated that "a person
 of the first quality being at his church, and a gentle-
 man of his retinue not behaving himself with that
 discretion and seriousness which the place and
 service required, the doctor, without any regard to
 the number or quality of the gentleman's friends,
 ordered him to be turned out of the church. This
 unexpected rebuke soon changed his behaviour; and
 being by the churchwardens permitted to stay till the
 service was ended, he then, according to the
 notorious profane way of that gentleman, said to
 his company: "They threaten us with the devil, but
 I fear him not half so much as I do that old gentle-
 man in the long beard, meaning the Doctor."

Dr. Sherlock was so strict a resident that for
 nearly thirty years he was scarce so many weeks, all
 put together, absent from his flock. During this
 time he kept up "a constant and decent hospitality,
 but the greatest part of his revenues he employed in
 charities of one kind or other. Indeed he considered
 his income as a mere depositum, and himself
 only as a steward; and therefore though
 he was kind enough to his relations, yet he did not
 think fit to confine his kindness to them. *Possessio
 Ecclesiae sumptus est egenorum* was his maxim as well
 as St. Ambrose's.

"Any worldly aim or concern had so little share in
 his affections, that after he had been for so many

years possessed of one of the best livings in England, at his death he left behind him not above one year's profits, and even these in a great measure to pious uses."

"He always satisfied himself with the bare necessities of life, and his temperance was every day such that one of his curate's allowance would have defrayed all his personal expenses."

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued).

[115] THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF 1545.

(Continued from No. 112—Sept. 10th.)

LOUGHAR BRYNTON.

Rogero Alyn pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Willmo Maccolyn [?] pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Roberto Mawrie pro xxs	.....	id.
Johe bearysbroke pro xxs	.....	id.
Willmo Hoggeston pro xxs	.....	id.
Johe Bratt pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Jacobo Hole pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Willmo Hole pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Willmo Warehouse pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Johe Alen pro iiiiii	.....	iiiiid.
Willmo Huntynxton pro xxs	.....	id.
Johe Olerke pro xxs	.....	id.
Willmo Coke pro xis	.....	iiiiid.

Yours, &c.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

(To be continued.)

[116] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 113—September 10th.)

CHRISTENINGS YE YEAR 1675 AT BIDSTON.

James sonne of Richard Willson of Bidston
April 15th.

James sonne of Jacob Wright 11th July.

Thomas sonne of Thos. Newbut 10th August.

(1) Alice daughter of Ather Godwin, Sept. 2.

John, son of Hen Newbut, 14th Dec.

Richard son of John Hiccock, 12th March.

NOO WEDDINGS.

(1.) Arthur Godwin was a son of John Godwin, of Bromley, Co. Stafford, who married, about 1640, Alice Bennet, 2nd daughter of Richard Bennet, of Saughall Massey, by his wife Elizabeth daughter of John Ley of the same place.

Arthur Godwin married on the 26th July, 1672, at West Kirby, Ellen Harrison of that Parish, and became the father of a numerous family, some of whose descendants are still living in the neighbourhood. He occupied the farmhouse, which stands on the left-hand side of the road as one goes from Saughall towards Newton, on the western gable of which are still to be seen his initials and those of his wife cut in the stone, above the date 1630.

(1). BURLIALES YE YEARE 1675.

- Martha dau of Henry Hamlet buried 11 May.
(2) Henry Robinson of Oxton buried 21st May.
Robert Benet buried 26th of May.
Alloe ye late wife of Robert Benet, 16 iune.
Ellen wife of Daneall Peacock, 18 iuly.
Edward Cranege. buried 1st November.
William Waley buried 3rd November.
Richard Pemberton buried 25 November.
Margery Maddock buried 25 November.
Henry Ouliven buried 2 December.
Kathren Williamson buried 20 December.
Margaret Williamson of Leverpoole 25 Decem-
ber.

Margaret wife of Nathanael Johnes 20th Jan.
Jane dau of Thomas Lankfort 27 Feb.

(3) John Eaton, Curate.

William Willson, Church
William Bennet, Wardens.

Christened at Bidston the yeare 1676.

Hannah daughter of Thomas Hiccock May
25th

Mary daughter of John Leene May 29th

John son of James Wagg June 4th

Henry son of Arthur Rathbone June 29th

(4) Peter son of Thomas Madox Sept 17th

Hannah dau of Richard Gill Sept 18th

Richard son of Richard Kitchen Oct 5th

Thomas son of Richard Woodworth Dec 5th

Anne dau of Wm Dod Dec 7th

Margaret dau of Thomas Newbut March 18th

(5) William son of John Sires March 20th

Mary daughter of Wm Parbut March 22.

WEDDINGS.

Richard Edwards and Grace Calvin, March
27.

John Nicholas and Elizabeth Wilson May
29.

(1.) In his will dated 28th June, 1672, proved 19th February, 1674, JOHN KINGSTON, of Bidston (Ford), leaves "£5 yearlie to his son, Paul Kingston during the life of Mistress Annie Deane" and "£3 yearlie to my dear wife [Mary]," whom he also makes Executrix.

Witnesses: Robert Wilson,

Edward Litherland,

Daniel Wilcocks.

Administration of the goods of RICHARD LITHERLAND, of Birkenhead Leys, was granted October 31st, 1675, to Henry Young, of Poolton, Seacombe, nephew of deceased.

Administration of the goods of JANE LITHERLAND, widow, late of Birkenhead Leys was granted 18th February, 1675, to Henry Young, in virtue of a will which deceased made by word of mouth, leaving all the property to the said Henry Young.

Her personality was valued by Henry Bird and Richard Griffiths at £20 7s. 2d.

(2) On the last page of the Register Book there is a copy of a portion of the will of a certain Mr. Robert Robinson, of Oxton, gent, dated 1652, in which he leaves £10 to the poor of the Parish of Bidston, in return for which he stipulates to be buried "betwixt the Church porch and ye chancel door as near the church wall as may be," and leaves the bulk of his property to his son Henry, who is probably the Henry Robinson, of Oxton, here mentioned.

(3) This is the first appearance of Mr. Eaton in the Register, the transcript is in a clerk's hand, but the signature is Mr. Eaton's own.

(4.) On the 29th September, 1675, a license was issued at Chester "to the ministers of Bidston and Holy Trinity, Chester" for the marriage of "Thomas Maddocks, of Saughall-Massey, and Alice Bennet, of the same," in connection with which license it is added, "Nicholas Tubman was sworn" (*Miscellaneous Genealogica et Heraldica, N.S. vol. iv.*)

(5.) Of Cloughton.

James Warton of West Kirby and Anne Pemberton of the Parish of Bliston aforesaid, November 9th

BUCIALIA.

- (1) Henry Bennet May 25th
Thomas Wilson June 25th
Mary Hiccock Oct 4th
Ellen Kemp Oct 5th
Thomas son of John Stringer of Tranmer Nov 23
John son of Wm Dod Dec 8th
- (2) Thomas Urmsom Feb 13th
John Eaton Curat.
John Truman ; Church-
Richard Gill ; wardens.

SEPTEMBER 24th, 1892.

[117] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

V.—RICHARD SHERLOCK, D.D.

(Continued from No. 114—September 17th.)

"About three years before his death, being informed that the next advowson of Winwick had been obtained for the Master of University College, Oxford, the doctor immediately invited him down into the country, and, without being offended at the sight of his successor, he not only received him courteously, but thinking himself in his old age unequal for so great a burden, he desired him to accept of the care and the profits of that great Rectory, reserving to himself a very moderate share of the incomes for his own future subsistence.

Sherlock died some months after the Revolution and before any measures were taken to try who did not approve of the ways engaged in to bring it about, so that it would be impertinent to say what he would have done had he lived a few weeks longer in a case in which he was exceedingly reserved. As he had lived a life of the strictest temperance and had enjoyed an uninterrupted health, scarce knowing by experience what sickness was, his dissolution was accordingly without violence or any remarkable agonies.

He was of a body so spare and light that until a few days before he died he could walk as nimbly as a youth, which was his constant exercise for a quarter of an hour before he eat; and which no

(L) Administration of the goods of HENRY BENNET, of Southall Massey was granted on the 30th June, 1676, to his son, John Bennet.

The inventory of his goods was prepared by George Bennet and George Martin. Among the debts owing by deceased are amounts due to Thos. and Robert Wilson, Edward Glegg, Esq., Henry Hockenhull, of Tranmere, Ann Warrington and Henry Robinson, of Oxton.

(2) Thomas Urmsom, of Moreton, in his will proved in 1578, mentions his cousin, Wm. Coventry, his uncle Mr. Roger Glegg, of Arrows, his aunt, Martha Glegg, his uncle, Glegg of Grange, his cousin Henry Daby, of Little Meols, and cousin Thomas Mosse, of Woodchurch, and cousin, Thos. Gill. And appoints as Executors, "my kinsman, Evan Marsh, of Liverpool, Henry Pemberton, of Upton, and Robert Handale, of Great Meols." His personality was valued at £267.

doubt contributed very much to prolong his life to so considerable an age, for he died in his seventy-sixth year.

He ordered the following Epitaph to be engraven in brass and fixed upon his stone.

EXUVIÆ
RICHARDI SHERLOCK, S.T.P.
INDIGNISSIMI HUIUS BOLESLEIAN
RECTOREIS.
ORBIT IN FIE JUNII, AN. ÆTATIS 76
ANNO DOM 1688.
SAL INFATIGATUM CONCULCATÆ.

Mr. Henry Prescott, of Chester, who very well knew the Doctor's life and merits, and who had a venerable regard for his memory, subjoined this further inscription:—

EN VIRI SANCTISSIMI MODESTIA:
QUI EPITAPHIUM SE INDIGNUM
INSCRIBI VOLEBAT, CUM VITA
ET MERITA EJUS LAUDES OMNES
LONGE SUPERARENT

His Funeral Sermon, preached by his friend and curate, Rev. T. Crane, contains many interesting particulars of the Doctor's life.

Bishop Thomas Wilson, the worthiest of Wirral Worthies, was a nephew of Sherlock's, being the son of the Doctor's sister. Wilson was one of his uncle's curates from 1686 to 1693, having the charge of New Church in the parish of Winwick. It is to him that we are mainly indebted for what we know of Sherlock's life.

In 1677 Sherlock gave £50 to form a cow charity at Oxton, the township in which he was born. His deed of gift has been already printed in your columns. (See No. 81, July 16th, and No. 91, July 30th.) F. SANDERS.

[118] "ROMISH RECUSANTS" AT THURSTASTON IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

The care with which, in Elizabeth's reign, any signs of popish disaffection were hunted out is exemplified by the following little document from the Bishop of Chester's Registry.

Written at the foot of the Transcript of the Register for the year 1581, for the Parish of Thurstaston, are the following notes.

"Master John Wythmore and elener his wife (1) do no cu' [come] to the churche nor recoue.

Thomas Maddooke and Johann his wife do not cu' to the churche nor Recoue.

Wylliam Wythmore gentylman doth cu' to the churche but not recoue.

Ales his wife (2) doth nether cu' to the churche nor recoue."

X. Y. Z.

(1) Daughter of Richard Done of Flaxyards Esq.
(2) Daughter of William Hough of Leighton and Thornton Esq.

[119] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR
1545.

(Continued from No. 115—September 17th).

OVER BEBYNTON.

Roberto Home pro iiiii. iiii.
Johs Govet pro xls iiii.
Willmo Byley pro xls iiii.
Thurstanno Colley pro iiiiii. iiiid.
Thoma Alen pro xls iiii.
Willmo Knowesley pro iiiii. iiiid.
Henrico Penny pro xxs id.
Hugho Hoggleston pro xxs id.
Henrico Lont pro xls iiii.
Richardo Yoxton pro xxs id.
Thoma Hilde pro iiiiii. iiiid.

POTON CUM SPYITTELL.

Henrico Dobbe pro villi. xliid.
Roberto Brusco pro iiiiii. iiiid.
Willmo Williamson pro iiiiii. iiiid.
Hugone Lecke pro iiiii. iiiid.
Roberto Hogeston [?] pro xls iiii.
Richardo Brusco pro xls iiii.
Roberto Boland pro xls iiii.
Richardo Hogeston pro xxs id.
Roberto Lecke pro xxs id.

MAGNA STANNEY.

Milone Whyteof pro xls iiii.
Willmo Whyteof pro xls iiii.

(To be continued.)

[120] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 116.—September 17th.)

- (1) A Register for the Parish of Bidston for the year 1679.

CHRISTENINGS.

Richard son of John Charcock of Birkenhead
Mar 27

(1) On the 28th January 1678 (o.s) an Inventory was exhibited of the goods of THOMAS MADDOCK of Saughall-Massey, valued by Arthur Godwin and John Rathbone at £98 2s. 0d.; and at the same time, custody of the two children, Peter Maddock aged 10 years and Anne Maddock aged 9 years was granted to Alice widow and relict of the late Thomas Maddock.

In his will dated 3 January 1678, WILLIAM TAYLOR of Bidston yeoman, leaves to his wife Ann Taylor, "one moiety of the tenement in Bidston wherein I now dwell, and also one half of the tenement in Claughton cum Grange according to Articles made at ye marriage of my eldest daughter Ellen, during her life and then to descend to my son-in-law [Robert] Wilson."

"Mentions, "ye children of my sonne Crosse, my grandchildren Hannah and Jeremiah Wilson" and "my foure daughters."
"I give £8 to my daughter Ellen for repairing and building the Kitchen House."
"To my sister Jane in Chester a cow."
"To my man John Anderton a heffer with a starr in ye forehead."

Execrs: Wife Ann Taylor and Robert Wilson, son-in-law.
Witnesses: James Anderton,
Matthew Wilson,
John Anderton.

Proved by both Executors, June 28th. 1673.
Inventory valued 6th March, 1678, by Ralph Bellin, Richard Wilson and John Bennet.
Debts due testator from Ralph Bellin, £40; Thomas Hancock, of Moreton, £19; Jane Curreye, of Neston, £1 10s.

Hen son of Thos Wilson of ye same, Ap 24.
Mary dau of Wm Yowds of pastureside Ap 27.
Mary dau of Jas Wagge of Moreton, May 25.
Margaret dau of Jas Anderton of pastureside, June 29.

Katherine dau of Paul Kingston of ford, May 30.

Martha dau of John Hiccock of Claughton, Aug 3.

Arthur son of George Jeynson of Moreton, Aug 28.

Margaret dau of Owen Steele of Bidston, Oct 10.

Joseph son of Geo Bennet of Saugham, Oct 11.

Barbara dau of John Leene of Claughton, Oct 13.

Eliz dau of Hen Newport of Saugham, 9br 20.

Mary dau of Wm Dod of Moreton, 9br 30.

Margret dau of John Upshon of pastureside, Dec 4.

John son of Arthur Godwin, of Saugham, Dec 26.

Hanna dau of Samuel Lea of Saugham, Dec 26.

Josua son of Wm Longley of ford, Dec 30.

Ann dau of Thos Jones of Saughan-Carr, Mar 9.

WEDDINGS.

Thos Leversedge, of Middlewich p'ish and Rebecca Pemberton, of Bidston p'ish, May 16 by licence dated May 14.

Hen Taylor and Anne Pemberton of Bidston p'ish by pub'con of banns, Dec 26.

Wm Leversedge of Middlewich p'ish and Martha Pemberton of Bidston p'ish were married by due publication of banns 1st Jan.

BURIALS.

Robert son of John Rathbon de Moreton, buried Ap 20th.

Jane dau of Henry Carey de Moreton, Ap 20th
Anne dau of Geo Martin de Saughan-Carr, June 8th.

Martha dau of Wm. Dod de Pasture-Side Sept. 3.

Mary dau of Paul Kingston de Ford Sept. 13.
Martha dau of John Hiccock de Claughton Sept. 28.

- (1) Ellen Newbut de Saughall-Massey Sept 29.
Barbara dau of John Leene de Claughton Oct. 15.

Anne Bennet de Saughall-Massey Oct. 28.

Margaret dau of Owen Steele de Bids'on Dec. 5.

Stephen Wilcock de Moreton Dec. 14.

Mary wife of Thos. Hancock de Moreton Dec. 24.

John Eaton, Minister.

James Bird } Oh: Wardens.
John Sayers }

(1) This is the first entry in the old Register Book at Bidston; for earlier records one is told to consult the old book," which however, is not forthcoming, having been lost at some time previous to 1779.

On the fly leaf of this book, which is composed of 64 membranes of parchment and vellum, are some particulars concerning the Poor-stock and the signature, "Benjamin Clarke, schoolmaster of Bidston" and "Fretium hujus Libri, 16s."

OCTOBER 1st, 1892.

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ORNAMENTS OF NESTON CHURCH
[121] IN 1548.

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In the Library and Museum, bequeathed by the late Joseph Mayer, Esq. to the Parish of Bebington there are two volumes of unpublished documents, one of which contains many original mediæval deeds of great interest and value relating to the Hundred of Wirral, and we are pleased to be able to state that, by the kindness of the Managers, permission has been obtained to publish such of the documents as are likely to interest readers of Notes and Queries.

Mr. Irvine has undertaken the work of transcribing the documents, with the kind assistance of Mr. Harding, the obliging Librarian.

The first document we print is:—

The Inventorie of all the Ornaments of the parishe churchs of Neston, taken afore Sir John Massey Knight and Roland Stanleye Esquier,* appoynted the King's Commissioners in this behalf the xi days of Marche Ao: rrg: Ed: sext: ii. [1548]

Imprimis: j chalice with a paten.

Itm: j vestment of satten of brudges [Bruges]

Itm: ii copes j of fustian j other of bustian.

Itm: j vestment of blacke uested [?worsted]

Itm: j vestment of bustian very olde.

Itm: j vestment of sylk of ij colors verely olde.

Itm: j vestment of canvas dyed blewe and wrought with sylke old and ragged.

Itm: j coope with one vestment of sylke.

Itm: j crosse of copper and gyll.

Itm: ii j bells in the steeple.

John Massey [sgd]

Roland Stanley Esquire [sgd]

—

[122] STANLAW—A FORGOTTEN ABBEY.

—

On the banks of a great river in the north of England, within a short distance of each other, there formerly stood four Priors, an Abbey of importance and wealth, beside more than one stately Monastic Grange of other wealthy communities, whose buildings exceeded in grandeur those of some of the minor abbeys, one being a walled and moated fortified house. The river itself was noted for its productive fisheries, from which such abundance of fish was caught, that up to the middle of the eighteenth century the surplus supply was spread in the fields for manure. On the right bank, wide fields of fertile and undulating land were bounded by wider hedges, and woods, and among these was a stately Royal Castle and park. The left bank, beautifully undulated, was chiefly woodland, and stretched away to loftier hills and crags, on which was another great royal forest, wherein was an ancient Saxon town,

and beyond that again, one of the chief Roman stations in Britain. The view was closed by range upon range of lofty mountains, blue with distance. The scene was one of the loveliest among the many that England could show. With so many distinguishing marks, this locality should, one would think, be easy of recognition; but who, looking at it to-day, could find in this description the River Mersey. Where now is the Royal Castle of Liverpool, with its park of Toxteth? The Priory of Birkenhead is a neglected ruin; Norton Priory, a country mansion; the Friary of Warrington only traceable below cottage foundations; Runcorn Priory has long ceased to exist; Ince Grange is a barn; and of Stanlaw, the most important of all, even the name is unfamiliar, and few men know its lonely site, or that it ever had existence. Yet of this Abbey there exists one of the most complete and perfect books of ancient records, which goes by the title of "The Coucher Book of Whalley," this being the chartulary of that great Lancashire Abbey, giving a list of the vast and valuable lands of that Institution, of which Stanlaw was the mother house. The Abbey belonged to the Cistercians, an order which practised the greatest austerity, who usually chose lonely and secluded places for their abode and whose buildings, though usually simple in style, were among the most beautiful and dignified of their age. The Monks had not been fortunate in the choice of a site for their buildings at Stanlaw. It is true that the solitude so dear to the Cistercian Order was complete. The Abbey stood upon a rocky knoll by the riverside, close to the point where the small river Gowy falls into it. This little stream bears a British name, "Gwy," the "flowing water." It is also called Tarvin Water, and its course is through the wide marshes that separate Stanlaw from the higher and more fertile fields of Cheshire. The name of the rocky knoll is older than the Abbey. "Steinlaw" or low means the Stony hill, and the name has a Saxon derivation. Although built on rocky ground, the site of the Abbey was low, and some of its buildings stood on flat ground. In the year 1278 it is recorded that a great tide and storm flooded the lower buildings of the Abbey and caused the Monks much damage. The Abbey was founded by John, Constable of Chester, in 1178, on the eve of his departure for the Holy Land, and he endowed it with the Manors of Stanney and Ashton. For fifty years we learn little of the Abbey, but after that date, benefactions began to pour into the hands of the community, and it became by the middle of the 14th Century, one of the wealthiest in England. The following are among the lands granted to the Abbey by various donors. Roger, Constable of Chester, endowed it with lands and lordships at Roshdale, Castleton, Merland, the waste of Brendewood, and the township of Little Woolton, John de Lascy gave Blackburne, Eccles, and Steyninges, Adam de Garston gave several lands at Garston, Aigburth, and Childwall, and many other grants were made to the Abbey, the chief one being that of Whalley by Edmund Earl of Lancaster. The low and marshy lands surrounding the Knoll, on which the Abbey itself stood, were liable to floods, and in 1279 they suffered from a great inundation, which destroyed much of their land, and the water

*See Wirral Worthies Nos. [71], [78] and [82].

stood three or four feet deep in their outbuildings, and a similar disaster two years afterwards caused additional loss to the Abbey. We are told of the destruction of 150 acres of land, and the roads were broken up and destroyed. It seems scarcely credible that an ordinary flood or storm could cause such permanent damage, and it has been supposed that the submergence of the land was caused by its subsidence. Some confirmation of this theory is based on the fact that beds of decayed vegetable matter, apparently an ancient surface, have been found in cutting the Manchester Ship Canal, below the level of ordinary tides. In the year 1287 the tower of the Abbey was blown down by a storm, and soon afterwards a fire destroyed many of the buildings. Discouraged by these frequent disasters, the Monks petitioned Pope Nicholas IV to permit their removal to Whalley, to which in 1289 he gave assent. The Bull was revoked by his successor, Boniface VIII, but permission was finally granted and in 1294 the Monks removed to Whalley, where they erected the magnificent Abbey, of which the ruins are still visible; and in 1806 the new abbey was consecrated. Stanlaw was not wholly abandoned; the old Abbot and four monks remained, and it became a cell to its great and wealthy successor, and so continued till the Reformation, when it was dissolved together with Whalley. E. W. Cox.

(To be continued.)

[123] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 120—September 24.)

- (1) CHRISTENINGS AT BIDSTON 1680.
Henry son of Richard Edwards de Pastureside April 18.
- (2) Judith dau of Geo. Martin Saughall-Carre Aug 17.
William son of Thos Newbut de Saughall-Massey Aug 29.
Micah son of Wm Kemp de Bidston, Sept 12.
Thomas son of Wm Webster de Moreton Sept 30.
- (3) Margaret dau of John Hiccock de Claughton Nov 2.
- (4) Joseph son of Wm Leversage de Saughall-Carre Nov 16.
Elizabeth daughter of Richard Kitchens de Pastureside Nov 30.
Joseph son of Ric Gill de Moreton Jan ii.
John son of Paul Kingston de Ford Feb 2.
Mary dau of James Anderton de Pastureside Mar i.
Martha dau of Hugh Jones de Pastureside Mar i.

No WEDDINGS this year.

- (1) The Christenings are from the Transcripts at Chester but the Burials from the Register Book at Bidston.
- (2) Vide Burials April xviii 1681.
- (3) Vide Burials xxx January.
- (4) Vide Burials xxviii November.

BURIALS from March 26th 1680.

- Henry Newbut de Saughall-Massey June 21.
William Dod de Park-gate July 2.
Jane dau of Thos Robinson de Oxon July 5.
Ellen dau of Thos Ley de Saughall-Massey Sep. 10.
Margaret Brereton de Moreton widow Sep 19
Tho: son of Sam Share de Newbold in the parish of West Kirby Oct 28.
Thos Davies de Moreton, Nov. 4.
John Pemberton de Bidston Nov 5.
Anne dau of Thos Jones de Saugall Car Nov 18.
- (1) Joseph son of Wm Leversage de Saugall Car Nov 28.
James Wilson de Claughton Dec 3.
Eleanor Lye de Lingham. widow. Dec 10.
John Wilson de Claughton. Dec 19.
Ellen Wilson de Claughton Dec 22.
Katherine dau of Paul Kingston de ford Jan 30.
 - (2) Margaret dau of John Hiccock de Claughton same day.
Anne dau of Richard Willson de Bidston, Feb 22.
John son of Richard Willson de Bidston, Mar 12.
John Eaton Minster.
Richard Wilson } Oh: Wardens.
John Kempe }

OCTOBER 8th, 1892.

[124] STANLAW—A FORGOTTEN ABBEY.

(Continued from No. 122—October 1.)

What was done with the ancient buildings, we have no record to tell. The Abbey became, or rather continued to be, a farm; and the buildings now standing on the site were erected during the 18th century, chiefly of brick. A few shafts of round pillars, used up in the farm-buildings, and a passage out in the rock, probably a drain, were, till recently, the only visible relics of the ancient work. The farm stood widely parted from the busier ways of men by flat, marshy meadows, almost without roads, and, in winter and bad weather, almost impassable. A few years ago the Manchester Ship Canal cut through the peninsula on which it stands, and for a time the secluded spot was crowded with workmen's huts and excavating engines. These in their turn disappeared, and the Abbey site, which can now only be reached by a ferry-boat, is once more a solitude, more melancholy than before; for the devastating work of the canal has opened a huge quarry in its fields, and carted away the soil and rock to make up the new embankments, and the green meadows are now a waste of red clay and the debris of the quarry.

- (1) Vide Christenings xvi November.
- (2) Vide Christenings ii November.

This excavation has out across the ancient graveyard, and the numerous bones, far more than the interment of the Monks could have supplied, seem to prove that the "Locus Benedictus of Stanlaw" has for ages kept its repute as sacred ground, and been used as a burial place for the surrounding country. The skeletons appear to have been buried without coffins, or any other objects, and no grave-stones have been found: it may well be surmised therefore, that these were people of the poorer class.

The chief compensation for this desecration is to be found in the fact that some of the finely cut and moulded stones of the Abbey were dug up during the progress of the work. These, together with the Commissioners Report at the Dissolution assist us to form some idea of what the Abbey once was. Fragments turned up of a finely moulded doorway, presumably the Western door; it had a double tier of shafts on each side, and the width of the opening was 3 feet 6 inches clear. The jambs of several windows with shafted sides were found, and mouldings of their arches, finely and deeply cut, and moulded. The base of a pillar and some fragments of the arcade of the chapel and the cloisters also came to light. The style is extremely fine Early English work, much richer and more elaborate than was usual with the work of the Cistercians, one of the stones being beautifully ornamented with carved foliage. It is evident that the Abbey was begun in a style of unusual beauty. We may, however, gather from the Commissioners Report that the repairs after its accident were carried out in a less costly manner. It would appear that the tower was never rebuilt, as the Report says the Chapel had only one bell, and that hung, not in the tower, but at the end of the Chapel. In the Chapel, the Altar slab was of alabaster, and there were images in the same material of St. Katherine and St. John, and a wooden image of St. Michael. The image of our Lady of Grace was "old and gylte" and had a plate of sylvor upon the fleete and xv pence nailed about the tabernacle" i.e. the niche. The hall had two windows, which must have been small ones, for the glass in them is estimated at 18 feet only.

The other buildings mentioned are the Kitchen, the Buttery, the Barn, the Garner, the Waynhouse, the Brewhouse, and the Servants Chamber.

The vestments and fittings are few, and mostly old and broken; but the ploughs, harness, and farm fittings are in good order, and the Monks owned 22 cattle, 2 oxen, 4 horses, 100 sheep, 32 lambs, and 8 swine. Only one croft is sown with peas and two with grain—the Abbey ground having evidently been mainly pasture land, as it remained till the Ship Canal desolated it. Four cushioned seats are catalogued, doubtless for the four monks, and the establishment seems to have numbered twelve in all.

The excavations showed that the walls of the building had been grubbed up to the very foundations, almost every useful stone having been removed. One has only to look along the stretches of sand or shallow water of the Mersey, where the long sinuous embankments curb the tide from wasting the marshy and treeless meadows, to estimate pretty surely the use they have been put to. The few stones that have been spared were unfitted by their want of solidity, due to their beautiful and deeply undercut mouldings, for the repair of the

banks. When twilight drops upon the bare farm-buildings, and the wasted meadows, veiled with the rising marsh mists, and the only sounds of life are the wailing of the seagulls, as they settle on the sandbanks of the estuary, it would be hard to find a more sad and weary solitude than the forgotten Abbey of Stanlaw (1).
E. W. Cox.

[125] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 123—October 1.)

(2) CHRISTENINGS, 1681.

Ellen, dau. of John Whiteside, de Bidston, Mar. 27.

Mary, dau. of John Sayers, de Oughton, Ap. 12.

Martha, dau. of Hen. Keiry, de Moreton, May 1.

Joseph, son of Hen. Newby, de Woodside, May 12.

Alice, dau. of Thos. Ley, de Saughall-Massey, June 9.

Elizabeth, dau. of Sam. Ley, de Saughall-Massey, Aug. 16.

Richard, son of John Walley, de Birkenhead-Leas, Nov. 8.

Elen, dau. of Thos. Wilson, de Oughton, Dec. 20.

(3) William, son of John Eaton (clerk), de Oughton, Jan. 2.

Ellen, dau. of Arthur Godwin, de Saughall-Massey, Jan. 5.

John, son of Wm. Leverage, de Saughall-Carre, Jan. 5.

John, son of Wm. Longley, de fford, Jan. 28.

(4) John, son of Stephen Wilcooke, de Moreton, feb. 11.

John, son of Wm. Dod, de Moreton, feb. 21.

Abigail, dau. of John Hicock, de Oughton, Mar. 9.

WEDDINGS.

Joseph Kennion, of Wallezey Parish, and Sarah Trueman, of Bidston, were married by pub: of banns, April 8.

John Joynson, of Backford Parish, and Mary Ainsdall, of Bidston Parish, April 4, by banns.

John Rattbone, of Overchurch Parish, and Alice Madooke, of Bidston Parish, by banns, April 7.

(5) Robert Gill, of Brombroe Parish, and Hannah Wilson, of Bidston, were married (by license bearing date April 2) May 23.

(1) During the time that the Monks of Stanlaw contemplated removal—Thomas, Earl of Lancaster granted to them the park of Toxteth on which to build their new Abbey. They elected to settle at Whalley and the transfer was never completed. Liverpool, therefore, came very near to having in her vicinity one of the greatest English Abbeys.

(2) Christenings and Weddings from the Bishop's Transcripts the Burials from the Register Book at Bidston.

(3) *Vide* Burials January iv same year.

(4) *Vide* Weddings January xix and burials Feb. xii same year.

(5) Hannah Wilson was a daughter of Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall.

- (1) Stephen Wilcooke, of Bidston Parish, and Elizabeth Bird, of Wallazey Parish, by banns, Jan. 19.

BURIALS.

- (2) Judith, dau of George Martin de Sangal-Car, Ap. 18.
 (8) Thos, son of Hen. Williamson de Birkenhead, May 27.
 Jane, wife of Thos. Jones de Sangall-Massey, Nov. 4.
 Henry Keiry de Moreton, December 8.
 William Erby de Moreton, December 18.
 John ye son of Wm. Bennet de Moreton, Dec 25.
 Margery wife of Daniel Peacocke de Sangall-Massey, Dec 25.
 (4) William sonne of John Eaton de Claughton, clerk, Jan 4.
 William Longley de ford february 2.
 (5) John son of Stephen Wilcooke de Moreton, feb 12.
 Elizabeth dau of Widdow Keiry (deceased) de Moreton, March 8.
 John Eaton, Minister.
 Henry Williamson } Ch: Wardens.
 Richard Kitchens }

"AT NORTHWYCH the 17th day of September 1578, before Mr. Robert Lougher, Doctor of Law, in the presence of me, Henry Proctor, Notary Public.

NESTON: Action against Master William Hough (1) Esquire and Jane his wife (2).

It is ORDERED and decreed that the said Mr. Wyll'm Houghs and his wief shall resort once a month to Mr. Goodman (8) or Mr. Lane, preacher of the Worde, for their better resolucon in matters of religion (wherewith they are entangled). And if they be not before Easter nexte resolved in conyence by the travaile perswasyon and conference to be had with the said godly preachers or th'one of them, then to abide such further order as shall be thought good to the Lord Archbisshop of York and his assocoyates orthre of them on this behalfe.

They and eyther of them ar also lawfully absolved from the sentence of excommunication pronounced against them for ther non-appearance at Chester before the vysitores of the Lord Archbisshop of York.

[sgd] Henry Proctor."

What the result was of the "travaille perswasyon and conference with the said godly preachers," does not appear, but as the Houghs still adhered to their old faith a generation later, it is probable that the desired end was not attained.

Wm. FERGUSON IRVING.

[126]

QUERY.

Can any of your correspondents suggest a derivation for Slaty-road, a road which constitutes the boundary between Claughton and part of Birkenhead?

The very apparent one that it is so named because of the nature of the soil will not hold good, as it is all either sandstone or clay, with no trace of slate anywhere.

It is a name of at least 200 years standing, probably much longer.

Birkenhead. Yours, &c. CURIOUSITY.

OCTOBER 15th, 1892.

[127] POPISH RECUSANTS AT NESTON IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

(See No 118—Sept. 24th)

The following interesting document is from the Mayer Collection; the first part is in Latin.

It is endorsed:—

"An Absolution for Mr. Hough and Jane his wyl."

- (1) Vide Christenings, Feb xi and burials Feb xii same year.
 (2) Vide Christenings August xvii. 1680.
 (3) Administration of the goods of Thomas Williamson of Claughton, was granted on the following iii February to Richard Span of Bromborough, principal creditor.
 (4) Vide Christenings, January ii. same year.
 (5) Vide Christening Feb xi and Wedding, Jan xix same year.

[128] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

(Continued from No. 119—September 24).

WEST KYRKEBY.

Richardo Johnson pro liiii	.....liiij.
Thoma Rathbon pro vii	.....xd.
John Wryght pro xls	.....iij.
John Gobbyn pro xls	.....iij.
Richardo Coventre pro xls	.....iij.
Henrico Ffazakarley pro xls	.....xld.
Roberto Radcliffe pro liiii	.....liiij.
Wilmco Smyth pro xxs	.....id.
Richardo Shepard pro liiii	.....liiij.
Roberto Wryght pro xxs	.....id.
Wilmco Brabon pro xls	.....iij.
Georgio Werynton pro liiii	.....liiij.
Hugone Coventre pro xls	.....iij.
Wilmco Linacre pro liiii	.....liiij.

PARVA MEOLAS.

John Lyttell pro liiii	.....liiij.
John Browne pro liiii	.....liiij.
Elena Browne pro xls	.....iij.
Edwardo Wryght pro xls	.....iij.

- (1) The Houghs were an ancient Cheshire family whose pedigree may be seen in *Ormerod*, Vol. II., p. 552. Thornton Hough is named after them.
 (2) An illegitimate daughter, of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, the renowned *Malleus Monachorum*.
 (3) This is probably the well-known Christopher Goodman. A full account of him may be found in the *Journal of the Chester Archæol. Soc.* Vol. I. p. 136.

Thoma Wryght pro xls.....iid.
 Ricco hursleare pro xls.....iid.
 Joho Rimmer [P] pro xxs.....id.

CALDEY GRANGE.

Thoma Lynnaere pro iiiiii.....iiiiid.
 Henrico Wayrington pro xx.....id.
 Joho Lynnaere pro xxs.....id.
 Margareta Coventre pro iiiiii.....iiiiid.
 Willmo Coventre pro xls.....iid.
 Elisabethe Lynnaere pro xxs.....id.
 Richardo Totty pro xxs.....id.

(To be continued.)

THE WILL OF RICHARD SHERLOCK, D.D.

[129] See No. 117—September 24th.)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen. The fourteenth daye of June, in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred eighty and nine, I, Richard Sherlock, Dr. of Divinity, of the Church of England Priests, and Rector of Winwick, being tho' far in years y. t (God be blesse) of sound mind and perfect memory, and mindfull of the great account I must give up before the just Judge of the world of all my actions and enjoyments in this present life in order thereunto I do make this my last will and Testament, Revoking all other by these presents heretofore declared by mee either in word or writing. **FIRST**, In all humility and godly sorrow for my sins, my many, very many sins, both of my youth and riper age, I do bequeath my soul into the mercifull hands of my dear Redeemer, who offered up his innocent soul a sacrifice for my soul and for the many sinfull pollutions thereof. All which I humbly beg may be washed away through faith in his blood which was shed for them. **SECONDLY**, as to this corruptible body of mine (when dead) that the stench thereof may not offend the senses of the living I desire it may be buried in such decent manner as by my executors shall be thought fit betwixt the Chancell and the body of the Church under a stone laid there for that end with this inscription upon the stone in Brass *EXUVIÆ RICHARDI SHERLOCK, D.D., INDIGNISSIMI HOJUS ECCLESIAE RECTORIS. OBÛT 20^o die Junii Anno Ætatis 76, Annoque Domini 1689. Sal infatunatum conculcate.* **THIRDLY**, As to that temporal Estate of goods Chattells and debts that god hath been pleased to bestow upon mee, I do order give and bequeath the same as followeth. **INPRIMIS**. Instead of a Doal at my funerall I bequeath to the Poor one hundred and fifteen pounds To be thus distributed Immediately upon my funerall (vizt) To the poor of Winwick and Holme ten pounds To the rest of the poor of the parish of Winwick fifteen pounds. To the poor of Warrington parish ten pounds. To the poor of Prescot parish ten pounds. To the poor of Wigan Parish Ten Pounds. To the poor of Leigh parish ten pounds. To the poor of Eccles parish ten pounds. To the poor of Wood Church parish in

(1) The dates were filled in after the testator's death.

Werrall twenty pounds. To the poor of the Citty of Chester twenty pounds. In all one hundred and fifteen pounds. And towards the finishing of the free school of Warrington I give five pounds.

(To be Continued.)

[190] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 125—October 8.)

Baptismes 1682.

- (1) George son of Geo Bennet de Sanghall-Massey, Bapt. July 10th.
Margaret dau of Sam Price de Bidston Nov. 5.
- (2) Daniel and Thomas, twins, sons of John Charnocke de Woodside Nov 27th.
William son of Paul Kington de Ford Dec 14.
Martha dau of Thos Hiccock de Birkenhead Wood, Feb 15th.
Thos son of Thos Newbot de Sanghall-Massey, March 1st.
William son of Richard Kitchens de Moreton, March 6th.

Noe Marriages 1682.

(3) Burials, 1682.

- Margaret dau of John Upshon de Moreton buried April 19.
 Alice Oards de Bidston, widdow, April 28rd.
 Margaret Watt de Sanghall-Massey, May 2.
 Hannah dau of Samuel Lea de Sanghall-Massey, May 13.
 Ellen Dod de Moreton, widdow, May 19th.
 John son of Samuel Lea de Sanghall-Massey, May 27th.
 Peter Bennet de Bidston, Orphan, June 29th.
 Mary Cranadge de Birkenhead, Orphan, June 29th.
 Thos son of Thos Newbot de Sanghall-Massey, July 22nd.
 Daniel son of Daniel Peacocke de Sanghall-Massey, August 14th.
- (4) William son of George Bennet de Sanghall-Massey, August 28th.
Margaret dau of Thos Robinson de Oxton, September 30th.

(1) Vide Burials May 11, 1683.

(2) Vide Burials November xxix and December viii, 1682.

(3) On the 10th April of this year, the will of "WILLIAM WILSON of Cloughton yeoman," was proved by his widow and relict Anne Wilson.

In his will, which is dated 3th September 1677, he mentions, "my wife Anne Wilson"—"my children Richard Wilson, Thomas Wilson, Ann Hiccock, William and John Wilson," and leaves, "to my sonne Richard's children one littell heffer," "to each of my sonne Thomas' children one shillinge a-peece," and to "my sonne Richard the fore Lowerfields" [the present Birkenhead Park covers part of these fields].

His personality was valued at £43. 13. 4 by Henry William-son and Robert Heale (?) on the 10th April 1678.

(4) This George Bennet occurs as a freeholder in Sanghall Massey, in a list of the Freeholders of Wirral dated 1668.

Margaret wife of Arthur Rathbone de Moreton, October 4th.

Margaret wife of Thos Gill de Moreton, October 17th.

- (1) Thomas son of John Charnock de Woodside, November 29th.

Alice wife of Michael Kempe de Moreton, November 30.

- (2) Daniel son of John Charnock de Woodside December 8th.

Henry son of George Bennet de Sanghall Massey, Feb 7.

John Eaton, Minister.

John Rathbone } Church

James Anderton } Wardens.

OCTOBER 22nd, 1892.

[181] THE WILL OF RICHARD SHERLOOK, D.D.

(Continued from No. 129—October 15th).

My Will and mind is that all sums of money that have by mee been laid out for the povers stock of bread and are concluded Irrecoverable shall be paid by my executors, So that all given and laid out for that use by mee and others be made Three hundred pounds compleat to be layd upon land for the use of the poor for ever. ITEXM to my cousen (3) Thomas Sherlock I do freely give him his bond of twenty five pounds which he owes unto mee. To Anne his now wife five pounds, Amongst all his children fifty pounds Twenty pounds whereof to my god son John, and to Henry, Thomas, and Cicely Ten pounds a piece which must be paid At or before they come to age as my Executors shall think fit. Moreover to my godson John Sherlock I order that the Lease be renewed for Hunt's house in Oxton, and that he succeed his ffather in it. ITEXM I do bequeath to my Cousen William Sherlock of Oxton in Werrall ten pounds, But my executors are to clear the rent of his house therewith for one year. And I give to his now wife fifty shillings. And hereby I order that the Lease for Oxton house be renewed for the use and behoof of Richard Sherlock, his son, and that the Debts intrusted with Mr. Crane and Mr. Willett be employed for the taking of the said lease. Howbeit my will is that William Sherlock the father shall enjoy it whilst he payes duely the Lords rent which is ten pounds per Annum, And that fifty pounds be put forth for the use and benefit of William Sherlocks children, his son Richard and the rest proportionably to be paid At or before they come to their age as my Executors shall think best. ITEXM I give to my Cousen, Richard Sherlock, of Oxford, Twenty pounds and ten pounds amongst his children, in all Thirty pounds. ITEXM I give to Samuell Aynsworth,

my Steward, Twenty pounds, and to Mary, his wife, Thirty pounds, and to each of his children five pounds a piece. ITEXM I give to my brothers Nathaniell and Jonathan Wilson, and to my Cousen, John Wilson, of Williston, to each ten pounds (vist) thirty pounds in all to be bestowed amongst their respective children. And moreover, To my nephew, Thomas Wilson (1), being my Curate, I do give Ten pounds with a mourning Ring of twenty shillings price. ITEXM to Margaret Bennet, of Holme, I give Twenty pounds, and to my servant Thomas frith ten pounds, And to Alice Pickering forty shillings, in all Thirty-two pounds. ITEXM I do give to him that shall preach my funeral Sermon two pounds (2) and a mourning ring of twenty shillings price. To William Ellam Clerk twenty shillings. To Adam Orford Sextons ten shillings. ITEXM I give to Elizabeth Lunt five pounds. And to Ralph Cook five pounds, But to be bestowed upon them at my executor's discretion. And to each of my servants that have lived above twelve months with me twenty shillings a piece. ITEXM I do desire that Mr. Thomas Bennet Attorney in the Exchequer of Chester and Mr. Henry Prescott Deputy Register of the Ecclesiastical Court would distribute the Twenty pounds ordered to the poor of Chester; and that each of them have a Ginney for their pains. ITEXM I do order that if the arrears due to mee from Mr. Widdowes for the Tythes of Lowton be discharged, That then five pounds shall be returned thereupon. ITEXM It is my will that the remainder of my Estate shall be equally divided to the families of Thomas Sherlock of Winwick, William Sherlock of Oxton in Werral, Richard Sherlock of Oxford, and Samuell Aynsworth my steward for the use of all their respective children, and that each family have its proportion whether the children be more or less. LASTLY I do constitute and ordains Mr. Thomas Crane and my nephew Thomas Wilson, my Curates, Mr. Henry Byrom of Lowton, and Christopher Boardman of Rislely, Executors of this my last Will and Testament, and do bequeath to each of them five pounds a piece with mourning Rings to each of the four besides the charges in the execution of the same. Whereunto I have set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

(Signed) RICHARD SHERLOCK

Signed, Sealed and Published in the presence of Jonah Cropper, Peter Eden, John Gerard.

[182] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 180.—October 15th.)

BAPTISMES 1683.

Henry son of Stephen Wilcocke de Moreton, baptised April 1st.

Mary daughter of Richard Wilson de Clough-ton, May 6th.

(1) Vide Christenings November xxvii same year
(2) Vide Christenings November xxvii same year.
(3) He is said to be nephew to the testator in the inventory.

(1) Afterwards Bishop of Sodor and Man.
(2) The funeral sermon, preached by the Rev. Thomas Crane, one of his curates, was printed in 1690 for Phillip Burton, bookseller in Warrington.

- Margaret daughter of Timothy Wilson de Heathside, May 13.
 Mary daughter of John Eaton de Claughton (clerk), May 29.
 Nehemiah son of John Wilson de Claughton (mariner), June 19.
 (1) Ralph son of Ralph Langford and Eliza Pemberton de Moreton, illegitimate. June 23
 (2) Elizabeth daughter of Robert Gill de Brumbroe, June 28.
 Sayers son of Peter Shaw de Mfabrick, August 12th
 Mary dau. of Hugh Edwards de Moreton, September 16th
 Margery dau. of Thomas Knowles de Ford, Sept. 30.
 Henry son of Henry Newby de Woodside, Oct. 4.
 Ellen dau. of James Anderton de Pastureside, Oct 28.
 Martha dau. of Richard Gill de Moreton, November 11.
 Samuel son of Samuel Lea de Saughall-Massey, Nov 18.
 Martha daughter of Samuel Sharp de Claughton November 27.
 John son of John Ormston de Moreton Jan 10.
 (8) Martha dau. of Thomas Kemp de Moreton, Feb. 5.

MARRIAGES 1683.

- (4) Thomas Kemp and Alice Whitfield both of the Parish of Bidston married by publication of bannes, April 8.
 (5) John Waring of the Parish of Sephton (clerk) and Hannah Potter of Prescot Parish were married August 12th by licence dated August 11th
 Daniel Dod and Elizabeth Truman both Bidston Parish by publication Aug 14.

BURIALS, 1683.

- Thomas son of Thos Lea de Moreton, buried April 5th
 William Kemp de Bidston, April 30.
 Elizabeth wife of Richard Goguel de Moreton, April 29.
 (6) George son of George Bennet de Saughall Massey, May 8.
 Ann Calvin de Moreton, Widdow, June 2nd.

(1) Ralph Langford was the son of Thomas Langford of Moreton, and seems to have displeased his father,—possibly this entry explains the cause of displeasure—as he is only bequeathed the sum of one shilling by his father, in his will (q.v) proved in 1696.
 (2) *Vide* Weddings May xxiii, 1681.
 (3) *Vide* Weddings April viii and burials, Mar. ii same year.
 (4) *Vide* Christenings Feb. v and burials March ii following
 (5) The Potters of Prescot were related by marriage to the Bennets of Saughall Massey.
 (6) *Vide* Christenings July x, 1682.

- (1) Margaret Eccleston de Broom-yate, widdow. October 4th
 (2) Thomas Ormston de Liverpool, November 29th.
 Ann Davies de Moreton, December 16th.
 William son of Arthur Godwin de Saughall-Massey, Dec. 30.
 Mary Hamnet de Upton, widdow, January 1.
 (8) John Charnock de Ford, January 23.
 Ellen wife of John Truman de Bidston, Feb. 8.
 Mary Wilson de Claughton, Feb. 16.
 (4) Martha dau. of Thomas Kemp de Moreton March 2.

John Eaton, Minister.
 Thomas Wilson, } Church
 Thomas Harrison, } Wardens.

OCTOBER 29th, 1892.

[183] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

(Continued from No. 128—October 15th.)

BIDDYSTON.

- Richardo Wylcooke pro iiii boniiiiid
 Willmo Parbolt pro iiiiiiiiid
 Willmo Hollande pro iiii.....iiiiid
 Willmo Shurlesacre pro iiiiiiiiid
 Richardo Hancock pro xxsid
 Georgio Shurlesacre pro iiii.....iiiiid
 Ranulpho Taylyer pro iiiiiiiiid
 Martyno Deane pro viixd
 Johe Blackborne pro iiiiiiiiid
 Johe Wylcooke pro iiiiiiiiid

GRUVESBY.

- Thoma Younge pro iiiiiiiiid
 Richardo Younge pro iiiiiiiiid
 Elsbethe Younge pro xxsid
 Elena Coventre pro xxsid
 Richardo Harrison pro iiiiiiiiid
 Elena Harrison pro xlsiid

(1) In her will dated 30 August in this year, "MARGARET ECCLESTON OF Broomyate" leaves small bequests to "James Eccleston and his wife," "John Stringer's [of Tranmere] wife," "Margery wife of John Bennet," Henry Lunt and his wife," "John Briscoe Junior and Dorothy Briscoe," "Ric Yoxon Junior" [of Bebington] and makes her daughter Mary her residuary legatee and executrix.
 Witness: Richard Yoxon,
 John Eaton.

Inventory of "Margaret Eccleston of Birkett head," valued at £11 by Thos Robinson, Richard Yoxon and Jas Eccleston.
 (2) On the 1st of March of this year an Inventory was filed of the goods of THOMAS UAMSTON, shipwright, of Liverpool, late deceased, valued by Ric Young and Henry Robinson, yeomen of Wallasey.

Administration of his goods was granted 5th March same year to Anne Urnston, widow and relict.
 (3) On the 27th November, 1686, the right of Titulion of John Charnock, aged 10, Richard Charnock, aged 8, and Daniel Charnock, aged 3, sons of John Charnock, late of Bidston, was granted to Hester Charnock, widow and relict of said John Charnock, and at the same time administration of the goods of the said John Charnock was granted to her.

(4). *Vide* Weddings April viii, and Christenings Feb. v same year.

Willmo Harrison pro xls.....iid
 Nicho Gobbyn pro iiiiii.....iiiiid
 Rogero Newbott pro iiiiii.....iiiiid
 Thoma Maddocke pro xls.....iid
 Robert Wauerton pro iiiiii.....iiiiid
 Juhe Lynnacre pro xls.....iid
 Johe Syche pro xxx.....iid
 Willmo Gobbyn pro iiiiii.....iiiiid

(To be continued.)

[184] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 183—October 22nd.)

BAPTISMS, 1684.

Daniel son of John Charnock de Ford,
 Baptized April 20.
 Mary daughter of Thomas Lea de Saughall-
 Massey, July 27.
 Mary daughter of Daniel Dod de Bidston
 August 17.
 Rebekah daughter of Wm. Liversage de
 Saughall-Car, Sept. 11.
 Thomas son of Richard Edwards de Moreton,
 Oct. 19.
 (1) John son of John Grooms de Claughton
 (Clerk), Nov. 20.
 Henry son of Arthur Goodwin de Saughall-
 Massey, Dec. 4.
 John son of George Martin de Saughall-Car,
 Dec. 30.
 Hannah daughter of Robert Leaver de Wood-
 side, Jan. 28.

(2) Noe Marriages 1684.

BURIALS, 1684.

Anne Parboe de Claughton, buried Mar. 28.
 Margaret Ormston de Moreton, April 19.
 John Robinson de Claughton, May 1st.
 (3) William Lea de Moreton, Excom. May 8.
 Anne dan. of James Anderton de Moreton
 June 22.
 Anne Taylor de Bidston, Widdow, August 3.
 (4) James Bird de Moreton, August 22.
 Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Charnock de
 Birkenhead Leas, August 27.

(1) The Rev. John Groom or Grooms, was the Rector of Thurston from 1669 to 1679, when he resigned.

(2) The following entry occurs in the Eastham Register this year: Joseph Gnest, of the Parish of Malpas, and Anne Williamson, of Berckett Wood, by a licence, May 12.

(3) The following extract from a document at the Record Office, quoted by Urwick in "Cheshire Nonconformity," p. xviii., explains why William Lea was excommunicated: "At Northwich, September 4th, 1665, it is ordered that Thomas Harrison, of the City of Chester, Mr. Trevis, Mr. Bullen, of the same city, and Mr. Blackwell, of Bidston, be forthwith secured and kept prisoners till further orders; and that security be taken for the peaceable demeanour of Mr. Jolly, of the City of Chester, Robert Wilson, of Bidston, Thomas Pick, John Linaker, and Peter Cade, of Frankby, George Ball, of Irby, William Lee, of Moreton, etc."

There was a very strong Nonconformist party at Bidston, about this time, who no doubt attended the Presbyterian Chapel in the neighbouring village of Upton.

(4) Administration of the goods of JAMES BIRD of Moreton was granted xxvi Jan 1691 to Rachel Bird daughter of deceased, for the use and behoof of Samuel and Hannah Bird children of deceased.

Esther wife of John Webster de Moreton,
 October 1.
 Robert son of Wm. Bennett de Moreton,
 Nov. 5.
 Elizabeth wife of James Wagge de Moreton
 Nov. 7.
 Ellen Bridge de Moreton, November 15.
 Elizabeth Joynton de Moreton, widdow,
 November 18.
 Robert Parry de Birkenhead, November 25.
 Elizabeth Williams, a stranger, Dec. 23rd.
 Mary Brooks de Woodside, Dec. 26th.
 Thomas Gill de Moreton, January 1st.
 James Pendleton de Claughton, January 16.
 (1) Frances Watte de Saughall Massey, excom.,
 Feb. 4th.
 (2) Richard Gognel de Moreton, Feb. 26th.
 Dorothy wife of John Walley de Birkenhead,
 Leas., Mar. 15th.

John Eaton, Minister.
 William Bennett } Church-
 Arthur Rathbone } wardens.

BAPTISMS, 1685.

(8) Lydia d. of John Hicock de Claughton, Ap 7.
 (4) Willm s. of Wm Dod de Moreton, Aug 26.
 Robert s. of Robt Gill de Bidston, Aug 18.
 (5) Thos s. of Thos Kemp de Lingham, Oct 18.
 Kath d. of Timothy Wilson de Heathside,
 Nov 24
 Gilbert son of John Ormston de Moreton,
 Jan 8.
 Anne d. of Hugh Edwards de Moreton,
 Feb 14.
 John s. of Stens Wilcoke de Moreton, Feb 26.
 John s. of Sam Sharp de Claughton, Mar 28.

MARRIAGES.

Thos Hancock and Mary Harrison, both of
 Bidston P'ish, by Banus, May 12.
 Robert Maddock of West Kirby and Kather-
 ine Sharp of this P'ish, May 28, by Lic.
 dated May 18.
 (6) John Wilcocke and Mary Day, both of West
 Kirby P'ish, July 19, by Lic dated July 11.
 (7) Thomas Denson and Jane Brookes, both of
 Walton P'ish, July 24, by Lic dated Feb 6.
 (8) Wm Dod and Elizabeth Williams, both of
 Bidston P'ish, by banns, July 28.
 Henry Rimmer de Overchurch and Ellen
 Longley de Bidston P'ish by banns, Aug 30.
 Mattheu Roughley and Mary Nelson of
 Wallezey P'ish, feb 8.

(1) Vide Note (3) previous column.

(2) Administration of the goods of RICHARD GOGNEL late of Moreton, was granted, x March 1684, to Mary Harrison of the same town, relative of the deceased.

This is the last of the family in Bidston Parish, but the name is still preserved at Lingham, (near Leasowe Light-house), where a field is called Gogland's Yard.

(3) Vide burials, June xiv.

(4) Vide weddings, July xxviii.

(5) Vide weddings, April viii, 1683.

(6) John Wilcocke and his wife after their marriage settled at the Bidston Ford in the farm now occupied by Mrs Pemberton on the left hand side of the road as one goes towards Upton, where on the north end of the house are still to be seen John Wilcocke's initials and those of his wife cut in stone over the date 1684.

(7) It must be remembered that Liverpool was in the Parish of Walton at this time.

(8) Vide christenings, August xxvi.

BURIALS.

- Edward Bennett de Bidston, May 21.
 (1) John Grooms de Claughton (clerk) June 4
 (2) Lydia dan. of John Hancock de Claughton June 14
 Thomas Wilson de Claughton, July 2
 William son of Ric Edwards de Moreton, July 2
 Nehemiah son of John Wilson (mariner) de Claughton, July 8
 Thomas son of Ric Edwards de Moreton, July 20
 Mary Gill de Moreton, July 30
 Mary dan. of John Eaton (clerk), Sep 5
 Ellen d. of Thos Dalby de Saughall, Sep 27
 (8) Thomas Wilson de Claughton (mariner), Oct 11
 Mary wife of Ric Gill de Moreton, Oct 28
 Mary Willson de Oxton widow, Oct 24
 Mary d. of Jas Anderton de Moreton, Nov 20
 Mary wife of John Cranage de Hinderton, Dec 14
 Wm son. of Geo Martin de Carr, Dec 22
 Mary d. of Wm Yeuds de Moreton, Dec 31
 Abigail dan. of John Hicock of Claughton, Jan 11
 Sarah Gill de Moreton, Jan 13
 Elizabeth wife of John Upshon de Moreton, Mar 15

John Eaton, Minister.
 Samuel Sharp, Church
 Joseph Philips, Wardens.

NOVEMBER 5th, 1892.

[185] MUSTER ROLL OF MR. HOUGH'S
TENANTRY IN WIRRAL, 1590.

The following Muster Roll from the Mayer collection, the probable date of which is 1590 (certainly not earlier than 1585 nor later than 1592), is interesting as shewing the style of armament upon which England had to depend at the time of the Spanish Armada.

In the xith vol of the *Proceedings of the Hist. Soc of Lanc and Ches.*, are two Muster Rolls of about the same date as this one, which were published together with an interesting paper by the late Joseph Mayer, Esq.

Of the "furniture" alluded to in the document I may mention, that "sallet" and "murrion" describe nearly the same article, *viz.*, a metal cap or

(1) On the 5th August this year, administration of the goods of JOHN GROOM, clerk, (at one time rector of Thurston), but at the time of his death, of Claughton, was granted to Margaret his widow and relict.

(2) *Vide* christenings, April vii.

(3) On the 5th _____, of this year, administration of the goods of THOMAS WILSON, late of Claughton, was granted to John Wilson, brother of deceased.

hat resembling in shape an ordinary hard felt hat only that the rim was flat and narrow; the "scull" was a cap usually made of leather.

NASTON: Ric' Whitte: a bowe, a sheaffe arrowes, sworde, daggar, and scull.
 George Hancock: in like manner Whitte.

WALISAYE: Ric' Stanton: a scull, sworde, daggar, byll, and chacke.
 Wm. Byrde: a byll, sworde, daggar, scull and chacke.

PULTON: Robt Ansdell, a caliver, Flaxtuche box, ou' Szou': sworde, daggar, and murian.
 Widowe Ansdayll, a byll, sworde, salett, daggar, scull and chacke.

THURST': Willm Whitmo', a bowe, a sheaffe of arowes, sworde, daggar, and scull.
 Ric' Ball, a byll, salett, sworde, daggar, and chacke.

Ric' Pyckote, a bowe, a sheaffe of arrowes, sworde, daggar, and scull.

Symonde Byrde, a bowe, salett, sworde, daggar, and chacke.

Willm Hande, a caliver, Flaxtuche boxe, sworde, and daggar.

Edmonde Smythe, a caliver, Flaxtuche boxe, sworde, and daggar.

Widowe Benett, a byll ma' and sufficient furnitur.

ERBY: Thomas Totty, a byll, salett, sworde, daggar and chacke.

TRANMOR: Robert Hulme, a byll, salett, sworde, daggar and jacke.
 Ric' Cowes, a byllma' wyth all furnitur

POULTO': Widowe Dobe, a byll ma' wyth all furnit.
 [SPITTLE] Willm Hulme, a caliver, wyth all furnit.

THORTON: Willm Parre, a byll, salett, sword, daggar and chacke.
 [HOUGH]

Roger Berye, a caliver with all furnit'.

John Goodycare, a caliver with all furnit'.

Nich: Harrysonn, a byllma' with all furnit'.

Thom: Lenarde, a bowe, sheaffe of arowes with all the rest of furnitur.

Geffreye Geompe, a byllma' with all furnit'.

Robert Pemberton, a byllma' with all furnit'.

Hugh Boardman, a byllma' with all furnit'.

Ric' Bursooe, a byllma' with all furnit'.

John Rylands, byllma' with all furnit'.

Ric' Genlon } Betwixt them three a
 Widow Parre } boweman with all
 Thom: Whitlac, e } furnit'.

Rondle Beweman, a byllma' with all furnit'.

James Garterey, a caliver with all furnit'.

John Bellin, a byllma' with all furnit'.

John Worall, a byllma' with all furnit'.

John Leene, a byllma' with all furnit'.

John Dutton, a caliver with all furnit'.

LEIGHTON: Willmo Coocke, a byllma' with all furnit.
Widowe Garatie, a Bowema' with all furnitur.

John Coulton, a byllma' with all furnitur.
Willmo Marrowe, a byllma' with furnitur.

This goodly muster was the force that Mr. Hough, of Thornton Hough put into the field when England was threatened by the Spaniards, and surely is a very creditable performance for one, who as a "Poplish Recusant," was daily being subjected to every conceivable indignity and injustice.

Olaughton. Wm. FRAGUSON IRVING.

[186] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 184—October 29th.)

BAPTISMS 1686.

- Henry } twins, son & daughter of Tho:
and } Hancock de Moreton baptised
Anne } March 29.
Thomas son of Thomas Wilson de Olaughton
(Mariner) April 20th
John son John Eaton de Olaughton (Clerk)
April 27th
Susanna daughter of Thomas Newbot de
Sanghall-Massey, May 2nd
Thomas son of John Wilson de Olaughton,
May 2nd
Samuel son of Samuel Jackson de Morton,
May 13th
Peter son of John Wilson de Olaughton, May
16th
(1) Hannah daughter of John Hicock de Moreton,
May 16th
Joseph } twins, son & daughter of Richard
and } Edwards de Moreton, June 18th
Mary }
Richard son of George Bennet de Sanghall-
Massey, July 15th
(2) Thomas son of Wm Dodd de Moreton, August
1st
Alice daughter of James Wharton de Moreton,
September 5th
Eleanor daughter of John Sayers de Olaughton
October 5th
Thomas son of Thomas Hicock de Birkenhead
Wood, Oct 21st
Peter son of Samuel Lea de Sanghall-Massey
Dec 26
(3) William son of Anne Wilcooke de Olaughton,
illegitimate, baptised September 17th

(1) Vide burials June xiv.
(2) Vide weddings July xxviii 1685-6.
(3) This entry is written along the margin of the Register.

John son of John Whalley de Birkenhead-
Leas, January 24th
Anne daughter of James Anderton de
Moreton, February 2nd
Thomas son of William Liversage de Sanghall-
Carre, February 9th
Lydia daughter of John Leene de Olaughton,
February 24th.
William son of Wm Bennett de Moreton,
March 18th

MARRIAGES.

- James Wagge and Ellen Ensedale both of
Bidston Parish, were married Aug. 19th
(1) John Tompson and Katherine Hayes both of
Walton Parish Octobr 15th
Samuel Briscoe and Margaret Davies of
Bidston Parish Novembr 7th
(2) Hugh Worrall of Eastham Parish and Mar-
garet Bennet of Bidston Parish Jan 1st
(3) Stephen fell of Overchurch and Esther
Charnock of Bidston Parish, January 12th
William Corke and Elizabeth Cook of
Bebington Parish, January 18th

BURIALS.

