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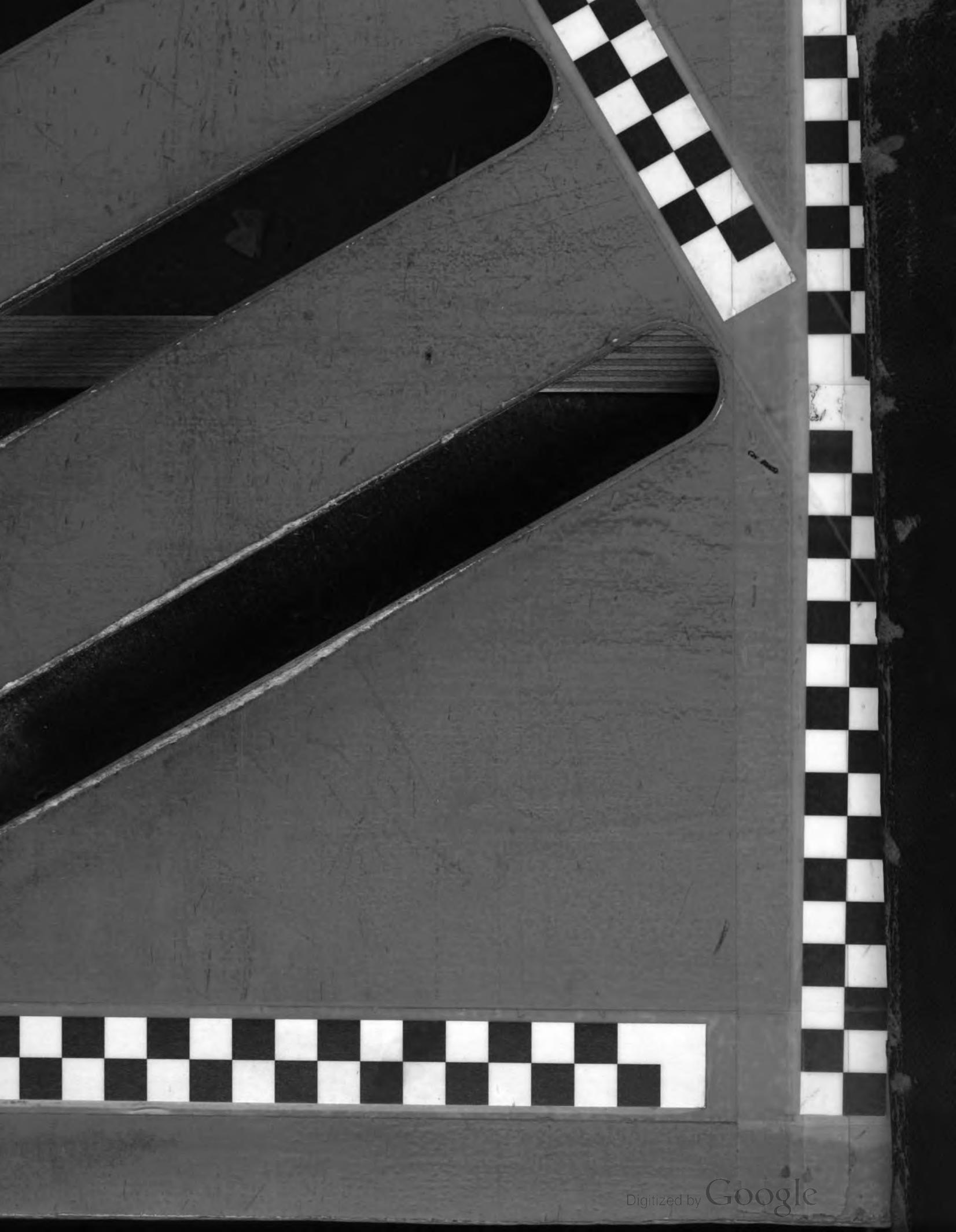
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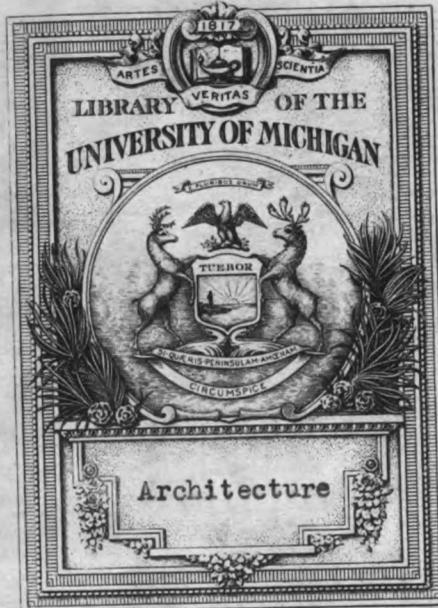








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**MAGNA BRITANNIA;**  
**BEING**  
**A CONCISE TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT**  
**OF**  
**THE SEVERAL COUNTIES**  
**OF**  
**G R E A T B R I T A I N.**

---

By the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, A.M. F.R.S. F.A. and L.S.  
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And SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F.R.S. and F.A.S.  
KEEPER OF HIS MAJESTY'S RECORDS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

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**VOL. II. PART II.**  
**CONTAINING**  
**THE COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER.**

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**LONDON:**  
**PRINTED FOR T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES, IN THE STRAND.**  
**1810.**



Strahan and Preston,  
New-Street-Square, London.

17291

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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HAVING found our account of Cheshire, unavoidably extend to a much greater length than we expected, we have been obliged, contrary to our original intention, to close our second volume without proceeding further than that county. When its importance is considered, we flatter ourselves it will not be thought that a greater portion of space has been allotted to this subject, than it is entitled to; and we trust that the great mass of unpublished materials relating to Cheshire, which we have had occasion to examine, will sufficiently account for the delay of the publication of this part of our work.



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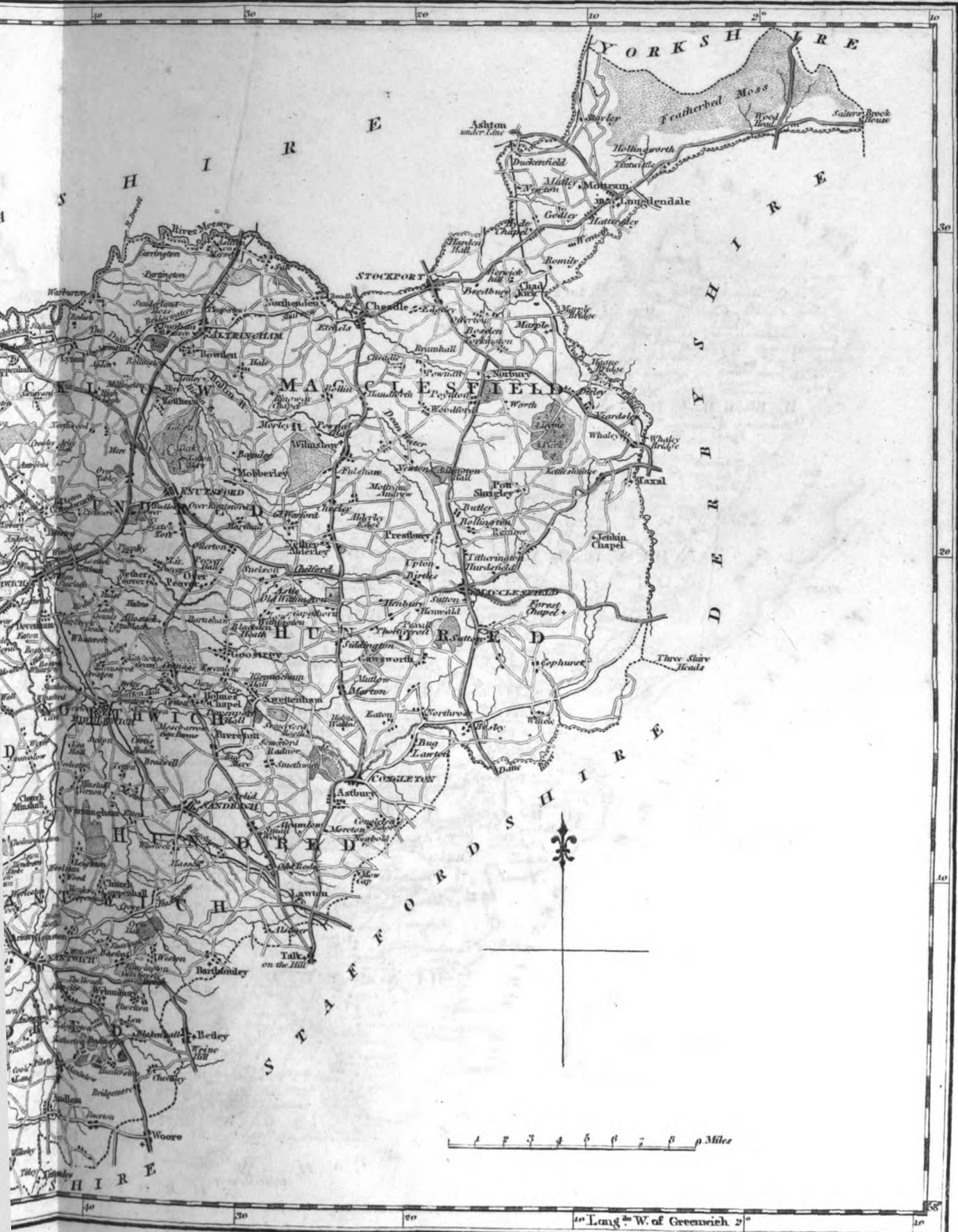
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CHESHIRE.





**CHEESHIRE.**



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## C H E S H I R E.

### *Ancient Inhabitants, and Government.*

THIS county takes its name, (which is an abbreviation of Chester-shire, formerly written *Cæstre-Scyre*,) from the ancient city of Chester. In the earlier periods of our history, Cheshire formed part of the territories of a British tribe, called the *Cornavii*. When the Romans, after their invasion of Britain, divided it into two great districts, this county was included in *Britannia Superior*, the kingdom being afterwards subdivided into smaller provinces, it became part of *Flavia Caesariensis*. After the departure of the Romans, Cheshire was repossessed by the Britons, and excepting a temporary occupation of it by Ethelfrid, King of Northumberland<sup>a</sup>, appears to have escaped the Saxon yoke till the year 828<sup>b</sup>, when it was conquered by Egbert, under whom the Saxon heptarchy was united. After this it is probable that it formed part of the dominions of the last Mercian kings, who were tributary to Egbert, and his successors: it is certain that upon the division of England into three great districts by Alfred, Cheshire was included in the one called *Mercen-lage*, or the Mercian Jurisdiction, and in the reign of that monarch, and his son, Edward the Elder, it was successively governed by Ethelred, Duke of Mercia, and his widow Ethelfleda, Alfred's daughter. Although the petition of the men of Cheshire to King Henry VI., in 1450<sup>c</sup>, intimates as much, it does not appear, from any other records, that the succeeding Dukes or Earls of Mercia, or of Chester, who governed this county under the Saxon and Danish monarchs before the conquest, were invested with larger powers than other governors of provinces; and it seems sufficiently evident, that it was not till the reign of William the Conqueror, that Cheshire obtained the privileges of a county palatine; that monarch having granted to his nephew, Hugh de Aunanches, commonly called Hugh Lupus, the whole county of Chester to hold as freely by the sword, as he himself held the kingdom of England by the

<sup>a</sup> See p. 303.

<sup>b</sup> Ralph Higden in Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 252.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 298.

crown<sup>d</sup>. In consequence of this extensive grant, the Earl had his barons, one of whom was hereditary constable, and another hereditary steward; assembled parliaments; established his courts of law, and exercised almost every act of regal authority: his descendants continued to enjoy this sovereignty till the death of John, Earl of Chester, in 1237; who leaving no male issue, King Henry III. seized on the county of Chester; gave other lands in lieu of it to the sisters of the deceased earl, and bestowed the earldom of Chester on his son, Prince Edward. King Richard II. having erected it into a principality, among his other royal titles, styled himself *Princeps Cestræ*: this act was abrogated by his successor, and Cheshire again became a county palatine<sup>e</sup>, and it continued under the King's eldest sons, who from time to time were created Earls of Chester, to be governed, as in the time of its ancient Earls, by a jurisdiction separate from, and independent of the parliament of England. In the reign of King Henry VI. an attempt was made to infringe the privileges of the palatinate by the parliament at Leicester, which issued a commission for levying a subsidy in Cheshire, in common with the other counties. Upon this the abbots, priors, and clergy, the barons, knights, esquires, and commons of Cheshire, presented a petition to the King, in which they state that the Earls of Chester always had their high courts of parliament, to hold at their wills; that since the grant of the Earldom of Chester to Hugh Lupus, to be held by the sword, they had their court of common law, in which, as by the common law of England, the tenor of the indictments ran *contra coronam et dignitatem*, so in their court it was *contra dignitatem gladii Cestræ*; that they had also their courts of chancery, of exchequer, and of common pleas; and had never sent any knights, citizens, or burgesses, to any parliament holden out of the county<sup>f</sup>. The prayer of their petition was granted; they were discharged of the levy of the subsidy, and their separate jurisdiction and privileges being recognized and confirmed, remained in full force till the reign of King Henry VIII., when they were much abridged; but some of their privileges were continued, and were again confirmed in the year 1568, by Queen Elizabeth, who, by her patent of that date, recognizes the powers of the justice of Chester, and of the chamberlain; an officer, whose jurisdiction is described as being similar to that of a chancellor: it is declared by the same patent, that all pleas of lands and tenements, and all contracts, causes, and matters, rising and growing within the said county, (except in cases of error, foreign plea, or foreign vouch,) could legally be tried within the county of Chester only; and that the president and council of the principality of Wales had

<sup>d</sup> Camden.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

<sup>f</sup> The petition is printed in King's Vale Royal, p. 9—11.

no jurisdiction within the county or city of Chester: for the enjoyment of their liberties, on the accession of every new Earl, the county was to pay a fine of 3000 marks, called a mize<sup>z</sup>.

The authority of the judges and officers of the great session of the county palatine extends over the counties of Chester and Flint, and one seal is used for both counties; the king's writ does not run in the county palatine, but all writs issuing from the superior courts are directed to the chamberlain, (and not to the sheriff, as in other counties,) who issues his mandate to the sheriff. The present chamberlain is Earl Cholmondeley, the vice-chamberlain Hugh Leycester, Esq. who generally presides in the exchequer-court twice in the year: this court is considered as analogous to the court of chancery, but it has jurisdiction in many legal, as well as in all equitable cases; the officers of the court are the chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, baron, (the same as a curfitor in chancery,) seal-keeper, filizer, examiner, six clerks or attorneys of the court, and some inferior officers. The assizes for the county are held at Chester; the Epiphany and Easter quarter-sessions at Chester; and the Midsummer and Michaelmas sessions at Knutsford. The two latter sessions were formerly held at Nantwich and Northwich; they were removed from Nantwich about the year 1760, and from Northwich about 1784.

In ancient times capital offences in this county were punished by beheading: an ancient MS. relating to the Earls of Chester informs us, that the serjeants or bailiffs of the Earls had power to behead any malefactor or thief who was apprehended in the fact, or against whom guilt was proved by sufficient witnesses, or confession, before four inhabitants of the place; or rather, before four inhabitants of the four neighbouring towns. Then follows an account of the presenting of several heads of felons at the castle of Chester, by the Earl's serjeants; and it appears that the beheading of malefactors was the usual mode of execution in this county; for in a roll of the third year of King Edward II. it is called the custom of Cheshire<sup>h</sup>.

Among the extensive powers exercised by the ancient Earls of Chester, one of the most singular was that of granting the protection of Sanctuary to criminals. This power, which has been generally supposed to have belonged, exclusively, to the church, was the source of much emolument to the Earls; who received fines from all such persons, when they came to reside under their protection, a heriot at their death, and in case of their dying without issue, claimed their goods and chattels. It appears that these profits were farmed under the Earl in the reign of King Edward II<sup>i</sup>. Hoole-heath near Chester, Over-marsh near Farndon,

<sup>z</sup> Vale Royal, 12—15.  
N<sup>o</sup> 2009. f. 34. b.

<sup>h</sup> See Watson's History of Halifax, p. 227.

<sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS.

and Rud-heath near Middlewich, were the principal receptacles for such fugitive strangers as sought protection in the Earl's territories; but that the privilege of sanctuary was not confined to those wastes, is apparent from Ranulph de Blundeville's charter to his barons, in which he allows strangers to settle on their estates as retainers; but reserves to himself the fines payable by criminals, who should resort to them for protection. It seems, however, that in some instances the Earls delegated the power of protecting criminals: King Edward I. in his charter to the abbot of Vale Royal, the Earldom of Chester being then vested in the crown, grants to him the privilege of sanctuary<sup>k</sup>, or protection of felons, on all his lands; and this right was successfully maintained many years afterwards in a *quo warranto*<sup>l</sup>. The power over minstrels and *meretrices*, granted by the Earl of Chester to John Lacy, and by him delegated to Hugh Dutton and his heirs, was a branch of this system of protection<sup>m</sup>.

It may be observed, that this protection of criminals was of a more unlimited nature than that afforded by the church, which was confined to parish churches, cathedrals, and other consecrated buildings, and a certain space around them; in most instances not extending farther than the cemetery, and in point of time was restricted to forty days, and that only as preparatory to banishment from the realm; whereas, under the protection of the Earls of Chester, felons and other criminals escaping from any part of the kingdom, so long as they demeaned themselves peaceably, were entitled to protection during life. The continued exercise of this privilege, by means of which Cheshire became the common receptacle of persons whose crimes had driven them from their own country, seems to have had, as might have been expected, a most pernicious effect upon the morals of its inhabitants. In the reign of King Henry IV., in consequence of "grievous clamour and complaint made to the King, of many murders, man-slaughters, robberies, batteries, and other riots and offences done by people of the county of Chester to divers of the King's liege people in divers counties of England," an act of parliament was passed by which they were made liable to outlawry and forfeiture of goods.

Under the jurisdiction of the Earls of Chester, debtors also had peculiar privileges: it was an ancient custom, that if a debtor should come into the court of

<sup>k</sup> Expressed by the word *Advocarias*. *Advocaria* in ancient charters sometimes signifies *protection*, and sometimes a *fine* paid for it. See Dufresne's Glossary *in verbo*. In some ancient instruments written in English, these fines are called *Advowries*.

<sup>l</sup> Extracts from the Leger Book of Vale Royal Abbey among Sir Peter Leycester's Collections at Tabley.

<sup>m</sup> In a record of 23 Edw. I. it is expressed by the term *advocarium*.—See an account of this jurisdiction in the description of Dutton, in the parish of Great Budworth.

Exchequer at Chester, and there swear that he would pay his debts as soon as he was able, the officers of that court granted a writ in the nature of a protection, by virtue of which he was at liberty to go where he pleased, unmolested by his creditors. A similar custom, with respect to debtors, existed also in the city of Chester from very ancient times: any freeman having been imprisoned for a debt, and being unable to pay it, on going before the mayor and sheriffs, and swearing that he would pay the debt as soon as he was able, reserving to himself only "mean sustentation," had a right to be discharged from his imprisonment. This is stated in a record of the claims of the city to various privileges in the reign of King Henry VII.<sup>a</sup>; but about fifty years afterwards the practice appears to have been somewhat different, for by the Records of the Corporation<sup>o</sup> it appears, that then any freeman, imprisoned for debt, upon petitioning the mayor and aldermen, and declaring that he was unable to pay the debt, was allowed to reside in what was called "the free-house;" to walk at large within the liberties of the said house<sup>p</sup>; to attend divine service at St. John's church without the north gate; but not to go into any dwelling-house. The above-mentioned privilege of the county debtors was taken away by an act of parliament in the 34th year of King Henry VIII. It does not appear that the privilege of the city debtors has ever been abolished, but it has long grown into disuse.

In the 32d year of King Henry VIII. an act of parliament was passed for abolishing the privilege of sanctuary in all places throughout the realm, except in churches, hospitals, and church-yards; and excluding from its benefits, even in consecrated places, all such persons as should be guilty of murder, rape, highway robbery, burglary, house-burning, or sacrilege. By this act Manchester, Derby, York, Northampton, Norwich, Westminster, Wells, and Launceston were made sanctuaries for term of life for all persons guilty of minor offences. The next year the inhabitants of Manchester, who then carried on, as their petition sets forth, a great trade in the bleaching of linen yarn, making of linen and woollen clothes, and dressing of cottons, having experienced much inconvenience to their trade, which had been exposed to many depredations since the influx of dissolute persons who had resorted thither under the sanction of the act then lately passed; and having, as they stated, no mayor, sheriff, nor bailiff in their

<sup>a</sup> Orders and Acts of Assembly of the Corporation in the Town Clerk's Office. Lib. A. f. 76.      <sup>o</sup> Ibid. Lib. B. 71.      <sup>p</sup> The boundaries of the liberties are described

to extend along the walls on the west side to the New Tower, and on the east side to Newton Tower, and towards the Corn Market, as far as the new houses of St. Anne's, which had then been lately built in the Bell-yard.

town,

town, which was not walled, neither had it any gaol or prison for the confinement of offenders; petitioned parliament for relief, praying that the sanctuary might be removed from Manchester to some other town. Their petition was granted, and the sanctuary was, by an act of the 33d of Henry VIII., removed to Chester, which, as the act sets forth, had no such trade of merchandise, and had a strong gaol for the punishment of malefactors, and a mayor, bailiffs, and other head officers. The act reserved a power to the King, if it should appear, by information or otherwise, that Chester was not a meet place for a sanctuary, he might by his proclamation discharge the said city thereof, and appoint some other town or place in its stead. Not long after the passing of this act, Hugh Aldersey, then mayor, accompanied by Mr. Foulk Dutton, went up with a petition to the King, representing to his Majesty that Chester, being a port-town, and situated on the borders of Wales, was a very unfit place for a sanctuary for malefactors, and that it would be attended with many inconveniencies to the merchants and inhabitants; the King acceded to their petition, and by proclamation removed the sanctuary from Chester to Stafford. The privilege of sanctuary was finally abolished by a statute of 21 Jac. I.