- (4) Jeremiah son of Robert Wilson de Bidston
(April 5th) buried.
Margaret wife of Joseph Philips de Moreton,
buried April 30th
(5) Hannah daughter of John Hicocke de Moreton
June 14th
Joseph Philips de Moreton, August 20th
Margaret wife of Thomas Lea de Sanghall-
Massey August 26th
John Eaton, Minister.
Nicholas Tubman } Oh: wardens.
George Martin }

(1) Walton Parish contained Liverpool, at this time.
(2) In a Bishop's Visitation Book, preserved at the Episco-
pal Registry at Chester, under date 1686, Hugh Worrall
and his wife, of Eastham, are presented for having been
clandestinely married by the minister at Burton; in the
next book however there is preserved a letter from the
minister denying that he had ever married any people
without either a licence or due publication of banns.
Evidently therefore, either by mistake or wilfully, the
parish church had been reported to the Bishop as Burton
instead of Bidston.
(3) Robert Bennet of Upton in his will dated 1685 (*vide*
p 128, vol xxxviii Trans. Hist Soc. Lanc. & Ches.) left to his
grandson, Stephen Fell his best "shute of clothes and
coate," and to his "son-in-law John Fell 2/6." John Fell
who married Anne Bennet daughter of the above mentioned
Robert Bennet, was a son of Stephen Fell of Bidston by
his wife Jane Wright, (*vide* weddings 1615); and this
Stephen Fell (grandfather of the Stephen mentioned in the
text) was second son of Myles Fell of Bidston (*vide* Wm
Fell's will p 15).
(4) Robert Wilson, as mentioned before was of Bidston
Hall and was a strong Nonconformist, which latter fact
probably accounts for the following document amongst the
Earl of Kilmorey's MSS, (*vide* 10th Rep. Hist. MSS Com. p
363); 1683, July 5, Warrants from Peter Wilbraham, etc., to
Thos. Needham, Esq., captain of a troop of horse, etc.
Warrant to make diligent search for arms in the houses of
Sir Rowland Stanley, Sir James Poole, Wm. Massey of Pod-
ington, Esq., Mr. Glegg of Grange, Mr. Litherland of
Foulton (Beaumont), Mr. Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall
Mr. Thos. Swinton parson of Wallasey, etc.
On July 29, 1683, the Deputy-Lieutenants report that they
have seized 122 guns pistols etc, from various houses,
amongst them "from Swinton Parson of Wallasey and
from Glegg of the Grange."
(5) *Vide* christenings May xvi.

NOVEMBER 12th, 1892.

[187] THE WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1646.

(Continued from No. 183, Oct. 29).

PARVA STANNEX.

Richardo Walton pro xlsiid
 Thoma Semson pro xxsid
 Richardo Hicooke pro xlsiid
 Katherina Bachdale pro xlsiid
 Richardo Milner pro xlsiid
 Willmo Brusco pro liiiiid
 Nieho Gobbyn pro liiiiiiiiid
 Roberto Andrew pro liiiiiid
 Johs Smythe pro liiiiiiiiid
 Thoma Hycooke pro xlsiid
 Willmo Deynson pro liiiiiiiiid
 Willmo Swynley pro liiiiiid
 Johs Hyne pro xlsiid
 Willmo Moldynge pro xxsid
 Johs Kynderton pro xxsia
 Richardo Bachdale pro xlsiid

STOKK.

Thoma Hale pro xlsiid
 Johs Davys pro xlsiid
 Hugone Adam pro xlslii
 Richardo Wade pro xlsiid
 Thoma Grey pro liiiiiiiiid
 Edmundo Harryson pro xlsiid
 Rogero Cowper pro liiiiiiiiid
 Johs Sefton pro xxsid
 Richardo Spenser pro xlsiid
 Henrico Spenser pro xlsii?
 Thoma Jannyn pro xxsid
 Johs Lightfote pro xlsiid
 Rieo Lightfote pro xlsiid
 Roberto Hycooke pro xlsiid

[188] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 186—November 5.)

BAPTISMS, 1687.

Robt son of Wm Morris de Woodside, Mar 31st
 Katherine daughter of Jas Wagge de Moreton
 June 12th
 Jane daughter of Arthur Goodwin de Saughall
 Aug. 1st.
 Joseph son of Joseph Younge de Claughton,
 Aug 16th
 Katherine daughter of John Wilson de
 Claughton, Aug 25th
 Mary daughter of John Little de Moreton,
 Oct 16th
 Thomas son of Thos Ashley de Bidston, Nov
 8th
 Elizabeth daughter of John Sayers de
 Claughton Dec 19th
 John son of John Hicock de Moreton, Dec
 27th

Anne dau of Ric Gill de Moreton, Jan 5th
 Thos son of John Ormston de Morton, Feb
 2nd

MARRIAGES.

Wm Milner of West Kirby Parish and Alice
 Dalby of Bidston Pariah, married June
 23rd

BURIALS.

Katherine daughter of Henry Williamson de
 Claughton, Ap 1st
 Thomas Wilson de Claughton (infant),
 April 5th
 John son of Thos Robinson de Orton, May
 10th
 Lydia daughter of John Leene de Claughton,
 Sept 1st
 Margaret dau of Ric Kitchens de Moreton,
 Sept 3rd
 Elizabeth dau of Ric Kitchens de Moreton
 Sept 9th
 John son of John Kemp de Saughall Carr,
 Oct 20th

(1) William son of Wm Bennet (Junr) de Moreton
 Nov 17th
 John son of John Upshon de Moreton, Nov.
 26th

Anne Wilson de Claughton Widdow, Jan
 8th

Thomas Keiry de Moreton, February 2nd
 Margaret wife of John Kemp de Saughall-
 Carre, Feb 9th

Mary Kingston de Hargreave february
 22nd

John Eaton, Minister.
 William Wilson } Oh.
 Thomas Kemp } Wardens.

BAPTISMS, 1688.

Alice daughter of Thos Hancock de Moreton
 Bapt Ap 24th
 (2) John son of John Webster de Moreton, May
 8th
 Mary daughter of Henry Bird de Moreton,
 May 10th
 Sarah daughter of Timothy Wilson de Heath-
 side, June 5th
 Kath daughter of Stephen Wilcock de Moreton,
 June 17th
 Thos son of Sam. Sharp de Claughton, June
 19th.
 John son of Thos Kemp de Lingham, Sept 11th
 John son of Joseph Charnock de Bidston,
 Sept 27th
 Esther daughter of John Wilcock de Ford,
 Oct 2nd
 Thomas son of Henry Hancock de Moreton,
 Oct 4th
 William son of Wm Bennet de Moreton, Oct 9th

(1.) Vide Christenings March xiii, 1'86-7. William Bennet, Junior (son of Wm. Bennet of Moreton, and his wife Ellen) married, a year or two previous to this, Margaret—; he lived in a house, which is still standing in Moreton Village, on the right hand side of the road as one goes from Upton to the Station, on the chimney stack of which are to be seen the initials, W[illiam], and, M[argaret] B[ennet] over the date, 1690.

(2) Now of Overchurch Hill and Leasowe Bank. The Websters at this time owned considerable landed property in Moreton.

Gerrard son of John Eaton de Claughton (Clerk), Dec 11th
 Martha daughter of Wm Dod de Moreton, Feb 19th
 Rachel daughter of Samuel Lea de Saughall-Massey, Mar 8.

MARRIAGES, 1688.

- (1) John Peacock & Jane Webster, both of Bidston Parish mar May 28 by Licence, dated April 21st, 1688.
 Thomas Shone of West Kirby Parish & Mary Dalby of Bidston Parish, Aug. 19th by Licence dated Aug. 17th.
 John Upshon & Ellen Bennet both of Bidston Parish by Public of Banns, Dec 2nd
 Hugh Haddock & Maudlin Hughes of Bidston by Public of Banns, Dec 27th.
 Wm Cook de Bebington & Martha Peacock de Bidston Parish Jan 27th, by Licence dated Jan 26th.

BURIALS 1688.

- (2) John Fell de Bidston buried April 12.
 Margaret Wilson de Heathside April 16.
 Jane Wilcock de Moreton April 22.
 Alice dau of Thos Hancock de Moreton Ap 27.
 Margaret wife of Hugh Roberts de Saughall-Carre June 11.
 Thos son of Sam Sharp de Claughton June 26.
 Mary Erby de Moreton widdow July 8.
 Margaret Bennet de Moreton widdow Sept 16.
 Margery Lea de Saughall-Massey Sept 26.
 Rebekah wife of Thomas Liversage de Saughall-Carre Sept 26.
 Catherine dau of Stephen Wilcock de Moreton Oct 15.
 John son of Joseph Charnock de Bidston Oct 15.
 John Whital servant to Samuel Sharp de Claughton Oct 28.
 Richard Lea de Saughall-Massey Dec 17.
 John Little de Moreton Jan 21.
 Richard Kitobens de Moreton Mar 5.
 John Eaton, Minister.
 John Truman } Ob.
 Sam Jackson } Wardens.

(1) The Peacocks were a family of considerable substance at this time, and during the course of the following century owned the advowson of Woolchurch from whom it descended by heirs female to the present Rector, the Reverend Canon Robin. The John Peacock mentioned in the text, lived in a house, still standing in Saughall-Massey, on the right hand side of the road as one goes towards Moreton, where, within a florid border, are cut the initials, [John and [Jane] Peacock] over the date 1714.

(2) John Fell lived in the house just below the Church, as one goes towards Moreton, which has been since immortalized by Albert Smith, in "Christopher Tadpole Whether at this time it bore the sign of "The Ring o' Bells." I cannot say, but, as in the survey from which I get my information, [dated 1665, with additions in a later hand to 1770], John Fell is not credited with any lands except a garden at the rear of the house, it seems most probable that he earned his livelihood as an innkeeper. John Fell was succeeded by his son Stephen Fell.

There was no alehouse in Bidston in 1550, but one is mentioned in 1750, so that it is not at all unlikely that one was in existence at this date.

NOVEMBER 19th, 1892.

[139] BROMBOROUGH IN 1762.

The parish of Bromborough in the Hundred of Wirral, and County of Chester, is bounded on the south by Eastham, and on the east by the river Mersey, and on the north and west by Bebington. One township belonging to this parish called *Brimstage*, is entirely separated from the rest. The extent of Bromborough township is not much above a mile in length, and in breadth is nearly the same. The soil is much of the same nature as in Eastham parish, and the produce is alike, the rock lying very near the surface of the earth in the parts near the sea. The church (1) only consists of two small isles and a chancel: there is a wooden steeple at the west end which contains only one small bell. The two families of *Mainwaring* and *Hardware* bury in it.

Bromborough is an appropriated rectory, all the tithes of which belong to *Charles Mainwaring, Esq.*, who pays a pound rate to the Dean and Chapter of *Chester*, and they allow the Vicar of *Eastham* six pounds *per annum* to preach here once a month. He hath also the surplice fees and *Queen Anne's* bounty.

The seats in the parish are *Bromborough Hall*, built by *John Bridgman*, a Bishop of *Chester* in the last century, and now belonging to the said *Mr. Mainwaring*, who hath lately rebuilt it in part; and the *Court House*, a seat of the *Hardware*, sold to the same gentleman's father.

In a wood in the township of Bromborough there is a well whose waters petrify moss, leaves, &c. after lying in it some time, in a beautiful manner. A kind of reptiles called by the inhabitants *long worms* is very common here in the sandy lanes and hedges, and a poor girl who lived here once fed one of them, which became so tame as to creep round her arm and receive its food from her without injuring her.

There was formerly a Presbyterian meeting (2) in *Bromborough* chiefly supported by the *Hardware* family, but at present that sect is in a manner extinct, the inhabitants being mostly of the Established Church, except a few papists who resort to *Hooton* in *Eastham* parish for the performance of their worship.

The people are a hardy race, and live upon the coarsest fare, as the inhabitants of these parts chiefly do. I have formerly observed a particular custom of changing the letter *q* into a *w* at the beginning of words; thus they pronounce the word *quick* as if it were spelt *wick*; they also pronounce the words that end with *ll* as if they were spelt with *au*.

(1) This Church was partly of Norman Architecture. A Norman door is figured in Ormerod. This ancient church was destroyed in 1823.

(2) Information respecting the Bromborough Presbyterians is to be found in *Urwick's Nonconformity in Cheshire* pp. 83-88. The famous Matthew Henry was related to the *Hardware*s, and was accustomed to stay with them at the Courthouse.

There are also the remains of an old cross 1) in the middle of the village, on which a dial is now placed. The great road between *Chester* and the woodside ferry opposite *Liverpool* leads through this village. There is a bridge built over *Bromborough* pool which separates this parish from *Bebbington*, and is formed of an influx of the waters of the river *Mersey* and together with the adjacent woods and rocks, a water-mill and serpentine current of fresh water make a beautiful landscape. A gentleman and lady some years since, passing over the bridge in a chaise, the horses took fright, and went over a wall at the end of the bridge; but the shafts of the chaise breaking, the gentleman and lady were providentially saved.

I believe the tythes and some lands in this parish once belonged to the Abbey of *Chester* (2), for have seen a pedigree of the *Spanns* (3), once a considerable family in this parish, in which some of that family are said to have held lands of the Abbot of *Chester*, and the rents now paid to the dean and chapter of that Cathedral seem to confirm my conjecture. INGENUUS.

Dec. 18, 1762.

From Gentleman's Magazine, 1762.

[140] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 138—November 12.)

BAPTISMS, 1689.

- William son of William Erby de Moreton, baptised Mar 31st
- Richard son of Richard Gill de Moreton, July 28rd
- (4) Robert son of Daniel Wilson de Lingham, Aug 18th
- (5) Esther dau of Thomas Hancock de Moreton, Aug 25th
- Jane dau of Stephen Wilcock de Moreton, Sept 1st
- Mary dau of Wm Liversage de Saughall-Carre Oct 6th
- Mary dau of Samuel Sharp de Claughton, Oct 15th
- Anne dau of John Wilson de Claughton, Nov 4th

(1) This was restored by Sir G. Gilbert Scott in 1874.
 (2) The manor of Bromborough was granted by Earl Randle Germans to the Abbey of St. Werburgh.
 (3) The *Spanns* only became extinct in the parish during the present century, when their heirs carried the property to Mr. Whitlaw. The picturesque residence of the family is still standing. It is now occupied by Mr. Harwood.
 (4) This entry is made in a different handwriting from the rest of the Register, along the margin of the page, evidently at a later date; the explanation is probably that since Daniel Wilson (who was a son of Robert Wilson of Bidston Hall) was at this time a Presbyterian, he had his children baptised at the Chapel in Upton, but after his father's death in 1697, he conformed to the Establishment and entered the dates of the births of his children in the Register with his own hand. *Vide* burials November ix.
 (5) Daughter of Thos. Hancock of Moreton by his second wife, Henry Hancock of Moreton, in his will dated 1704, leaves bequests to "my honored father Thomas Hancock" and "my fathers daughter Esther Hancock when she attain the age of 16 years."

- Arthur son of Arthur Godwin de Saughall-Massey, Nov 14th
- Thomas son of Henry Smith de Moreton, November 21st
- Esther dau of Stephen Fell de Ford, Nov 28th
- Anthony son of John Wright de Birkenhead, Dec 2nd
- Thomas son of John Sayers de Claughton, Dec 15th
- Esther } twins, daughters of John Peacock de
& Saughall-Massey, Dec 21st
- Ellen }
- Peter son of Gryffith Jones de Saughall-Massey, Jan 14th
- (2) Edward son of Nicholas Tubman de Ford, Feb 11th
- William son of John Ormston de Moreton, Feb 18th

MARRIAGES, 1689.

- (8) Kendrick Jones and Alice Kemp, married June 21st
- (4) Nicholas Tubman of Bidston and Elizabeth Gill of Woodchurch Parish, Sep. 8rd
- Ralph Lyon and Mary Ball of Thurstanton Parish, Sept. 10th
- James Metcalfe and Elizabeth Wilson of Wallesey Parish, Dec. 9th

BURIALS, 1689.

- (5) Alice Whiteside de Bidston, widdow, buried March 31st
- Thomas Wright de Saughall-Massey, June 22nd
- Catherine wife of John Rathbone de Moreton, Oct. 17th
- Mary wife of Thomas Hancock de Moreton, Oct. 24th
- (6) Robert son of Daniel Wilson de Moreton, November 9th
- Hugh Worrall de Moreton, Dec. 10th
- Richard son of Richard Gill de Moreton, December 27th
- (7) Esther and Ellen, twins, daughters of John Peacock de Saughall-Massey, Jan. 8th
- Margaret Ormston de Moreton, widdow, Feb. 5th
- John Hicock de Moreton, March 1st
- Thomas Pemberton de Holt-Hill, March 16th
- John Eaton, Minister.
- John Wilson } Oh.
- Wm. Liversage } Wardens.

(1). *Vide* burials, January viii.
 (2). *Vide* weddings, September iii.
 (3). Kendrick Jones appears to have been a clerk in Holy Orders, since, under date 1682, we find the following entry in the *Eastham Registers*:—"Johannes Day et Elizabetha Robinson de Eastham conjuncti fuerunt in matrimonio clandestina per Kenrick Jones in Carcere die Aprilis 9 die." (P. 120 *The Eastham Registers, edited by Rev. F. Sanders.*) He lived in West Kirby parish. Several of his children were christened there from 1690 onwards.
 (4) *Vide* christenings, February 11th following.
 (5). Alice Whiteside lived in the house now occupied by Mr. Poyall, and only rented one field which is described as "ye croft nexte ye Lords stable,"—"ye Lords stable" now being used as cow-house and barn in the Hall farm. She was the widow of John Whiteside, of Bidston, who died previous to 1655.
 It is interesting to notice that Jane Wilcocks, of Bidston, in her will dated 1649, leaves to John Whiteside, of Bidston, "the corne now growing in the little croft neare unto my Lord's stables."
 (6). *Vide* christenings August xviii.
 (7). *Vide* christenings December xii.

NOVEMBER 26th, 1892.

[141] WIRRAL GENTRY IN 1579.

THE NAMES OF ALL AND SINGULAR KNIGHTS,
ESQUIRES, GENTLEMEN, & FREEHOLDERS
IN COM: CESTRIÆ.

[Harleian MSS. 1424 and 1605.]

An^o. 1579, 22^o Elis.

WIRRAL HUNDRED.

- (1) Sr Rowland Stanley of Hooton, Knt.
- (2) George Massey of Podington [Puddington] Esqr.
- (3) John Poole of Poole, Esqr.
- (4) William Hough of Leighton, Esqr.
- (5) Thomas Bunbury [Bunbury] of Stanney, Esqr.
- (6) William Glegg of Gaiton [Gayton], Esqr.
- (7) John Whitmore of Thurstanton, Esqr.
- (8) John Hocknell [Hockenhull] of Prenton, Esqr.
- (9) Robert Parr of Bakford [Backford], Esqr.
- (10) John Meles (Miles) [Meols] of Meles [Meols] gen.
- (11) John Netherland [Litherland] gen.
- (12) Christopher Bennett of Sang[h]all [Massey] [yeoman].

(1) Sir Rowland Stanley was the second son of Sir William Stanley of Hooton and Storeton, by Grace, daughter of Sir Wm Griffiths of Penrhyn and was born in or about 1517. He married three times, 1st Margaret daughter of Hugh Aldersey of Chester, 2nd Ursula daughter of Sir Thomas Smith of Hough and 3rdly Joan Brown of Capenhurst. He died at Oldfield in the parish of Heswall and was buried at Eastham on April 23 1614, at the age of 96.

(2) George Massey, of Puddington, born in or about 1532, buried at Burton 15 September 1600; married Dorothy daughter of Thomas Pigot of Chetwynd.

(3) John Poole of Poole, died 5 December and buried at Eastham, 13 December 1613. He married twice, first Susanna daughter of Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth and secondly, Katherine daughter of John Minshull of Minshull.

(4) William Hough of Leighton and Thornton Hough, died 10 February 27 Elizabeth. He married Jane, base daughter of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, the renowned *Malleus Monachorum*.

(5) Thomas Bunbury of Stanney, died 5 May 1631, buried at Stoke on the 11th of May. He married Bridget daughter of John Aston of Aston, Esquire.

(6) William Glegg of Gayton, buried at Heswall 5th December 1592. He married Mary daughter and co-heiress of Edward Plankeny of Chester, by which alliance the Rectorial Tithes of Bidston passed into the Glegg family.

(7) John Whitmore of Thurstanton married first Katherine daughter of Sir Wm Stanley of Hooton, Kt, and secondly, Margaret daughter of — More, Esq.

(8) John Hockenhull of Prenton, died 23 April 1590. He married Margaret daughter of Peter Hockenhull of Hockenhull Esquire.

(9) Robert Parr married Eleanor daughter of Robert Langton of — Co Lanc. He was son of Wm Parr of Backford by his wife Elizabeth dan and heiress of Thos Barrow of Chester.

(10) John Meols of Meols and Wallasey died 14 Nov. 34 Elizabeth (1592). He married at Burton 5th May, 1559 Katherine daughter of Wm Massey of Puddington Esquire, He was buried at Wallasey.

(11) John Litherland of Wallasey. The Litherlands were a family of some position in the hundred at this time and held a third part of the Manor of Wallasey. There was a John Litherland, gent, living at Wallasey in 1625 (*Vide Subsidy Roll*, p 47).

(12) Christopher Bennet of Saughall-Massey. This is possibly the Christopher Bennet, who was born in 1518 and married first Mary daughter of Lawrence Bold of Upton and secondly Isabella daughter of Edward Ogil of Whiston, Co. Lanc, tho' in the printed pedigree (*Vol. xxxviii Trussell, Hist. Soc. of L. & C.*), he is said to have died in 1555.

- (13) Robert Bould [Bold] of Upton, gen.
- (14) Thomas Doe of [Great] Saug[h]all, [yeoman] John Kirkes of Lea [yeoman]. William Lancaster of Newton [yeoman].
- (15) Richard Coventry of Mullington [Mollington?], [yeoman]. John Cawde [Caldy] of Great Neston [yeoman].

Yours, etc.,
J. PAUL BLANDA.

[142] THE WIRRAL LICENSING SESSIONS
FOR 1561.

Perhaps the most interesting series of documents from the Mayer collection is one relating to the licensing of Public Houses for Wirral in the third year of Queen Elizabeth.

The series commences with a document containing 18 rules dealing with the question, laid down by the assembled Justices of the Peace for the County, and is followed by an addition to the rules made a week or two later, and finally by a complete list of the licenses granted, some 57 in all; this list is very complete, there being 3 different copies of it amongst the documents, in one of which the names of the sureties are added to each name:

ARTYCOLES AGREED UPON be the com'on consente of all the Justyces of the Shyre at Northwyche the xix daye of June in the iij yere of the Queenes Reygne.

FRAISE: Non be permittyd to kepe lodgyngs or vyttallynge tylls they be bounde severally with iij suffyciente suretyes in xl poundes to thys condition hereafter wrytten; that ys yf the above bounden A.B. duryng the tyme he kepe Ale-house typpelyngs or vyttuallynge house do not use nor suffre to be used in hys house ani unlawfull game or games p'hibyted be ani lawe or statute of thys realme, or supporte ani offendor or offendors therein with meate drynke or lodgyngs nor also receipte ani stollen goodes or cattalles nor lodge supporte or maintayns ani suspected person or persons notoriously known or reputed for such nor also use nor suffer to be used ani mysorder or lyke rule within hys house contrary to the sayd lawes and statutes that then or else etc:

ITEM: That the said bundes shalbe taken and certyfied to the counceille afore the iiii day of Julie nexte.

ITEM: At the time of the takyngs of the sayd bundes to swere all cunstables to present the names of all that have at ain tyme syns afore last, within there townshypes kept lodgyngs or vyttaling houses.

(13) This should doubtless be Peter Bold, as no Robert appears in any of the pedigrees. He died 25 Oct 1606, he married Margerie (? Mary) dan of Arthur Glegg of Gayton.

(14) The Does of Saughall, were a family of some importance for several centuries. In the Subsidy Roll for 1625 (p. 52), a James Doe of Little Saughall appears as holding land in that township.

(15) Richard Coventry was buried at Backford in 1588 and was the son of William Coventry of Grange, Parish of West Kirby, by his wife Jane daughter and heiress of Wm Robinson of Chester. He married Margaret daughter and heiress of Thomas Jump of Saughall.

ITEM: That all they who shalbe found upon the sayd presentment to have lodged or solded ani kynde of vyttalle synse after lutt, of theyre owne auctorytye without lycence and beyng unbunden shalbe immediatly apprehended and comytted to the Gayle there to receive punyshament accordyng to the statute with out favore.

ITEM: That such a presentment take place once every month.

ITEM: That the constables also present such persons other than ale-house-keepers who lodge vagabonds or suspects or suffer "gamyng in their houses or groundes."

ITEM: That the constables shalbe sworne that yf ani beggar or vagabonde of what estate so ever he be, come within ani of theyr townshypes other than such as be lycensed, under the common seale of the same hundred, that the sayd constables shall stocke and whyppe all suche accordyng to the statute and theys articles to take effect from and after the iij o Julie.

ITEM: That common and known frequenters of gaming houses be bound over to "good aberynge."

ITEM: That licenses be only issued by the common consent of all the Justices whose names are subscribed.

ITEM: Y ys agreed that Randall Warren gentyllman shall have lybertye tyll Myghelmas unbunden to utter hys wyne kepynge good ordre in hys house in the mean whyle.

ITEM: That there shalbe no love ales, bonfyers, nor other unlawfull assemblies upon payne of imprisonment of the conspyrars of the same there to contynewe without menepryse the space of viii dayes.

ITEM: That no seale of Testimonyall for ani respect shalbe admytted excepte yt be ether the great seale of England or ye seale in ye Marches of Wales.

ITEM: That everye Justice shall afore the iv of Julie, revoke and take unto hys handes and cancell all such recognisances that hathe beene heretofore taken for synynge that ani information of the same recognisance be afore the iiii daye of Julie.

John Savage Kt., Rauffe Egerton, Vic Com-Oestr, Peter Leghe, William Dampont, Edmund Fytton, Hugh Cholmondley, Urion Brereton, Phyllpe Egerton, John Dutton, Robert Tatton, George Calvely John Bryne, John Delves, and Rycharte Houghe.

Endorsed: For the Queenes Service within the Hundred of Wirral.

A few days after the passing of these Articles the Justices met again and added the following rules to their Code:—

FIRST: That all maner of p'sons which be or shalbe admitted or alowd to kepe alehouses, victellynge or typpeynge howses, shall within the space of xx daies after date hereof or within viii daies after they shalbe admitted, enter Recognizance in x poundes, the same person which is or shalbe admitted, altho' without any sureties to this condition hereafter following:—

The condicion of this Recognizance is such that if th'above bounden a.s. duryng the tyme he kepe ale-howse or victuellings howse do not sell or utter

or suffer to be sold or uttered any ale or beere above the price and rate of fourpence the gallon, twopence the pottell a penny the quart, the halfe peny the pynt and so ratably for all small measures and all the sayd measures to be accordyng to the Statut. That then etc; and it is agreed that all the latter additions of articles shalbe set upon churoche doore before St Bartholomew's daye next comynge.

(To be continued.)

DECEMBER 3rd, 1892.

[148] THE WIRRAL LICENSING SESSIONS FOR 1861.

(Continued from No. 142—Nov. 26th).

THE NAMES of all p'sons which kepe Alehouses within this Hundred of Weroll, beyng, bunden be obligac' the xxviii daie of June, iij Eliz:

Thomas Rathbone de West Kyrkbye.
 Eleyne framwall de Westekyrkbye.
 Christofer Johnson de Westkyrkbye.
 Nicholas Pamberton de Melse.
 Thomas Doby de Melse.
 Rycharte Hogge de Calday.
 John Gouldeewene de Calday.
 Thomas Radolyffe de P'va Kyrkebye.
 Robert Newbot de Greshbye.
 Thomas Linaker de Graunge.
 William Ball de Yrby.
 Robert Stanney de Kyrkeby-Walley.
 Harry Yonge de Kyrkeby-Walley.
 Margaret Wylson de Kyrkeby-Walley.
 Robert Tassej de Kyrkeby-Walley.
 Eleyne Ensdall de Seoum.
 Thomas Anione de Thurstynton.
 John Genson de Heswall.
 Hughe Borowes de Heswall.
 John Robynson de Heswall.
 Thomas Becke de Geton.
 John Jonson de Geton.
 William Rathbon de Murton.
 Thomas Smythe de Saugon-Massie.
 Thomas Monely de Upton.
 Thomas Ireland de Woodchuroh.
 Rycharde Robynson de Neston.
 Elizabeth Baoster de Neston.
 Thomas Danson de Nesse.
 Thomas Mylner de Nesse.
 Thomas Goodeker de Thornton.
 Thomas Radley de Burton.
 Rychart Harvey de Burton.
 Davy Massey de Burton.
 Robert Darbyshire de Burton.
 John Gardener de Burton.
 Thomas Weehyngton de Podyngton.
 Jone Helyn de Shotwek.
 Rychart Spencer de Saughall.
 George Martin de Saughall.

Thomas Chamberlain de Saughall
 Gylbarte Asmore de Backfurt.
 Agnes Forshaw, de Backfurt.
 Margeri Cotton de Stanney.
 Harri Franucs de Estom.
 Ryobard Fysher de Estam.
 John Powell de Sutton.
 Hugh Helde de Sutton.
 John Congreve de Sutton.
 Rycharde Fletcher de Whytbye.
 Wylliam Davy de Brumbrowe.
 John Platte de Nether benyngton.
 Robert Sconce de Nether benyngton.
 Rycharde Boland de Sturton.
 John Bolande de Sturton.
 Roberte Ley de Sturton.
 Thomas Johnson de Trenmore.
 Claughton. Wm. Ferguson Irvine.

[144] THE BIDSTON REGISTER.

(Continued from No. 140.—November 19th.)

BAPTISMES, 1690.

- (1) Sarah daughter of John Wilcock de Ford, Mar 27th
 Geo son of Geo Burgesse de Woodside, Ap 25th
- (2) Elizabeth daughter of Jas Anderton de Moreton, May 1st
 Rachel daughter of Joseph Charnock de Bidston, June 15th
 Elizabeth daughter of Hugh Edwards de Moreton, June 29th
 Ellen daughter of Evan Heylin de Woodside, July 6th
 Joseph son of John Walley de Birkenhead leas, Aug 4th
- (3) Margaret daughter of John Cranadge de Woodside, Nov 14th
- (4) Sarah daughter of Daniel Wilson, baptisec Dec 29th.
- (5) Margaret daughter of Ric Gill de Moreton, Jan 5th
- (6) Mary daughter of Timothy Wilson de Heathside, Feb 5th
 Margaret daughter of Wm Bennet junr de Moreton, Feb 25th
 Mary daughter of Wm Dod de Moreton, Feb 25th

MARRIAGES, 1690.

John Jones of West Kirby Parish and Mary Bally of Bidston Parish by banns, June 28th
 John Bradley and Margaret Worrall of Bidston Parish by public, July 27th.
 John Ellis of West Kirby Parish and Margaret Parboe of Bidston Parish by banns Sept 9th
 Thomas Swift and Anne Dolby, of Bidston Parish by pub., Sep 19th
 George Bennet and Anne Anton of Bidston Parish by Pub, Dec 28th

(1) Vide Burials February vi.
 (2) Vide Burials December vi.
 (3) Vide Burials November xxiii.
 (4) This entry is written along the margin of the Register.
 (5) Vide Burials February v.
 (6) Vide Burials February xvii.

BURIALS, 1690.

- Esther dau of Thos Hancock de Moreton, May 4th
 Elizabeth Pemberton de Moreton, May 8th
 Mary d of Thos Robinson de Oxton, June 3rd
 Henry Robinson de Oxton, June ii
 Joshua Huntingdon, schoolmr de Bidston, Aug 27th
 Margery wife of Wm Ormston de Moreton, Sept 19th
 Sayers Shaw de flabrick, Oct 12th
 Thomas Goodaker de Saughall-Carre, Oct 18th
 Sam s. of Thos Robinson de Oxton, Nov 1st
 Ellen Boydell de Bidston, November 8th
 (1) John Trueman de Bid[ston], November 11th
 Alice daughter of John Kemp de Saughall-Carre, Nov 11th
 Catherine wife of Robert Ainsworth de Moreton, Nov 18th
 Margaret wife of John Cranadge de Woodside, Nov 18th
 (2) Margaret daughter of ye sd John Cranadge, Nov 23rd
 Anne wife of Joseph Guest de Woodside, Nov 25th
 (3) Elizabeth daughter of Jas Anderton de Moreton, Dec 6th
 Mary d of Richard Wilson de Bidston, Dec 8th
 Alice Bird de Moreton, Widdow, Dec 10th
 (4) Henry Bird de Moreton, Dec 29th
 Ellen wife of Sam Jackson de Moreton, Jan 4th
 Jane Hamnet de Moreton, Jan 9th
 John son of Arthur Rathbon de Moreton, Jan 15:h
 (5) Samuel Jackson de Moreton, Jan 31st

(1) John Trueman occupied a farmhouse on the site of that now held by Mr. Walters, and in the 1685 survey already quoted, he is mentioned as holding, besides the house and garden, 32 acres of statute measure.

The following is a short abstract of his will:—
 "In the name of God Amen, 9th June 1688.
 "I JOHN TRUEMAN of Bidston, husbandman etc,
 "After debts and funeral expenses paid, I leave to Mary my nowe wief one featherbed, two bouldsters, two blankets etc, one pyed beffer and 50s. in money."
 "I to son John Trueman all husbandry geare" Remainder of property to "my sonnes John and Samuel Trueman."
 "To my brother-in-law Joseph Kenion of Liskett husbandman ls."

Executors: John Trueman and Samuel Trueman.
 Witnesses: Edward Ooo [?] John Trueman [sgd] Ann Blundell, John Blundell [scribe of documents].
 Proved by John Trueman 13 Nov 1690.

(2) Vide Christenings Nov xiv.
 (3) Vide Christenings May I.
 (4) On the 8 January 1690, administration of the goods of HENRY BIRD late of Moreton, was granted to Thomas Bradford his father [in-law] and Ellen Bird, alias Bradford his widow.

(5) In the name of God Amen: 20 Jan 1690.
 I SAMUEL JACKSON of Moreton, yeoman, sicke in bodie etc, bodie to be buried at Bidston as neare my late deceased and deare wife as may be."
 "To Samuel Jackson my son, all my tenement etc in township of Upper Bebbington, also that parcell of ground belonging to me in the Anstubble Dale."
 "To my daughter Anne, household goods at Bebbington house and also at Moreton."
 Mentions "my landlord Egerton," "my father Thos Jackson," "bringing up of my son," "my sister Sarah Robinson," and "my daughter's uncle John Peovar."
 Executors: "John Peovar, Peter Wilson of Seacombe, and John Robinson Junior of Babbington."
 Witness: Thos Langford, George Langford, Wm. Bennett, Junior, Henry Robinson.
 Proved 23 June 1691 by John Peovar and Peter Wilson, power reserved.
 Inventory 2, Feb 1690, valued by Thos Hancock and Ric. Wilson.

[Inter alla].
 144 cheeses £27
 The gun and sword..... 4/-

- (1) Margaret dau of Ric Gill de Moreton, feby 5th
- (2) Sarah dau of John Wilcock de Ford, Feb 6th
- (3) Mary daughter of Timothy Wilson de Heathside, Feb 17th
Margaret Robinson de Heathside, Widdow, Feb 19th
Alice Harrison de Saughall-Massey, Widdow, Feb 25th
- (4) Elizabeth wife of Henry Hancock de Moreton, March 19th

John Eaton, Minister.
John Wilcock, } Church
Hen. Hancock, } Warden.

DECEMBER 10th, 1892.

[145] EASTHAM IN 1761.

Eastham lies in the Hundred of *Wirral* and is bounded on the north by *Bromborough* and *Bebbington*, on the west by *Neston*, and on the south by *Backford* and *Stoke* parishes, all which are in the same county and hundred, and on the east by the river *Mersey*, which divides *Cheshire* and *Lancashire*. The signification of the word *East* is too obvious to want explanation, and the word *Ham* denotes a street or village, so that the compounded word means the Eastern village, which agrees with its situation on the eastern extremity of the Hundred of *Wirral*.

The extent of the parish is in length between three and four miles, and in breadth almost two miles. There are in it, besides the village of *Eastham*, where the Church stands, six hamlets, viz., two *Suttons*, *Childer-Thornton*, *Hooton*, *Pooltown* and *Whitby*. The parish in general is very level, and the lands produce barley, wheat, oats, and much cheese is also made here. In some parts near the river, the rock comes near the surface of the earth, but in other parts the soil is deep and clayish. Mari and lime are the chief manure.

Great damage hath been done in this parish by inundations of the *Mersey* some years since, which chiefly happened to the estates of *Sir Francis Poole* (5) and *Mrs. Bennet* (6).

A kind of red stone is dug up in a wood near the river *Mersey*, which is much used in building (7). The great road between *Chester* and *Liverpool* passes through this parish. Part of *Backford-heath* and *Eastham-heath* are the only commons in the parish. There is a ferry in the parish over the

(1) Vide Christenings January v.

(2) Vide Christenings March xxviii.

(3) Vide Christenings February v.

(4) "In the name of God Amen, 19th February, 1682.

"I ALICE HARRISON of Saughall-Massey, widdow, etc.

"To daughter Elizabeth 25."

"Remainder amongst my 5 daughters equalie."

Execors: Thos. Harrison my son and John Harrison of Greasby.

Witnesses: Thos Newport, Samuel Lay.

Inventory 3rd March, 1690, by John Harrison of Little Meols and John Wharton of Greasby.

S. T. 412 13s. 6d.

Proved 9 Nov., 1691 by Thos. Harrison.

(5) Sir Francis Poole, 2nd baronet, married Frances, daughter of Henry Felham, of Lewes, Sussex, and died 16th Feb., 1753.

(6) This was probably the widow of Henry Bennet, of Moston, Esq., who had an estate at Whitby.

(7) The disused quarry is now enclosed in Carlett Park

Mersey to *Liverpool*, which is reckoned five miles down the river.

The only seats in the parish are *Hooton Hall* belonging to the *Stanleys*, a baronet's family from whom the Earls of *Derby* are descended. This family is Roman Catholics, but greatly distinguished by good nature. The house is a large ancient structure built with timber and plaister and hath a stone tower in the middle, equal in height to many steeples. There are in the hall some antique pictures, which, I am told, represent some of the old Earls of *Chester* (1); there is also an old cross in the road leading to the house. The other seat is *Poole Hall*, belonging to a baronet of the same name. This family was also Roman Catholics till the present baronet, *Sir Francis Poole*, member for *Lewes*, in *Sussex*, embraced the Protestant religion.

The church stands in the diocese and archdeaconry of *Chester*. It consists of a nave, two side isles, and a large chancel. At the west end is a steeple which consists of a tower with a spire upon it. The church and steeple are said to be the work of the famous *Inigo Jones* (2), but the spire being become ruinous, was taken down and re-built about ten years since. In the steeple is a clock and five bells. At the east end of the north isle is a chancel where the *Stanleys* of *Hooton* are interred, and there are monuments to their memory. The *Pooles* of *Pool Hall* also bury in the church. The Dean and Chapter of *Chester* are the patrons of the living, which is a vicarage worth about 50l per annum. The Vicars have been — *Griffiths* (3), and *Honoratus Lebeg* (4). The Vicar hath all the fish taken in the river *Mersey* within the extent of his parish on *Sundays* and *Fridays*. There is a neat vicarage house built by the present incumbent (5).

Childer Thornton is a charity school worth about 6l per annum to the master, who is elected by trustees. There is no chapel in the parish nor any meeting-house, the inhabitants being of the Established Church, except some Papists who go to mass at *Hooton*. No wake is kept in this parish, but, as I have been informed, the time is the feast of the Annunciation.

Hares and partridges afford good diversion to the sportsman, and woodcocks abound in the winter season. The inhabitants are a robust, hardy race of people, and many of the poorer sort live chiefly upon barley-bread, and potatoes and buttermilk. The concourse of passengers to *Liverpool* occasioned by the great increase of trade in that town affords them an opportunity to get some money by the hire of horses, which they furnish at a very easy rate.

The parishioners some time since purchased the two folio volumes of *Mr. Stackhouse's* History of the Bible which are kept in a wooden case in the church for the use of well-disposed persons.

If you think this account conducive to your design of procuring a good history of *England*, it is at your disposal. I am yours, &c.,

Nov. 11, 1761.

BREVOLUS.

From Gentleman's Magazine, 1762.

(1) These are now in Chester Town Hall.

(2) It would be interesting to discover the origin of the *Inigo Jones* legend. In the Churchwarden's accounts for the year 1752 occurs the entry: "Paid Mr. Sephton for the spire, 31l 10s. 9d."

(3) Robert Griffiths, vicar from 1695 to 1732.

(4) Honoratus Lebeg, vicar from 1728 to 1762.

(5) That is H. Lebeg.

[146] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 144, December 8.)

BAPTISMS since Mar. 26, 1691.

John son of Thomas Fell de Bidston baptized
Ap 12th.
William son of John Kemp de Moreton,
April 28th.
John son John Morris de Woodside, May
28th.
Ellen daughter of Samuel Ley de Saughall-
Massey June 17th.
Valentine son of Wm Rimner de Birkenhead
July 5th.
Thomas son of Thomas Almond de Saughall-
Massey Ep Jy 14th.
Mary daughter of John Wilson de Claughton
July 20th.
Elizabeth daughter of John Wilcock de Ford,
August 18th.
Sarah daughter of John Sayers, de Claughton
Jany 7th.
James son of James Wagge de Moreton Feb
14th.
Samuel son of John Ellis de Saughall Massey
Mar 6th.
Daniel son of Timothy Wilson de Heathside
Mar 8th.
Elizabeth d [blank]
Maudlin daughter of Hugh Haydock de
Claughton Mar 12th.
Elizabeth daughter of Richard Gill of
Moreton Mar 18th.

MARRIAGES 1691.

William Ormston and Hannah Hamnet of
Bidston Parish married Ap 18th.
Jacob Williamson of Bidston Parish and
Mary Sheen of Coddington Parish Sept
11th.
Thomas Harrison and Ellen Bird of Bidston
Parish Sept 26th.
John Truman of Bidston and Mary Cook of
Bebington Parish Nov 9th.
Wm Wilson and Mary Powel of Bidston
Parish Jan 2nd

BURIALS 1691.

Ellen fell de Bidston buried April 8rd.
Elizabeth Harrison de Saughall Massey May
25th.
Martha daughter of Richard Gill de Moreton
May 30th.
Dorothy, wife of William Erby de Moreton,
June 1st.
William son of John Kemp de Moreton,
August 24th.
Thomas son of Henry Hancock de Moreton,
Aug. 26th.
Martha Hill de Moreton, Sept. 6th.
Mary daughter of John Wilson de Claughton,
Oct. 2nd.
Elizabeth Pemberton de Moreton, Oct. 3rd.
Alice daughter of Thomas Hancock de

Moreton, Nov. 8th.
Anne Wilson de Claughton Widdow, Dec.
8th.
Robert Ainsworth de Moreton, Dec. 9th.
Hugh Edwards de Moreton, Dec. 23rd.
Jane wife Wm Dolby de Lingham, Jan. 19th.
Mary Bird (daa of Henry Bird deceased)
Jan. 20th.
Martha wife of Wm Liversage de Saughall-
Carre, Jan. 25th.
John Rathbone de Moreton, Jan. 30th.
Maudlin wife of Hugh Haydock de Claughton,
Mar. 12th.
Alice Litherland de Claughton widdow, Mar.
18th.

John Eaton, Minister.
John Leeme } Oh W.
John Webster }

DECEMBER 17th, 1892.

[147] THE LEGEND OF BEBINGTON SPIRE.

Among the many predictions attributed to Robert Nixon, the Cheahire poet, is one relating to the ivy on Bebington Church. He is said to have foretold that, when the ivy topped the spire, the end of the world would be nigh. On this prophecy Mr. Egerton Leigh wrote the following verses:—

I.

Ivy! thou art fresh and young,
Gleaming in the morning sun;
In thee change is never seen,
Through the year an evergreen.

II.

When at banquet held on high,
The maid *Kissos* merrily
Danced and *Bacchus* oft embraced,
As midst gods she wanton raced;

III.

Whilst she frolicked up and down,
Down she sank upon the ground;
Exhausted closed her eyes in death,
Panting fled her fluttering breath.

IV.

Ivy sprang up round the maid,
By the Greeks hence named ('tis said)
Kissos, which the oak entwines,
As *Kissos* once the god of wines.

V.

Ivy, though so bright and green,
Oft near death is met, I ween;
Midst th' old castle's ruins creeps;
From winding-sheet of snow-wreath peeps.

VI.

Throws it tendrils round the oak,
Which its fond embraces choke;
Like the snake-encircling coils,
Whelming hapless prey in toils.

VII.

Ivy, twined with gloomy yew,
Too oft meets the mourner's view,
Slowly following the dead
To their last cold churebyard bed.

VIII.

Hast thou heard what has been said
By seer *Nixon*, prophet dread,
Of *Bebington's* high-soaring spire?
Thus he spoke in words of fire:—

NIXON'S PROPHECY.

IX.

"When that spire's vane shall clasp
Ivy with its fatal grasp,
Then the last stern trumpet's call
Live and dead shall summon all.

X.

Then shall hap the crash of doom;
Then the dead shall burst the tomb;
Together crushed the world shall roll,
Like a parched, flame-shrivelled scroll."

XI.

Many years since then have passed,
Still the world and spire last;
Nor yet the ivy's fatal grasp
Dares the fatal point to clasp.

XII.

Once it almost reached the height,
Filling *Cheshire* with affright;
When the lightning's scorching blast
Through the threatening ivy passed.

XIII.

Twice since then, in utmost need,
Chance hath balked the ivy's greed;
Still the tendrils seek the sky,
Struggling towards the spire on high.

MORAL.

May our hearts to heaven rise,
Then we ne'er shall fear surprise;
E'en should the ivy top the spire,
And the doomed world wrap in fire.

M.A.

[148] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 146—December 10).

BAPTISMS, 1692.

Samuel son of John Eaton (de Claughton)
Clerk Bapt Ap 12.
Henry son of Nicholas Tubman de fford Ap
28d.
Mary daughter of Evans Heylin de Woodside
May 10th.
Wm son of Wm Harrison de Saughall-
Massey May 26th.
John son of John Peacock de Saughall-
Massey May 31st.
Thomas son of Daniel Rawlins de Oxton
June 12th,

Elizabeth dau of Stephen Wilcock de More-
ton Aug 28th.

- (1) Jerimiah son of Daniel Wilson bapt Sept 5.
Ellen dau of John Trueman de Bidston
Sept 20th.
Elizabeth dau of Joseph Charnock Oct 9th.
John son of John Wilson de Claughton
deceased Oct 18th.
Peter son of William Wilson de Moreton
Oct 28d.
Margaret daughter of Wm Ormston de More-
ton Nov 10th.
Margaret daughter of Wm Erby de Moreton
Dec 8th.
Samuel son of Henry Smith de Moreton Feb
16th.
Henry son of Henry Hancock de Moreton
Feb 21st.
Joseph son of Samuel Nangreave de Moreton
Mar 7th.
Allice daughter of Thomas Harrison de
Saughall Massey March, 14th
William son of John Webster de Moreton
March 16th

MARRIAGES 1692.

Thomas Pendleton of Bidston Parish and
Hannah Carter of Bebington Parish were
married April 6th
Robert Coventry and Sarah furburne of
Bidston Parish May, 22nd
William Pierce of Eastham Parish and
Margaret Hesket of Bidston Parish August
9th
Thomas Wharton of West Kirby Parish and
Margery Smith of Bidston Parish
August 9th
William Dolbin and Margaret Keiry of
Bidston Parish January 16th

BURIALS 1692.

John Parboe de Claughton buried April 3rd
Maudlin daughter of Hugh Haydock de
Claughton April 14:h
Rachel daughter of Joseph Charnock de
Bidston April 29th
James Anderton de Moreton May 22nd
John Wilson de Claughton May 26th
Sarah daughter of John Sayers de Claughton
June 3rd
Samuel Bird de Moreton June 5th.
Ellen wife of William Bennet June 14th
Elizabeth dau. of Robert Wilson de Bidston
September 8th

(1) This entry is added in a later hand, along the mar-
gin of the Register.

(2) "In the name of God Amen:
I JOHN WILSON of Claughton cum Grange yeoman sick
in bodie etc.
I leave my property to my loving wife Mary for the
bringing upp of my children.
I leave to my three children Thomas Catherine and Anne
the sum of one hundred pounds, etc."
Executors: "My loving uncle Richard Wilson of Bidston
and Mary my wife."
Witnesses, Thos Pendleton John Wilson [sgd]
Wm Johnson
Hen. Robinson
Inventory 2 Feb 1692-3 valued by John Leene and Timothy
Wilson.—sum total £144 17 s.
Proved 24 June 1690 by Mary Wilson widow and relict.

Margaret dan. of Timothy Wilson de Heathside November 27th
 Mary Parboe Junr January 6th
 Mary wife of Henry Williamson de Oughton January 7th
 Margaret daughter of William Erby de Moreton January 17th
 Mary daughter of William Erby de Moreton March 9th
 John Kemp de Saughall Carre March 14th
 John Eaton, Minister
 John Anderton } Churchwardens
 Samuel Newbot }

the Churchwardens, Mr. Currey and John Wilkinson, at the Parish expense—which proposal was agreed to by the following persons who signed their names accordingly.

William Curry, John Wilkinson, J. Whittle, Geo. Robin, Saml. Cross, Randle Edwards, John Johnson.	Thos. Wilson, Thomas Jones, Robert Leen, John Corffe, James Bell, William Corffe John Williams.
---	---

The underwritten persons, being unwilling that that this order be carried into execution, at the parish expense, have signed their names in this page, in witness of their dissent.

John Arrowsmith Ralph Davies Robert Pickering John Pickering John Lee junr	Thos Edwards Samuel Reece Thomas Briscoe Wm Whitehead Thos + Massee his mark
--	---

N.B. July 8th 1770

The Vicar of Eastham, finding with concern that great heats and divisions were gaining ground in the Parish about the purchase of a bassoon, and thinking it very improper that a parish should be distracted and divided about so very inconsiderable an object, doth hereby put a stop to the voting concerning it, in virtue of his authority as Vicar.

GEORGE TRAVIS, Vicar.

At a legal Vestry meeting held April 17th, 1774, it was agreed finally that as several small sums of money have already been voluntarily subscribed to the purchase of a bassoon; and as it is apprehended and hoped that the music of the church will be much benefited by such a purchase,

That the remainder of the money requisite for such a purchase shall be disbursed by the Churchwardens out of the Ley for the year ensuing, and that such bassoon shall be purchased by them in manner aforesaid.

There is a subsequent entry of *six guineas* as the price of the disputed instrument. The bassoon was played till some half century ago by Mr. John Woodward, the late clerk, and the rest of the music consisted of a *bass viol* (which in 1829 cost £8 8s.), played by his father, Mr. Joseph Woodward (who was clerk for 30 years), and a *clarinet*, by Mr. Matthew Bake of Childer Thornton.

The *bassoon* is still in existence: it is now owned by Mr. Thomas Woodward, of Eastham.

F. SANDERS.

[149]

QUERY.

In Mrs. Gamlin's interesting book on Birkenhead, it is stated that Holt Hill derives its name from Cromwell's army having been called to *halt* there? Can any of your contributors tell me whether this is the true derivation of the name? X.Y.Z.

DECEMBER 24th, 1892.

[150] A CHOIR DIFFICULTY OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Last century organs were to be met with in only a small number of churches. Their place was usually taken by a band of stringed and wind instruments, such as fiddles and flutes. The following extracts from the Churchwarden's books of the Parish of Eastham show how much heat could be evolved by the attempted introduction of a fresh instrument.

June 11th, 1764. Being Monday in Whitsun week, at a Legal Vestry Meeting for settling the Churchwarden's Accounts—afterwards agreed that there be an Instrument, called a Bassoon, bought for the use and assistance of the singers in the Parish by the Churchwardens at the Parish charge.

Witness our hands in the name of the Parish.

Honor. Lebeg, Vicar.
 John Corfe,
 Wm. Whitehead,
 William Currey,
 Thomas Wilson.

Notwithstanding this resolution, no bassoon was procured; but in 1770 a fresh step was taken in the matter. Mr. Lebeg had died in the meantime, and Mr. (afterwards Archdeacon) Travis was now Vicar.

May 24th, 1770. At a legal meeting, held in the chancel on the above day, it was proposed that an order made in 1764, for buying an instrument called a Bassoon, be forthwith carried into operation by

[151]

HOLT HILL.

(See No. 149—December 17th.)

In reply to your correspondent "X. Y. Z.," I beg to say that Mrs. Gamlin has made a very ludicrous mistake in her derivation of the place name "Holt Hill." The name existed many years, probably many centuries, before the Civil Wars. As a proof

of this, I may give the following entry from the Bebington Baptismal Registers for the year 1615.6 :
 " Margeria filia Johis Gleave de Holt Hill."

The true origin of the name is doubtless from the Anglo Saxon word *Holt* (German, Holz), a copse. Holt Hill must at one time have been a wooded height. Many place-names in England have this word as a component, e. g. Sparsholt. The word is very common in its contracted form *Hot*, appearing in the names of the bare heaths to the south-west of London, which seem to have been at one time partially covered with forest. Such are Bagshot, Bramshot, and Aldershot.

Your correspondent has rightly described Mrs. Gamlin's book as interesting, but he must be cautious in accepting her as a guide in the origin of Place Names. HISTORICUS.

[159] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

(Continued from No. 148—December 17.)

BAPTISMES 1693.

Martha daughter of Thomas Bennet de Moreton bapt Ap 11th.

James son of John Sayers de Claughton Ap 12th
 William son of Roger Stanninaught de Woodside May 1st.

Hannah dau of John Kemp de Moreton May 4th
 Esther dau of Samuel Newbald de Saughall-Massey June 6th.

John } Twins sons of Hugh Haydock de
 & } Claughton July 26.
 Samuel }

(1) William Wilson the son of Matthew Wilson was borne 9th Jan.

Mary dau of Peter Shaw de flabrick Sept 10th
 Ellen dau of Wm Bennet jun de Moreton Sept 26th

John son of Wm Rimner de Woodside Oct 9th.
 Mary dau of Thomas Spencer de Woodside Nov 18th.

Martha dau of Tbos Browne de Birkenhead Nov 30.

Robert son of Richard Gill de Moreton Decr 8th.

(2) Richard son of William Erby de Morton Decr 8th.

Thomas son of William Ormston de Moreton Jan 30th.

John son of Thomas Ensdaile de Saughall-Carre feb 26th.

John son of Samuel Lea de Saughall-Massey Mar 18th.

Ellen dau of Thomas Fell de Bidston Mar 20th

MARRIAGES, 1693.

Joseph Minshall de Bidston Parish and Allice Duke of Overchurch Parish married May 14th.

(1) Added in a later hand; the date evidently refers to the succeeding January, as amongst the entries for that month there has been an attempt made to insert this one, but it has been subsequently erased and added at the top of the page.

(2) Vide burials, December ix and x following.

BURIALS, 1693.

Mary wife of Arthur Rathbone de Woodchurch, buried Ap 3rd

Martha dau of Thomas Bennet de Morton, April 13th

Joseph son of Henry Bird de Moreton, July 9th

Samuel son of Hugh Haydock de Claughton, July 25th

John Hicock de Moreton, August 31st

Eleanor wife of John Sayers de Claughton, Oct 3rd

Ellen Trueman de Bidston, widdow Oct 15th
 (1) Elizabeth wife of John Whiteside de Newbald, Oct 15th

Thomas Newbald de Sanghall-Cane, Oct 17th
 Mary dau of Peter Shaw de flaybrick, Nov 22nd

(2) Anne wife of Wm Erby de Moreton, Dec 9th
 Elizabeth Bradley de Moreton, widdow Dec 10th

(3) Richard son of Wm Erby de Moreton, Dec 10th

Mary dau of Thomas Spencer de Woodside, Dec 10th

Ellen wife of Timothy Wilson de Heathside, Dec 20th

Robert son of Richard Gill de Moreton, Dec 22nd

Margaret dau of John Cranadge, Jan 15th
 Elizabeth dau of Peter Shaw de flabrick, Jan 24th

John son of Thomas Ensdaile de Sanghall-Carre, Mar 3rd

James son of John Sayers de Claughton, Mar 18th

William Dod de Moreton, March 22nd

John Eaton, Minister.
 Jacob Williamson } Ch. W.
 John Kemp }

DECEMBER 31st, 1892.

[168] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1546.

(Continued from No. 137—Nov. 13th).

EASTHAM.

Henrico Fox pro viillixvid
 Gylberto Coke pro xlsliid
 Johs Gybson pro xlsliid

(1) Newbald or Newbold is another name for The New house in the parish of West Kirby.

This venerable farm house, which is still standing, passed about 1668 from the Coventry's (who had bought it a hundred and fifty years before from the monks of Basingwerk Abbey into the hands of Thomas Bennet of Newton, who left it in his will a few years later to the Parish of West Kirby, to form part of the still existent Bennet's charity.

Among the deeds in the Charity Chest at West Kirby is still preserved a lease of the farm bearing date 25th Dec. 1689, from Henry Young, of Chester, to John Whiteside of Bidston, carpenter, the annual rent being 45s.

(2) Vide Christenings Dec. viii and burials Dec. x.

(3) Vide Christenings Dec. viii and burials Dec. ix.

Roberto Corf pro iiiiii	..iivid
Gylberto Braderton pro xxs	..iid
Edward Burgs pro viiiii	..xvid
Roberto Hoggs Junior pro xls	..iid
Roberto Assheton pro xls	..iid
Danelo Skynner pro iiiiii	..iiivid
Simone Harryson pro xls	..iid
Henrico Francis pro xxs	..id
John Anglesbargh pro xls	..iid
Willmo Burgs pro xls	..iid
Roberto Hey pro viiiii	..xvid
Jeneta Telliott pro viiiii	..xvid
Richardo Humphrey pro xxs	..id
Gylberto Frances pro viiiii	..xvid
Thoma Harvey pro xxs	..id
Matheo Anglesbargh pro iiiiii	..iiivid
Alicia Trafford pro xls	..iid

BACKFORD.

Edwardo Bunbury pro viiii	..xivd
Bannulpho Kelsall pro viii	..iiivid
Roberto Smarley pro xls	..iid
Richardo Tunmathe [P] pro xxs	..id
Willmo Solaster pro xxs	..id
Gylberto Astmole pro xxs	..id
Milone Newton pro xxs	..iid
Roberto Whitley [obliterated]	
Patricio Soot [ditto]	
Rogero Forshaw [ditto]	

MOLLYNTON BANASTRE.

Thoma Coke pro viii	..xiid
Roberto Totty pro viiii	..xivd

FRANKBY.

Thoma Newbott pro xls	..iid
Ricoo Rathbone pro xls	..iid
Rogero Younge pro xls	..iid
Thoma Younge pro iiiiii	..iiivid
Willmo Pycke pro iiiii	..iiivid

IRREBYE.

Willmo Leighton pro xls	..iid
Thoma Ormston pro xls	..iid
John Ball pro xls	..iid
John Rathbone pro viii	..xid
John Lynnard pro iiiiii	..iiivid
Willmo Ball pro xls	..iid
Galfrido Hey pro xxs	..iid

WOODCHURCHE.

John Leyne pro xxs	..id
Robto Kawley pro iiiii	..iiivid
John Honde pro iiiii	..iiivid
Thoma Mosse pro xxs	..id
Willmo Coventre pro xxs	..id

KNOCTORUM.

Henrico Brydde [?] pro iiiiii bon	..iiivid
Robto Chauntrell pro iiiii	..iiivid
John Coventre pro iiiiii	..iiivid

LANKAN [LANDICAN.]

Henrico Smythe pro iiiiii	..iiivid
John Smythe pro xls	..iid
Robto Mawree pro xls	..iid
Willmo Hazakarley pro xls	..iid
Henrico Leyne pro xxs	..id
Willmo Bayliff pro xxs	..id
Thoma Hey pro xxs	..id

[154] RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD TRANMERE.

(See No. 86—June 4th.)

Your correspondent "M.A." in his interesting note on Old Tranmere fell into a serious mistake which ought to be corrected. He has confounded the farmhouse &c., pulled down last year on Major Orred's estate with the building known as the New Hall, or Tranmere Hall Farm. The latter is still standing. It is a satisfaction to know that one of the houses connected with the boyhood of Bishop Lightfoot has so far been spared. LECTOR.

[155] THE POOLES OF BEBINGTON.

(See No. 79—July 2nd.)

In my last note on this family I stated that the only point which required to be settled, in order to establish its relationship to the Pooles of Poole, was to show that Edward Poole and Hugh Poole were brothers. This can be conclusively done by referring to the will of Ralph Poole (of Whitley), an abstract of which is printed in *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills*, edited by Mr. J. P. Earwaker. This will mentions "Edward my eldest sone," and "Hugh my second sone." There can therefore be no further doubt as to the exact connection of the two branches of the family. M.A.

[156] THE BIDSTON REGISTERS.

Continued from No. 152—December 24.)

BAPTISMS, 1694.

Mary dau of Henry Bird de Moreton, bapt May 1st
Thomas son of John Ellis de Sanghall-Massey, May 20th
(1) William son of Wm Corfe de Grange-house, baptized July 10th
Anne dau of Wm Wilson de Sanghall-Massey, July 15th
Robert son of John Ormston (junr) de Moreton, July 22nd
John son of John Trueman de Bidston, August 5th.
Elizabeth dau of Henry Smith de Moreton, Aug 26th

(1) This entry has been added in a later hand along the margin of the Register. Grange House Farm, which was standing until within the last 30 or 40 years, was situated, between what is now Euston-grove and Alfred-road (vide Mrs. Gamlin's Memoirs of Birkenhead, p. 5), and occupied the site of the Grange, which in the middle ages was attached to the Priory of Birkenhead.

- (1) Hannah dau of Peter Shaw de Flaybrick,
Oct 7th
Edward son of Peter Jones de Woodside,
Nov 26th
Mary dau of Henry Hancock de Lingham,
Nov 29th
Daniel son of John Peacock de Saughall-
Massey, Nov 29th
Eleanor dau of Nicholas Tubman de Ford,
Dec 18th
Anne dau of Matthew Barton de Fford,
baptized Dec 26th
Mary dau of Joseph Charnock de Bidston,
Dec 30th
- (2) Mary dau of Randle Sillito de Lingham,
Jan 8th
Prudence dau of Evans Heylin de Woodside,
Jan 9th
Richard son of Richard Gill de Moreton, Jan
24th
Thomasson of William Harrison de Saughall-
Massey, Jan 30th
Alice dau of James Wagg de Moreton, Mar
25th

MARRIAGES, 1864.

Thomas Wilson and Hannah Langford both
of Bidston Parish were married Sept. 25th

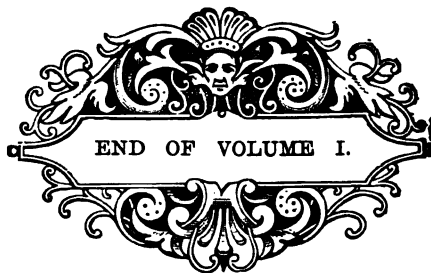
BURIALS 1694.

- James son of James Wagg, buried April 2nd
Henry son of Thomas Robinson de Oxton
May 23rd
Margaret dau of Wm Ormston de Moreton
June 19th
Margaret wife of Wm Bennet de Morton
July 20th
John son of Thomas fell de Bidston Aug 7th
Anne Maddock de Saughall Massey Aug 11th
Thomas son of John Ellis de Saughall
Massey Aug 16th
Martha Pullen de Moreton widdow, Aug 29th
Richard Edwards de Moreton Oct 13th
Elizabeth dau of Stephen Wilcock de Moreton
Nov 11th
Mary Keiry de Moreton Dec 18th
- (1) Anne dau of Matthew Barton de fford
Dec 29th
Eleanor dau of Nicholas Tubman de fford
Jan 5th
John Upahon de Moreton Jan 20th
Henry son of Henry Hancock de Moreton
Jan 24th
Elizabeth wife of Nicholas Tubman de fford
Feb 7th
Anne Kemp de Bidston widdow feb 15th
John Eaton minister.
John Wilcock } Ch. W.
Wm. Bennet }

(1) This entry has been added later along the margin of
the Register.

(2) The name Sillito or Sillitoe is by no means a common
one, so that it is worth noticing that a Randle Sillito was
vicar of Church Lawton, in the Deanery of Middlewich from
prior to 1648 to 1662. The Randle Sillito in the text may
have been his son or grandson.

(1) Matthew Barton was schoolmaster of Bidston at this
time.





THE WIRRAL HORN

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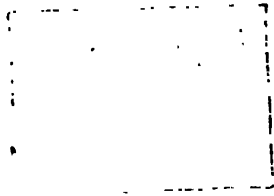
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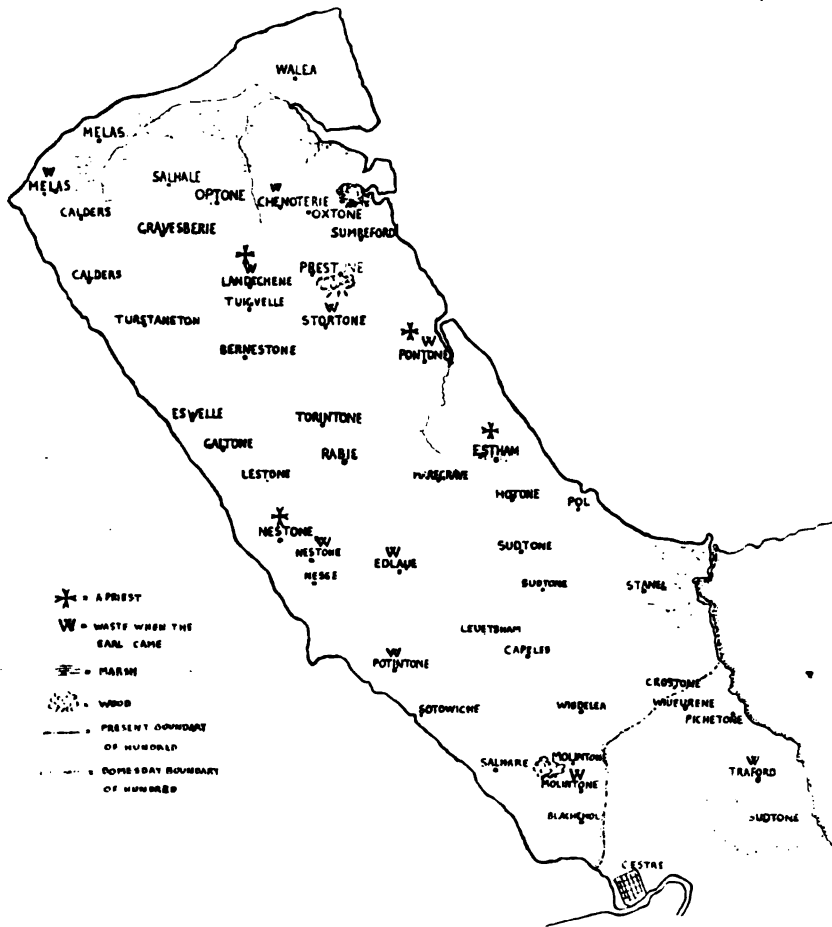
ERRATA.

Page 2, second column, delete sentence beginning "The chancel," line 52.

Page 23, first column, line eight, for Sutton *read* Smith.

" " line twenty-eight, for Mr. Much *read* Mrs. Pemberton.





WIRRAL IN DOMESDAY SURVEY.

WIRRAL
NOTES AND QUERIES,
BEING LOCAL GLEANINGS,
HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN,
RELATING TO
THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL,
From many Sources.

EDITED BY
F. SANDERS, M.A.,
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HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.



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WIRRAL NOTES AND QUERIES

BEING

HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN GLEANINGS, RELATING
TO THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL.

VOLUME II.

JANUARY 7th, 1893.

[167] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VL SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.
(THE BETRAYER OF DEVENTER).

Sir William Stanley was the eldest son of Sir Rowland Stanley, of Hooton and Storeton [See Nos. 71, 78, 82] by his first wife, Margaret Aldersey. The year of his birth is not quite certain, but it was probably 1534. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Egerton, of Egerton, by whom he had two sons, William and Rowland, and three daughters, Joanna, the wife of John Fitzmaurice, of Ireland, Mary, and Elizabeth, who married Thomas Glasier, of Lea.

Stanley made his first campaign in the Spanish service. Philip and Elizabeth had not yet become avowed foes; and the Spanish army was then the best training school in Europe. Stanley served in that splendid host, whose advance from Italy to the Netherlands under Alva in 1567 made so great a sensation throughout Europe. The marvellous discipline of the troops excited the general admiration of Alva's contemporaries, and made this march one of the most memorable events of the period.

After the seizure of the Spanish treasure ships (Dec. 6, 1568), and the support of the Dutch by Elizabeth, and of the Rising of the North by Philip, besides other mutual incivilities, an Englishman in the Spanish army seemed out of place. Stanley quitted the service about 1570, and joined his Sovereign's forces in Ireland, where he served for fifteen years.

Ireland provided an excellent field for turbulent spirits at this time. Stanley was one of the captains of Sir William Drury, President of Munster, by whom he was knighted in 1579 at Waterford, for his gallant

conduct in an inroad into Limrick. The new knight took part in the battle of Moaster Neva, and distinguished himself at the defence of Adare. At this time Raleigh was in Munster "exposing himself to the land service of Ireland, a militia which did not yield him food, nor raiment, nor had he patience to stay there." In this force, Stanley too had his command, but he did not experience those intervals of court favour which refreshed Raleigh.

Ormerod says that our knight particularly distinguished himself by an attack on the lands of Desmond's brother, and by the gallant manner in which he sustained a charge of four hundred foot and thirty horse, in close fight for eight hours, not having himself in his "company above six score persons at the uttermost."

Sir William received a commission, August 30th, 1581, from Lord Grey, the Viceroy, to follow the O'cavanaghs; and in October we find Grey complaining of the want of a commander in Munster and of some emulation amongst the captains, causing great slackness in the service." It seems probable that Stanley did not see unmoved the partition of the great Desmond estates, which he had largely helped to subjugate, among others, while his own claims to a portion were disregarded. Sir John Perrot, Grey's successor, who recognised these claims, complained that the forfeited estates in Munster were distributed without his advice being taken. But Raleigh, Peham, Norris, and the other adventurers who had got possession of the lands of the Geraldines were indisposed to disgorge any of their acquisitions, and their influence succeeded in procuring the recall of Stanley from Ireland after fifteen years service there in 1585. It was doubtless this unjust treatment which first put disloyal thoughts into his head. The nominal reason of his being removed from Ireland was that the Queen required him to take the command of some troops in the Netherlands. Sir William left Ireland with discontent in his mind and ready to listen to any scheme which might bring about the downfall of

Elizabeth and pat Mary Stewart on the throne. Though the war in Ireland in the main had been a religious one, and Stanley was an adherent of the unreformed religion, he had yet so far served Elizabeth with fidelity. Camden's testimony is: "Qui singulari fide et fortitudine in Hibernico bello meruerat."
F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[158] THE INCUMBENTS OF BIDSTON.

In attempting to compile a complete list of the Incumbents of Bidston, one is very much hampered by the almost complete lack of contemporary documents for the period of the Commonwealth.

Church matters were of course in a condition of the most hopeless confusion; and it is very difficult to tell who succeeded the REV GABRIEL BORDMAN, of whose ejection from the living, I sent you an account some months ago. [vide No. 97—Aug. 6th, 1892].

Mr. Urwick in his *Nonconformity in Cheshire*, states that "MR. WRIGHT was ejected from this parish [Bidston] in 1662 but he afterwards conformed." I have not been able to corroborate this in any way, nor to discover any trace of this Incumbent.

From the Transcripts of the Reg'ster, we find that in 1668 the REV HUGH BURCHES, held the living in plurality, together with the Rectory of Woodchurch and the Curacy of Overchurch. He appears to have done so for only a short time, however, as in a Bishop's Visitation Book dated 1674, preserved at the Episcopal Registry, Chester, it is stated that the Curate of Bidston in that year was the REV JOHN KNOWLES, B.A., and that he was ordained deacon by William [Nicholson] Bishop of Gloucester, on the 27th February, 1669, and priest by Benjamin [Laney] Bishop of Ely on the 19th of March 1670, and had been presented to Bidston by John [Pearson] Bishop of Chester on the 18th July 1673.

Mr. Knowles' stay seems likewise to have been brief as in 1675 the Transcript is signed by the REV JOHN EATON, who continued to hold the cure until his death in the beginning of 1696.

The living at this time, and indeed until this century, was an extremely poor one, but an unsuccessful attempt was made a few years previous to this to augment it, an order having been made on the 10th June, 1646, by the so-called Committee for Plundered Ministers, that "from the profits of the said Rectory [Eastham] 50l a year to be paid towards the support of the minister at Bidston."

It appeared however that the profits of the rectory at Eastham were compounded for, and the order of the committee on June 10th, 1646, was nullified.—(*Urwick's Nonconformity in Cheshire.*)

From the Bishop's Visitation Book for 1680, we learn that the Rev. John Eaton was a Bachelor of

Arts, and had been ordained by Humphrey [Henchman], Bishop of London, on the 15th of March, 1673, and presented to the living of Bidston, 19 September, 1675, by the Bishop of Chester.

Unlike his predecessors the Rev. Gabriel Bordman and the Rev. Evan Piers, Mr. Eaton appears to have been a married man and had a large family, most of whom were baptised at Bidston. From the Register entries relating to the christening of his children, we learn that he lived in the township of Cloughton, as there was no Parsonage House until well on into the present century. There is no foundation for the tradition that Mrs. Halliwell's house, next to the Church, is the "Old Vicarage."

Mr. Eaton died in July 1696, being buried on the 15th of that month.

On the 7 of August in the same year administration of the goods of "JOHN EATON, clerk of Bidston," was granted to "Elizabeth Eaton, vidua de Bidston and John Fishwick de Vico Boreali [Northwich], cler" [?] and on the same date the following document was filed at the Probate Registry at Chester.

"A true & p'fecte Inventory of all the Goods and Cattle and Chattells of Mr. JOHN EATON clerke of Bidston in the County of West-Chester deceased as they were appraised by Edward Webster, Thomas Syer, both of ye Hoord [?] in the Countie of Lancaster and John Seyers and John Leene of Claghton in the Countie of West-Chester afd the 15th day of July 1696.

Imprimis: In beasts young and old . . .	22 00 00
Item: In corne and hay	10 00 00
Item: Two swine	01 00 00
Item: In brasse and pewter	02 00 00
Item: Goods in the parlor, one clocke, one bed, five stools, one table, one looking glasse	03 00 00
Item: Goods in the lower chamber: one bed one table, one standish	01 00 00
Item: Goods in the higher chamber, Two bedds	01 00 00
Item: In his study in books and other goods	10 00 00
Item: In the room over the house one chest of Linen, one bed, two trunks, and other goods	04 00 00
Item: In the brew house, one cheese presse, and in treene ware of all sorts	01 00 00
Item: In sacks window sheets and other husbandry goods	00 10 00
Item: In muggs	00 04 00
Item: In poultray	00 04 00
Item: Goods in the house	00 14 00
Item: One grate with tonges and other necessaryes	00 06 00
Item: One gun and two Pistalls	00 10 00
Item: In provisions	06 00 00
Item: Two pack belts and two pillions	00 05 00
Item: In debts owing to deceased	12 00 00
Item: The deceased's wearing-apparrel saddle, Bridle and horse	03 00 00
Total	83 13 00

Yours, etc.,

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

JANUARY 14th, 1893.

[159] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VI. SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.
(THE BETRAYER OF DEVENTER).

(Continued from No. 157—January 7.)

The Netherlands, which were to be the new field of Stanley's warfare, had revolted from Philip II. of Spain, and in 1581 had formed themselves into a Federal Commonwealth. Much against her natural inclinations, Elizabeth was forced by political necessities to support the newly-constituted State. Her favourite Leicester was sent over sea with a considerable force at the end of 1585, and at first met with some success; but the Queen's parsimony and the General's incompetence prevented any important progress being made. Leicester had been accompanied by Stanley, who probably suggested to him to request from the Government six hundred or a thousand "of your Irish idle men, such as he not only in her Majesty's pay, but very mete to be out of that country" (*Leycester Correspondence*, Camden Society, p. 26). Elizabeth, though unwilling to part with English troops, was not opposed to this Irish squadron being sent; and Stanley was despatched to Ireland in the spring of 1586 to superintend the levy. Leicester eagerly awaited the arrival of these reinforcements, "with our English Master, Sir William Stanley, which, above all other, I desire" (*Ibid.*, p. 292).

"Half and more than half of the brave men who had come over [to the Netherlands] in the past September were dead. Their places were taken by new levies gathered in haste upon the highways, or by mutinous regiments of Irish kerns, confessed Catholics, and led by a man who was only watching an opportunity to betray his sovereign. Sir William Stanley, who had for some years been employed in Ireland, was called to London with as many Irish as he could bring with him. His ancestor, by distinguished treachery on Bosworth Field, had given the crown to Elizabeth's grandfather. The inspiring example had perhaps worked upon his imagination. He, too, might play a part in a change of dynasty. He came over with a considerable force. While in London he was in the confidence of the Jesuits. He knew part, if not the whole, of the Babington conspiracy. He corresponded with Mendoza, and contrived to communicate with Lord Arundel, in the Tower. When ordered to the low countries, he made pretences for delaying in London, in the hope that the Queen might be killed, or that the Spanish fleet might arrive from Cadiz. When excuses would serve no longer, and he was obliged to sail, he undertook to watch his moment, and, when he could do most injury, revolt with his regiment to Parma [the Spanish commander]."—(*Froude's History of England*, Vol xii, pp 79-80.)

The above extract from Mr. Froude contains more than one inaccuracy, but there can be little doubt that Stanley returned to the Netherlands with a determination to play the traitor. To the discontent excited in his mind by the want of recognition of his

Irish services, there was added a strong religious feeling. The Counter-Reformation was going forward vigorously. The early Jesuit Missionaries were everywhere working with untiring energy. Whole provinces were being won back to Rome. Stanley fell under the influence of the Movement and took advantage of his position to further its progress.

The reinforcement taken over by Sir William numbered some fourteen hundred men. Part of these seem to have been regular soldiers; but others were mere 'wild Irishry.' Strada describes them as "a rude and savage race, covered only in the middle of the body and under the navel, the rest naked, raised on stilts or long staves, in the use of which in crossing rivers they greatly excelled, and threatening with bows and arrows." (Vol. ii, lib. 8.) Stowe, while he admits their courage, dwells on the skill in burning, killing, and thieving of these kerns.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[160] WEST KIRBY PARISH CHURCH.

The following extract from a paper read by Mr. E. W. Cox, at the opening of the Charles Dawson Brown Museum, at West Kirby, on November 22nd, 1892, may interest some of your readers.

"A reference to the relics or fragments of this ancient building, now treasured up in the new museum, shows that we have traces of four re-buildings or material alterations in the structure. The first trace is late Norman—about A.D. 1150, a church with a nave, and one north aisle and a chancel, possibly with a semi-circular apse. Of this we have a quarter of the base of a column still in its place to begin from, a capital of a respond or half-pillar from the west end, and base of one round column, and possibly a piece of the coping of the semi-circular apse; also a piece of a column capital, which may be either from the cross-arch of the north chancel aisle or from an important door.

The next rebuilding, about 1815, extended the chancel to its present size, and there still remain the ancient walls, buttresses, and sedilia, and one window, being the eastern one, also a section of one of the pillars of the arcade dividing the chancel from the north aisle.

The church required enlarging, and in the year 1470 or 1480 they built a south aisle to the nave and tower, which most likely superseded the ancient Norman belfry.

Then, in the 18th century, all the interior was gutted, the south aisle was pulled down, and the building reduced to the chilling respectability of a Quaker meeting house; and, last of all, came the restoration of the present beautiful church, and with it the recovery of the "stones." Within the church, no doubt, lay the ledger stones, or grave stones, not earlier than the 15th century, when incised lines were employed to define the forms of its ornaments. But there are earlier stones than any of these. The great cross was most likely the churchyard cross, of

which we have part of the head and shaft, and the fashion of its knot-work shows it to be late Saxon or early Norman. The triple knots symbolise the Holy Trinity, the circle eternity and the glory of the Cross. The cable ornaments are merely ornamental, and are copies of late Roman mouldings, similar ones being found in the Roman tombstones from Chester wall. It is of frequent occurrence that crosses were set up at the Saxon place of worship long in advance of any church masonry. It is uncertain whether there be any remnant of a British church edifice. Doubtless they used the Roman buildings while they lasted. We must remember that the Saxons came to this district in the 7th century, and hence we have no very early Saxon relics. Very many of their churches were of wood or wattle work, but the cross was set up at the station and very commonly beside some spring or well, and it may well be that this great cross was so set up. The slab with the cross is late Saxon or very early Norman, and the cross-head late Saxon, both being sepulchral. The style is early Norman, and the workmanship is of the Saxon type. The best and most valuable stone is late Saxon. It is monumental, and lay horizontally and not upright. By the tool-markings we know it to be Saxon, the carving being done by a kind of drill, not a mallet and chisel. Almost certainly it was laid within the earliest church, for it has, after more than one thousand years, not lost its freshness or become weathered by exposure. Similar tombs are not very uncommon. This is peculiar, but not unprecedented, in having an imbricated or tiled pattern at the top—doubtless borrowed from similar features found on Roman sarcophagi."

[161] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL 1545.

(Continued from No. 153—December 31st.)

THRYNGWALL.

Roberto Dalamore pro iiiiii iiid
Edmundo Ley pro xxs id
Agueta Pemberton pro iiiiii iiid
Henrico Whatt pro xxs id

THURSTASTON.

Pernella Madleton [?] pro xxs id
Thoma Bryd pro xls iiid
Johu Wauerton pro xls iiid
Henrico Stoneton pro xls iiid
Rico Ball pro xxs id
Rogeru Pygot pro xxs id
Willmo Anyon pro xls iiid

PARVA CALDEX.

Hugone Pemberton pro viii xiid
Jacobo Colley pro xxs id
Willmo L-dysham pro iiiiii iiid
Johu Totty pro xxs id
Thoma Brabon pro xxs id
Rico Andrew pro xxs id
Rogeru Cornissae pro iiiiii iiid
Willmo Wauerton pro xls iiid
Thoma Whytmor senior pro xls iiid
Xop: ro Johnson pro xxs id

Willmo Hollande pro viii xiid
Thoma Whytmor junior pro xxs id
Rado Whyttell pro viii xiid
Willmo Andrew pro iiiiii iiid

[162]

QUERY.

Can any of your readers inform me whether there is any history attached to the old wall which skirts the wood on the western slope of Bidston Hill, running from near the observatory past the windmill almost to the Upton Road, then turning westward until it meets the Ford Hill on the Upton Road just above where the new Eleanor Road crosses it?

The wall is of exceptional height and thickness, and must have been a very expensive one to build.—Yours, etc.,

ENGINEER.

BIRKENHEAD.

JANUARY 21st, 1893.

[163]

WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VI. SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.

(THE BETRAYER OF DEVENTER).

(Continued from No. 159—January 14).

As soon as his reinforcements arrived, Leicester determined to clear the river Yssel of Spaniards, Zutphen being their principal station. The opportunity seemed favourable, as the redoubtable Parma was absent on a campaign in Germany. In September, 1586, Stanley was appointed to assist Sir John Norris in storming Doesborg. The place, however, yielded on summons, and the women passing out were plundered and maltreated by the soldiers, whilst Essex and "other gentlemen interposed, and by smiting and beating the soldiers made them leave off rifling them." Doubtless Stanley's Irish kerns were among the offenders. From this time according to the subsequent evidence of one of his attendants he entertained a dislike to Leicester, "for his unkynd deling," and Essex's "yvill using of him was a grete malyking to him."

Later on in the month (22nd) Stanley distinguished himself at the battle of Warnsfield. In this engagement the English troops signally defeated the veteran Spaniards under the Marquess of Guasto. The joy occasioned by the victory was, however, tempered by the loss of the noble-minded Philip Sidney, who received his death wound in the battle. In his despatch Leicester writes:—"There was not in the field of ours, of horse, in the whole two hundred, whereof these Lords and Gentlemen, with their followers to the number of sixty at the most,

did all the feats, with the help only of Sir William Stanley, who had but three hundred for their three thousand foot, and he did most valiantly himself, and his own horse received eight shot of the musquet, and yet himself not hurt. He and old Reade are worth their weight in pearl; they be two as rare captains as any living Prince hath. (*Leycester Correspondence*, p. 417.)

Stanley next assisted at the taking of Zutphen sconce, which was mainly effected by the great gallantry of Edward Stanley, who was probably Sir William's illegitimate brother. (See Nos. 1 and 4.) The town itself was relieved by Parma, and remained in Spanish hands for a few years longer; but the sconce was garrisoned and served to restrain the enemy's foraging parties to one side of the river.

Leicester next proceeded to Deventer, at that time after Antwerp and Amsterdam, the most important town in the Netherlands. It was "fair, strong, and large," and able to defend itself against enemies from without, victualled for "three years without any relief," but "a stubborn town." The Dutch towns at this period were practically independent republics, and Deventer was "stubborn" in wishing to keep outside its walls any force which under the pretence of defending it would really become its master. But by a clever stratagem, Stanley contrived, in spite of five thousand armed citizens, to introduce twelve hundred men, and in conjunction with Sir William Pelham, to secure the place. Grotius tells us that the citizens were provoked to madness by a garrison of Irish soldiers, strangers both to humanity and civility. "They were half naked, and extraordinarily savage, and rude in their manners; they spoke an unintelligible language, and could not have any intercourse with the inhabitants."

Leicester gave Stanley (November 18th) authority to act independently of the Governor of the province, and empowered him to require assistance from the neighboring garrisons. The apology for thus nominating Stanley, and with such unusual powers, Governor of Deventer, is stated to have been "suspicion of revolt," that is of revolt to Spain. The States of the Netherlands protested against Sir William's appointment, for they distrusted his fidelity, and referred to his previous service in the Spanish Army. Leicester offered to pledge himself, body and soul, for the loyalty both of Stanley and York. A few weeks later Leicester returned to England and every obstacle in the way of these men's contemplated treachery was thus effectually removed.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

[164] ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

MILITARY TRANSPORTS TO IRELAND IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

The following short document from the Mayer Collection recalls to our minds the unhappy wars which, especially throughout Elizabeth's reign, were waged with such bitterness against the Irish Chieftains, and which, with the subsequent persecution, did so much to estrange the Irish from England.

The Earl of Sussex, it will be remembered, was the last Deputy appointed by Mary, which office he continued to hold for several years after her death, being finally recalled by Elizabeth about the close of 1566. His disastrous campaign in Ulster in the summer of 1561 against the famous Shane O'Neill is an incident which has rendered his name notorious, if not celebrated.

It is rather a curious coincidence that the name of the West Kirby mariner, whose vessel was "appointed to serve" under the Deputy, should be the same as the Earl's, namely Robert Radcliffe.

The document, the original of which, as stated above, is preserved at the Mayer Museum, Bebington, is as follows:

ROBERT RADOLIFFE [of Greasby] the owner of a barke called the *Sunday* beyng appointed to serve under the Ryght Honorable Earle of Sussex, Lord Debytte of Ireland with tenne mariners whose names be subscribed, Wyllyam Pemberton, Rycharde Wryghte, George Wryghte, Peter Lunte, Harry Eusdale, Wyllyam Dyal, Thomas Betson, Nycholas Pemberton, Roberte Stronge."

Robert Radcliffe in his will, which is dated the 10th October, 1599, describes himself as "yeoman," and speaks of his house, lands, farm, etc., and a Lease of the Grange Mill on West Kirby Hill, as well as leaving his share in the family barke, "that I have with my sonnes Thomas and Wyllyam Radcliffe, which is one third share," to his son Robert Radcliff, so that he must have combined his maritime interests with the more prosaic one of tilling the ground.

Yours etc.,

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

[165] RENT ROLL OF BRIMSTAGE IN 1557.

A ppte rentrolle of the receipts of the Baylywyke of Brynston and Oxton due to the Quenes bynes be the myuority of John Talbot Esquire made in the yere of our Lorde 1557.

MYDSOMER RENTS: BRIMSTAFFE.	£.	s.	d.
John Houghe for the Manor House	vii	xvi	
[John Goodyear	v]
* Roger Goodyear for a tenement	v		
John Fyssher for a tenement	iiii		
Roger Jonson for a tenement	iiii	vi	
[Robert Hausted for a tenement	iiii	ii]
* William Hausted for a tenement	iiii	ii	
Robert Worroll for a tenement	iiii	ii	
Roger Hely for a tenement	vi	v	ob
John Duke for a tenement	vi	vii	lob
Robert Telyar for a tenement	vi		ob
Henry Barbar for a tenement	ii	viii	
John Radley for a tenement	vii		

*This list is copied from two documents nearly identical, dated 1557, the first being Mydsomer and the second Maximus Bents. Those marked with an asterisk do not appear in the second and their places are taken by the two in brackets.

Bartylmewe Johnson for a cottage	xii	
Edwarde Blynde for a cottage.....	xx	
James Goodyear for a tenement....	x	vii
Wyllyam Stanton for a tenement ..	vi	ob
Wyllyam Smith for a tenement	vii	
James Goodyear for a tenement	iii	vi
Ryehard Home for a cottage	iii	vi
Gylbart Belyn for a tenement.....	vi	viii
Edward Charnocke for the mylne ..	xv	viii
Robert Evanse for a tenement	x	
The same Robert for hys pte of gre thorne	vi	viii
Gylberte Belyn for hys pte of gre thorne	ii	iiob
The medow hey of t:ae whos'e towne- shyppe	xx	
The brode medowe.....	iii	
Sum total	xv	ii iiob

[166] CHURCH GOODS IN WIRRAL IN THE
TIME OF EDWARD VI.

In what a condition of poverty and bareness the Parish Churches of England were, after the Royal coffers had been filled with almost everything of value that the churches possessed, is shown by the following short document preserved at the Record Office, London.

I am indebted for a copy of it to E. M. Hance, E.-q., LL.B., of Liverpool.

INVENTORY OF CHURCH GOODS IN WIRRAL, III.,
EDWARD VI.

Kyrkeby Walley [Wallasey] ii c' aless a ringe of
iii belles.
Burton, one chales a ringe of ii belles.
Stoke, one chales a ringe of iii belles.
Bakfct, ii chales a ringe of iii belles.
Shotwycke, one chales a ringe of iii belles.
Brombroghe, one chales a ringe of ii belles.
Wodeburche, iii chales a ring of iii belles.
Neston. one chales with a paten, a ringe of ii
belles.
Heswall, one chalis with a ringe of iii belles.
Bebbynton, ii chales with a ringe of iii belles.
Ouerchurch [Upton], one chales with a ringe of iii
belles.
Thursterton, one chales with a ringe [obliterated].
Moreton Chapell, one chales with a ringe of i belle.
West Kyrkeby, ii chales with a ringe of ii [or iii]
belles.
Estham, ii chales with a ring of ii belles
Byddeston, one chales with a ringe of iii belles.

JOHN MASSEY, Kt.
ROWLAND STANLEY, Esq.

Yours, etc.,

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

JANUARY 28th, 1893.

[167] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VI. SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.

(THE BETRAIER OF DEVENTER).

(Continued from No. 163—January 21).

There can be no doubt that religious feeling entered largely into Stanley's treacherous conduct. The Society of Jesus, the foremost champions of the counter-reformation, had won his ardent admiration. "With this order he is exceedingly enchanted, and to them wholly subjected," writes one of his contemporaries. His brother John was a member of the Society. Roger Ashton, a member of an ancient Lancashire family, seems to have been the chief agent in persuading Stanley to surrender the city placed in his charge. Sir William next communicated his plan to Rowland York, and was by him introduced to Jean Baptiste Tassis, afterwards an important Spanish diplomat, who reported the matter to Parma. Stanley always protested that he was impelled by conscience to deliver up the town. The negotiations between Stanley, York, and Tassis were carried on under the pretext of an interchange of presents, and this continued until a liberated prisoner at Arnheim told the magistrates that he had seen the captain of the English guard with Tassis at Zutphen, which information being sent to Deventer, Stanley placed the captain in prison, but soon released him. The first design was to originate a brawl between the soldiers and the burghers, and to call in the Spaniards to protect the former. But the citizens gave no opportunity for carrying out this plan; they only complained to the States of the intolerable tyranny of the Irish garrison; and suspecting what was about to happen, many of them left the place.

The States meanwhile were anxiously deliberating with Sir John Norris, the general in Over Yssel, as to the best means of preventing the impending loss of Deventer. He addressed a letter to Stanley, as to a subordinate officer, but the latter produced Leicester's authority, giving him an independent command. Stanley knowing that he was discovered, and that Norris contemplated visiting him, determined to give up the town to Tassis. He placed three hundred Irish in a tower near the gate, a large round building with many courts. The citizens remarked this proceeding, but, divided into factions, they had no power to interrogate the Governor. The town was paralysed by religious differences; the Protestants themselves were divided, and many deprecated opposition, lest Stanley, though naturally amiable, might be driven to extremities. On the night of January 27th, 1587, many of the townsmen kept themselves ready to take up arms; and on the 28th the magistrates were assembled to hear Stanley's complaint of the suspicion with which he was regarded, and his protestations of fidelity. His audience were deceived, and even apologized for the distrust that had been entertained. Afterwards, at a feast, Stanley made

declarations, which removed all doubts. On that evening the execution of the plot was precipitated, owing probably to the movements of Norris. Stanley told his soldiers "that because he required the pay due to them from the town, the citizens were preparing an attack, but he would attend to their safety by bringing more troops. Then, mounting his horse, and with a troop of cavalry, as though about to surprise an enemy, and leaving two guards of his most trusty soldiers, Sir William set out, and returned between five and six the next morning, bringing Tassis from Zutphen, six miles distant, with 600 foot and 800 horse. These were quietly received, marched into the market place, it being yet dark, and there paraded. The magistrates supposed this military movement was the arrival of the soldiers procured by Stanley; but when the captain of the town bands went to the market-place, he was soon made aware of the real state of matters. Stanley meeting him, bade him be of good cheer, for nothing would go wrong. Then, taking his hand, he led him to the centre of the third line, and calling Tassis, advised the captain to meet him as a friend. Hearing the name of Tassis, the officer exclaimed, "What! then there is treason and so we are betrayed!" Then Tassis, in Stanley's presence, said the surrender was with the intention to serve the king; and taking hold of the captain's right hand requested him to summon the magistrates and promised that no one should be injured. Of the authorities, some left the town; others visited Stanley and Tassis. The latter courteously saluted them, and referred them to Stanley to give the reasons for what had occurred, and he, by an interpreter, thus made his defence: "The delivery of the city was the act of the divine will; that he had regarded neither honour nor rewards, but the words of our Saviour. 'Render unto every one honour; to God, the things that be God's, and to Caesar that which is Caesar's.'" He offered this full of hesitation, and with trembling and a confused speech. Tassis interfered, apparently impatient of Stanley's moralizing, and said that the troops drawn up in the market place had passed the night without rest and under heavy rain. These were immediately billeted in the town, and there carried themselves with moderation. The Irish broke into some houses, for which Tassis had a few executed.

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued).

[168] THE REV. PETER MORREY.

RECTOR OF THURSTASTON AND VICAR OF NESTON.

This clergyman was made deacon by Bishop Pearson, Sept. 19th, 1680, and ordained priest by the same prelate Feb. 24th, 1683-4. He was a minor canon in Chester Cathedral, which post he held at the advent of Bishop Cartwright, in 1686. In the Bishop's diary under the date January 31st., 1687, occurs the entry:—"Mr. Morrey preached in the cathedral, and I admonished him to mend his prayer, in which he gave not the King his titles, and to be wary of reflecting so imprudently as he did upon the King's religion, which he took thankfully,

and promised amendment." It will be remembered that Cartwright was a creature of James II., whose wishes he supported by every means in his power.

In the autumn of the same year another mention of Morrey is found in the diary. The bishop writes (September 4th): "Mr. Morrey preached a good sermon." He had probably taken care this time to say nothing to offend his diocesan.

In the Will of James Arderne, the excellent Dean of Chester, who died in 1691, he left the whole of his property to the Dean and Chapter of Chester, "Excepting only, out of this my whole grant to them, my best suit, as gown, cassock, hat, silk stockings, doublet, and breeches, which I desire may be given to my Curate, Mr. Peter Morrey, and that my Executors do take care of his preferment, he leaving a very good place to come to me."

Mr. Morrey was presented during the Dean's lifetime to the Rectory of Thurastaston, to which he was instituted by Bishop Stratford, Cartwright's successor, Oct. 15, 1689. Three years later he resigned this living for the Vicarage of Neston, which had been held by Dean Arderne himself up to the time of his death. In consideration of his connection with their benefactor, the Dean and Chapter presented Mr. Morrey to Neston, of which he remained Vicar till his death. He was buried at Neston March 28, 1719, according to the entry in the Parish Registers. His will was proved at Chester in the following year. M.A.

[169] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

Your readers will, I am sure, be interested in knowing the inscriptions on the bells hung in the towers of the Parish Churches of our Peninsula. I hope to send you a complete list of them.

EASTHAM.

- I. Gloria in Excelsis Deo (new).
- II. Fear God and honour the King.
- III. When we ring, we sweetly sing (new bell, old inscription).
- IV. We were all cast by Abel Rudhall, of Gloucester A.D. 1757.
- V. I to the church the living call, and to the grave I summon all.
- VI. Of Thine own have I given Thee (new).

WEST KIRBY.

- Treble (new). "Venite Exultemus."
- 2nd (new). "Dona Dei Deo."
- 3rd. "Prosperity to this Parish."
- 4th. "Mr. Thos. Richardson, Curate, 1719."
- 5th. "Josh Jennings, John Totty, Churchwardens 1719."
- 6th. "Abrabam Rudhall cast us all, 1719."
- 7th. "Mr. John Glegg, a good Benefactor, 1719," was the original inscription; but the bell being cracked about the year 1850, it was recast, and now bears "Batgate and Wilson 1854."
- Tenor (new). "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." "In Memoriam Thomae Eaton, hujus Ecclesiae Rectoris, 1889."

CAMPAÑOLOGIST.

FEBRUARY 4th, 1893.

[170] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.

(THE BETRAYER OF DEVENTER).

(Continued from No. 167, January 28).

On the same day that Stanley betrayed Deventer, his fellow traitor, Rowland York, surrendered the Zutphen Sconce. The double treachery caused the utmost indignation. Stanley made a feeble effort to justify his conduct; and Cardinal Allen published a long letter vindicating Stanley's action. The letter is entitled; "Concerning the Yeelding up of the Citie of Daventrie unto his Catholike Maiestie by Sir William Stanley, Knight. Wherein is shewed both howe lawful, honorable, and necessarie that action was: and also that al others, especiallie those of the English Nation, that detayne anie townes or other places, in the lowe cuntries, from the King Catholike, are bound upon paine of damnation to do the like."

About six weeks after the surrender of Deventer, "Ihon Flud," sent by Sir William with letters and messages to friends in England was seized and examined. His depositions endorsed "The Examination of John Flud, servante to Sir William Stanley" are among the Harleian MSS. (287. fol. 65). As some of his answers concern inhabitants of the Wirral, it is worth while giving extracts from this document.

Question 2. What Lettra, or message, was sent by you in to England to anny p'sone (person) frome Sr Willm Standly, Rowland Yoroake, or annyother in Deventer?

He confesseth that Sir Willm Standly willed him to doe his commendations to his father, and to tell him, that which he hadd done was for his contions (conscience). And that this exammynat shoulde doe the lycke comendation to my L. Strange, by that token that he talked with his L. in the chamber at Greenwob, when he tooke his leve at his Ls, and also to comend him to his brother John Pole by the same token that he gave him a coltte which he trusted shortly to requite with a Jenett.

On Stanley's father, Sr Rowland, see Nos. 71, 78, and 82. The Lord Strange referred to is Ferdinando, afterwards 5th Earl of Derby. It is here shown that the heirs of the two great Stanley houses of Hooton and Lathom were on terms of great and suspicious intimacy. The 'John Pole' is John Poole of Capenhurst, who died in 1601 during his father's lifetime and consequently never attained to the family estates. He married Sir William's sister, Mary, by whom he had three sons. Perhaps Pool joined Stanley. A Mr. Pool is mentioned (Strype's *Annals* iv. 280) as living abroad 1596. He is described as "no practicer" and "enemy to none but himself."

Question 7. Whome have you harde Sr Willm Standly saye, or Rowland Yoroake, that they reposed moeste Trust in?

He confesseth he had II letters, one to my L. Strange and the other to John Pole wrytten by Sr Willm Standly, but what was wrytten in them he knoweth not, and that he burnt the same letters at Ryne.

He further confesseth that he willed him to send one Swyfte his fawknor dwelling in Whorel (Wirral) over to him.

In the Eastham Registers occurs the burial of one Peter Swyfte, 16 April 1599. This may probably have been Sir William's falconer.

In a later examination, Flud confessed that among o'her persons whom Stanley wished to join him were "his cosen Hooknell and Mr. Whyttmore."

Hookenhull of Hookenhull and Prenton, and Whitmore of Thurstaston were both Wirral families allied to the Stanleys.

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued.)

[171] THE OLD WALL ON BIDSTON HILL.

(Vide No. 165. January 21.)

I was interested to see "Engineer's" question in a recent issue, with reference to the old wall surrounding the wood on the western slope of Bidston Hill, as I have been several times asked about this wall by frequenters of that most charming of breathing spaces, and have been at some pains to make out its history.

There is no doubt that it is a wall of considerable antiquity, having certainly been in existence for more than 800, possibly nearly 500 years. A good deal of it has, doubtless, been renewed from time to time, especially near the Observatory, but much of the original work still remains.

It encloses what is still called by the farmers, the Park, and what in an old map, dated 1665, is called "The Deere Parke."

Beginning at the gate, just above Mr. Vyner's late cottage, close to the Observatory, it runs along the ridge of the hill, above the wood, until it reaches a thatched white cottage on the south-western slope. At this point it turns almost at a right angle, and runs down the hill-side, skirting the ground of Mr. Angus' new house, to the Upton-road, which it crosses, past the fir wood, which Mr. Hudson has bought, between Mr. Hudson's and Mr. Wainwright's grounds, until it reaches the Upton-road once more, crosses this, though here all traces of the wall have disappeared for about 150 yards.

But on being found again in the next field, it bears away to the right until it nearly reaches the Fender, with which it runs parallel, a field's width away, for some distance, when it turns once more to the right, and can be traced up to the Hall farmyard, from whence to the

starting point only a few traces remain, thus enclosing a very considerable tract of land, over which, in the days of the Derby ownership, herds of deer used to roam.

Now as to its history. It was certainly standing in the same position as now in 1665, at which date a very carefully made survey of the Bidston property, on a scale of about 25 inches to the mile, was taken for Lord Kingston, the then owner. This survey is now in possession of Mr. Vyner, through the courtesy of whose agent, I have been enabled to make a careful tracing of the same. It shows the wall marked in thick double lines, as opposed to the ordinary thin lines for hedgerows.

Also in nearly all the leases of the Hall farm, ranging in date from 1690 to the present century, special mention is made of the "big stone wall round the Park," and a clause is usually inserted providing for the repair and maintenance of the same by the tenant.

The earliest distinct notice of the wall that I have so far been able to find is in a lease of the Bidston Manor Farm dated 1609, preserved at the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS., and published in *The Column* last year (June 25, No. [76]), in which mention is made of "the ston wall together with all the parke and lande called Bidston Parke."

The Hall was built about this date, and it is possible that the same time saw the erection of the wall, but on the other hand there is a curious tradition in Bidston Village that the man who built the wall were paid a penny a day, and the wall is still called by the villagers "The Penny-a-day-dyke."

If there be any foundation to this tradition, and I for one do not wish to discredit it, it would place a much greater antiquity on the wall than 1609, and it would take us back almost to the time of the Edwards. The tradition receives a certain amount of support from the fact, that among the Chester Recognizance Rolls, under date 1407, exists a petition from Matthew de Litherland, John de Leyland, chaplain, and Thomas de More of Liverpool, to be allowed to *enclose and make a park* in their Manor of Bidston, and to have free warren in the same.

This date of 1407 would certainly fall in with the traditional wage of the wall-builders and may be the period of its erection, but it seems difficult to believe that any dry-stone dyke could possibly stand the storms and winds of 500 winters. It is only fair to add however that the wall is immensely strong, being nearly four feet thick at the base, and still stands in places over six feet high.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

FEBRUARY 11th, 1893.

[172] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM STANLEY, Kt.

(THE BETRAYER OF DEVENTER.)

(Continued from No. 170.—February 4.)

The Jesuits, having won Deventer, immediately wrote to the Pope, Philip, Parma, and Allen, magnifying the importance of the service, and claiming reward and countenance for Stanley and his regiment. Thomas Worthington, of Blainscow, a Lancashire man, was sent by Allen to be chaplain to Stanley and his soldiers, and, says Strype, "as at Rheims and Rome there were seminaries for ecclesiastics, so this, being conducted by so worthy a Catholic as Sir William Stanley, might be a continual nursery and seminary of soldiers to fight for the Roman Catholic cause." (*Annals* iii, 428).

Differences speedily arose between Stanley and his fellow-traitor York, who was scheming to supplant his former friend in the governorship of the town. Affairs took such a turn, that many expected Sir William to restore Deventer to the States. But the Spaniards at last succeeded in getting the Irish troops out of the town, and the knight deprived of his followers lost the power, even if he had the will, of retracing his steps. Some of his friends wrote to Philip "of his worthiness and virtue," and "of his experience in the sea coasts of England and especially of his intelligence as to Ireland." In consequence of this, Stanley was sent for to Madrid, and, being introduced into the Council of War, urged Philip to make Ireland the basis of his operations in the approaching attack on England. Philip, who had rejected the advice of Parma on the subject of the Armada, paid no attention to Stanley, who wrote of "great discontentment and signified that his entertainment was far colder than he expected."

He went next to Corunna to advise Medina Sidonia as to the best method of invading England. His counsel was that the debarcation should take place at Millford. About this time a foreigner offered Stanley a wager that the English fleet would not abide the attack of the Spaniards. Sir William seems quietly to have replied that he thought otherwise.

Stanley returned to the Netherlands, and although his own regiment hardly existed yet in July, 1588, he appeared at Nieupoort at the head of 700 men, called the English legion, but chiefly consisting of foreigners, ready to join the Armada. It is doubtful whether these men ever embarked. Meanwhile the English refugees among them sorrowed to see how they were disdained by the Spaniards.

Sir William's father, Sir Rowland, subscribed £100 towards opposing the Armada. This gift was apparently intended as an open disavowal of his son's proceedings.

p'sume to transgress them then you are to p'sents such and the manner of ther offence to the Lord Bishopp or his Chancellor or to any there deputies to bee corrected for there contempt.

George Snell, Rector, *ibid.*
Richard Adams [Sherlock], cler.
Charles Adams, cler.
Robert Kighley [mk.]
John Dean [mk.]

MARCH 18th, 1898.

[188] INVENTORY OF THE GOODS OF THE
CELL OF STANLOW, 1537.

(See No. 179—March 4).

This Inventory, the original of which is in the *Public Record Office*, has been already printed twice; first by Mr. Mackenzie Walcott in Vol. 24 of the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society*, and then in *The Reliquary* for January 1898. It is however sufficiently valuable to reproduce in your *Notes and Queries*.

The Inventory of the gudes and cattalls at the Sell of Stanlowe belongyng to the late monastery of Whalley taken and examyned before Rycharde Sney (Sneyd) Esquier and Thomas Burgoyne Audyttd the xvii day of Aprill in the xxviii yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the Eight.

THE CHAPPELL.

First. A Vestement of rede sylke bawdykyn (1) with all thynges (2) thereunto belongyng for the prest, without any deacon or subdeacon.

Item. A nother vestement of olde dornyx (3) with all thyngs therunto belongyng for the prest.

It' On challes of sylver with a patton parcell gilt the value liiis liiij.

Item. On other olde vestement to serve for lent, cheked without an albe.

It' ii old alter clothes.

Item. An alter table of allyblaster with a blew clothe hangyng before the same.

Item. On image of our Lady of Grace old gylte with playtes of sylv r upon the fleyte and xv pens naylled abowte the tabernacle (4).

Item. Image of wode of seynt Michell.

Item. On lytyll image of allyblaster of Saynt Kateryn.

Item. On other image of allyblaster of Saynt Jehn Baptist.

Item. ii crewettes.

(1). Cloth stiff with gold, supposed to have originated in Babylonia or Bagdad. Hence in Italian, *Baldacchino*, a canopy of state from Bagdad.

(2). The appurtenances, i.e., amice, fanen (maniple), stole, and girdle.

(3). Coarse damask, so called from Doornix or Tournay.

(4). Silver pennies nailed to it as offerings.

It' ii Sacaryng belles.

It' on olde dyoper Towell.

It' at the ende of the sayd alter an Almery (1) of wode.

Item. on candylstyck of ierne. (2)

Item. ij alter candylstycks of latten.

Item. ii new tapers of waxe lytyll wasted.

Item. dyverse other small candyllis of waxe hangyng before the sayd image of our Lady.

Item. on lampe hangyng in brasse.

Item. ii new trenells (3) of wax lytylle wasted.

Item. on alter clothe to hange before the alter ffringed with rede sylke bawdykyn.

Item' on other dyoper towell.

Item' on olde hangyngs for lent, to hange before the Alter.

Item' on lytyll pyllowe to ly the boke upon at the mase tym.

Item' on old maseboke of parchment.

Item' on old procession crosse of brasse.

Item' on lytyll bell hangyng in the ende of the Chapell.

Item' on pyxe of Brasse with a canopy (4).

Item. Cattell xxii whearof liii of on yere olde; v of ii yers hold; v of iii yers olde; and other iii of iii yers hold called eifers, and v kyen.

Item' ii oxen claymed by Antony Derwent.

Item' on horse ii mares and on colt, wyche mares and colts are claymed by Antony Derwent and John Whyttacor (5).

Item' v score sheype and xxii lambes.

Item' vii swyne.

Item' on olde baner clothe of old tayke.

Item' in the Berne by estymacyon vi thrayf (6) of unthraschen barlycorne.

Item in the Garner by Estymacyon iii hopers of barly and peyse together.

Item on bushell of grene peyse claymed by William Whyttell.

Item on bushell of whete.

Item xvi bushells of barly by Estymacyon.

Item owt of the servants chamber i crowe (7) of ierne i spade; on teyme of yerne (8), ii Yoks, iii payer of old trase, on payer of canvass shetes, on blanket, ii coverletts, on bedecase, now layde into the chapell.

Item in the sayd chamber, on coumbe (9) or tubbe.

Item in the madens chamber on payer of canvas sheytes, on coverlett, on blanket, on matteres very olde, now broughte into the chappell.

[Item in the sayd chamber on copeboard and on cowter very old] (10)

Item owt of the buttery on measelen (11) basen, and an Ewer very olde and broken, on chaffyng dyshe, iii counterfettes (12) otherwyse called podngers (13) of pewter whearof on olde, ii candylstycks of latten brought into the chappell.

(1) Armarium, for holding the sacred plate and books [also the chrism used in baptism and confirmation and the holy oil for the sick].

(2) Iron.

(3) Trendles, coiled wax tapers.

(4) A tent like covering for the pendant pyx.

(5) Mary. Sold for xxxlii. liiij.

(6) Thrayf or Thrayve—a north country word for 24 or 12 sheaves of wheat. (7) A gavelock or crowbar. (8) Ox-chain of iron. (9) Comb—A vat. (10) Coffin. (11) Maslin, a yellow metal like brass. (12) According to Halliwell pieces of imitation crookery were known as counterfettes.

Those mentioned in the inventory seem to have been pewter dishes for puddings. (13) Porringers with ears.

Item in the seyde buttery an olde coumbe or tube, on olde almery, on old cofer and iii standes.

Item owt of the kechen iii brasse pots, ii brasse possnets (1), on old brasse pan, on fryng pan; vii pewter dysches, on chaffyng dyshe, ii old oobyernes, (3) iii spyttes, on brandyerne, (8) brought into the chapell.

Item In the brewyng House on brewyng leade, iii tube, on troughe, ii old standes.

Item In the wayne house, ii cartes, on ladder, ii newe plowes.

Item Owt of the same waynhouse on payer of plow yernes sett into the chapell.

Item in the same waynhouse on plow and on harrowe.

Item in the compase of the hold house xii bed-stocks.

Item ii bukkets fallen in to the well.

Item in the hall on long borde, on flourme, on lityll counter (4), iii qeshens, iii chayrs, and glasse in the ii wyndows of the same hall, by Estymacyon xviii ffeyte.

Item On croft called.....sawen with peyse conteyng by Estymacyon....

Item ii Crofts at t'e Cowhouse sawn with ots, by Jamsy Bushell and William Danson for half parte.

Item. That Willim Whyttell is admtyttd to the possession, custody, and keypng of the sayd Sell with the appurtenaunces and all the gudds and cattails efforesayd, to the Kynges use until t'e Kynges pleasor be further knowen.

RICHARD SNEYDE. THOMAS BURGOYN.

Jenet Tassy pro iiiiii.....iiiiid
 Thoma Aynsdale pro xxs.....iid
 Robto Williamson pro iiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Rogero Wermynoham pro xle.....iid
 Willmo Wylkyason pro xxs.....iid
 Petro Gregorie pro xxs.....iid
 Galfrido Williamson pro xxs.....iid

MARCH 25th, 1898.

[185] A WIRRAL HUNTING SONG, 1615.

The following extracts are from a manuscript in the possession of Henry Boddington, Esq., of Pownall Hall, Wilsalaw, which has been communicated by J. P. Earwaker, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., to the *Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, to be printed in the forthcoming volume of their Transactions.

By the courtesy of the Council of the Historic Society, however, we are enabled to print the extracts given below, which refer more particularly to Wirral.

The song which is entitled "CERTAYNE VERSES WRITTEN BY A WERRALYTE TO YE TUNE OF 'UPP WILLYS ITS TIME TO BYSE,' 1615," describes the journey and adventures of a hare, which starting from near the Point of Ay in Flintshire, travels firstly to Talacre, the seat of a branch of the Mostyn family.

From Talacre the hare makes for Mostyn, the following lines being interesting, as showing the early working of the Flintshire coalpits:

"Yett ye hare had care of her feete
 For feere of falling in an ould coole pitte."

A trade in coal seems to have been carried on between Mostyn and Dawpool to judge from what follows,

"Upon ye sd syde of ye top of Knole
 She [the hare] was ware of a botte well laden with coole.

Into ye boate ye hare did hye,
 And was ware of a privie place to lye.
 Ye hare crept in and their laye close
 And over ye water thence she goes,
 And when ye sealers fell asleepe
 Ye hare in feare away did creepe."

And now the hare lands on Wirral ground and, as will be seen in the following lines, keeps along the Dee bank until she reaches Chester.

"To Wytemores [1] of Thurstinton she is gon
 He keepes a hore and kyld a man.
 Then to Ouldfield over the meddowe

[1] The Whitmores of Thurstaston were a family of considerable eminence about this time, and the particular member of the family here alluded to was probably John Whitmore.

[184] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1645.

(Continued from No. 181—March 4).

KIRKBY-WALLEY. [WALLASEY.]

Johe Hyll pro xls boniid
 Ricco Hyll pro iiiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Johe Wylkyson pro iiiii boniiiiid
 Willmo Robydnson pro xxs.....id
 Johe Robynson pro xxs.....id
 Elsathe Shurlesore pro xxs bon.....id
 Jacobo Williamson pro iiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Ricco Shurlesore pro xxsid
 Johe Marten pro xxs.....id
 Johe Robenson Junior pro iiiiii.....iiiiid
 Robto Thomasson Junior pro xxs.....id
 Petro Hyll pro xls bon.....iid
 Ricco Bolton pro xxs bon.....id
 Willmo Pendleton pro xxs bon.....id
 Willmo Potter pro xxs bonid
 Henrico Stanney pro iiiii boniiiiid
 Johe Hyme [?] pro iiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Thoma Stannic [?] pro xxs bonid
 Willmo Owen' pro iiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Johe Stanney pro iiiii bon.....iiiiid
 Johe Tassy pro viii bon.....xiid

(1) Little pots. (2) Dogs for the spit. (3) Andiron.
 (4) Coverlet for a bed.

Whil noe man have a wappe at a widdowe?
 She must marrie a pore man if she doe right
 And follow ye steps of ye ould Knight. [1]
 Then to Geaton to Mr. Glegges [2]
 Hele suffer no poore at his house to begge.
 He hath noe hounde to rune at ye hare
 But kepes a curre against poore and burd [? bear].
 Ore Burton Hill to Puddington Halle [3]
 There she would be bound to calle,
 And she hoped that she might pass
 For he was att service and she was at mass.
 Ye hare did shoute as she went bye
 And then they came out with a gallant crye.
 Ye hare did thinke ye world went rounde
 4 huntinge hornes at oroe did sounde.
 She found them pastyme for a while,
 In a leawge [league] she dubbed they lost a myle.
 To Shottloke Parke ye hare she crost
 And then ye hounds ye game had lost.
 They did noe good on Saugho [Saughall] grounds
 Because ye paver had stoulen ye hounde [4]
 They were angrie at hym and vext in mynde
 For stealing a whelp of ye beste kynde."

From thence to the City of Chester, the hare did not meet with any alarming adventure; and next day after giving some of the Chester people good sport, crossed over Saltney Marsh to Bretton Hall, where she met with her match at last in a pack kept there by a certain Captain [Ravenscroft], which after hunting her over hill and dale finally killed on Dobbs Hill, near Hawarden. The following is the last dying speech of the hare:

"Of Bre'tons hounds I stood in doubt
 I would I had gon a myle about.
 I have bene over ye world so wyde
 In flint shire reared, in flint I dyed.
 God send us all in heaven a place
 Till e'erie hare rune such a race;
 And e'er lett us be merrie amoung
 And soe ile ende my huntinge sonnge."

[186] THE INCUMBENTS OF BIDSTON.

(Continued from No. 178—February 11th).

(Appendix I). The Rev. EDWARD MOORE was presented to the living by Wm Glegg of Gayton, 17 Dec 1742.

He is described as an L.L.B. of Cambridge (Trinity Hall) and as having been ordained Deacon by William [Baker], Bishop of Norwich, 22 Dec 1728.

[1] The ould knight was Sir Rowland Stanley of Hooton, who died at Oldfield the previous year, aged 96. The widow was his third wife, Joan Browne of Capenhurst, whom Sir Rowland had married at Eastham in 1593. This lady, who seems to have been of humble origin, took as her second husband, Henry Stanley, a natural son of Henry, 4th Earl of Derby.

[2] Edward Glegge buried at Heswall, 1623.

[3] Puddington Hall, the seat of the Masseys. The representative of the family in 1615 was William Massey, who was knighted two years later by James I. His wife was Catherine, daughter of Sir Edward Herbert of the Red Castle, Co. Montgomery.

[4] 'Ye paver' seems to have been William Gamul; this must be an allusion to the original trade of the family.

In the Bishop's Visitation Book for this year (1742), the Rev. Edward Colquitt B.A. is mentioned as Curate of Birkenhead Chapel, and it is stated that Moreton Chapel in Bidston Parish is ruinous.

Though Mr. Moore was only presented to the living in 1742, he seems to have resided in the Parish as early as 1740, as his son George is entered in the Register as being christened on the 1st January 1740-1.

Early in 1743 Mr. Moore was succeeded by the Rev. J. LATHAM (so we are informed by a note in the Register Book), but Mr. Latham in his turn gave place in the autumn of the same year to the Rev. FRANCIS ELLISON.

Six months later, namely in May 1744, Rev. EDWARD PARR appears from the Register Book to be in possession of the living and we learn from documents at the Bishops Registry Chester, that he was presented by Wm Glegg of Gayton.

He is described as being a B.A. of Oxford (Brasenose), and Mr. Glegg states in a letter to the Bishop that he has made Mr. Parr "promise to leave ye place if he marries."

He was a son of Thomas Parr of Rainhill in Farnworth Chapelry, and was baptized 7th May, 1721.

Mr. Parr disappears from the scene—whether owing to his having married does not appear—in 1746, being succeeded by the Rev. JOHN CROOKHALL (also Rector of Woodchurch) in 1746, the Rev. JOHN HODSON in 1747, the Rev. ROBERT WASHINGTON (also curate of Birkenhead Chapel) in 1748, and the Rev. WILLIAM HUGHES in 1749.

Mr. Hughes, who is described as late Curate of Shipbourne, Co. Kent, held the living for 25 years, being succeeded in 1774 by the Rev. BRYAN KING.

Mr. King died in 1798, and was succeeded by the Rev. WM. SHEWELL, who held the living until 1819, when the Rev. JOSEPH GATE was appointed.

During the incumbency of Mr. Gate's successor, the Rev. CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER GRAHAM (1851-81), the living became a Rectory.

Mr. Graham's place was taken in 1881 by the Rev. JOHN FINDLAY BUCKLER, M.A., the present Rector.

Yours etc.,

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

[187] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 169—January 28).

BROMBOROUGH.

These bells are all modern, having been cast in 1880, by Taylor of Loughborough. The inscriptions were composed by the Rector, the Rev. E. Dyer Green:—

1. When the full ring its tuneful voice shall raise,
Let me be first to lead the call of praise.
2. Gladsome we peal, from out the Church's tower,
To God's great glory, and His love and power.
3. To worship duly Heaven's Almighty Lord,
Our sweetest chimes unite with one accord.
4. When wedded love makes two as one abide,
Their joy we share, and spread it far and wide.
5. From Mersey's bank sounds forth our sacred gl e,
And courts responsive echoes from the Dee.
6. Aloft are we, but loftier points the spire,
That heavenward man should raise his heart's desire.
7. May every strain melodious we outpour,
Stir all who hear God's goodness to adore.
8. Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

In eam memoriam Caroli S. Bamford (qui duodecimo die Novembris Anno Domini MDCCLXXI, anno statis sue vicesimo quarto, hac vita excessit) campanas hasee octo dedicavit atque in hac ecclesia parochiali Brunburgensis poni curavit Carolus Bamford de Brookhurst pater ejus.

HESWALL.

1. Gloria in excelsis Deo 1627 R.B. (1) E.B.
Charles John Cliff Touzel M.A. Rector.
Henry Totty } Churchwardens.
Edward Broster }
Recast by John Warner and Son, London, 1881.
2. Gulielmus Ramsbotham, Rector, 1672.
C.W. W.R. J.P.
Charles John Cliff Touzel, M.A., Rector.
Henry Totty } Churchwardens.
Edward Broster }
Recast by John Warner and Son, London, 1881.
3. Dulcedine Vocis Cantabo Tuo Noe 1672.
Charles John Cliff Touzel M.A. Rector.
Henry Totty } Churchwardens.
Edward Broster }
Recast by John Warner and Son, London, 1881.
4. Charles John Cliff Touzel, M.A., Rector.
William Hough } Churchwardens.
Alfred Moore }
1884.
Cast by John Warner and Son, London.
5. Charles John Cliff Touzel, M. A., Rector.
William Hough } Churchwardens.
Alfred Moore }
1884.
Cast by John Warner and Son, London.

(1) Probably Richard Brown, one of the patrons of the ring.

APRIL 1st, 1893.

[188] A YOUTHFUL MARRIAGE IN 1560.

(See No. 177—Feb. 25th.)

A few weeks back in my notes on Sir William Stanley, I mentioned that a document had been brought to light which conclusively proved that the ordinary date given for his birth, viz., 1532, was far too early. This document, from which I send you extracts, is preserved in the Bishop's Registry at Chester, and relates to an early marriage of Sir Wm. Stanley, which was subsequently dissolved. The Robert Leche, Dr. of Law, before whom the depositions were made, was Chancellor of the Diocese. Hatton Hall, the scene of the marriage, was the seat of the Duttons in the Parish of Waverton. The testimony of the witnesses shows Sir William to have been born in 1548.

Depositions taken xxii November, 1566, before Robert Leche, Dr. of Law, etc., concerning the marriage of Wm. Stanley and Ann Dutton minors:

Roger Pott [? Potter] of the Parish of Eastham, aged xvi years—says—that he was present when mariag was had and solemnised between the p'ties libellar' in a chappell at Hatton in the Christmas tyme fyve yeres come Xmas next the sd Wm. beinge at that tyme about th' age of xii yeres or thereabout as this deponent hard [heard] his Mr. Sir Rowland Stanley report at the same tyme and the said Annee was about th' age of x yeres to this deponents Judgement at the sd tyme and he saies he thynkes the sd Wm is nowe much about xvii yeres old, etc.

This Deponent saith they neu' [never] dwelled together nor neu' came together but on gestwise and further the sd Wm hath for the most p'te bene sins the sayd mariag at Lathom at schole there and in s'vice with Th'arle of Derby and remayned ther for the most p'te and the sd Annee hath dwelled at home with her father or els where out of the company of ye sd Wm etc.

And further the deponent saith he hath hard the sd Wm divers tymes say he wold not take her as his wief whereby he verily thinks the mariag was never consumate between them.

Oliverns Totty of the parish of Soto Magna [?] etat l. annos, etc.

This deponent saith that he was present at the mariag between the p'ties libellar' in a chappell at Hatton Hall in Xpas time woh shallbe v yeres at Xpas nixt ensueinge the sayd Wm. beinge at tyme somewhat above xij yeres olde and under thirteene as he well knowes because the Deponent hath knowne him from his infancie and the sd Annee as he thynkes was much about th'age of x yeres in his judgement etc.

This deponent saith that the sd Wm. hath been at Schoole at Lathom with one Doctor Standishe and with Therle of Derby in s'vice for the moste p'te sins tyme of the sd mariag and the sd Annee hath

been separat from the sd Wm. in such places as her father hath appoynted her and they have new come together but on geat wise [gwest wise], &c.

Olivanus Tarleton of the parish of Eastham a-tat lxvi anos—saith—that he came to Ha'ton Hall within two dayes nexte after that as he hard it reported by diners worship full and other that were present at the sd maring that maring was solemnized between the sd p'tics libellar' in a chappell thre in Xpas tyme wh shaibe 5 yeres ago come Xpas nex e the sd Wm. beinge at the tyme under th'age of xiiij yeres and the sd Annee to his deponents Judgement was much abt th'age of x yeres.

This deponent saies that the said p'tics have dwelled in sunder sines the tyme of the sd maring for the sd Wm. hath beene for the most at Schole and in s'vice at Lathom and the sd Annee hath been at her fathers appoyntment etc.

F. SANDERS.

[189] THE BACKFORD CHARITIES IN 1720.

The following communication respecting the Backford charities was made in reply to questions sent by Bishop Gastrell to every parish in his diocese, when engaged in collecting the valuable information contained in his *Notitia Cestriensis*.

The Rev. John Turner who furnishes the information was, according to Ormerod, Vicar of the Parish, from 1691 to 1720.

"Mr. Stratford,

These come to certifie you wt Charity is given to the Church & to the Parish of Backford, as it now stands this 26th day of April 1720 first, John Sarret of Lea hath 5 pounds of the poor's money for which he hath given land security, to pay 6 shillings upon every Easter Munday upon wch day it is distributed to the poor of the parish affords'd. Alsoe Elizabeth Hixon, of Back'ord widow hath sixteen pound for wch she payeth 16 shillings to the said poor yearly viz. 1 shilling per month and 4 shilling more upon every Good Ffriday to be given to the poor of the sd parish in Bread according to the Will of the Donor and for this 16 pound we have good Personal Security, this is all the Old Charity.

Now lately John Welsbey, of Backford who was buried March 26th 1719 and left in his last Will and Testament the sume of 20 pound the use whereof is equally to be divided betwixt the Minister and the poor of the parish of Backford upon every Good friday, that is to say 10 shillings to the minister for preaching a sermon upon every Good friday and the other 10 shillings to be distributed to the poor of the said parish upon the same day yearly for ever and accordingly the last Good friday I received 10s. for pre-aching a sermon and the remainder given to the poor wch was the first paymt. This same 20 pound is now in the hands of Samuel Kettle this Testator's Son-in-law who hath given his Bond for it.

Lastly Mary Welsbey of Backford widow (late wife of the said John Welsby) hath left 5 pound to the poor of the sd parish wch sd 5 pound is now put into the Church Chest there to remaine untill we can hear of a good place for it. This is all that offers att present from your Humble Servant

John Turner vicar ibid."

[Endorsed] "To Mr. William Stradford Deputy Register to the Consistory Court of Chester. These presents."

[190] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

(Continued from No. 184.—March 18.)

LYSCART.