By an act of parliament passed in the 27th of King Henry VIII. the preamble to which states that common justice had not been before that time indifferently ministered in the county palatine of Chester (or in the several counties of Wales) like, and in such form, as in other places of the realm; it was enacted, that for the future justices of the peace should be appointed in Cheshire and Wales, as in other parts of the kingdom.

The county palatine of Cheshire having in former times had a parliament of its own, sent no representatives to the parliament of the realm: having been abridged of their ancient privileges, they petitioned that they might send knights and burgeses to parliament, in common with their fellow-subjects; in consequence of which, an act passed in the year 1542, by which it was enacted, that in future two knights should be returned to parliament for the county palatine, and two burgeses for the city of Chester.

#### *Historical Events.*

That this county was frequently the scene of contest between the Britons and Romans, there is little doubt; and we know that the twentieth legion, belonging to the latter, had their station at Chester, but as to the particulars of any military transactions, which may be presumed to have taken place within the limits of Cheshire, history is silent.

The first remarkable event relating to the county, recorded by our historians, is the defeat of the Britons, and the capture and destruction of Chester, by Ethelfrid, King of Northumberland, in 607, when he came to avenge the quarrel of St. Augustine, the first archbishop of Canterbury, to whose metropolitan jurisdiction the British monks and bishops refused to submit<sup>p</sup>. Of the monks of Bangor, who had flocked to the field of battle, to put up prayers for their countrymen, nearly 1200 were slaughtered, a number which seems almost incredible; but we are assured by Bede, that the monks of that monastery were so numerous, that they were divided into seven communities, each of which consisted of about 300, who were under the government of so many provosts, or rulers, and that they all maintained themselves by the labour of their hands<sup>q</sup>. Ethelfrid's triumph seems to have been of short duration, for we are told that several British princes, having raised an army, marched towards Chester, and defeated him with great slaughter; that he fled beyond the Humber, and that one of these princes, Cadwan, was elected King of Wales, at Chester<sup>r</sup>. From this time Cheshire continued, as before, under the dominion of the Britons, till the year 828, when king Egbert took Chester<sup>s</sup>, and made it part of the kingdom of Mercia, then tributary to him.

At the latter end of the year 894, according to the Saxon Chronicle, though some writers place it in 892, an army of Danes, coming from Northumberland by forced marches, took possession of Chester. King Alfred's forces arrived too late to prevent their seizing the fortrefs; but by destroying all the cattle and corn in the neighbourhood, and intercepting their provisions, they drove them to such extremities, that they were obliged to feed upon horse-flesh, and were glad to quit the city, and make their escape into North Wales<sup>t</sup>. In 905, or as some writers say 908, Ethelred, Duke of Mercia, and Ethelfleda, his wife, rebuilt the city of Chester, which had been ruined by the Danes. In the years 915 and 916, or according to the Saxon Chronicle 914 and 915, this Ethelfleda, a noble-spirited woman, and, as was before observed, the daughter of King Alfred, being entrusted after her husband's death with the government of Mercia, built a town or fortrefs at Edisbury, in the forest of Delamere, and another at Runcorn. In 920<sup>u</sup>, or according to the Saxon Chronicle 923, King Edward the Elder built the city of

<sup>p</sup> See Sax. Chron. R. Higden inter Rerum Ang. Scrip. III. 228. Galf. Monumeth. Rerum Brit. Scrip. Vetust. p. 85, and Bedæ Eccl. Hist. Ibid. p. 177. <sup>q</sup> Bedæ Hist. Ecc. ut supra.

<sup>r</sup> Galf. Monumeth. ut supra, p. 86. <sup>s</sup> Ralph Higden inter Hist. Angl. Scrip. III. 252. the date is not mentioned, but may be collected from a passage in the Saxon Chronicle.

<sup>t</sup> Sax. Chron. See also Ralph Higden inter Hist. Angl. Scrip. III. 258, 259.

<sup>u</sup> R. Higden inter Hist. Ang. Scrip. III. 261.

Thelwall,

Thelwall, on the Mersey, and placed a garrison there. King Edgar being at Chester in the year 971, received the homage of eight petty sovereigns, or, as some have supposed, governors of provinces<sup>a</sup>; and Ralph Higden, the monk of Chester, relates a story of his having been rowed by them from his palace to the church of St. John's<sup>b</sup>. In 981 Cheshire was laid waste by pirates<sup>c</sup>.

The first two centuries after the conquest are chiefly distinguished, in the Cheshire annals, by the inroads of their neighbours the Welsh, and the preparations made by our monarchs to resist them: during this time, Chester was the usual place of rendezvous for the English army; and all that part of the county which bordered on Wales suffered most deplorably, not only from the ravages of the enemy, but by the destruction which was made from time to time by the King's command, to prevent them from being benefitted by the plunder. It may here be remarked, that the barony of Halton was held under the Earldom of Chester, by the service of leading the vanguard of the Earl's army, whenever he should march into Wales. The first mention of an inroad of the Welshmen, which was attended with any remarkable consequence, was in 1093, when, under the command of Griffith ap Conan, they committed great slaughter in Cheshire<sup>d</sup>. Collins, in his Peerage, speaks of a battle fought at Nantwich in the time of Hugh Lupus<sup>e</sup>: in 1121, the Welshmen made an incursion, and burnt two castles<sup>f</sup>, probably Shocklach, and Old Castle, in Malpas: of the latter, we know nothing but its name. The sites of these castles are not very far asunder on the borders of Wales, and it is probable they were built as a security to the frontiers.

About the year 1150, the Welsh laid waste this county, but were cut off on their return at Nantwich<sup>g</sup>. King Henry II. in the year 1156, previously to his unsuccessful expedition into Wales, came to Chester, and encamped, for some time, with his army on Saltney Marsh<sup>h</sup>; in 1164 he came by sea to Chester, with a large army, meditating another invasion of North Wales, but after making some stay, disbanded his army, and abandoned his intended expedition<sup>i</sup>. In 1212, the Welshmen, having again invaded the borders, took some castles, put the garrisons to the sword, burnt several towns, and returned laden with plunder; King John assembled an army, and marched as far as Chester, threatening destruction on the invaders, but having there received the

<sup>a</sup> Higden calls them *subreguli*.

<sup>b</sup> Ralph Higden, ut supra, vol. III. p. 267.

<sup>c</sup> R. Higden. p. 270.

<sup>d</sup> Caradoc's History of Wales, by Powell, p. 118. Edit. 1774.

<sup>e</sup> Edit. 1763. vol. VII. p. 504.

<sup>f</sup> Sim. Dunelm. inter Decem Scrip. 245.

<sup>g</sup> Harl.

MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1989. p. 378.

<sup>h</sup> Caradoc's History of Wales, by Powell, p. 173. Edit. 1774.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. p. 191.

unwelcome

unwelcome news that his barons were absolved from their allegiance, and being warned, that if he proceeded, he would either be assassinated by those about his own person, or delivered up to the enemy, he disbanded his army, and returned to London<sup>e</sup>. In 1245, we are told, that King Henry III. returning from an expedition into Wales, caused the brine pits to be destroyed, and all the neighbouring parts of Cheshire to be spoiled and impoverished, to prevent the Welsh from procuring provisions thence either by rapine, purchase, or favour, the consequence of which was a most dreadful famine<sup>b</sup>. In 1256, the Welsh, irritated by the oppressions and tyranny of Sir Geoffrey de Langley, lieutenant of the principality under Prince Edward, broke out into rebellion; and invading Cheshire ravaged the country up to the very gates of the city<sup>i</sup>. The following year they renewed their plunder, wasted the country with fire and sword, and repulsed Prince Edward, who had marched with an army to subdue them<sup>k</sup>.

At length the King having determined on undertaking himself an expedition against the Welsh, summoned all who held of him by knight's service to attend him at Chester, on St. Mary Magdalen's day, (1257.) Thither accordingly he marched, with a great army, and the harvest being then just ready for the sickle, destroyed all the standing corn, lest it might afford a supply of provisions to the Welshmen, which caused a most dreadful scarcity; and in the event occasioned that distress to his own army, which he had intended should be felt only by his enemies; and was one of the chief causes which obliged him, without having been able to accomplish the purpose of his expedition, to make an inglorious retreat<sup>l</sup>. After the King's return, James, Lord Audley, who had large possessions, and some castles on the borders of Wales, being returned from Germany, in revenge for the injuries which the Welshmen had committed in his absence by burning his castles<sup>m</sup>, and plundering his estates; in his turn invaded their country, and put many of the inhabitants to the sword. The Welshmen again retaliated, and the contest was continued for some time, and on both sides houses and castles were burnt, and much blood spilt<sup>n</sup>; and we are told that from the effect of their frequent contentions, the confines of each country, exhibited the appearance of an uninhabited wilderness<sup>o</sup>.

The following year, the King having determined on another expedition against the Welshmen, summoned all who held of him by knight's service to appear, with horse and arms at Chester, the Monday before St. John Baptist's day, and accompany him into Wales<sup>p</sup>. But the Welsh, in the mean time, having sued for peace,

<sup>e</sup> M. Paris, p. 231, 232.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. 684.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. 937.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. 943.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. 954.

<sup>m</sup> One of these must have been Newhall Castle, in the parish of Audlem, a few miles from Nantwich, of which we have no notice, except in a record nearly as old as these transactions.

<sup>n</sup> M. Paris, p. 957.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. p. 958.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. and Dugdale's Baronage, v. i. p. 141.

the expedition was laid aside. In the year 1274, King Edward I. went to Chester in the month of November, and summoned Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, to a conference; but he not thinking it prudent to put himself in the King's power, unless some pledge had been given for his personal safety, refused to attend this summons<sup>b</sup>.

The King having sent a powerful army, two years afterwards, as a check upon Llewellyn, who still continued to make inroads, and plunder the borders, marched himself with an army towards Wales, in 1277: having arrived at Chester, about the festival of St. John the Baptist, he caused spacious avenues to be cut through an extensive and thickly wooded forest, which was between that city and Llewellyn's territories, by which means he obtained a passage for his army, free from all danger of ambuscade, and entered Wales in triumph<sup>c</sup>. Llewellyn now hastened to make his submission, but commenced his depredations again in 1281: his death, which happened in the same year, in a skirmish with Lord Mortimer<sup>d</sup>, was a prelude to the complete subjection of the Welsh, and put a stop for ever to those depredations which had harassed the inhabitants of Cheshire for more than two centuries.

We hear little of this county in the baronial wars, during the reigns of King John and his successor, indeed, the only event which seems to be recorded is the capture of Chester in 1264, by the Earl of Derby, and a large force, after having defeated William Lord Zouch, David brother to Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and James, Lord Audley, who opposed him on the King's part<sup>e</sup>. In 1294, King Edward I. was with his army at Chester, on his route to the isle of Anglesey, which then fell into his hands<sup>f</sup>. In 1353, Edward, the Black Prince, went to Chester, accompanied by the Earls of Stafford and Warwick, with a military force, to protect the justices itinerant, Sir Richard Willoughby, and Sir Richard Snareshuil, in case of an insurrection, which was apprehended<sup>g</sup>.

Soon after Henry of Lancaster first appeared in arms against King Richard II., Sir Robert Legh and Sir John Legh, with many others, came to him at Shrewsbury, on behalf of the city and county of Chester, with an assurance that they were ready to submit themselves unto him in all things. Upon this he came to Chester, and staid there several days, mustering his army in sight of the city: during this time he caused Sir Peers Legh, commonly called Perkin a Legh, (ancestor of the Leghs of Adlington,) a faithful adherent of King Richard, to be executed, and ordered his head to be put up on one of the highest towers of the city<sup>h</sup>. King

<sup>b</sup> Th. Wikes, Hist. Ang. Scrip. (Fell.) II. 101.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. II. 105.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. II.

<sup>e</sup> Holinshed.

<sup>f</sup> Th. Wikes, Hist. Ang. Scrip. II. 126.

<sup>g</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, I. 161.

<sup>h</sup> Holinshed. His body was buried in the church of the White-friers at Chester. Harl.

Richard was at this time in Conway Castle, from whence he soon afterwards removed to Flint. The conference between the King and the Duke of Lancaster at this castle, and its consequence are well known: the Duke returned to Chester, bringing the unfortunate monarch in his suite, virtually a prisoner; they remained one night at Chester, and then proceeded by easy stages towards London.

In 1403, when Henry had not been many years seated on his throne, the Earl of Northumberland, and his son, the Lord Percy, commonly known by the name of Hotspur, raised a rebellion against him; and caused it to be twice proclaimed in Chester, and in every market town in the county, that King Richard was still alive, and that he might be seen at the castle at Chester, by all such as should repair thither<sup>p</sup>. During this rebellion the Cheshire men, who had been so forward to express their attachment to Henry of Lancaster, at Shrewsbury a few years before, took part with the Percys, and bore a memorable share in the battle, which was fought near that town. The event of the battle, which was fatal to the Percy cause, was particularly disastrous to the men of Cheshire; the most part of the knights and esquires of the whole county, to the amount of 200, with a great number of their retainers, were slain, and the Baron of Kinderton and Sir Richard Vernon were taken and beheaded. A few of the Cheshire knights appear to have adhered to the King, of whom Sir John Calveley and Sir John Maffey of Podington, fell in the battle<sup>q</sup>. In the following year the King pardoned the citizens of Chester for the part they had taken in the rebellion of Harry Percy, on their paying a fine of 300 marks<sup>r</sup>.

It does not appear that the county of Chester was the scene of any military transactions (excepting that it was for a short time the quarters of the Duke of Lancaster's army, as before mentioned,) from the reign of Henry III. to that of Charles I.; but the fame of the Cheshire men has been highly celebrated in our annals, on account of their warlike prowess. The heroic exploits of Lord Audley and his four Cheshire esquires<sup>s</sup> at the battle of Poitiers, are well known. The battle of Blore Heath, in 1459, in which James, Lord Audley, was defeated by the Earl of Salisbury, was singularly disastrous to the men of Cheshire; and what rendered it the more calamitous was, that they ranged nearly in equal numbers on the side of each of the contending parties. Those who fought with the house of Lancaster wore the cognizance of a white swan, given them by Queen

<sup>p</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1989. Records of the Corporation. Foulthurst, and Sir John Hawkstone.

<sup>q</sup> Holinshed.

<sup>r</sup> Sir John Delves; Sir Thomas Dutton; Sir Robert

<sup>s</sup> Charter amongst the

Margaret<sup>1</sup>, who is said to have visited Chester in 1455<sup>1</sup>. Sir Thomas Dutton, Sir John Done, Sir Hugh Venables, Sir Richard Molineux, Sir William Troutbeck, Sir John Legh of Booths, and Sir John Egerton, were left dead on the field<sup>1</sup>.

The men of Cheshire bore a distinguished part in the battle of Flodden-field, in 1513; it was particularly fatal to the burgeses of Macclesfield, several of whom, with their mayor, Sir Edmund Savage, were left dead on the field<sup>2</sup>. When the Earl of Hertford, after a victory obtained over the Scots, in 1544, knighted at Leith about 60 officers, who had accompanied him in that expedition; nearly one-third of them were gentlemen of the most distinguished Cheshire families<sup>2</sup>: among these was Sir Edmund Savage, whose father fell at Flodden-field.

Sir Bullstrode Whitlocke mentions the taking of Chester by the parliamentary forces, soon after the commencement of the civil war between King Charles I. and his parliament: but it is evidently an oversight, and intended for Chichester<sup>3</sup>. Chester was not attacked by the parliamentary forces till the month of July 1643. Nantwich had been garrisoned by the parliament early in the autumn of 1642, and soon after fell into the hands of Lord Grandison, who took it by a coup-de-main on the 21st of September, but evacuated it again before the battle of Edghill<sup>2</sup>.

Soon after this an attempt was made by the principal persons of this county, who were pretty equally divided between the King and the parliament, to preserve its internal peace; and a treaty of pacification was actually entered into at Bunbury, on the 23d of December, by Robert Lord Kilmorey and others, under the sanction of the commissioners of array<sup>4</sup>; but the articles then agreed upon were rendered null and void by an ordinance of parliament, which

<sup>1</sup> Holinshed.      <sup>1</sup> MS. notes relating to Chester, collected by Archdeacon Rogers in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.      <sup>1</sup> Holinshed. Drayton in his Polyolbion (song xxii.) strongly depicts the division of the Cheshire gentry in this memorable battle, by supposing that these brave knights, who are recorded to have been left dead on the field, fell each by the hands of a relative.

“ There Dutton Dutton kills; a Done doth kill a Done;  
A Booth a Booth; and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown:  
A Venables, against a Venables doth stand,  
And Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand:  
There Molineux doth make a Molineux to die;  
And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try.  
Oh Cheshire! wert thou mad of thine own native gore,  
So much until this day thou never shedd’st before!  
Above two thousand men upon the earth were thrown,  
Of whom the greatest part were naturally thine own.”

<sup>2</sup> Records of the corporation of Macclesfield.

<sup>2</sup> Holinshed.

<sup>3</sup> See Clarendon, Heath, &c.

<sup>2</sup> History of Nantwich.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2135. f. 83.

required

required their adherence to maintain and assist the common cause, pursuant to their former resolutions: and for their better encouragement Sir William Brereton a gentleman of the county, and one of its representatives in parliament, was sent down with a troop of horse, and a regiment of dragoons for their protection: the King on the other hand, sent Sir Nicholas Byron, with a commission, by which he was appointed colonel-general of Cheshire and Shropshire, and governor of Chester <sup>b</sup>.

Sir Nicholas Byron, on his arrival in Cheshire, soon raised a considerable force, and had frequent skirmishes with the parliamentary troops<sup>c</sup>, of which we have no particulars. Chester was the head-quarters of the King's party. Sir William Brereton, on the other hand, having taken possession of Nantwich again for the parliament, fortified it, and fixed his head-quarters in that town<sup>d</sup>. Vicars, in his Parliamentary Chronicle, says, that soon after Sir William Brereton came down into Cheshire, being then with his troops at Congleton, and hearing that Sir Thomas Aston and Sir Vincent Corbet, two active commissioners of array, were about to take possession<sup>e</sup> of Nantwich with their forces, sent a party on or about the 28th of January, 1643, to secure that town; that Sir Thomas Aston marched to Nantwich, and attacked the town five several times, but was as often repulsed; and that he and Sir Vincent Corbet were entirely defeated by Sir William Brereton, who soon afterwards came up with his troops. At this time Nantwich lay open on all sides without any trench or banks<sup>f</sup>. Sir William Brereton, after he had obtained possession of it, surrounded it with mud walls and ditches. On the 20th of February the parliamentary forces were defeated on Tilston-heath<sup>g</sup>: Sir Robert Cholmondeley's patent of peerage speaks of his good services in this action. On the 21st of February Beeston-castle was taken by the parliament, and the next day there was a skirmish in Tiverton field, in which some officers of the King's and one of Colonel Mainwaring's on the side of the parliament were killed, and were buried at Tarpoley<sup>h</sup>.

Lord Capel being sent down into these parts by the King, with a commission of lieutenant-general of Shropshire, Cheshire, and North Wales, raised a body of horse and foot, which gave Sir William Brereton so much trouble at Nantwich, that the garrison at Chester, as Lord Clarendon tells us, had breath to enlarge its quarters and provide for its own security, though the parliamentary army omitted no opportunity of infesting it<sup>i</sup>. Vicars, in his Parliamentary Chronicle, gives an account of

<sup>b</sup> Clarendon.  
of the Siege of Chester, Harl. MSS., No 2155.  
vol. ii. p. 907.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Vicars.

<sup>f</sup> Randle Holme's Narrative

<sup>g</sup> Burghall's Diary, 8vo. History of Cheshire,

<sup>h</sup> History of Nantwich,

a battle

a battle fought at Middlewich on the 13th of March, 1643, in which he tells us that Sir Thomas Aston and his forces were put to flight by Sir William Brereton, who had advanced with his army from Northwich, where he was then quartered. He adds that there were taken prisoners Sir Edward Mosely, three Cheshire captains, Massey of Codrington, Hurleston, and Starkey, eight others, and about 500 soldiers. On the 11th of April there was a skirmish near Burleydam-chapel<sup>1</sup>; on the 18th a battle was fought between the Nantwich forces and the King's garrison, who had sallied from Cholmondeley-hall and were repulsed<sup>2</sup>. Lord Capel on the 17th of May made an unsuccessful attack on Nantwich<sup>3</sup>: on the 12th of June a party from Nantwich attacked Mr. Leche's house at Carden, which made some ineffectual resistance: Mr. Leche was taken prisoner to Nantwich<sup>4</sup>. About the latter end of June, a troop of horse from the King's garrison at Cholmondeley-hall, burnt Bunbury church<sup>5</sup>. On the 18th of July Sir William Brereton marched with his forces before Chester, and made a vigorous attack on the works of that garrison, but was beaten off, and obliged to retreat<sup>6</sup>. On the 3d of August, Lord Capel with his forces made an unsuccessful attack on Nantwich; he marched again towards that town, on the 16th of October, for the purpose of making another assault on its garrison, and occupied Acton church and Dorfold-hall; but evacuated both the next day. On the 12th of November there was a skirmish at Stamford-bridge, between the parliamentary garrison from Tarvin and some of the Chester forces, in which the former were defeated.

About the end of November, this year, a considerable body of troops arrived out of Ireland, for the King's service, and were for the present ordered to remain at Chester, under the command of Lord Byron, the governor's nephew, who employed them in various services in this county, and with their assistance took Beeston castle, Dodington castle, Crewe-hall, Dorfold-hall<sup>7</sup>, and Barthomley<sup>8</sup> and Acton churches<sup>9</sup>; all of which had been made garrisons by the parliamentary

<sup>1</sup> Burghall's Diary.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Burghall's Diary.

<sup>6</sup> Lord Clarendon, II. 146. History of the siege of Chester, p. 17.—This account of the siege of Chester was compiled by Mr. John Broster of Chester, from an anonymous MS. Journal which Dr. Gower mentions, in his Sketch of the Materials of a History of Cheshire, as communicated by the Rev. Mr. Harwood; from the Corporation Records; and from printed authorities. In the second edit. (1804), are copies of some original letters now in the possession of Mrs. Cowper of Over-Legh.