Thoma Bridd pro liiii bon	liiij
Gilberto Dobbe pro liiii bon	liiij
Willmo Dobbe junior pro xis	liij
Henrico Aynysdale pro xxs	id
Willmo Dobbe Senior pro iiiiii	liiij
Johs Sampson pro xis	liij
Willmo Pemberton pro iiiiii	liiij
Thoma Smythe pro liiii	liiij
Johs Thomasson pro liiii	liiij
Rico Johnson pro liiii	liiij
Henrico Younge [?] pro viii	xiiij
Johs Smythe [?] pro liiii	liiij
Jacobo Smythe [?] pro xxs	id
Thoma Smythe pro xis	liij
Henrico Brydd pro xxs	id
Johs Shurlace pro viii	xiiij
Thoma Shurlace pro xis	liij
Petro Deane pro xis	id
Rico Sampson pro xxs	id
Henrico Rydyng pro xis	liij
Willmo Robynson pro xis	liij
Johs Thomasson pro xis	liij
Johs Bryd pro liiii	liij
Johs Harryson pro liiii	liiij
Thomas Younge pro xxs	id
Agneta Smythe pro xxs	id

[191] QUERY.

In Mr. Egerton Leigh's *Ballads and Legends of Cheshire* occurs the following song (communicated by Sir Edward Cus) which was sung by the children in Wirral when they went round 'Pace Egging':—

"Please, Mr. Whiteleg,
Please give us an Easter egg.
If you do not give us one,
Your hen shall lay an addled one,
Your cock shall lay a stone."

Can anyone tell me whether this song is still sung, and whether 'pace egging' still exists in our peninsula?

F.S.

APRIL 8th, 1893.

[192] GAYTON WAKE, OR MARY DOD AND
HER LIST OF MERITS.

The above is the title of a poem by Richard Llwyd, published at Chester in 1804. The heroine is an enormously fat woman, who seems to have been a well-known vendor of eatables at Chester. The poem describes her visit to Gayton on the occasion of its wake, and her adventures on the return journey.

The work opens with the muse greeting her rural friends. It then proceeds—

Up rose the sun—the sky was clear,
And gently ebb'd the Dee ;
The winds of Heaven were fast asleep,
Though Gayton all was glee.

The lads of Wirral came in crowds,
The nymphs neat and trim ;
To stay at home on such a day,
Is very near a sin.

And love, who never miss'd a wake,
Brought quivers fill'd with darts ;
He's much to do on all such days,
And wounds a world of hearts.

And Cambria's youth from Edwin's shores,
An annual voyage take ;
What lass would stay on that side Dee,
When Love's at Gayton Wake ?

Youth, manhood, age, even childhood came,
To share this jocund day ;
The hedges shone with gaudy shops,
And Gayton all was gay.

Dwarfs, giants, players, learned pig,
With other creatures odd ;
The Dee brought cargoes rich with cakes,
And with them MARY DOD.

When MARY first approached the place,
To get on shore was trying ;
That she was there, on every voice,
Through all the Wake was flying.

A crowd collected—bought her cakes,
And gazed till they were weary ;
And they who'd of the Mammoth read,
Concluded it was MARY.

The poet then goes on to declare his heroine a rival to the most obese persons of the time, to Daniel Lambert of Leicester, to the 'large woman,' who overturned a coach at Kennington, and to Mr. Bright of Maldon, who weighed 616 pounds.

From Hoylake hall to Gayton come
Fine ladies—gentlemen ;
They come, my friends, to look at you,
And you may look at them.

A note explains Hoylake Hall to be "a magnificent inn lately built at the extremity of Wirral by Sir J. T. Stanley, Bart., and a most delightful situation for sea-bathing."

On frumenty, that day devoured,
The Muse is not enlarging,
But places that, with other freaks,
A rustic row, per margin.

A note here explains frumenty to be "wheat boiled in milk, an indispensable mess at a Cheshire Wake; and in such favour was this staff of life held in this country that above 50 families in it bear wheat-sheafs, in different colours and positions, in their armorial bearings."

The "freaks" alluded to are elucidate by the following:—

GAYTON.

One Mile heat, by asses; with usual attendant
Fun in the extreme.

A race by women was won, after two heats,
By a Virago, called Black-legged Moll ;
who was chaired, arrayed in a smock and ribbons,
the reward of her speed.

A Jumping Match, by 8 men in sacks, succeeded.
A Pig, with its tail shaved and scaped, was caught
by Tom Briscoe.

Bobbing for Apples in Ale—Eating a Quart of Hot
hasty pudding—Grinning through a Collar. The
ugliest grinner to be the winner.

Among a variety of other laughable amusements
For a *saddle* three ponies will shew their high mettle,
And dogs try their speed for a fine copper kettle ;
'Tis a *tea-kettle*, mind ; and a man in a sack,
Is to run against one with a *wife* on his back.

The poet goes on to describe two well-known
quack-doctors present at the Wake, Dr. Solomon
and John Truman ; also a foreign adventurer of the
Dousterswivel genus, who pretended to discover
metals by his divining rod.

De Linden also crossed the Dee,
And brought his magic rods ;
A foreign figure—thoughtful—thin,
No kin of MARY DOD's.

He likewise came, whose monstrous maw,
All Wales with terror fills ;
They dread his drawing near the coast,
Lest he should eat their hills.

The last named worthy was a Stone-eater, who at
this time amused the public by eating Stone, Glass
bottles, Tumblers, &c.

Other frequenters of the fair are enumerated
ending up with the dancing bear. But the day with
all its amusements comes too quickly to an end and
then all begin to return homewards.

The day wax'd short—the WAKE grew thin,
Some sail'd adown the Dee,
While others tugg'd against the tide,
And row'd to Hilburee.

Among the first went MARY DOD
Her empty baskets—pelf,
The boat would hold but little more,
Being near a *freight* herself.

But heavy laden though they were,
They met with no delay ;
And evening saw them safe on shore,
At Connah's crowded quay.

The crowded quay with laughter rang
'Twas soon in echo's reach)
When MARY panting left the boat,
And waddl'd up the beach.

The sailors caught th' ungenerous joy,
When first she came in view,
And swore the sea had then produced
A creature odd and new.

A showman who sees our heroine here forms a
project to engage her to exhibit through the
country.

But one demur there did remain
To damp this schemer's notion ;
The showman's curious boast is vain,
Without the power of motion.

But where's the thing yet unconceived,
The fertile pate to plod ;
The huge machine in which to move,
The mountain, MARY DOD ?

M.A.

(To be continued.)

[193] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 187—March 25th.)

SHOTWICK.

These bells have perhaps the highest average of
antiquity in the Hundred : the inscriptions are as
follows :—

(1) * Gloria in Excelsis Deo 1621

(2) † Iesus be ovr Speed 1616

Bell founders mark on No. (2), within an angular
shield, the letters W. G.

(3) 1664. Gloria in Excelsis Deo, O W. W D. I B

W

Bellfounder's mark on N. (3), I S, which without
doubt refers to J. Frey Scott, of Wigan, a celebrated
bellfounder. (*Vide* a paper on Lancashire and
Cheshire Bellfounders in Vol. 42 of the Proceedings
of the Hist. Soc. of Lan. and Ches., by J. F.
Earwaker, Esq., M.A.F.S.A.)

BACKFORD.

(1) A.D. 1888.

A M.D.G. et in Piam Memoriam Reverendissimi
in X o Patris Gul Jacobson Cestr nuper Episc. D.D.
R. J. Fairclough.

(2) R. J. Fairclough M.A. Vicar.
W. Taylor and R. Davies, Churchwardens.

Cast in the year of Jubilee in commemoration of
the Fiftieth Year of the Reign of Queen Victoria,
1887.

(3) Let none be in anger,
We were cast by Richard Saunders, 1714.

(4) J. T. 1714

(5) John Birkened Esqre 1714.

(6) John Welcbe, William Hatton, Ch. Wardens,
1714.

The initials J. T. on the 4th Bell are those of
John Turner, Vicar of Backford, from 1691 to 1730.

CAMPAENOLOGIST.

APRIL 15th, 1898.

[194] GAYTON WAKE, OR MARY DOD AND
HER LIST OF MERITS.

(Continued from No. 192—April 8.)

After weighing the matter in his mind, the show-
man at last determined to make proposals to Mary.

But when his plan, with preface much,
He ventur'd to advance ;
She smil'd and with a *gentle pat*,
She knock'd him down at once.

Now Night approach'd, the waves of Dee
D. clar'd the winds awake ;
And Home, though distant, hinted still
Another voyage take.

A larger boat, with sails and oars,
Was launch'd with much ado ;
And MARY DOD, when got on board,
Weigh'd half the twenty-two.

But Fortune still, the fickle dame,
That holds the "Loaves and Fishes,"
Will sometimes with inverted touch,
Unhinge our favourite wishes.

She now on mischief fully bent,
Her inmost thoughts employ'd ;
To close in wayward mood the Day,
Which Wirral all enjoy'd.

The tide ran in, the breeze was fair,
The rising sails expanded ;
They flew before the growing gale,
But all at once were stranded.

Here Fortune plac'd th' impeding shoal,
Where Dee divided glides ;
Roll'd deep on either side the boat
Her tantalizing tides.

Now all that Fancy yet has form'd,
Or tongues contrived to speak ;
And all the Muse has ever sung,
To this dread scene is weak.

Welsh, English, screams, and prayers, and cries
Assail'd—confus'd the ear ;
And distance form'd, with blended roar,
A second Babel here.

Such was the uproar, wild and loud,
That fill'd the affright'd air ;
That Tritons, in the train of Dee,
Got out of bed to stare.

The Burton people heard the din,
They scamper'd to a man ;
The women and the children too,
Were all awak'd and ran.

They grop'd in vain to find their clothes,
In haste there's nothing found ;
What feeling fair would hunt a coat,
When MARY DOB's aground.

In Bala wigs—red worsted caps,
In cotton folds enwrapp'd ;
The men of Burton—careful folk,
Had each his noddle capp'd.

Good men and true—let no alarm,
From caps to craniums creep ;
These red hot caps can only mean,
That Burton men can sleep.

The Bala wig is explained as a flannel covering for the head, in imitation of a wig—and latterly much worn in rural and humble life. "The red night cap, so common in cottages, has nothing to do with the *Bonnnet rouge* ; for the Muse does not believe that there is an ounce of Jacobinism in the whole parish of Burton."

Through thick and thin, they scour along,
Through fields of corn and hay ;
And rolls and dumplings, yet unborn,
Were tramp'd on that day.

And Cambria's sons and daughters fair,
Though distant heard the roar ;
Still ready when the virtues call,
They crowded to the shore.

The Virtues now, as heretofore,
Delight'd saw them fly
On Emulation's swiftest wing,
When Danger rais'd her cry.

Now MARY felt the trying hour,
And trembling with dismay,
Fell down and on imploring knees
Lift up her voice to pray.

One savage swore, that heedless heard
This just appeal to God ;
The boat got deeper in the mud,
As down fell MARY DOB.

A rambling saint, sedate and sleek,
With grave unholy grin,
Declar'd that MARY's velvet sides
Were one huge heap of sin.

And farther said, with imploring voice,
They ne'er could hope to float,
While that great monster—mass immense,
Should keep aground the boat.

He brought as other pleaders do,
What often Law commands ;
A precedent of men that throw
Their goddess on the sands.

Meek Charity oft pleads in vain,
The bigot's ne'er perplex ;
He flies, a ready fort to find,
In Scripture's tortur'd text.

At once the Zealot's rage pronounce'd,
The dread portending word ;
That Jonas like, to save the crew,
She must go overboard.

Now all on MARY turn'd their eyes,
That heard again the tale ;
And some, Heaven bless them, look'd about,
As if to find a WHALE.

Poor MARY knew the chapter well,
And heard the dreadful wish ;
But never yet had heard that Dee,
Had nurs'd so kind a fish.

Here occurs the following note :—"Mary, not being a conveyancer, did not know that WHALES are among the contingent advantages of the Manor of Ince, near Chester, as appears from the advertisement for the sale of it, in October 1808, "All waifs, strays, wrecks, WHALES, &c., &c.

Alas! No whale that ploughs the deep,
Or ever waved a fin ;
How'er disposed to save her life,
Could take our MARY in.

For though down such capacious throats,
A full-fed man goes handy ;
Yet such compar'd to MARY DOB,
At best is but a Dandy.

(To be continued.)

M. A.

[195] PAOE EGGING IN WIRRAL.

(See No. 191—April 1st.)

In reply to your enquiry with reference to this custom, it may interest you to know that it is still persisted in by many of the children around Greasby.

They come round in bands of two or three or more to the various farmhouses and sing the following doggerel lines. (I need not add that there is not much tune to be detected.)

"Please Mrs. Whiteleg,
Be pleased to give us an Easter egg
If you don't give us an Easter egg
May your hens lay addle eggs
And your cocks lay stones,
One for Peter two for Paul
And three for the one who made us all."

This appeal is not often refused, and I know of one farmer who this year gave eggs to about a dozen different sets of children, a special store of eggs having been laid in against Easter.

A SEPTUAGENARIAN.

[196] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1845.

(Continued from No. 190—April 1st.)

POLTON SEACUM.

Margeria Dunne pro xls .....	..iid
John Dunne pro liiii .....	..liid
John Williamson pro iiiiii .....	..liiid
Thoma Gyll pro iiiiii .....	..liiid
Margeria Gyll pro liiii .....	..liid
Henrico Bryd pro vill .....	..xiid
Thoma Bryd pro xxs .....	..id
Willmo Donne pro xxs .....	..id
Petro Robenson pro xls .....	..liid
John Totty pro liiii .....	..liid
Thoma Hyll [?] pro iiiiii .....	..liiid
Margeria Hall pro liiii .....	..liid
Rico Shurlocre pro liiii .....	..liid
Rico Johnson pro xls .....	..liid
Rico Bryd pro vii .....	..xd
John Younge pro liiii .....	..liid
Alexandro Younge pro vii .....	..xd

SAUGHALL-MASSEY.

Thoma Harryson pro liiii .....	..liiid
Margareta Smythe pro iiiiii .....	..liiid
Edmundo More [?] pro liiii bon .....	..liid
Henrico Pemberton pro xls .....	..liid
Agneta Marten pro liiii bon .....	..liid
Henrico Bennet pro liiii bon .....	..liid
John Ley pro liiii bon .....	..liid
Thoma Harryson pro xls .....	..liid
John Bennet pro liiii bon .....	..liid
[—?] Smythe pro viii .....	..xliid
Morgano Bennet pro xls .....	..liid
Rico Robyson pro xls .....	..liid

UPTON.

Edwardo [?] Pemberton pro liiii .....	..liiid
Thoma Robynson pro xls .....	..liid
Robto Smyth pro xxs .....	..liid
[—] Martyn [?] pro liiii .....	..liid
Rico Younge pro liiii .....	..liid
Hugone Gyll pro liiii bon .....	..liid
John Bayluffe pro iiiiii bon .....	..liid
John Walton [?] pro xxs bon .....	..liid
Thoma Younge pro vii bon .....	..xd
John Williamson pro xxs .....	..liid
Thoma Byrie [?] pro xxs .....	..liid

APRIL 22nd, 1893.

[197] GAYTON WAKE, OR MARY DOD AND HER LIST OF MERITS.

(Continued from No. 194—April 15.)

* * * * *

The Saint again repeated—said,
That ships had sunk with evil;
And that they then had in the boat,
In MARY's shape—the Devil.

Poor MARY still was on her knees,
In dreadful trepidation;
Of slips in love and trifling faults,
She made an odd confession.

Whate'er distress the crew were in,
All laugh'd aloud at that;
Surpris'd that Love could find a heart,
So hid in folds of fat.

* * * * *

Poor human kind, we're all to blame,
Our faults need not be heighten'd;
And those that think need not be told,
That MARY DOD was frighten'd.

* * * * *

The crew, by fear, the bigot led,
To MARY now drew near;
But how to lift their victim up,
Was not, as yet, so clear.

One hop'd their strength, united force,
Might in the end prevail;
If one great effort well was made,
They surely could not fail.

One talk'd of tackle round her waist,
But that a weight so vast,
Would, in the act of hoisting up,
Bring down the strongest mast.

A thousand plans were now propos'd
(Inventions every shift);
But THAT their every scheme defy'd,
Which cranes alone could lift.

And how the thing was to be done,
To counsel deep they fell;
For not a tongue in twenty-two,
Pretended yet to tell.

In this dilemma leave them Muse,
O'er MARY's watry grave;
For thee Heaven opens a happier scene,
Thy dear delight—to save.

Th' involving clouds of Night dispers'd,
Around a radiance shone;
And MARY, still at earnest prayer,
Seem'd as if left alone.

An Angel Herald read aloud,
Her deeds of good—her MERITS;
When sudden, at the summons blest,
Came groups of sainted spirits.

Her aged Parent first approach'd,
With Angel sweetness smil'd,
And clasp'd to his paternal breast,
His long support—his child.

In azure vests, on silver wings,
Two orphans next appeared,
With more than mother's fondness nurs'd,
To MARY's soul endeared.

They stretch'd their friendly pinions wide,
They rais'd her drooping head,
They grasp'd the hand that prop'd their youth,
Their helpless childhood fed.

They saw, delight'd—gas d again,
The face they lov'd so dear ;
They sooth'd the storm that swell'd her breast,
And dried the falling tear.

The next, a fair and manly form,
Came floating on the surge,
And stretch'd a firm and sinewy arm,
The tardy boat to urge.

This youth, an infant orphan too,
By MARY's kindness rear'd ;
On such his country leans for aid,
'Tis such her foes have fear'd.

Their parent, MARY's sister now,
Had left the abodes of bliss,
And gently laid on MARY's lips
A mother's grateful kiss.

A crowd of fairy cherubs came,
She'd often seen at Wakes ;
They'd often met her friendly smile,
And eaten of her cakes.

With looks of comfort, words of hope,
A grateful crowd attended ;
Whom MARY in her useful life,
Had Christian-like befriended.

And Deva, by celestial sounds,
Attracted to the boat ;
Came followed by a train of waves,
That set it soon afloat.

It mov'd ; Despair gave place to Joy,
It left obstructing strands,
The Heavenly Host exulting rose,
And clasped their HALLOWED HANDS.

The Muse again to earth returns,
To paths by Mortals trod ;
And homeward guides, with happier steps,
The worthy MARY DOD.

The breezes that, in steering home,
Had bred the briny riot,
Were pass'd, and glossy Dee declar'd,
The wearied winds were quiet.

The crew reviv'd, again regain'd
Their sunk dejected spirits ;
The Saint, though saved, will never own
Twas done by MARY's MERITS.

Now LUNA, who with lacy steps,
Up Broxton hills had crept ;
Shone bright—as if to take a peep
At MARY, ere she slept.

Got home—her good and grateful heart
Obey'd its best director ;
She rais'd her voice (her neighbours heard),
And thank'd her best Protector.

They crowd'd—listen'd to her tale,
Though long, no soul was weary ;
So happy were they, one and all,
To find at home their MARY.

One firm resolve she since has made,
To go no more to Gayton,
In boat or barge, to Fair or Wake,
And can't in Coash or Phæon.

From this poem, it would seem that Gayton Wake had a considerable reputation. Perhaps one of your readers can give the date of it. This might give a clue to the original dedication of Heswall Church, the Wake being generally held on the dedication festival. The present Church is dedicated to St. Peter, the original title having been forgotten.

M.A.

[198] WIRRAL LIVINGS IN 1717.

The following is another of the original replies from which Bishop Gastrell compiled his *Notitia*.

These are to certify whom it May Concern that ye parish Church of Bidston is situate in ye Town or Village of Bidston in Wirral in ye Dioces of Chester, distant from London about 160 miles, and ye whole advantage arising to ye Minister or Curate there annually is only Twenty pounds per Annum payable by those who claim under Sir William Glegg deceas'd who had a lease of ye Tithes and other dues belonging to ye Church of Bidston from ye Right Reverend ye Bishop of Chester and Surplice Fees wch one year with another amount not to more than twenty shillings. Witnes our hands this 28:h of March, 1717.

John Barker, Curate.
John Webster.
Henry Smith [mk]
Henry Hancock [mk]

Mar. 28th, 1717.

The Revd John Barker Clerk, curate and John Webster, Henry Smith, and Henry Hancock, Inhabitants or parishioners of Bidston made oath of ye Truth of the above written Certificate

before us
Ric. Bouchier,
Edw. Roberts.

[199] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

(Continued from No. 196—April 15.)

Nzsas,

John Swone pro xlii	.....	xviiiid
Rico Mylner pro xls	.....	liid
Katherina Harper pro xvii	.....	liiid
Hamone Treydegold [?] pro xxs	.....	id
Henrico Brusco pro viiili	.....	xviid
Rico Swone pro viii	.....	xiiid
Thoma Deynson pro viii	.....	xiiid
Willmo Deynson pro xxs	.....	id
Thoma Treydegold pro viii	.....	xiiid
Thoma Hampton pro iiii	.....	liiid
Willmo Swone pro viii	.....	xiiid
Thoma Coke pro iiii	.....	liiid

Thoma Coke pro xls.....	iiid
Henrico Bennet pro xls	iiid
Hugone Bennet pro xls	iiid
Willimo Coke pro xls	iiid
Thoma Barrall pro villi	xii
Hamone Weyley pro iiii	iiid
Galfrido Hancock pro iiii	iiid
Kisabethe Davy pro iiii	iii

APRIL 29th, 1893.

[200] NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE AT
BEBINGTON.

(See No. 59—May 21st, 1892.)

Rock Ferry, August 29th (1858).—Yesterday, we all took a walk into the country. It was a fine afternoon, with clouds, of course, in different parts of the sky, but a clear atmosphere, bright sunshine, and altogether a Septembriah feeling. The ramble was very pleasant along the hedge-lined roads, in which there were flowers blooming, and the varnished holly, certainly one of the most beautiful shrubs in the world, so far as foliage goes. We saw one cottage which, I suppose, was several hundred years old. It was of stone, filled into a wooden frame, the black-oak of which was visible like an external skeleton; it had a thatched roof and was whitewashed. We passed through a village—Higher Bebington, I believe—with narrow streets and mean houses, all of brick or stone, and not standing wide apart from each other, as in American country villages, but conjoined. There was an immense almshouse in the midst; at least, I took it to be so. In the centre of the village, too, we saw a moderate-sized brick house, built in imitation of a castle with a tower and turret in which an upper and an under row of small cannon were mounted—now green with moss. There were also battlements along the roof of the house, which looked as if it might have been built eighty or a hundred years ago. In the centre of it there was the dial of a clock, but the inner machinery had been removed, and the hands, hanging listlessly, moved to and fro in the wind. It was quite a novel symbol of decay and neglect. On the wall, close to the street, there were certain eccentric inscriptions cut into slabs of stone, but I could make no sense of them. At the end of the house opposite the turret, we peeped through the bars of an iron gate and beheld a little paved court-yard, and, at the further side of it, a small piazza, beneath which seemed to stand the figure of a man. He appeared well advanced in years, and was dressed in a blue coat and buff breeches, with a white or straw hat on his head. Behold, too, in a kennel beside the porch, a large dog sitting on his hind legs, chained! Also, close beside the gateway, another man, seated in a kind of arbour! All these were woodeh images; and the whole castellated, small, village dwelling, with the inscriptions and the queer statuary, was probably the whim of some half-crazy person, who has now, no doubt, been long asleep in Bebington churchyard.

The bell of the old church was ringing as we went along, and many respectable-looking people and cleanly dressed children were moving towards the sound. Soon we reached the church, and I have seen nothing yet in England that so completely answered my idea of what such a thing was, as this old village church of Bebington.

It is quite a large edifice, built in the form of a cross, a low peaked porch in the side, over which, rudely cut in stone, is the date 1,800 and something. The steeple has ivy on it, and looks, old, old, old; so does the whole church, though portions of it have been renewed, but not so as to impair the aspect of heavy, substantial endurance, and long, long decay, which may go on hundreds of years longer before the church is a ruin. There it stands, among the surrounding graves, looking just the same as it did in Bloody Mary's days; just as it did in Cromwell's time. A bird (and perhaps many birds) had its nest in the steeple, and flew in and out of the loopholes that were opened into it. The stone framework of the windows looked particularly old.

There were monuments about the church, some lying flat on the ground, others elevated on low pillars, or on cross slabs of stone, and almost all looking dark, moss-grown, and very antique. But on reading some of the inscriptions I was surprised to find them very recent; for, in fact, twenty years of this climate suffices to give as much or more antiquity of aspect, whether to gravestone or edifice, than a hundred years of our own,—so soon do lichens creep over the surface, so soon does it blacken, so soon do the edges lose their sharpness, so soon does Time gnaw away the records. The only really old monuments (and those not very old) were two, standing close together, and raised on low, rude arches, the dates on which were 1684 and 1686. On one a cross was rudely cut into the stone. But there may have been hundreds older than this, the records on which had been quite obliterated, and the stones removed, and the graves dug over anew. None of the monuments commemorate people of rank; on only one the buried person was recorded as "Gent."

While we sat on the flat slabs resting ourselves, several little girls, healthy looking, and prettily dressed enough, came into the churchyard, and began to talk and laugh, and to skip merrily from one tombstone to another. They stared very broadly at us, and one of them, by and by, came up to U. and J., and gave each of them a green apple, then they skipped upon the tombstones again, while, within the church, we heard the singing—sounding pretty much as I have heard it in our own pine-built New England meeting-houses. Meantime the rector had detected the voices of these naughty little girls, and perhaps had got glimpses of them through the windows; for anon, out came the sexton, and addressing himself to us, asked whether there had been any noise or disturbance in the churchyard. I should not have borne testimony against these little villagers, but S. was so anxious to exonerate our own children that she pointed out these poor little sinners to the sexton, who forthwith turned them out. He would have done the same to us, no doubt, had my coat been worse

than it was ; but as the matter stood, his demeanour was rather apologetic than menacing, when he informed us that the rector had sent him.

We stayed a little longer, looking at the graves, some of which were between the buttresses of the church and quite close to the wall, as if the sleepers anticipated greater comfort and security the nearer they could get to the sacred edifice.

* * * *

As we went out of the churchyard we passed the aforesaid little girls, who were sitting behind the mound of a tomb, and busy babbling together. They called after us, expressing their discontent that we had betrayed them to the sexton, and saying that it was not they who made the noise. Going homeward, we went astray in a green lane, that terminated in the midst of a field, without outlet, so that we had to retrace a good many of our footsteps.

Close to the wall of the Church, beside the door there was an ancient baptismal font of stone. In fact, it was a pile of roughly hewn stone steps, five or six feet high, with a block of stone at the summit, in which was a hollow about as big as a wash-bowl. It was full of rain-water.

The Church seems to be St. Andrew's Church, Lower Bebington, built in 1,100.—(From Hawthorne's English Note Book.)

[201] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL FOR 1545.

(Continued from 199—April 22).

THORNTON LE HOUGH.

Willmo Wade pro liii li.....	liiid
Rico Colley pro xxs.....	id
Thoma Bellen pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Willmo Bellen pro xxs.....	id
Rico Tellel pro xxs.....	id
Thoma Rylande pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Rico Hey pro xxs.....	id
John Smythe pro vii.....	xd
Hugone Coke pro xxs.....	id
Rico Janyan pro xls.....	liid
Georgeo Lennarde pro vii.....	xd
Willmo Gyrtrey pro xxs.....	id
Rico Jannyon pro xxs.....	id
Willmo Colton pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Rico Garratt pro xxs.....	id

RABY.

Willmo Matthew pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Nicholao Hyll pro xls.....	liid
Henrico Deane pro viii.....	xiid
Bobto Deane pro iiiiii.....	liid
John Robynson pro xls.....	liid
Rico Penny pro xls.....	liid
Georgio Ley pro viii.....	xiid
John Penket pro xxs.....	id
Willmo Robynson pro xxs.....	liid
Thoma Penkett pro iiiiii.....	liiid

Willmo Mathew pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Rico Taylyar pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Rico Whytelays pro iiiiii.....	liiid
John Ley pro xls.....	liid
Roberto Bennet pro xli.....	xviii

WYLLASTON.

John Hyggyn pro xxxs.....	liid
John Deyne pro xls.....	liid
Thoma Charnocke pro xxs.....	id
John Hamnet pro xxs.....	id
Henrico Hyggyn pro xls.....	liid
Rado Smyth pro xxs.....	liid
Willmo Forshaw pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Henrico Hamnet pro xxs.....	liid
Thoma Charnocke pro xls.....	liid
Willmo Bennett pro iiiiii.....	liiid
Roberto Hoggeston pro xxxs.....	liid
Thoma Bennett pro xls.....	liid
Willmo Bennet pro xls.....	liid

MAY 6th, 1898.

[202] ANOTHER YOUTHFUL MARRIAGE IN 1560.

(See No. 188—April 15.)

A few weeks ago there appeared an account of an early marriage contracted between William Stanley and Anne Dutton in 1560. This was not the only union between the two families. At the same time and place another marriage was celebrated between Rowland Dutton and Margaret Stanley, the former then being nine years old and the latter still younger.

An application for the dissolution of this marriage was made almost at the same time as for that of the other. Whether the Stanleys and the Duttons had come to a disagreement is not I think known. Both William and Margaret Stanley subsequently married members of the Egerton family.

The following were some of the depositions taken.

Depositions taken 28 Oct 1565 concerning the marriage of Rowland Dutton and Margaret Stanley.

Robert Larg of the parish of Wavton set 56 anos. saies That Roland Dutton and Margaret Stanley alias Dutton in the allegation mentioned were married together in the Chappell within the house of the Halle of Hatton about the feast of Xmas and about the said deponent thinketh upon the Sunday next after the feast of Xmas [from next deponent's statement it appears that this took place "5 years ago"]

The sd Roland being at that tyme aboute th' age of nine yeres and not tenne and the sd Margaret beinge at that tyme (by the deponents estimacion younger than the sd Roland) and saieth further that

the sd Roland ever sins the solemnization of the sd mariag remained at Hatton Hall and the said Margaret hath remayned elsewhere from Hatton and never remayned at Hatton but only on gese-wise and further saith that the sd Roland is of th' age of 14 years and under 15 and for the space of the 12 monthes last past or thereabouts the sd Roland and Margaret were never in house together to the deponents knowledge and the deponent saith moreover that the sd Roland with in a small while after he was 14 yeres of age did before his ordinarie declare that he would refuse to take the said Margaret to his wife and that he would not consent to the said mariag which was solemnized in his minoritie whereby this deponent judgeth in conscience that the said mariag was never certified by any means between the sd Margaret and Roland.

[Next deponent speaks of Roland Dutton as son of Randolph Dutton]

[203] THE FUNERAL OF SIR THOMAS STANLEY MASSEY STANLEY, BARONET, 1841.

The recent death of Sir John Stanley Errington, the last of the ancient line of the Stanleys of Hooton and Storeton, gives an especial interest to the following account of the funeral of his father, the last member of the family who died in possession of the hereditary estates.

It is taken from the columns of the *Chester Courant* for the 31st August, 1841.

ACCOUNT OF THE FUNERAL
OF THE LATE
SIR THOMAS STANLEY MASSEY STANLEY,
BARONET
AT EASTHAM CHURCH,

On Thursday, the 26th Day of August, 1841.

In our last publication, it became our painful duty to record the demise of Sir Thomas Stanley Massey Stanley, Bart. of Hooton and Puddington, in this county, an event which took place on the previous Friday morning, but which had for a considerable time been anticipated, in consequence of the known state of Sir Thomas's health.

THE FUNERAL.

On Thursday last, the day appointed for the interment of the deceased baronet, the village of Eastham presented one scene of general mourning; the blinds and shutters of the Archdeacon, Mr. Crackanthorp, Mrs. Smith, and others, were all closed; and the dejected looks of the inhabitants sufficiently indicated their estimate of the loss they had sustained.

The arrangements for the funeral were directed to be on a scale commensurate with the rank and high

lineage of the deceased; and were confided to Messrs. W. and H. Brown, and Co. of this city, and far surpassed anything of the kind seen in the neighbourhood for several years. The body was, as is usual, enclosed in a shell, soldered up in lead; the outer coffin being covered with rich crimson velvet, mounted with silver, having amongst other sad emblems a silver cross, indicative of the faith in which the hon. baronet so conscientiously lived, and also of his hope in a future state. The coffin was prepared by Mr. Podmore, of Bridge-street Row, and was covered by a gorgeous pall, made for the occasion by the Messrs. Brown. The escutcheons on the hearse were painted by Messrs. Morris; the funeral hatchment (for Hooton and Puddington Halls) were executed by Mr. S. Brown, herald painter; and the extensive and handsome supply of funeral carriages were provided by Messrs. Willoughby, of the Royal Hotel.

The friends of the deceased, together with his tenantry and workmen, were invited to attend the funeral, and were proud in having the last opportunity of publicly acknowledging their regard for his memory. They began to arrive at an early hour in the morning, and were entertained to breakfast at ten o'clock. Tables were laid with covers in the stable-yard, for one hundred and fourteen, where the workpeople and servants in the late Baronet's employ, together with the servants in attendance upon the carriages of the gentry who attended the funeral, were accommodated. At the hall also the most liberal and profuse entertainment was provided for the tenantry and friends, there being three rooms appropriated for that purpose, in each of which as many tables were laid as would not interfere with the comfort and convenience of the guests. After breakfast, as is the custom in Roman Catholic families of rank, the burial service according to the form of the Roman Catholic Church, was gone through in the private chapel belonging to the hall, the officiating clergy being the Right Rev. Dr. Briggs (Vicar Apostolic of the Yorkshire District), the Revs. Mr. Gillow, Mr. Carbery, Mr. Lythgoe, and Mr. Henderson,

Upwards of three hundred hat-bands and pairs of gloves were distributed to the tenantry and others who attended the funeral, and precisely at twelve o'clock the procession began to move from the stable-yard, where it had been formed, to the front of the hall, from whence again it proceeded on its route. The distress of the female servants at Hooton, on the coffin of their deceased master being removed to the hearse, was deeply affecting, and spoke quite as much in his praise, as the solemnity and pageantry of the procession.

(To be continued.)

[204] AN OLD GRAVESTONE AT SHOTWICK.

Visitors to the picturesque little village Church of Shotwick, between Burton and Chester, may have noticed lying within the altar rails in the chancel a

mysterious looking gravestone bearing an inscription, of which the following is an approximate representation :—

I O O
1587

Their interest must have heightened, as they heard the sexton recount, that under this gravestone lie the bones of old Squire Hookenhull, who one morning some 300 summers ago, rode out, intent on sport, and how his old horse that had carried him so bravely for so long, stepping in a rabbit hole fell and rolled on his master, and how the cying squire, had charged his eldest son, that no inscription should mark his last resting place, but simply a bridle bit and two stirrups out in the stone above the date, so that all men might see that the old Squire, like a true Englishman, had died as he had lived, a huntsman.

The story is a pretty one and might have lasted to amuse another generation of visitors, had not several members of the Council of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire chanced to visit that secluded spot last summer, when our vice-president, who was one of the party, pointed out that the bit and stirrups were merely the letters I or J. O. O., and probably referred to some local landed proprietor of that period. The difficulty, however, at once suggested itself that at the time in question such a thing as three names was almost, if not absolutely, unknown. This was, however, explained, when on referring to Ormerod, it was found that in the list of the incumbents of the parish there was living in 1570 one who is described as "John Carter, Curate."

Though this practically settled the question, the writer has fortunately been able to place the matter beyond dispute by finding the Rev. John Carter's will at the Probate Court in Chester, in the preamble of which he desires that his "bodlie be buried within the chancell of the church of Shotwick," the date of the will and probate being 1587.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

Cloughton.

MAY 13th, 1893.

[205] THE FUNERAL OF SIR THOMAS STANLEY MASSEY STANLEY BARONET 1841.

(Continued from No. 203—May 6)

ORDER OF PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH.

Mute on horseback. Mute on horseback.

About eighty Tenants on foot.

About sixty Tenants on horseback.

Carriage containing the Ven. Archdeacon Clarke, Vicar; the Rev. Joseph Twist, Curate, of Eastham; and also the Rev. R. Congreve, Rector of Burton.

Private Carriage of the late Sir Thos. Stanley, containing the Right Rev. Dr. Briggs, Vicar Apostolical of the Yorkshire District.

Mute.

Mute.

THE HEARSE,

With Plumes and Escutcheons.

First Mourning Coach, containing Sir Wm. S. M. Stanley, Bart.; Rowland Errington, Esq. sons; and Sir R. B. W. Bulkeley, Bart. son-in-law of the deceased.

Second Mourning Coach, containing Charles Stanley, Esq., and Henry Stanley, Esq. brothers of the deceased.

Third Mourning Coach, containing the Revs. Mr. Gillow, Mr. Lythgoe, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. Carbery, Roman Catholic clergymen.

Fourth Mourning Coach, containing the Hon. Sir Edward Cust, Lieut. Gen Glegg, R. Congreve, Esq. and J. Feilden, Esq.

Fifth Mourning Coach, containing William Blundell, Esq. Croxton Johnson, Esq., Colonel Glegg, and the Rev. Jas. Mainwaring.

Sixth Mourning Coach, containing the Rev. Mr. Feilden, R. Massey, Esq., Capt. Mawdsley, and the Chevalier Antonio de Silva.

Seventh Mourning Coach, containing W. Webster, Esq., W. Latham, Esq., Dr. Llewelyn Jones, and George Harrison, Esq.

Eighth Mourning Coach, containing Eaton Mousley, Esq., Philip Humberston, Esq., and P. Humberston, jun. Esq.

Ninth Mourning Coach, containing Mr. Hayes, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Davies, and Mr. William Hayes.

Phaeton of Harvey Crakanthorp, Esq., accompanied by his son, Mr. R. Crakanthorp.

Carriage of William Hancock, Esq., accompanied by Dr. Larden.

Phaeton of Mr. Smith, followed by those of other friends of the late deceased baronet.

Private Carriages, with blinds closed :—

The late Baronet's Family Carriage.

Sir William S. Massey Stanley's Carriage.

Rowland Errington Esq's Carriage.

Sir R. B. W. Bulkeley's Carriage.

Several private Carriages, with blinds closed; in the following order:—John Feilden, Esq., R. Oon-greve, Esq., Rev. Jas. Mainwaring, Croxton Johnson, Esq., Rev. R. M. Feilden, Major-Gen. Glegg, Colonel Glegg, R. Massey, Esq., R. Green, Esq., Chevalier Antonio De Silva, W. Latham, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

Servants on horseback.

The procession also included several of the most respectable tradesmen of Chester and other places in the immediate neighbourhood, who were anxious to offer this last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased Baronet. The mournful procession moved on in solemn and almost unbroken silence, and scarcely a sound was to be heard except the deep tone of the village bell, intimating the nigh approach of the deceased to his appointed place of rest. On arriving at the Church, the coffin was removed from the hearse, the tenantry on foot were arranged in line on each side of the road leading to the vault, and the tenantry on horseback (in the highway) on the north side of the church-yard.

The mournful procession reached Eastham about half-past one o'clock, and during the whole of its progress, nothing could have been more orderly or proper than the conduct of the multitudes assembled to view it; nothing could have been more creditable to their feelings. Mr. Whitty, the able and respected police officer, resident in Eastham, and Mr. Hill, the superintendent of the Chester police had so well arranged everything connected with their duties in keeping the passages leading to the vault clear, that, although the churchyard was crowded with persons not the slightest disorder occurred. The body was then lowered into the vault, under the north-east chancel, to which there is a spacious entrance from the churchyard, and deposited in a niche beside Lady Haggerston, mother to the Dowager Lady Stanley, amidst unfeigned sorrow for his loss, and fervent prayers for his successor.

[206] EASTER EGG CUSTOMS IN WIRRAL.

(See Nos. 191 and 195, April).

Your enquiry under this head a few weeks ago set me thinking, as I felt sure that I had quite recently read something on the subject; on further reflection it turned out to be in Mrs. Gamlin's interesting work "Memories of Birkenhead."

The passage is at page 85, and is as follows:—"For some years after the Park was laid out, there were several grassy mounds inside the railings, in Ashville-road, which went by the name of "The Bonks." . . . on every Easter Monday children would bring baskets of coloured eggs." . . . "Then a game was played. First wickets were fixed at intervals at the foot of the "Bonks," then the children

took their eggs to the top of the hills and rolled them down, aiming to pass them unbroken between the wickets." . . . These hillocks proved such a popular playground that the gram was destroyed. The eminences, thus deprived of natural growth, became unsightly, and were levelled in consequence."

This is very interesting, but it led to something still more so; the question naturally arose why should children single out these particular hillocks for their annual game (the choice of these hillocks is certainly older than the beginning of this century.)

The answer appears to be that these "Bonks" were nothing less than ancient mounds or barrows of a prehistoric people, and if they had only been opened in a scientific manner, instead of being removed wholesale in the Corporation mounds, they would doubtless have yielded the usual proofs of their ancient use, such as stone hammers, flint arrow heads, &c.

The grounds for this assumption are as follows:—
Firstly: Ancient rural customs when associated with certain spots have over and over again been proved to have been survivals of some heathen superstitious observance; the very fact that the children for generations have chosen these particular hillocks in preference to a dozen others just as handy indicates that there must have been originally some special reason for their choice.

Secondly: Mr. Shrubsole in his paper on "Prehistoric People in Delamere Forest," published in the last volume of the Chester Archaeological Society's Journal mentions that the country people in that part of Cheshire simply call these burial mounds "Bonks," just as the old inhabitants of Birkenhead designated the hillocks in question."

Thirdly; The local name for a burial mound is Low usually combined with a prefix as Hare-low, Briar-low, Stone-low, and as Mr. Shrubsole points out "so persistently is this word 'low' associated with these mounds in Derbyshire and Staffordshire that some 800 places so named proved on investigation to have been the site of prehistoric interments." And in a conversation which the writer had recently with Professor Boyd-Dawkins, the latter stated that he had little doubt that every place name in England which included the word "low" recorded the site of a grave mound.

Now any old inhabitant will remember that the lane which ran from what is now Cannon Mount to the end of the modern Conway St., and so named close by these mounds was called *Lowfields Lane*, and though Mrs. Gamlin does not indicate the exact spot where these mounds were located, I have little doubt that the name of the field in which they were will be a further corroboration of this theory.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IYING.

*Bonks, of course, is the dialectic form of Banks.

[207] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

The following is another of the replies from which Bishop Gastrell compiled his *Notitia* :—

WIRRAL DEANERY.

Bromborough Co. Chester, 1717.

"To whom it may concern

I *Robt Griffiths* Minister of Bromborough do hereby testify yt I receive yearly from ys Dean and Chapter of Chester the sum of four pounds six shillings eightpence for supplying yt Oh once a month And yt no other payments tythes or glebe belong to the Minister there (yt I know of) save only ye Surplice fees, viz. :

for a Burial 0s. 9d.
for a Oh'ing 1s. 0d.
for a Wedding 2s. 6^d., wch communibus
annis may be about £1 5 0.

This Church is situate in a village of ye same name in Wirral distant from ye City of Chester about Seven Mile, 'tis a Donative but whether ye nomination of ye Curate there is in James Mainwaring Esq. ye Impropriator of ye Tiths and other Rights belonging to ye Same or ye Dean and Chapter is uncertain.

Witness my hand,

R. Griffiths de Easthm Vicr."

"Apr 26, 1717. Robert Griffiths Clerk and John Parkinson made oath of ye truth of this Acct. before us.

Ric. Boushier
Edw. Roberts."

MAY 20th, 1893.

[208.] DISCLAIMERS AT THE HERALDS VISITATIONS IN WIRRAL, 1618 AND 1664.

The following extracts are from a most interesting paper on the subject of Disclaimers at Heralds Visitations (particularly with reference to Lancashire and Cheshire) written by J. Paul Rylands Esq., F.S.A. and published in the 7th Volume of the *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*.

In Mr. Rylands' paper are printed the full list of Disclaimers for both Counties for the years 1618 and 1664 and the names at the conclusion of this article are of those who were disclaimed in the Hundred of Wirral at these two Visitations:

"For the information of those who have not paid much attention to the study of heraldry and genealogy, it may be as well, in the first place, to explain what the Heralds' Visitations were, in order that the meaning and effect of Disclaimers may be better understood.

Armorial bearings were originally assumed by their wearers at will, being, at first, merely intended to serve as distinguishing marks in the field of battle; but, about the middle of the thirteenth century they became generally hereditary, and soon acquired a character which caused them to be highly valued and jealously guarded as ensigus of honour and symbols of patrician rank. Having thus become coveted hereditary distinctions, some check upon their voluntary assumption became necessary, to prevent unworthy and unsuitable persons displaying insignia to which neither their military achievements nor social status entitled them.

To effect this, King Henry V., upon instituting the office of Garter King of Arms, made a proclamation, dated the 2nd day of June, 1417, to the effect that no man, of what estate, degree, or condition soever, should assume arms, unless he held them by right of inheritance or by the donation of some person who had sufficient power to give them; and that all persons should make it appear to officers, to be appointed by the King for that purpose, by whose gift they enjoyed such arms as they respectively bore, excepting those who had borne arms with the King at the battle of Agincourt.

In 1528, some of the officers of arms were commissioned by the Crown to make Visitations of, or in other words to visit, certain counties of England, for the purpose of preparing an official record of the armorial bearings and pedigrees of all such persons as were entitled, by their position in life, to what is sometimes called "visitation rank." Visitations were, in due course, periodically made at intervals for every county in England, and, after being neglected under the Commonwealth, were revived and continued until the year 1686, when they finally ceased.

In pursuance of his Commission the King of Arms or Herald, issued a warrant directed to the High Constable or Bailiff of the Hundred, or to the Mayor or other chief officer of the place, where he intended to hold his Visitation, commanding him to warn the several knights, esquires, and gentlemen within his jurisdiction, to appear before him at the house, and on the day specified in the warrant, and to bring with them their escutcheons and pedigrees, with such evidences and writings as might justify the same, in order to their being duly registered.

If the evidence produced satisfied the heralds, the pedigree and arms were duly entered, and were signed by the person who proved them, generally the head of the family. If, on the other hand the whole of the descent was not satisfactorily established the officers of arms frequently entered a short pedigree, the facts of which were within the personal knowledge of the applicant.

"If there was any doubt about the arms displayed the pedigree was entered without them, and respite was often given by the Heralds to allow an opportunity of verifying such arms, which, when satisfactorily proved at a later date, were "allowed" and duly entered in the Visitation Book."

"Those persons who had disobeyed the summons of the heralds were publicly disclaimed if they persistently refused to show their right to the arms used by them; and also all those who had attended the summons, and having been unable to prove the arms wrongfully used by them, continued such use in defiance of lawful authority."

"The disclaimers were made "after sound of a Trumpett" by proclamation at the market cross or some other convenient place, generally at the time of the Assizes, and a written proclamation was hung up charging the persons, whose names were written below, in the name of the Sovereign, "that they nor any of them do from henceforth by any ways or means use or take upon him or them the names of Esquire or Gentleman, unless they be thereunto authorised according to such order as is prescribed and set forth by the Laws of Arms."

(To be Continued.)

[209.] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

(See No. 207—May 13.)

The following is another of the answers from which Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia* was compiled.

BURTON CHURCH.

A Donative.

March 14th, 1716/7.

The Rev. *Thomas Bainbridge* Clerk, Curate of ye parish Church of Burton situate in a village of ye same name in Wirral in ye County and Dioces of Chester distant from London about 146 miles appeared and in evidence of ye present clear yearly value or income of ye Curate of the parish Church of Burton aforesaid produced one original Indenture of Lease bearing date ye Second day of February in ye Eighth year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Ann, Anno Dni 1709 made betwenn *Ward Gray Ashenhurst* of Trinity College in Cambridge, gent and *Francis Ashenhurst* of Merton College in Oxford, gent of ye one part and ye said *Thomas Bainbridge* of ye other part, by which ye said *Gray Ashenhurst* and *Francis Ashenhurst* in consideration of ye yearly Rents and Covenants therein mentioned did demise to ye said *Thomas Bainbridge* his Executors, Admrs and Assigns a Mansion House called Denwell House situate in ye Township of Burton aforesaid with appurtenances and all Tith-corn and Hay and all other Tithes whatsoever obventions mortuaries and Easter dues belonging to ye sd Parish of Burton wch have been to them demised by ye Master of the Hospital of St. John Baptist without ye Barrs of ye City of Lichfield (except as therein is excepted) for ye terme of one and twenty years Under this Covenant amongst others That ye said *Thomas* his Exors Admrs and Assigns shall dursing ye said Term pay ye sum of Thirty pounds per annum to an able and

sufficient orthodox parson in holy orders to be named by ye said *Gray Ashenhurst* and *Francis Ashenhurst* or ye survivor of them or the Exors Admrs of ye survivor of them to serve ye cure of ye Parish and in ye Church of Burton aforesaid by equal portions on ye Feast day of St. Michael and annunciation of ye blessed Virgin Mary unless ye sd *Thomas Bainbridge* shall officiate ye said Cure himself wch sum of thirty pounds will be ye whole stipend and clear yearly income of a Curate officiating at ye parish Church aforesaid dursing ye remainder of ye Term granted by ye said Lease as appears by ye same before us,

Arth: Fogg,
Edw: Roberts.

[210] THE "BONKS" IN BIRKENHEAD PARK.

(See No. 206.—May 13.)

In reply to the interesting notes on old burial mounds by Mr. Irvine, in your issue of last Saturday, I beg to say that the "Bonks" in the Park, to which I alluded in "Memories of Birkenhead," were situated inside the railings in Ashville-road, on the open space between the plantations to the left of the refreshment rooms. There were two mounds—one much higher than the other. Children used to amuse themselves running or rolling down them, for they were so steep that there was no stopping a run when once started. Old residents will remember them.—Yours, &c.

H. GAMLIN.

Birkenhead.

[The spot that Mrs. Gamlin indicates is very interesting, as it is one of the points at which the boundary between Birkenhead and Claughton turns; burial mounds were very frequently chosen as marks of parish boundaries, or possibly the reverse was the case, and these boundaries of townships are even older than the *tumuli*, and were chosen for some reason as the site for interments.

From a 14th century deed (*Dep. Keeper Pub. Rec., Vol. 36*), we knew that there were at least two such burial mounds on the boundary between Oxton and Claughton. W.F.I.]

[211.] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1548.

PRENTON.

Elisabthe [sic] pro xis	iiid
Willmo Solate pro liiii	iiid
Thoma Shumythe pro xxs	id
Rico Waynewrygte pro xxs	id
Robto Heskythe pro xxs	id
Raynoldo Smythe pro xxs	id
Rado Robynson pro liiii	iiid

Roberto Rathbone pro xxsid
 Thoma What pro iiiiidiiiiid
 Henrico Gleyve pro xxsid
 Thoma Pemberton pro xxsid
 Agneta Saddelar pro iiiiiiiiid

MAY 27th, 1898.

[212] DISCLAIMERS AT THE HERALDS
 VISITATIONS IN WIRRAL, 1616 & 1664.

(Continued from No. 208—May 30.)
 1618.

WIRRAL HUNDRED.

- (1) Robt Lennard of Irby.
 - (2) Wm Ball of Erresbye [Irby]
 - (3) John Younge of Frankby.
 - (4) John Gill of Poulton.
 - (5) John Robinson of Wallasey.
 - (6) John Bennett of Wallasey.
 - (7) Robt Gill of Bromborowe.
 - (8) Tho: Hallwood of Sutton.
 - (9) John Doe of Little Saughall.
 - (9) James Doe of the same.
- Ric. Clarke of Saughall.

(1) The Lennards had been settled in Irby for at least a century previous to this, as appears from a Subsidy roll for 1545. They seem to have moved soon after into Neeson Parish.

(2) The Balls of Irby were a family of yeomen and minor gentry about this time; in a Subsidy Roll for 1625 Wm Ball of Irby pays on a comparatively large sum; in 1628 a George Ball, probably a son of this man, occurs in a list of Freeholders in Wirral, under the township of Irby.

This Wm Ball paid a fine of £10 in 1631 to avoid the honour of knighthood; he apparently died in 1637, as his will was proved at Chester in that year.

(3) There was a large family of Youngs settled in Greasby and Frankby about this time, but they do not appear to have been freeholders until later in the century. John Young's will was proved in 1640.

(4) In the Subsidy Roll already quoted—for 1625—John Gill is described as "generous" and pays a tax on land, and must therefore have been a man of some position, which makes it all the more surprising to find him "disclaimed." His will was proved at Chester in 1642, and in it he is described as "gentleman."

(5) The Robinsons were yeomen in Wallasey, they appear to have held a little land about this time, also in 1628, but they never rose to any great position in the Hundred.

(6) From the absence of the name of Bennet from the Wallasey Church Register, which has been published in Vol. xxxv of the *Trans. Hist. Soc. of L. and C.* down to the year 1600, it seems possible that this name is a mistake used in connection with Wallasey, and refers to John Bennet of the neighbouring township of Saughall-Massey, who was a Freeholder and a man of considerable substance at this time.

(7) Robert Gill of Bromborough, seems to have stood on very much the same footing as John Gill, of Poulton, to whom he was probably related, as in the 1625 Subsidy Roll, he pays the tax on a similar quantity of land, though he is not officially described as "gentleman," as is the case with John Gill. *Vide Note (4)*. In 1631 he paid the fine of £10 to avoid being knighted, an honour attended by no little expense, which was compulsory on all whose incomes exceeded £40 per annum. His will was proved in 1641, in which he is described as "yeoman."

(8) The Hallwoods were a family of considerable wealth in Eastham Parish, and in 1625 a James Hallwood paid the composition of £10 to avoid the honour of knighthood, and in the same year Thos. Hallwood figures in the Subsidy Roll as owning a small quantity of land.

(9) It is even more difficult to understand why these two men should have been "disclaimed," as according to a previous visitation the family had been freeholders as early as 1569. James Doe pays in the 1625 Subsidy Roll for land held in Little Saughall,

- (1) Thom's Barlowe of ye same.
- (2) Wm Hely of Newton.

[213] THE WILL OF JOHN ANGLIZER
 OF EASTHAM, A.D. 1628.

Under the east window of the chancel of Eastham Church is an inscription which long proved a puzzle to antiquaries. Ormerod says (vol. II., p. 408—new ed.):—"A considerable part (of Eastham Church) is said to have been re-built from the designs of Inigo Jones. There is, however, remaining among some mutilated letters under the chancel window a date 17 x.x., viz., 1574, in which year Inigo Jones would only be two years old." It is well known that Ormerod was entirely ignorant of the principles and history of mediæval architecture, otherwise he would not have committed the grave error of attributing to this great architect any part of Eastham Church. But what does the inscription mean? The letters to the right are JOHN ANGLIZER DIED; those to the left, A. ANGLIZER MAY XXIII. It is the IZEN in the former name that Ormerod mistook for 17 x.x., i.e., 17 Elizabethæ Reginae. His mistake has been followed by Morimer and Sully.

Now who was this John Anglizer whose name was inscribed in such a conspicuous place? He was a yeoman of good standing at Eastham. In 1618 he was one of the witnesses of Sir Rowland Sauley's will, and the Knight bequeaths him £10 for his honest faithful service (see No. 82). In 1625 he paid a subsidy of eight shillings. He died in 1629.

The following is an abstract of his will:—

In the name of God Amen. 23 day of January 1628.

I John Anglizer of Eastham in the Countie of Chester yeoman, an unprofitable servant of God being sicke in bodie etc etc. * * * and my body to be coffined and buried as near unto the place where my deare father was buried as may be viz, at the East end of the Chancell amongst my ancestours.

my funeral expenses which I would have done sparingly in regard my debts are greate, * * * after my debts are fully paid all my goods chattels, cattel etc to my son-in-law William Hay. * * * my debtes are at this time so greate that I cannot do that for my frendes as otherwise I would doe and have intention to doe if God lend me life and ability, without impoverishing my poor children, and therefore I must intreate all that respecte me to hold me excused.

I will that the remainder of the marriage portion of my daughter Mary be payd unto Thomas Penkett her husband.

* * * My sonne-in-law William

(1) A Richard Barlowe of Little Saughall paid on a considerable quantity of goods in the Subsidy Roll for 1625.

(2) The Newton here referred to is the township of that name, near Chester—it is not in Wirral Hundred.

Hay and Joan my daughter his wife.

Executor: William Hay.

Witnesses: John Hay, Clement Anglizer,
Robert Hay, Thomas Penkett.

[sgt] John Anglizer.

Inventorie taken 7 May 1629 by John Stranks of Bromborough, and Robert Gill of the same, Milner, and Wm. Adam of Sutton, yeomen, and Richard Bennet and Robert Corffe of Eastham, husbandm, S.T. £221 2s. 4d.

[Inter alia]. All his books iiii xs

Proved 30 January 1629.

F. SANDERS.

[214] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 198.—April 8.)

BURTON.

- (1) Peace and good neighbourhood 1724
- (2) Abr: Rudhall cast us all 1724
- (3) Prosperity to the Church of England 1724
- (4) Prosperity to this Parish 1724
- (5) Wm Wilson and Rcbt Jones Churchwardens 1724.

BIDSTON.

The present ring of 6 bells is modern; 5 of them bearing the inscriptions:

Robert Stainbank, Founders, London, 1868.

And on the 6th is the following:

Mears and Stainbank, Founders London

Gloria Dei
G R & E O 1882

[George Robert & Emily Clover]

On the 5th bell in addition to the name of the Founder is:

These bells presented to Bidston Church by subscription, August 1868.

O. A. Graham, M.A., Incumbent,
George Royden } Wardens.
Edward Parkinson }

The 5 bells, which were cast in 1868, superseded a ring of 3, on which are said to have been the following inscriptions:

Sancti Oswaldi. O.W: J.W: W.W.
Cantate Domino Canticum Novum 1615.
Laudate Dominum in Sancto ejus 1678.

It was on the strength of the first of these inscriptions that the Church was dedicated to St. Oswald, but Mr. Sulley, in his History of Wirral, states that there is a tradition to the effect that this

bell was brought to Bidston from Hilbre at the suppression of that cell in 1536, and that it had originally come from the Parish Church of St. Oswald, in Chester. CAMPANOLOGIST.

[215] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 211—May 29.)

PODYNERON.

Thoma Jannyn pro iiii.....	iiii
John Smythe pro iiii.....	iiii
Hugone Smyth pro iiii.....	iiii
Henrico Annan pro iiii.....	iiii
Henrico Jenson pro viii.....	xiid
Robto Mores pro vii.....	xi
John Bennet pro iiii.....	iiii
Roberto Bennet pro iiii.....	iiii
John Selton pro iiii.....	iiii
John Calley pro iiii.....	iiii
Edwardo Lightfoot pro xls.....	id
Rado Spencer pro xxs.....	id
Willmo Male (?) pro xxs.....	id
Robte Smythe pro xxs.....	id

NEWTON CUM LANTON.

Thoma Carter (?) pro vii.....	xd
Henrico Newbot pro xxs.....	id
Thoma Bennet pro xls.....	id
Robto Phyllyp pro iiii.....	iiii
Willmo Newbot pro vii.....	xd
Willmo Gyle pro xxs.....	id
Rico Platt pro xls.....	id
Rico Rathbon pro xls.....	id
Willmo Rathbon pro xls.....	id
Willmo Hancock pro xls.....	id
Agneta Woodward pro xxs.....	id

JUNE 3rd, 1893.

[216] DISCLAIMERS AT THE HERALDS VISITATION IN WIRRAL, 1618 AND 1664.

(Continued from No. 212—May 27)

1664.

WIRRAL HUNDRED.

- (1) Thomas Glassoner, Lea.

(1) Why the Heralds should have "disclaimed" Mr. Glasier, it is difficult to say, as he was a man of good family, and his grandfather, William Glasier, entered his pedigree and arms at the Visitation in 1580. Mr. Glasier married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Wm. Stanley of Hooton, and died on the 8th Dec. 1678, being buried at Eastham, four days later.





FROM AN OLD ENGRAVING.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) Mr. Cottingham, | } Little Neston. |
| (2) Mr. Upton, | |
| (3) Edward Litterland, | Poulton cum Seacom. |
| (4) Mr. Hooknell, | Shotwick. |
| (5) William Shipley, | Stowerton. |
| (6) Capt. Shipley, | Thortonhough. |
| (7) Mr. Frogg, | Whitby. |

[217] WIRRAL WORTHIES.
VII. REV. SAMUEL CLARKE.

(INCUMBENT OF SHOTWICK).

This well-known Puritan divine was born October 10th 1599 at Wolston in Warwickshire. His father, Hugh Clarke, who died in 1634, was Vicar of Wolston for the long period of forty years. The young

(1) The Cottingshams were a family of minor gentry about this time, and held a freehold estate in Little Neston. Mr. Cottingham was Lord of the Manor of Little Neston; he married Frances daughter of —, Edwards.

(2) The Uptons, or as it was often spelt Uptonens, were yeomen, and do not appear to have been even freeholders at this time.

(3) The Litherlands had for more than a century held a third of the Manor of Wallasey. This Edward Litherland was the only son of Rowland Litherland (who died 1636) by his wife, Margery 5th daughter of Edward Greene of Poulton Lancelyn, Esquire. He was born in 1635 and so at the time of the Visitation must have been nearly 31 years of age. He appears to have been a Puritan, which may be in some way connected with his being "disinherited."

(4) The Mr. Hooknell here alluded to was second son, and at the time of this visitation, the representative of the ancient family of Hooknell, of Hooknell and Shotwick, who for many years had held an honoured place among the Cheshire gentry. His christian name was Joseph, born about 1616, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Davies, of Ashton, in 1636. He died at Shotwick, 17th July, 1679, and was buried within the altar rails of that church.

He lived in the old Hall, which stands near the church, in one of the rooms of which is still to be seen, over the fire place in plaster work, an inaccurate coat of arms. In the 1st and 4th quarters of this is a plain cross [? Shotwick] and in the 2nd and 3rd an oak's head erased, the latter being the coat of the Hooknell family. Besides the coat of arms, on the one side is a shield with the letters H [Joseph and Elizabeth Hooknell], and on the other the date 1662.

It is probable that had the Visiting Herald known of this coat of arms—which, of course, must have been recently put up—he would have exercised his power and defaced it, as we know was frequently done with bogus or inaccurate armorial bearings.

It is strange that a man with such a distinguished ancestry as Mr. Hooknell should not have taken the trouble to have his coat of arms accurately emblazoned, and also to have satisfied the Herald of his right to bear arms.

(5) This name and the next both appear to refer to one man, Captain William Shipley, whose name occurs as a Freeholder in the 1668 list. He appears to have lived at Newhall, in Thornton Hough, and was probably captain of Royalists Troops during the Civil War. He died in 1669, in which year (on the 27th August), administration of his goods was granted to Andrew Shipley, his son, and John Taylor, of Brimstage; his wife Ellen died a few weeks later, and administration of her goods was granted on the 13th October, to Luke Lloyd, of Brin, in Flintshire, her brother. She is described as of Thornton Hough, or Newhall, in Wirral.

(6) See preceding Note.

(7) Mr. (John) Frogg was a Freeholder in Whitby in 1668, and was connected by marriage with the Pooles of Poole, the Stanleys of Hooton, and the Minshulls of Minshull.

From the *Ches. Fam. Certif.* p. 159, we learn that Frances Poole 2nd son of John Poole by his wife Mary dau of Mr Rowland Stanley, married Elizabeth dau of Thos Frogg of Minshull, and from the *Visit. of Ches.*: 1580, p. 180, that Isabel daughter of John Minshull of Minshull married Christopher Frogg, doubtless also of Minshull.

Mr. Frogg must have been an ardent Royalist as his estates were sequestrated and he was obliged to compound for them by paying the sum of £58 6s. (*Northmer* p 166).

Samuel was educated by his father till he was thirteen years old, and was then sent to the Free School in the neighbouring city of Coventry. Here he remained till he was seventeen, when he was entered at Emanuel College, Cambridge, where he studied under Thomas Hooker, "one of the choicest tutors of the University." This college was a great stronghold of the Puritan party, and it was probably here that Clarke imbibed the strong religious views which he so persistently maintained throughout his life. He was ordained about the year 1622, and at first seems to have ministered at Knowle in his native county. His stay there must have been but short, as we find him soon after in Cheshire assisting the Rev. George Byrom, Rector of Thornton-le-Moors. We are told that in this situation he was exposed to great temptations, "but it pleased the Lord in mercy to hedge up his way with thorns, and by striking him with extraordinary terror to bring him to reflection and deep humiliation, and by degrees to give him some comfort in believing and applying the promises of free grace in Christ Jesus— He here met with some trouble from a malicious person who prosecuted him for the omission of some ceremonies."

The ceremonies here alluded to were the use of the surplice, of the cross in baptism, and of the ring in marriage. The bishop of Chester, John Bridgeman, was insisting on the observance of these ceremonies, to which a considerable number of the clergy were strongly opposed. Among these Clarke was reckoned.

Constrained to leave Thornton, after a two years residence, the young divine accepted the charge of Shotwick about the year 1624. The tithes of this parish belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Chester, who paid a small sum annually to a Curate. The appointment of Clarke seems to point to the Puritan party predominating in the Chapter. According to his biographer's account, Clarke's ministrations were so acceptable in his new location that people came six or seven miles to hear him. At this place he found the first seals of his ministry, being an instrument in converting many souls to God. He set up meetings for prayer and conference, which were held at the houses of the richer people in rotation, where questions were discussed which he had previously proposed. The benefits arising from these friendly associations he found to be many and great. Hereby knowledge was increased so that (says he) I was never acquainted with more understanding Christians in all my life, though the best of them went in russet coats and followed husbandry. Hereby holy affections were kindled and kept alive. Mutual love was promoted; so that all the professors of the gospel living ten or twelve miles asunder were as intimate as if they had been of one household. The necessities of the poor being known were provided for. The weak were strengthened, the mourning comforted, the erring reclaimed, the dejected raised, and all mutually edified in their holy faith. Moreover they hereby enjoyed opportunities for private fasts and days of thanksgiving as there was occasion."

During his residence at Shotwick, Clarke married Katharine, daughter of the Rev. Valentine Overton, Rector of Bedworth in Warwickshire, "a pious, humble, prudent, and sweet-tempered person." The

many virtues of this lady are commemorated in one of her husband's works. A son Samuel, afterwards a famous divine, was born in 1636.

After five years' residence at Shotwick, Clarke was compelled to leave the place by a prosecution brought against him in the Chancellor's Court for the omission of ceremonies, and his enemies were so inveterate that they would not suffer him to preach a farewell sermon.

F. SANDERS.

(To be continued.)

(218) INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 214—May 27th.)

WALLASEY.

The present peal of Bells at Wallasey was cast by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, and bears no inscriptions except the names of the makers. These replaced a peal of a similar number which fell from the tower in 1856 on the occasion of the fire which destroyed the church. They bore the following inscriptions:—

Treble: Presented by the Villagers of Wallasey and other parishioners as a mark of attachment to the house of God, A.D. 1858.

Frederic Haggitt, M.A., Rector.
Joseph C. Ewart
William Chambres
Churchwardens.

- (3) Luke Ashton in Wigan made us all, 1728.
- (3) Gloria Deo in Excelesis 1728 Wigan.
- (4) John Robinson, Joshua Young, Churchwardens, 1728, Wigan.
- (5) Let us sound to the honour of Christ and to the glory of All Saints.

Tenor: I to the church the living call,
And to the grave do summons all.
Memento Mori, 1728.
Mr. Thomas Arson.*

The five older bells were ornamented with a crowned "G B" on the waist, a band of oak leaves round the top, and one of roses round the rim.

These five older bells (1728) had succeeded a ring of three, (according to the churchwardens' accounts), one of which had been cast by Wm. Scott of Wigan in 1673, and another (the "first bell") by William Clibbery, of Holt in Flintshire, in 1624.

CAMPANOLOGIST.

*This name is possibly an error of the copyist, as it is one which does not occur at all in connection with Wallasey at this time. It may be meant for Mr. Thomas Urmon, who gave £5 towards the casting of the new peal in 1728 (the largest subscription).

JUNE 10th, 1893.

(219) WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VII.—REV. SAMUEL CLARKE.
(Incumbent of Shotwick).

(Continued from No. 217—June 8).

On leaving Shotwick, Clarke returned to his native county, having accepted a lectureship at Coventry. In many parishes, especially in towns, where the population was Calvinistic, but the incumbent was either a dull preacher or an Anglican, funds had been provided by the Puritan parishioners for the foundation of a lectureship in private patronage. The lecturer held a preaching licence from the bishop, and arrayed in a Geneva cloak, preached a sermon on Sunday afternoons to an overflowing congregation, which assembled to hear the sermon after the incumbent had finished reading the service to an almost empty church. At Coventry, Clarke soon found himself in antagonism to the incumbent of both the city churches, a gentleman bearing the cacophonous name of Buggs. Dr. Buggs persuaded Bishop Morton, in whose diocese Coventry lay, to inhibit Clarke from preaching, and although Archbishop Abbott had given him a licence, Clarke was forced to leave Coventry. He had, however, a powerful protector in a local magnate, the celebrated Lord Brook, by whose influence he was placed in another lectureship, this time at Warwick. Here he still persisted in disregarding the ceremonies, notwithstanding many complaints of his conduct. On April 23rd, 1638, he was inducted to the Rectory of Alcester, presented to him by Lord Brook. At 'drunken Alcester,' as it was called, Clarke made himself conspicuous by attacking James I's Book of Sports, which had been set forth afresh by authority in 1634.

In 1640, Clarke was deputed to visit King Charles, at York, in order to complain of the so-called *Alcesters* oath. The oath ran as follows:—"I, A.B., do swear that I do approve the doctrine and discipline or government established in the Church of England, as containing all things necessary to salvation, and that I will not endeavour by myself or any other, directly or indirectly, to bring in Popish doctrine, contrary to that which is so established, nor will I give my consent to alter the government of this church by archbishops, bishops, deans, and archdeacons, &c., as it stands now established, and, as by right it ought to stand, nor yet ever to subject it to the usurpations and superstitions of the See of Rome."

Great exception was taken to the *Alcesters* occurring in this formula, from which it came to be called the *Alcesters* oath. The King made some difficulty in seeing Clarke and his companions, but promised that they should not be molested till their petition should come before Parliament.

On October 23rd, 1642, Richard Baxter was preaching for Clarke at Alcester, when the guns of Edgehill were heard, and next day they rode over the battlefield. Clarke soon afterwards went to

London, where he was pressed to take the curacy of St. Benet Fink, in the gift of the Chapter of Windsor. The former curate having been expelled, Clarke was elected in his place by the parishioners; and when the war was over resigned Alcester, which was "pestered with sectaries" in order to retain it.

F. SANDERS.

(To be Continued).

[220] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

The following is another of the replies from which Bishop Gastrell compiled his *Notitia*.

HESWALL.

In com: et Dias: Oestria.

"Heswall is a Parish Church in the Hundred of Wirral in the County of Chester, situate in the village of Heswall aforesaid, distant from London 150 computed miles, and from the next church being that of Thurstanton 1 mile $\frac{1}{2}$.

All the glebe-lands being about 8 acres $\frac{1}{2}$ together with all the tythes great and small, all offerings, Easter dues, and all other things of the like kind belonging to the said church (Surplice-fees only excepted) have been let for several years last past at the yearly

	l. s d
Rate of	59 00 00
The Surplice-fees amount com-	
munibus annis to about	01 05 00
In all	60 05 00

This is a true account of the yearly value of the said Church of Heswall, Witness my hand this 20th day of March in the year of our Lord God 1716.

Wm. Birchall, Rector ibid
William Ditchfield.

Note that the Tenths which are $\$1$ 16s. 10d. and the synodals 8s. 2d. deducted, reduce the yearly value of the said living to

58 00 00

There's nothing advanced in the said Parish by way of contributions."

May 24th 1717.

"The above named Wm. Birchall and William Ditchfield made oath of ye truth of this account before us,

Hen. Prescott,
Edw. Roberts"

[221] RENTAL OF BIRKENHEAD PRIORY AT THE DISSOLUTION.

The following extracts are from a document preserved at the Public Record Office, London.

The document is not dated, but it appears to be a return made to the Augmentation Office, prior to the grant of the Priory lands to Worsley. It is probably the original from which the more complete, but less detailed, document printed in Mortimer's "Wirral," (page 318) was prepared.

The portions below are only those referring to the Wirral property of the Priory.

The Rental is bound up in a folio volume with a number of papers, relating to other suppressed Religious Houses. It is in a good state of preservation, but the writing is a very bad specimen of the calligraphy of the period.

Yours, etc.,

Wm. FRAZERMAN LIVING.

Cloughton.

BYRKENHEAD: Rente ibm.
pro tent.' etc. pdm.

Morrow.

Margaret Byllyngxxs
John Gryffithxviis viid
Willms Pemb'ton.....liiis viid
John Pemb'ton.....xviis viiid
Willms Rutter.....xxis
Ric' Pemb'ton jun.....xxis
Thos fleschawer [?]liiis liiid
John Rathbonexxis
pro ten't nuper Ric' Pemb'ton senxiiis
sum' viiil - viis.

CLAGHTON.

Thomas Heock per annumxxs
Rich: Heockxxs
Margare Hare.....xxs
Elen [Tollu] Deenexvs
Rad': Drynkwater.....xiiis liiid
Jacobus Woodward.....xixs viid
Roger Walkok [Willoock].....viiis viiid [?]
Roger Wattxviiis
Roger Parboitxs
David Woodward.....liis
Henry Deene pro le pole heyliis
sum: viiil xixs ivd.

(To be continued.)

[222] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1648.

(Continued from No. 215—May 27.)

STOURTON.

John Boland pro xxsid
Robto Ley pro xxs.....id
Rico Chantrell pro viidxiiid
Thoma Brusco pro xxsid
John Macclyn pro xxsid
Rico Boland pro xxsid
Rico Boland junior pro liiilliiid
Rico Johnson pro xisliid

Thoma Mawrie [?] pro xxs	id
Willmo Seryvenor pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Rico Warmynsham pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Henrico Taylyar pro xxs	id
Johe Irelande pro xls	iiid
Alexandro Inglesfelde pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Henrico Hele pro xxs	id
Jacobo Ley pro xxs	id

PARVA NESTON.

Robto Hychyner [?] pro xls	iiid
Georgio Whytelaye [?] pro xxs	id
Thoma Gownynge pro xxs	id
Margareta Betson pro xxs	id
Thoma Blacon pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Henrico Hende pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Thoma Betson pro viii	xiiid
Willmo Bruscow pro xxs	id
Robto Launoelet pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Thoma Leightfot pro vii	xd
Cecilia Kempe pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Robto Betson pro viii	xiiid
Rico Cotton pro xls	iiid
Thoma Charnocke pro xxs	id
Willmo Millner pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Rico Weysele pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Henrico Goodecar pro iiiiii	iiiiid
Elena Hende pro vii	xd

—

JUNE 17th, 1893.

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[228] WIRRAL WORTHIES.

VII.—REV. SAMUEL CLARKE.

(Incumbent of Shotwick).

(Continued from No. 219—June 10).

For the next twenty years, the principles for which Clarke had so long and so earnestly contended were in the ascendant; and he consequently took a prominent place among the clergy of the capital. He was a governor and twice president of Sion College, and served on the Committee of Ordainers for London in 1648. During his residence in London, he began to compose the long series of works by which he is now chiefly remembered. These are dated from his study in Threadneedle-street. He was one of the fifty-seven ministers, who January 23th, 1649, signed a protest against taking away the King's life. He assisted in drawing up the *Jus Divinum Ministerii Evangelicis*, issued by the London Provincial Assembly in 1658, in defence of a regular ministry against the lay preaching permitted by the Independents. In 1654 he was an assistant to the Parliamentary Commission for the expulsion of the so-called scandalous ministers and schoolmasters in the City of London. During the whole of the Rebellion period, he appears to have disapproved of the practices of the numerous sectaries which arose, and retained his attachment to the constitution and doctrines of the Church, although he objected to certain points respecting ceremonies and discipline.

In 1660, when Charles II published a declaration concerning ecclesiastical affairs, the London clergy drew up a congratulatory address with a request for the removal of re-ordination and surplices in colleges, &c. This address Clarke was appointed to present to the King. In the following year, he took part with Richard Baxter and others in the Savoy Conference. At the passing of the Act of Uniformity, he felt himself unable to adopt the ceremonies and therefore gave up his living; but such was his idea of sobriety and separation that he quietly submitted to a retired and studious life. From the Church which he constantly attended, he says that he dared not to separate nor gather a private church out of a true church, which he judged the Church of England to be. In 1665 he took the oath against resistance imposed by the Five Mile Act. Judge Keeling, before whom he appeared, congratulated him upon the renunciation of the covenant. Clarke disavowed this interpretation, and to put his motives beyond suspicion, retired to Hammersmith, April 24th, 1666. Before resigning his living, he married his friend Baxter to Margaret Chariton, September 10th, 1662.

After some years residence at Hammersmith, Clarke removed to Isleworth. On retiring into lay life, he spent most of the time in literary work, revising what he had already published, and compiling other works chiefly on biographical subjects.

His wife died June 21st, 1675, aged 78, and he wrote a touching life, saying that she had been a spur and never a bridle to him in those things which were good.

Clarke died at Isleworth, December 25th, 1682, universally respected for his piety, and especially for his moderation in the contests which prevailed in his time. His words are very numerous, and though little known, extremely valuable: they contain the essence of many abstruse writers, and a multitude of biographical anecdotes to be derived from no other source. He had also been attentive to the illustrating them with portraits, which has added in no small degree to their price and rarity. The following list is given in a life written by himself:—

1. *The Marrow of Ecclesiastical History*, containing the lives of the Fathers, Schoolmen, Reformers, and eminent Modern Divines, &c., 1649, 4to. Clarke was unquestionably the first who published any collection of biography in English; he is respectfully noticed by Fuller as his predecessor. In 1650, he published a second part, and both parts together, with additions, in a thick quarto of above 1,000 pages, in 1654, with many portraits in wood and copper; but the best edition is that of 1675, folio.

2. *The Lives of Sundry Eminent Persons in this latter age*. This, forming a third volume of the preceding work, was published in 1662. It was reprinted in 1683, with a good engraving by White of himself, and another of his wife. Another engraving of him by Cross is prefixed to the 4to edition of his *Ecclesiastical History*, 1650; another to the edition of the same, 1675.

3. *A General Martyrology*, or abridgement of Fox, and some more recent authors, 1651, folio; to this he added in 1652:—

4. *An English Martyrology.*

These two works were reprinted together in 1660, and in 1677, with an additional series of the lives of Divines.

5. *The Marrows of Divinity with Sundry Cases of Conscience* 1659, folio.

6. *A Mirror or Looking Glass for Saints and Sinners*, containing remarkable examples of the fate of persecutors, and vicious persons of all descriptions, and notices of the lives of persons eminent for piety. Editions of this appeared in 1646, 1655, 1657; and in 1671 a second volume. Of this work Mr. Ohalmer observes that excepting Wanley's Wonders, and Turner's Providences, which follow his plan, he knows not any book that contains an equal portion of the marvellous combined with the useful; and that he must have turned over a prodigious number of volumes to accumulate such a mass of anecdote.

7. *Lives of English Warriors* 1671.

8. *God's Judgment against Persecutors*, 1678.

9. *Golden Apples or Seasonable and Serious Counsel*, a book against the toleration of schismatics and separatists, 1659, 12mo.

10. *A Life of Tamerlane.*

11. *A Defence of Tithes.*

12. *A Description of the 17 Provinces of the Netherlands*, 1675.

13. *An English Dictionary* under an assumed name 1670.

14. *The Precedent for Princes* 1680.

15. *A Book of Apophthegms* 1681.

F. SANDERS.

[224] THE DATE OF CHESTER WALLS.

The dispute as to the date of the erection of the walls of Chester has waxed warm in recent years. A discovery made through the recent fall of *Pember-ton's Parlour* shows very clearly the date of this part. In the lowest stratum of the rubble work were found two coins, one an Irish halfpenny with the date 1686, the other a farthing with the date 1679. These sufficiently prove the structure to be part of the rebuildings of the beginning of last century. The masonry was extremely poor and weak, and quite insufficient for defensive purposes. *Pember-ton's Parlour*, which fell down after the frost of last winter, is being rebuilt. Edward W. Cox.

[225]

RICHARD LLWYD.

The Author of "Gayton Wake."

(See Nos. 192, 194, and 197.)

The following account of Richard Llwyd, the author of *Gayton Wake*, or *Mary Dod* and her list of merits, portions of which lately appeared in your columns, may interest some of your readers. It is extracted from the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Richard Llwyd (1752-1835), poet, known as "the Bard of Snowdon," was the son of John and Alice Llwyd of Beaumaris, where he was born in 1752. The early death of his father, a small coast trader, left the family in necessitous circumstances. After an education of nine months at the Free School, Beaumaris, Llwyd at twelve years of age entered the domestic service of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, but utilised every spare moment for his self-improvement. By 1780 he was entrusted with the duties of steward and secretary to a Mr. Griffith, of Caer Hun, near Conway, then, the only acting magistrate in that district. He finally acquired a competency, retired to Beaumaris, and published there his best-known poem, entitled *Beaumaris Bay*, 1800, 8vo., with many historical and genealogical notes. His other productions were *Gayton Wake*, or *Mary Dod* and her *List of Merits*, Chester 18 4, 12mo, with a portrait of the author; and *Poems, Tales, Odes, Sonnets, Translations from the British* (with Notes), 2 vols., Chester 1804, 8vo.

Early in 1807, he removed to Chester, where he died December 29th, 1835, and was buried in St. John's Church. On the south side of the Church wall a tablet was placed to his memory. Early in 1814 he married Ann, daughter of Alderman Bingley of Chester.

A collected edition of his works, with a memoir and portrait, and an engraving of his residence known as Bank Place, Chester, was published in 1837, Chester 8vo. The notes by Llwyd show him to have been well versed in Heraldry, Genealogy, and Welsh Archaeology. M. A.

JUNE 24th, 1893.

[226] AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WIRRAL INCUMBENT.

In 1686 Dr. Cartwright, Bishop of Chester, gave a license to one Honoratus Lobeg to practice as a physician. The very uncommon name borne by this gentleman point to a foreign origin; and it is very probable that he was one of the many refugees who sought a shelter in England from the religious persecutions then prevailing upon the continent.

We may safely infer that this Honoratus Lobeg was the father of the divine of the same name, who became Vicar of Eastham and Rector of Wallasey. The

younger Honoratus must have been born about the beginning of the eighteenth century. As he was a Master of Arts, he must have been educated at one of the Universities; but at which, I have not had the opportunity of ascertaining. He was made a deacon by Sir William Dawes, Archbishop of York, September 22nd, 1728, and ordained priest by Dr. Ohandler, Bishop of Lichfield, September 19th, 1728. Subsequently he seems to have been Curate of Wigan, for "*The Reverend Honoratus Lebeg, A M., of Wigan in Lancashire,*" appears as one of the subscribers to a translation of Fleury's Ecclesiastical History, published in 1727. The present Rector of Wigan has, however, been unable to find any trace of Mr. Lebeg in the parochial records.

On the 11th of October, 1728, Mr. Lebeg was collated to the Vicarage of Eastham by Bishop Peploe, of Chester, on whom the presentation had devolved by lapse. At Eastham, Lebeg remained for thirty-eight years, holding the Perpetual Curacy of Bromborough with his Vicarage for a portion of that time. But though a pluralist, he was by no means a wealthy one; for Eastham was only worth some £40 a year, and Bromborough about £12. Archdeacon Travis, who succeeded Lebeg at Eastham, states that his predecessors "as far back as the remembrance of living persons can reach, lived for the greatest part of their lives upon charity, and died insolvent." This poverty was due to their inability to enforce the payment of their just dues. Lebeg appears to have been involved in constant difficulties with his tithe-payers; and being worsted in the struggle, he adopted, according to the local tradition, an original mode of revenge. He kept no Registers. For over twenty years there is indeed a complete blank. But at the same time a complete list of the entries which should have been made was sent to the Bishop's Registry at Chester every year.

Stories of Vicar Lebeg are still told at Eastham, which show him to have been a man of ready wit. On one occasion a couple waited in the Church to be married till long past the hour of twelve, whilst "Parson Lebeg," having forgotten all about it, was taking a stroll on the shore. On his return he was told that the angry pair were about to leave the Church, as, being then afternoon, it was too late for the wedding. "Too late" he exclaimed, hurriedly putting on his surplice, "not a bit of it; why I have not had my dinner yet, and it is never afternoon in Eastham until the Vicar has dined;" and he married them.

Another of these traditional stories informs us that a considerable number of gentlemen in the neighbourhood had been created Justices of the Peace in a batch. Some of these worthies mounted on horseback encountered Parson Lebeg trudging along near Poole Hall. "Why do you go about on foot, Mr. Vicar," cried one of them? "If you can't afford a horse, you might at least keep an ass." "I have been wishing to do so," replied the Vicar, "but the fact is that all the asses in these parts have been lately turned into Justices of the Peace, so that I am so far unable to realise my wish."

During Lebeg's incumbency, the Vicarage House at Eastham was erected, and the spire of the church, which had become ruinous, was taken down and rebuilt (*See No. 145*).

In 1749 Bishop Peploe presented Mr. Lebeg to the Rectory of Wallasey, vacant by the death of the Rev. Charles Aldcroft. As this did not necessitate the resignation of Eastham and Bromborough, he held the three livings till 1766, when he ceded the last mentioned parishes, retaining Wallasey alone till his death, which took place in 1769. Mr. Lebeg's incumbency of Wallasey is principally noteworthy on account of the rebuilding of the parish church in 1757. He was buried at Eastham on July 26th, but there is no trace of any monument to his memory. In his latter years Mr. Lebeg seems to have been partly imbecile. He was succeeded in the Rectory of Wallasey by the Rev. George Briggs, who had already worked in the parish as Mr. Lebeg's curate, and remained Rector till his death on February 8th, 1814.

F. SANDERS.

[327] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 218.—June 3rd.)

BEBINGTON.

The bells, six in number, are all modern, with no inscriptions save the names of the makers, "C. and G. Mears, Founders, London, 1845."

WOODCHURCH.

All six bells are modern. Five bear the inscription C. and G. Mears, Founders, London, 1846, and the sixth, "Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London, 1884." CAMPANOLOGIST.

[328] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

The following is another of the replies from which Bishop Gastrell compiled his *Notitia* :—

SHOTWICK.

"The whole Maintenance of Shottwick Church in ye County and Diocese of Chester is twenty three pounds fifteen shillings, fifteen pounds of which is paid by ye Dean and Chapter of Chester who are the Appropriators, five by My Lady Mainwaring who has a lease of ye Tithes, ye other three pounds fifteen shillings arises thus; two pounds six shillings from ye Surplice fees ye most that has been of late years rec'd, and one pound eleven shillings from ye Offerings, and ye Town is a village situate an hundred fifty four miles from ye City of London.

March 4. 1716-7

The Rev. Mr. John Hiccock Curate at Shotwick, Joseph Wilson of Saughall in ye p'ish of Shotwick Gent, Thomas Chamberlain of ye Same place Gent, John Davies of ye same place yeoman and Thomas Downall of Capenhurst in ye same p'ish yeoman appeared and made oath of ye truth of ye contents of ye above written Certificate before us.

Tho: Wainwright
Edw: Roberts."

[229] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 222—June 10.)

BRYNSTON [BRINSTON].

Robto Dunsterfeld pro xls.....	iiid
Robto Jeunds [?] pro xls.....	iiid
Rico Wirreball pro xls.....	iiid
Jobe Goodecar pro liiili.....	iiid
Robto Goodecar pro iiiii.....	iiid
Jacobe Goodecar pro liiii.....	iiid
Alicia Holme pro liiii.....	iiid
Jobe Fysahar pro xxs.....	id
Hugone Tyldesly pro xxs.....	id
Alicia Wryght pro xxs.....	id
Jobe Dake pro iiiiii.....	iiid
Willmo Stanton pro xls.....	iiid
Jobe Badley pro liiii.....	iiid
Willmo Smythe pro liiii.....	iiid
Edwardo Charnocke pro xxs.....	id
Henrico Barbar pro xxs.....	id
Robinson [sic] pro xxs.....	id
Cecilia Rogerson pro xls.....	id
Margareta Badley pro xxs.....	id

[230] RENTAL OF BIRKENHEAD PRIORY AT THE DISSOLUTION.

(Continued from No. 221—June 10th.)

KYRKBY-WALLBY.

Willms Berker et John Meoles	is	
John Hill	xxvii	viid
Dod John for the Bugg Holland	iiis	
Uzer Thomas Richardson	xxivs	
Willms Richardson pALTER [?]	is	
Willms Richardson	xxis	
Dunnota Shirleacre	xxs	
Ric' Wykinson.....	xiis	
Willms Wykinson	is	
Thos Meeles pro pom'lo		xiid
Sum tot: vii xiis viiid.		

TRANMERE.

Willm Hill.....	is
John Hill, alias Newton	is
Drot [?] Hulton	vis
Ric. Deane.....	vis
Robt Hulme pro sibo redd	is
Wm Brombro' pro like redd	is
Sum: xviiis.	

Or' BRBYNGTON.

John Yokesson.....	liiid
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BAKFFORD.

Ric. Newton.....	xxvi's viiid
------------------	--------------

SALGHM.

Georgeo Kampe.....	xis
--------------------	-----

BIDSTON.

Hugo Smyth.....	xiis ivd
-----------------	----------

ESWALL.

Ric. Tyldesley.....	iiis iiid
---------------------	-----------

UPTON.

John Humfrey.....	iiis
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SBROOM.

Alexand' Younge.....	liiid
Brynston.....	viid Bbynton Parvaivd

Mem: To se well to the wodds that no wast be made and if any man presume to medel [with] them, to present his name what yt ys so ever he be.

JULY 1st, 1893.

[231] THE REV. CHAS. ALDCROFT.

SOMETIME RECTOR OF WALLASEY, 1718-1749.

The following facts are drawn from a MS book preserved in the Diocesan Registry, Chester, containing a full digest of certain pleadings which took place in a suit brought by Charles Aldcroft, the son of the Rector of Wallasey, against his step-mother. His object was to obtain the right to administer the estate of his deceased father, on the grounds that his father had died intestate, and that he was next of kin, the defendant having been clandestinely married to the plaintiff's father and that the marriage was not legal.

Mrs. Aldcroft (as she maintained she was), deposed that in 1733, the Rector being a widower, and she a widow (Margaret Johnson by name), the Rector had paid his addresses to her and obtained her consent to a marriage being contracted between them, which took place, she stated, on the 3rd December in the following year, at Backford, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. Robert Denson, vicar of that parish.

She further stated however, that as she was a glover or skinner by trade in Chester, they had arranged that the fact of the marriage having taken place should be concealed, because if it became known, she would be unable to continue in her business. (Probably this would be owing to the regulations of the skinner's guild).

The license to be married was obtained from the Rev. John Urmson, the Archdeacon's Surrogate, and there were no witnesses present at the ceremony, which was, however, performed during canonical hours.

Mrs. Aldcroft further states that after the wedding ceremony she rode into Chester on horseback behind Mr. Denson, the Vicar of Backford, who allowed her to alight at Town End, from whence she walked back to her house to avoid suspicion.

The Rev. Charles Aldcroft, who does not appear to have had any more scruples about forsaking his charge than being party to a deception, took up his

residence in Chester, a few doors from his wife's house, lodging with some people of the name of Stanway.

Mr. Aldcroft seems to have made Chester his headquarters, as in the course of the evidence it transpires that he insisted that his son (the plaintiff), who was apprenticed to a merchant in the City, should come and live with him, for "he greatly feared lest his son should go out of evenings and mix in bad company." The son, however, appears to have had a mind of his own, as he shortly afterwards departed to London and commenced business there.

The defendant appears to have been possessed of considerable affluence, as she states that she lent her town house to her brother, Mr. Alderman Cotgrave, during his mayoralty. John Cotgrave was Sheriff of Chester in 1720 and mayor in 1735.

Mr. Aldcroft is described as being one of the Minor Canons of Chester.

Olaughton.

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

[282] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

The following will, the original of which is preserved at the Probate Court, Chester, of Ralph Aconon (or Axon), of Landican, is interesting from many points of view. It gives us rather a curious glimpse into the social life of the period, particularly in things matrimonial.

I have not been able to find out anything about Ralph Aconon, beyond the particulars given in the next paragraph concerning his second wife, and the fact revealed by the Woodchurch Registers, that he was buried on the 5th November, 1619.

His wife, second Anne, was the daughter of — Forshaw, of Mollington. She married 1stly, — Smith, of Landican; 2ndly, Ralph Aconon, after whose death, on the 25th December, 1621, at Bromborough, she married John Stranke [or Strength], of Bromborough Court, and 4thly and finally, Thomas Bennet, of Barnston. She died in 1656, and was buried at Woodchurch, on the 17th of February in that year. — (Vide "Bennetts of Saughall-Massey" etc., by E. M. Hance, Esq., p. 29).

"In the name of God, Amen, I, RALPH ACONON, of Landican, in the Countie of Chester, yeoman, sick in bodie, etc.—I desire that my bodie be buried in Woodchurch Parish Church.

I leave to Rebekah, my base daughter, 20 marks, to be her portion, and I leave her to the keeping of her mother, I meane Ann Aconon, my wife.

I will that my property be divided into two parts, —the one part I leave to Ann Aconon my wife so long as she remain unmarried and single and keep her sonne John Smith and Ann Aconon my daughter in sufficient meate drinke and apparell till the boy be grown up for my will is that John Smith shall marry my daughter Ann Aconon when he cometh to the age

of 15 yeres but if he refuse to marry her then let him pay her the sum of 100 marks and my wife shall make it 100 pounds, but if my daughter refuse him then it to be only 100 markes.

The second half of my property I bequeath between my son John Aconon and my daughter Alice Aconon.

A small legacy to "my son Wm Aconon."

Executors: "Sonnes Wm and John Aconon."

Overseer: "My friend John Smith."

"I leave to my Godchildren Robert Mathew Frances Burges, and Elisabeth Mowbray 5s a peece and my blessinge.

I owe Ann Scott my sister xxliii and to Henry Woodcooke 11 nobles.

Sum: tot: 25li 18s. 4d.

John Howghton [elsewhere Hatton] butcher of Bevington [Bebington] oweth me

Antyne Cotton of Saughton for a yoke of Oxen ..

.....ixli xiiis ivd.

John Totty of Upton

Adam Kemp baker in Chester

Wm Rabone of Frankbie

Ralph Aconon his mark.

Witnesses:

Thos Mory, Robt Mory.

John Brideson, John Heyes.

Inventorie of the goods of Raphe Aconon late of Landican praissed the 8th day of November 1619 by Thos Leigne [Leene] Henry Rowlinson, Wm. Nicoles and Rph Axon.

Summa totalis £394 7s. 10d.

Proved 8th Nov 1620.

I have not so far been able to ascertain whether John Smith elected to pay the 100 marks or marry Ann Aconon.

Yours, etc.,

Olaughton.

HOLLX.

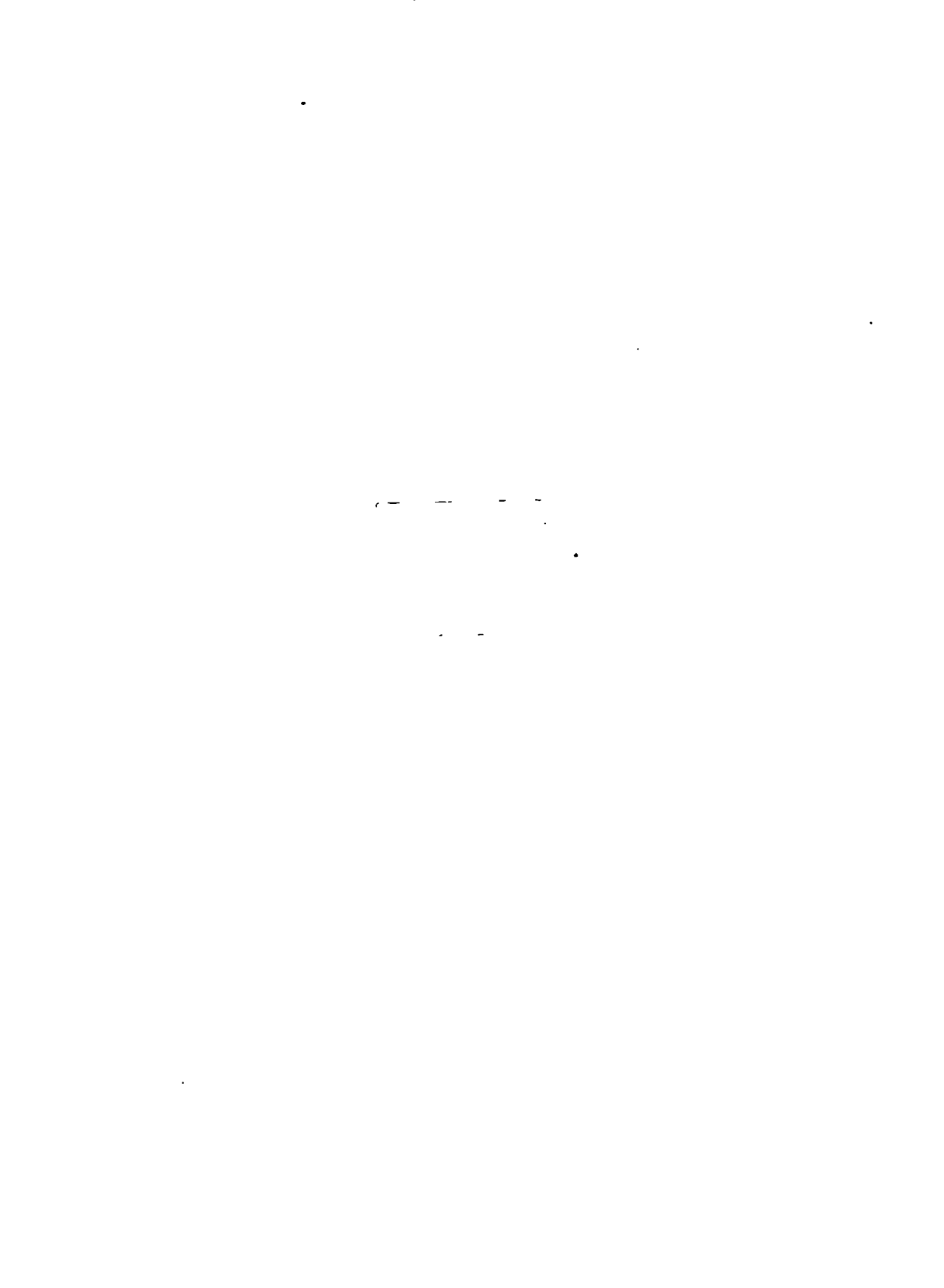
[283] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

WIRRAL DEANEY.

Church of Stoak in Wirral Co Chester 1717.

STOAK, A DONATIVE.—An Acot of ye clear yearly value or advantage arising to ye Minister or Curate officiating at ye Parish Church of Stoak a village in Wirral in ye County of Chester distant from ye City of London about 145 miles vidt.

1. Small Tythes of several sorts and Easter due for wch ye present Minister or Curate receives annually as foll'g (pursuant to an agreement made by himseveral yeres since with ye Inhabitants of ye severall townships in ye Parish to witt) from ye Inhabitants of ye Township of





VIEW NEAR HOYLAKE, 1815,
FROM AN ENGRAVING BY WILLIAM DANIELL.

Stoak ye sum of £10 18s. 9½d., from ye Inhabitants of ye Township of Stanny ye sum of £12 17s. 8d., from ye Inhabitants of ye Township of Whitby ye sum of £2 16s. 6½d. In all.....	£26	8	0
2. Easter dues and Small Tiths from a place called Holm House in ye same parish wch (communibus annis) are about..	00	8	0
3. Tith Herbage (uncertain) for wch ye present Curat received this year	02	2	0
4. Surplice Fees one year with another about	00	6	0
In all.....	29	4	0

John Wright, Mintr.
Richard Bevan.
Thomas Banner."

"M. ch 14, 1716-7.

The Reverd. John Wright, Minister of Stoak, Richard Bevan, an Inhabitant of ye Parish and Thomas Banner parish clerk there made Oath of ye truth of ye within writt:n acct. before us.

Ric. Bouchier.
Edw. Roberts."

[294] THE REV. SAMUEL CLARKE

(Incumbent of Shotwick).

(See No. 223—June 17.)

The following are additional works of Mr. Clarke:—

16. *The Wicked Life and Woful Death of Herod the Great*, London 1664 4to.
17. *The Life and Death of Sir Francis Drake*, London, 1671, 4to.
18. *The Life and Death of William, surnamed The Conqueror*, 1671, 4to.
19. *England's Remembrancer, being a summary of the most remarkable events from 1600 to 1675.*
20. *The Gunpowder Treason, being a Remembrancer to England of that ancient Deliverance.*
21. *The History of the Life, Reign, and Death of Queen Elizabeth*, London, 1688, 12mo.
22. *A New Description of the World*, London, 1689, 12mo. F.S.

JULY 1st, 1893.

[285] HOYLAKE IN 1796.

The following extract from a letter appearing in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for June, 1796, may be of interest to some of your Decade readers. It is signed Visior A. :—

"I am now writing to you, Mr. Urban, from the extreme point of the Hundred of Wirral in Cheshire, near the broad estuary of the Dee, and only seven miles from the confluence of the more commercial waters of the Mersey with the Ocean. Your last Magazine has noticed Miss Seward's poetical address to the proprietor of High Lake, some of the lines in which are, indeed, not less elegant than classically descriptive. The Hoyle sand breaks the force of the waves, so as to render the lake a safe road for vessels of any size in the roughest weather; and it is strictly true that 'age and infirmity may securely plunge' during the highest tides and most boisterous gales, such, indeed, as we have lately experienced for a length of time, at this season exceedingly unusual. The hotel lately erected by Sir John Stanley, the lord of the manor, is situated within a few yards of the beach, and contains a variety of commodious apartments, both public and private, very comfortably furnished. The charges are very moderate, the table well and amply supplied, and nothing is wanting on the part of the persons who have the management of it to render this house as pleasant and convenient as can be desired. Although, at the first glance, we appear shut out from the rest of the world, a very short time conveys us to Parkgate (the station of the Dublin packets), across the water into Wales, into the bustle of Liverpool, or the less busy capital of this county. The coast of Flintshire, richly wooded, even to the waters edges, and singularly contrasting with this naked district, displays itself with great beauty on the other side of the Dee; whilst the rugged mountains of Wales, boldly stretching out as far as Anglesea, form the boundary of the prospect towards the South West. There is a great extent of fine, short turf along this coast, extending nearly to the Mersey, and affording very dry and pleasant walks and rides; as does also the sand, which is firm and compact, and wholly destitute of pebbles. This shore is protected by a chain of sand hills, held together by the star-grass or sea-reed, whose long fibrous roots penetrating deep into the sands, offer a fixed point round which they may collect. This grass is under the especial protection of the law; for if it were cut and converted to the uses of which it is capable, such as making mats and besoms, the sandhills would quickly be blown away, and the country behind overwhelmed with a moving sand. The sand-hills are the resort of a very excellent breed of rabbits. The Dee affords abundance of fine salmon; cockles, shrimps, soles, and various kinds of flat fish are taken on the sand banks and in the lake; and the Liverpool markets furnish an ample supply of the productions of animal and vegetable nature. Every vessel that comes into or goes out of the Dee or Mersey is distinctly seen hence; and the lake is frequently enlivened by brigs and schooners beating to windward, as well as by the anchorage of the Dublin packets, whose passengers are glad to partake of the amusements and refreshments which the hotel affords. It is well calculated for the inhabitants of the central counties, who, at no great distance from their own houses, will here find genteel society, good accommodation at reasonable prices, and one of the most commodious bathing places in the island. The lake is distinguished in the maps by the appellation of *Hoyle lake*; but Sir John Stanley, having found

it termed *High lake* in some old writings belonging to the estate, has desired it to be so printed in the advertisements relative to the establishment of the hotel, which was opened in 1798."

F. SANDERS.

[336] A LOYALIST WIRRAL VICAR.

The following interesting letter is extracted from a volume of the *Chetham Society's Publications* entitled, *The Correspondence of Nathan Walworth and Peter Seddon of Outwood*. The letter was sent to the Rev. John Walker, when he was compiling his famous work on the *Sufferings of the Clergy* at the time of the Great Rebellion.

Reverend Sir, In pursuance of a promise I formerly made in a letter to Mr. Webber, I have here sent you ye following account of my most honoured Father's sufferings in the late times of rebellion and confusion, wherein, though, perhaps, I may be under some mistakes, in not adjusting every passage to its proper time, or misnomer of some persons mentioned in it, yet I have not wittingly and knowingly trespass'd upon ye truth in any material part of my relation, which I hope you'll therefore peruse with candour as follows:

The Reverend Mr. Willm Seddon (my most honoured Father) M.A. of Magdalen Coll. in Camb, being about the year of our Lord 1636, sett'd a preacher in one of ye parish churches, I think St. Maries, in ye City of Ochester, was then also possess'd of a Vicarage at Eastham (about six miles distant from ye City, value 68*l*. per annum) where he lived with his wife and family in a very happy condition, till ye Civil War's breaking out, and ye Parliament forces drawing on to besiege Ochester, he was compelled to withdraw his family and effects into ye City for succour, where his great and good friend and Pastor, ye Lord Bishop Bridgeman, then Lord Bishop of Ochester accommodated him with several rooms and lodgings in his own Palace; and yet the aged Bishop dreading the hardships of a siege, voided the place, leaving my father in his Palace, who continued diligent in his ministry, and frequent preaching to ye Garrison there, And the City being closely besieged, and frequently stormed, my mother was on ye 12th day of Octob, 1645, delivered of me, her 9th child (all the 9 then living) and said to be the last yt was publicly baptis'd in ye Font of yt Cathedral there before ye restoration in 1660. The City being surrendered upon Articles, my Father was shortly apprehended, and made Prisoner, and after some short durance was demanded by ye prevailing Powers, why he had not, according to ye Articles of surrender, march'd off with ye Garrison to ye King's Quarters, to which he replied, yt he thought his caseock had unconcerned him in those Articles, being a Minister in ye City, but above all he had a

wife, and many small children there, which if he could see tolerably dispos'd of he would, not unwillingly, accept the Articles. But many complaints being made against him, yt he had in his preaching reflected upon the proceedings of the prevailing party, and had animated ye Garrison to resist even unto blood &c., he was remanded to Prison again, and his house permitted to be plunder'd by ye souldiers, who despoil'd him not of his goods only, but of his books and papers, which they exposed to sale at a very low rate; and so by private directions to some of his friends, he repurchas'd some of the most necessary for his own use.

But then an order was drawn up to export his wife and children out of ye City to Eastham (which accordingly was done, several of ye younger sort being put into a wagon with other goods which had escap'd the pillage) where though they had only ye bare walls of a Vicarage house to resort to, yet they found a hearty welcome from ye loyal part of the parishioners there, amongst whom they dispers'd themselves, and in a short time after, my Father's confinement was somewhat enlarg'd, and his escape conniv'd at, which gave him ye liberty of going in quest of his wife and children, whom he found in pretty good circumstances amongst his loyal friends. But another minister (1) (whose name and character I have utterly forgot) being dispatch'd with orders from ye ruling powers at Ochester to supply ye vicarage at Eastham, and a rumour disp'd, that my father must be apprehended again and redn'd as prisoner to Ochester, he scamper'd about privately to ye houses of ye loyal gentry, to whom his character and condition were well known, and then despatched a letter to his elder Brother, Mr. Peter Seddon, at Outwood in Lancashire (ye place of my Father's nativity), who was then, at that rate of ye times turn'd zealous Presbyterian too, and had a son a Captain in ye Parliament's Army, acquainting him with ye storm he was under, and requesting him to cover either all or part of his family, till he could weather ye storm; to which letter ye main part of ye answer he had was yt would he conform himself to ye Godly party, his own merits would protect and prefer him, which so insens'd my Father yt he never more held any correspondence with him.

M.A.

(To be continued.)

[287]

QUERY.

Can you inform me how much truth there is in the statement I have sometimes heard made, that the first Derby was run on the Wallacey Leasowes?

Birkenhead.

H.E.S.

(1) This was the Rev. J. Muroot. See Nos. 14, 16, 19, and 64.

JULY 15th, 1893.

[238] A LOYALIST WIRRAL VICAR.

(Continued from No. 236—July 8th).

"But in his perambulations amongst ye loyalists, conducted by ye good hand of Providence, he met with one Mr. Bratberton, a Lancashire gentleman and a hearty Cavalier, with whom he had former acquaintance, and who by virtue of a deed of trust from one Mr. Byrom, a gentleman yt was slain in the King's service, had the donacion of a Parsonage call'd Grapnall (which was then vacant by ye death of one Mr. Richardson, its incumbent) and the presentation to this Rectory he freely tendered to my Father, perswading him, with all possible secrecy and expedicion, to post up to ye Commissioners or Tryers of Ministers, which accordingly my Father did, and upon examinacon was by them approv'd and recommended to ye Rectory of Grapnal, a Parsonage worth about 180li per annum, at 16 or 18 miles distance from Chester and bordering upon Lancashire.

Here he settled and fix'd himself, well accepted and beloved by his Parishioners so yt he had time to collect his dispersed Family and enjoyed a calm; but this could not be durable, he was soon haunted with the old rumours of a dangerous delinquent, a malignant, &c., and this grew up into menaces of articles and complaints, and at last into a moral assurance, yt one Major Brooks, a Parliamenteer officer (whose malice he had formerly experienced) intended to seize and apprehend him, which caused him for a time to abscond and afterwards, upon overt attempts made upon him, to flee into Lancashire, where he was by some friends recommended to one Mr Fleetwood of Penwortham (a parish situate near to a great market town called Preston, and about 22 miles distant from Grap'nall in Cheshire) who being a very loyal gentleman and impropiator of ye tyths of yt parish entertained him in ye quality of a chaplain or curate, to preach at yt little church near adjoining to Penwortham Hall.

Here my father fixed again in this gentlemen house, entirely beloved of his patren (who allowed him 40li per annum) and of all his parishioners, and having intelligence out of Cheshire, yt my mother, whom he had left at Grap'nall with a strict charge to gett ye place supplied and keep possession as long as she could, was with her family ejected ye Parsonage house there, and a new Rector, one Mr. Bradshaw, a rigid Presbyterian (whether by appointment of commoners or usurpacion I know not) put in, he acquainted his Patron, Mr. Fleetwood with it, who thereupon order'd a poor cottage house at a little distance from his own Hall to be fitted up, and added 3 or 4 acres of ground to it, to keep a couple of cows, and here, as in a little ark of rest, my Father seated himself with his wife and 9 children, supported and maintain'd by ye good hand of Providence, which order'd him still ye 40li pension from his Patron and large gratuities from ye Loyalists in those parts, whose children he privately baptiz'd and performed other ministerial offices, at

their requests, according to the ancient forms of ye church; which tho' it gave him sometimes ye trouble of masquetiers to guard him into Preston as a prisoner, yet upon ye mediation of the neigh'ring gentlemen he was soon dismissed, and return'd to his family to recount his hazard, with his olim meminisse juvabit; and tho' in all this time he had not any allowance of a 5th, or any ye least part from either his Parsonage or vicaridg in Cheshire, nor any temporal estates whatever; yet he liv'd cheerfully and contentedly, and saw many of his children comfortably dispos'd of, and presently upon ye Rectoracon in 1660, he ejected Bradshaw again, who though a rigid Presbyterian, yet he then trim'd up and got another benefice call'd Lym in Cheshire, where I think he dy'd.

And my Father being restored to his Rectory at Grapnall reseti'd himself and his family in the parsonage house there, where he and my mother (yt constant partner of his sufferings) aged each of them about 70 years, departed this life both in one month and lye buried both in one grave in the chancel there A.D. 1671.

Thus Sir I have recounted those sufferings wherein you'll find me not altogether unconcern'd, and tho' by reason of my minority and ye lack of memoirs in writing (for I was in ye station I now am at ye death of my Parents and so could not have my father's notes) I have made but an imperfect relation of them, yet I dare avouch ye truth of my relation as to all ye material and substantial parts of it; for I was born, nurs'd, and train'd up under those dispensacions, which I think may be allow'd good, and even sensible, grounds in me for belief of what I have writt, and render it unsuspected by men of candour and ingenuity; and now, if upon your perusal of this paper you find anything which you adjudg incoherent or impertinent, pray cancel and cover it; but if anything worth publik notice, pray make use of it, and may God succeed your enleavours to his his own glory, and that peace and unity of the divided church is the hearty praler of,

Sr

yor assured Friend and affectionate Br. in the Lord
EDWARD SEDDON."

The Rev. William Seddon, of whose life the above letter contains many particulars, was a member of the ancient family of the Seddons of Outwood, in the Parish of Prestwich, Lancashire. He was the first person that preached at Ringley Chapel, where he remained from 1626 to 1629. He was presented to the Vicarage of Eastham by King Charles I. in 1637, and with it he held the incumbency of Stoke. Mr. Seddon wrote a most clerky hand, as the Eastham Registers evidence. M. A.

[239] ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

The following is another of the replies from which Bishop Gastrell compiled his *Notitia*.

WIRRAL DEANERY.
OVERCHURCH IN COM. CRST.
HUNDRED OF WYRAL.

A DONATIVE: "A true account of all Payments Dues Oblations Obventions, etc., In any maner paid to the Church of Overchurch situate near Upton a village situate in Wirral, about 160 miles distant from the City of London, March 29. Ano Doi 1717, viz:

Paid by the Right Worshippfull Sr Rowland Stanley Britt, the present Possessor of all Glebes and Receiver of all Tythes Offerings and Easter Dues to the same belonging the sume of Four pounds per annum to the officiating minister.

This is the sume of all paid to the sd Church excepting the Surplus Fees which are some years some small sume and some nothing at all.

As for a Terrier we cannot find any in the Parish Books nor any Remembered by the Inhabitants for the time of sixty years past and upwards.

These is no Publick School in the Parish.

Given in the Day and year above written to the Worshipful Commissioners, Appointed by the Right Rev. Father in God, Francis Ld Bp of Chester to Receive the same Accounts at Chester.

Robt Janny, Minister."

" March ye 30th, 1717.

The Revd Robt Janny Clerk, and John Banks of Upton and John Denson of ye same in ye Parish of Overchurch made oath of the truth of ye above written account

before us Hen Prescott.
Edw Roberts."

[240] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 229—June 24th.)

MORSTON.

Gilberto Ormeston pro vill	.....xiid
Willmo Pemberton pro xls	.....iid
Johe Gyll pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Thoma Gruffith pro liiiiii	.....iiiiid
Milone Pemberton pro xxs	.....iid
Johe Irreby pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Willmo Byllynge pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Robto Wade pro viii	.....xiid
Thoma Wade pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Willmo Urmoston pro xxs	.....iid
Johe Lynnaore pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Henrico Wade pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Robto Bennet pro viii	.....xiid
Henrico Robynson pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Ranulpho K-mpe pro xls	.....iid
Ur Georgii Hancooke pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Henrico Pemberton pro xls	.....iid
Jacobo P-emberton pro xls	.....iid
Georgio Pemberton pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Willmo Butter pro iiiiii	.....iiiiid
Patricio Clerk: pro xls	.....iid

JULY 22nd, 1893.

[241] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1592.

The following extracts are from a Court Book, preserved among the Episcopal Archives at Chester, and are evidence given before the Consistory Court which sat in September 1592.

The document is of considerable historical value from the light which it throws on the state and condition of the Churches during the unsettled times of Elizabeth.

The original is a curious medley of Latin and English; for the sake of convenience I give a translation of the Latin portion and phrases in italics.

Yours, &c.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVING.

Olaughton.

"Corā ve'li viro David Yale (1) legu' Doctor Cur' Cons' Cestren' etc xxvi die mensis Septembris An'o D'ni 1592 etc in presentia mei Johi s'Morgell notari publici etc."

BEBINGTON P'och'.

Against Thomas Bostocks of Spittle and Margery Ward of the same:—

Married without proclamation of bans; they allege that they were married by Sr Robte Bastford Curat of Shottwicke without bans or licence and say that Sr Robte had for marriage of them vs.

[They were ordered] to bring proof of this statement by witnesses within a month.

Against Joan Maeklinge for administering the goods of John Maeklinge without authoritye.

Against Elizabeth Hodges and John Goodecar—fornicators.

Against the Churchwardens of Bebington:—because ytt appeareth they have noe Collectores, butt the Churchwardens were admonished by the Chancellor to provyde collectors according to the statute.

Against Cloely Bibbie and Robert Daggott—fornicators.

BIDSTON P'och'.

Against the farmers [or Impropriators of the living]:—they have had noe sermons but one bie a stranger.

Willms Prison [?] a servant of Mary Gleggs appeared and was enjoined by the Chancellor that hee intimate to hys mistress that shee be heare the xth of October to shewe her lease whyether shee ought to allowe [?] sermons or noe.

Against the Churchwardens:—they have no collectors for the poore. The Chancellor admonished the Churchwardens to appoint collectors according to

(1) David Yale, LL.D., Chancellor of the diocese from 1587 to 1624.

statute, and to provide a Chest for there Register Booke with ii or iii locks and the mane [many] keies.

Against the Curate at the same place :—

[Because he] gave noe warnings for collectors.

He was admonished to give warning hereafter according to the Statute.

BURTON P'OOH'.

Against the farmers [of the living] :—

They [the people] want quarter sermons.

Mr. Smith is to be signified unto that they want quarter sermons.

Against the Churchwardens of Burton :—

That they have no collectors.

Admonished to provide collectors.

Against John Potter "coquus" [? cook] at Puddington :—

Maried at Spittle Boughton without banns or license.

Postponed until vi October.

BACKFORD P'OOH'.

Against the Churchwardens there :—

A Bible, the first of the tomes of Homilies, Mr. Juells Reple and Apologie [1] wantings.

Thomas Whitfell [or Whitelde] one of the Churchwardens was enjoined by the Chancellor that a Byble be bought and Mr. Juells Apologie, before Christmas daie next and to certyfy the Court daie following.

(To be continued.)

[242] THE WILL OF JOHN GOODICAR,
INCUMBENT OF BROMBOROUGH.

Dated 1623.

In the name of God, Amen. On the two and twentieth daie of December in the yeare of our Lorde God one thousand six hundred and twentie three, I, John Goodicar of the Parish of Eastham in the Countie of Chester, Clarke, sick in bodie but whole in mynd and of a good and perfect memorie doe make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

Firstly and chiefly I bequeath my soul into the Hands of Almighty God trusting in the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, &c. Secondly I leave my bodie to be buried in decent Christian burial in the Parish Churchyard of Eastham. And as for my worldly goods, I will and bequeath them in the manner as followeth.

(1) Dr. Jewel, Bishop of Salisbury, published his famous Apologie Ecclesie Anglicane in 1562, he died in 1571.

I give, bequeath, assign, and devise unto Elizabeth my wyffe (during her natural life) and after her decease unto Margaret (1) my daughter and her assigns all my house, messuage, and tenement wherein I now dwell, and all and singular that appertains therunto together with the assignment and indenture and lease.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth (2) the summe of foure pounds in lawful money of England to be paid unto her (or otherwise to my cosen Peter Hayefoot for her use) when she hath accomplished the age of 16 years or shall be married

I give and bequeath unto my daughters Jane (3) and Ellin ye summe of foure pounds of lawful money of England apeece, to be paid unto them when they have attained the age of sixteen years. [Then follows a long direction to the effect that if any of the daughters should die, her 2/4 is to be divided equally among the survivors.]

The Rest and Remainder of my goods movable and immovable of what quality, condition, or sort soever I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth.

And lastly I appoint my wyffe Elizabeth my sole executor,

Witnesses

Thomas Totty (4) John Goodicar [sgd.]
Robert Carrington (5)
John Anglizer (? Jr.)

A true and perfect Inventorie of all goods, cattle, and chattels of John Gooddicar clerke curat of Brombor deceased as they were appraised by John Anglizer, Robert Carrington, John Hay, and John Ducker (6) xiii daie of March 1623.

	Imprimis. one cowe, two sheep, & two lambs	lxxxviij viiij
Item	Geese and Poultry	vs
Item	Oorn and Hay	xviij
Item	Brasse and Pewter	iiii.li
Item	Bedstock, bedds, bedding-clothes	iiii.li
Item	Naperys, lynnans and yorne of all sortes	lii.li viij viiij
Item	four chestes and coffers	xxs
Item	tables, chaires, stooles, etc.	xliiij ivd
Item	treen ware and spinning wheeles	xliiij ivd
Item	his appairell	xls
Item	his Books	xls
Item	Bacon, butter and other victuals	xliiij ivd
Item	Money owing unto him	iiii.li

(1) Margaret Goodicar married John Hey at Eastham, Sept. 25, 1627.
(2) Elizabeth Goodicar married Thomas Wirral at Eastham, March 30, 1635.
(3) Jane Goodicar baptised at Eastham, Jan. 29, 1611-12.
(4) Thomas Totty, of Chlifer Thornton, husbandman, churchwarden of Eastham, 1603; buried at Eastham, March 16, 1633-34.
(5) Robert Carrington, churchwarden 1614, buried at Eastham, May 10, 1632.
(6) John Ducker, churchwarden of Eastham, 1 27.

Item	One great spit, tongues, etc	vs
Item	Gorse, other fuel and muck	lis
	Summa totalis (1) xxvii.li vs iiiid	

John Goodicar, whose will is given above, seems to have been appointed Perpetual Curate of Bromborough early in the century. The first of his Registers is that for 1605—8, but he may have held the benefice a few years previously. He died in February, 1628—4, and in accordance with the command in his will was buried at Eastham. The entry in the Register is, "Johannes Goodicar, clericus, curatus de Brombroughe sep xxviii die." HOLLY.

[243] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 237—June 24th.,

STOKE.

- (1) God save His Chureh, our King and Realme. 1631.
- (2) Gloria in Excelesus. 1615. H.B.
- (3) God save His Church. W.F. T.L. 1642.

Below the inscription on (1) is the founder's stamp, within an angular shield the letters W.O., divided by an arrow pointing downwards; the initials doubtless are those of William Olibbery of Holt, a bell-founder of some note at that time.

In (2) the founder's Latin is at fault. H.B. probably refers to Sir Henry Bunbury, Knight, of Great Stanney, who died 1684. This bell is the oldest dated bell in Wirral, and the 3 bells together form a group with the highest average of antiquity in the Hundred.

In (3) W.F. and T.L. refer to William Fisher and Thomas Lowe, Churchwardens for that year.

CAMPANOLOGIST.

JULY 29th, 1898.

[244] THE WILL OF THE REV. RICHARD ADAMS,

RECTOR OF WOODCHURCH 1598—1615.

The Rev. Richard Adams, Rector of Woodchurch from 1598 until his death in 1615, was the father of four sons (as will be seen from the following will), two of whom, Charles and Randle, took orders. The

(1) There seems to be an error in the addition.

Rev. Charles Adams is mentioned in a Clerical Subsidy Roll as Curate of Birkenhead in 1635, and he signs the Solemn League and Covenant as Rector of Woodchurch in 1646. [Vide No. 103.] The Rev. Randle Adams, D.D., was Rector of Wallasey for some years during the Commonwealth.

The Rev. Charles Adams married Isabell, a daughter of Thomas Bennett of Barnston by his wife Ellen daughter of Christopher Bennet of Saughall-Massey, and was father of five sons, two of whom, Richard and Thomas, entered the Ministry but were obliged to relinquish, Richard his Rectory of St. Mildred's, Broad-street, and Thomas his Fellowship of Brasenose, on the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662.

Richard Adams, the eldest son and executor of the Rev. Richard (see following will) became a merchant in Liverpool, and had an only daughter, Mary, who married the Rev. Hugh Burches [or Burgess] of Dublin, whom in 1673 she presented to the living of Woodchurch. From her eldest son the advowson descended by heirs female to Ellen, the only daughter of John and Mary Peacock, of Greasby, who married the Rev. Bryan King, of Woodchurch, and whose son, the Rev. Joshua King, M.A., was rector in 1847, when Mortimer's *History of Wirral* was published, (see that work p. 280, also Hance's "Bennets of Saughall-Massey, etc.," p. 87).

The Rev. Richard Sherlock mentioned in the will was the next rector, and uncle of the celebrated Dr. Richard Sherlock, Rector of Winwick.

The will is preserved at the Probate Court, Chester, and the following is a pretty full abstract:

"In the name of God Amen: xxi Dec. 1615.

I RICHARD ADAMS, clark and Rector of the P'ishe Churche of Woodchurche, in the Countie of Chester, Waieing the uncertaintie of this presents life and confessing with holy David that I am a stranger on earth and a sojourner as all my fathers were and longinge after and lookinge unto the Citie of God and heavenly Jerusalem and beinge in perfect remembrance, thanks be to God therefor doe make and ordeyne this my laste will and testamente in manner and forme followinge, etc. etc.

Item: Whereas I have formerly by my deed Polle bearing date the 15th date of July in the yeare of the reigne of our Sovereign Lord, James by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, etc., xliii and of Scotland xlviii give grants and confirme unto Rafe Lidler of Wallaseote in the Countie of Chester gent, and Roger Broster of Macclesfield in the sd Countie gent, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns etc., the first and next Avowson, donacon and presentation and free disposition of the Rectory, of the P'ishe Churche of Woodchurche, I doe by this my laste will and testamente confirme and ratifie the same to all intents and purposes, as may be by the deed ytself further appeare.

I leave to Margarett my wife half of my goodes etc and the other halfe I give to my four sonnes Richard Adams, John Adams, Charles Adams, and Randle Adams, equallie amongst them.

I leave to the poore of the Fische fortie new measures of barile to be distributed at the discretion of my executors.

I appoint as my lawfulls Executors, Margaret my wife and Richard Adams my eldest sonne.

Item: It is my will that my Executors above named shall have power and absolute authority to sell the inheritance of the Patronage of the Rectory of Woodchurch, in fee simple for ever for the maintainance and preferments of Margaret, my wiff.

To my lovinge and dear friende Mr. Richard Sherlocke a peece of gold of value xxiiis for a ringe and remembrance of me, and what bookes he hathe in hys hands of myne.

To Mr. Hugh Poole, of Bobington, a walkinge cloake and I desire them bothe to take care and oversee the just executinge of this my last will and testaments.

Witnesses:

- Oba: Boldo.
- Evan Pierr, cler.
- Peter Smith.
- Thomas Adama."

Proved xxvii January 1615 [A.S.]

Yours etc.

WM. FRANKSON IRVING.

Glaughton.

[245] FLINT IMPLEMENTS IN WIRRAL.

Very few and indistinct are the visible traces in Wirral of those primeval races, who preceded the occupants of whom we have some remnants of history. Some few rough flint implements have been found, washed from the clay, near Hilbre Island, and now and then the calcined stones used by the cave men for cooking, during the latest geological ages, are found in the mosses on the coast, together with bones of the wild animals they hunted and slew. But of the local British inhabitants who occupied the land prior to and through the Roman and Saxon invasions, the only material traces in the peninsula are the urn burials found some years ago on Grange Hill, on the site of the Beacon, a fragment or two of similar urns, and the foundations of ancient dwellings washed out of the sands on Meols shore. The hills, and likely sites for such early settlements, have been carefully searched, but hitherto with very little result, the husbandman's plough or the builder's erections have for the most part obliterated alike the entrenched settlements and the barrows and sepulchral mounds of the ancient dwellers. A few of the ancient roads and trackways still remain, and British names still cling to many localities, suggesting that this was a well peopled tract of country. Every trifling relic and indication of this ancient occupation is consequently of the highest value in the investigation of those lost tribes on whose sojourning in this place history throws no light, and even tradition, which

in many places is an enduring memory, has died out. Before me lie two silent witnesses of this dark period, and trifling as they seem to be themselves they may serve to show the interdependence of evidence by which some little of the lost past may be unsealed. These are two flints, one about an inch long and a third of an inch broad, the other a thin flake, a little larger in size than a man's finger nail having keen edges, and so notched that by being fixed into a wooden or bone handle it would form a small knife. To any but a practised or instructed eye, there is scarcely anything to distinguish them from the broken gravel used to mend the roads, so rude and so little serviceable do they look at first sight. A little intelligent examination will serve to distinguish their character. A flint accidentally broken by a blow or split by frost or sun, will often throw off splinters or flakes with sharp edges, that look at first sight more like weapons than these, yet we may distinguish that only a crushing or a blow given in one direction has caused the fracture or the sharp edge. With these flints their form has been determined by repeated strokes, made on one side or the other towards the centre, each striking off a tiny flake till the desired form was attained, and in such succession and with such purpose as to show that the force that applied the strokes was the result of intelligence and design, and to prove that however rude the result, it was attained by the hand of man. These then, being so marked, are primeval stone weapons, or tools, the oldest known type of human handiwork, passing backward beyond all history, and tradition, to that unmeasured period, at which man's first traces have been found upon the earth. So far back do such weapons carry us that they are to be found associated with the remains of the extinct Mammals of the later geological ages, the Mammoth, and the Mastodon, the cave bear, and the European Lion, and extinct species of Oxen. They are found, together with evidences of vast changes in the climatic conditions of the world. A glacial and interglacial period separates the earliest types from our own, during which interval of time there have been changes on the configuration of land and water on our globe. Through all these countless centuries of time, and change, these implements of an imperishable material, speak to us of the existence of man, when all other traces of his presence have disappeared. With such tools he hunted the Fauna of the ancient world, he sawed and scraped the bones of his prey and scratched on the bone or ivory the pictures of his trophies of success. It is even proved that he was able to perform surgical operations requiring great skill. Between the first age of these rude flint implements which has been called the Neolithic and the second named the Palaeolithic during which the weapons were much more carefully and beautifully finished, and often finely polished, is an interval of unknown duration, during which great geological and geographical changes were taking place, and a consequent flux, and reflux of the habitation of man in Europe and Asia took place, as the conditions of climate and nature varied, yet we have, transmitted to us, from those distant ages, one enduring idea at least, if not more.