<sup>7</sup> Burghall's Diary. It was taken January 2, 1644.

<sup>8</sup> Burghall says there were only a few of the inhabitants in Barthomley church, who had gone in for safety, and it is observed that the cruelties committed on this occasion at Barthomley and in the neighbourhood, formed one of the articles against King Charles I.

<sup>9</sup> Acton church appears to have stood a considerable siege. See Burghall's Diary.

army.

army<sup>r</sup>. Beeston castle having been surrendered without resistance on the 12th of December<sup>s</sup>, the governor was executed not long afterwards for cowardice<sup>r</sup>. Dodington castle surrendered also on the first summons<sup>r</sup>: Crewe-hall made a vigorous defence, but was obliged to capitulate the 28th of December<sup>s</sup>, for want of victuals and ammunition<sup>b</sup>.

About the same time, in the month of December 1643, Lord Byron, with his Irish regiments, defeated the whole of the parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton at Middlewich<sup>c</sup>: those who escaped fled to Nantwich<sup>d</sup>. In consequence of this action Northwich fell into Lord Byron's hands<sup>e</sup>. Nantwich being the only garrison in Cheshire in possession of the parliament, was besieged during the greater part of the month of January, 1644<sup>f</sup>. After some vigorous but unsuccessful assaults, the town was relieved by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Sir William Brereton; who having joined their forces, defeated Lord Byron's army, the remains of which, with their commander, retreated to Chester, on the 25th of January; most of the officers retired into Acton church, and Dorfold-hall, but were soon obliged to surrender<sup>g</sup>; among them was the celebrated General Monk, then a colonel in the King's army, who was sent a prisoner to the Tower, where he continued till nearly the end of the war<sup>h</sup>. During the siege of Nantwich, Colonel Mirton routed a party of the King's horse, conveying arms and ammunition to the besiegers, and took Sir Nicholas Byron, governor of Chester, prisoner<sup>i</sup>. About the end of January there was a skirmish near Tarvin in which the parliamentarians were successful<sup>k</sup>: Crewe-hall fell into the hands of the Parliament again on the 4th, and Dodington-castle on the 7th; both surrendered without resistance<sup>l</sup>.

On the 13th of February a detachment from the garrison at Chester made an attack on a body of the parliamentary forces, who had posted themselves at Christleton, and after an obstinate conflict, in which much blood was spilt, compelled them to retire<sup>m</sup>. Adlington-hall, a garrison of the King's was taken February 14th<sup>n</sup>; and on the 25th, after a long siege, Withenshaw, another royal

<sup>a</sup> Clarendon's History, 8vo. II. 456, and History of Nantwich.      <sup>x</sup> Dugdale's View of the Troubles.—Whitelocke seems to date the surrender of Beeston castle in the month of January 1643-4.      <sup>y</sup> History of the siege of Chester, p. 33.      <sup>z</sup> History of Nantwich Memoirs, p. 75.      <sup>b</sup> Dugdale's View of the Troubles.      <sup>c</sup> History of Nantwich.      <sup>d</sup> Burghall says that this action was fought on St. Stephen's day in Booth-lane.      <sup>e</sup> Lord Clarendon, 8vo. II. 456.      <sup>f</sup> History of the siege of Chester, p. 41.      <sup>g</sup> The royalists had for some time before been drawing their forces round it, but the town was not closely besieged before the 2d of January. See Burghall's Diary.      <sup>h</sup> Burghall's Dairy.      <sup>i</sup> Heath's Chronicle, 53.      <sup>j</sup> Whitelocke, p. 76.      <sup>k</sup> Burghall's Dairy.      <sup>l</sup> Ibid.      <sup>m</sup> History of the siege of Chester, p. 42.      <sup>n</sup> Burghall's Dairy.

garrison;

garrison, the seat of the Tatton family<sup>1</sup>; Stockport was taken by Prince Rupert without any resistance, on the 25th of May<sup>2</sup>. In the month of June, 1644, the Parliament made Sir William Brereton major-general of Cheshire<sup>3</sup>. Cholmondeley hall, a garrison of the King's, was taken after a brave resistance, by the Earl of Denbigh, on the 7th of July<sup>4</sup>. On the 18th of August, Colonel Marrow, lieutenant governor of Chester, was slain in an attack upon the parliamentary garrison in Croughton-hall, near that city<sup>5</sup>: on the 21st of August, Sir William Brereton being then at Northwich, sent out a party, who, having advanced as far as Tarvin, were there defeated by a detachment of the King's forces, and fled over Delamere forest<sup>6</sup>.

On the 25th of August a severe action was fought at Old-Castle-heath near Malpas, in which the royalists were defeated with the loss of Colonel Vane, Colonel Conyers, and other officers<sup>7</sup>. On the 5th of September the parliamentary forces marched to Tarvin, fortified it with strong works, and placed a garrison there, and another at Huxley-hall<sup>8</sup>. In the month of September Colonel Jones defeated Prince Rupert's horse, near Malpas, and caused them to retreat with considerable loss to Chester<sup>9</sup>. On the 22d of that month Birket-house, in Wirrall, which had been garrisoned to secure the passage to Liverpool, was taken by the parliament<sup>10</sup>. In the month of October, 1644, Chester was blockaded by Sir William Brereton<sup>11</sup>. In November Beeston-castle was besieged by the parliamentary forces from Nantwich<sup>12</sup>. During the following month Chester was more closely blockaded, garrisons having been placed by Sir William Brereton at Aldford, Eccleston, Huntington, Rowton, Tarvin, Trafford and Upton-hall<sup>13</sup>. About the beginning of the ensuing year the parliamentary forces established their headquarters at Christleton, which they fortified, and they afterwards placed garrisons at Dodleston, Nether-Legh, and Lache<sup>14</sup>. On the 18th of January, 1645, an action took place between the parliamentary forces from Christleton, and the royalists from Chester, in which the latter were repulsed<sup>15</sup>; on the 26th of the same month the parliamentary forces made an unsuccessful attempt to storm Chester; Prince Maurice came to that garrison on the 20th of February<sup>16</sup>: the siege was in consequence again raised for a while, and the citizens burnt Boughton and the parliamentary garrison at Christleton<sup>17</sup>. Beeston castle, which had been long besieged

<sup>1</sup> Burghall's Diary.    <sup>2</sup> Ibid.    <sup>3</sup> Whitelocke, p. 85.    <sup>4</sup> Burghall's Diary.    <sup>5</sup> History of the siege of Chester, p. 47.    <sup>6</sup> History of the siege of Chester; but Burghall in his Diary says that the royalists were defeated with considerable loss.    <sup>7</sup> Burghall's Diary.    <sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Whitelocke, p. 97.

<sup>10</sup> Carte's Ormond Letters. vol. I. p. 65.

<sup>11</sup> Whitelocke, p. 101.

<sup>12</sup> Burghall's Diary.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. and Randle Holme's Narrative of the siege of Chester.

<sup>14</sup> Harl MSS No. 2155.

<sup>15</sup> Randle Holmes' Narrative.

<sup>16</sup> Burghall's Diary.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Randle Holme.

by the parliament, was relieved by Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice on the 17th of March; their soldiers plundered Bunbury, and set Beeston-hall on fire<sup>a</sup>. After Prince Maurice's departure the parliamentary army returned to the siege of Chester, and fixed their quarters at Nether-Leigh<sup>b</sup>. Beeston castle also was again besieged, and fortifications raised near it, for the purpose of attacking it with more effect<sup>c</sup>.

About the middle of May, the King advancing towards Chester with a large force, (although he afterwards altered his route) the parliament abandoned all their garrisons except Tarvin and Nantwich<sup>d</sup>. On the 20th of this month Sir William Brereton drew off his troops from Chester, and retreated to Nantwich: on the 22d the siege was raised, and the royalists relieved the town<sup>e</sup>. On the 4th of June a detachment from Beeston-castle made an unsuccessful attack upon Ridley-hall, then occupied by a small parliamentary garrison<sup>f</sup>. On the 20th of September Colonel Jones, with a large detachment from the siege of Beeston castle, marched by night to Chester, and before day-break stormed the outworks; got possession of St. John's church, and fixed a battery on the tower; the assault continued during the 20th and 21st<sup>g</sup>. On the 27th of the same month happened the battle of Rowton and Hoole-heath, (near Chester) in which the King's army, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, being overpowered by the joint forces of General Poyntz, and of Colonel Jones, who had hastened from the siege of the garrison to his assistance, was defeated and put to flight. The Earl of Lichfield and Lord Gerard, with some horse and foot from the garrison, made an unsuccessful attempt to recover the fortune of the day, in which the Earl of Lichfield, a brave and amiable nobleman, met with his death's wound<sup>h</sup>. Some writers have asserted, that the King was himself in this action<sup>i</sup> and that he escaped, with a small party of horse, to Chester, where he lay one night<sup>j</sup>; but it appears, by Lord Clarendon's account, by Randle Holme's narrative of the siege of Chester, and the printed history of the siege, that the King arrived in Chester the evening before the engagement; that he was lodged for two nights, at the house of Sir Francis Gamul; and that accompanied by Sir Francis, the mayor,

<sup>a</sup> Randle Holme.      <sup>b</sup> Ibid.      <sup>c</sup> Ibid.      <sup>d</sup> Ibid.      <sup>e</sup> History of the  
siege of Chester, p. 41, 42.      <sup>f</sup> Burghall's Diary.      <sup>g</sup> Randle Holme's Narrative.

<sup>h</sup> Lord Clarendon, II. 713.      <sup>i</sup> Burghall says the report was that the King was  
sometimes in the city and sometimes at Hoole-heath; which he observes was likely, as a passage was  
open from Northgate-street to Hoole without any great danger.

<sup>j</sup> See Whitelocke and Heath. Granger, in his Biographical History of England, goes so far  
as to say that the King was rescued from imminent danger in the action by the Earl of Lichfield.

and alderman Cowper, was a sad spectator of the defeat of his troops, first from the Phoenix tower, and afterwards from the tower of the cathedral church, where an officer was shot dead by his side<sup>b</sup>: on the morning of the 28th the King quitted Chester with 500 horse; Sir Francis Gamul, captain Thropp, and alderman Cowper, attending him as far as Denbigh.

On or about the 20th of November, Beeston castle, after enduring a year's siege, the provision of the garrison being quite exhausted, was surrendered to Sir William Brereton, by capitulation<sup>i</sup>. During the months of October and November, the besiegers had made some attempts to storm the city of Chester, and the garrison occasionally made sallies, with various success<sup>k</sup>. About the beginning of December, Sir William Brereton being joined by Colonel Booth, and the Lancashire forces, established his head-quarters at Dodleston<sup>l</sup>, and was enabled to blockade the city so closely, as to cut off all possibility of a supply of provisions; the besieged nevertheless, though reduced to the greatest extremities, held out till the third of February 1646, when having been fully assured that there were no hopes of relief, the garrison was surrendered by its governor, Lord Byron<sup>m</sup>, on honorable terms<sup>n</sup>.

No farther effort was made on the King's part, in this county, during the war. When the royalists in the north made an attempt to restore the King in the month of May, 1648, the gentlemen of Cheshire, in the interest of the parliament, fortified the castle and city of Chester, for which they received the thanks of the house: they engaged also to raise three regiments of foot, and one of horse, if they should be wanted for the defence of the country<sup>o</sup>. After the defeat of the Duke of Hamilton at Preston, that unfortunate nobleman, retreating with about 3000 horse, being the remains of the Scottish army, through Nantwich towards Uttoxeter, in the month of August, 1648<sup>p</sup>; the gentlemen of the country are said to have taken about 500 of them.

In the month of August, 1651, the Scottish army, under King Charles II. were quartered for a short time at Nantwich, previously to the battle of Worcester<sup>q</sup>: after the unfortunate event of that action (in the month of September) a party of the King's horse, on their retreat northward, passing through Sandbach (it being on the day of their fair) were attacked by the country people, and 100 of them

<sup>a</sup> Randle's Holme's Narrative.

November.

Narrative.

<sup>b</sup> See Whitelocke, and History of the siege.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 327, and Heath, 178.

<sup>d</sup> Whitelocke, p. 187. Burghall says on the 16th of November.

<sup>e</sup> History of the siege, and Randle Holme's Narrative.

<sup>f</sup> He was appointed governor after his uncle, Sir Nicholas, was taken prisoner.

<sup>g</sup> Whitelocke, p. 303, and 305.

<sup>h</sup> Whitelocke, p. 477.

taken

taken prisoners'. During the months of June and July 1655, many of the principal gentry of this county, among whom were Sir Peter Leycester of Tabley, Peter Venables, baron of Kinderton, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Mr. Shakerley, Mr. Warren of Poynton, and Mr. Massey of Podington, were sent prisoners to the castle at Chester, under suspicion of being disaffected to Cromwell's government'.

In the month of August 1659, Sir George Booth (who, as it was afterwards known, had a commission from King Charles II. appointing him commander in chief of all his forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, and North Wales) appeared in arms in Cheshire at the head of an army of upwards of three thousand men; he was accompanied by the Earl of Derby, Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Kilmorey, and several of the principal gentlemen of the county: they mustered upon Rowton-heath, the spot which had proved so unfortunate to King Charles I. and there read and published a declaration, setting forth that they took up arms for a free parliament, and to deliver the nation from the slavery they then laboured under'. General Lambert being sent by the parliament, with an army against Sir George Booth, they met at Winnington bridge near Northwich', on the 16th of August, when an action ensued, in which Booth's forces were soon defeated: he himself escaped from the field in disguise, but was taken at Newport-Pagnell, and sent to the tower'. After the engagement, Lambert marched with his army to Chester, then held by Colonel Croxton, which was immediately surrendered'. As a punishment for this rebellion against their power, the parliament passed a vote on the 17th of September to dissolve the corporation of the city of Chester, and that it should be no longer a county of itself'. On the eve of the revolution, Sir George Booth's son, Henry, Lord Delamere, who a few years before had been accused of an intention of raising a force in Cheshire to join the Duke of Monmouth, and had been tried for treason before lord chancellor Jefferies, but acquitted; as soon as he heard of the Prince's landing, raised a great force in Cheshire and Lancashire, declared in his favour, and immediately set forwards on his march to join him': meanwhile Lord Molineux and Lord Aston seized Chester for the King'. The abdication of the bigotted monarch, which shortly afterwards ensued, happily for the country, rendered these warlike preparations useless.

' Whitelocke, p 484.

' Leycester MSS. at Tabley.

' Heath.

' Burghall's

Diary.

' Heath, and Whitelocke.

' Ibid.

' Ibid.

' Collins's Peerage,

Edit. 1768. vol. VII. p. 85.

' Howell's Medulla Hist. Ang.

*Ancient and modern Division of Cheshire.*

When the survey of Domesday was taken, this county was divided into twelve hundreds, exclusively of the lands between the Ribble and the Mersey, containing six hundreds, now part of Lancashire, but then deemed part of Cheshire. The two ancient hundreds of Atiscros and Exestan have also been taken from Cheshire, and made part of the counties of Flint and Denbigh, in the principality of Wales; excepting a few townships, as Claverton, Dodleston, Marlston, and Lache, which still continue part of Cheshire, being within the modern hundred of Broxton. Sir Peter Leycester supposes the present division of the hundreds, to have taken place about the reign of Edward III.: he gives the following table as the proportion of the old hundreds to the new.

New Hundreds.	Old Hundreds.
Wirrall - -	Wilaveston *
Broxton - -	Dudestan and Cestre
Edisbury -	Rifeton and Roelau
Northwich -	Mildestvic
Nantwich -	Warmondestrou
Macclesfield -	Hamestan
Bucklow -	Bochelau and Tunendune.

The lords or bailiffs of these several hundreds, who hold by lease under the crown, are John Egerton, Esq. of the hundred of Broxton, Wilbraham Egerton, Esq. of Bucklow hundred, Earl Cholmondeley of Edisbury and Nantwich; the Earl of Derby, of Macclesfield hundred; the Duke of Leeds, of Northwich, and Birkenhead Glegg, Esq. of Wirrall. The general arrangement of the Cheshire hundreds has been as expressed in the above table; but it may be observed that several of the townships, which were in Dudestan hundred are now in Edisbury, and some other variations have taken place, as may be seen in the following table, in which are given the ancient and modern names of the townships, with the hundreds in which they were, and are now situated.

\* It seems probable that it lost this name soon after the conquest, and acquired that of Caldey hundred: for it appears, by various documents, that the ancestors of Mr. Glegg, who is now Lord of the hundred of Wirrall, was Lord, or Bailiff, of Caldey hundred from the reign of Edward I. to that of Henry VII. inclusive; and that they inherited the bailiwick from the family of Merton.—Leycester MSS. at Tabley and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2078.

Acatone and Actune	Acton	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Aculvestune	Occeleston	Mildestvic	Northwich
Alburgham	Alraham	Dudestan	Edisbury
Aldelime	Audlem	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Aldredelie	Overand Nether-Alderley	Bochelau and Hamestan	Both now in Macclesfield
Aldretune	Ollerton	Bochelau	Bucklow
Alretune		Hamestan	Macclesfield
Altetone	Oulton	Dudestan	Edisbury
Aicelie	Ashley	Bochelau	Bucklow
Bagelei	Baguley	Bochelau	Bucklow
Bedelei	Baddiley	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Berchesford	Barksford	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Berdeltune	Bertherton	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Berneftone	Barnston	Wilavefton	Wirrall
Bero	Barrow	Rifeton	Edisbury
Bertemeleu	Barthomeley	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Bertintone	Bartington	Tunendune	Bucklow
Bertintune	Barnton	Tunendune	Bucklow
Bevelei	Byley	Mildestvic	Northwich
Bichelei	Bickley	Dudestan	Broxton
Bicretone	Bickerton	Dudestan	Broxton
Blackeholl	Blacon-hall	Wilavefton	Wirrall
Blachenhale	Blaken-hall	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Bocitone	Boughton	Dudestan	Broxton
Bodcyrde	Little-Budworth	Dudestan	Edisbury
Bogedone	Bowdon	Bochelau	Bucklow
Boliberie	Bunbury	Rifetone	Edisbury
Bofelega	Bofley	Hamestan	Macclesfield
Boteftoch	Boftock	Mildestvic	Northwich
Bramale	Bramhall	Hamestan	Macclesfield
Bretburie	Bradbury	Hamestan	Macclesfield
Bretone	Brereton	Mildestvic	Northwich
Brochetone		Atiscros	
Brofsee	Broxton	Dudestan	Broxton
Bruge	Handbridge	Ceftre	
Brunhala	Bromhall	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Budevurde	Great-Budworth	Tunendune	Bucklow
Buiftane	Beefton	Rifeton	Edisbury
Burtone	Burton	Rifeton	Edisbury
Burtune	Barton	Warmondestrou	Nantwich
Burwardellei	Burwardfley	Dudestan	Broxton
Burwardeftone		Dudestan	
Butelege	Butley	Hamestan	Macclesfield
Caldecote	Caldecot	Dudestan	Broxton
Calders	Caldey	Wilavefton	Wirrall
Calmundeley	Cholmondeley	Dudestan	Broxton

Calvinton

Calvintone	-	Shavington	- -	Warmondestrou	-	Nantwich
Cedde	-	-	-	Hamestan	-	-
Celeford	-	Chelford	-	Hamestan	-	Macclesfield
Celelea	-	Chowley	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Cepmundwiche	-	(In Over-Peover)	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Cerdingham	-	Caringhamor	-	Kirmicham Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Cerlere	-	-	-	Warmondestrou	-	-
Cerletune	-	Chorlton	-	Warmondestrou	-	Nantwich
Chelmondestone	-	Cholmeston	-	Warmondestrou	-	Nantwich
Chenoterie	-	Knockorum	-	Wilaveston	-	Wirrall
Chingesslie	-	Kingsley	-	Roelau	-	Edisbury
Chriftleton	-	Chriftleton	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Cimbretune	-	Kinderton	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Claventone	-	Claverton	-	Atifcros	-	-
Cliftune	-	Clifton	-	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Clive	-	Clive	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Clotone	-	Clotton	-	Rifeton	-	Edisbury
Clutune	-	Clutton	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Cochehalle	-	Cogshall	-	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Cocle	-	-	-	Rifeton	-	-
Cogeltone	-	Congleton	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Colburne	-	{ Golbourn-Bellew and Golbourn-David }	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Copehale	-	Coppehall	-	Warmondestrou	-	Nantwich
Copestor	-	Capesthorne	-	Hamestan	-	Macclesfield
Cotintone	-	Codington	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Creu	-	Crewe	-	Warmondestrou	-	Nantwich
Creuhall	-	Crewe by Farndon	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Croeneche	-	-	-	Hamestan	-	-
Croftone	-	Croughton	-	Wilaveston	-	Wirrall
Croftune	-	Croxton	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Cunetesford	-	Knutsford	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Cuntitone	-	Cuddington	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Deneport	-	Davenport	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Depenbech	-	Malpas	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Devenham	-	Davenham	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Dochintone	-	Duckington	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Dodeftune	-	Dodleston	-	Atifcros	-	Broxton
Done	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donham	-	{ Dunham-Massey Dunham on the hill }	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Duntune	-	Dutton	-	Roelau	-	Edisbury
Ecclestone	-	Eccleston	-	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Edelauc	-	-	-	Dudestan	-	Broxton
Edisberie	-	-	-	Wilaveston	-	-
Edulvintune	-	Adlington	-	Hamestan	-	Macclesfield