E. W. Cox.

(To be Continued).

AUGUST 5th, 1893.

[246] FLINT IMPLEMENTS IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 245.—July 29).

The supremacy of man in creation depends on his ability to make use of the forces and products of nature, so as to supplement, by his intelligence, the comparative weakness of his bodily frame to cope with the more powerful animals, with which he bears his allotted share of the world. Man is the only creature that bears arms of his own invention, to supplement his natural powers. Therefore arms, however primitive, are typical of his rule, and the first witnesses of his progress, and are associated with him as emblems of his power. Nor is this all, a second idea seems to come down with these evidences. Man so far as we know, cut off as he is from the inner life of the brute creation, alone recognises his own immortality; thus it occurs that from the earliest interments of the dead, of which we have any evidence, the material things that served him during life were placed in his tomb to serve their master in the spirit world. It is impossible to follow out the developments of this one vast idea, whether shown by the sacrificing of slaves and horses or the provision of wine and food and money laid in the tomb; but beforehand, beyond all other practices, the dead took with him to his grave his arms. The first weapons being of flint or jade, or volcanic lava, such things became naturally associated with the general idea of arms and of burial, and though tools of metal were invented, the intimate association of the stone weapons with the rites of burial was continued ages after their actual use has ceased; thus we find on ancient burials a double course of ideas prevailing. While the deceased might be buried with arms and equipments such as he actually used in life, possibly of metal, bone, or wood, the more antiquated practice was also followed unconscious of its true meaning, and the chipped flints, that may be really ancient ones, were also placed in the grave as the traditional and typical arms of man, though those who did so were unconscious of the true derivation of the practice. Thus we find in the highly wrought and artistically decorated tombs of Egypt, ranging backward for upwards of 6,000 years, at which date they were already a type and tradition of a year long gone by, chipped flints. So also in Gallic and Romano-British graves, with fragments of Roman pottery and coins, are often found the primeval weapons of stone, as well as in those much earlier mounds and barrows and the sepulchral caves of the earlier races to whom they were actual as well as typical weapons. The reflection naturally occurs, that if these objects had, in very early ages, an actual, and in much later times a typical use, their allotment to any particular age, becomes much more uncertain and difficult. Undoubtedly this is true; therefore it is incumbent on those who seek to learn from them, to scrutinise and record most carefully their accompanying evidences. Such as are associated only with the remains of extinct animals, and other evidences of their practical use, may safely be placed in due order

as primeval; those in combination with later remains will date naturally, so far as regards their placing, with the most recent relics, and they have been used typically. Again it may easily happen that the earlier occupy the lowest stratum and the latest the higher, superimposed in regular succession. By careful and exact observation and record alone can the full teaching and interest of these objects be reached.

Another wonderful revelation is given to us through these weapons: they are sown broadcast over the whole of Europe, Asia, and part of the Continents of Africa and America, yet the chalk formation, from which they are geologically derived, is not a wide area, and flints can only be procured within a comparatively limited portion of the earth's surface. The dispersion of flint tools over nearly the whole surface of the earth, that has been inhabited by man, sets us face to face with other problems, namely those of the migration of tribes who bore arms, and the trace of a primitive commerce, by means of which these implements became thus widely distributed from the narrow limits of those lands on which they were naturally found. In our own district, flint is of extreme rarity; it is occasionally found in the gravels and clays of the later geological strata, but so seldom and in such small quantity that it could never have been a source from which the local supply of implements was derived. On the southern coasts and in part of the Yorkshire it is abundant, and evidences exist in the ancient pits, wherein are found early tools of horn and bone, together with worked flints, that prove that a trade in these articles existed in the primeval world with our own country. It is sufficiently curious to find that in the narrow bounds of our own Islands the people should have procured their implements from the tribes inhabiting the south, or from the Yorkshire coast, but the greater marvel for the ethnologist and historian to unravel is to be found in those conditions of ancient life that enabled these weapons to find their way over the greater part of the world from the small centres of their production. These general considerations, useful as they are in pointing out the serviceableness of these relics in recovering many points of the lost history of early man may apply to any such objects whose surroundings and accessories have been carefully noted, rather than to Wirral especially, but our two flints are local finds, and we may turn from their general teaching to their particular data.

E. W. Cox.

(To be continued.)

[247] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1592.

(Continued from No. 241—July 22nd.)

BROMBROU P'OCK.

Against the Dean and Chapter, the Church veris ruinous inasmuch they are not able to sale service and there books and Register bee spoiled and they require reformation.

Whereupon the Chancellor enjoined the Dean and Chapter to repair the same see furro forth as they can speedie [speedily] and to begin at Michaelmas nexte.

Against the Churchwardens of Brombree :—

They wants collectores for the poore ;

The Chancellor enjoined them to provide collectores for the poore according to Statute under penalty etc.

EASTHAM P'OOH'.

Against the Churchwardens there :—

They wants the second tome of Homilies ; they have not levied xlii. of the absents ; they wants collectores.

On which day and at which place the Churchwardens appeared and the Chancellor enjoined them that they doe p'vyde a Obeste for a Register Booke with iii lockes and iii kayes and to p'vide by Xmas the second tome of Ormelles and to collect xlii. of the absents and alsoe to p'vyde there bee collectores accordinge to Statute and to certyfy [the same] before the Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Lord.

Against William Tompson parish clerk :—

[Because he was] not elected accordinge to the Antient Custome.

So, on the xii December 1592 the said William appeared etc and the Chancellor enjoined him to bringe a certificate under the hands of the chief of his parishes, that they like him and are content to lett him serve as clarke there, bis the xvi of Januarie nexte under penalty.

Against Lady Elizabeth Stanley :—

[Because she] hath not repaired to her p'ish Church theses ii yeares. *Deferred for the hearing of one of the Queen's Judges.*

Against Jane Stanley, Anne Earles and Matilda Calobeth wife of John Calobeth gentleman :—

For not communicatinge at Easter last ; *the vicar certifyinge that Mrs Calobeth doth repaire to Church dwitfullie, the Chancellor enjoined the Vicar that he admonishe her to reseyye dwitfullie the communion, or els bee to certelye.*

HESWALL P'OOH'

Against the Curate there :—

For not catcherehysinge and gave noe warnings for collections.

Against the Churchwardens there :—

For wantinge collections.

The Churchwardens appeared and the Chancellor enjoined them to provide collectores accordinge to statute.

NESTON P'OOH'

Against Richard Houghton and Anne Cawdey fornicators.

Against Alice Whitmore, wife of William Whitmore Esquire, for not coming to Church.

Against Hamnet Bennett for not fulfilling Thomas Bennett's will in not paieing vis viiid to Agnes Bennett.

The Chancellor says that the legacie be used for in the Courte of them that have interest.

Against John Kinge and Mary Webster for acting as Schoolmrs not being licensed.

Kinge appeared and the Chancellor admonished him to bring a testimonial of his behaviour and learning.

Against the Vicar there :—

For not givinge warning to make choice of collectores *The Vicar appeared and the Chancellor admonished him to give warning according to the statute for collectores.*

Against the Churchwardens there :—

The Churchwardens appeared and because ytt appeareth they have noe collectores, the Chancellor admonished them to provide collectores according statute.

(To be Continued.)

AUGUST 12th, 1893.

[248.] FLINT IMPLEMENTS IN WIRRAL.

(Continued from No. 246—August 5th.)

Flint implements are not often found in Wirral. A few of the paleolithic type have been washed out of the clay on the Eye, at Hilbre, but there is no direct evidence to show whether these were sepulchral deposits, or tools of the interglacial period embedded in the clay ; their relations to their surroundings being lost, no good clue is given to their date or use. Near to Bebington one or two rudely worked flints have been found in the same stratum of clay, showing their origin to be extremely early and probably interglacial. Our two flints however were associated with other evidences that give them local interests. Towards one of the two long ridges of hill, that form the framework of the peninsula of Wirral, the land rises gradually from the eastward to the west. The roads, leading westward, into the quieter and more secluded districts of the country, dwindle in many cases from public roads into grassy fieldways, bordered and almost choked with thorns and wild roses, osiers, and gorse. In winter and bad weather many of these roads are impassable, yet some of them represent very ancient trackways, once of more importance than at present, and the remains of narrow pavements or lines of large stones laid for the passage of the pack-horses, that once frequented them, testify to their former importance. Following such a track westwards, we find it ends in a modern cross road, but a little observation suggests that it debouched formerly on the open hillside, from which

ranges of fields have now cut it off. Beyond the fields the hill rises more steeply, covered with a wood of ancient oaks, elms, and beeches, and fir trees of more recent growth, with a tall undergrowth of bracken. Through the wood we reach the ridge of the hill, and the trees thin out to the west. For miles we have been gradually ascending and now before us the slope falls more sharply towards the west, and a wide prospect suddenly opens on the right towards the sea, the great plain of Cheshire to the left, and before us the long range of the Welsh hills, beyond the Dee. Just at the place to which the broken-off trackway pointed: the ground swells at the ridge of the hill into a wide low mound, covered with trees. It is perhaps a hundred feet in length by seventy in width. The rabbits that frequent the wood have scraped out their burrows in the sandy sides of the mound, and thrown out the soil in little heaps: from these come our two flints, one freshly thrown up from the heart of the mound, the other lying on its surface from some former excavation. The form of the mound is suggestive, and examination made by probing it shows that it is a great pile of nearly pure sand, while the surrounding soil is gravel, rock, and clay. Consequently, this mound has been artificially piled up. Further examination proves that at various points below its surface small groups of stones are collected.

Strongly as this mound resembles an ancient tumulus, with these small sepulchral cists, or piles of stones, in which it was usual to place the ashes of the dead, it will require further examination to arrive at a sure conclusion that the flints found here certainly mark an ancient site, and it is hoped that such a search for further evidences will shortly be made. In the early part of the present century this and other copes were prepared as a covert for foxes, and changes then took place in the ground, that while they may well have disturbed an early deposit, from which the flints came, have also tended to confuse the old with the newer work, and it may be that this great mound was either adapted for the harbour of the foxes, or even at that time piled up to a greater or less extent. The alterations may be partly traced in the form of rough stones scattered in the wood, and evidently modern; and to the south of the mound, not in it, such stones are laid below the surface, in the form of a rough drain, and on the west and south west of the mound there is less appearance of recent disturbance, and the great tree roots are twisted among the groups of stones, close to which the flints were found. It will, under these conditions, require great discrimination to separate and distinguish the features of the site, the flints themselves being, so far, the chief witness to its antiquity, although the site and the work visible are eminently suggestive that we have here a spot unnoted in history, to which no local tradition attaches, and which bears no significant name, which may yet give us a connecting link with those very remote and early occupants of our country, whose annals and even whose traditions have died out, and of whose very existence, but for these small but significant tokens, we were ignorant; and thus those two trivial relics, have become eloquent with the lore and romance of antiquity.

The site of the tumulus being in private ground's, not generally accessible, and complete examinations

having still to be made, it is not thought desirable to indicate the locality more definitely, especially as opportunity would be given privately to ascertain whether the find of these two flints may form a clue to more important discoveries. Should this be the case they may form a subject for further notes.

Bebington.

Edw. W. Cox.

[249] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1592.

(Continued from No. 247—August 5th.)

OVERCHURCH P'OOH'.

Against the Curate there:—

Doth not instructe the youth accordinge to the contentes of the Article.

Against the Churchwardens there:—

They have noe collectors for the poore.

The Chancellor admonished them to appoynte the same accordinge to Statute.

Against John Gill:—

[Because he] hath all the goods of his maide called Elizabeth without authoritie.

He exhibited Inventory, etc.

STOON P'OOH'.

Against the Churchwardens there:—

They have noe Collectores. *The Chancellor admonished them to provide the same accordinge to Statute.*

Against the Curate there:—

Gave noe warneinge for collectores.

To give warneinge for the same, *under penalty.*

SHOTWICK P'OOH'.

Against the Curate there:—

[Because he was] not licensed and gave no warneing for Collectores.

Admonished to give requisite warneing for collectores.

Against the Churchwarden there:—

They have no collectores. *Admonished to provide the same accordinge to statute*

THURSTASTON P'OOH'

Against the Churchwardens there:—

They have noe collectores. *Admonished to provide the same accordinge to Statute.*

WOODCHURCH P'OOH'

Against Elen daughter of Robert Chawner, married in her fathers house his whom and to whom they know not his reporte. To bring proofs within a month.

Against the Churchwardens there :—
Have not levied xild, noe collectores.

The Churchwardens appeared and were admonished to levie xild of the absentees and to see that collectores be provyded under penalty.

Against George Pemberton of Moreton :—

For sitting upon the Crosse at service-time and would not come in at the Churchwardens request.

Against Margaret wife of Edward Ravenscroft came not to Church thees xii monethes.

Against Thomas Coventrie of Knocktorum. Did not receive in his p'ish Church at Easter laste.

WEST KERRIE P'OOH'

Against the Churchwardens there :—

They have no collectores for the poore. *Admonished to provyde same.*

Against John Okes schoolmaster within said parish :—

Not licensed. Dismissed, because hee teaches noe more ther.

Against Anna Malls' widow :—

She does not attend Church and is imprisoned.

Against William Glegge gent :—

Did not communicate at Easter laste in his Parish Church.

Postponed until first Friday in October.

WALLMER P'OOH'.

Against the Rector there :

Noe preacher and they have not had any sermons he gave noe monitions for collectores.

Judgement deferred [?] and Mr. Mamsie of Cughall is to appear before my Ld xiii October.

Against the Churchwardens there :—

Because they have noe collections.

They appeared on the same day and were admonished by the Chancellor to provyde the same accordinge to Statute under penalty.

AUGUST 19th, 1898.

[250] A COURT ROLL OF THE MANOR OF OLAUGHTON, 1699.

The Manor Court is an institution, the origin of which takes us back to very remote antiquity; it occupied much the position, and did to a large extent the work now undertaken by the Magistrates, County Court Judges, and County Councils.

The following roll, the only one the writer has been able to find relating to Olaughton, is in the possession of Messrs. Birch, Cullimore, and Douglas, of Chester, through whose courtesy permission to copy it has been obtained.

In the various charges brought against the different tenants, it may be well to explain a few of the terms.

An "inmake" practically meant a lodger, and about this time and earlier, there were very stringent regulations in existence against the harbouring of strangers without first communicating with the Mayor of the town or some local Justice of the Peace; the object being to prevent refuge being afforded to political suspects or criminals flying from justice.

The "pound" referred to in the next charge is of course the village pound for stray animals.

A "Burleyman" or Byre-law-man, (of our word Bye-law) was the Constable of the Manor and was obliged to serve for a year without remuneration.

The Mallinghay Bridge was probably the one at Bridge end in Birkenhead.

"Breaking the assize of bread or ale," was brewing or baking without a license, or in some way infringing the regulations relating to the one or other.

The Newfield lane mentioned in the third count was probably what is now the upper part of Park Road North; the course of the Gillbrook is still to be traced across Olaughton fields and the name is retained in the Corporation Estate of that name. The Lower Heath comprised most of the land lying between Laird Street and Park Road North.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSON IRVINE.

Olaughton.

October the 22nd, 1699.

The presentment of the Jury of the Court Leet and Baron held for the Manor of Olaughton cum Grange and Birkett wood kept at ye Woodside house the 22 of October for Samuel Powell Esq of ye Manor of Berkenhead.

We present John Sires [Sires] for takeinge in a inmakevi sild

Wee present John Sires for a pound Breache [breach]iis ivd

Wee order ye Newefield Lane leading from Samuel Sharps to Thomas Charnookes to be repaired betwixt [this] and Micellmus in paine ofis

Wee order the Ditch from ye pits of ye heath to ye corner of ye Lore [Lower] Heath of ye side of ye lane next to ye Gill Brucke [Gillbrook] to be done betwixt [this] and ye sife & twentieth of March in paine ofiis ivd

Wee order ye Ditch betwixt ye Lane and ye Lore heath & betwixt Thomas Charnookes croft & Lore heath and betwixt Thomas Charnookes croft Lesles Lea to be done betwixt [this] and May in paine ofis

Wee present Margaret Wilson of Waleys Janr for a pound Breashiis iiid

- Wee present John Wilson for incroshing [encroaching] of Olachon Ooming [Common] pd
- Wee present Joseph Gost tennentpd
- Wee present Henry [?] Ellins tennent.....pd
- Wee present John Wilson & John Leane Constables and Burleymen for Olachon
- Wee present Thomas Charnocks, Barleman for ye demene of Berkett
- Wee present ye Lord of ye Manor & John Wilson for not repairing ye Malings hay Bridge, to be done betwixt [this] and Midsummer in paine ofxs
- Wee present Mr. Urmson [?] for not repairing his blding according to former order in paine of ..vs
- Wee present Jacob Williamson for bresche of former order in paine ofxiis liiid
- Wee present Henery Melse Esquire for non appearance in paine ofis
- Wee present William Parbert for non appearance..is
- Wee present Jacob Williamson for non appearance.is
- Wee present Wm Worrell for non appearanceis
- Wee present William Webster for Breaking ye aise [assize] of Bred and Aleis

Robert Leane.	John Webster
Joseph Walker	John Sires
Samuel Sharpe.	Jaferery Tomison.
William Shurlocke	John Rolin.
Thomas Charnocks	John Waley.
Samuel Jossan	Richard Gill
	Matthew Wilson.

[Endorsed] Cloughton : 22 Oct 1689.

[251] KING EDWARD I. AT BROMBOROUGH.

In the Patent Roll of 5th Edward I. I find the following entry :—

THE KING'S WORKS AT FLINT. — Whereas our beloved in Christ, the Abbot and Convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, have lately out of mere civility lent us 100 men for our works at Flint, at the expense of the said Abbot and Convent, as long as they are being made: We do not wish however that this should be considered as customary, or quoted as a precedent or that it shall be cited at some future time to the prejudice of the said Abbot or Convent. In testimony, &c.

Dated at *Brumbergh* 13th August.

This proves not only that the Monks of St. Werburgh's, helped to build Flint Castle, but also that King Edward visited Bromborough, at any rate on one occasion, during the time he was carrying out his great works at Flint, which he personally superintended, as is evidenced by entries on several of the works rolls.

The Monks of St. Werburgh held the Manor of Bromborough, and at the time had a well built Manor House in a strong situation, which together with the works at Irby, *Ormerod* says is "proof of the fears entertained by the Monks of the incursions of the Welshmen at that early period."

Bromborough is about six miles from Flint in a straight line.

King Edward, as Earl of Chester, granted a charter to the Monks to hold a market at Bromborough every week, and a yearly fair of three days on the Feast of St. Barnabas, the Vigil and the day following. It would be interesting if this was preserved in full in *Wirral Notes and Queries*.

HENRY TAYLOR.

Curzon Park, Chester.

[252] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1845.

(Continued from No. 240—July 15.)

MAGNA NESTON.

Rico Becke pro liiii liiid
 Thoma Anyan pro xxs id
 Willmo Cawday pro liiii liiid
 Johs Younge pro xis liid
 Henrico Taylyar pro xxs id
 Eugone Irryocheman pro xxs id
 Rico Walley pro xis liid
 Rico Jumpe pro xis liid
 Robto Tarleton pro xxs id
 Jacobo Aynysdale pro xxs id
 Henrico Younge pro xxs id
 Elena Younge pro xxs id
 Johs Younge pro xxs id
 Elisabetha Blacon pro liiii liiid
 Georgio Blacon pro liiii liiid
 Thoma Cawday pro vii xd
 Thoma Russell pro xis liid
 Thoma Grevesby pro xxs id
 Rico Daneham pro liiii liiid
 Rico Sharpe pro vii xd
 Margareta Forshaw pro xis liid
 Robto Hancock pro xis liid
 Henrico Warynge pro liiii liiid
 Henrico Cawday pro xis id
 Thoma Betson pro xxs id
 Edwardo Warynge pro liiii liiid
 Willmo Myddleton pro xis liid
 Johs Crewe pro liiii liiid
 Willmo Bennet pro xis liid
 Thoma Heyward pro liiii liiid
 Thoma Plombe pro xis liid
 Alicia Yeatton pro xxs id
 Rogero Heyward pro xxs id
 Henrico Blacon pro xxs id
 Willmo Sharpe pro liiii liiid
 Willmo Forshaw pro xis liid
 Willmo Walley pro xxs id

[253] WIRRAL HUNTING SONG.

(See No. 185—March 25th).

In the Wirral Hunting Song, printed in your columns a short time since, occur the lines:—

‘Then to Geaton to Mr. Glegge’s,
Hele suffer no poore at his house to begge;
He hath noe hounde to rune at ye hare,
But kepes a curre against poore and bare.”

A note explains this curmudgeon to have been Edward Glegge, who died in 1623. But is this correct? On a recent visit to Heswall Church, I noticed in the tower the monument to John Glegge, younger brother of Edward Glegge. It is a large plate, representing a figure kneeling before a desk, in a long gown, with a ruff, beard, and mustachies, and a sword suspended at his side. To the following verses, inscribed on the plate, is attached, “Obit. Jan. 3, 1619.” John Glegge was buried on the 4th January in that year.

“I have no feelings now of frende
Or frendshipp, ’tis all dead and gon:
He heere inclosed, just at his ende
Neare lefte a jott to any one.
Goe, hast to him, sad soule of mine,
Live, ever where he sitts and singes
Enter death’s lists, oh, neare decline,
Goe, flie apase with angell’s wings;
Get hense awaie, pris’ner to flesh and bone:
Elisium’s the dwelling place where he is gone.”

The man who “ne’er left a jot to any one” may reasonably be identified with him who “would suffer no poore at his house to begge” and “who kept a curre against poore and bare.” But avarice may have been a vice common to both brothers. And Edward was presumably the squire.

F. SANDERS.

AUGUST 26th, 1893.

[254] INSCRIPTIONS ON WIRRAL BELLS.

(Continued from No. 243—July 22nd.)

NESTON.

The peal at Neston consists of eight bells, four of which are old, and four modern; the inscriptions are as follows:

Treble: Venite et ascendamus ad domum Dei Jacob. 1884

2nd: Peace and good neighbourhood. A.R. 1731

2rd: Prosperity to this Parish. A.R. 1731

4th: Prosperity to the Church of England. A.R. 1731

5th: Venite exultemus Domino. 1884

6th: Abr. Rudhall of Gloucester cast us all. 1731

7th: Venite adoremus. 1884

Tenor: Adorate Dominum in atrio sancto ejus. 1884

Each of the new bells bears also the founders’ names, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of White-chapel-road, London.

Rudhall’s original peal consisted of certainly five bells, possibly six. When in 1884 the number of the bells was increased, two of the old peal were done away with. The tenor, which was of very bad tone, had been cast in 1804 by some unknown founder and only bore the Churchwardens names, “Wm. Huchenson and Andrew Gibbons, Churchwardens 1804,” and the old 4th bell, with the initials A.R. 1731, was cracked. Both these were melted down and the metal went towards making the four new bells.

There is a curious tradition in the parish that the original peal was intended for some church in Wales but when they arrived at their destination the Welsh churchwardens were unable to pay for them and they were consequently ferried over to Neston and sold to that Church, as it was then in need of a peal.

The truth or untruth of this story could probably be settled by an appeal to the Churchwardens accounts of Neston for that year.

CAMPAN-LOGIST.

[255] EMBARKATION OF WILLIAM II.’s TROOPS FROM HOYLAKE IN 1690.

In March 1689, James II landed in Ireland with about 1200 adherents and a body of French troops, in order to attempt the recovery of his throne. His arrival caused a great panic among the Irish Protestants. Many of them fled to England. Among the fugitives was Dr. Rowland Davies, Dean of Ross, who after officiating in different parts of England, was appointed chaplain to one of the regiments raised by William III. for the invasion of Ireland. Dr. Davies kept a diary of his doings during the whole of his exile, which has been printed in the Publications of the Camden Society. From this diary the following extracts relating to the departure from Hoylake are given.

1690.—April 26 (Sat.)—We dined at our lodgings (in Chester), and after dinner, they all grew very busy in sending their things away to Hoylake where lay our recruits of horse, being four hundred, and the Nassau and Brandenburg regiments. . . .

27th (Sund).—In the morning, all our sparks were in a great hurry, the wind presenting fair. . . .

May 3rd (Sat.).—In the afternoon I put my trunks, bed, saddle, and hat-case on board Mr. Thompson’s boat, and sent them to Hoylake, where they were shipped off with the Major’s things.

May 6th (Tues).—In the morning we took horse for Hoylake, and passing by Newton, we came there about one o'clock. At our coming we found the commissary at the parson's at dinner with Count Scravenmore, where we waited on him, and got an order for a ship to carry eighteen horses and twenty-three men. Then we dined at one Barker's where it cost us each two shillings, and in the evening we went to a farmer's house, where Frank Burton and I lay together. The surgeon, being of our quarters, we supped at the Major's quarters, about a quarter of a mile from us, and parted in the evening, with a resolution to be on board at nine in the morning; but the Major's tumbrel, having a wheel broken within two miles of Chester, it gave us some trouble.

May 7th, (Wed.)—In the morning we breakfasted at our quarters, and paid for ourselves and horses three shillings each. Then about nine o'clock came on board, and at eleven shipped our horses, all but the major's carriage, which was not yet come up. The major and I walked a mile on the strand, and went into two islands in the bay, and then came on board, all the rest of company being on board another ship drinking; they all came to us in the evening, and we lay on board all night.

May 8th, (Thurs.)—Sir William Russell, Frank Burton, and I went on shore to a French sutler's, and at our return, the major's tumbrel came up. In the afternoon we shipped it, and came down to the roads' mouth, where we lay at anchor all night.

May 9th, (Frid.)—In the morning we set sail, the wind being E.N.E., and steered N.W. by N.; we had but little wind, and got not out of sight of Wales all day.

We are here made acquainted with several facts incidentally. Thus (1) it is clear that it was not unusual for boats to take luggage, and probably merchandises, from Chester down the river and over the flats to the deep water. (2) It is not unlikely that the accident to the major's tumbrel was caused by the bad state of the roads. (3) We find that the farmers of the parish of West Kirby, about Grange, Newton, and Meols, made charges like hotels for the accommodation afforded to the officers billeted on them; and (4) Hoylake (the water) is referred to, but there is no notice of a village.

F. SANDERS.

[256] FRAGMENT OF A SAXON CROSS
FOUND AT WEST KIRBY.

In digging a recent grave in the new portion of the Churchyard, which within the last few years has been added to the old burial ground, a number of stones, chiefly plain building stones, were found in what had been a small hollow. Among them is a fragment of a Saxon Cross. Although this is small, being barely 10 inches long, and about the same breadth, it retains sufficient of its ancient sculpture to show much of its character. On one face much

worn there has been an interlaced, undulating band; on the other it seems to have been divided into panels, one of which was ornamented with a square, interlaced knot, and the lower one shows a kind of key pattern or fret: the side is marked with a trellis arranged lengthwise. The fashion of the tooling is distinctly Saxon work, and may be about the 8th or 9th century.

The ornamentation differs from that of the other two remnants of crosses sufficiently to show that it most likely formed part of a third cross. It has been placed by the care of Henry Bell Esq., in the Charles Brown Museum, West Kirby.

EDWD. W. COX.

[257] HOUGH OF THORNTON AND HARGRAVE OF HARGRAVE.

I have in my possession an early Flint deed in a good state of preservation (except as to the seal, which is of white wax) which may be interesting to some of our readers. It is written on parchment in ourthand (in contracted monkish Latin) and measures 6 by 9½ inches. The following is an abstract of it:—

Charter of William de Donecaster, citizen of Chester, granting and confirming to Roger le Baker, of Peforton, and Margery, his wife, the third part of a burgage of land with its appurtenances in Flint, lying between the lands of Gilbert Faber in breadth on one side and the land of William del Hough on the other, and extending from the high road of Flint to Northstrete. The same contains 20 feet in width and 100 feet in length by 120, and is to be held at a yearly rental of fifteen shillings and eight pence, payable at Easter and Michaelmas.

Witnesses, Richard del Hough, then constable of Flint Castle and Mayor of the town, Richard le Barker and Adam le Hargreve, then bailiffs of the town, William de Boteras, Thomas de Wyroester, John de Torperlegh, Gilbert Faber and others.

Dated at Flint, the Sunday next after the Feast of All Saints, in the 20th year of King Edward the Third. (1346.)

The first witness is a Wirral man, and he is described in his dual capacity, for by the charter of Edward I to Flint "the Constable of our Castle of Flint for the time being shall be Mayor of that Borough." Under the protection of the Castle an English town sprang up, and it was for the benefit of these English burgesses that the charter was granted. Many of these early settlers came from across the estuary of the Dee.

This connection with Wirral continued until the days of railways. It is not so long since a cavalcade of horseman crossed the dangerous sands to attend the wedding of their kinsman at Flint, as was the custom of their ancestors in days of yore. Richard del Hough married Ellen the heiress of Roger Thornton. Their estates through the Whit-

mores and Savages passed to the Mostyns. The deed shows that the Hough family were landowners in Flint.

The deed also furnishes us with another Wirral name, Adam de Hargrave, one of the two "fit and sufficient balliffs" elected by its Burgesses every year from among themselves and presented by them to the Constable as their Mayor. He was a member of the family of that name seated at Hargrave, near to Neston. I find his name mentioned in the Black Friars charter to Flint, which sets out the municipal boundaries, as holding land in Coleshill, which is on the north west side of the borough. This charter is dated 20th Sept., 1861. HENRY TAYLOR.

Curzon Park, Chester.

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1893.

[258] WIRRAL DEANERY 1554.

The following extracts are from one of the earliest extant Bishop's Visitation Books preserved at Chester. The volume is of especial interest, as it contains a list of all the Clergy and Churchwardens throughout the Diocese, the Rectors, Vicars, Curates, etc., and the various priests who had formerly served in Chantry Chapels, and who were still remaining in the respective parishes and perhaps resuming their old duties during Queen Mary's reign.

The following list is very remarkable for the number of clergy who seem to have passed serenely through all the changes which took place in the 16th century. The Rev. Thomas Sharpe, Rector of Thurstaston, is a notable example; presented to the living during the reign of Henry VIII., he continued to hold it through Edward's changes, into the Marian reaction, through all Elizabeth's stringent legislation, almost into the reign of James, only resigning in 1601, having held the living for 59 years.

Yours truly,

WM. FERGUSON IRVING.

Obughton.

ESTHAM.

Dean and Chapter, etc.

Dns Petrus Jackson, vic. (1).

Dns Willms Edmundson.

Robtus Carter } ioo. (2)

John Whithed }

Robt Carrington.

Jacobus Hexham [?].

Robt Adam.

Roger Kyng.

(1) The Rev. Peter Jackson was presented to the living of Eastham in 1539, and was living in 1561, but had died before February, 1571-2.

In the will of one John Gryce of Brombro', dated 1560, he is described as "Deane of Wirral."

(2) Ioo. is a contraction for *teotimus*, or *aconimus*, an overseer, and doubtless here means Churchwarden.

BEBINGTON.

Mr Thomas Roncorn, Rect (1).
Dns Joannis Woodward, cur [ate].

Willms Dwiris [?] } ioo.

Willms Wilson }

Ric. Chantrell.

Hugo Beck.

Thomas Ales.

Joannes Holme.

NASTON.

Dean and Chapter, etc.

Dns Ricus Ledham, vic. (3).

Dns

Georgius Blackon } gar [diani]

Thomas Hande }

Robt Sach.

Henricus Dean [?].

Roger Whithed.

WALLING.

Dns Joannes Gorstulowe, Rect. (3).

Dns Joannes Birde, cur. (4).

Dns Thomas Tassie, s (5).

Jacobus Williamsou } gar.

Joannes Totlie }

Robert Thomason.

Ricus Younge.

Willms Olif.

BIDSTON.

Dns Arthurus Swift, cur. (6).

Dns Willms Bymson (7).

Joannes Benet }

Georgius Sherlacier } gar.

Ricus Deane.

Joannes Beling.

(To be continued).

(1) The Rev. Thomas Roncorn only held the living of Bebington for a few years. The date at which he was presented to it is not certain; it may have been as early as 1543; he died in 1557. The following account is taken from Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*:

"Thos Roncorn, B.A. June 1518, chaplain 1536, M.A. 5 July 1521, Vicar of Bowdon 1535, Canon of Winchester about 1541, Rector of Llanrhaeadr Co Denbigh 1543, Archdeacon of Bangor 1525 and again in 1540, Canon of Chester and Rector of Bebington 1554 and Vicar of Weaverham 1554, Canon of Lincoln 1555. Will dated 21 Dec. 1556, proved 2 July 1557."

(2) The Rev. Richard Ledham, doubtless a member of the local family of that name, was appointed to the living of Neston on the 27 June 1525 and held it until 1562.

(3) The Rev. John Gorstulowe was appointed to the Rectory of Wallasey on the 9th Nov 1549 and continued there until his death in 1580. He was buried at Wallasey 8th Jan 1579-80.

(4) There is not much to be said of the Rev. John Bird, who probably, like so many of the Wirral clergy at this time, was a member of a local family of yeomen, the name being of common occurrence in the Wallasey Register. He is mentioned in Sir Thomas Mollineux' Will dated 1544 and proved 1549, when he acts as witness and describes himself as "chaplain curate."

(5) The Rev. Thomas Tassie is mentioned in the "Chantry Returns," made in 1543, as Chantry priest at Wallasey of the age of 59 years. He is also mentioned in the Rev. Thos Mollineux' will in 1544. He lived to a good old age, as his death did not occur until he was 84; he was buried on the 7th of August 1582 at Wallasey and is described in the Register there as "Curate."

(6) The only other two mentions, which the writer has met with in reference to this incumbent of Bidston, are lat in Sir T. Mollineux' will in 1544, of which he is an executor and 2nd in the will of John Glegg of Grange dated 1556, where he figures as one of Mr. Glegg's creditors. How long he remained Curate of Bidston is not certain, but in 1579 the cure was held by the Rev. John Martin.

(7) The Rev. Wm Bymson probably served the Chapel at Moreton, which was in use at this time.

[259] MARSHAL SCHOMBERG AT HOYLAKE.

(See No. 255—August 26th.)

On the news reaching England that James II. had landed in Ireland, a force was hastily raised to oppose him. It consisted of eighteen regiments of foot and four or five of horse, and was placed under the command of Marshal Schomberg. These troops sailed from Hoylake in the summer of 1689. The following account of their embarkation was written by the Rev. George Storey, chaplain to the regiment, formerly Sir Thomas Gower's, afterwards the Earl of Drogheda's. It is extracted from "*An Impartial History of the Affairs in Ireland, written by an Eye-Witness to the most remarkable passages, 1691.*"

"1689.—In July most of them were commanded to Chester, in order to be shipped for Ireland.

Most of them encamped about a week at Neston, and then on Thursday, the 8th August, about six o'clock in the morning, His Grace, Duke Schomberg, General of all their Majesties' Forces, Count Solmes, General of the Foot, and several great officers more, with not ten thousand foot and horse, embarked at Highlake for Ireland.

The winds being cross, they lay there till Monday the 12th, when at four o'clock in the morning, the wind being S.S.E. and S.E., the Bonaventure frigate (Captain Hobson, commander) fired a gun, and put his light to the main topmast shrouds, that being the signal for sailing. There was also the Antelope, the James Galley, the Cleaveland, and the Monmouth yats, with between eighty and ninety vessels more, who all were under sail at six o'clock, and at eight the Bonaventure put out an ensign in the mizen shrouds for all the Captains and Masters to come on board, which done, they received orders to sail for Carrickfergus Bay in Ireland."

While the troops were encamped at the Meols prior to their embarkation, an officer named John Van Zoelen fell ill, and was unable to sail. He died on September 3rd and was buried in West Kirby Church, where he was commemorated by a monumental slab which still exists. The slab is of red sandstone on which is a coat of arms rudely figured, consisting of a plain cross, eagles as support, &c., and surmounted by a coronet. The following is the inscription:—

H : S : E : IOHANNES VAN :
ZOELEN : NUPER DE CI :
VITATE BRISTOLIEN :
SIS GENEROSUS QUI :
OBIIT 3 : TIO DIE SEPTE :
MBRIS ANNO DM. 1689.

F. SANLERS.

[260] QUERY—STANLEY OF FLINT.

The recent Parliamentary Blue Book of names of members returned to serve in Parliament informs us

that "Edwardus Stanley, de Flynt, Armiger," was elected M.P., for the Flint Boroughs in 1547 and again in 1558, and he is the first borough-member for Flint of whom we have any record. Can any of your readers give any particulars respecting him or his genealogy? I have taken the following from an old Welsh pedigree which, like most Cambrian genealogical records, is without dates and therefore is in a great measure of little help. Pyers Stanley, of Ewloe (Flintshire) married Constance, youngest daughter of Thomas Salusbury of Lleweni. (Pyers was great-grandson of Sir William Stanley, of Hooton, Knight. Pyers had granted to him in 1485 by Henry VII the office of Escheator and Sheriff of Merionethshire which he held till 1509.) On his death he was succeeded by his son Pyers Stanley who married Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Butter. His son and successor Pyers Stanley married Jane Parker who had one son Edward Stanley who married Margaret daughter of Sir James Stanley of Crosshill, Lancashire. Their eldest son Robert married Alice Salusbury, daughter of Thomas Salusbury of Leadbrook near Flint and had a daughter and heiress Anne Stanley who married John Mostyn of Coedon, Flint (at Flint Church on the 3rd June, 1607).

HENRY TAYLOR.

Cuzon Park, Chester.

SEPTEMBER 9th, 1893.

[261] A TRANMERE DEED OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

Documents relating to Wirral of an earlier date than 1500 are not very common, and it is therefore pleasant to be able to lay a translation of the following very early grant of land in Tranmere before our readers.

The original is among the Moore Charters, in the possession of Captain Stewart, which, however, were some time on loan with the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. While they remained in Liverpool, Mr. John Hargraves, the well-known lecturer on the Hundred of Wirral, borrowed this amongst others for the purpose of having them photographed, and it is through his kindness that I have been able to make a transcript from the negative now in his possession.

The deed is not dated, but from the names of the witnesses, we are able to date it as prior to 1284, in which year Philip de Banvyle, the first witness, died.

The family of Prenton of Prenton, mentioned in the deed, died out a century or so later than this, the heiress marrying a Gleave; the Gleaves also ended in an heiress in the fifteenth century, who married a Hookenhill, whose descendants continued to live at Prenton Hall until the end of last century.

Perhaps the most interesting point in the deed is the mention of a fishery in the "Mersee," probably on the shores of Tranmere Pool.

The grant of "housebote and haybote" was a grant of the right to cut timber for house building purposes and also for making fences.

A sellion is "an uncertain quantity of land usually understood to be the strip of ploughed land between two furrows."

The deed, which is a fine specimen of early calligraphy, is written on a small piece of vellum about 7 inches by 4. The following is a nearly literal translation:—

"Be it known unto all men present and future that I WILLIAM son of WILLIAM DE PRENTON have given and conceded and confirmed by this present my charter for myself and my heirs in perpetuity to CESSILY my sister and her heirs or assigns seven sellions and a half of land in the towship of TRENEMUL [Tranmere] those which Alan the Porter held of my father William in that town with one messuage and one garden and with two parts of one fishery in the MERSEY pertaining to the aforesaid lands and one aery in the wood of Trenemul pertaining to the aforesaid lands, to have and to hold of me and my heirs to her and her heirs or assigns freely, quietly, well, and in peace, by right, in perpetuity, wholly and with all appurtenances and with all liberties and easements whatsoever pertaining to the town of Trenemul, paying therefor annually to me and my heirs from her and her heirs or assigns one silver halfpenny on the day of St. Michael the Archangel [29th Sept] for all customs services, etc.

And I have also conceded to the said Cessily and her heirs or assigns housebote and haybote and all necessary [wood] for the building of her fishery from the forest of Trenemul and firewood for her use in Trenemul and pasture or pannage for six pigs where-soever it may be had.

And I have granted that whatsoever lands she may hold, be free from my [manorial] court and from any trials or suits.

And I and my heirs warrant unto Cessily my sister and her heirs all those seven and a half sellions above mentioned, against all men in perpetuity.

And in order that this gift and grant and confirmation by my charter may stand firm for all time I have placed my seal to this writing these being witness, Philip de Banvoyle Alexander his son, Robert de Puille [Poole], Robert de Belynton, Hugh de Berniston [Barnston], John Stanley, Robert the Clerk with others.

W. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

[262] MISS SEWARD AT HOYLAKE.

Anna Seward, "the Swan of Lichfield," was a popular writer of poetry last century. She is now chiefly remembered through her friendship with Dr. Johnson. Besides her poems, she left a large number of letters which were collected in six volumes (1811-1818). These letters are very long-winded and florid, Johnsonian without strength, metaphori-

cal beyond all measure, and feeble and absurd to a degree. The following specimen describes a visit to Hoylake in 1794.

To Jas. Mitchel Esq.

High Lake, Sept. 5, 1794.

"I promised to write to you, my dear Sir, when I found myself settled on some coast or other, else had you heard from me on my first receiving the elegant chaise, for which I am indebted to your exertions. . . .

"You know I purposed going to Weymouth; but the Court's residence there rendered lovely Mrs. Colville's obliging efforts to procure me lodgings on that mild coast wholly fruitless. . . . It would have been rashness to attempt the seas of Scarborough or Bridlington, lashed into fury, as they so assuredly will be by the equinoctial tempests. This place was recommended to me as yielding waves, accessible, from peculiarity of situation, as those of Weymouth itself, where they creep on the shore, disarmed of all their rage, by the interposition of Portland Island. A kindred serenity is produced here by a ridge of sands some miles in length. It rises in the ocean, about half a mile from the shore, and is opposite to these downs. The sea, thus divided from the main, is properly enough called lake, but wherefore the epithet High is added, it might perhaps be difficult to say. The spring tides entirely cover this sandy entrance twice in the twenty-four hours; but those of the ebb leave a part of it visible. The glassy smoothness of this marine lake affords charming bathing for cowards. This morning is very stormy, yet I found not on immersing, that the waves were higher than are those of the Yorkshire coasts in their calmest hours. But if Neptune is a placid, he is, however, a despotic monarch at High Lake, nor suffers us, from the softness of his distant sands, to plunge in far recessed billows. Near the coast they are admirably firm and smooth, two or three miles in extent to right and left. Whether the waters of the Dee and of the Mersey, flowing into this lake, do or do not somewhat abate its saline properties is disputed. They seem, to my taste, less salt than those of the north coast, but exhibit the various tints of the ocean.

"High Lake is a new place; the house built by Sir John Stanley, was finished only in 1792. The apartments are handsome and commodious, and the accommodation wonderfully comfortable for a situation without either town or even village in its neighbourhood.

"The fine downs on which this edifice stands are level and extensive, affording the best walking imaginable. A light and sandy soil leaves them almost instantly dry, even after heavy rain. They extend to the cliffs all round the house, whose side front looks like the main ocean. Beyond the sand island, it is open, and to the eye unbounded. On the left, it flows down at high water into the river Dee, in a broad channel, and the opposite shores of Wales and her mountains are sufficiently, if not sublimely, picturesque.

"This has been such a scene of resort all summer, that numbers endeavoured to gain admittance in vain. We are now a very pleasant society—gentle-

men and ladies—to the amount of about forty. Miss Remington of Eickfield, elegant in her figure and pleasing in her manners, accompanied me hither. This young lady, my maid, and myself travelled within ten miles of this place very comfortably in the Mitchellino upon wheels. With the odd ancientry of Chester, we were much amused; it renders that city perfectly unique. Provokingly detained at Neston by waiting for horses, we were obliged to borrow the two dusky hours, between seven and nine, for travelling from that place to High Lake. They obliged us to take four, which, being miserable Bozincantes, had difficulty enough in dragging us over roads of frightful ruggedness. If an infant Cynthia had not shed her pale gleams, propitious through faint, I know not what would have become of three cowards beneath the clouds of night, and in roads so perilous. The clean and lonely village on the extreme verge of the peninsula, is properly called Neston, originally, I suppose, Nest-Town. It is indeed a nest from the storms of the ocean, which it immediately overhangs. We found pleasure in contemplating its neat little church and churchyard on that solitary eminence, lashed by the tempestuous waves.

We made our first entré among the billows of High Lake this morning; yet seem they scarcely to deserve the name of billows—creatures who fear the sea need not fear a sea like this. The ocean was quite a new sight to the bright eyes of Miss Remington, and though from Neston promontory it just met them, crimsoned with the glories of a setting sun, she vowed herself disappointed, in the total absence of its expected sublimity. She dies to see it animated by some of its terrible graces; nor can I help wishing that one of the inevitable storms of the equinox may arise during our stay here to afford her that gratification.

"But I have not yet told you the pleasantest circumstance of our excursion. Coy Thomas White came to us from Buxton on Friday, and purposes to stay a fortnight. He enchants the company with his delightful songs. You know his voice is a clear contra-tenor; that his shake is fine, and that he sings with taste and expression. This talent has produced much gratification to the company assembled on our marine promontory, where we breathe the purest air imaginable; but, as yet, I cannot boast that it has brought health to me. Health, which, like competence, though it may sometimes fall to bestow happiness and requires auxiliary blessings to secure that rare possession, will yet suffer no happiness to exist independent of its influence."—Vol. III. pp 892-7.

F. SANDERS.

SEPTEMBER 16th, 1893.

[268] GEORGE SNELL,
RECTOR OF WALLASEY.

The following account of the above named divine appeared in a recent number of the *Chester Diocesan Gazette* :—

"The research of Mr. Hance into the Heskian MSS. in the British Museum, and that of the Rector of Wigan into the papers of his ancestor, John Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester, have brought to light some new facts in the life of one who may fairly be called the most noteworthy of the Rectors of Wallasey, and have also corrected various little mistakes (as to dates and other matters) in that which has previously been published about him both by Mr. Hance himself in the Proceedings of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, 1883, and by the late Mr. Ormerod in his well-known History of Cheshire.

The present writer knows nothing of George Snell's ancestry or of the date of his birth. In 1618 he was appointed Archdeacon of Chester by Bishop Morton (who was afterwards Bishop of Durham); the Archdeaconry of Chester in those days included the whole of the county of Chester, all Lancashire south of the Ribble, and the detached portion of the country of Flint, which lies on the English side of the river Dee between Cheshire and Shropshire. In the following year Bishop Morton was succeeded by Bishop Bridgeman, one of the youngest of whose eight sisters, Archdeacon Snell married; Lydia, his wife, was twin with her sister Priscilla, and belonged to a large family, but she herself, as far as we know, had only one child, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Bennett, of Barnston.

In 1619 the Rectory of Wallasey fell vacant; Peter Vaughan of Chester, perhaps a son of the Bishop who was translated from Chester to London in 1604, had in 1615 purchased from the Dean and Chapter of Chester the next presentation to Wallasey, and Archdeacon Snell was appointed—probably by Vaughan or his heirs; but there must have been some doubt as to the legality of the transaction, for in 1623 we find James I. claiming the right of appointment through lapse of time, and naming as Rector of a mediety of the Rectory of "Kirby Wallay, *alias* Kirby Wallasey," the very man who had already held it for more than three years; to this day the so-called "Rector of Wallasey" is, strictly speaking, only the "Rector of the first mediety of Wallasey," viz., that which had belonged to the Abbey of S. Werburgh and afterwards to the Dean and Chapter of Chester; the other mediety (i.e. half of the tithes of the parish) belonged in the Middle Ages to the Priory of Birkenhead and afterwards to the Bishop of Chester, but the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are now "Rectors of Wallasey, second mediety."

In 1620 the Archdeacon of Chester went to Scotland, and received the degree of D.D. from the University of S. Andrew's. The Archbishop of that city was clearly pleased with Snell, and writes to Bishop Bridgeman that his "worthe and virtue did merite the same" (i.e., the degree of D.D.), "whereof he has given us good proof during his abode here, and I wishe our Church were furnished with many of the lyke spirit." The Archdeacon received a Canonry in Chester Cathedral in 1621, and in that year also he took an *ad eundem* D.D. degree at Oxford. In 1681 he escaped a fine for refusing Knighthood (his estates being such as to justify the King in wishing to raise him to that rank) by the plea that he was in Holy Orders, and in the same year he obtained a dispensation from Archbishop Abbot that allowed him to hold with the

Rectory of Wallasey the living of Waverton, to which he had been presented a year or two before. In 1682 he resigned his Canonry in favour of a kinsman of his wife; and it was in that year that he built Wallasey Rectory, his house forming the south-west angle of the present Rectory. Its predecessor had been a thatched building a few yards north of Dr. Snell's Rectory, with a "brave parlour" in it, but it had been allowed to get into such a bad state during the long incumbency of Thomas Fletcher (who was Rector for nearly 40 years immediately before Snell) that Fletcher's executors had to pay over to his successor a considerable sum of money towards the building of the new Rectory.

In 1685 Snell was appointed Rural Dean of the Deaneries of Chester, Frodsham, Malpas, Middlewich, and Nantwich (i.e., all the Deaneries then existing in Cheshire, except Macclesfield and Wirral); he also became Rural Dean of Bangor, in the out-lying part of Flintshire. He was certainly Rector of Wallasey as late as 1689, when he contributed six guineas to the fund raised "for the warres against the Scotts;" but from 1685 onwards we find a certain Randle Adams, D.D., working at Wallasey; he had been previously in Ireland, and he probably came as Curate-in-charge under Snell, whom he eventually succeeded in the living, but, when he succeeded him, it is not possible as yet to say; it would probably be in 1642, when Parliament appointed a "Committee of Plundered Ministers" that turned out many clergy whom its members, for any reason (or no reason), disliked, and in most instances put non-conforming ministers in their places. Snell was deprived of all his preferments, and was thus (as his epitaph used to remind the congregation of St. Mary's, Chester) *per iniuriam temporis in communionem laicam redactus* (i.e., by the lawlessness of the times reduced to Lay Communion). Like nearly all the clergy of this diocese, he had given largely of his substance to support the King in the Civil War, and now he had to compound even for his private estates, to rescue them from the clutches of the Parliament.

Some twelve years or so of retirement followed at Chester, whence his brother-in-law, the Bishop, was expelled in 1645. Snell lived to see the Presbyterians, who had overthrown the Church, themselves overthrown by the Congregationalists, and these last pass under the sway of one despot; but there was no sign of any relief for the persecuted Church, when he himself entered into rest on February 5, 1656. He was buried at St. Mary's, Chester, where a short and simple epitaph marked the place of his grave."

[264] ENCLOSURE OF COMMONS AT NESTON
IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

The following extracts from the pleadings in a suit between Thomas Bennet, farmer of the tythes of Neston, and Wm. Forshawe who refused to pay tythes on some recently reclaimed land, give us an

interesting glimpse into the agricultural methods of Wirral farmers in the Tudor period.

The original is preserved among the Episcopal Archives at Chester.

"Evidence given before Mr. Robert Leche, etc xiii. of May 1568.

Thomas Bennet of the Parish of Neston, farmer of the tythes of Neston aged 58 years and upwards, states that Wm. Forshawe did sowe a hay called the Bent Hay the laste yere with rys and paid not the tiethes of the same to the farmer because they thought that they shoulde not etc etc."

Thomas Charnocke aged 50 years and upwards,

John Hamnet aged 69 years and upwards,

Richard Coke aged 40 years and upwards, all gave evidence in support of Thomas Bennet.

The hearing of the case for the defendant came on, on the 8th June, when Nicholas Hill, aged 78 years, Robert Lightfoot, aged 84, Hugh Burscove, aged 44, and Hugh Bordman, aged 48, gave evidence for the defendant.

The last witness "saies that at the first, Benty Hay was a part of the gret heath, and that every man of the townes adjacent, might put on it [cattle] as upon other parts of the said heath before it was enclosed; and it was enclosed before this deponents coming into the country which is about xvi yeres ago and nowe it is severally enclosed, so that nowe certain of the townes of Willaston have little closes in severalty of the said Benty Hay, which they do till with great labour, first, with delving it with turf spades, and after rearinge up, when it is dry and then burninge it, and then spreade the ashes abroad, and then they till it with the plowe, and some they do plowe without delving. Whether they paye rente or not this deponent knoweth not. On other partes of the heathe, cattalle be turned on for a tyme, but they are not able to have a full hitt to fill their belly, etc."

This method of turning heathland into arable land by burning the surface turf, appears to have been practised on the western slopes of Bidston Hill, where Eleanor-road cuts through some of the ridges that run down the face of the hill.

Here, where the various strata are laid bare by the cutting, is to be seen, immediately above the rock, a thin line of black deposit, evidently caused by burning, and above it again several inches of cultivated soil. Above the soil lie a few inches of decayed leaves which have fallen since the trees were planted on these slopes 50 years ago, for it must be remembered that before this plantation was made, it was all meadow land, and sometimes even planted with crops.

Yours, &c.,

O'anghton.

W. FERGUSON LEVINE.

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1893.

[265] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1605.

As a sequel to the Bishop's Visitation for 1592, recently printed (see Nos. 241, 247, and 249), the following later Visitation, for the year 1605, may be of interest.

As the document is a curious mixture of Latin and English, I have given a free translation of the Latin phrases, but have marked their presence by printing these translated passages in italics.

The Rev. Hugh Burobes, or Burgess, seems only to have acted as deputy to Dr. Yale, the Chancellor, as both at a previous and a later session of the Consistory Court Dr. Yale presides.

Yours, &c.,

Olaughton.

WM. FERGUSON LEVINE.

WERRALL DEANAT'.

CORAM MRO HUGONE BIRCHES IN ARTIBUS MAGISTRO
IN ECCLIESIA CATE: CESTRIEN: OUR: CONSIST:
VII DIE MENSIS FEBRUARII 1605.

WOODCHURCH P'OCH'.

Against Anne florbeck wife of—florbeck:—

[Because she] hath absented herself from the Church this half yeare at least [and] hath not been purified after childbirth.

Against John Hockenball gentleman:—

[Because he] hath not receyved the communion at Easter last at his P'ish Church. [added in another hand is:] Ytt appeareth by a certifoat hee did communicate latelle.

Against the Churchwardens there:—

Neither the ten commandments nor anie other sentences of Scripture placed in the Church.

On which day and in the said place the Churchwardens appeared and the Chancellor enjoined them to take oute a commission when my L: [ord] comes home to enquire of the said formes and to certifie.

Against Lawrence Pemberton and Alice Robinson:

Adulteres: have done noe penance.

Case postponed until 28th February.

Afterwards, before David Yale Doctor of Law, 5 April 1606. said Pemberton appeared and confessed to the adultery with the said Alice. The Chancellor ordered him to abstain therefrom for ever and to purge himself by public penance for four Lord's Days or Feast Days in the following manner and form viz. for one Lords Day or Feast Day in the Parish Church of Heswall, another in the Church of Thurstaston a third in the Parish Church of Wallasey and a fourth in the Parish Church of Woodchurch in the Diocese of Chester and to certify having done the same

before the Feast of St. John the Baptist next ensuing [24th June] under the hands of the Curates and Churchwardens of the said several Churches

Thomas Held:—fornicator

Against the Parish:—

[Because they] cannot agree about placinge scemes.

Against Joan Goodiker widow:—

Useeth bie reporte to praise on beads.

On which day etc she appeared and affirmeth she have bourned [burned] her beades and thereupon tooke her othe and hath promised not to use anie.

Against Margery Ball:—

Fornicator: hath done noe penance.

Case postponed till 28th February.

WEST KIRKBI P'OCH'.

Nothing to present.

SHOTWICKE P'OCH'.

Against Robert Forshawe:—

A common disturber of his neighbors and a contemner of the Minister in tyme of Catechizinge.

On which day etc he appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to confess his faults before the Curate, Churchwardens and swornemen on one Sondale or Holle Day.

Against Hugh ap Jones:—

For keeping a howse of Bawdrie in sufferinge David Norris and Shayne ap Roberts to lye together in his howse sometymes for the space of a weeke together.

Against Anthony Litherland and Elisabeth Lip-trott:—

Suspected of adultery.

On which day etc the man appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to clear himself before the 28th February; On which day etc the case was postponed until 16 May 1606; When aforesaid Litherland appeared before the Chancellor and confessed his sin; the Chancellor admonished him to abstain for ever therefrom and ordered him to do penance in the Church of Burton some one Lords Day or Feast Day and to certify the same before the Feast of St. John the Baptist [24th June] next ensuing.

Against Margaret wife of John Dannatt:—

A common scold and disturber of the neighbors. She is ordered to do penance one Sundate in Shotwick Church.

EASTHAM P'OCH.

Against Lady [Stanley] wife of William Stanley, Knight, the wife of William Stanley Esquire, [and] Mary Garratt:—

Recusants: postponed for the hearing of the Lord Bishop, etc.

Against the Vicar of the same:—

Hath not yett his eccl'call apparell.

Against M'garet Eloccke, Jane Merer and Elizabeth Swifts:—

Scolds, [ordered] to confess their faults and certify before Easter under the Churchwardens hands.

Against the farmers of the same:—

The chancell out of reparation.

Against Richard Richardson, John Barrows, and John Tottis:—

Contentions for pews on which day Richard Richardson and John Tottis appeareth and the Chancellor enjoined them to continue quiet and not disturb the service and because ytt appeareth they were nott disturbers butt spake ii or three words the Chancellor dismissed the case.

Against the executors of Richard Bushell

For not proving the will; on which day John and William Bushell appeared, and the case was postponed until the following Friday.

STOKES P'COCH'.

Against Thomas Finlowe of Whittle, husbandman, William Denson, of Stanney, husbandman:—

[Because they] come not to the Church upon Sabbath Daies; William Denson appeared and stated; That he is soe olde hee cannott nether is able to goe to Church nor well to heare and often tymes rydeth to Church and doth yarelie communicate orderlie. The Chancellor dismissed the case.

Thomas Finlowe appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to repara to Church and because he hath byn negligent the Chancellor enjoined him to confess his faults, whoe dyd the same publically in the courts.

Against Mr. Banner curate there:—

Goeth not perambulations nor weareth ornaments as is appointed by the Church. On which day Banner appeared and the Chancellor referred the case to the Bishop on his coming from London.

Against Richard Hanell and Margaret Sace [?]:— fornicatores.

BURTON P'COCH'.

Against the farmers there:—noe monethlie sermons.

(To be Continued.)

[266] WIRRAL DEANERY, 1554.

(Continued from No. 258—Sept 2nd.)

KIRKES [West Kirby]

Mr Ricus Walker rector (1)
Dns Ricus Peren [?] cur
Ricus Harrison } gar
Ricus Shurlocke }
Ricus Younge
Rie Andrews

(1) According to Ormerod, Richard Walker was instituted to the living of West Kirby on 18th March, 1540.

BURTON.

Dns Thomas Maulinsley
Thomas Jevanson } gardin'
Was Crosse
Thomas Evanson [?]
Thomas Janson

URTON.

Dns Thomas Benett, Upton (1)
Joannes Tottis
Robt Robtson
Joannes Ballie

WOODCHURCH.

Dns Willms Wright, rector (2)
Dns Rogerus Halston [?]
Robt Lynard } gardin'
Rauff Bowlymson }
Thomas Benett
Ricus Younge
Thomas Hancock.

HESWALL.

Dns Joannes Anec, rector (3)
Dns _____
Henricus _____ mylner, gar
Joannes Robenson
Willms Janson

(To be Continued.)

SEPTEMBER 30th, 1893.

[267] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1605.

(Continued from No. 265—Sept 23.)

BIDDERON P'COCH'.

Against Gilbert Urmeaton and Edward Pemberton:

Refused to receive the communion at Easter last. On which day the aforesaid Gilbert appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to receive the Holy Communion at Easter next and to certify the same immediately thereafter.

Edward Pemberton appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to communicate at Easter next and to certify the same at the same time.

Against the farmers thereof:—

No monethlie sermons.

Against the Curate thereof:—

Hath noe cloake with sleeves.

Against Elizabeth Shurlocke fornicator.

(1) Probably one of the Bennetts of Barnston (Vide Hence's "Bennetts of Boughall Massery," etc. A "Thomas Bennett, clerk," was one of the witnesses to the will of Robert Radcliff, of Greasby, 10th October, 1588.

(2) Ormerod does not mention this Rector at all.

(3) John Annon died in 1549

BEBINGTON P'OOH.'

Against the Churchwardens of the same :—

They want Mr. Juells "Replye and Apologie," a cou'inge for the Co'ion Table, the tenne commandments not placed in the East end of the Churche.

On which day they appeared, and the Chancellor enjoined them to p'vyde the Bookes and the reste before Easter nexte.

Against the Inhabitants of Tranmere :—

P'te of the Churohyard belonging to Tranmere out of reparacon.

Against Alice Hodgson and Joan Wetherbie, fornicatores.

On which day Hodgson appeared and the Chancellor enjoined her to do penance on three days, one day at Bebington, one at Eastham and the third in Bromdros [Churohes] and to certify the same before Easter next and saye the mans name is Thomas Helde dwelling in Tranmore.

Against John Smith and John Wade, harboured the said Alice Hodgson and Joan Wetherbie.

On which day John Smith appeared and ytt appeared by his othe [that] he hyred the said Alice sixe weekes before her deliverie and deposeth he did not knowe her to bee with child and that being questioned tyll the tyme of her deliverie she dyd denye hytt, the Chancellor dismissed the case because he did not find him guilty.

Wade appeared and because it transpired that the woman vis. the said Joan came to his house beene verye greate and labred att that instant being a stranger and she wold nott be potten awaie, the Chancellor dismissed the case.

Against Robert Pillington and Margaret Finlowe adulterers :—

On which day Pillington appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to appear on the last Friday in February before the Chancellor to receive judgement and to do penance for three Lords Days in the Church of Bebington and to certify the same before Easter next.

WALLESEM P'OOH.'

Against [blank] :—

A windowe in the Bishoppes Chancel not glazed in whose default not knowne.

Against the Executors of Robert Wilson :—

For not proving his will before Mr. Burohes, and Thomas Coventris appeared and pleaded [—?]. The Chancellor granted the petition and postponed the case until Friday the 28th of February.

Against John Orisley, Ellen Hodgson, Henry Bird, Jane Smith, Alice Richardson, Richard Aynsdale and Elizabeth Shurlocke fornicatores :—

On which day Bird appeared and the Chancellor enjoined him to prove his innocence or to appear on Friday the 28th February; the Chancellor enjoined Aynsdale to do public penance for three Lords Days or Feast Days in the Church of Wallesie and to certify the same under the hand of the Curate and Churchwardens.

Against Ellen Robinson widow :—

A common bawde. On which day the woman appeared and because it was alleged that neither the

sworne men nor the Churchwardens did presente her and that she is not culpable of the offence, the Chancellor enjoined her to bring a certificate from them 28th Feb. next.

Therefore, afterwards viz. on the 28th Feb. she appeared and brought the certificate.

NESTON P'OOH'

Against Willm Whitmore of Leighton gentleman and Alice his wife (1) Eleanor and Christian his daughters and one of their servants called The Nurse.

Have not come to Church this twelve months and more, neither have they communicated since the 20th March 1602

Case postponed until 28th Feb.

Against Richard Breaker and Alice Denson fornicatores :—

On which day the woman appeared and the Chancellor enjoined her to do public penance on one day and because it appeared from a certificate that shee had done one daies penance the Chancellor dismissed the case (2)

Against Elizabeth wife of Robt: Cottingham :—

Hath not receyved the o'ol'on this laste year.

On the third of May 1606 the Chancellor absolved the said Elizabeth and restored to her Church privileges because it appeared from a letter from Master Seaborne Rector of Thornton [le-Moors] that the said Elizabeth received the Holy Eucharist etc.

HESSWALL P'OOH.'

Against John Bird :—

[Because he does] not live with his wife. The case postponed because Bird is over seas, he is ordered to appear on his return.

Against the wife of Richard Johnson and Richard Burrows :—

For not communicating.

UPRON P'OOH.'

Against the Churchwardens there :—

The Churoh oute of repaire. On which day the Churchwardens appeared and the Chancellor enjoined them to repaire there Churohe by midsomer nexte and to p'vyde Belropes and to certify etc.