Eghe

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Eghe	-	-	Edge	-	-	Dudestan	-	-	Broxton
Eleacier	-	-		-	-	Mildestvic	-	-	
Eltone	-	-	Elton	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Edisbury
Elveldelie	-	-	Alvanley	-	-	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Enelelei	-	-	Enley in Norton	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Entrebus	-	-	Antrobus	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Epletune	-	-	Appleton	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Etham	-	-	Eastham	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Eftone,	-	}	Afton, Afton-	-	}	Rifeton,	-	}	Bucklow and
Eftune, and	-		Grange, Afton-	-		Tunendune, and	-		Nantwich
Eftune	-		Mondrem, &c.	-		Warmondestrou	-		
Efwelle	-	-	Hefwall	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Etefhalle	-	-		-	-	Mildestvic	-	-	
Etingehalle	-	-	Ideafhaw	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Etone	-	-	Eaton	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Ferentone	-	-	Farndon	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Frotesham	-	-	Frodsham	-	-	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Gaitone	-	-	Gayton	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Goftril	-	-	Gooftrey	-	-	Mildestvic	-	-	Northwich
Govefurde	-	-	Gawfworth	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Gravesberie	-	-	Graifby	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Gropenhale	-	-	Gropenhall	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Hale	-	-	Hale	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Hamiteberie	-	-	Henbury	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Hanlei	-	-	Handley	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Hantone	-	-	Hampton	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Haregrave	-	-	Hargrave	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Edisbury
Haretone	-	-	Hatherton	-	-	Warmondestrou	-	-	Nantwich
Hefinghel	-	-		-	-	Hameftan	-	-	
Helefbie	-	-	Helfby	-	-	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Heletune	-	-	Halton	-	-	Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Hierford	-	-	Hartford	-	-	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Hofinchel	-	-		-	-	Hameftan	-	-	
Hoiloch	-	-	Wheelock	-	-	Mildestvic	-	-	Northwich
Holifurde	-	-	Hollingworth	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Hotone	-	-	Hoeton	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Hunditone	-	-	Huntington	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Hungrewenitune	-	-		-	-	Hameftan	-	-	
Inife	-	-	Ince	-	-	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Kenardeffe	-	-		-	-	Roelau	-	-	
Lai	-	-	Lea	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Laitone	-	-		-	-	Hameftan	-	-	
Landecken	-	-	Landican	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Lautune	-	-	Lawton	-	-	Mildestvic	-	-	Northwich
Lavorchedene	-	}	Larkdon, or	-	}	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
	-		Larton	-					

Lece	. . .	Lees	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Leche	. . .	Lache	-	Atiscros	-	Broxton
Lege	. . .	High-Legh	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Legh	. . .	Little Legh	-	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Leftone	. . .	Leighton	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Levetesham	. . .	Ledsham	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Lime	. . .	Lymm	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Maclesfield	. . .	Macclesfield	-	Hameftan	-	Macclesfield
Maneshale and Maneffelie	. . . }	Church-Minshull, and Minshull-Vernon	}	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Melas	. . .	Meoles	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Menlie	. . .	Manley	-	Roelau	-	Edisbury
Mera	. . .	Mere	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Merburie	. . .	Marbury	-	Warmondeftrou	-	Nantwich
Meretone and Merutune	. . . }	Marton	-	Hameftan	-	Macclesfield
Merlestone	. . .	Marlefton	-	Atiscros	-	Broxton
Mideftune	. . . }	Mid-Afton, or Middleton-Grange	}	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Moletune	. . .	Moulton	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Molintone	. . .	Molington	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Motburlege	. . .	Mobberley	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Motre	. . .	Mottram	-	Hameftan	-	Macclesfield
Mulintune	. . .	Millington	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Neffe	. . .	Neffe	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Neftone	. . .	Nefton	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Newbold	. . .	Newbold Aftbury	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Newentone	. . .	Newton	-	Ceftre	-	Broxton
Newtone	. . .	Newton	-	Mildestvic	-	Northwich
Nordberie	. . .	Norbury	-	Hameftan	-	Macclesfield
Nortune	. . .	Norton	-	Tunendune	-	Bucklow
Norwordine	. . .	Norden, or Northenden	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Oltetone	. . .	Oulton	-	Rifeton	-	Edisbury
Oletune	. . .	Ollerton	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Optone	. . .	Upton	-	Dudeftan and Wilavefton	}	Broxton and Wirrall
Ovre	. . .	Over	-	Dudeftan	-	Edisbury
Ovretton	. . .	Overton	-	Dudeftan	-	Broxton
Pevre	. . .	Peover	-	Bochelau	-	Bucklow
Pevretton	. . .	Pecforton	-	Rifeton	-	Edisbury
Pictetone	. . .	Bigton	-	Wilavefton	-	Broxton
Pol	. . .	Poole	-	Warmondeftrou and Wilavefton	}	Nantwich and Wirrall
Pontone	. . .	-	-	Warmondeftrou	-	-
Pontone	. . .	Poolton	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall
Potitone	. . .	Podington	-	Wilavefton	-	Wirrall

C H E S H I R E.

Prestune	-	-	Prenton	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Pulford	-	-	Pulford	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Rabie	-	-	Raby	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Redeclive	-	-	Radcliffe	-	-	Ceftre	-	-	
Rode	-	-	Odd-Rode	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Rodeftorne	-	-	Rofthorne	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Rodo	-	-	North-Rode	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Rumelie	-	-	Romily	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Rufitone	-	-	Rufhton	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Edisbury
Salhale, or Salhare	-	-	Saughall	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Saltone	-	-	Saighton	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Sanbec	-	-	Sandbach	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Santune	-	-	-	-	-	Warmondeftrou	-	-	
Seneleftune	-	-	Snelfon	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Macclesfield
Sibroc	-	-	Shipbrook	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Socheliche	-	-	Shocklach	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Sotowiche	-	-	Shotwick	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Sproftune	-	-	Sprofton	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Spureftone	-	-	Spurftow	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Stabelei, or Stablei	-	-	Tabley-Over and Nether	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Stanei	-	-	Stanney	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Stanlei <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	Warmondeftrou	-	-	
Stapleford	-	-	Stapleford	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton and Edisbury
Storetone	-	-	Stourton	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Sudendune	-	-	Sidington	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Sudtone, or Sutone	-	-	Sutton	-	-	Mildeftvic and Wilavefton	-	-	Northwich and Wirrall
Sumreford	-	-	Somerford	-	-	Mildeftvic and Wilavefton	-	-	Northwich and Wirrall
Sundreland	-	-	{ Sunderland in Dunham } { Maffey }	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Surveleg	-	-	Shurlach	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Tadetune	-	-	Tetton	-	-	Mildeftvic	-	-	Northwich
Tatenale	-	-	Tattenhall	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Tatune	-	-	Tatton	-	-	Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Tengeftivifie	-	-	Tingtwithle	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Tereth	-	-	-	-	-	Warmondeftrou	-	-	
Terve	-	-	Tarvin	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Tevretone	-	-	Teverton	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Tidulftane	-	-	Tilfton-Fernall	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Telleftone	-	-	Tilfton	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Broxton
Titelte	-	-	-	-	-	Hameftan	-	-	
Torintone	-	-	Thornton	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Torintune	-	-	Thornton in the Moors	-	-	Dudeftan	-	-	Edisbury
Torplei	-	-	Tarporley	-	-	Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Ttraford	-	-	Ttraford	-	-	Wilavefton	-	-	Broxton

<sup>b</sup> It appears by the survey that this had been formerly eftemed part of the manor of Wefton in Wybunbury.

Trafford, Troford, or Troxford	{ Bridge-Trafford, and Wimbald's-Trafford }	Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Tuigwelle	- Thingwell	- Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Turafaneton	- Thurfrafton	- Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Tufgeham	- Tufhingham	- Dufefan	-	-	Broxton
Ulvre	-	- Rifeton	-	-	
Walcretune	- Walgherton	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Walea	- Wallafey	- Wilavefton	-	-	Wirrall
Wareburgetune	- Warburton	- Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Wareford	- Warford	- Bochelau	-	-	Macclesfield
Wareneberie	- Wrenbury	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Warhelle	- Wardle	- Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Warnet	- Werneth	- Hameftan	-	-	Macclesfield
Watenhale	- Wettenhall	- Rifeton	-	-	Edisbury
Warretone	- Waverton, or Warton	- Dufefan	-	-	Broxton
Wenitone	- Winnington	- Roelau	-	-	Edisbury
Werbleftune	- Worlefton	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Wefanefstune, or Wiftetefstune	{ Wiftafton	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Wefstone	- Wefton	{ Tunendune and War- mondeftrou }	-	-	Bucklow and Nantwich
Wevre	- Weaver	- Mildeftric	-	-	Edisbury
Wibaldelai	- Wimbaldefley	- Mildeftric	-	-	Northwich
Wilaveftune	- Willafton	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Wimeberie	- Wybunbury	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Wimundefham	- Wincham	- Bochelau	-	-	Bucklow
Winftone	-	- Rifeton	-	-	
Wirfwelle	- Wirfwall	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	Nantwich
Wifdelea	-	- Wilavefton	-	-	
Witelei	- Whitley	- Tunendune	-	-	Bucklow
Witune	- Witton	- Mildeftric	-	-	Northwich
Wivclefde	-	- Warmondeftrou	-	-	
Wivevrene	- Wervin	- Wilavefton	-	-	Broxton
Wivreham	- Weverham	- Roelau	-	-	Edisbury

The parishes of Aldford, Aftbury, Backford, Bebbington, Bidfton, Brereton, Bromborough, Burton, Cheadle, Eastham, Harthill, Weft-Kirkby, Plemftall, Preftbury, Runcorn, Stoak, Stockport, Swettenham, Tattenhall, Taxall, Wilmflow, and Woodchurch, are not noticed by name in the Survey, although it contains many of their component townships: many townships, both of thefe and other parishes, are omitted.

*Ecclefiastical*

*Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Division.*

THIS County was, in ancient times, subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishops of Mercia, who sometimes had their seat at Chester. Peter, who was bishop of this diocese in the reign of William the Conqueror, removed the episcopal see to Chester, placing it, as it is said, in St. John's church: his successors were, for more than three centuries, occasionally called by historians, Bishops of Chester; although his immediate successor, Robert de Lindsey, had removed the see from Chester to Coventry, where he had built a magnificent palace. Mathew Paris says, that in his days, the bishopric had three seats, Chester, Lichfield, and Coventry. In the year 1541, King Henry VIII. made Chester a distinct bishopric, assigning it for a diocese, the archdeaconries of Chester and Richmond, severed from the sees of Lichfield and Coventry, and York: and comprising the whole of Cheshire and Lancashire; part of Yorkshire, Cumberland, and Westmoreland; one chapelry in Denbighshire, and four parishes in Flintshire<sup>c</sup>. By the King's charter, the new bishopric was placed in the province of Canterbury; but by an act of parliament passed 33 Henry VIII., the diocese of Chester was transferred from the province of Canterbury to that of York. The original revenues of the bishopric consisted of the manor of Weston, in Derbyshire, the manor-house of which was intended as a country seat for the bishop, and, being locally situated within the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, was, by the act of 33 Henry VIII., ordained to be within that of Chester; the manor of Abbots-Cotton in Cheshire; various other lands and impropriate rectories, which had belonged to the dissolved monastery of St. Werburgh, and the revenues of the archdeaconries of Chester<sup>d</sup> and Richmond. Dr. William Knight, being archdeacon of both, had previously surrendered his archdeaconries to the King, and it was ordained that the archdeacons should in future receive, in lieu of their former revenues, 5*cl. per ann.* each, payable by the bishop. Among the revenues of the archdeaconry of Chester, were certain mortuaries, due, by ancient custom, on the death of every rector and vicar within his jurisdiction; namely, the best horse, or mare, with the bridle and

<sup>c</sup> A map of this extensive diocese was published in the time of Bishop Peplow. <sup>d</sup> Among the temporalities belonging to the archdeacon, was a messuage near St. John's church, called the archdeacon's house, formerly the residence of the archdeacons. This messuage was leased to the Brereton family, in the reign of Henry VIII.: it was re-built not many years ago, and is now the residence of Edward Vernon, Esq. the present lessee. Bishop Peplow built another house in the adjoining orchard, now the property (as lessee) and residence of William Wynne, Esq.

saddle, boots, and spurs ; the best hat ; the best book ; the best upper garment, cloak, gown, or coat ; cassock, doublet, and breeches ; girdle, shoes, and stockings ; best tippet, garters, shirt, band, and cuffs ; gloves, seal, ring, purse, and all the money in it at the time of his death. In the 21st year of King Henry VIII. an act of parliament passed for the relief of the poor people, and other persons of the realm, from the payment of excessive mortuaries, which, for the future, were to be regulated, according to the value of the personal property of the deceased ; but the ancient right of the archdeacons of Chester, to the above-mentioned mortuaries from their clergy, though more oppressive, perhaps, than any others, were, by that act, recognized and confirmed ; and it was not till the year 1755, that the Cheshire clergy were relieved from this burden, when an act of parliament passed, by which these mortuaries were abolished, and the rectory of Waverton annexed to the see of Chester in lieu thereof, to take place on the first vacancy, or avoidance of that rectory.

In the year 1547, Bishop Bird surrendered to the King the manor of Weston, and all other temporalities belonging to the see, and received in exchange several impropriate rectories and rents in various counties, which, with the revenues of the above-mentioned archdeaconries, still belong to the see, except the rectory of Workington, in exchange for which, Queen Mary, in the year 1557, gave a fee-farm rent of 143*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.* in St. Bees, the rectories of Cartmel and Childwall, in Lancashire, and the patronage of all the prebends in the cathedral of Chester. The archdeaconry of Chester comprises the whole of Cheshire ; that part of Lancashire which lies south of the Ribble ; four parishes in Flintshire, and one chapelry in Denbighshire. That part of the archdeaconry which lies within this county, is divided into seven deaneries, Chester, Frodsham, Macclesfield, Wich-Malbank *alias* Namptwich, Malpas, Middlewich, and Wirrall.

Camden states the number of parishes in this county to be about 68 ; he must mean exclusively of those in the city of Chester ; but even that is considerably below the present number. There are now 86 in the whole, nine of which are in the city of Chester : of these parishes 46 are rectories, 22 vicarages, and 18 donatives, or curacies. The tythes of about 20 parishes were appropriated to religious houses ; some of these are annexed to the see of Chester ; but most of them are in lay hands. Knutsford was made a parish, by act of parliament, in 1740. Many of the Cheshire parishes are of great extent, and comprise numerous townships, and more than one chapelry : Prestbury has 32 townships, and 14 chapels, of which only one is domestic. Some of the chapelries having the privilege of baptism and sepulture, are called parochial, being, as Sir Peter Ley-

cester observes, "as lesser parishes created within the greater, for the benefit of the neighbourhood." Some of these have erroneously obtained the appellation of parishes.

Sir Peter Leycester calls those chapels which have been built for the accommodation of one or more townships, not having the liberty of baptism, or burial, "chapels of ease;" and those which have been built in or near the houses of great persons, and at their expence, "domestic-chapels." In Sir Peter Leycester's list, Witton and some others in the hundred of Northwich are, by an error of the press, as it should seem, classed with the domestic-chapels. Little Budworth and Nantwich have long been considered as parishes; Knutsford has been made so by act of parliament, and some have been made parochial, since Sir Peter Leycester's time. In Bacon's edition of Ecton's *Liber Regis*, there are several mistakes as to the parochial chapels: in the following list<sup>e</sup>, the parochial and domestic chapels are distinguished by the letters P. and D.; those marked with an asterisk have been augmented with Queen Anne's bounty: the date of consecration is added to those which have been built within the last century.

Chapels.		Parishes.
Adlington, D.	- - - -	Preftbury
Alfager, P.	(consecrated in 1789)	Barthomley
Altrincham, P.	(consecrated in 1799)	Bowden
*Alvanley	(difused)	Frodsham
*Afton, P.	- - - -	Rancorn
*Birkenhead	- - - -	Extraparochial
*Bosley	- - - -	Preftbury
Bruera, or Church-on-Heath, P.	- - - -	St. Oswald, Chester
*Burley-dam <sup>f</sup>	- - - -	Afton
*Burwardsley	(consecrated in 1735)	Bunbury
*Capefthorne	- - - -	Preftbury
*Carrington	(consecrated in 1759)	Bowden
Chad <sup>g</sup>	- - - -	Malpas
*Chad-kirk	- - - -	Stockport
*Chelford <sup>h</sup>	- - - -	Preftbury
Cholmondeley, D.	- - - -	Malpas
Christ's Church, or Chapel, in Macclesfield <sup>i</sup>	(consecrated in 1779)	Preftbury

<sup>e</sup> Corrected by William Nicholls, Esq. deputy registrar to the Bishop of Chester.

<sup>f</sup> This chapel is an extreme angle of

the chapelry of Wrenbury, in the parish of Afton, within the township of Dodcot-cum-Wilksley.

<sup>g</sup> There have been

some burials lately at Chad; but children are not baptized there.

<sup>h</sup> The old chapel was pulled down, and a new one

built on another site, and consecrated in 1770.

<sup>i</sup> Christenings are permitted in this chapel, and burials in the chapel-

yard, which are registered at the old chapel.

\*Congleton, P.

*Congleton, P.	-	-	-	-	Aftbury
*Daresbury, P.	-	-	-	-	Runcorn
*Disley, P.	-	-	-	-	Stockport
Dukenfield, D.	-	(disused)	-	-	Stockport
*Forest-chapel	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Goostrey, P.	-	-	-	-	Sandbach
*Halton, P.	-	-	-	-	Runcorn
*Haslington	-	-	-	-	Barthomley
Hargrave, P.	-	-	-	-	Tarvin
Holmes-chapel, or Church Holme, P.	-	-	-	-	Sandbach
*St. John's without the North Gate	-	-	-	-	Chester
*Latchford	-	(consecrated in 1781)	-	-	Grappenhall
*High-Legh, D.	-	-	-	-	Rosthorne
*Little-Leigh, P.	-	-	-	-	Great-Budworth
Macclesfield, P.	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
Marbury, P.	-	-	-	-	Whitchurch (Salop)
*Marple, P.	-	-	-	-	Stockport
*Marton, P.	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Norbury <sup>k</sup>	-	-	-	-	Stockport
Over-Peover, P.	-	-	-	-	Rosthorne
Nether-Peover, D.	-	-	-	-	Great-Budworth
*Pott-Shrigley, P.	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Poynton, P. <sup>l</sup>	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Rainow	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Ringey	-	-	-	-	Bowden
*Saltersford, or Jenkin Chapel (consecrated in 1794) <sup>m</sup>	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Siddington, P.	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Stockport—St. Peter, (consecrated in 1768)	-	-	-	-	
Nether-Tabley, D.	-	-	-	-	Great-Budworth
*Thelwall	-	-	-	-	Runcorn
Warburton, P.	-	-	-	-	{ Annexed to a mediety of the rectory of Lymm
*Wettenhall	-	-	-	-	Over
Nether-Whitley, D.	-	-	-	-	Great-Budworth
*Wincle	-	-	-	-	Preftbury
*Witton, P.	-	-	-	-	Great-Budworth
*Woodhead	-	-	-	-	Mottram
Woodhey, D.	-	-	-	-	Afton
*Wrenbury, P. <sup>n</sup>	-	-	-	-	Afton

<sup>k</sup> Children are baptized at Norbury; but there are no burials. <sup>l</sup> The old chapel was pulled down, and a new one built on another site, and consecrated in 1789. <sup>m</sup> It was erected in 1739; and divine service was from that time performed in it; but, although augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, it was not consecrated till 1794. <sup>n</sup> Wrenbury is generally called a parish; and it appears that it was so when Webb made his Itinerary of Cheshire, in the reign of King James I. (See Vale-Royal, p. 65.) It differs, nevertheless, in no respect from other parochial chapelries.

In

In the foregoing list, domestic-chapels, in private houses, are not included, only such as are detached buildings.

There were formerly chapels which have been either entirely demolished, or are now in ruins at Great-Boughton, at Congleton near the bridge, Moreton in Wirral, Newton, Poofey, Poulton, Stretton, Over-Tabley, and Wervin.

*Monasteries, Colleges, and Hospitals.*

THE Benedictine monks had a great abbey at Chester, dedicated to St. Werburgh, a priory at Birkenhead, and a cell in the Isle of Hilbree; the Benedictine nuns had a priory at Chester; the Cistercian monks an abbey at Vale-Royal; another at Combermere; another at Stanlaw, afterwards removed to Whalley, in Lancashire; and a fourth at Poulton, afterwards removed to Deulacres, in Staffordshire; the Austin canons had a priory at Runcorn, afterwards removed to Norton; and a small priory at Mobberley; the Præmonstratensian canons had a monastery at Warburton; the Knights Hospitallers had a preceptory at Barrow, and the black, grey, and white friars, had houses at Chester. Mention is made in ancient writings of the monasteries of St. Michael's and St. Anne's in Chester; we read of ancient monasteries existing in the Saxon times at Bromborough and Runcorn; of these no particulars are known. At Chester was the ancient collegiate church of St. John the Baptist, for a dean and prebendaries, or canons. There was a college at Bunbury for secular chaplains, founded by Sir Hugh Calveley; another at Macclesfield was intended by archbishop Savage. At Chester were the ancient hospitals of St. John, and St. Giles, and St. Ursula; there were hospitals also at Bebington, Boughton; Denwall, in Neston; Nantwich, Tarvin, and Wybunbury.

*Market Towns.*

THE present number of market towns in this county, exclusive of Chester, is twelve, Altrincham, Congleton, Frodsham, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Malpas, Middlewich, Nantwich, Neston, Northwich, Sandbach, Stockport, and Tarporley. There is a weekly market for provisions at Winsford-bridge, on the Weaver, in the parishes of Over and Middlewich, of late become populous in consequence of the extension of the salt trade in that neighbourhood. The principal market towns for corn are Chester, Nantwich, and Sandbach; there are corn markets also at Congleton, Macclesfield, Middlewich, and Stockport; but the most consider-

able trade between the corn-growers and the millers is carried on at a place called the Four-lane-ends near Tarporley. None of the Cheshire markets are noted at present for the sale of any other particular commodity; but at Nantwich, besides the usual weekly market, there is a great cattle market called the new-market, from the first Saturday in February till the latter end of May.