Against John Gill :—

For takeinge usserie vint [? more than] lii in the pound; affirmed by Thomas Younge that the said Gill hath taken xliii for xli in the yeare. On which day Gyll appeared and stated, he dyd receyve onlie lii in the pounde and not above, the Chancellor enjoined him to pale lii vid to the poore mans boxe or els to appeare before my L: [Lord] at his cominge home.

(1) Daughter of William Hough of Leighton and Thornton Hough.

(2) While examining a bundle of papers at the Registry, not connected in any way with this Volume of Visitation, I came across this very certificate, a full copy of which I append.

"These are to certefye yt Ales Denson of ye P'ishe of Neston at ye tyme of her purificacion weh was upon Tewesday in Whitsonweeke last, hath done penance openly before ye congregation in tyme of Devyns Service accordyng to ye Artycles enjoynynges. In witness wherof we have sette to our hands vi of Febr: 1605.

Francis Greene, Vicar.

William Bennette, Jurat.

Robt. Hulme

Thomas Cottingham.

Churchwardens."

[268] WIRRAL DEANEBY, 1554.

(Continued from No. 266—Sept 28.)

THURSTASTON.

Dns Thomas Sharpe rector (1)
Galfridus Heworth
Joannes Brabon

SHOTWICK.

Dns Thomas Hande vic (2)
Ricus Heaketh }
George Whitfield } gar.
Thomas Dowe
Radus Parre
Henricus Gilbert
Thomas Heylin

STOK.

Dns Robtus Yrland (3)
Dns Henricus Cowper
Nic. Jonson
Wms Bushall } gar.
Wms Taylor
Rogerus Cowp: r
Willms Swyndle

BACKFORD.

Dns Ricus Garrett vic (4)
Dns Johes Lepamton (5)
Willms Forshaw
Johannes Kyrkes
Ricus Rowdon
Joannes Kyng

BROMBROE.

Dns Ricus Ooke vic (6)
Willms Daw } gen.
George Spon }
Jevans
Robtus Jensen
Robtus Tayler.

(1) The Rev Thomas Sharpe was instituted Rector of Thurstaston on the 23rd June 1542 and held it through all the changes until 1601 when he resigned.

(2) In the valuation of the Monastery of St. Werburgh prepared at the dissolution, mention is made of "Dns Thomas Hande, a priest singing at Shotwick," so we have here another example of the acquiescence on the part of the clergy in the changes which took place. It is not known how long Mr. Hande continued to hold Shotwick, but in 1562, the Rev John Carter was discharging the duties so that his holding of the cure must have ceased prior to this date.

(3) The name of the Rev Robert Ireland is not mentioned in Ormerod.

(4) The Rev Richard Garrett was presented to the living of Backford by the King, 18 Dec 1539—he was holding the living in 1557 and probably continued to do so until 1579 when Hugh Morrey succeeded him (Ormerod).

(5) In a MS. book of Depositions preserved at the Registry dated 1546, mention is made of a "John Lepamton clericus of St. Oswald's, prebendary of Chester," the John Lepamton mentioned in the text may have been a relative of the Prebendary.

(6) The Rev Richard Coke was originally a curate at Eastham but, according to his own depositions, printed in these columns some months ago [No 179] in or about 1541 was instituted to Brombroe, which he continued to hold certainly until June of 1567 and possibly later.

OCTOBER 7th, 1893.

[269] MISS SEWARD AT HOYLAKE.

(See No. 262—September 9th).

In a letter dated *High Lake, Sept. 20, 1794*, addressed to J. Johnson, Esq., Miss Seward writes :

"Amidst many other agreeable circumstances for which I have been indebted to your friendship, I thank you for recommending High Lake to me as a marine residence. I like it extremely, and though often indisposed, hope to receive benefit from its pure gales and placid waters. All my fear is an abated degree of saline strength in the billows, by the intermixture of fresh water from the rivers Dee and Mersey, incessantly stealing into the lake amidst the salt green streams of the ocean.

We have here a very pleasant society, to the number of about thirty. The music at Liverpool allured a considerable part of it thither; amongst the rest my cousin T. White and his bright-eyed friend. I had an arduous struggle with my inclinations on that occasion. Considerations of health, however, prevailed over every temptation to indulge myself in the highest luxury my senses can experience, and I remained quiet at High Lake.

T. White enchants the circle with his songs. Some of the party have heard and mention yours with the highest possible encomiums. Our society received a great addition to its pleasures by Mr. Wigley's company during a week." (Letters of Anna Seward, Vol. IV., pp 11, 12.)

On October 1st, Miss Seward writes to the last named gentleman, Edmund Wigley Esq. M.P., who has returned to Lichfield. She says:—

"We miss you on the airy promontory, and on the silver sands. A certain sunny smile is wanted to re-illuminate our little circle, gloomed by melancholy shipwreck, and all its heart-affecting particulars. A ship sunk, close to the sand-island on the ocean side, yesterday morning at nine o'clock, overwhelmed by the heavy and stormy seas. Her seven mariners perished, besides the other passengers which probably she had on board. An American vessel, which put into this Lake a few hours after, and which was itself in great danger, saw her sink within gun-shot, without being able to afford the least assistance to the unhappy creatures, who, with the dire shrieks of despair, were clinging round the masts and shrouds. Boats have been going off to the wreck ever since, whose men return with sad narrations from hour to hour. Ascending the highest apartment of this hotel, we saw the dismal wreck distinctly through a telescope, with the several boatmen which had landed on the island, and were busied about it; and some of them bending over the dead bodies that lay scattered on the sands. Three of them were found in a dreadfully lacerated condition, and brought into the Lake in a boat last night.

These are the shocking circumstances, which to inlanders often counteract the effect of coast residence, even while they make us feel, with the most sensible comfort,

"The grove's blest shelter on the stable shore,
Where the tall pine-tree sings beneath the wind."

I have quoted those pretty lines, translated by a friend of mine from an idyllium of the Greek poet, Moschus, though there are neither groves nor pine-trees at High Lake. Imagination, however, easily substitutes a grove for a feather bed, and for rattling windows, whistling trees.

Miss Remington and my tuneful cousin desire to present to you very animated remembrances. I hope we may all pass a social evening together at Lichfield on the 18th." (Vol. iv., pp 18-14.)

During her stay at Hoylelake, the fair authoress composed a poem entitled, "Verses written at Hoyle Lake, and descriptive of that scene." These verses (which I hope shortly to send to you) are referred to in the following letter written to a lady friend on October 25, 1794, after Miss Seward's return to Lichfield.

"My coast residence was at Hoyle Lake, twelve miles below Park-Gate. The air of that grassy mound is remarkably pure, and seldom annoyed by showers. The surcharged clouds, without descending there, draw their dark trains towards the Flintshire mountains, that rise on the left from the opposite shores of the Dee. It is only the all-day rains that fall at High Lake, and but three of those wet days occurred during our stay. The farther local particulars of this newly-established marine residence the enclosed poem will place before you.

Our party was very pleasant. Being only one house at High Lake, we all lived together with the social cheerfulness of a large family. Lord Bagot's sister, Mrs. Wingfield of Shrewsbury, I had, in my juvenile years, very slightly known. Last year at Scarborough, we renewed our acquaintance. She and her amiable daughters formed an interesting part of our society at High Lake. They all expressed the most flattering pleasure in our meeting again. They arrived a few days after us, and left the place on the same morning that we turned our faces towards Staffordshire. Several other Shropshire families were also there. The situation pleased us all, and the apartments are light and spacious as those of the hotels at Buxton; the provisions equally good.

Expressing my esteem for the public spirit of Sir John Stanley, in building upon this oceanic spot, the company prevailed upon me to write its description in verse, which, they fancied, would please him, and contribute to the rising celebrity of the scene. Whatever other merit the little poem may want, its descriptions are strictly appropriate. Standing on the edge of the cliffs, from which we descend to our bathing-machines, and, with our faces to the sea, we discern every object my verse describes. Miss Wingfield was so good as to transcribe this poem thrice, in pity to the many claims upon my pen. Mrs. Wingfield pressed me to send her brother, Lord Bagot, a copy. However warmly I may approve of the aristocratic link in that chain of subordination, so necessary to the good of every country, I yet feel the extremest reluctance to push myself upon the

notice of the great, and somewhat reluctantly consented to her proposal; but I have had no reason to repent my acquiescence. Lord Bagot has written to me twice on the occasion, with the most gratifying praise of this rhyming trifle, and with even friendly cordiality, though personally unknown to him. After warmer commendations than I can, in any modesty repeat, he taught me to believe him rather partial than flattering, by confessing that he thought one line obscure, and not strictly grammatical. I altered it instantly; and transmitting my alteration to him, he wrote again, to say that I had made it all he wished. Sir John Stanley has also acknowledged my tribute to himself and his place, in warm terms of approbation and pleasure; but I have had the mortification of seeing it printed in the Shrewsbury newspaper of October the 15th, in a form scarce less appalling to its hapless author than that of the murdered Banquo to Macbeth,

"With twenty mortal bladders on its surface,
The least a death to sense."

I am promised its re-insertion in a more correct state. But it will probably be copied from the first mangled edition into other papers, and its disgrace consequently spread. These are the miseries of authorship." (vol. iv, pp. 19-21).

In a later letter, Miss Seward speaks of "the handsome hotel, . . . the little appendant white cottages, scattered around, to supply it with milk, butter, &c." (vol. iv, p. 37).

F. SANLERS.

OCTOBER 14th, 1893.

[270] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTASTON IN THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES.

A.—RICHARD PRIESTLAND.

The earliest record relating to Thurstaston that I have found in the Diocesan Registry is that of the institution of RICHARD PRIESTLAND to the Rectory, which runs as follows when translated from the Latin in which all these records are written:—

"To the parish church of THURSTANTON, vacant through the death of Sir JOHN BENNETT, at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Saint Werburg at Chester, Sir [*dominus*] RIC. PRESTLONDE was admitted by the reverend father in CHRIST, lord [*dominum*] (1) GEOFFREY, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and instituted to the same: and by Master ROBERT CLYFFE [his]

(1) This was Geoffrey Blyth, consecrated 1503 Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in which diocese we were before the Bishopric of Chester was created. Hence all earlier records of Thurstaston are in the Lichfield Registry.

official, lord [*dominus*] archdeacon of Chester, he was inducted into the same on the 9th day of October, a.d. 1507." (1)

Mr. Priestland is styled *dominus*, which has a wide range of meaning. Probably the English equivalent in his case is *Sir*, which was the general title for parsons in Elizabeth's days, if we may so infer from "Sir Topas the curate," in *Twelfth Night*. (See also the will of Thomas Sharpe *infra*.)

In Mr. Priestland's time began Henry VIII.'s sweeping ecclesiastical measures, but Thurstaston seems only to have been affected by them in so far that after the surrender and dissolution of the Abbey of St. Werburg in Chester, 20 Jan. 1539, when the new Cathedral of Chester was founded in its place, 4 Aug. 1541, the church, i.e., the patronage of Thurstaston was given to the Dean and Chapter. Just previous to this, however, and probably in anticipation of the loss of their possessions, the Monastery had given away (for what considerations we know not) the next presentation, as the following deed declares:—

"To all the faithful of CHRIST to whom this present writing shall come (2) THOMAS by divine permission Abbot of the exempt (3) monastery of St. Werburg of the city of Chester of the order of St. Benedict and the convent of the same place, true and undoubted patrons of the parish church of THURSTANSTON in the co. of Chester, diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, greeting [*salutem*] in the author of salvation [*salutis*]. Know that we the aforesaid Abbot and Convent by our unanimous assent and consent have given, conceded, and by this our present writing have confirmed, to our beloved in CHRIST, THOMAS POLE ESQ. OTWELL WORSLEY, gentleman, and THOMAS MONKESFELDE of the city of Chester, skinner, and to anyone of them jointly and severally, their heirs and assigns, the first and next advowson (4), donation, presentation, and free disposal of the said parish church of THURSTANSTON aforesaid for the first and next vacancy of the same only, when through death, retirement, resignation, cession or deprivation or in any other way whatever it shall have happened that the said parish church of THURSTANSTON be for the first and next time vacant: and that it shall be fully lawful for the aforesaid THOMAS, OTWELL and THOMAS and anyone of them jointly and severally, and their heirs and assigns as is aforesaid, to nominate and present any able and fit person whatever to the said parish church of THURSTANSTON vacant in the man-

ners as is aforesaid, and to do and fulfil all other matters, all and every, so perfectly, fully, and completely, as we should do if this our present concession had not been made; saving to ourselves and our successors our annual pension of two (1) shillings to be paid to us in the right of our monastery aforesaid annually at the usual feast: In witness whereof we have affixed to these presents our common seal, given in our chapter house on the 16th day of October a.d. 1538, also in the 30th year of the reign of King HENRY VIII, by the grace of God king of England and France, defender of the faith (2), lord of Ireland and on earth supreme head of the English Church." (3)

THOMAS POLE is probably Thomas *Poole Esq. of Poole Hall, which he built, son and heir of Sir William Poole, and seneschall of the priory of Birkenhead at its dissolution. He died in 1547, aged 36. OTWELL WORSLEY, gent. was auditor (i.e. receiver) of the monastery of St. Werburg's for which he received per ann. 66s. 8d. He was made a Commissioner for the Deaneries of Malpas and Wirral in valuing the Church property for the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*. His Christian name is peculiar: there was an *Ottivurus* or Ottiwell, bastard son of Hugh Lupus. He may have been connected with the Worsleys of Worsley in Lancashire, one of whom Ralph Worsley, settled in Chester and acquired the site and a great part of the property of the Priory of Birkenhead when it was dissolved; he died in 1573 at the age of 80. In the account of Chester in the *Book of the Survey of the Monasteries* we find a good deal more of information about Otwell Worsley. He had a lease of "Carter's Hey pasture" for 51 years. Among the annual fees which the Abbey had to pay were "To Otwell Worsley, gent. baylye of Upton with the members 24: to the sayd Ottiwell, baylye of the rents and fermes within and nere to the cite of Chester 24." Also fuller particulars: "To Otwell Worsley, gent. clerke of the chekker of the seyd late Abbey, and also of alle the courts of the seyd late monasterye within Cheshyre, as well in redye money 40s, as mete and drynk of the sayd Ottiwell and of his servant 54s. 4d, and also his chamber within the seyd late monasterye 10s. and sufficient fuell 20s. grasse and provender for the fyndynge of horses 30s. and for stabill roome for the seyd 2 horses 6s. 8d., also in the pryce of 7 loves called payne quaters, 4 gallons of convent ale, and 4 gallons of the secunde ale weakelye 28s. 8d. a gentillman livery unto the sayde Ottiwell 18s. 4d. by letters patters bearynge date the 6th day of Sept. in the 30th yere of o' seyd sovereign lord the kynge for time of lyffe granted 212." i.e., a total pension of £12 a year, equivalent to £120 of our money.

B.—THOMAS SHARPE

In 1542, probably through age or infirmity, as he had been Rector 35 years, Mr. Priestland resigned the benefice, and in his place THOMAS SHARPE

(1) A few of the earliest of these documents are printed in full to illustrate the style, which contains very much unchanged to the present time. It will be useful briefly to explain the technical terms. A Rector (or other Benefice) includes (1) the spiritual cure of souls, (2) possession of certain temporal emoluments, house, tithe, etc. The cure of souls in the whole diocese really belongs to the Bishop, who therefore alone can really appoint a Rector. Hence when the patronage or advowson is in other hands, e.g., of a layman, the layman nominates or presents his candidate to the Bishop. If the Bishop admits (i.e., accepts) him, he will first institute him to the cure of souls in the place, and then generally through some deputy induct him into the possession of the temporal emoluments of the benefice.

(2) Thomas Clerk, elected Abbot about 1537, and first Dean of the Cathedral, called by Ormerod John Clerk.

(3) I.e., Exempt from the dissolution of the smaller monasteries in 1536.

(4) Lat. *advocatio*: the right of the patron to nominate to a living.

(1) In the *valor eccles.* and all subsequent documents this appears as 5s.

(2) *Fidelis defensor*, the title conferred on Henry by Pope Leo in 1521.

(3) *In terra supremum caput ecclesie anglicane*, a title conferred, or rather appropriated, by himself and reluctantly conceded by the Convocations under heavy pressure and threats, and with a saving interpretation (*quantum Hecet*), in 1531.

was presented by Thomas Pole Esq., according to the following record.

"THOMAS SHARPE, clerk [*clericus*], was presented to the parish church of THURSTASTON, dioc. of Chester, vacant through the free resignation of SIR RIC. PRESTLAND, last vicar and incumbent there, at the presentation of THOMAS POLE, Esq., by reason of the aforesaid advowson conceded to him and others with full right for this turn, on the 28rd day of June, a.d. 1542: and the same THOMAS SHARPE was admitted and instituted into the same rectory with all its rights and belongings by the rev. father and lord in CHRIST, lord JOHN (1) by divine permission bishop of Chester on the xxiii day of the month of June in the aforesaid year."

Mr. Sharpe was probably of a Neston family (of yeoman rank, there is no record of them in Ormerod). A Wm Sharpe and a Richard Sharp paid comparatively large sums in the 1545 Subsidy Roll, and he also had a cousin living there in 1601, and to judge from his will was a friend of Sir Thomas Betson, Vicar of Neston 1562-1605. A John Sharpe was elected Prior of Birkenhead in 1519 and seems to have been the last one. The connection with Neston is illustrated by the following gift of the next Presentation to Thurstaston, made in 1550, which we quote in full to show the slight change made by the change of "Abbot and Convent" into "Dean and Chapter."

R. B. RACKHAM.

(To be continued.)

OCTOBER 21st, 1893.

[271] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTASTON IN THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 270—October 14.)

"To all the faithful of CHRIST to whom the present writing shall come, WILLIAM CLIFFE (2), doctor of laws, dean of the Cathedral Church of CHRIST and the blessed virgin MARY at Chester and the canons of the same place, true and undoubted patrons of the parish church of THURSTASTON within the co. of Chester and diocese aforesaid, everlasting salvation in the Lord. Know that we the aforesaid dean and canons with our unanimous consent, assent, and will, have given, conceded and by our present writing confirmed to our beloved in CHRIST, JOHN SHARPE of Great Neston, and THOMAS BETSON of Little Neston and to either of them jointly and severally and to their heirs and assigns the first and next advowson, presentation,

nomination and free assignment and disposal of the aforesaid parish church of THURSTASTON with all its rights and appurtenances, so that it shall be fully lawful to the aforesaid JOHN, THOMAS and either of them and the executors and assigns of the same or of either of them, for one time only, to present, nominate and assign a fit person to the parish Church of THURSTASTON aforesaid with all its rights, when for the first and next time it shall happen to be vacant whether through death, or resignation, deprivation, cession, or exchange, or in any other way whatever when for the first and next time it shall happen to be vacant: Saving to us and our successors all other presentations to the same church after that the presentation of the aforesaid by virtue of this our concession shall have taken effect, and also saving an annual pension of 5 shillings to be paid annually from the same church to us and our successors. In witness whereof we have caused to be affixed to these presents our common seal, given in our chapter house the 12th day of October, a.d. 1550, and in the 4th year of the reign of our most illustrious prince in Christ and lord, lord EDWARD VI by the grace of God king of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith (1) and on earth supreme head of the English and Irish Church."

Messrs. Sharpe and Betson however never enjoyed their right. Most of the property of the Dean and Chapter was violently seized by Sir Richard Cotton in 1550, and a settlement was not finally made till 1679, when in the royal charter, which to a great extent confirmed the losses of the Dean and Chapter, the advowson of Thurstaston was restored to them.

In the course of his long incumbency of 59 years, Thomas Sharpe witnessed all the great religious changes of the 16th century. He saw the closing years of Henry VIII., and lived through the reigns of Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth, and yet remained throughout Rector of Thurstaston. But we must not be hard upon him. The changes need not have been, and probably were not, so great as we suppose in a small out-of-the-way country Parish; and so in fact the Reformation has left little traces of its history in any of the records of Thurstaston. Much as the churches were spoiled and robbed, their great defacement rather dates from a later period (the Rebellion), and the neglect of subsequent centuries. The main effect upon the Parish was the use of different prayer books put forth from time to time, and their chief changes consisted in the use of English, and the greater simplicity of the service. But where the people, as in the N. and W. country districts especially, and the priests loved the old ways, the traditional manner of conducting the service would continue; and where there had been no great ritual previously the change would not be felt. In a small Parish like Thurstaston, for instance, there had probably always been great simplicity in the church service. The church was poor; I doubt if it had ever possessed a "vestment" at all, or anything more than the ancient English "surplice." In 1548 the Sheriffs had to make an inventory of Church plate, and "Thurstaston" possessed "one chales" and "ii belles." The same goods are found in a later inventory of

1). John Bird (first) bishop of Chester 1541-1554.
2) Third Dean of Chester 1547-1558.

(1) The reforming king like all his successors clings to his papistically conferred title.

1550 (1.) Further, besides the priest and people, the chief families in the Wirral, including the Whitmores, were devotedly attached to the old ways, so much so that when the final breach came in 1570, they cast in their lot with Rome. Up till then, they had continued to attend their parish churches, and as their influence would then have been greater than it is now, they would have prevented any startling innovations. However, Pope Pius V. unfortunately excommunicated Queen Elizabeth on Feb. 25, 1570, and those who continued faithful to Rome became "recusants," that is refused to attend their Parish Church, for which they suffered heavy fines and other penalties. Among these were the Whitmores. In Wirral Notes and Queries [No. 118] has been printed already a note from the Registry at Chester, which is probably the pathetic complaint of Mr. Sharpe, the rector, in 1581, ["Master John Wythmore and Elener his wife, do not cu' to the churche nor Recene (the Sacrament). Thomas Maddock and Johann his wyfe do not cu' to the Church nor Recene. Wyllyam Wythmore gentylman dothe cu' to the Churche but not Recene. Ales his wyfe doth nether cu' to the Churche nor Recene."] But though they "refused" to attend Church, the Recusants were thoroughly loyal. When the country was disturbed by the news of the Spanish Armada, Mr. William Hough, of Leighton and Thornton, mastered his tenantry, and his muster roll, with the curious "furniture" of each person, has been published in Wirral Notes and Queries (No. 185). Six warriors and a widow (presumably by deputy) come from Thurston (14), among them this same William Whitmore, who was Mr. Hough's son-in-law. On the other hand John Whitmore, Esq., the elder representative of the family at the Hall, (mentioned in 1579 in a list of the gentry of the Wirral—W.N. and Q. 141) seems to have suffered the loss of his lands, or a good portion of them, for his religious obstinacy, or fidelity, as we may term it. For there is the following index to a trial at Chester in the Exchequer Depositions of 1598, "William Grafton versus John Gill, Peter Gill, and others. Lease of the lands of John Whitmore [a recusant] lying in Thurston and Calday (Cheshire) made to the plaintiff. Touching the forfeiture of the Lease." The property, however, must soon have returned to its rightful owners, for we find a John Whitmore paying subsidies, etc., in the early part of next century.

In 1561 were held the first Licensing Sessions for Cheshire and we find there is one alehouse in "Thurstynton" kept by Thomas Anione (W.N. & Q. 148). In 1592 the Churchwardens are had up before the Consistory Court at Chester for having "no collectores" (2) a charge brought against nearly all the neighbouring wardens also. "They were admonished to provide the same according to statute." (W.N. & Q. 249.)

These are all the historical notices concerning Thurston that I have been able to glean during Mr. Sharpe's long incumbency, which is now drawing to a close. Assuming he was at least twenty-three on

his induction, he must have been seventy-seven in 1596, when, through growing infirmity, he secured the services of a curate. Five years later he resigned the living. His deed of resignation was signed "before John Morgell, notary public, on the 5th day of May, a.d., 1601, in the house of his accustomed dwelling, (1) in the presence of Henry Tottie clerk, Henry Tottie, yoman and Richard Cowper," and we give it in full.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. Before you, a notary public and a public and authentic person, and witnesses worthy of credit here present, I, THOMAS SHARPE, clerk [*clericus*], rector of the parish church of Thurston, dioc. Chester, willing and desiring, from certain true, just, and reasonable causes justly moving me and my mind therunto, to be entirely freed from and for ever unburdened of the burden, care, and rule of the said church,—the same my church with all and singular its rights and all its appurtenances into the hands of the reverend father and lord in CHANCE, lord RICHARD (2), by divine permission bishop of Chester, the ordinary and diocesan of the same place or [into the hands] of his vicar general in spirituals or of any other person whatsoever having the power to receive this my resignation, not having fallen into error, nor being compelled by violence or fear, nor induced by guile or fraud, but of my own simple and spontaneous will do resign, and my right, title, and possession hitherto acquired by me in the same church, I purely, freely, simply, and absolutely renounce, and yield up the same, and totally and expressly retire from the same in these writings.

By me Thomas Sharpe."

R. B. BACKHAM.

(To be continued.)

OCTOBER 28th, 1893.

[279] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTON IN THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 271—Oct. 21st.)

On his resignation (or perhaps after his engaging a Curate) Sr Thomas Sharpe retired to Neston, where he lived in the house of his cousin John Sharpe, as we learn from his will made at this time, to which reference has been already made.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. The xviiiith daie of January anno dñi 1601, I Sr THOMAS SHARPE Late parson of Thurston doe make this my Last Will and Testament in maner and forme followinge first I bequeath my soule to almighty GOD and my bodie to be buried in Neston Church in full and certain hope of a joyfull resurrection at the last daie to eternal life

(1) One of these bells, however, must have disappeared by 1816 when Ormerod only mentions a "bell turret." The 3 bells probably hung in Bishop Gastrell's "steepie."

(2) I must leave it to an historian to tell us who these "collectores" are.

(1) Probably the old parsonage house south of the church or his home at Neston, if he had already retired thither.

(2) Richard Vaughan bishop of Chester 1597-1606.

throwe the merits and bloodsheidinge of our onlie Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. And as for my worldlie goods I give and bequeth them in wanner and forme following. First I give and bequeth to Sr. THOMAS BIRTSON Vicar of Neston one silver spoon wch I use to eat my meate withall—also to (1) BLANCH PEMBERTON one cowe—as for the reste of my goods movable and immovable I give to my cossen JOHN SHARPE in consideration that my said cossen John Sharpe me keep with meate, drinke and lodgings durring my life. In witness whereof etc., THOMAS SHARPE." In presence of Robert Penkett, John Sharpe, Tho. Betson. The following debtes were owing to the testator:—

"Thomas Bird of Chester tanner of lents money. . . xls.
John Bennett of Thurstaston xxixs vid.
Willm Whitmore of Thurstaston xxs.
Willm Wirrall of Irbie for a horse (2) xxviii.
Item the sd Willm [Whit]more in debte
to me £5 iis. ixd."

Total £10 10 8 = £100 of our money (?).

The will was proved March 18th, 1605, in which year he had probably died full of years, 68 since he had been first made Rector of Thurstaston.

C. — HENRY TOTTIE.

We now come to a very short, but interesting and sad history.

HENRY TOTTE was the curate appointed by Mr. Sharpe, in 1597. He was apparently a native of the place or neighbourhood, and of a yeoman family, or even of lower degree. To judge from the name, the "Henry Tottie, yoman," who with him witnessed Mr. Sharpe's resignation, was his father; there was a Richard Tottie also living (? a brother); and on Mr. Hough's Muster Roll for 1580, we find a "Thomas Totty" of Irby. Our Henry however though of low degree must have early shown signs of cleverness or of religious zeal, for he was sent to the University of Oxford, where he matriculated at Brasenose College on Nov. 18, 1590, at the age of 17, being thus entered in the University Register, "Tottie, Henry, Cheshire, pleb. fil. 17" (3). On Feb. 6, 1594, he took his degree of B.A., and it is possible that his title to receive holy orders was this nomination to the curacy of Thurstaston. (4.)

In this cure by the zealous, diligent, and careful discharge of his duties, and by his often "preachinge of the word" to his people's "good lykeinges"—from which we may infer that he had probably come home filled with the new Puritan enthusiasm and was a preacher—he made himself very popular; so much so that on the resignation of Thomas Sharpe on May 5, there was a movement, probably a kind of petition got up by the parishioners to secure his appointment to the Rectory. In any case, we have the following interesting and early form of a testimonial, evidently not a formal one, but spontaneous and genuine.

"To all Obhristian people to whom this present wrytinge shall come to be seene, heard, or redd.

(1) Probably an old faithful servant.
(2) ? His horse sold on retiring from active parish work.
(3) *Plebs filius*, son of a plebeian, as distinct from *generosus filius*, son of a gentleman.
(4) For he could not be ordained till he was 23, which was in 1595.

Wee the parishioners of the Pariah Church of Thurstanton within the countie of Chester whose names are subscribed send greetinge in or Lord God everlastinge. Forasmuch as it is a verie charitable and Christian dutie to testifie and declare the truth in all matters requyryng testimonie, therefore we doe by these presents certifie unto all yor universall knowledges for truth that the bearer hereof HENRY TOTTE clerke, Batchelor of Arts and minister of the parish aforesaid, is in our opynions sound in religion and in his profession zealous and hath served the same cure by the space of these fyve yeares paste or thereabouts, and discharged his dutie therein diligentlie and carefulle by often preachinge the worde unto us to of good lykeinges and to his owne comendacion and credite. And that he the same HENRY TOTTE from the tyme of his nativitie hitherto hath bene, and still is, of good name fame and reputation and of verie honeste and sober cariage behavior, gesture and demeanour, and never detected or noted of any notorious cryme for any thinge that we or any of us to or of any of or perticular knowledge can declare or doe knowe: all wch to be true we doe by these presentes testifie and to th' intent subscribed or names. Dated at Thurstanton aforesaid the 16th day of May in the 8 and 40th yeare of the reignes of or souveraigne ladie ELIZABETH by the Grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Queene defendor of the faith etc. Anno. Dm. 1601."

The testimonial is signed by twenty-nine persons, some of whom seem to have lived in neighbouring parishes, so that Mr. Tottie's "fame" was wide spread—for instance the first three names are "WILLIAM GLEGG, CHRISTOPHER BENNETT, THOMAS GLEGG." Now the W. Glegge must be William Glegge Esq of Caldey Grange who married Alice the widow of W. Leigh of Irby, and died 1686, and Thomas Glegge apparently the 2nd son of Arthur Glegge Esq of Gayton, who died 1616 and was buried at Heswall. Christopher Bennett was doubtless C.B. of Greasby, gentleman, who was uncle by marriage, of Mistress Glegge, the wife of Wm Glegge of Caldey Grange. No Whitmores sign, either because they were still "recusants," or to infer from some evidence of the year 1615, because their moral characters were not such as would appreciate Mr. Tottie's often preachinge of the word.

The Dean and Chapter of Chester had however already acceded to the wish of the parish by nominating Henry Tottie to the Rectory on the preceding day May 15th (admitted by the bishop June 5th) and on the back of their presentation we find some notices attested by signatures which show that his induction and reading-in were quite popular events. They tell us that on the 18th of June, Henry Tottie was inducted into the Rectory and Parsonage by Thomas Fletcher, clerk, parson of Wallasey and Will. Seaborne clerk, parson of Thornton, in the presence of foule Edwards, Henry Tottie, Richard Tottie, Will. Raben churchwarden and four others. On the following Sunday June 14th (the 1st Sun. aft. Trinity) "the sd Henry Tottie in the Pariah Church in time of divine service and in presence of the whole pariah and of some others then present reade all the articles of religion which only concern the confession of the true Xtn faith." In witness the following members of the congregati-on signed

their names Will Glogge [one of the 'some others'] Tho. Rathban, John Rawson, Tho. Younge, Will. Balie, and Rob. Legh, warden.

The sad thing about this history is that after all this enthusiastic beginning, within a few months, i.e. by Nov. in the same year (1) Henry Tottie was dead and buried, and that at the early age of twenty-eight. Doubtless at his funeral the whole parish was again assembled, but this time with sorrow.

D.—HUGH BURCHES.

The successor whom the Dean and Chapter found to Mr. Tottie, and presented on Nov. 14, and who was inducted on the following Jan. 15th, was Hugh Burches, a person of a very different character. Mr. Burches was a man of some years, about fifty, and also of some substance. We find from his very interesting will, that at the time of his death, though he speaks of his estate as being "bruised," he possessed a house and other property in Wales, a house at Chester, a sinecure Rectory in Wales, and the advowson of Backford, given him by the Bishop; besides, the inventory of his "cattails, corne, and household stuffe" is very considerable indeed, when compared with other clerical wills of the time. He had a family of three daughters, and five sons, with one of whom a Whitmore did not disdain alliance. He was also of literary instincts, as he had a library of some value. Mr. Burches took his degree of M.A. at Cambridge, but was incorporated into the University of Oxford 11 July, 1585 (2.). His clerical preferment had been mainly in Wales, where he also had property, and he may have been of Welsh origin—Rector of Llanellan in Anglesey 1577, Vicar of Llandinam in Montgomery 1582, in which year also he received the sinecure (i.e. without any actual work) Rectory of Pennant in Montgomery, which he held till his death. At Chester, where he resided for the latter part of his life, he held an important position; for (probably having other preferment as well) he acted as deputy for the Chancellor, Dr. David Yale.

Mr. Burches was living at Chester at his death and so was no doubt a non-resident Rector, employing a curate at Thurston. The transcript of the Parish Registers in 1608 is signed by Nich. Setchell, curate (3). His son (and successor) Richard Burches probably held that post and while living at Thurston fell in love with one of the daughters of John Whitmore, Esq., to whom he was married.

R. B. BACKHAM.

(To be Continued.)

NOVEMBER 4th, 1893.

[278] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTON IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 272—October 28th.)

Mr. Burches' later years do not seem to have been happy. He was troubled by a painful disease; he had suffered losses in his property and got into debt;

(1) No first fruits had been paid by him.

(2) His name is entered as Hugh Burohar. A Hugh Burches of B.N.C. took the degree of B.Med. and was licensed to practice in 1603, but he could hardly be the same as our Hugh.

(3) Mr. Setchell, however, seems to have been curate of West Kirby 1608-1625.

and, above all, he had been very unhappy in his dealings with the Puritan party. If, as was conjectured, Henry Tottie won his popularity in Thurston because of his enthusiastic and novel preaching and Puritan doctrine, the inhabitants of Thurston must have felt very much disappointed with Mr. Burches, who was evidently of very different sympathies. This may have led to discussions, they may have withheld their tithes—in any case Mr. Burches was so molested, as to use very strong expressions in his will, which is a very remarkable one and the main source of our knowledge of his character. It is dated Aug. 13, 1614 and runs as follows:—

"IN DEI NOMINE. AMEN. I HUGH BURCHES so oft and continuously admonished by a most grievous disease of mine end, and as I have lived an unfayned protestant and faithfull maintayner of the faith and forme of servinge God y^e this church of England doth hold, see to the ende I continue a sincere worshipper of the God of my Fathers and die within the unity of this churoh, nothing altering my profession nor doubtinge of a glorious resurrection of my bodie to life everlastinge. My wants were many in the discharge of my dutie and especially that I did not with more zeale beate down the subtil proceedinges of the novelists, seekinge or privly labouringe an overthrow of this reverend churoh, and although some pretende an upright intente and carriage, I protests that by my continuall molestation they are better known to mee for. . . . presumptuous and spitefull orne of sehismaties then to any wishinge their amendment and a mature deliberation to their raw and uncoocoted exerices.

God bless kinge James our renowned soveraigne, his illustrious spouse, theire happie issue, their Realme, government, and persons, the honorable Lords of the Privie Counsell, nobility, cleargie, and magistracie of the land, defend and keepe in unity, faith, peace, and obediencie, convert all false subjects and bring them to see their folly.

For my brused estate. My debtes if I should now die, my books will very neare discharge; but if I live some ten weekes, my benefice of Pennant (1) with the bookes will more than pay. The reversion whereof I leave to my wife. If it please God and his good Lordship of Chester to admitt my sone Richard to my parsonage of Thurstanton, by virtue of an advowson granted by Deane and Chapter, then I charge him with twenty poundes to each of his sisters Jane, Gainor, and Elisabeth, and tenne poundes to each of his brethren Robert, David, Peter, George, or els I charge the advowson with them.

The house, garden, and [pat] Mayes-y-vralthen-wis to my wife I leave for her tyme, then to my sone Richard and his heirs. The moyte of Caire Menocke I leave to my wife, likewise the moyte of Gabriel's ground and the other moyte to my 8 daughters. Household stuff betweene mother and 8 daughters. I leave cattails and corne between wife and daughters and four younger sonnes. An advowson graunted mee by the Bishop of Chester on the vicarage of Backford, I leave to my wife and four younger boyes, the moyte to the mother.

By me Hugh Burches."

(1). Was he in the process of selling this sinecure benefice?

The will was proved Dec. 20th, 1615, by which time he must have been dead, and found at last, we hope, rest and peace. The gift of the advowson by the Dean and Chapter is explained by a deed of gift of the next presentation (1) to Nicholas Hookes, gent. of Conway in Carnarvon, and Thomas Johnes of Pen-y-Werme in Denbigh, 1609. They were probably friends of Mr. Burohes (which agrees with his supposed Welsh origin); in any case Thomas Johnes fulfilled his dying wish by presenting

E.—RICHARD BURCHES.

his eldest son, to the Benefice of Thurstonston on April 29th, 1616. In the vacancy of the See of Chester, he was admitted and instituted by Tobias [Matthew], Archbishop of York, and inducted by Rev. David Yale, D.O.L., May 15th, and paid his first fruits October 4th, 1617.

As the last Incumbency illustrated the growing conflict with Puritanism, this illustrates the growing exactions of the king, to make up for supplies, cut short by Parliament. Besides the payment to the king of the *Firstfruits*, i.e., the first year's clear income of an incumbency, and the *tenth* of it annually (in the case of Thurstonston, 18s. 4d.) we find the following contributions. In 1622 there was a *Contribution of the clergy of Chester towards the recovery of the Palatinates*. To this however "Mr. Burohes," of Thurstonston, contributed nil, though West Kirby sent £5, Heswall, £3, etc. In 1624 there was a subsidy: towards this the Rector of Thurstonston (R. Burohes or Sion Venables?) paid £1 4s. In 1634-5-6, the clergy contributed towards the repairs of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. The rector of Thurstonston paid 6s. 8d. the first year. In 1635 was the first shipmoney of the clergy, the Rector of Thurstonston paid £1 4s. In 1636 the second shipmoney, Thurstonston 11s. 1d.; also the Rector paid £1 10s. in aid of the war against the Scotch, in 1639. Nor did the lady escape. There was a subsidy from them in 1625 when John Whitmore paid xs. viiij, Simon Warton xliis liiij both of Thurstonston [W.N.Q. I. 89], William Ball and Thomas Younge, both of Irby, paid viiis. each. A new expedient was tried in 1631. Commissioners were sent round to compel the gentry to receive knighthood, but to avoid the many fees, John Whitmore, gent. paid £15 and William Ball of Irby £10.

F.—SION VENABLES (2)

Nothing has been discovered to reveal the end or fate of Mr. Richard Burohes; but the next document which we come across chronologically introduces us to a very interesting or startling episode in the history of Thurstonston—no less than litigation and contention over the living. We had better begin by giving a translation of the document in question which is a presentation.

"CHARLES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland to the rev. father in CHRIST, JOHN (3) by divine permission bishop of Chester etc. To the Rectory of Thurstonston alias Thurstonington of your diocese, now for the last time and of right vacant at our presentation be-

longing to us this turn through lapse of time we present to you our beloved in CHRIST, SION VENABLES, clerk, M.A. etc. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters patent to be made, myself being witness at Westminster 11 July in the 9th year of our reign [1633]."

So far all is clear. Through the death or departure of Mr. Richard Burohes, the rectory of Thurstonston has been vacant, and so long vacant that the patronage has by lapse of time fallen to the crown, and the crown appoints Mr. Sion Venables. From documents we are coming to, we gather that he was of a yeoman family of Nantwich, possibly an offshoot of the old county family of Venables, of Kinderton. He had also some connection with Sir Randolph Crewe, of Crewe Hall, probably in respect of being his chaplain. And there is evidence that Mr. Venables may have been at Thurstonston previously as curate or *locum tenens*, for in the subsidy list for 1624, the name of "Rich. Buroges" (its last appearance) is crossed out and "Sion Venables" written instead. However, in spite of the royal presentation, the Bishop seems to have refused, or at least to have delayed, to admit and institute Sion Venables for nearly a year, as we see from our next documents, the first of which is "The humble petition of Bryan Lascells, clerk," "delivered at Ebor, 11 Apr., 1634." It runs thus:—

"To the right Reverend Father in God John by Divine providence Lo: Bp. of Chester . . . The humble petition etc . . . most humbly

Sheweth unto y^r good Lordship y^t yo^r Honor^e petitione^r in whose name and behalf a presentation of the Rectory of Thurstonston was tendered unto y^r Lo:pp from the right Hon^{ble} John Lo: Darcy of the North doth now humbly tender himself unto yo^r Lo:pp's Integrity and Wisdom petitioning with all dew reverence yo^r honorable Lawfull favor in the Institution and Induction of him into the aforesaid Rectory whose rights as yo^r humble applicant hopeth both in his rightful tytel and qualification are and shall be made apparent unto yo^r Honor^e. And yo^r Lo:pp's pet^r ever mindfull of yo^r honorable favor petitioning yo^r honorable positive answer shall for ever pray for y^r Lo: pp longe life increase p^r [power] honor and eternal glory."

This explains the mystery of "the lapse of time" By some means the right of next presentation has got into the hands of "Lord Darcy of the North," (1) who presents Mr. Lascells, but the Bishop refuses to admit, institute, or induct him. This second mystery is explained by the fact which transpires from the Commonwealth survey that Mr. Lascells is a *blind man*. The Bishop justly resists the patron, and in consequence of the delay the king steps in and presents Sion Venables; but now on the other hand the Bishop is afraid to institute Sion Venables for fear that Lord Darcy in the litigation already set on foot, might vindicate his right at law and obtain heavy damages. Hence he waits till he finds further authority in a mandamus, which is dated the day after Mr. Lascell's humble petition.

R. B. RACKHAM.

(To be Continued.)

(1) We cannot help noticing how frequently the next presentation of Thurstonston has been given away.

(2) Sion is probably due to the puritan fashion of giving Biblical names.

(3) John Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester from 1619 to 1652.

(1) This right is however contested, as will be seen later on.

NOVEMBER 17th. 1634.

[74.] NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF WIGAN
TASTON IN THE 16th AND 17th CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 73—See 21.)

"Omnium, by divine grace, king of England etc. to the rev. father in Christ, James, by divine permission Bishop of Chester, health. Though lately by our brief, we have prohibited you from admitting any person to the church of Thurston or Thurstonston, [now] waston, and commencing the advowson of which a dispute has been started in our court, before our Justices of Chester at Chester, between John Lord Dunny of the North and Richard Archbishop of York, you, and Simon Venables clerk (as it was said, until it had been discussed in the same court whether the advowson of the same church belonged to the aforesaid John Lord Dunny or to the aforesaid Richard Alp of York, you, and Simon Venables clerk: notwithstanding however, through the information of our Justices aforesaid, we are assured that no decision is pending in the aforesaid court before them between John Lord Dunny of the North, and Richard Alp of York, you, and Simon Venables, concerning the aforesaid advowson, we charge (mandamus) you to faithfully perform that which you know to appertain to your office in this part, our prohibition notwithstanding. Dated etc. at Chester the 12th of April in the 10th year of our reign [1634]."

In consequence of this mandamus, Mr. Venables was admitted and instituted at once, but not before he had given his bond to indemnify the Bishop in case of any future adverse decision, as follows (the first part is in Latin, the second paragraph in English):

"Let all know by these presents that we Simon Venables clerk, rector of the parish church of Thurston alias Thurston in co. Chester, and Richard Venables of Wigh Malbank alias Hampwick in the said Co. of Chester, yeomen, are held and firmly bound to the rev. father and lord in X^o, lord John Bridgeman by divine providence bishop of Chester in 300 pounds of good and lawful English money to be paid to the same rev. father or to his sure attorney, executors, administrators, or successors. To make which payment well and faithfully we bind ourselves and each one of us by himself for the whole and our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals, given 15th day of April, in the 10th year of the reign of our lord Charles etc. A.D. 1634.

The condition of this obligation is such that the above bounden Simon Venables, clerk, is admitted and instituted to the rectory of Thurston, al^o Thurston aforesaid, at the presentation of the king's most excellent Majesty aforesaid: If therefore the sd Simon Venables, clerk, in case his matie's title to the said benefice shall happen to be in law evicted, do surrender and give upp into the hands of the said lord Bp the letters of Institution [?] to him granted to be cancelled or otherwise ordered as shall seem fitt unto him the sd lord Bp and likewise to save, defend, and harmlesse keepe the same lord

Bishop and all his officers and ministers against all persons and from all damages, troubles and contentions we shall or may suffer under him or them by reason of the sd institution, upon this obligation or the void and of none effect or else to stand and remaine in full force and virtue in law.

Sealed, subscribed, and delivered, in presence of

Edward Burnell, Simon Venables,
John Davies, Richard Venables."

The troubles of the unhappy Mr. Venables, however, were not yet at an end. After obtaining all these legal opinions and authority, his actual entrance into his parish church meets with another unlooked for obstacle, viz., a third party in actual possession, as his own plaintive letter will most plainly set forth. It is dated from - Crewe, April 23rd, 1634, being a Wednesday.

"Most renowned father in God, my very good Lord,

I humbly beseeche y^e Ldp not to conceive it to bee impudence in me, that I write not in person on y^e Ldp (1) unto whom I am bound not only by oath and duty, but also the indubitable trust of thankfulness. Sr Randolph Crewe goes tomorrow towards London, being hanted therunto beyond his expectation, of wch I will certifie y^e Ldp the next weeke (God willing) wch kindnes me seem waiting on y^e Ldp at this tyme wch offence I doubt not but your Ldp's goodness hath forgiven. My good Lord first concerning my Lord's entering into bond for your Ldp's securitie, (as I promised y^e Ldp) he doth not denie it out of any furbessness, but conceives that it may prove in him to bee maintenance, being that there is a reason betwixt him and mee (2). But for that my Lord care not, I will (God willing) the next weeke bring y^e Ldp sufficient securitie, and leave (if y^e Ldp please) all my power in y^e Ldp's hands (3).

Mr. Warden (4) had made an appearance for mee this mornig (5), and no declaration is put in ag^t mee, nor (I hope) will not bee, the judges (as I heare) wondering a blind man (6) should have any title, and inclining to a composition, as I am informed.

May it please y^e Ldp, on Fryday last (7) I took possession of Thurston, and on Saturday in the evening read prayers, as in duty I ought to doe (8), but on Sunday (9) Mr. Borden interrupted me and would not suffer me to read prayers neither in the morning nor evening.

I am advised by Sr. Raa. Crewe to desire y^e Ldp for a speciall command to bring Mr. Borden in before y^e Ldp to shewe cause wherefore I may not

(1) We must remember that Bishop John Bridgeman was also rector of Wigan which was his general residence, and would be almost as near Crewe as Chester.

(2) Is this a blood relationship, or such as e.g. holding the office of chaplain?

(3) We have seen that in the bond of April 15th Richard Venables had become his security, and perhaps this bond had not yet been delivered to the Bishop—or he may be referring to the subsequent bond of June 23rd.

(4) He also had a claim to the Presentation *vide infra*.

(5) Probably this refers to the litigation in the court of Chester already mentioned.

(6) *i.e.*, Mr. Lassells. Their Lordships agreed with the Bishop's view of the matter.

(7) April 18 (remembering it is old style).

(8) We notice the recognized duty of daily prayer in Church.

(9) End Sunday after Easter, April 24.

have and enjoy quiet possession. I humbly beseech yr Ldp to grant it mee, and send it mee by this bearer, and I will serve it upon him the next Sabbath day (1), requiring him to waite upon yr Ldp as yr Ldp shall appoint, wch I desire may bee on Wednesday or Thursday. If I take a citacon out agt him, it will be long before I shall have an end, and I desire so soone as conveniently I could to bee with my lord Keeper to certifie him of yo^r Ldp's noble favor towards me. Mr. Bordman is too wilfull, and therefore I beseeche yr Ldp to take it into yr consideration, and so shall yr Ldp for ever bind mee yr poore servant to pray on my knees for yr Ldp, wch I will never faile to doe, humbly taking leave and rest,

Y^r Ldp's in all duty
Sion Venables."

Sir RANDULPH CREWE, born in 1658, was an interesting personage. By his labours and success in the legal profession, he not only restored the fortunes of his family, purchased the manor of Crewe, and built Crewe Hall, but in 1625 (Jan. 25) was appointed Lord Chief Justice. In the first year of king Charles he refused to consent to an illegal loan suggested by the king's advisers, for which he was deprived of his office Nov. 9, 1626. Henceforth he lived in private life, for the most part in his house at Westminster, seeking readmission into the king's favour, but without effect. He died Jan. 18, 1646.

A notice of the rev. GABRIEL BOARDMAN has already appeared in W.N. & Q. Vol I. No. 97. He was vicar of Bidston from 1632 to 1647. How then he appears at Thurston is a mystery. He signs the transcript of the Thurston Registers for 1638 as Rector, and so is a third claimant for the Rectory; but his "wilfull" conduct above recorded confirms his reputed behaviour at Bidston, for which he was expelled by the Parliamentary Commissioners in 1647.

What steps the Bishop took we do not know, but Mr. Venables succeeded in securing peaceable possession. The legal knots were probably solved by the Bishop himself presenting, or as it is termed in case of the Bishop "collating" him to the benefice, for we find another bond dated June 23rd, in which Sion Venables is his own security for £200. It runs much in the same terms as the other with this alteration: "whereas the above bounden Sion Venables is now admitted to the Rectory, etc. . . . by the collation of the right reverend father in God, the Lord Bishop of Chester, aforesaid, etc."

Mr. Venables paid his first fruits on May 17th, 1634. He paid the contribution to St. Paul's Cathedral (8s. 8d.) and the ship money (£1 4s. 0d.) in 1635, and signed the Transcript of the Register for 1634.

But alas! like Henry Tottie, Sion Venables did not live to enjoy the fruits of his struggles, for he died at the end of 1635 or beginning of 1636. We find the administration of his goods granted to Elizabeth, his widow and relict, on 29th March, 1636.

R. B. RACKHAM.

NOVEMBER 18th, 1893.

[275] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTON IN THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 274—November 11th.)

G.—EDWARD BOLD.

The death of Sion Venables opened the door for another struggle for the Rectory. The Dean and Chapter had in the meantime given the next presentation to two new claimants, who without delay on Jan. 21, 1636, present Mr. EDWARD BOLD. We give their deed in full as a specimen of a presentation.

"To the reverend father and lord in CHRIST, JOHN, by divine permission bishop of Chester or to anyone else whosoever having power in this part to admit this our presentation Your humble und devoted THOMAS CHOLMONDELEY of Vale Royal in the Co. of Chester, Esq. and JOHN WARDEN of the City of Chester in the Co. of Chester, gent [send] all manner of reverence and obedience due to and worthy of so reverend a father with honour. To the rectory and parish church of THURSTON in the Co. of Chester of your diocese of Chester now vacant through the natural death of SION VENABLES clerk, last incumbent there, and belonging to our presentation on the strength of a certain advowson made over and conceded to us for this time by the venerable men the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of CHRIST and the blessed virgin MARY of Chester true and undoubted patrons of the said rectory and parish church Our beloved in CHRIST, EDWARD BOLD clerk, master of arts, we present by tenor of these presents to your reverend paternity, humbly asking that you may think fit with favour to admit the said EDWARD BOLD to the said rectory and parish church and to institute him rector of the same and induct him into the same and to invest him with all its rights, members and appurtenances, and to perform and fulfil all the rest which is incumbent on your pastoral office in this part. In witness whereof we here affix our seals manual to these presents, given on the 21st day of January in the 11th year of the reign of our lord Charles by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith etc and in the year of our Lord (English style) 1635 [i.e. 1636].

The Cholmondeley. Jo. Werden."

Mr. Bold's bond in £200 is also dated Jan 22nd.

Meantime the news has reached York and, though Lord Darcy is now dead, "Elizabeth Lady Darcy of Acton in the Co. of York widow, relict, and sole executrix of the noble John Darcy lately defunct" claims to be "true and undoubted patron for this time only" and "with full right" presents again "her beloved in Christ BRIAN LASCELLS M.A." to his lordship's paternity, praying him to admit and institute Mr. Lascells: dated at York 7 March, 1636, delivered to the bishop March 25. Her prayer was in vain for at the bottom of the first document we read "22 Januarii 1635 [6] Fiat Institutio. Jo. Cestrien."

(1) 3rd Sunday after Easter, April 27,

As Rector, Mr. Bold paid his first fruits on 29 March 1686: also ship money in 1686—11s. 1d., and contribution for the Scotch War in 1689—£1 10s. 0d., to which we must add the tenth every year—13s. 4d.

The Bolds was a gentle family of Upton, and PETER BOLD who died in 1605 gave the name of EDWARD to his fifth son—no doubt our Rector. He went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. on 7 July 1624, his M.A. 5 July 1627. He would seem not to have resided in Thurston when Rector, for a curate THOMAS SMALLWOOD signs the transcript for 1638, PETER GLOBUS curate of West Kirby that for 1639. In 1641 Mr. Bold left us to become Rector of Hawarden where he died, being buried in the Church on 5 Jan. 1655.

H.—BRIAN LASCELLS.

Perseverance cannot fail of its reward, and on the resignation of Mr. Bold, the Dean and Chapter had compassion on Mr. Lascells, who had perhaps obtained the influence of the Bishop of Lincoln to back him (see below), and presented him to the living. Being thus presented for the third time and this time by "true and undoubted patrons" the bishop could no longer resist, and in his Act Book we read:

"On the 28th day of October, 1641, BRIAN LASCELLS, clerk, M.A., was admitted and instituted to and into the Rectory and Parish Church of THURSTON in the Co. of Chester at the presentation of the Dean of the Cath. Church of Xt and B.V.M. and of the Chapter of the same Church, true and undoubted patrons of the said Church by the rev. father etc JOHN bishop of Chester."

His first fruits were paid 5 Feb 1642.

What, we now ask, did Mr. Lascells do? Did he employ a curate? The living could hardly have afforded that, and he seems to have been residing certainly in 1648. In that year the wave of religious change stirred the Wirral clergy into action. The Presbyterians were now in the ascendant, and they pressed upon the country adhesion to the Solemn League and Covenant. Accordingly on May 2nd, 1648, the ministers of Cheshire drew up *An Attestation to the Testimony of our Reverend Brethren of the province of London to the Truth of Jesus Christ and to our Solemn League and Covenant*, which was signed on July 6th by 59 ministers, including ten from the Wirral—and among them was "BRYAN LASCELLS, minister of Thurston." It had been previously signed by clergy and laity in many parishes in the Wirral, e.g. at Woodchurch, on March, 16, 1646, and the list of signatures has been printed in Wirral N. & Q. I. 105. It contains no doubt some names from Irby, certainly many of the BALLS sign, and from this time the Balls of Irby appear as a leading Dissenting family (see Wirral N. & Q. I. 98, 134 n. 3). The Presbyterians were opposed to the Independents, and it is with much interest that we read the following paragraph in the *Attestation* of 1648: "Though we acknowledge divers of our brethren of the Independent way to be learned, godly, charitable, and kind to their Presbyterian brethren . . . yet as we take the tenet of Independency to be an error in itself, so do we find it by sound reason and sad experience to be, if not the natural mother, yet such a tender nurse and patroness to heretical opinions of

all kinds that to it we may ascribe the Incuriant growth and spreading of errors, heresies, &c. so far over this kingdom. We hope the godly, both Presbyterians and Independents, will be so wise as to beware of such a breach as may encourage and confirm their enemies, whether popish, prelatical, or profane, against them both."

The case of a blind man always moves our compassion, but undoubtedly a blind man is not a "fit and suitable person" to hold a living. The unhappy Mr. Lascells also seems rather too ready to sacrifice his principles to obtain a livelihood. Having enjoyed noble and prelatical patronage, he now is ready to sign the Covenant. We may be doing him an injustice however, and he may have always had Presbyterian sympathies. But in any case the result was unfortunate. The next year with Cromwell the Independents came into power. A Parliamentary commission in 1649 enquired into the condition of the Church, and of Thurston the commissioners report "there is one Mr. Bryan Lascells, a blinde man, minister there whoe was presented by the Bishop of Lincoln and some other lords, and was instituted and inducted about the xxxth December 1641." They make an error of fact as to the presentation, but it may suggest that "the Bishop of Lincoln and other lords" had used their influence on Mr. Lascells' behalf. This report sounds very unfavourable to Mr. Lascells. What happened to him? Was he, like so many others, ejected from his living? We fancy not. Nothing more is heard of him, and during the Commonwealth the history of Thurston is all but a blank, but we hear of no other Rector till 1656, so that Mr. Lascells may well have been left in possession till then, and indeed he may have ended his days in Thurston.

I.—JOHN WATTS.

On May 20th, 1656, JOHN WATTS paid first fruits as Rector of Thurston. This is our first intimation of a new Rector, about whom there is still much uncertainty. The transcripts of the registers which are missing since 1649 begin again in 1658, but in 1658, 59, 60 they are signed by the churchwardens (John Annon, Richard Hankin) without the signature of a Rector. However, Mr. Urwick, in his history of Nonconformity in Cheshire, tells us that a Mr. WATTS was minister at Thurston in 1662, and Calamy reckons him among the "faithful Two Thousand," that is those who resigned their livings rather than begin again to use the Prayer Book on St. Bartholomew's Day 1662. Mr. Watts, however, did not retire from Thurston. JOHN WATTS signs the Transcript of 1666, and the next presentation speaks of the living as "vacant through the natural death of WILLIAM WATTS clerk, late Rector and incumbent there." Hence Mr. Watts must have been one of the exceptions allowed to the king, or Calamy is mistaken.

K.—JOHN GROOME (or GROOMS)

On Nov. 6. 1668 "Piersens Lewis of Bodavan Co. Anglesey, true and undoubted patron etc. by virtue of a concession made by the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral of the next presentation only" presents "his beloved in CHRIST, JOHN GROOMS deacon of Brae Nose Coll. Oxon, B.A." to the rev.

JOHN [WILKINS] lord bishop of Chester to be instituted and inducted to the Rectory of Thurstaston. This John Groom was a native of Slope in Shropshire, and had matriculated at E.N.O. Oxford July 1, 1664 at the age of 16, being described as *pleb. fil. (plebeii filius)*. In 1668 he took his B.A. degree, was made deacon, and presented to the Rectory of Thurstaston—at the age of 20. Perhaps his age was the cause of the Bishop's refusal to admit him, or it may have been some technical irregularity. Any how he did not obtain the Rectory until the following year. Then "on the 18th Sept. a.d. 1669 in the Palace of the Lord Bishop of Chester" John Groom was admitted and instituted to Thurstaston by the Bishop "at the collation of the said lord bishop belonging to him through lapse of time." It is doubtful whether Mr. Groom came at once into residence, at any rate he does not sign the transcripts till 1675, when his name appears as JOHN GROOMS. For some reason or other he resigned the living in 1679.

R. B. BACKHAM.

(To be continued.)

NOVEMBER 25th, 1898.

[276] NOTES ON THE RECTORS OF THURSTASTON IN THE 16th & 17th CENTURIES.

(Continued from No. 275—November 18th.)

L.—WILLIAM THOMPSON,

a canon of Chester Cathedral, was next presented by the Dean and Chapter. It is the only instance of a canon having received this small living, and it seems to show that he was only formally appointed to cover some irregularity. For the name of JOHN GROOM simply (no longer "Rector") appears on the transcript for 1680. That there had been some irregularity, and its character, is shown by the presentation deed of

M.—ROBERT BRADSHAW

who was instituted on February 2nd, 1688, "at the presentation of our lord king CHARLES II. etc." to the parish church of Thurstaston "vacant for this time through the depravity of simony." So there was probably some simony connected with the appointment of John Grooms, which led first perhaps to the delay in his institution, then to his resignation, and perhaps thirdly to the technically irregular presentation of William Thompson. Mr. Grooms retired to Oughton: a son of his (John) was baptized in Bidston Church on Nov. 20, 1684: and he himself was buried in Bidston Churchyard the following year, June 4, 1685, at the age of 87.

Our new rector had the honour of dining with bishop Cartwright, James II's nominee and tool (bishop of Chester 1686-1689), as we learn from the latter's diary. "1686. Dec. 22, Mr. Bradshaw, rector of Thurstaston, dined with me. I gave him a note to the Chancellor to provide him a parish clerk." Mr. Bradshaw died in 1689, and was buried in the

church under the Holy Communion Table (as it would be better described than). He is the only rector before Mr. Fish (ob. 1858) whom we know for certain to have been buried in Thurstaston. His stone is still to be seen bearing this inscription: ROBERTVS BRADSHAW, RECTOR THURSTASTONENSIS, HOC SVBTER SALVX RITVS SEPVLTVS ERAT 17 DIE JVLII, 1689 (R. B. Rector of Thurstaston, was duly buried beneath this stone, 17 July, 1689). His successor,

N.—PETER MORREY

was an interesting person, an account of whom has already appeared in Wirral N. & Q. (No. 168), so we need only mention these facts. He had been ordained deacon in 1680, priest in 1684, so he may have been now 32 or perhaps only 29. He was a minor canon of Chester Cathedral and had been rebuked by bishop Cartwright for "reflecting imprudently on the king's religion" in a sermon preached in the Cathedral Jan. 31, 1687. However he "promised amendment" and on Sep. 4th "preached a good sermon." He was a friend of the Dean (and also Vicar of Neston) James Arderne who at his death in 1691 left him "my best suit, as gown, cassock, hat, milk stockings, and breeches, which I desire may be given to my curate, Mr. Peter Morrey, and that my executors do take care of his preferment, he leaving a very good place to come to me." Mr. Morrey resigned the Rectory of Thurstaston, in 1691; this was probably to go to Neston, which Vicarage he received 1692, the executors having taken good care of his preferment. But it is possible that he resigned Thurstaston before Dean Arderne's death, with a view of becoming his curate at Neston—and Thurstaston will be the "good place" referred to in the will. Mr. Morrey held the Vicarage of Neston till his death there in 1719.

O.—MILES ATKINSON

was rector from 1692 till his death in 1705. He had a worthy successor in

P.—JOHN HODSON.

Mr. Hodson was eldest son of Sam. Hodson of Christleton, and on Jan. 6, 1697 married Dorothy, daughter of Geo. Hookenhall of Prenton. His incumbency fills the first half of the eighteenth century (1705-1752), during the whole of which time he was resident at Thurstaston. He procured the earliest of the existing register books, which he kept in a very clear and neat hand. From it we learn much about his family, several of his children died young, and his daughters married neighbouring yeomen—one a Hough of Oldfield, a family which is still living there. One of his sons was curate at West Kirby, another was licensed to himself in 1730. One of his great grandchildren became Principal of Brasenose Coll. Oxon. a fit return to a college which, as we have seen, has given many rectors to Thurstaston. In 1747 having been for some time without assistance, through failing eyesight, he engaged Mr. Robinson the schoolmaster at West Kirby as curate. His wife died before him, and we are able to see, in the change of his handwriting in the Register, the effect of that sad loss, and indeed he followed her himself within a year (in 1752).

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THE MEOLS SHORE,
WITH A PORTION OF THE SO-CALLED SUBMARINE FOREST.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY THOMAS THEXTON).

After Mr. Hodson's death the Rectory was held by non-resident minor canons of Chester Cathedral, until the appointment of the Rev. JOHN FREN in 1824, and their history has no local interest for us.

R. B. RACKHAM.

[277] MISS SEWARD'S POEM ON HOYLAKE.

(See No. 269.—October 7th)

The following poem was written by Miss Seward during her visit to Hoylake in 1794.

HOYLE LAKE,

A Poem

Written on that coast, and addressed to its proprietor, Sir John Stanley.