Neston and Tarporley, though the latter was certainly an ancient market-town, are not mentioned in the list in King's Vale Royal, which appears to have been made out in Queen Elizabeth's reign; it is probable that the markets had been discontinued and have since been revived. Tarvin, which had been then lately made a market-town by the influence of Sir John Savage, has lost its market beyond the memory of man. The following places had, in ancient time, charters for markets, all of which have been long discontinued; Aldford, Alderley, Audlem, Brereton, Bromborough, Burton, Coddington, and Upton. In the reign of Henry VIII., Sir Piers Dutton intended, if death had not prevented him, to have procured a charter for a market at Halton; where a market long since decayed, was formerly held on Saturday by prescription. The most noted fairs in the county are those of Chester<sup>o</sup>, Macclesfield, and Northwich; the most considerable, fair at Macclesfield is on the 22d of June for cattle, wool, cloth, cotton, and hardware: the Northwich fairs are almost entirely for the sale of Yorkshire goods, of which there is a considerable mart.

#### *Population.*

CHESHIRE not having been included in the subsidy roll of King Edward III., we have no opportunity of comparing its ancient, with the present population. It appears by the returns made to parliament pursuant to the population act in 1801, that there were then 34,482 inhabited, and 1139 uninhabited houses in this county; the total number of inhabitants is stated to have been 191,751, of whom 92,759 were males, and 98,992 females. Of the total number 38,823 were employed in agriculture, and 67,447 in trade, manufactures, and handicrafts. The following account of the number of houses, families, and persons in each township is taken from the above-mentioned return: the townships are arranged alphabetically under each parish, and the total of the population of each parish including its chapelries, if it has any, is given.

<sup>o</sup> See the account of Chester.

C H E S H I R E.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Acton	} Townships of the parish of Acton	}	52	1	55	262
Acton-Mondrem			18	-	29	111
Aufterton			6	-	6	59
Baddington			13	-	17	121
Brindley			28	-	29	148
Burland			80	-	80	371
Cool-Pilate			5	-	5	39
Cholmondeston			24	2	34	168
Edlafton			16	-	16	88
Faddiley			37	1	45	224
Henhull			9	-	9	45
Hurlston			27	-	29	162
Poole			23	3	30	168
Stoke			20	1	28	127
Worleston	46	2	51	269		
Total in the above townships			404	10	454	2362
Sound, a township partly in Acton and partly in Wrenbury			33	-	37	192
Wrenbury-cum-Frith	} Townships in the Chapelry of Wrenbury	}	60	2	79	404
Bromhall			18	-	22	140
Wirfwall			14	-	16	103
Woodcot			4	-	5	29
Total			96	2	122	676
Total in the parish of Acton, including the chapelry of Wrenbury			533	12	613	3230
Alderley-Superior	} Townships of Alderley	}	79	2	79	408
Alderley-Inferior			76	1	82	483
Great-Warford			56	-	59	287
Total			211	3	220	1178
Aldford	} Townships of Aldford	}	68	-	73	331
Buerton			6	-	6	39
Churton, part of			33	-	40	140
Edgerley			1	-	1	6
Total			108	-	120	516

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## CHESHIRE.

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Ashton on Mersey . . . . .	134	8	142	778
Sale . . . . .	134	2	136	819

A part of both of these townships being in the parish of Bowden, and the proportions not having been given in separately; the population of the parish of Ashton on Mersey cannot be ascertained.

Astbury-cum-Newbold	} Townships of Astbury	- - -	91	-	114	575
Alcumlow-cum-Moreton		- - -	20	-	20	116
Congleton		- - -	828	27	862	3864
Davenport		- - -	14	-	15	89
Eaton		- - -	33	6	36	184
Hulme-Walfield		- - -	15	-	16	122
Bug-Lawton		- - -	80	3	90	507
Odd-Rode		- - -	128	1	160	917
Radnor		- - -	2	-	2	14
Smallwood		- - -	82	1	90	492
Somerford-Booths	- - -	49	-	45	250	
Somerford-Radnor	- - -	19	-	23	142	
<b>Total</b>			<u>1352</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>1473</u>	<u>7269</u>

Audlem	} Townships of Audlem	- - -	190	4	214	695
Burton		- - -	54	2	81	405
Hankelow		- - -	25	2	42	207
Tittenley		- - -	5	-	5	48
<b>Total of the above townships</b>			<u>274</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>1350</u>

Dodcot-cum-Wilksley . . . . .	92	3	112	755
Newhall . . . . .	120	1	171	819

N. B. These townships are partly in Audlem, and partly in Wrenbury: there appears to have been no return of the township of Cool-lane.

Backford	} Townships of Backford	- - -	26	-	28	138
Chorlton		- - -	12	-	12	68
Coughall		- - -	2	-	2	17
Lea		- - -	11	-	11	70
Great-Mollington		- - -	17	1	18	111
<b>Total</b>			<u>68</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>404</u>

Baddiley . . . . .	42	-	47	276
Barrow . . . . .	88	1	88	501

Barthomley

# CHESHIRE

331

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Barthomley	}	Townships of Barthomley	88	1	88	184
Alfager			49	1	49	275
Crewe			46	-	48	289
Haddington.			147	-	147	677
Total			330	2	332	1425

The township of Balterley in this parish, (situated in Staffordshire,) contained 39 inhabited, 2 uninhabited houses, 42 families, and 237 persons.

Bebington, Higher,	}	Townships of Bebington	31	-	31	145
- - Lower			53	-	55	263
Poolton-cum-Spittle			18	-	18	87
Storeton			34	-	34	180
Tranmore			70	5	77	353
Total	206	5	215	1026		

Bidfton-cum-Ford	}	Townships of Bidfton	30	-	30	199
Claughton			11	-	12	67
Moreton			39	3	39	210
Saughall-Maffie			20	-	22	98
Total	100	3	103	574		

Birkenhead, an extra-parochial Chapelry - - - - - 16 - - - 17 - - - 110.

Bowden	}	Townships of Bowden	60	-	64	340
Agden			11	-	12	85
Altrincham			340	3	346	1692
Ashley			51	2	55	288
Baguley			76	1	78	423
Bollington			34	-	45	202
Carrington			70	-	78	435
Dunham-Maffey			154	1	154	872
Hale			121	1	156	783
Partington			65	-	65	358
Timperley	84	-	115	588		
Total of the above townships	1066	8	1163	6066		

Part of the townships of Ashton on Mersey, and Sale, are in this parish. See Ashton.

Brereton-cum-Smethwick - - - - - 81 - - - 2 - - - 81 - - - 556

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Brou-

## CHESHIRE.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.	
Bromborough	} Townships of	{	52	-	52	277	
Brimstage			Bromborough	25	1	25	127
Total	-	-	77	1	77	404	
Great-Budworth	} Townships of Great-Budworth	{	100	2	108	463	
Anderton			-	35	-	35	191
Antrobus			-	68	1	68	351
Appleton and Hull			-	145	2	245	1206
Afton			-	61	3	62	396
Barnton			-	79	-	89	402
Bartington			-	16	-	16	77
Cogshall			-	11	-	11	57
Comberbach			-	33	1	33	142
Crowley			-	23	-	24	147
Dutton			-	34	-	52	301
Little-Legh			-	70	2	71	380
Marbury			-	4	1	5	20
Marlton			-	53	1	56	284
Pickmere			-	27	1	30	148
Seven-oaks			-	24	-	24	130
Stretton			-	37	1	41	220
Lower-Tabley			-	19	-	21	127
Higher-Whitley			-	15	1	48	283
Lower-Whitley			-	21	2	30	137
Wincham	-	45	-	71	367		
Total	-	-	920	18	1140	5829	
Witton-cum-Twambroke	} Townships in the chapelry of Witton	{	279	3	295	1531	
Birches			-	1	-	1	13
Hartford			-	104	-	109	472
Hulfe			-	5	-	5	37
Lache-Dennis			-	5	-	6	43
Loftock-Gralam			-	70	1	70	361
Northwich			-	340	5	340	1338
Castle-Northwich			-	-	-	-	385
Winnington	-	31	2	33	196		
Total	-	-	835	11	859	4376	

The houses and families in the chapelry of Witton are exclusive of those in Castle-Northwich, which were not returned.

Nether

# CHESHIRE.

333

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Nether-Peover	} Townships of the chapelry of Nether-Peover {	-	38	-	43	256
Little-Peover		-	20	-	22	131
Allostock		-	76	-	79	419
Plumley		-	55	3	63	303
Total		-	189	3	207	1109
Great-Budworth	} and its townships {	-	920	18	1140	5829
Witton chapelry		-	835	11	859	4376
Nether-Peover		-	189	3	207	1109
Total in the parish of Great-Budworth		-	1944	32	2206	11,314
Little-Budworth	-	-	74	3	90	434
Bunbury	} Townships of Bunbury {	-	92	-	92	519
Alraham		-	54	-	66	335
Beefton		-	61	-	61	377
Burwardfley		-	40	2	44	204
Calveley		-	27	1	27	144
Haughton		-	24	-	24	151
Peckforton		-	44	-	53	260
Ridley *		-	-	-	-	122
Spurftow		-	50	-	65	339
Tilston-Fernal		-	19	-	19	130
Tiverton		-	74	-	74	377
Wardle	-	17	1	20	115	
Total		-	502	4	545	3073
Burton	} Townships of Burton {	-	56	-	56	288
Puddington		-	20	1	21	139
Total		-	76	1	77	427
Cheadle-Bulkeley	} Townships of Cheadle {	-	283	17	294	1577
Cheadle-Moseley		-	191	8	195	971
Handforth-cum-Bosdon		-	187	9	192	1034
Total		-	661	34	681	3582

\* The number of houses and families in the township of Ridley was not returned; the total number of houses in the parish, therefore, must have been (judging from the number of inhabitants in that township) about 520, instead of 502.

Chester.

## CHESHIRE

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Chester						
St. Bridget's parish	-	-	148	5	154	636.
St. John-Baptist	-	-	823	24	906	3831
St. Martin's	-	-	124	5	144	574
St. Mary's	-	-	461	2	494	2129
Gloverstone	} Townships of St. Mary's Parish	}	29	1	39	122
Marlton-cum-Lache			13	-	19	87
Mollington-Parva			4	-	4	23
Moston			2	-	2	14
Upton			26	1	26	173
N. B. There was no separate return for the township of Claverton.						
St. Michael	-	-	120	3	152	725
St. Olave	-	-	98	4	120	438
St. Oswald	-	-	706	18	737	3377
Bach	} Townships of St. Oswald	}	2	1	2	8
Great-Boughton			123	3	126	544
Croughton			3	-	3	33
Huntington			13	-	15	111
Idinslaw or Iddinshall			2	-	2	18
Newton			28	2	30	141
Wervin			11	-	11	56
Chutch-on-heath	} Townships of Bruera, a chapelry of St. Oswald	}	1	-	1	8
Lea-cum-Newbold			5	-	5	42
Saighton			32	-	44	242
St. Peter	-	-	168	3	181	810
Holy Trinity	-	-	435	17	507	2264
Blacon-cum-Crabhall. — A township of Trinity parish	-	-	4	-	4	36
Spittle an extra-parochial township	-	-	15	1	16	75
Chester-castle, extra-parochial	-	-	11	3	16	193
Total of Chester and the townships of its several parishes			3407	93	3760	16,710

Christleton

C H E S H I R E.

335

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Chrifleton (Church)	} Townships of Chrifleton	- - -	110	1	111	651
Chrifleton-Row, - or Rowton		- - -	15	-	15	88
Cotton-Abbots		- - -	2	-	2	21
Cotton-Edmunds		- - -	11	-	12	73
Littleton		- - -	5	-	5	24
Total	- - -	- - -	143	1	145	857
Coddington	} Townships of Coddington	- - -	15	-	15	110
Alderfey		- - -	22	1	27	154
Chowley		- - -	10	-	10	56
Total	- - -	- - -	47	1	52	320
Coppenhall-Church - - - Monks	} Townships of Coppenhall	- - -	54	5	56	241
- - -		- - -	19	-	24	121
Total	- - -	- - -	73	5	80	362
Davenham	} Townships of Davenham	- - -	71	-	71	327
Boftock		- - -	28	-	33	173
Eaton		- - -	1	-	1	15
Leftwich		- - -	189	-	196	899
Moulton		- - -	18	-	18	103
Newhall		- - -	2	-	2	13
Rudheath		- - -	50	1	54	264
Shipbrooke		- - -	13	-	13	90
Shurlach		- - -	9	-	9	49
Stanthorn		- - -	13	-	19	120
Wharton		- - -	99	-	138	753
Whatcroft	- - -	10	1	10	85	
Total	- - -	- - -	503	2	564	2891
Dodleston	} Townships of Dodleston	- - -	28	-	34	185
Lower-Kinnerton		- - -	16	-	16	97
Total	- - -	- - -	44	-	50	282

Eastham

## CHESHIRE.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Eastham	} Townships of Eastham	- - -	67	2	70	348
Hooton		- - -	19	1	19	91
Over-Poole		- - -	16	-	16	89
Nether-Poole		- - -	1	-	1	13
Sutton Great		- - -	24	-	24	153
—Little Thornton (Childer)		- - -	24	-	26	166
		- - -	18	1	18	112
Total	- - -	- - -	169	4	174	972
Irbie, a township partly in Eastham and partly in Woodchurch	} - - -	- - -	21	1	21	105
Whitby, a township partly in Eastham and partly in Stoak	} - - -	- - -	29	1	29	170
Eccleston	} Townships of Eccleston	- - -	35	1	35	199
Eaton		- - -	13	-	13	81
Total	- - -	- - -	48	1	48	280
Farndon	} Townships of Farndon	- - -	67	7	75	357
Barton		- - -	26	-	31	143
Churton		- - -	22	-	25	117
Clutton		- - -	16	-	16	72
Crewe		- - -	5	1	5	29
Total	- - -	- - -	136	8	152	718
Frodsham Lordship, including Bradley, Overton, Netherton and Woodhouses.	} Townships of Frodsham	- - -	272	-	389	1351
Alvanley		- - -	57	-	57	314
Helby		- - -	49	1	49	268
Kingsley		- - -	102	3	124	661
Manley		- - -	48	3	51	264
Newton		- - -	12	-	14	108
Norley		- - -	71	7	71	376
Total	- - -	- - -	611	14	755	3342

Gawsworth

C H E S H I R E.

337

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.	
Gawfworth	-	-	114	-	114	697	
Guildden-Sutton	-	-	22	-	26	158	
Grappenhall	} Townships of	{	36	-	41	338	
Latchford			Grappenhall	142	2	164	754
Total	-	-	178	2	205	1092	
Handley	} Townships of	{	31	-	31	203	
Golbourne-David			Handley	10	-	10	62
Total	-	-	41	-	41	265	
Harthill	-	-	24	1	28	107	
Hefwall cum-Oldfield	} Townships of	{	38	-	38	168	
Gayton			Hefwall	15	2	17	100
Total	-	-	53	2	55	268	
Ince	-	-	81	-	81	443	
Kings-Marfaes, an extra-parochial town- ship in the hundred of Broxton	-	-	6	-	6	40	
Knutsford Nether	} Townships	{	448	11	491	2052	
Over			of	30	2	52	320
Bexton			Knutsford	8	-	9	49
Oflerton				44	2	44	244
Toft	-	-	38	-	38	205	
Total	-	-	568	15	634	2870	
Lawton	-	-	77	2	84	445	
Lymm	-	-	238	1	300	1622	
Warburton, united to Lymm	-	-	83	-	94	466	
Total	-	-	321	1	394	2088	

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Malpas

## CHESHIRE.

		Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Malpas	Townships of Malpas	191	3	205	906
Agden		13	-	15	90
Bickerton		52	1	57	270
Bickley		81	-	91	435
Bradley		13	-	13	77
Broxton		52	-	53	275
Bulkeley		28	-	33	184
Chidlow		2	-	2	17
Cholmondeley		41	-	55	292
Charlton		14	-	14	94
Cuddington		81	1	88	424
Duckington		12	-	13	61
Edge		37	1	52	266
Egerton		12	-	16	103
Hampton		27	-	34	159
Larton		11	-	11	50
Maccfen		9	-	9	46
Newton		2	-	2	23
Oldcastle		34	2	36	205
Overton		12	-	16	97
Stockton	6	-	6	23	
Tushingham-cum-Grindley	30	1	36	194	
Wighough	3	-	3	19	
Wigland	30	-	32	160	
<b>Total</b>		<b>793</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>4470</b>
Marbury-cum-Quoisley	Townships of Marbury Chapelry	60		66	372
Norbury		67		72	330
<b>Total</b>		<b>127</b>		<b>138</b>	<b>702</b>
Middlewich	Townships of Middlewich	261	7	267	1190
Eyley-cum-Yatehouses		21	1	21	130
Clive		19	2	19	102
Croxton		5	-	5	45
Kinderton-cum-Hulme		83	1	84	404
Minshull-Vernon		67	1	70	357
Moseborow-cum-Parme	4	-	4	27	

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Newton

C H E S H I R E .

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Newton	Middlewich <i>continued</i>		210	7	222	943
Occleston			15	-	15	85
Ravencroft			2	-	2	13
Sprofton			19	-	22	150
Stublach			8	-	14	68
Sutton			3	-	4	30
Weaver			28	-	31	129
Wimboldesley			17	1	17	106
<b>Total</b>			<b>762</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>3779</b>
Minshull			60	1	79	417
Mobberley			201	4	201	993
Mottram	Townships of Mottram		183	37	195	948
Godley			50	3	50	270
Hattersley			81	4	82	455
Hollingworth			167	15	171	910
Matley			48	3	48	285
Newton			173	9	175	1005
Stayley			194	9	197	1055
Tintwistle	171	12	177	1021		
<b>Total</b>			<b>1067</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>5949</b>
Nantwich	Townships of Nantwich		758	66	783	3463
Alvafton			2	1	2	11
Leighton			38	1	43	200
Woolftan-Wood			7	-	7	40
<b>Total</b>			<b>805</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>3714</b>
Nefton	Townships of Nefton		317	5	330	1486
Ledftam			12	-	12	56
Leighton			53	11	57	266
Nefs			70	-	70	347
Little-Nefton			53	3	53	254
Raby			22	-	22	131
Thornton-Hough			36	-	36	165
Willafton	32	-	40	196		
<b>Total</b>			<b>595</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2901</b>

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Northenden

C H E S H I R E.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Northenden	-	-	113	5	115	538
Exclusively of a considerable part of the township of Etchels.—See Stockport.						
Over	} Townships of	-	108	2	175	881
Oulton-Lowe		-	6	-	6	52
Wettenhall		Over	-	39	2	47
Total			153	4	228	1161

Over-Church (included in the township of Upton)	-	-	25	1	25	141
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Hoole	} Townships of	-	36	2	39	177
Piñton		-	12	-	15	96
Bridge-Trafford		-	9	1	10	61
Mickle-Trafford		Plemfall	-	43	4	52
Total			100	7	116	581

Prestbury	} Townships of Prestbury	-	82	2	82	466
Adlington		-	168	5	178	847
Birtles		-	7	-	7	35
Bollington		-	250	16	234	1231
Bosley		-	75	3	77	417
Butley-cum-Newton		-	94	6	101	516
Capesthorne		-	11	1	10	88
Chelford		-	26	1	29	163
Falibroom		-	6	-	6	31
Henbury		-	54	-	62	333
Lyme-Handley		-	35	-	44	222
Marion		-	55	2	64	310
Mottram-St. Andrew		-	66	2	71	319
Poynton		-	75	3	75	432
North-Rode		-	41	1	44	256
Siddington		-	72	-	88	423
Titherington		-	36	2	49	226
Upton		-	10	1	10	56
Wildboar-clough		-	67	18	67	338
Lower-Withington		-	84	1	99	540
Old-Withington	-	21	1	24	137	
Worth	-	36	-	38	188	
Total			1371	65	1459	7574

Macclesfield

C H E S H I R E.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Macclesfield	} Townships within the Chapelry of Macclesfield	{	1426	101	1509	8743
Foreft			47	1	47	215
Hurdsfield			108	8	110	582
Kettlehulme			72	9	75	291
Pott-Shrigley			53	2	71	369
Rainow			242	17	242	1390
Sutton			347	19	351	1739
Wincle	65	17	65	351		
Total in the chapelry of Macclesfield			2360	174	2470	13,680
			1350	64	1435	7437
Total in the parish of Prestbury			3710	238	3905	21,117
Pulford	} Townships of Pulford	{	37		37	170
Poolton			19		19	105
Total			46		46	275
Roftherne	} Townships of Roftherne	{	65	1	68	235
High-Leigh			128	2	156	787
Mere			72	-	96	498
Millington			36	1	43	196
Over-Tabley			68	-	82	392
Tatton			13	-	21	120
Total			382	4	466	2228
Over-Peover	} Townships of the Chapelry of Over-Peover	{	78	1	85	431
Marthall-cum-Warford			47	-	47	260
Snelfon			23	-	23	126
Total			148	1	155	817
			382	4	466	2228
Total in the parish of Roftherne, exclu- sively of such parts of the townships of Agden, Bollington, as are in this parish			530	5	621	3045

Runcorn

## CHESHIRE.

		Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Runcorn	Townships of Runcorn	220	8	266	1379
Acton-Grange		18	-	22	139
Afton		8	-	8	47
Afton, and Middleton- Grange		24	-	31	186
Clifton		2	-	2	28
Darebury		25	-	26	134
Halton		130	7	134	628
Hatton		52	2	54	241
Keckwick		13	-	13	69
Moore		28	-	32	156
Newton		16	-	16	96
Norton		30	1	30	220
Preston		61	-	67	333
Stockham		7	-	7	46
Sutton		35	-	40	223
Thelwall		55	-	59	309
Higher-Walton		32	-	32	271
Lower-Walton	37	-	37	193	
Weston	31	-	32	162	
<b>Total</b>		<b>824</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>4860</b>
Sandbach	Townships of Sandbach	379	5	390	1844
Arclid		13	-	13	92
Betchton		98	-	100	578
Bradwell		41	-	45	252
Hassall		27	-	33	181
Wheelock		30	1	32	189
<b>Total</b>		<b>588</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>3136</b>
Barnshaw-cum- Goostrey	Townships in the chapelry of Goostrey	44	-	45	231
Blachden		24	1	27	136
Cranage		76	5	77	385
Lees		15	-	18	86
Twemlow		18	1	20	131
<b>Total</b>		<b>177</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>969</b>

Church-

C H E S H I R E.