Thee, Stanley, thee, our gladden'd spirit hail,
 Since life's first good for us thy efforts gain,
 Who, habitants of Albion's inland vales,
 Beside far distant from her drooping main.
 These lightsome walls beneath thy generous cares
 Arose, the lawn scene's convivial boast,
 While at thy voice clear-cheek'd Hygeia rears
 Her aqueous altars on this tepid coast.
 This coast, the nearest to our central home,
 That green Britannia's watry zone displays,
 Now gives the drooping frame a cheerful dome,
 Whose Lares smile, and promise lengthen'd days.
 When gather'd fogs the pale horizon steep,
 Falling in heavy, deep, continual rain,
 If, ere the sun shrink shrouded in the deep,
 His crystal rays pervade the vapoury train,
 Dry are the turfy downs, diffusive spread
 O'er the light surface of the sandy mound,
 Where e'en the languid form may safely tread,
 Drink the pure gale, and eye the blue profound.
 Dear scene!—that, stretch'd between the silver arms
 Of Deva and of Mersey, meets the main,
 And, when the sun-gilt day illumines its charms,
 Boasts of peculiar grace, nor boasts in vain.
 Tho' near the beach, dark Helbric's lonely isle
 Reposes sullen in the wat'ry way,
 Hears round her rocks the tides, returning, boil,
 And o'er her dusky sandals dash their spray.
 Mark, to the left, romantic Cambria's coast,
 Her curtain'd mountains rising o'er the floods;
 While seas on Orm's beak'd promontory burst,
 Blue Deva swells her mirror to the woods.
 High o'er that varied ridge of Alpine forms,
 Vast Moel-y-Famman towers upon the sight,
 Lifts her maternal bosom to the storms,
 And screens her filial mountains from their blight.
 Far on the right, the dim Lancastrian plains,
 In pallid distance, glimmer thro' the sky,
 Tho' hid by jutting rocks, thy splendid fanes,
 Commercial Liverpool, elude the eye.
 Wide in the front the confluent oceans roll,
 Amid whose restless billows guardian Hoyle,
 To screen her azure Lake when tempests howl,
 Spreads the firm texture of her amber Isle.

And tho' the surging tide's resistless waves
 Roll, day and night, its level surface o'er,
 Tho' the skies darken, and the whirlwind raves,
 They froth—but rush innocuous to the shore.
 When fear-struck seaman, 'mid the raging flood
 Hear thundering Shipwreck yell her dire decrees
 See her pale arm rend every sail and shroud,
 And o'er the high mast lift her whelming seas,
 If to thy quiet harbour, gentle Hoyle,
 The shatter'd navy thro' the tempest flies,
 Each joyous mariner forgets his toil,
 And carols to the vainly angry skies.
 What tho' they vex the Lake's cerulean stream,
 And curl its billows on the shelly floor,
 Yet, in despite of Fancy's timid dream,
 Age and infirmity may plunge a-cure.
 How gay the scene when Spring's fair mornings break.
 Or Summer-noons illumine the grassy mound,
 When anchor'd navies crowd the peopled Lake,
 Or deck the distant oceans skiey bound!
 Like leafless forests, on its verge extreme
 Rise the tall masts—or spreading wide their sails,
 Silvering and shining in the solar beam,
 Stand on that last blue line and court the gales.
 The peopled Lake, of song, and lively cheer.
 And boatswain's whistle bears the jovial sound;
 While rosy pennants, floating on the air,
 Tinge the soft seas of glass that sleep around.
 'Twas on these Downs, the Belgian hero spread
 His ardent legions in auspicious hours,
 Ere to Ierne's hostile shores he led
 To deathless glory their embattled powers.
 When, like the conqueror of the Eastern World,
 That stamm'd with dauntless breast the Granic
 flood,
 His victor-sword, immortal WILLIAM whirl'd,
 And Boyne's pale waters dyed with rebel blood.
 Since now, to health devoted, this calm shore
 Breathes renovation in its foamy wave,
 For the kind Donor shall each heart explore,
 The good his energies to others gave.
 That long on him clear-cheek'd Hygeia's smile
 And long on all he loves, serene may shine,
 Who from thy sparkling coast, benignant Hoyle,
 Diffused the blessings of her crystal shrine

F.S.

DECEMBER 2nd, 1893.

[278] THE MEOLS SHORE.

On Thursday the 16th Nov. Mr. Charles Potter, whose researches on the Meols Shore are well known, exhibited at the meeting of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, the remains of three wooden bowls, taken from the upper deposit of marine silt, or clay, overlying the peat beds, popularly known as the "Submarine Forest." Two of these appear to be of fir-wood, and one of sycamore, or willow, their size being almost nine,

or twelve inches, respectively. When found they were well formed, and nearly perfect, but have since shrunk. The two smaller bowls have the appearance of being turned, the other was scooped out. The main interest of these bowls does not however consist in their make, but in the evidence they give of their age, and of the changes that have taken place in the formation and condition of the land, since they were deposited where they were found. All these utensils were taken from a bed of blue clay silt, a marine deposit abounding in marine shells of a known species, which still exists. These shells are found with their valves together, and set upright, which is the natural position they took when living, their habit being to burrow in the mud, over the surface of which they protruded their tentacles. The fact that they are so placed and that they are not separated, or broken, or laid promiscuously, proves conclusively that at the time the bowls were embedded in the silt, the bed occupied a tidal estuary, covered at flood tide with salt or brackish water, or probably forming salt pools on a sea beach. Above this bed of silt is a trace of a thinner one containing remains of fresh water shells, showing that from some cause, the sea had retired, and the low land was in part covered by shallow lagoons of fresh water. Together with these are to be found faint traces of marsh vegetation, and over these again a bed of surface soil, that contains many remains of cultivation and traces of human habitation, out of which the major part of the antiquities gathered from the Meolse shore are washed by the tide as the land is wasted by the fretting of the sea. Above this old land surface is piled the drift sand of the sandhills, on whose surface, some twelve to twenty feet above the old cultivated surface, are cottages, some of which are of a considerable age. Thus we have the series of beds succeeding each other like the leaves of a diary, each containing the record written upon it, in the form of its remains, the separate history of its era. But this set of strata, which we have begun and counted upwards from the marine deposits, have below them, first, a peat moss full of tree roots, and fallen timber, embedded in it, around which once grew a strong growth of marsh plants, and still below this another and deeper peat bed, with an intervening bed of clay and shells, all now far below the level of high water. Here then is proof, that at some remote successive periods both these beds of peat, with growing marsh plants, subsided beneath the sea; that the ground was a second time upheaved, and a new growth of peat (the upper forest bed) was formed; then came a second subsidence, that dipped the upper peat again below the waters. With these geological movements as a whole, we have only to deal indirectly. We seek here only to know whether the period of any of them can be approximately dated, and we come to our bowls, to tell their part of the history. It is not quite the earliest leaf in our book, but nearly so. In the upper peat beds are relics of man, in the form of rough burnt stones, and the traces of the hunted beasts of which man made his food. Over these lie the marine clay, and shells, into which while the waters of the sea covered the land, these wooden utensils sank, and were lost, in the mud that has preserved them. That this happened at a period previous to that which we call British (probably

in the neolithic, or early stone age) is shown by the fact that, with a short interval of fresh water, the sea has become dry land (and upon its surface soil are the circular huts of the British occupants, which the wasting of the same hills reveals from time to time. One such was said to have recently been disclosed, and several have been seen at previous times. From the rubbish heaps that adjoin these ancient dwellings, have lately been taken fragments of early green glazed pottery, of Saxon character, a small clasp of bronze, such as was used to fasten together the scales or plates of armour, together with the shells of shellfish, and bones, the remains of the food of the ancient inhabitants. Again, at a higher level, are found the stones and floors of rude houses of mediæval date, from which relics are taken which seem to bring the occupation down to about the middle of the Plantagenet era, after which such remains of habitation cease. The latest remains are now just below the level of high tides, and the British still lower, proving that the last movement has been one of subsidence, in this strange history of submergence and elevation of the land surfaces. Thus we have read from the leaves of our natural diary, first, from its vegetable and marine, and animal and natural remains, the tale of the geological movements, while from their place in the various strata, the relics of man's occupation have told us, approximately, the dates during which they were associated with man's existence. First the hunter's fires and spoils; then the bowls, sunk and lost in the shallow sea that overwhelmed the former, and then again the dry land, cultivated by Briton, and Saxon, and English hands, and last the decline again towards the ocean. So from the less to the greater the lesson lies open to the learner, from the atom to the highest organism. From the poor wooden bowl lost in the sea by some primeval man is written his place history in the world, and the tale of those mighty forces of nature, that moulded the outlines of the world out of Chaos.

E. W. Cox.

[279] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1598.

(See Nos. 241, 247, 249, 265, 267.)

DECANATUS DE WIRRAL.

Coram ven'ble viro Magro Davido Yale, in legibus Doctore 7 Septembris 1598.

MORRETON CAPPELLA.

Contra Robertum Wade, Willmum Hancocke et Willmum Pamberton:—

Doe utterlie refuse to contribute to the said Chappell. The said Parties appeared and the Judge hathe enjoined them to pale accordinge as heretofore they have done to the said Chappell sub pena Juris.

EASTHAM PAROCHIA.

Contra Decanum et AP' 6:—

They have no quarter sermones.
The Ladie Elizabeth Stanley cometh not to Church.

Contra Willmum Tompson, Jacobum Waywright :—
Kept typling at service tyme.

WOODCHURCH PAROCHIA.

Contra uxorem[-?] Edwardi Ravenscroft generos :—
Did not communicate at Easter laste. Respect
natur, because shee has promised to co'cate in con-
venient [?] tyme.

Contra Edwardum Ravenscroft et ejus uxorem :—
Non cohabitant.

BACKFORD PAROCHIA.

Contra Gardianos ibidem :—
The bodie of the Church wanteth slatings.

Contra Mrs Glasser, wief to Hugh Glasser gent,
Came not to Church to Backford.

Contra Johannem Mannie generosum et ejus uxorem :—
Did not coicate at Easter laste but Recceyved at
Potington his brothers house.

BRINGTON PAROCHIA.

Contra Rectorem ibidem :—
Hath three Benefices.

WEST KIRKE PAROCHIA.

Contra Thomam Gill for sufferinge his cattell to
defile the Churchyard and Porch and he keepeth
ale to sell in the Parsonage house.

Contra Rectorem ibidem :—
Did never read devyne Service in his P'ishe Church
the Parson never preached neyther have they foure
sermons quarterly, nor resident nor distributeth
the xith parte.

Contra Curatum ibidem :—
Somewhat addicted to the Alehouse and insuffi-
cient: Quo die etc: and because ytt appeareth he
has served longe there and yf there bee anye faul-
t in hym hee will amende ytt, the Judge upon hope of
amendment hay made a tryall of hym unless there
bee further complaints made, and hath enjoyed
hym to apply his place dutifullie.

Contra Annam Malbon viduam, Xpoforum Bennet :—
Did not co'cate laste Easter by reason of the in-
sufficiency of the Curate.

OVERCHURCH PAROCHIA.

Contra Petrum Wilkinson :—
Non licenciat and doth not enter into the Register
Booke all marriages and Xpenings.

Contra Gardianos ibidem :—
They wante Mr. Juells apologie, a beckerham
covering for the Table, and a poore man's boxe.

Contra firmam :—
No quarter sermons in defalte of Peter Bold, gent.

BROMBORO' PAROCHIA.

Contra Gard : ibidem
They want Mr. Juell's apologie.

Contra Petrum Pillington :— a swearer.
To do penance one day in the P'ish Church.

WALLASIE.

BURTON.

Want Juells Replie and Apologie.

NESTON.

Want Juells Replie and Apologie.

Contra Aliotam uxorem Willmi Whitmore armigeri
Janam Christianam et Eleanoram filias predicti

Willmi Whitmore armigeri :—
Absent themselves from Church. Respectantur
Domino.

Contra Willmum Whitmore armigerum et Annam
Winstanley :—did not coicate at Easter laste.

(To be Continued)

DECEMBER 9th, 1893.

[280] A WIRRAL CHILD MARRIAGE.

(See Nos. 188 and 202.)

Some months ago, there appeared accounts of two
early marriages between the families of Stanley of
Hooton, and Dutton of Hatton, in which the con-
tracting parties were all aged from 10 to 12. The
following interesting depositions are from an earlier
MS. volume, preserved at the Bishop's Registry
(1548-54), and relate to a still more youthful mar-
riage, the bridegroom being of the mature age of
threes.

The Parres of Backford, probably a branch of the
Parres of Parre in Lancashire, had been settled in
Backford for several generations. The Robert Parre
mentioned in the depositions was son of William
Parre of Backford, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter
and heiress of Thomas Barrow of Chester: he mar-
ried eventually Elizabeth daughter of Robert Lang-
ton of——Co., Lanc., and died about 1582. The
Rogersons were a family of considerable note in
Chester.

It will be seen that the ceremony was not merely
a betrothal, but that the marriage service was
actually gone through in church, though the bride-
groom was so young that his uncle was obliged to
say the words for him.

In printing the document I have given a free
translation of the Latin phrases used, and have in-
dicated their presence by italics.

Olaughton.

W. FRASERSON IAVINX.

Before George Wilmaleye L.L.B. [viii November
1548.]

"The following depositions were taken in a cause
of Divorce, on the part of Robert Parre against
Elizabeth Rogerson.

Gilbert Asmall of the parish of Backford, having
dwelled there 18 years a vi aged about 54, having no
interest, part, in the case etc etc, saies that he was
servint to Mr. Parre the tyme off the marriage off
Robert Parre his sonne with Elnabeth Rogerson
alias Parre which was about ix or x years passed as
far as this deponent remembers at which tyme the
said Robert as he jugis [judges] was betwixt iii and
iiii yeres of age and was born to the Church in the
armes of Edward Bumbarie his uncle.

Interrogated whether the marriage has been con-
summated, this deponent saies yt he has harde the
said Robert att divers and sondrie tymes before he
came to his lawfull age as also syn a yt time saie yt

he would never consent to the same for he said yt his uncle Edward spake the words of matrimonie for hym, and not he, and yt he was hired for an apple bie his uncle to goe to the Churche and as for cohabitation synes ye tyme yt the said Robert came to the age of 14 the said Elisabeth and he were not dwelling in one house together for she was dwelling with hyr frendes in the Citie of Ohester and hee at home with his father att Backford and as for carnall knowledge betwixt the said parties this deponent saies this was no for he beyng servante to the said Mr. Parre contynuing for the moste parte in hys howse dyd knowe very well yt they were never suffered to lie together as he has herde off the parrntis of the said Robert.

And farther off hys knowledge this deponent saies yt hys wiff Margaret [?] this 8 yeres was servante att the Hall of Backford and she has told this deponent yt the said Elisabeth had never love nor favor to the said Robert, for whereas the said Elisabeth and this deponents wiff did lie contynualle ther together iff at any tyme the said Robert came unto the chamber where they twoe dyd lye the sd Elisabeth wold leepe forthe off the bedd and this deponent has herde the saide Elisabethe diverse tymes saye weepinge yt she wold never have the said Robert to hyr husband and wished diverse tymes yt she had parte of hyr moneye ageyne so yt she were ridd from hym etc etc"

Similar evidence is given by Robert Whitley of the Pariah of Backford, who had lived there for 25 years, and was aged about 57—in the course of his depositions he states that Robert Parre "was betwixt iiii and liiii yeres of age and he was borne to the Churche in the armes of his uncle Edward Bunbarie wich helde hym in hys armes the tyme yt he was maried to the said Elisabethe att which tyme the saide Robert colde scarce speke but yet he was cagg't bie the saide Edwarde his uncle etc."

[281] WIRRAL DEANERY IN 1598.

(Continued from No. 279—Decr. 2nd.)

BIDSTON PAROCHIA.

Contra firmarium de Bidston :—

They have had but one Sermon thes three yeares— Respectnatur Dno Eps.

Contra Robertum Ryding :— for not coi'catinge at Easter laste. Quo die comparuit et Dominus injunxit ei to receyve the co'ion orderlie in his own pariahe churche and ytt appeareth hee receyved att Leverpoole et Dominus dimisit eum.

Contra Curatum de Bidston predicto :—

Absent from the Chnroh two holidais and loveth to keepe companie in Alehouses.

Quo die comparuit Curatus and saeth he was absente too dales in seven yeares and has promised hereafter that hee will doe soe noe more and saies that he doth nott use anie Alehouses inconvenient lie.

Dominus dimisit eum, with exhortation and commandment to bee dutifull uppon paine of discharge of his cure.

Contra Arthurum Keirie et Thomam Younge :—

For bowlinge uppon the Saboath daie. Quo die comparuerunt and because ytt appeareth they never dyd boule butt once and then nott att prayer, Dominus dimisit.

Contra Thomam Kempe et ejus uxorem :—

Non cohabitant. Quo die comparuit vir et Dominus injunxit ei to receyve his wifie and to shewe cause.

Contra Margeriam Hare :—

Doth use to blesse thinges :—

Comparuit and ytt is reported that shee is an honest poore woman, dominus injunxit that shee blesse noe more anie cattell.

Contra Johem Erble, Annam Pemberton, Thomam Gill et Joannam Johnson :—fornicators.

Contra Thomam Martyn et Jana M. Smyth als Martyn fornicatores. Quodie comparuit vir et fatetur delictum et allegat that etc, he maried the said Jane and that he liveth with her in the feare of God.

To pale to the poore mans boxe in Bidston Church to the use of the poore ijs. before Michaelmas nexte.

[282] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 252.—Aug. 19.)

THE LEY. [Lea.]

John Royston pro ivli.....iijd.
John Olam [?] pro xis.....id.
John Kyrke pro ivli.....iijd.
Hugone Denwall pro xis.....id.
Edwardo Denwall pro xis.....id.
Robto Scheppart pro xis.....id.
John Grace pro xis.....id.

ORABALL.

Georgio Kyrke pro xlii.....xviijd.
Elisabethe Annyon pro xis.....ijd.
Rico Cowpar pro vii.....xd.
Willmo Huntynon pro ivli.....iiijd.

MOLLYNXTON TARRAT.

Isabela Barrow pro ivli.....iiijd.
Thoma Edmund pro ivli.....iiijd.
Rico Colley pro xis.....id.
John Barrow pro vii.....xd.
Thoma Forshaw pro xis.....ijd.
Margareta Willeston pro xis.....id.
Willmo Johnson pro vii.....xd.
John Sifton pro xlii.....ijd.
John Barrow Junior pro xis.....ijd.
Thoma Barrow pro xis.....ijd.
Agneta Barrow pro xis.....id.
Willmo Barrow pro xis.....iid.

SHORLTON. [Shorlton.]

John Stones pro xis.....id.
John Forshaw pro xlii.....ijd.
Henrico Finlows pro xis.....ijd.
Willmo Trafford pro xis.....jd.

Rico Kyng pro ijijl	iiijd.
Willmo Forshaw pro xls	ijd.
Margeria Forshaw pro xls	ijd.
Agneta Forshaw pro xxs	id.
Rico Grymme pro xxs	id.
Elisabetha Grymme pro xxs	id.
Johe Grymme pro xxs	id.
Robto Oak pro xls	iid.
Robto Kyng pro xxs	id.
Margareta Kyng pro xxs	id.

WHITBY.

Willmo Byrnynton pro ivli	iiijd.
Rico Pye pro vijli	xvjd.
Hugone Whitby [?] pro ivli	iiijd.
Henrico Moston pro ivli	iiijd.
Thoma Bunsell pro viii	xijd.
Jacobo Bunsell pro ivli	iiijd.
Rico Edward pro xxs	id.
Henrico Wyllbye pro ijijl	iiijd.
Johe Knowsley pro iiijli	iiijd.
Robto Rathebon pro iiijli	iiijd.
Rogero Sefton pro iiijli	iiijd.
Johe Deynson pro xxs	id.
Thoma Deynson pro ivli	iiijd.
Robto Deynson pro viii	xijd.
Thoma Hyne pro viiiijl	xvjd.
Willmo Hyne pro xls	ijd.

OKERPOOLE.

Johe Mawris pro viii	xijd.
Thoma Welshman pro ivli	iiijd.
Thoma Barker pro xxs	id.
Elena Gray pro ijijl	iiijd.
Rogero Kyng pro viii	xijd.
Rafe Sparate pro xls	ijd.
Rogero Daynson pro iiijli	iiijd.
Johe Weigeman pro xxs	id.

DECEMBER 16th, 1893.

[263] THE ASSISTANT CURATES OF THURSTASTON.

The records of Thurstaston contain some documents about curates, which throw a good deal of light on the state of things in country parishes last century.

Our notes on the Rectors of Thurstaston ended with the Rev. JOHN HODSON (1705-1752). In 1780 he nominated his son JOHN HODSON B.A. to the Curacy of Thurstaston at a stipend of £20 a year. Most likely this was for the sake of giving his son a title (1) rather than for the need of assistance, for the Rev. John Hodson, jun^r. did not apparently stay long with his father. In any case the Rector had been a long time without a curate, when he wrote the following very interesting letter to his Bishop (Samuel Peploe).

"1747 June 13. Thurstaston.

My Lord,

It was not my design above a month ago, to

(1) No one can be ordained without a title, that is an appointment to a definite post with a definite stipend.

employ the bearer, Mr. ROBINSON, Master of West Kirby School, as an Assistant to me before Michaelmas next; but since then my Eyesight has fail'd me to that Degree, that I am not able but with great Difficulty to discharge my Duty in the Church, and I find it unavoidably necessary to get speedier Assistance, without which the Church Service must be neglected; and therefore I most humbly beg y^r your Lordship will be pleas'd to admit the said Mr. ROBINSON into the sacred Order of Deacons tomorrow, if your Lordship shall find him qualified for that holy Function, from whom I hope to reap the Benefit of a good Assistant, and do promise to allow him the yearly salary of fifteen Pounds, whilst he shall serve my cure,

Who am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's very obedt,

Son and servant,

Jⁿ. HODSON."

Mr. William Robinson's "*Si quis*" (1) had been read in West Kirby Church on June 7th, and we further learn that he had been baptized at Bentham (?) Cheshire, May 17th, 1722, and that his salary as Master of the West Kirby School was "about £30 a year, out of which is paid to an assistant £12 per ann." The Rectory of Thurstaston is estimated at £40 per ann. in the same document.

The letter illustrates the ideas then prevalent as to the preparation necessary before receiving Holy Orders. The Bishop apparently ordained him after this short notice on the following day, and the Rev. W. Robinson became Curate of Thurstaston. In 1749 he was ordained priest, his *Si quis* having been published in the Churches of Thurstaston and West Kirby on Nov. 19, while his testimonial was signed by J^{no}. HODSON, Rector, J^{no}. NONNIS Rector of Heswall, G^{eo}. HODSON, Curate of West Kirby, [?] WHITEKOBAR, ISAAC STALE, and JOHN HARRISON.

Mr. Hodson signed the Registers for the last time in 1747, and in 1752 he was succeeded by the Rev. CHAS. HENCHMAN, but Mr. Robinson remained on as curate till 1758. In the next year we find a petition to the Bishop from an applicant for the vacant curacy, which contains some interesting information about Wirral Schools.

"To the Rt. Rev. Father in God, EDMUND, Ld. Bishop of Chester.

This is to certify your Lordship that I SAMUEL PRIGG who offer myself a candidate for Deacon's Orders to officiate in Mr. HENCHMAN's cure of THURSTASTON, in the Co. of Chester, was born in the Parish of TARVIN, in the Co. of Chester, and educated at TARVIN School, till I became 17 years and 10 months old, at which age, having made considerable progress in the Latin Language and Mathematical Literature, I was elected master of EASTHAM Parish School, in the same co. endowed with an yearly stipend of £4 11s., which with other perquisites amounted to £20 per ann. After a residence of 8 years and 11 months at the said School I was

(1) Before a man can be ordained, a notice of his forthcoming ordination which begins with the words "If anyone (*Si quis*)" has to be read in his parish Church, to give an opportunity for any objections to be raised.

electd Master of the Grammar School of Wood-
 CRUGES, in the same co., endowed with an yearly
 stipend of £90, which, with other perquisites,
 amounts to £85 per ann., at which school I have
 resided the interim from the relinquishing of
 EASTHAM Parish School to this present, which has
 been the space of 1 year 2 months (1) and upwards,

Witness etc. Ap 12. 1759.

We bind ourselves he shall not quit the Curacy for
 the space of 5 years after such ordination (2)

THO. MACKLEN,
 ROB. ELLISON,
 SAMUEL PRICE,

This lucid account of his career failed however to
 satisfy the bishop, as to the attainments, theological
 or otherwise, of Mr. Price, and next year we find
 the curacy held by Rev. WILLIAM ION (P of Swedish
 extraction), whose testimonial for Priests Orders
 was signed on Ap. 19, 1760, by J. MAPLESTOFF, Vicar of
 Neston, J. UMBSON, Curate of Neston, and J. PRINCE,
 Curate of Fleettail. The last named himself
 became Rector of Thurston, in 1761, Mr. Ion
 remaining on as Curate. The signature of "W.
 Ion" in the Register, however, ceases in 1763, and
 in 1769 begins that of "WILLIAM DAWSON." The
 latter, however, does not occur between 1771 and 1780.
 In 1790, again, Mr. Prince formally nominated "Rev
 W. DAWSON" to the curacy, at a stipend of £40 per
 annum. The Rev. JOSEPH EATON became Rector in
 1796, and he continued Mr. Dawson on advanced
 terms "£42 per annum, with use of parsonage house,
 garden and stable."

In 1801 the new Rector JAMES WINFIELD appointed
 the Rev. PERCY WILSON as his curate, at £50 a year
 with use of "Rectory House, garden and stable." Mr.
 Wilson brings us down to our own times almost, for
 he continued at Thurston till the coming of the Rev.
 JOHN FISH (Rector from 1824 to 1858), his last
 signature in the Register dating April 23, 1828, and
 there are still living parishioners to whom his name
 is familiar.

Since Mr. Wilson's time, the services of a curate
 have been rendered necessary only through the age
 or infirmities of the Rectors. Thus at the end of
 Mr. Fish's incumbency, the Rev. THOMAS BOURNE
 DICKENS of Jesus College, Cambridge, now L.L.D.
 and Vicar of Emscote, Warwick, was curate Oct.
 1854 to the end of 1856. He was succeeded by the Rev.
 WILLIAM CANTRELL CLARK, B.A., Trin. Hall, Cantab.
 for the first few months of 1857, and he in turn by
 the Rev. JOHN SIDNEY BOUCHER, M.A., St. John's,
 Camb, then head master of Hamilton-square, Bir-
 kenhead, from 1865-1883 Principal of the N. Wales
 Training College, now Rector of Gedding, Bury St.
 Edmunds. Mr. Boucher came over from Birkenhead
 for the duty, until the arrival of the new Rector,
 the Rev. F. E. THURLAND, at the end of 1858. The
 stipend of a Thurston curate at that time seems
 to have been £80 per annum.

R. B. RACKHAM.

(1) Mr. Price was then 23 years 11 months old, just one
 month under the required age of 25.

(2) A pledge like this was perhaps required to prevent men
 obtaining orders on the pretext of a curacy which they
 would give up after a few months and remain "Free
 lances," so to speak—never a profitable class to the Church.

[284] REV. JOHN MURCOT.

(See Nos. 14, 16, 19, and 64.)

During a recent visit to the Print Room at the
 British Museum, I discovered a portrait of John
 Murcot, Vicar of Eastham and Rector of West
 Kirby in the time of the Great Rebellion. This
 portrait, which I obtained permission to photograph,
 was published by W. Richardson, Castle-street,
 Leicester Fields. It represents a grave man with
 skull-cap and Geneva gown, holding a bible in his
 hand. Round the picture is the inscription:—Vera
 Effigies Johannis Murcot. Aetat 30, Obiit Dec. 8rd,
 1654. Under the picture are the lines:—

Here stand, and live in thy immortal page—
 Thou Golden Preacher in an Iron Age,
 Ireland laments thy loss, whose powerful word
 Brought on her greater conquests than the Sword,
 Their bodies were Subdued by Arms and Arts,
 But thou (blest conqueror) didst win their Hearts.

F. SANDERS.

[285] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 282.—Dec. 10.)

NETHER POOLE.

Johanna Heyward viixd.

PARYA SAGHALL.

John Pereson pro lijilijd
 Jacobo Carleyll pro xxsid.
 Bawdwyno Fydler pro lijilijd
 Robto Heylyn pro xislijd
 Ricco Heythe pro lijilijd
 Ricco Doe pro lijilijd
 John Clerke pro lijilijd
 Willmo Doe pro lijilijd
 Willmo Troughton pro lijilijd
 Margareta Urniston pro xislijd

MAGNA SAGHALL.

Willmo Jennyon pro xislijd.
 Thoma Heylyn pro viiixijd.

[About a dozen more names illegible.]

CAPENHURST.

Willmo Calley pro viijlixviid.
 John Heakoth pro viixd.
 Rado Parr pro ivlilijd.
 Ricco Trafford pro ivlilijd.
 Ricco Heakyth pro ivlilijd
 Willmo Bryayne pro lijilijd
 Thoma Jenson pro xislijd.
 Rogero Jenson pro xxsid.
 Willmo Nutton pro xxsid.
 Thoma Tyllerley pro xxsid.
 Rogero Rydley pro xxsid.
 Thomas Washynston pro xxsid.

SHOTWYCKE.

Thoma Wanerton pro lijilijd.
 Agneta Ball pro vijixviid.
 John Heakly pro xxsid.
 Edmundo Whithed pro viijlixviid.



PORTRAIT OF JOHN MURCOT,
 FROM AN ENGRAVING IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.



Thomas Blesny pro xls.....ij.d.
 Thoma Phesand pro xxs.....id.
 Thoma Taylor pro xijli.....xvi.d.
 Rico Otte pro xlii.....xli.d.
 Johs Otte pro xls.....ij.d.

DECEMBER 23rd, 1898.

[286] WIRRAL RECUSANT ROLL FOR 1592.

The following extracts are from a very complete list of Recusants for the County of Chester, preserved at the Record Office in London. There is subjoined a list of prisoners in Chester Castle, but as it does not state from what parishes they came, it is rather difficult to identify them; it is therefore possible that I may have missed some Wirral names:—

ELIZABETH UXOR WILLELMI STANLEY militis:—
 Decocxlii virtute conjudam actus parliamenti apud Westmonasterium xxix^{no} die Octobris anno xviii^{to} Regine nune Elisabethe in hujusmodi casu editi et provisit, Intitulati —“ *An Acte for the more speedye and dus execution of certen Branches of the Statute made in the xxiiith yere of the Quenes Majesties reigne Intituled an Acte to receive the Quenes Majesties Subjects in there dus obodiance Et quod ipse, per spacium quatuor annorum proximo ante sextum decimum diem Septembris anno xxxiiij^{to} ejusdem Regine, apud Hooton in parochia de Estham in Comitatu Cestrie commorans et inhabitans, non accessit seu resortavit, durante tempore predicto, ad ecclesiam parochialem de Estham predicta, nec ad aliquam aliam ecclesiam, capellam seu usulem locum communium preacconum, sed per totum tempus predictum se inde absentavit, contra formam statuti predicti, unde convicta est die Lune videlicet xxliij^{to} die Aprilis anno xxxv^{to} diote domine Regine.*”

ALICIA UXOR WILLELMI WHITMORE de Leighton mayo in parochia Neston in comitatu predicto armigeri. DCCCCLX^{to} virtute actus predicti pro consimili.

WILLMUS WHITMORE generosus debet xxvj^{to} xliij^{to}. iv^{to}.

MARGARETA UXOR EDWARDI RAVENSCHOFFE de Prenton generosus COXL^{to} virtute actus predicti pro consimili.

ANNA MALLEHAM de West Kyrkbye in parochia de West Kyrkbye vidua COXL^{to} virtute actus predicti pro consimili.

JOHNS WHITMORE [de Thurstaston] nuper de Castro Cestr^{is} in comitatu Cestrie generosus.

THOMAS MADDOCK [probably also Thurstaston—see No. 118, W. N. & Q., Vol. 1] nuper de Castro Cestr^{is} in comitatu Cestrie.

Yours, &c.,

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

[287] EXTRACTS RELATING TO WIRRAL
 FROM
 WILLIAM BLUNDELL'S NOTE-BOOK.

The Note-book of William Blundell, a Roman Catholic gentleman, of Crosby, in Lancashire, was published in 1880, under the title of *A Cavalier's Note Book*. From this I have extracted a few paragraphs which contains references to Wirral.

The first paragraph is entitled *Ebrietas*, and runs as follows:—“Sir William Stanley told me on 14 April, 1668, that he had once at Hooton my Lord M——, the three T's, and I think some few more for 3 or 4 nights, and that there were consumed in his house during their stay 16 dozen bottles of wine, 2 hogsheds of beer, and 2 barrels of ale.” Page 94.

The Sir William Stanley referred to was the first baronet of the family, being so created in 1661. He died in 1678, and was buried at Eastham.

The next extract is called, *Hibernicum bellum et caedes*, and refers to an incident so horrible that we must trust, for the credit of Wirral, that Mr. Blundell was misinformed.

“The cruelties of the Irish against the English are in everybody's mouth, and set forth in printed pageants sold in London. Some cruelties on the contrary part are these that follow.

An English parson who lived in Ireland told me that one of his own coat, born in Wirral, in Cheshire, and beneficed in Ireland, killed with his own hands, one Sunday morning fifty-three of his own parishioners, most or all of them (as I remember) women and children. This was told me at Chester, A.D. 1644, in the hearing of Mr. Ralph Bridoke, chaplain to the Earl of Derby. Page 280.

The third extract entitled *Elemosyna*, contains an anecdote of the saintly Dr. Richard Sherlock, a native of Oxton, of whom an account appeared in *Wirral Notes and Queries*, Nos. 95, 111, 117, 129, 181.

“John Widdowes, the churchwarden of Winwick, when he opened the poor men's box which stands in the church, called upon Mr. Sherlock (a very charitable man) to be present at the opening of it, and withal said to him, “Sir, if there be any brass money you ought to make it good.” “Who I?” said Mr. Sherlock, “I pray, sir, your reason.” “Marry, sir,” replied Widdowes, “there is never a man but yourself that ever puts money into it, and therefore you ought to make it good, if any be amiss.” Pages 282-3. F.S.

[288] WIRRAL GENTRY IN 1578.

In a recent issue of the *Chester Courant* there appeared an interesting list of the “Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, and Freeholders in the Co. of Chester, together with horse armour, etc.,” having been transcribed by Mr. Jno. B. Marsh, of Chester, from the original at the Record Office.

As there were some obvious errors in the names, I have had a fresh copy made from the original, which shows, however, that the bulk of the mistakes were committed by the clerk who sent the document up to headquarters in Elizabeth's time.

I am at a loss to understand why, in the preface to the document in the *Courant*, it should be described as a "discovery," as the Book has been indexed amongst the Records since 1856, and extracts have already been printed from it, in the xxxviii vol. of the *Trans. of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*. It is also difficult to understand in what sense "All rights" could be "reserved." The date of the Book is the 7th October, 1578.

Yours, etc.,

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

WIRRAL HUNDRED.

- (1) SIR ROWLAND STANDLEY, Knight — One dimillance, three Corsallets, three Allmaine Ryvettes, three Archers and two Calyvers furnished.
- (2) JOHN POOLE, Esquier—One Lighte horse two Corsallets, two Allmaine Ryvettes or instead thereof, Cotes of plate, or brigand, two Archers, and one Calyver furnished.
- (3) WILLM MASSE, Esquier—One lighte horse, two Corsallets, two Allmaine Ryvettes, or in stead thereof, Cotes of plate or brigandines and one Calyver furnished.
- (4) JOHN WHITMORE, Esquier — One Light horse, one Corslette or Allmaine Ryvett or in stead thereof one Brigandine and one Calyver furnished.
- (5) ROBERT FLETCHER Esquier—One Lighte horse one Corslett or Allmaine Ryvett or in stead thereof one Brigandine and one Calyver furnished.
- (6) JOHN HOCKNELL Esquier—One Lighte horse, one Corslet or Allmaine Ryvett or in stead thereof one Brigandine and one Calyver furnished.
- (7) THOMAS BUNBURY Esquier — One Lighte horse and two Corsallets furnished.
- (8) RICHARD HOWGH Esquier — One Lighte horse, one Corslett, one Archer and one Calyver furnished.
- (9) EDWARD STANDLEY.
- (10) WILLM GLEGGE.
- (11) ROBT PARR.
- (12) PETER BOWLD DE UPTON.

- (1) Sr Rowland Stanley, of Hooton, born about 1517, died 1614.
- (2) John Poole of Poole, born 1524, died 1613.
- (3) William Masse of Puddington, born 1516, died 1579
- (4) John Whitmore of Thurston, born about 1539, date of death unknown.
- (5) Robert Fletcher, described in another list of about this date as of Morley, was probably a member of the family of Fletcher of the City of Chester, several of whom held high civic appointments. It is not very clear however, where his Wirral estates lay.
- (6) John Hockenhall of Prenton, born about 1540, died 1590.
- (7) Thomas Bunbury of Stanney, born about 1542, died 1601.
- (8) Richard Hough of Thornton Hough and Leighton; the presence of this name is curious, as, according to Ormerod Richard Hough died about 1574 and was succeeded by his son William Hough.
- (9) Edward Stanley, described in the other list mentioned in Note 5 as of Pooton, probably Poulton Spittle.
- (10) William Glegg of Gayton died 1629.
- (11) Robert Parr of Backford, born about 1535, died 1582.
- (12) Peter Bold of Upton, died 1605.

- (1) JO. MELLE DE MELLE—Gent—Everyone of these one Corslet and one Pike furnished.
- (2) THO. DOOE DE SAUGHALL.
- (3) RIC. SHEAP'D DE GREESBY.
- (4) WM. BENNET DE CARNDALL.
- (5) WM. PRENTON DE HESWALL.
- (6) JOHN WIRRAL DE EADE.
- (7) RIC. LINGARTE DE GRANGE.
- (8) EDWARD BURGESS DE EASTHAM.
- (9) JOHN MORTON.
- (10) EDWARD SWALLOWE.
- (11) HENRY GLOVER.
- (12) JOHN YONGE DE WESTON.
- (13) EDWARD WALLAM.
- (14) ROBT. RADCLIFFE.
- (15) RIC. COVENTRYE—Each of these to furnish one Plate Cote.

DECEMBER 30th, 1893.

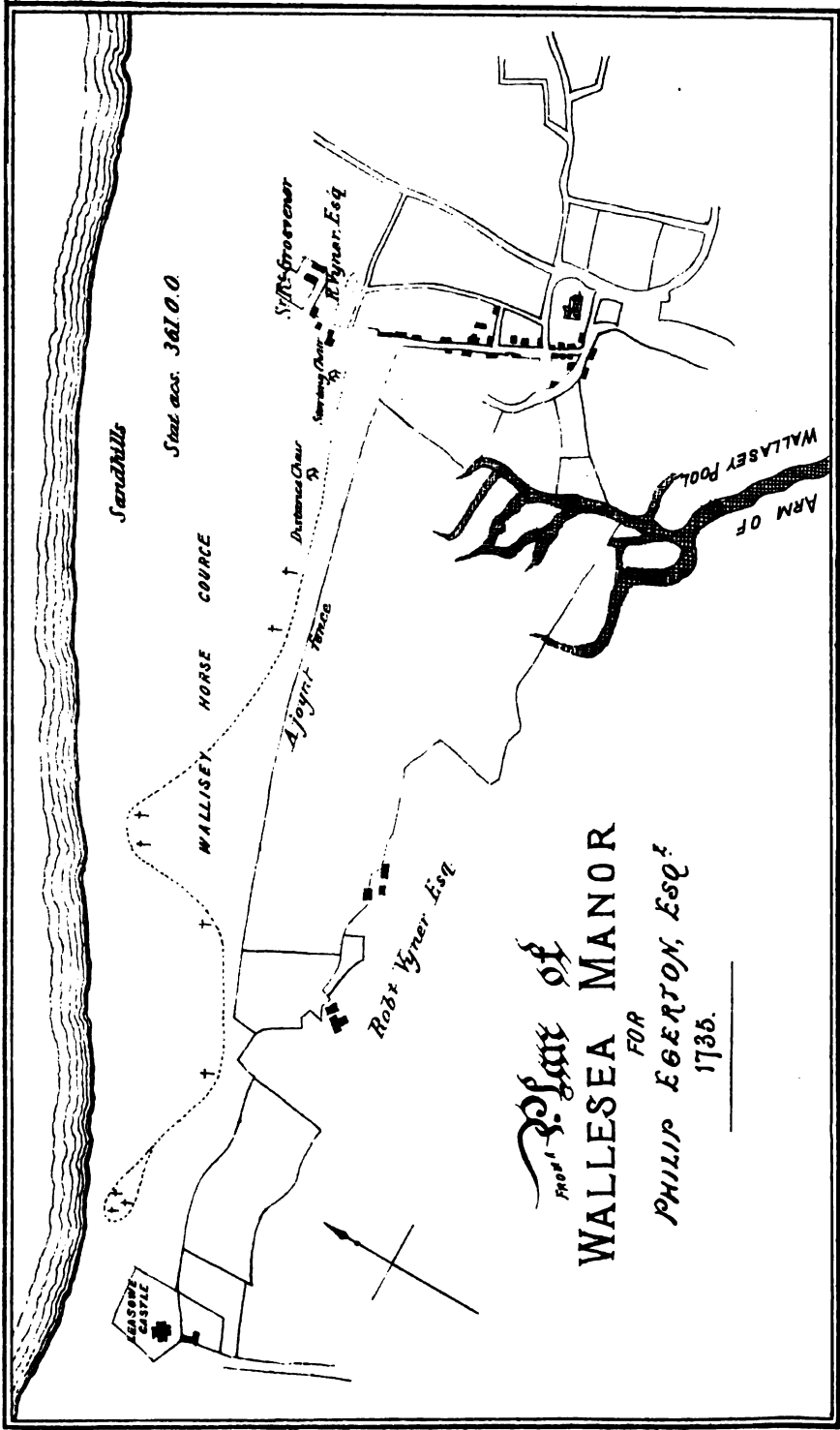
[289] THE RACE COURSE AT WALLASEY.

(See No. 237.—July 8.)

Some months ago, there appeared in your column an enquiry, as to whether there were any truth in the oft-made assertion, that the first Derby was run on the Wallasey Leasowes. As no reply has so far appeared, I venture to send the following notes on the Races which took place there.

The earliest distinct reference that we have to these Races is to be found in an Itinerary of Wirral, by Webb (printed in King's Vale Royal), the date of which appears to be about 1630. He says:—"Till we come to the North-Western shore, lying upon the Vergivian or Irish Sea, where are situate the township, parish, and church of Kirby in Walley, or Walsey, a town which hath fair lands, and where lie these fair sands, or plains, upon the shore of the sea,

- (1) John Meols of Meols, born about 1531, died 1592.
- (2) Thomas Doe of Saughall. The Does had been settled in Shotwick Parish for some time previous to this: two of the name paid in the 1545 Subsidy.
- (3) Richard Sheppard of Greasby in West Kirby Parish.
- (4) Wm. Bennet of Carnsdale in Barnston (Woodchurch Parish), born about 1506, died 1593.
- (5) Wm. Prenton of Heswall; Wm. Prenton, Senior and Junior paid in the 1545 Subsidy Roll, at Heswall: this is doubtless Wm. Prenton Junior.
- (6) John Wirral of Heswall. One John Wirral of Ledsham pays among the gentry in a 1544 Subsidy Roll, as of the Township of Ledsham.
- (7) This is a clerical error, for Richard Linacre or Linaker, of Caldby Grange. This family had been settled in West Kirby Parish for several generations.
- (8) Edward Burgess, of Eastham, as Constable of the Manor of Eastham, paid the amount of money collected from the township of Eastham, in 1559, for the "sodyars" appointed to go Norwarde" under Sr Rowland Stanley.
- (9) Possibly meant for John Martin of Saughall Massey.
- (10) This is probably a clerical error, but for what, it is difficult to suggest.
- (11) Possibly of Eastham.
- (12) John Younge of Neston—Weston is a clerical error. The Youngs were a numerous clan on the Deeside of Wirral, particularly in Neston and West Kirby parishes.
- (13) Doubtless another clerical error, for Dallam' or Dallamere. The Dallameres or Dallameres were of Thingwall in Woodchurch parish.
- (14) Robert Radcliffe, of Greasby, in West Kirby parish.
- (15) Richard Coventry, of Newhouse in Newton, Parish of West Kirby, died in 1581. There was however living at this time a Richard Coventry of Mollington, who was buried at Backford in 1586, a man of considerable standing in the Hundred.



FROM A PLAN OF
WALLESEA MANOR
 FOR
 PHILIP EGERTON, Esq.
 1735.

FROM THE ORIGINAL, THE PROPERTY OF SIR PHILIP HENRY BRIAN EGERTON, OF OULTON PARK, CO. CHESTER, BARY.

11

which, for the fitness for such a purpose, allure the gentlemen and others oft to appoint great matches and venture no small sums in trying the swiftness of their horses."

These races no doubt continued to take place from time to time until the Rebellion, when they appear to have fallen into disuse. With the Restoration, however, they were revived and in 1683 we have record that the Duke of Monmouth, in his progress through Cheshire, was present at a meeting; and his horse won a principal event, the prize for which (or more probably the silver scallop shell which contained the money prize), he presented to his little goddaughter Henrietta Mainwaring, daughter of George Mainwaring, the Mayor of Chester, from whom it has descended to its present proprietor, Colonel Salisbury Mainwaring of Shrewsbury. There seems some uncertainty as to the exact year of this event (though not as to the month, August), since George Mainwaring was not Mayor of Chester in 1683, but in 1682.

Sweepstakes of considerable value were established in 1728, and for many years went by the name of "The Wallasey Stake." The Dukes of Devonshire and Bridgewater, the Lords Derby, Gower, Molyneux, and Barrymore, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Mr. Watkin Williams Wynne, Mr. Egerton, Mr. Cholmondeley of Yale Royal, and Mr. Buckle Mackworth engaged to subscribe 20 guineas a year, "to be run for on the course at Wallasey on the first Thursday in May in each year." (*Racing Cal.*, vol. i., p. 55, quoted by *Helsby*.)

What eventually became of these Stakes does not appear, but it is said that the race was removed to Newmarket, and finally to Epsom, and that The Derby Stakes grew out of this comparatively small beginning.

Whether this particular prize was removed or not, it is certain that races continued to be run on the Leasowes until quite late in the last century. On the entrance to what was once the Grosvenor Stable in Wallasey, until quite recently hung an oak door on which were four horse shoes. Out with a pen-knife in the centres of the circles formed by the shoes, were four inscriptions in honour of four winners, dated respectively 1767-69 and 78, though the last date is nearly illegible and may be 1760. One of the inscriptions was undated. This door is now carefully preserved in the Museum of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The position of the Race Course itself has been long a matter of dispute, which I have fortunately been enabled to settle by finding an original survey of the course dated 1737. Through the kindness of Messrs. Birch, Oullimore and Douglas of Chester, in whose possession the survey is, I have made a careful tracing of it which has been reproduced by photolithography, and is to be found on the opposite page.

The course ran, as will be seen from the map, from within a few yards of the present Wallasey station, in the direction of Leasowe Castle. It ran due west for some distance, and then turned at an oblique angle towards the sea; when nearly on what is now the line of high tide, it turned again in a southerly direction for several hundred yards, after which it ran straight on towards the Castle, and, when within a short distance of this, curved round in a loop, and

the horses came back over the same course on which they had travelled out.

The course was not at all like what we understand now-a-days as a race course. There was no attempt at an enclosure the stoops or posts, and to be seen in the map, were merely marks to guide the horses and only set at long intervals. Another material point of difference was the fact of the presence of the "distance chair." The rule was that, unless the first horse passed the winning post 240 yards ahead of the next one, (this distance of 240 yards being marked by a "distance chair") the race was not considered settled, and the horses were obliged to run it again; and if the winner again failed to lead by the required length, it was run a third time, after which however the prize was given to the horse that had won—in the modern sense of the term—twice out of the three times. As the course was about 5 miles in length, a thrice repeated race would be a severe strain on most horses, and seems to have not unfrequently led to racers dropping dead during the progress of the event.

The old Grosvenor Racing Stables alluded to above are still standing in Wallasey though in a very dilapidated condition: they are daily falling more and more into disrepair. They stand in the rear of an empty and ruined house which is locally known as Sandfield Hall, and is a couple of hundred yards to the east of the Wallasey Station. From the style of the architecture, they appear to have been built during the reign of Charles II., though the fine large coach-house may be of later date. The stable, the saddle room (in which several of the racks hung until a few months ago), and the smithy are clearly discernible and the well in the garden a few yards to the north is still to be seen. In the smithy there is a specially fine old chimney.

Yours &c.,

Cloughton.

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

[290] THE HUNDRED OF WIRRAL IN 1086.

The earliest detailed account of the Hundred of Wirral is to be found in the great Survey taken in 1086 by the order of The Conqueror, and contained in what is best known as The Domesday Book.

In Wirral 48 Manors were surveyed, the value of which was in the aggregate about £51, having fallen from £71 in the time of King Edward the Confessor. From the map, which forms the frontispiece of this volume, it will be seen how completely occupied by Manors the Hundred of Wirral was at this early period, the names being spread over the country side with great regularity, the only blanks (between Wallasey and Saughall Massey and in the neighbourhood of Stanney) being accounted for by the presence of marshes in the neighbourhood.

The Surveyors reported that in 1070—the year in which William finally subdued Cheshire—there were eleven manors lying waste, doubtless as a punishment for their stubborn resistance. These were Little Meols, Knocktorum, Landican, Storeton,

Poulton-cum-Spittle, Neston, Hadlow or Willaston, Puddington, Great and Little Mollington, and Mickle Trafford. At the time of the Survey however all were once more in cultivation.

It will be seen from the map that the boundary of the Hundred differed in those days from that recognised at the present time, the Manors of Guilden Sutton, Mickle Trafford, Picton, and Wirvin being included in Wirral, or, as it was then called, Willaston Hundred.

There is little doubt that at least 10 of our 15 Pariah Churches in Wirral were in existence at the time of the Conquest, but the Survey only makes mention of four Priests and does not allude to the Churches at all. The priests are placed at Eastham (which included Bromborough), Neston, Poulton (which included Bebington), and Landican, which doubtless embraced Woodchurch.

There were two water Mills in the Hundred, one at Bromborough, which is still worked, and one in Prenton, which has long since fallen into disuse, though the mill-dam is still to be seen stretching across "The Dale," just before it embouches on the dell through which run the Fender. There were numerous fisheries, one at Stanney, two at Leighton (Parkgate), the same at Gayton, one at Blacon Head, and another belonging to the Manor of Saughall-Massey, which would either be on the shore at Moreton or in the Wallasey Pool. The Hundred appears to have been very short of woodland, there was a small patch of wood at Mollington, a larger one at Tranmere (possibly the very Birch wood from which Birkenhead gets its name), and a tract a mile and a half long by the same broad in the Manor of Prenton.

I will close this resumé (which will be easily followed by the aid of the map), with one of those little touches of local colour which ever and anon light up the pages of Domesday Book:—"Edelane (Willaston) It was waste, but there is a man ploughing there and he pays 2 shillings."

Yours etc.,

Claughton.

HOLLY.

[291] WIRRAL SUBSIDY ROLL, 1545.

(Continued from No. 282.—Dec. 10.)

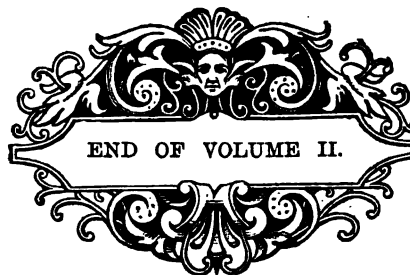
SHOTWICK.—(Continued.)

Hugone Fox pro vii	.....xd.
Thoma Heylin pro xijli	.....xxivd.
Thoma Harryson pro xxs	.....id.
Thoma Robynson pro xis	.....ijd.
Willmo Robynson pro xls	.....ijd.
Henrico Taylor pro xxs	.....id.
Georgio Whyttfield pro vijli	.....xijd.
Willmo Galley pro xls	.....ijd.
Rico Danold pro xls	.....ijd.
Willmo Coke pro xls	.....ijd.
Thoma Whyte pro xls	.....ijd.
Henrico Gregoris pro xxs	.....jd.

BURTON.

Thoma Robynson pro viii	.....xijd.
Rico Robynson pro ijli	.....ijd.
Thoma Warrhenton pro iijjli	.....iijjd.
Robto Massey pro xxs	.....id.
Rico Leyne pro ijli	.....iijjd.
Thoma Morres pro vxs	.....id.
Jobe Gardener pro ijli	.....iijjd.
Henrico Gardener pro vijli	.....xijd.
Rico Gardener pro ijli	.....iijjd.
Robto Meols pro vijli	.....xijd.
Jobe Ball pro xls	.....iijjd.
Jobe Heward pro xxs	.....jd.
Jenn ap Ithell pro xxs	.....jd.
Davyo Massey pro villi	.....xijd.
Jobe Meoles pro xls	.....iijjd.
Jobe Robynson pro vijli	.....xijd.
Thoma Jennsen pro ivli	.....iijjd.
Gilberto Gallyat pro xxs	.....id.
Thoma Radley pro xls	.....iijjd.
Rogero Mawrie pro xxs	.....id.
Patricio Nelston pro ijli	.....iijjd.
Jobe Selton [?] pro xxs	.....id.
Robto Gyll pro ijli	.....iijjd.
Thoma Harper pro xlsiijjd.
Henrico Browne pro xlsiijjd.

[Seven or eight other names illegible].



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N.B.—THE NUMBERS REFER TO THE SECTIONS, NOT THE PAGES.

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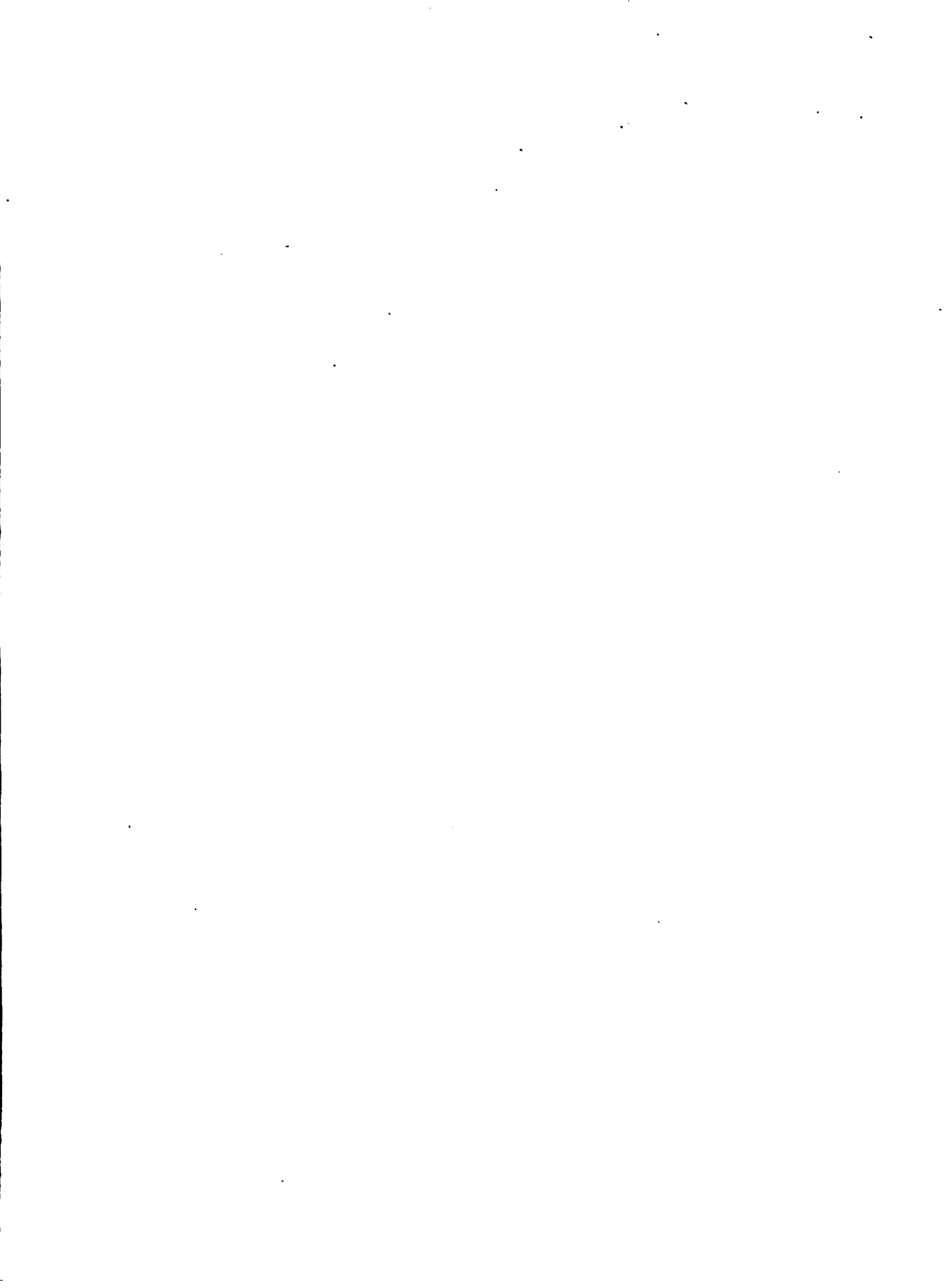
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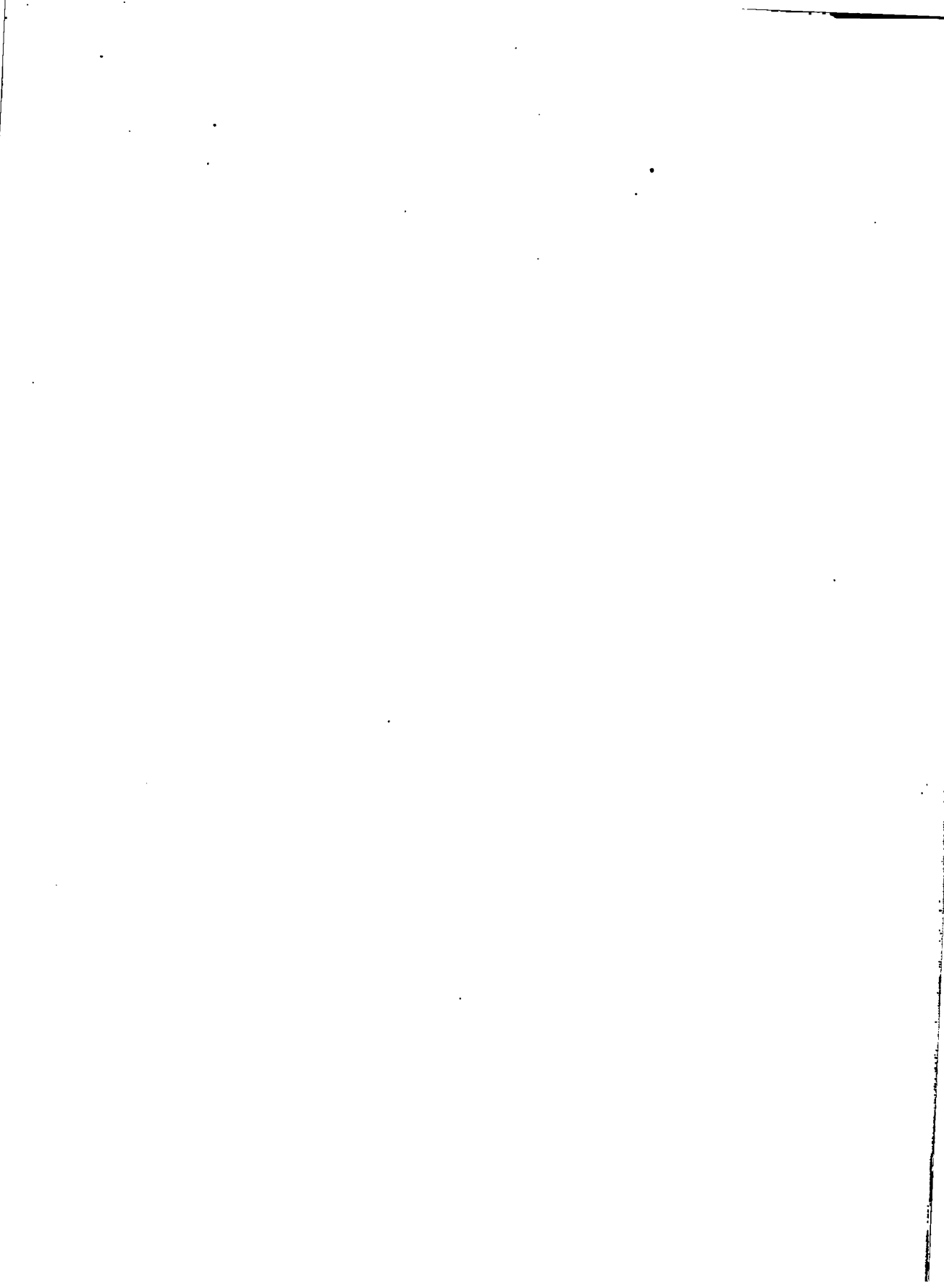
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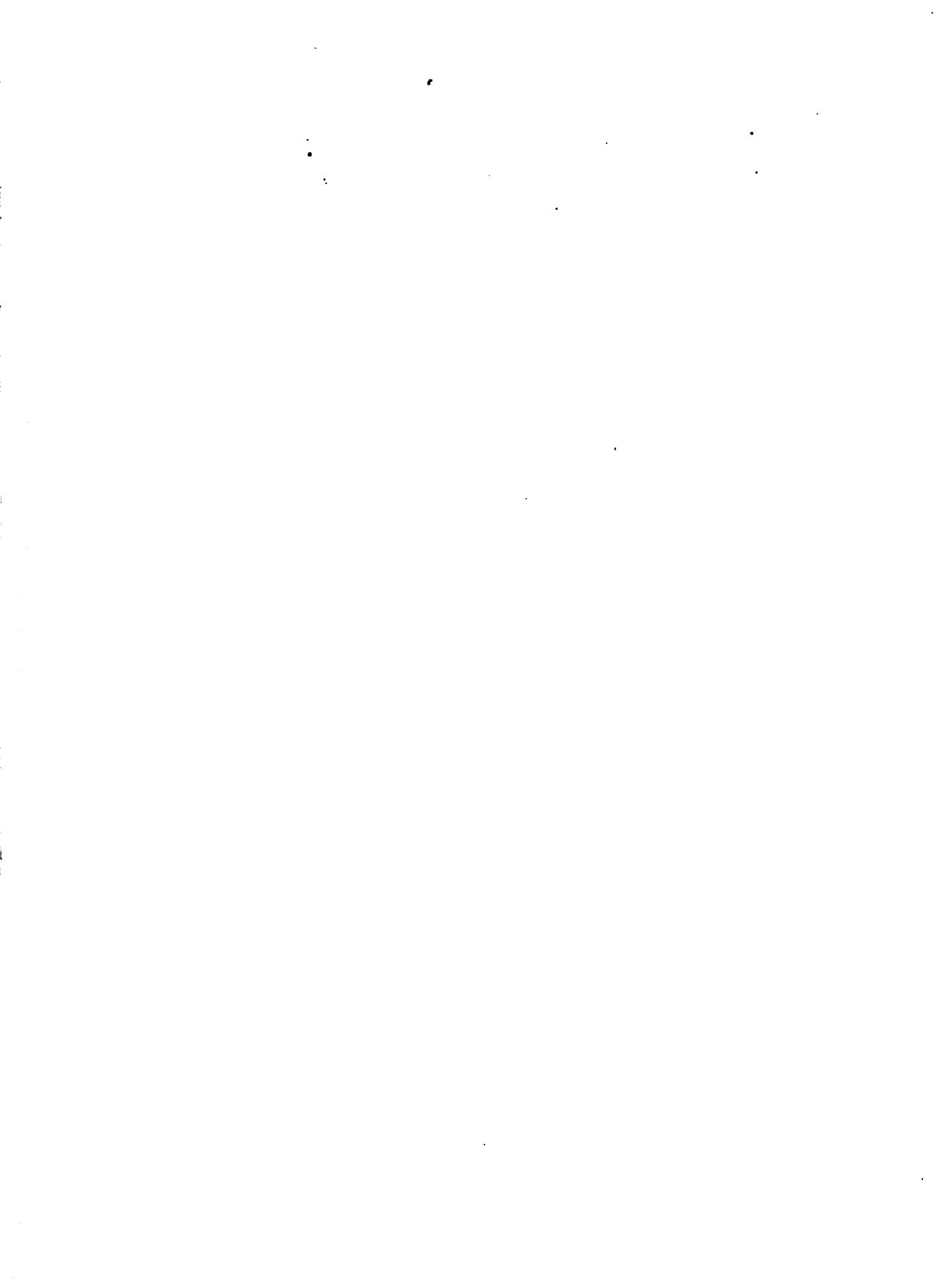
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