343

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Church-Hulme } Cotton }	Chapelry of Church-Hulme {	- - -	64	3	65	314
		- - -	10	-	16	77
Total			74	3	81	391
Total of the parish of Sandbach			839	16	881	4496
Shocklach-Church } Oviat }	Townships of Shocklach {	- - -	23	-	27	146
		- - -	23	-	24	145
Caldecot		- - -	13	1	13	59
Total			59	1	64	250
Shotwick } Rough-Shotwick } Capenhurst } Little-Saughall } Great-Saughall }	Townships of Shotwick {	- - -	18	1	18	95
		- - -	9	1	9	48
		- - -	27	1	27	147
		- - -	44	-	47	147
		- - -	8	-	8	48
Total			106	3	109	485
Shotwick-Park } Stanlow } Great-Stanney }	Extra-parochial {	- - -	2	-	2	25
		- - -	1	-	1	10
		- - -	2	-	2	12
Stoak } Little-Stanney }	Townships of Stoak. {	- - -	20	1	20	120
		- - -	33	1	40	203
Total, exclusively of part of the town- ship of Whitby.—See Eastham			53	2	60	323
Stockport } Bramhall } Bredbury } Brinnington } Disley } Duckenfield } Hyde }	Townships of Stockport {	- - -	2572	126	2965	14,830
		- - -	184	4	190	1033
		- - -	245	6	264	1358
		- - -	133	2	164	890
		- - -	191	12	198	995
		- - -	308	7	308	1737
		- - -	187	4	187	1063

Marple

## CHESHIRE.

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Perfow.
Marple	} Stockport continued	{	340	7	347	2031
Norbury			104	1	107	592
Romily			150	2	160	825
Torkington			32	1	35	218
Werneth			207	6	211	1152
Total			4653	178	5136	26,724
Township of Etchels, partly in Northenden, and partly in Stockport			219	-	225	1269
Township of Offerton, partly in Prestbury, and partly in Stockport			60	1	61	351
Swettenham	} Townships of Swettenham	{	40	-	46	237
Kirmincham			22	2	27	179
Total			62	2	73	416
Tarporley	} Townships of Tarporley	{	138	-	138	674
Eaton			-	-	-	460
Rushton			-	2	-	274
Utkinton			80	2	86	458
Total						1866

N. B. There was no return of the number of houses and families in the townships of Eaton and Rushton.

Tarvin	} Townships of Tarvin	{	165	9	165	768
Ashton			57	1	66	342
Burton			12	-	12	71
Clotton-Hoofield			55	-	55	278
Duddon			27	-	35	163
Hockenhull			5	-	5	41
Horton-cum-Poole			4	-	4	36
Kelfall			109	-	109	469
Great-Mouldsworth			22	1	23	142
Bruen-Stapleford			34	2	36	161
Fouk-Stapleford	42	1	44	212		
Total			532	14	554	2683

C H E S H I R E.

345

				Inhabited Houfes.	Uninhabited Houfes.	Families.	Perfon.
Tattenhall	} Townships of Tattenhall	{	-	136	1	137	606
Golbourn-Bellow			-	10	-	13	81
Newton			-	12	1	12	59
Total			-	-	158	2	162
Taxall	} Townships of Taxall	{	-	34	-	35	160
Whaley-cum- Yeardley			-	44	2	47	225
Total			-	-	78	2	82
Thornton	} Townships of Thornton	{	-	18	-	24	156
Dunham-on-the-Hill			-	43	-	64	260
Elton			-	21	2	27	167
Hapsford			-	11	-	13	78
Trafford-Wimbold's			-	17	2	18	111
Total	-	-	110	4	146	772	
Thurftafton				11	1	11	112
Tilfton	} Townships of Tilfton	{	-	48	6	60	257
Carden			-	21	1	26	124
Grafton			-	2	-	2	23
Horton			-	19	1	21	111
Stretton			-	14	-	14	84
Total	-	-	104	8	123	599	
Wallazey	} Townships of Wallazey	{	-	49	1	49	274
Lifkard			-	43	1	47	211
Poolton-cum-Seacomb			-	34	1	34	178
Total			-	-	126	3	130
Warmingham	} Townships of Warmingham	{	-	56	3	60	346
Elton			-	64	1	72	330
Mofton			-	19	1	26	120
Tetton			-	22	1	22	120
Total	-	-	161	6	180	916	

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Waverton

			Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Waverton	} Townships of Waverton	- - -	51	2	51	246
Hatton		- - -	25	-	25	152
Huxley		- - -	35	-	35	196
Total	- - -	- - -	111	2	111	594
Weverham	} Townships of Weverham	- - -	162	2	200	1048
Acton		- - -	39	1	47	210
Crowton		- - -	63	4	70	297
Cuddington		- - -	41	2	41	212
Onfton		- - -	8	-	8	53
Wallerfcote	- - -	1	-	1	7	
Total	- - -	- - -	314	9	367	1819
West-Kirkby	} Townships of West-Kirkby	- - -	25	3	28	148
Caldey		- - -	17	1	17	92
Frankby		- - -	13	1	13	70
Grange		- - -	18	2	18	101
Greatby		- - -	27	-	28	123
Hoofe		- - -	13	-	14	60
Great-Meols		- - -	24	-	29	140
Little-Meols		- - -	25	-	25	123
Newton-cum-Larton	- - -	6	2	7	49	
Total	- - -	- - -	168	9	179	906
Darnhall	} Townships of Whitegate	- - -	28	3	33	197
Marton		- - -	78	1	96	431
Total, exclusively of part of Over	- - -	- - -	106	4	129	628
Willington an extra-parochial township in the hundred of Edisbury	- - -	- - -	14	1	13	84
Bollin-Fee	} Districts of Wilmflow	- - -	287	10	318	1506
Chorley		- - -	74	3	79	591
Fulshaw		- - -	33	-	43	214
Pownall-Fee		- - -	177	8	188	1122
Total	- - -	- - -	571	21	628	3433
Wistaston	- - -	- - -	47	2	47	258
						Woodchurch

C H E S H I R E.

347

			Inhabited Houfes.	Uninhabited Houfes.	Families.	Perfons.
Woodchurch	} Townships of Woodchurch	- . . .	9	1	9	52
Arrow		- . . .	14	-	15	96
Barnfton		- . . .	22	1	22	129
Knockorum		- . . .	2	-	2	17
Landican		- . . .	6	1	6	45
Oxton		- . . .	26	-	26	137
Penfby		- . . .	3	-	4	22
Prenton		- . . .	20	-	21	81
Thingwell	- . . .	10	1	11	52	
Total	- . . .	- . . .	112	4	116	631

Exclusively of part of the townships of Claughton, Irby, and Upton.—See Bidfton, Eaftham, and Over church.

Wybunbury	} Townships of Wybunbury	- . . .	61	5	65	278
Bartherton		- . . .	2	-	2	25
Basford		- . . .	9	-	9	55
Blackenhall		- . . .	32	-	33	199
Bridgmere		- . . .	49	2	49	230
Checkley-cum- Wrinchill		- . . .	27	2	27	240
Chorlton		- . . .	17	-	18	106
Dodington		- . . .	6	-	7	51
Hatherton		- . . .	50	1	50	191
Hough		- . . .	31	1	34	206
Hunterfon		- . . .	42	-	45	235
Lea		- . . .	10	-	10	73
Rope		- . . .	14	-	16	79
Shavington cum- Grefly		- . . .	29	2	33	189
Stapeley		- . . .	45	2	45	249
Walgherton		- . . .	43	2	43	211
Wellton	- . . .	68	1	68	348	
Willafton	- . . .	32	2	36	209	
Total	- . . .	- . . .	567	20	590	3174

*Principal Land-owners.*

At the time of the Domesday furvey, moft of the landed property of this county was divided between the Bifhop of Lichfield and Coventry; the Canons of St. Werburgh; Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chefter, and his Barons; Hugh de Mara;

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Mara; Bigot; Ranulphus, supposed to be ancestor of the Mainwarings\*; and Osborne Fitz-Tezzon, ancestor of the Boydells. Large portions of the barons' lands were granted by them, at an early period, to their knights and retainers; what remained in their own possession, passed after a few generations, by co-heiresses to other families, except the lands of the barony of Halton, which became vested in the crown, and that of the barony of Kinderton, which continued in the Venables family till 1676, and are now vested in Lord Vernon as its representative.—At an early period the families of Aldersey, Arderne, Aston, Baskervyle, Booth, Bostock, Brereton, Brooke, Bunbury, Calveley, Cholmondeley, Davenport, Delves, Dod, Done, Dukenfield, Dutton, Egerton, Glegg, Grosvenor, Holford, Lawton, Legh, Leche, Leycester, Marbury, Massey, Minshull, Needham, Oldfield, Savage, Stanley, Starkey, Troutbeck, Venables, Warburton, and Wilbraham, many of whom are still among the principal landholders, had acquired large possessions in this county. The estates of the Booth family are now vested in their representative, the Earl of Stamford and Warrington; those of the Delves family in their representative, Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.; those of the Dones in their representatives, the Ardens; those of the Duttons are variously dispersed; those belonging to the Savages have passed to the Cholmondeley family; the Marbury estates to the family of Barry; those of the Troutbecks by inheritance to the Earl of Shrewsbury. The large estates of the Breretons are variously dispersed: those of the Breretons of Brereton have passed by inheritance and devise, as will be described elsewhere; those of the Malpas family, partly by descent and purchase to the Cholmondeleys, and partly by purchase to the Drakes of Amerham, in Buckinghamshire. Some of the Massey estates have passed to the Stanleys, others are vested in the Rev. Richard Massey of Codrington. The estates of the Wilbrahams of Woodhey, have passed by inheritance to the Earl of Dysart; other large estates remain in the Wilbraham family. Lord Crewe's estates were for the most part purchased by his ancestor Sir Randle, in the reign of James I.; the Crewe family had possessed from an early period various estates, principally in the hundred of Nantwich, which, by failure of male issue in different branches, had, at an early period, descended to female heirs; most of the estates purchased by Sir Randle Crewe, had been in the Truffells and Foulshurfts. Mr. Holland, author of the late Agricultural Survey of Cheshire, published in 1808, observes, that there are few counties of equal extent in which the number of wealthy land-

\* The late Sir Henry Mainwaring, who died in 1797, among other large estates, was possessed of the manor of Pevre or Peover, which from time immemorial had been the seat of his ancestors, and is one of the estates described in the survey, as belonging to Ranulphus. The Mainwaring estates passed by bequest of the late Baronet, who was the last heir male of his family, to his half-brother Thomas Wetenhall Esq., as will be more particularly spoken of elsewhere.

owners seems so considerable : he adds, that it appears that there are not fewer than fifty noblemen and gentlemen, resident in Cheshire, in possession of property within it, from 3 to 10,000 *l.* a year ; and that there are at least as many others, with properties of from 1 to 3000 *l.* a year.

*Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Title to any Branch of the Peerage.*

LEOFRIC, his son Algar, and his grandson Edwin, Earls of Mercia, before the Norman conquest, were sometimes styled Earls of Chester. King William, soon after the conquest, made Gherbod, a nobleman of Flanders, Earl of Chester, and the county thereof; and after his death gave the earldom to Hugh de Avranches, commonly called Hugh Lupus, to be held as freely by the sword<sup>b</sup>, as the King held by the crown; the Earls of Chester, in consequence of this grant, were hereditary sword-bearers of England, and attended the coronation of its kings, carrying the sword of St. Edward, called *curtein*<sup>c</sup>, and attended by the constable of Cheshire; other high privileges, which were attached to this grant, have been already noticed<sup>d</sup>. After the death of Richard, the second Earl of Chester, and only son of Hugh Lupus, the earldom descended to Randle the son of Hugh Lupus's sister Maud; after the death of Randle, or Ranulph de Blundeville, great grandson of the first Randle, the earldom again passed in the female line to John Scot, son of his elder sister, and co-heir: who dying without issue, King Henry III. made Simon de Montfort Earl of Chester; but after his death, which happened in 1265, the same monarch annexed the earldom to the crown, and ever since the reign of his successor King Edward I. the King's eldest son has been Prince of Wales, and Earl of Chester. Hugh Lupus, after he had been invested with the earldom of Chester, to which, as has been before observed, was annexed a kind of regal state and dignity, made some of his great men barons, and these barons with the abbots of the Cheshire monasteries, composed his parliament. They took their titles from the chief seats of their baronies; and their dignity, although local, was hereditary. The number of Hugh Lupus's barons is generally supposed to have been eight, whose names and arms were formerly to be seen in the Exchequer-court of the castle at Chester<sup>e</sup>; but it

<sup>b</sup> A sword of Hugh Lupus, supposed by some to have been the sword of dignity; by which he held the Earldom of Chester, is preserved in the British Museum. An account of it, with an engraving, will be found under the head of Miscellaneous Antiquities.

<sup>c</sup> The *Curtana* or *Curtein* preserved among the *Regalia* at the Tower, called "the sword of mercy," and borne at coronations between the two swords of Justice, the spiritual and the temporal.      <sup>d</sup> See p. 298.      <sup>e</sup> Said to have been the room in which the Earls held their parliament.

is certain that there was a ninth, Robert de Rothlent, who held large estates, and was general of the Earl's forces; but he died many years before Hugh Lupus, being slain in a battle by the Welsh; we find no traces of his posterity, and neither he, nor the Baron of Montalt, now Hawarden in Flintshire, can properly be reckoned among the barons of Cheshire, according to its present limits. The Cheshire baronies, as they have been generally enumerated, are those of Halton, Wich-Malbank, Malpas, Shipbrooke, Dunham-Massey, Kinderton, and Stockport. Sir Peter Leycester doubts whether there ever was any Baron of Stockport, although the Baron of Stockport is one of the eight, whose names and arms were formerly to be seen in the Exchequer-court at Chester. These paintings, Sir Peter Leycester observes, were of no great antiquity, and he the rather doubts the circumstance of there having been any Barons of Stockport, because Stockport itself is not mentioned in the Domesday survey. It is possible, nevertheless, that not long after the conquest, there might have been a Baron of Stockport; it is certain that the Warrens, at an early period, styled themselves Barons of Stockport, and descended from the family of de Stockport; but that family is not traceable to a more remote period than the reign of Henry III., when the dignity of these Barons was become merely titular. The posterity of Nigel the first Baron of Halton, bore the name of Lacy, and were hereditary constables of Cheshire<sup>e</sup>; the heiress of this family married Thomas Earl of Lancaster, and dying without issue, the barony became vested by settlement in the said Earl, and eventually in the crown. William Maldebeng, or Malbank, was the first Baron of Wich-Malbank, or Nantwich. This barony became extinct in the male line, on the death of his grandson, whose daughters married into the families of Vernon and Basslet, and the barony became eventually divided into numerous severalties<sup>f</sup>. Robert Fitz-Hugh, Baron of Malpas, in the time of Hugh Lupus, left no male issue; it is supposed that the barony passed in moieties, by co-heiresses, to Robert Patrick<sup>g</sup>, and David Belward, or le Clerk<sup>h</sup>; after a few generations, the co-heiresses of Patrick married Sir Philip Burnell, who left no issue, and Hugh de Sutton, ancestor of the Suttons and Wards, successively Lords Dudley. The elder son of David Belward left no legitimate issue; the elder branch of the posterity of Philip de Malpas, his second son, became extinct in 1361, by the death of David de Malpas, whose sister and heiress married Sir William Brereton, ancestor of the Breretons of Brereton

<sup>e</sup> John, Baron of Halton, had summons to the English parliament in 1269.  
of the parish of Nantwich.

<sup>f</sup> See the account  
<sup>g</sup> For this opinion and the subsequent account, we are indebted to Francis Townsend Esq. Windsor Herald, who has attentively investigated the pedigrees in the Heralds' college for this purpose.

<sup>h</sup> Collins in his peerage, on the authority of documents belonging to the Cholmondeley family, makes William le Clerk, father of David, marry Lettice, whom he represents as only daughter of Robert Fitz-Hugh.

and

and Malpas<sup>1</sup>: the Cholmondeleys and Egertons are descended from younger branches of the family of Malpas. The elder branch of the male line of Richard Vernon, the first Baron of Shipbrooke, became extinct after a few generations, when, after a suit at law, the barony was divided between the female heirs and Sir Ralph Vernon, the next heir male, to whom Shipbrooke the seat of the barony was allotted; and he and his male heirs are in some pedigrees called Barons of Shipbrooke, which estate, on the failure of male issue in the reign of Henry VI., passed to another family. Francis Vernon, Lord Orwell, of the kingdom of Ireland, being descended from a younger branch of this ancient family, when he was created an earl of the same kingdom in 1777<sup>k</sup>, took the title of Shipbrooke. The barony of Dunham-Massey, after the fifth descent from Hamo de Massey, one of Hugh Lupus's barons, passed by female heirs to the Fittons, and afterwards successively through the families of Venables and Booth, to the present Earl of Stamford and Warrington. The Barony of Kinderton continued in the male line till the year 1676, when it became extinct on the death of Peter Venables: this local barony appears to be vested in Lord Vernon as representative of the elder branch of the Venables family<sup>l</sup>; and a late writer observes<sup>m</sup>, that "however light the Cheshire honours may appear at present, yet while Lord Vernon enjoys his more modern honours, in common with many of his peers, with regard to his ancient barony of Kinderton, he is most honourably and singularly peerless." It may be observed, however, that the late Lord Vernon, by his patent of peerage, bearing date 1762, was created Lord Vernon, and Baron of Kinderton in Cheshire.

Sir Robert Cholmondeley Baronet, who in 1628 had been created Viscount Cholmondeley of Kelles in Ireland, was in 1645 made an English Peer, by the title of Baron Cholmondeley of Wich-Malbank, and in 1646 was created Earl of Leinster in Ireland; these titles became extinct by his death in 1659. Robert Cholmondeley, son of Hugh, younger brother of the above Sir Robert, was in 1661 created an Irish Peer, by the title of Viscount Kelles; and his son Hugh (who died without issue) was in 1689 created Baron Cholmondeley of Wich-Malbank, and in 1706, Viscount Malpas and Earl of Cholmondeley, with remainder to his brother George, who in 1715 was created Baron New-

<sup>1</sup> The descent of the lands of this barony will be treated of in the account of Malpas parish.

<sup>k</sup> Extinct in 1783. <sup>l</sup> Lord Vernon's father was son of Henry Vernon Esq., by his wife Anne, daughter and heiress of Thomas Pigot Esq. by his wife Mary, sister of Peter Venables the last Baron of Kinderton, on whose issue the Kinderton estates were entailed by the will of the said Peter, in the event of his daughters dying, as they did, without issue.

<sup>m</sup> Dr. Gower, in his Sketch of the materials for a history of Cheshire.

borough in Ireland, and in 1716 Baron Newborough in England: this George was great-grandfather of the present Earl of Cholmondeley. Charles Gerard was created Earl of Macclesfield in this county in 1679; this title became extinct in 1702, and in 1721 was revived, in the person of Sir Thomas Parker, afterwards Lord Chancellor of England, who in 1716 had been created Baron Parker of Macclesfield; the present earl is his grandson. James Duke of Hamilton having married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Digby, the last Lord Gerard, descended from Gilbert Lord Gerard, who married Eleanor, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Dutton of Dutton, was in 1711 created Baron Dutton of Dutton in Cheshire; which title has descended to the present Duke, whose son, the Marquis of Douglas, was in 1806 called up by summons to the house of peers in right of his father's barony of Dutton. Sir Richard Grosvenor Bart. was created Lord Grosvenor of Eaton in 1761: and Viscount Belgrave of Belgrave, a hamlet of Eccleston, and Earl Grosvenor in 1784; these titles are now enjoyed by his son. Sir Thomas Savage was created Baron and Viscount Savage of Clifton, *alias* Rockfavage, in 1626; these titles became extinct in 1728. Sir George Booth Bart. was, in 1661, created Baron Delamere of Dunham-Massey, taking his title from Delamere forest in this county: this barony became extinct in 1770, and was revived in 1796, being then granted, with the earldom of Warrington, to the Earl of Stamford. Sir Richard Minshull of Boreton-house in Buckinghamshire, descended from a younger branch of the Cheshire family, was created Baron Minshull of Minshull in Cheshire<sup>m</sup> in 1642, and afterwards Viscount Minshull of Leominster in Herefordshire. The patents for these titles were never enrolled, nor does it appear that they were ever borne by any of his descendants, but he himself is styled Viscount Minshull in his son's marriage settlement<sup>n</sup>. George Rowland Minshull Esq., barrister at law, now of Aston-Clinton in Buckinghamshire, is the immediate representative of Richard Viscount Minshull above-mentioned.

The Earl of Courtown in Ireland, was in 1796 made an English Peer, by the title of Lord Saltersford of Saltersford, in the Chapelry of Macclesfield. Sir Richard Pepper Arden, late master of the Rolls, since deceased, was in 1801 created Lord Alvanley of Alvanley, in the parish of Frodsham, which title is now enjoyed by his son. John Crewe Esq. was created Baron Crewe in 1806; Sir William Brereton of Brereton was created Lord Brereton of Leighlin in Ireland in 1624; this title became extinct in 1722.

<sup>m</sup> It is erroneously stated in Beatson's Political Index, that it was John Minshull of Minshull, who was created Lord Minshull in 1642. <sup>n</sup> Pedigree of Minshull in the Herald's College.

*Noblemen's Seats.*

THE only noblemen's seats in this county are Dunham-Massey, the ancient seat of the Barons Delamere, now of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington; Cholmondeley-castle, the seat of the Earl of Cholmondeley; and Eaton, the seat of Earl Grosvenor; the former newly built, and the latter newly fronted and much enlarged; Poynton, a seat of Lord Viscount Bulkeley, in right of his lady, the heiress of the Warrens; and Crewe-Hall, the seat of Lord Crewe, a venerable mansion, built by Sir Randle Crewe, in the reign of King James the First. Newton-Hall, belonging to Lord Viscount Kilmorey, is rented by George Parker Esq.

Rock-Savage, heretofore a seat of the Earls Rivers, has been taken down; Frodsham-castle, another seat of that noble family, was burnt to the ground in 1654. The mansion at Woodhey, the Earl of Dyfart's estate, as representative of the Wilbrahams of that place, has been taken down: the present earl occasionally resides at Calveley-Hall, which he rents of Mr. Bromley. Beate-Hall in Cheshire, described in the Peerages and other books, as a seat of the Earl of Courtown, is a dilapidated old mansion, in the town of Macclesfield, now occupied as a public-house. Peel-Hall in Tarvin, a venerable mansion, now inhabited by a farmer, was sometime a seat of the Earls of Plymouth.

*Baronets extinct and existing.*

THE extinct baronets of Cheshire are Booth of Dunham-Massey<sup>o</sup>, Savage of Rock-Savage, afterwards Earl Rivers<sup>p</sup>, and Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley<sup>q</sup>, all created in 1611; Fitton of Gawsworth<sup>r</sup>, 1617; Wilbraham of Woodhey<sup>s</sup>, 1620; Delves of Doddington<sup>t</sup>, 1621; Brereton of Handford<sup>u</sup>, 1627; Powell of Birkenhead, 1629; Leycester of Tabley<sup>v</sup>, 1660; Smith of Hatherton, 1660; Mainwaring of Over-Peover<sup>w</sup>, 1660; Pindar of Idenshaw<sup>x</sup>, 1662; Bellot of Moreton<sup>y</sup>, 1663; Werden of Chester<sup>z</sup>, 1671; and Bridgman of Ridley<sup>o</sup>, 1673.

The present Cheshire baronets, who have seats in the county, exclusively of Earl Grosvenor, whose baronet's title, created in 1622, is merged in the peerage, are Sir John Thomas Stanley of Alderley, whose ancestor was created a baronet

<sup>o</sup> Extinct in 1797.      <sup>p</sup> Ext. in 1728.      <sup>q</sup> Ext. in 1659.      <sup>r</sup> Ext. in 1643.  
<sup>s</sup> Extinct in 1692.      <sup>t</sup> Ext. in 1727.      <sup>u</sup> Ext. in 1678.      <sup>v</sup> Ext. in 1742.  
<sup>w</sup> Extinct in 1797, and revived in 1804.      <sup>x</sup> Ext. before the year 1708. Le Neve's MSS.  
in the collection of Ralph Bigland, Esq. Norroy king of arms.      <sup>y</sup> Extinct in 1714.  
<sup>z</sup> Extinct about the year 1750. George Harley Drummond Esq., is the representative of this family.      <sup>o</sup> Ext. in 1747.

in 1660; Sir Peter Warburton of Arley (1660); Sir Thomas Stanley Maffey Stanley of Hooton (1661); Sir Richard Brooke of Norton, 1662; Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton of Combermere, 1677; the Rev. Sir Henry Poole of Poole-Hall<sup>†</sup> in Wirral, 1677; and Sir Henry Mainwaring Mainwaring, to whom the title of baronet which had been extinct by the death of Sir Henry Mainwaring in 1797<sup>‡</sup>, was granted in 1804. Sir John Chetwode of Oakley in Staffordshire, who possesses the manor of Agden in Bowden, by inheritance from the family of Venables, occasionally resides at the Hall, which he keeps in his own hands.

The ancestor of Sir Thomas Egerton, now Earl of Wilton, and resident in Lancashire, had a seat at Egerton when created a baronet in 1617. Aston, the seat of the Astons, whose ancestor was advanced to the dignity of a baronet in 1628, has passed to a female heir; the present baronet, Sir Willoughby Aston, does not reside in Cheshire. Dukenfield-Hall<sup>‡</sup>, the seat of the Dukenfields, whose ancestor was created a baronet in 1665, has passed to another family; the present baronet, Sir Nathaniel Dukenfield, resides in Berkshire. Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury, whose ancestor was advanced to that dignity in 1681, being then described of Stanney in Wirral, though he still possesses the Stanney estate, has now no seat in the county<sup>‡</sup>, but resides in Suffolk. The ancestor of the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., now of Doddington-Hall in Cheshire, was of Broughton in Staffordshire, when created a baronet in 1661: his grandfather removed into Cheshire, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of Sir Thomas Delves Bart.

#### *Seats of Baronets.*

AGDEN-HALL, the occasional residence of Sir John Chetwode—Alderley-Park and Winnington-Hall, Sir J. T. Stanley—Arley-Hall, Sir Peter Warburton—Combermere-Abbey, Sir R. S. Cotton—Doddington-Hall, Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton—Hooton-Hall and Puddington-Hall, Sir T. S. M. Stanley—Norton-Priory, Sir Richard Brooke—and Over-Peover, Sir Henry Mainwaring Mainwaring. To these may be added Tabley-House, the seat of Sir John Fleming Leicester, representative of the Leycesters of Tabley, who inherits the title of baronet from his paternal ancestors, the Byrnes of Tymoge in Queen's county.

<sup>†</sup> Poole-Hall is only occasionally inhabited by the present baronet.

<sup>‡</sup> See p. 368.

<sup>‡</sup> Dukenfield-Hall is occupied as a farm-house.

<sup>‡</sup> Stanney-Hall is dilapidated.

*Ancient*

*Ancient Families extinct and existing.\**

SMITH, the Cheshire antiquary, calls this county the "mother and the nurse of the gentility of England:" another writer calls it, "the seed-plot of gentry<sup>d</sup>." Camden declares that no county can boast a greater number of knightly families; and Fuller says, "that its gentry are remarkable on a fourfold-account, their numerousness not to be paralleled in England in the like extent of ground; their antiquity, many of their ancestors being fixed here before the Norman conquest, their loyalty, and their hospitality."

Although many ancient families have become extinct since Fuller's time, and a few have removed into other counties, the resident gentry of the county are still sufficiently numerous to convince us that Fuller's observation was well founded, and that more families have continued attached to the soil in Cheshire, than in most other counties. The following is a list of families still resident in the county, whose descent has been continued in an uninterrupted male line<sup>e</sup> for more than three centuries, and some of them for a much greater length of time.

Arden of Harden, now resident at Stockport — Aldersey of Aldersey — Antrobus of Antrobus — Barnston of Churton — Baskervyle (now Glegg) — Brayne late of Aston in Mondrem — Bressley (now spelt Brassley) of Bulkeley — Bulkeley, now ennobled, descended from Bulkeley of Bulkeley, and the representative of the Warrens of Poynton — Brooke of Norton (baronet) — Brooke of Mere — Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley (ennobled) and Cholmondeley of Vale Royal — Clutton of Charlton in Malpas — Davenport of Woodford and Bramhall — Dod of Edge — Downes of Shrigley — Egerton of Oulton and Egerton —

\* Our information on this head has been derived from the visitations in the Heralds' college; numerous collections of pedigrees in the British Museum; Sir Peter Lyncaster's History of the hundred of Bucklow, and a large volume of pedigrees in his hand-writing, among the Tabley MSS.; a volume of pedigrees communicated by Henry Tomkinson Esq. of Dorfold-Hall; the collections of William Smith, of Old-Haugh in Cheshire, rouge-dragon pursuivant, and a volume of pedigrees, which appear to have been copied from the collections of John Booth of Twemlow, and John Woodnoth of Shavington, two industrious Cheshire antiquaries: this last mentioned volume, and Smith's Collections, we purchased among other MSS. which had formerly belonged to Francis Bassano, deputy herald of arms for Chester; who was sheriff of that city in 1734, and have since deposited them in the Heralds' college. For the more modern information, especially such as relates to the time when ancient families have become extinct, and by what families they are represented, we are much indebted to the exertions and inquiries of William Nicholls Esq. of Chester, F. A. S. <sup>d</sup> Harleian MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1989. f. 399. <sup>e</sup> In some cases the elder branch has become extinct, but the male line has been continued by younger branches.

Grosvenor of Eaton (ennobled)—Glegg of Irbye—Hockenhull<sup>d</sup>—Kelfall, formerly of Bradshaw, now of Chester—Kinsey of Blackden, now of Knutsford—Lawton of Lawton—Leche of Carden—Legh of East-Hall in High-Legh—Leverfage<sup>e</sup>, formerly of Wheelock—Leycester of Toft—Mainwaring now of Bromborough—Maffie of Coddington—Stanley of Alderley (baronet)—Stanley of Hooton (baronet)—Tatton of Withenshaw—Thornycroft of Thornycroft—Vawdrey of Riddings (now of Stanthorn)—Venables (now Legh)—Walthall of Wistaston—Warburton of Warburton, afterwards of Arley, (baronet)—Wetenhall now (by change of name) Mainwaring—Wilbraham of Delamere-Lodge, and Wilbraham of Rode—Wright, formerly of Nantwich, now of Mottram-St. Andrew, and Wyche, or De la Wyche<sup>f</sup>, anciently of Davenham, afterwards of Alderley.

To the above list, may be added the following of such families, as represent and have taken the name of other ancient families.

Booth of Twemlow (late Griffith)—Crewe of Crewe-Hall (now ennobled) descended from the ancient family of Offley of Madeley-Manor in Staffordshire—Jodrell now of Henbury (late Bower)—Leigh of West-Hall (anciently Lymme)—Legh of Booths (anciently Venables)—Leicester of Tabley (baronet) late Byrne—Shakerley of Somerford (late Buckworth)—Swetenham of Somerford-Booths (late Comberbach)—Swettenham of Swettenham (late Eaton).

Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., of Doddington, is the representative in the female line of the ancient family of Delves of that place, which name his father bore, in compliance with the will of his grandfather, Sir Thomas Delves, by whose death the male line of the family became extinct in 1727; but the late baronet, Sir Bryan Broughton Delves, being attached to his own family name of Broughton, which is of great antiquity in the adjoining county of Stafford, bequeathed his estates to his brother, now Sir Thomas Broughton, on condition of his obtaining an act of parliament, which should enable him and his posterity, to bear the name of Broughton only.

Most of the families mentioned in the above lists are to be traced by their pedigrees to the thirteenth century, about which time surnames were not so permanent as they have since been; and it was very usual for younger branches

<sup>d</sup> See p. 384.

<sup>e</sup> The lineal descendant of Richard Leverfage, who in or about the reign of Henry VI. married the heiress of Worth, who married the heiress of Wheelock, lords of Wheelock from the reign of King John, resides at Nantwich, having lately retired from business. Wheelock was sold by William Leverfage during the civil war. <sup>f</sup> The De la Wyches, who were of Davenham at a very early period, removed afterwards to Alderley. Dugdale in his Visitation of Cheshire, describes William Wyche Esq., living in 1663, as of Davenham and Alderley: their seat in the latter parish, which was called Sofs-Mofs-Hall, has been long alienated; and the immediate descendant of this ancient family, now rents a farm in the neighbourhood.

of a family to take their name from the place where they fixed their residence ; and we thus sometimes find in three descents, as many different surnames in the same family; this circumstance has occasioned much obscurity in the early history of families, and is the most probable reason why so few of them are to be traced to a still more remote period. The only families that we know of, that can be traced in the male line, nearly, or quite to the commencement of the twelfth century, are the Davenports ; the Mainwarings ; the Grosvenors ; the Leghs of East-Hall ; the Warburtons and the Massies.

The Davenports of Davenport in Astbury, which was the original seat of the family, descended from Ormus de Davenport, who lived in the reign of William the Conqueror, became extinct in the direct male line<sup>s</sup>, in the year 1677 ; when Davenport passed in marriage with Elizabeth, elder daughter and co-heiress of John Davenport Esq., to Robert Davies Esq. of Manley, whose heiress brought Davenport to Sir Matthew Deane Bart. of the kingdom of Ireland, but left no surviving issue ; Anne, the other co-heiress of John Davenport, married John Davenport Esq. of Woodford, and left no issue. The Davenports of Calveley, who became extinct in the male line in the year 1771, were descended from Arthur, a younger son of Sir Ralph Davenport of Davenport, who in the reign of Edward III. married the heiress of Calveley of Calveley.

The Davenports of Wheltrough derived their descent from Thomas, a younger son of Sir Thomas Davenport of Davenport, who lived in the reign of Edward III. To this Thomas, his father gave an estate in Lower-Withington, called Tunsted, afterwards Wheltrough; his two younger sons, John and Jenkin, were ancestors of the Davenports of Bromhall, Henbury, and Woodford. The Wheltrough family continued at that place for many generations, and we have not been able to ascertain whether they are yet extinct; but if not, they are removed into another county: Richard Davenport of Wheltrough, who died in 1684, had sons and grandsons living when he made his will in 1677. William Davenport Esq., now of Bromhall, derives his descent from John, second son of Thomas Davenport, who settled at Wheltrough, which John married the heiress of Bromhall of Bromhall<sup>b</sup>: Sir Jenkin, or as he is sometimes called, Sir John Davenport, third son of Thomas, was justice of Lancashire, and first possessor of the manor of Woodford; his eldest son Thomas was ancestor of the Davenports of Henbury, extinct in the seventeenth century; when the heiress married Sir Foulke Lucy. Nicholas, his third son, who possessed Woodford, by the gift of his father<sup>i</sup>, was the immediate ancestor

<sup>s</sup> John Davenport, who lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, had eleven younger sons; some of whom, it is probable, were ancestors of families of this name in various parts of the kingdom.

<sup>b</sup> Formerly so spelt, now usually Bramhall.

<sup>i</sup> From documents in the possession of the Davenport family, obligingly communicated by Walter Davenport Esq.

of

of Davies Davenport Esq. of Capelthorne<sup>a</sup>, one of the knights of the shire, who through the marriage of his father with Phœbe, elder daughter and co-heiress of Richard Davenport Esq. of Calveley, is representative also of the Calveley branch. A younger branch of the Woodford family, descended from Christopher, second brother of John Davenport, who was of Woodford, in the reign of Henry VII. settled at Blackhurst in Baddiley, and as we are informed has been long ago extinct in the male line<sup>b</sup>. Another younger branch of the Davenports of Woodford, descended from Nicholas, a younger brother of William Davenport, were of Boughton near Chester, in the reign of Henry VIII. This branch became extinct in the male line in the 17th century: William Currie of Chester, M. D. the present possessor of the Boughton estate, married a representative of this family, being the daughter of Robert Foulkes, descended in the female line from Thomas Hand, who married Jane Davenport, aunt of the last heir male of the above-mentioned branch. The Davenports of Chorley, extinct in 1757, were descended from Thomas, a younger son of Sir Ralph Davenport of Davenport, who about the year 1400 married the heiress of Handford of Chorley.

The Grosvenors are descended from a nephew of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, whose descendants were seated at Hulme, in the parish of Great-Budworth; the elder branch became extinct in the reign of Henry VI., by the death of Robert Le Grosvenor, son of Sir Thomas, and grandson of Sir Robert Le Grosvenor who had the celebrated suit with Sir Richard Le Scrope, about a coat of arms, (Azure, a bend Or,) claimed by both families<sup>c</sup>. Ralph, a younger son of Sir Thomas, who continued the male line, settled at Eaton, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of Eaton of that place, and was immediate ancestor of the present Earl Grosvenor.

The Leghs of East-Hall have continued in an uninterrupted male descent from Edward de Lega, who by his name appears to have been of Saxon origin, to the present George John Legh Esq. The male line of the elder branch of this family failed in or about the reign of Edward IV., and in the beginning of Henry VIII's. reign, Thomas Legh of Northwood, descended from a younger son of John Legh, who lived in or about the reign of Edward II., after a long litigation

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Davenport inherited Capelthorne, from the ancient family of Ward, of whom he is the representative in the female line. <sup>b</sup> Richard Davenport, buried in 1653, is the last of the family, who occurs in the parish register.

<sup>c</sup> Notwithstanding a prodigious bulk of evidence, which went to prove that this coat had been borne by Robert Le Grosvenor's ancestors, it was adjudged to Scrope; but Grosvenor was allowed to bear the same arms, within a border Argent; being dissatisfied with this decision, he appealed to the king, and the final determination was, that he should either bear the said arms within a border; or, in consideration of his affinity to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, be allowed to bear for his arms, Azure, a garb Or; which bearing he preferred, and it has ever since been used by his descendants.

succeeded,

succeeded, as being the next heir male, to the East-Hall estate. Either this Thomas, or his son, of the same name, rebuilt the mansion at East-Hall, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was lineal ancestor of the present G. J. Legh Esq. The Leghs of Swinehed, or Swineyard in High-Legh, descended from another younger son of John Legh above-mentioned, according to the best information we can procure, are extinct: a younger branch of the Leghs of East-Hall was for some descents of Newton near Chester.

Egerton Leigh <sup>k</sup>, of West-Hall in High-Legh, and of Twemlow, Esq. is descended from Richard Lymme, who in the latter part of the 13th century married Agnes, daughter and sole heir of Richard de Legh, great grandson of Hamon de Legh, the first-mentioned in the pedigree. Agnes Legh above-mentioned had, by her second husband <sup>l</sup>, William Venables, a son, John, who took the name of Legh, and settled at Booths. This John Legh, being on his father's side a Venables, and descended from Gilbert Venables, the first baron of Kinderton, was common ancestor of the Leghs of Sandbach, extinct after two descents, when the heiress married Richard Radcliffe, of Ordfall in Lancashire, in the reign of Edward III.; the Leghs of Booths, of whom Willoughby Legh Esq. of that place is the present representative; the Leighs of Oughtrington; the Leghs of Adlington; the Leghs of Baguly; the Leghs of Lyme; and the Leghs of Ridge, all in Cheshire; the Leighs of Ifell in Cumberland, extinct about the year 1600; the Leighs of Middleton in Yorkshire; the Leighs of Eggington in Derbyshire; Rinshall in Staffordshire; Stoneley in Warwickshire, and Addlestrop in Gloucestershire. The Leghs of Booths are descended from John, a younger son of Agnes Legh, by William de Venables; the Leighs of Oughtrington from John, a younger son of Richard Leigh Esq. of West-Hall, who settled at Oughtrington, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of Wilme, in the reign of Edward IV. Trafford Trafford Esq., now of Oughtrington, who assumed the name of Trafford, in compliance with the will of his maternal uncle, is the lineal male descendant of this branch. The Leghs of Adlington, extinct by the death of the late Charles Legh in 1781, were descended from Robert, a younger son of the first John Legh of Booths; Sir Piers Legh, a younger son of Robert, was ancestor of the Leghs of Lyme, extinct by the death of the late Thomas Peter Legh Esq. in 1797. John, or Jenkin, a younger son of Sir Peter Legh, who settled at Lyme, married the heiress of Alcock of Ridge <sup>m</sup>, and was ancestor of the Leghs

<sup>k</sup> The West-Hall family spell their name Leigh, as did the Leighs of Oughtrington, the Leighs of Ifell in Cumberland, and the Leighs of Stoneley in Warwickshire; the Leighs, now of Addlestrop in Gloucestershire adopt the same spelling; all the other branches of the family in Cheshire, spell their names Legh. <sup>l</sup> She had also a third husband, William de Hawarden, by whom she had issue.

<sup>m</sup> The Ridge estate was sold by Thomas Legh Esq., late alderman of Macclesfield, whose son now resides in or near London.

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of Ridge. The Leghs of Baguly, extinct in 1688, were descended from Sir William Legh, a younger son of Sir John Legh (the second of that name) of Booths; the Leighs of Eggington, Rinshall, Stoneley, and Addlestrop, all derive their descent from a younger son of the first Legh of Ridge.

The Mainwarings are supposed, with probability almost amounting to certainty, to be descended from Ranulphus, who was Lord of Over-Peover at the time of the Domesday Survey; it is certain that they are descended from Sir Ranulphus de Mainwaring, or as the name was then spelt Mefnilwarin, who was justice of Chester in the reign of Richard I. The elder branch of the Mainwarings, settled at Warmincham, became extinct in the male line in the reign of Richard II. The Over-Peover branch was descended from a younger son of Roger de Mainwaring, son of Sir Randal, justice of Chester, to whom that estate was given by his father: from him the male line was continued in an uninterrupted male succession till the death of the late Sir Henry Mainwaring Bart. in 1797. From William, a younger son of Randal Mainwaring of Over-Peover, who died in 1456, descended the Mainwarings of Ightfield in Shropshire, extinct in the male line; from Randal, third son of the same Randal, the Mainwarings of Carincham in Cheshire, and the Mainwarings of Shropshire. The Mainwarings of Carincham, or Carmingham, became extinct in the male line by the death of John Mainwaring Esq. in 1784; and are represented in the female line by John Mainwaring Uniacke Esq. the present possessor of Carmingham. From a younger son of Sir John Mainwaring of Peover, who died in 1515, descended the Mainwarings of Marton-Sands in Cheshire, now extinct, and the Mainwarings of Whitmore in Staffordshire: a branch of the latter settled at Bromborough in Wirrall about a hundred years ago, and were ancestors of James Mainwaring Esq. now of that place, who is the only known descendant in Cheshire, in the male line, of the Mainwarings. The Mainwarings of Croxton, an illegitimate branch, descended from the Mainwarings of Peover, became extinct in the 17th century.

The Massies of Coddington are descended from a younger branch of the barons of Dunham-Massey<sup>m</sup>. Some pedigrees represent them as descended from a younger son of the family of Massey of Podington<sup>n</sup> or Pudington, extinct in 1715<sup>o</sup>,

<sup>m</sup> Lord Massey, of the kingdom of Ireland, is supposed to be descended from a younger branch of the barons of Dunham-Massey; one of his sons is named Hamo.

<sup>n</sup> The authorities on this side seem to preponderate: it appears that in Sir Peter Leycester's Collections, where the Massies of Coddington are represented as descended from those of Tatton, the pedigree has been corrected by Sir Francis Leycester, Sir Peter's successor; it appears also by Dr. Cowper's Collections, that William Massie, the first of the family who settled at Coddington, left his estate, in case of failure of issue from his two sons, to the Masseys of Podington.

<sup>o</sup> A younger branch of the Masseys of Podington, or as some pedigrees represent, of the Massies of Coddington, was, for several descents, of Broxton.

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the founder of which house was Richard Massey, a younger son of Hamo de Massey, the fourth baron of Dunham-Massey: others represent the Coddington family, as descended from a younger son of Sir John Massey of Tatton. The Tatton family, descended from William, a younger son of one of the barons of Dunham-Massey, became extinct in its principal branch<sup>p</sup>, in or about the reign of Edward IV. It is certain that William Massie, who was of Chester, about the middle of the fifteenth century, settled at Coddington, and was the immediate ancestor of the Rev. Richard Massie, now rector of Coddington and lord of that manor. The Massies of Edgerley, now extinct, were a younger branch of the Massies of Coddington: William Massie Esq. now resident at Chester, is descended from a younger branch of the Massies of Coddington.

The Warburtons are descended from Adam Dutton, a younger son of Hugh, grandson of Hudard, or Odard, who came over into England with William the Conqueror. Sir Peter Dutton, great grandson of Adam, settling at Warburton, took the name of Warburton: the present Sir Peter Warburton's family are now the only known descendants, in the male line, from the ancient stock of the Duttons: a younger branch, descended from a great grandson of Hudard, took the name of Chedle from the place of their residence, and became extinct after a few generations: another younger branch, having settled in the township so called, took the name of Ashley; the heiress of the Ashleys married into a branch of the Breretons, since extinct. The elder male branch of the Duttons became extinct by the death of Lawrence Dutton in 1526; Sir Piers Dutton, descended from Edmund, a younger son of Sir Thomas Dutton, who had settled at Hatton, succeeded to the inheritance as next heir male, and settled at Dutton; his posterity in the male line became extinct by the death of Thomas Dutton Esq. in 1614. Lord Stanley, in right of his mother, (who was daughter of James Duke of Hamilton,) is the immediate representative of this branch in the female line<sup>q</sup>. From Richard Dutton, uncle of Sir Piers Dutton of Hatton, who was adjudged the heir male of Dutton in 1526, were descended the Duttons of Sherbourn in Gloucestershire, of whom Lord Sherbourn is now the representative in the female line, and the Duttons of Cloughton, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, who are supposed to have been long extinct. Ralph Dutton, a younger son of Sir Piers Dutton above-mentioned, continued the male line of Dutton of Hatton, extinct by the death of Peter Dutton Esq. in 1686. Hancock, a younger son of Sir Hugh Dutton, who died in 1326

<sup>p</sup> A younger branch of the Massies of Tatton, was for several descents, of Denfield in Rodtherne; it appears to have become extinct about the end of the seventeenth century, beyond which there are no traces of the family to be found in the parish register.      <sup>q</sup> See p. 352.

settled in Denbighshire: Edward Dutton, alderman of Chester in 1613, proved his descent from the said Hancock; Richard, his son, was also alderman of Chester, and had a son of his own name, but we have not been able to trace their posterity to the present time.

The Alderseys were of Aldersey, now the seat of their descendant Samuel Aldersey Esq., as early as the reign of Edward II. Antrobus, the seat of the ancient family of Antrobus, which was sold by Henry Antrobus, in the reign of Henry IV. to Thomas Venables, has lately been purchased by Edmund Antrobus Esq., who has proved his descent from Henry, a younger son of Henry Antrobus above-mentioned.

The elder branch of the Ardernes, whose chief seat was at Aldford, where they had a castle, became extinct in the principal line, by the death of Walkelin Arderne, in or about the reign of Richard II. The present John Arden Esq. (for so the family have of late years spelt the name) is descended from Sir John Arderne, a younger brother of Walkelin before-mentioned, whose posterity settled in the parish of Stockport, in the fifteenth century; and he is also the representative of the Barons of Montalt, and of the ancient family of Done of Utkinton and Flaxyards; a younger branch of the Ardernes settled at Alderley about the beginning of Edward the Third's reign, and ended after a few descents in a female heir, who married into the Weever family, whose heirs married the ancestor of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. The Ardernes of Leicestershire were descended from a younger son of Ralph Arderne of Harden in the fifteenth century.

The Baskervyles were of Old Withington, as early as the reign of Edward I.: their lineal descendant John Baskervyle Esq., on succeeding to the estates of William Glegg Esq. of Gayton, who died in 1758, took the name of that family<sup>1</sup>. The Braynes were of Alton-house near Nantwich, (lately alienated by John Brayne Esq.) in the reign of Henry VI., and their ancestors for several generations before, at Faddiley. The Bresseys, or Bressies, were originally of Wistaston; Robert Bressley, son of Lawrence, was sheriff of Cheshire in 1303; three of the elder branches of this family terminated at an early period in female heirs; one of whom was ancestor of the Brindleys of Wistaston: one of the remaining branches settled at Teverton in Bunbury, and after continuing there for many generations, became extinct by the death of Ralph Bressie in 1754: another younger branch of this family settled at Bulkeley, by marriage with the heirs of Hadley, descended from a branch of the Bulkeleys; the descendants of this branch spelt their name Brassey, and were ancestors of Richard Brassey Esq. now of Cotton-Abbots. A younger branch of the Bressies of Teverton, continued for several generations in the male line; we

<sup>1</sup> See p. 365.

have

have not been able to trace this branch below William Bressley, who was of Chester in 1566, and had brothers.

The Brookes were of Leighton, in the reign of Edward the First; the elder branch became extinct in the male line, in or about the reign of Queen Elizabeth; a younger branch settled at Norton, of which Sir Richard Brooke Bart. is the immediate descendant. Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, is of a younger branch of the Brookes of Norton. The Barnstons of Churton, ancestors of Roger Barnston Esq. now of Chester, were of Churton, as early as the reign of Richard II.

The Bulkeleys were Lords of Bulkeley, in the reign of King John; Robert de Bulkeley, who was sheriff of Cheshire in 1309, had three sons; William, common ancestor of most of the Cheshire branches; Thomas, whose posterity soon failed in the male line; and Peter, ancestor of the Bulkeleys of Wore in Shropshire, and of the Bulkeleys of Broxton, who became extinct after three descents. William Bulkeley above-mentioned had several sons; William, who left an only daughter, married to Thomas Holford, in consequence of which match, the Cholmondeleys of Vale Royal, by marriage with the heiress of Holford, are representatives of the elder branch of the Bulkeleys; Robert, the second son of William, settled at Eaton in Davenham, and had two sons, Robert, ancestor of the Bulkeleys of Eaton, which family became extinct after six generations; and Richard who married the heiress of Chedle, and was ancestor of the Bulkeleys of Cheadle and of Whatcroft in Davenham: the elder branch of these Bulkeleys removed to Beaumaris in the isle of Anglesea, and were ancestors of Lord Viscount Bulkeley, who has a seat in Cheshire, in right of his Lady as heiress of the Warrens; a younger branch of this house continued for some descents at Cheadle; Roger, third son of William Bulkeley above-mentioned, settling at Norbury, his posterity assumed the name of Norbury, and became extinct, in the elder branch, after four generations; the posterity of Richard, fourth son of William Bulkeley, settled at Prestland near Bunbury, took the name of Prestland, were for several descents of Wardle-Hall in the same parish, and continued in the male line till the middle of the seventeenth century (if not later); Thomas Bulkeley, the fifth son, who was of Alpraham, left an only

This Thomas Bulkeley had two sons, Roger and Richard; the grand-daughter of Roger, brought an estate at Bulkeley to the Hadleys, whose heiress, after three generations, married the ancestor of Richard Brassley Esq., now of Cotton-Abbots. The posterity of Richard ended in a female heir, who in the reign of Richard II. married William Tattenhall, and after three generations, the heiress of Tattenhall married Sir Hugh Calveley.

Sir John Norbury, Lord High Treasurer of England in the reign of King Henry IV. was of a younger branch of this family, which settled at Stoke in Surrey: the daughter and heir of a descendant of the same name married Richard Halleywell, whose daughter and heir, Jane, was the wife of Edmund Lord Bray: a younger branch returned into Cheshire, settled at Frodsham, and became extinct after a few descents.

daughter, married to Thomas Arderne, whose heiress married Thomas Stanley of Elford; David, the youngest son of William Bulkeley settled at Bickerton, and was immediate ancestor of Thomas Bulkeley Esq., by whose death this branch of the family became extinct in 1802.

The Cholmondeleys and Egertons are descended from the same stock; Robert, ancestor of the Cholmondeleys, being the younger brother, and Philip, ancestor of the Egertons, a younger son of David, Baron of Malpas, who, in or about the reign of Henry III., took their family names from the places of their respective residences. Robert de Cholmondeley was the lineal ancestor of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley Knight\*, who died in 1601: from the second son of this Sir Hugh the present Earl of Cholmondeley is descended, and from his fourth son, Thomas, is descended Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal, one of the present knights of the shire. A younger branch of the Cholmondeleys was of Chorley in the reign of Edward III.; the direct line of this branch became extinct in 1522, by the death of Sir Richard Cholmondeley, whose younger brother Roger, settled in Yorkshire, and was ancestor of the brave Sir Hugh Cholmondeley of Whitby, who defended Scarborough castle, and was created a baronet in 1641; the title became extinct in 1688: but the male line was continued by a cousin, who married the heiress of the last baronet; other younger branches, descended from Roger Cholmondeley above-mentioned, settled at Bransby and Roxby in Yorkshire. John, younger brother of Richard Cholmondeley, who was one of the justices of Cheshire, in the reign of Edward IV., was ancestor of the family of Cholmondeley of Coppenhall in Staffordshire, which spread into several branches. The Cholmondeleys of Holford, extinct in 1728, were descended from Thomas, a natural son of Sir Robert Cholmondeley Bart. Earl of Leinster†, who died without legitimate issue in 1659.

Sir Thomas Egerton Bart., now Earl of Wilton, whose seat is at Heaton in Lancashire, is the immediate representative of the elder branch of the Egertons of Egerton and Oulton, descended from Philip de Egerton above-mentioned. Oulton, now the seat of John Egerton Esq. was acquired by the family, about the year 1500, by a match with the heiress of Hugh Done of Oulton, a younger son of the family of Done of Utkinton. The present possessor of Oulton is descended from Sir Philip Egerton Knight, third son of Sir Rowland, the first baronet, and is presumptive heir to the baronetcy. Urian, great-grandson of Philip de Egerton first-mentioned, married the heiress of Caldecote, and was ancestor of the Egertons of Caldecote, and afterwards of Wrinehill, which was acquired by a

\* He was one of the knights of the shire, as were his descendants for five generations. See a more particular account of the titles of this family, p. 351, 352, 354.

† See p. 351.

match

match with the heiress of Hawkestone, about the year 1430; this branch of the Egertons became extinct in 1687<sup>u</sup>. The Egertons of Ridley were descended from Sir Ralph Egerton, standard-bearer to King Henry VIII., a younger son of Sir Philip Egerton of Egerton. The Ridley estate was sold in the reign of Charles II. by a descendant, who removed to Shaw in Lancashire, and this branch of the family is supposed to be extinct. The Earl of Bridgewater is descended from a natural son of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, son of Sir Ralph. The Egertons of Tatton, extinct by the death of Samuel Egerton Esq., one of the knights of the shire, in the year 1780, were descended from Thomas, a younger son of the Earl of Bridgewater who died in 1686. William Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw, son of the late Mr. Egerton's sister, on succeeding to the estate, took the name of Egerton, and was father of Wilbraham Egerton Esq., now of Tatton.

The ancestors of T. C. Clutton Esq. of Chorlton in Malpas were originally of Clutton, afterwards for several generations of Nantwich. The ancestors of T. C. Dod Esq. of Edge, are to be traced up to the reign of Henry III. The Dods of Dod's-yard, or Smithfield in Broxton, appear to have been a younger branch of the Dods of Edge, and to have become extinct by the death of Peter Dod Esq. about the year 1650. Another younger branch of the Dods of Edge became extinct in 1719, by the death of John Herbert Dod Esq., of the Lower-house in Broxton. The Dods of Broxton-Hall, or the Higher-house, whose connection with the Edge family does not appear, are to be traced to the fourteenth century: this family became extinct in the male line in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The family of Downes was of Downes, in the township of Sutton, as early as the reign of King John; William Downes was of Shrigley, now the seat of his immediate descendant, Edward Downes Esq., early in the fourteenth century. It is most probable, that either he or his father married the heiress of Shrigley<sup>z</sup>: the coat of which family is now quartered by Downes. A younger branch of the Downes family settled at Taxall early in the fourteenth century: we have not been able to trace whether this branch of the family is extinct; Reginald Downes Esq., who sold the Taxall estate, and appears to have quitted the county in 1691, had male issue.

<sup>u</sup> James Egerton, who died in 1687, was the last heir male of the Wrinehill branch, being son of William Egerton of Betley, second son of Ralph Egerton of Wrinehill, who died in 1522; but Wrinehill had some years before the death of James Egerton passed to the Egertons of Egerton and Oulton, pursuant to a settlement made by Edward Egerton of Wrinehill, (son of Sir Ralph Egerton, who died in 1597,) which Edward died without issue.

<sup>z</sup> The match is not mentioned in any pedigrees of the family; but it appears by ancient family deeds, that Maud, daughter of Jordan de Shrigley, conveyed lands in Shrigley, A. D. 1313, to William de Downes; and it appears also that the wife of this William was named Maud; her surname does not appear.

The Gleggs became possessed of the hundred of Caldey, in the reign of Edward II., by a match with the heiress of Sutton; Gilbert Glegg, son of John, who first settled in Wirrall, by a match with the heiress of Merton, acquired Gayton, which was the seat of the elder branch of the family, till the death of William Glegg Esq. the last heir male in 1758; this branch is now represented by John Glegg Esq., whose father, John Baskervyle of Old Withington, married the only daughter of Robert Glegg Esq. (brother to William,) and on the death of the said William, assumed the name of Glegg. Birkenhead Glegg Esq. is descended, in the male line, from a younger branch of the family, settled for many generations at Irbye-Hall: another younger branch settled at Grange in the reign of Edward VI., which estate has passed from the family, but the male heirs are not extinct.

The elder branch of the Kelfalls, who were originally of Kelfall in Tarvin, became extinct at an early period: a younger branch was of Bradshaw and Heathside, both in Cheadle: the immediate descendant of this family is Oldfield Kelfall Esq., who is the present owner of Bradshaw-Hall, but resides in Chester. James Kelfall, a younger son of the Bradshaw family, settled at Audley in Staffordshire, and died in 1583, at the age of 107 years, leaving a numerous family; a branch of which settled at Barthomley, and became extinct in 1802: another branch of the Kelfalls, which was of Trafford, has become extinct also in the male line; the heiress of this branch married J. Glegg Esq. of Withington.

The ancestors of John Lawton Esq. of Lawton, were settled at that place, as early as the reign of Henry V. The Leches of Carden are descended from John Leech or Leche, who settled at Carden, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of that place; he was grandson of John Leech, one of the surgeons to King Edward III., who was of Chatworth in Derbyshire.

The Leycesters of Toft are descended in the direct male line from Sir Nicholas Leycester, who acquired the manor of Nether-Tabley in marriage, and died in 1295; his grandson Ralph, being the younger son of his son Nicholas, married the heiress of Toft, and was the immediate ancestor of the present George Leycester Esq. of that place: a younger son of Ralph Leycester above-mentioned, was ancestor of the Leycesters of Worleston and of Poole near Nantwich: Richard Leycester of this branch, was mayor of Chester in 1650. The Tabley family continued in the male line till the death of Sir Francis Leicester Bart. (for so this branch of the family have of late years written their name) in 1742; his only daughter married Fleetwood Legh Esq. and for her second husband, Sir John Byrne Bart. of the kingdom of Ireland, whose grandson Sir John Fleming Leicester,

? He died without male issue; and of several brothers, one only (Randle) survived him.

of

of Tabley-House Bart., is the present representative of the Leicesters of that place, of which family was Sir Peter Leicester, the historian of Bucklow hundred. The Leycesters of Hale-Lowe in Bowden, supposed to be extinct, and the Leycesters of Leigh in Staffordshire, were younger branches of the Leycesters of Tabley: none of the male line of this family are known to be now remaining in Cheshire.

The Stanleys, who are a branch of the ancient baronial family of Audley, took the name of Stanley, from Stanleigh, or Stanley in Staffordshire, where they were some time settled. Sir William de Stanley, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of Bamville, became possessed, about the year 1315, of the bailiwick of Wirrall forest, and the manor of Great-Storeton. His son, by a match with the heiress of Hooton, became possessed of that lordship, which has ever since been the seat of his descendants. In consequence of a younger son of this family succeeding by devise to the estate of the Masseys of Puddington in 1715, he assumed the name of Massey in addition to his own; but upon this branch coming into possession of Hooton, by the death of Sir William Stanley Bart. in 1792, they re-assumed their ancient family name also in addition; the present baronet is Sir Thomas Stanley Massey Stanley.

Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. of Alderley, is descended from Sir John, a younger son of Sir Thomas Stanley, the first Lord Stanley, comptroller of the household to King Henry VI. (descended from Sir John Stanley K. G. younger brother of the first Stanley of Hooton). Sir John Stanley, ancestor of the Stanleys of Alderley, possessed both Alderley and Weever; at which latter place also, his descendant had, for some time a seat, by his marriage with the heiress of Sir Thomas Weever. The Earl of Derby is descended from the elder son of Thomas Lord Stanley above-mentioned. The Stanleys of Elford and Pype in Staffordshire, long since extinct in the male line, were descended from a younger son of Sir John Stanley (the first Lord Stanley's grandfather,) who married the heiress of Latham. The Stanleys of Dalegarth, (now of Ponsonby,) in Cumberland, are a younger branch of the Stanleys of Storeton in Wirrall.

The Tattons were Lords of the township of that name at a very early period; the elder branch became extinct after a few descents; the heiress married Massey Robert, son of William, a younger brother of Sir Alan Tatton, Lord of Tatton in 1250, married the heiress of Kenworthy in the reign of Edward I. <sup>2</sup>, his descendant of the same name, married the heiress of Withenshaw. It is singular that the father of the present Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton, should have quitted the ancient name of his family, on coming into possession of the estate, which was at an early period their inheritance. Thomas William, the younger brother of Mr.

<sup>2</sup> Papers in the possession of the Tatton family.

Egerton, who is now of Withenshaw, has resumed his paternal name of Tatton. The ancestors of Edward Thornycroft Esq. were of Thornycroft, in the township of Sidington, and the parish of Prestbury, as early as the latter part of the 13th century. The Vawdreys were settled in the parish of Bowden, at least as early as the reign of Edward IV. About the year 1497, they settled at Riddings, whence they removed to Millgate in Cranage. The daughter and heir of the last of the elder branch married the Rev. James Mainwaring of Edlaston, in the county of Derby, who died in 1808, and left issue. Daniel Vawdrey Esq. of Stanthorn is the representative of a younger branch.

The Walthalls appear to have settled at Wistaston, now the seat of their descendant Peter Walthall Esq. in the fourteenth century, on marrying the heiress of Alexander.

The Wetenhalls were of Wetenhall as early as the reign of Henry II.; the elder branch became extinct in the fourteenth century, when Wetenhall, the ancient seat of the family, passed into other hands. Sir John Wetenhall, in the early part of the fourteenth century, had two sons who died without issue: two daughters married to Grosvenor and Hartley, who left no issue; and four daughters married to Arderne, Bostock, Bromhall, and Manley, who left issue. The brothers of Sir John Wetenhall above-mentioned, continued the male line: younger branches were of Cholmondeston and Coppenhall. The Wetenhalls of Cholmondeston became extinct in the male line, about the year 1600: we have not ascertained whether the Wetenhalls of Coppenhall are extinct: in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Roger Wetenhall, the last mentioned in the pedigree, is described as of Coppenhall; Charles, a younger brother of Canterbury; John, another younger brother of London. A younger branch of the Wetenhalls which was of Nantwich, has continued to the present time: the late Thomas Wetenhall Esq. upon succeeding to the estates of the late Sir Henry Mainwaring, took the name of Mainwaring, which has been continued by his son, now Sir Henry Mainwaring Mainwaring Bart. A younger branch of the Wetenhalls of Nantwich settled at Hankelow in the early part of the 17th century, and became extinct in 1778. Edward Tomkinson Esq., to whom the late Mr. Wetenhall of Hankelow left his estate, is the representative in the female line, and has taken the name of Wetenhall.

The Wilbrahams are descended from Sir Richard de Wilburham, or Wilbraham, who married two Cheshire heiresses of the families of Venables and Vernon, Barons of Kinderton and Shipbrooke: from the former match all the Wilbrahams of Cheshire are descended. The elder branch settled at Woodhey in the fifteenth century, in consequence of a match with the heiress of Golborne, and became extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Wilbraham Bart. in 1695. The Earl of Dysart is the representative of this branch, and inherits the estates.

Ralph

Ralph Wilbraham, second son of Thomas, who married the heiress of Golborne, was ancestor of the Wilbrahams of the Towns-end in Nantwich, and the Wilbrahams of Dorfold. George Wilbraham Esq. of Delamere Lodge is the immediate representative of the elder branch of the Wilbrahams of the Towns-end: the grandfather of the present Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Rode was a younger son of Wilbraham of Towns-end. The present Mr. Randle Wilbraham's elder brother has taken the name of Bootle, and resides at Latham in Lancashire. The Wilbrahams of Dorfold, of whom the Rev. James Wilbraham, rector of Falmouth, is the immediate representative, were descended from Ralph, a younger son of Wilbraham of Towns-end, who settled at Dorfold in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The Wilbrahams of Brindley, and the Wilbrahams of Rees-heath, were descended from Richard, the fourth son of Thomas Wilbraham, who married the heiress of Golborne: this branch is supposed not to be extinct, but they have long quitted Cheshire.

Lawrence Wright Esq., now of Mottram-St. Andrew, is descended from the Wrights of Offerton, whose ancestor acquired that manor by marrying the heiress of Winnington. Lawrence Wright Esq., who became thus possessed of Offerton about the year 1600, was grandson of Thomas Wright of Nantwich, whose pedigree is traced a few descents higher, to Thomas Wright, *alias* Bulkeley. Sir Edmund Wright, lord mayor of London, of an elder branch of the Nantwich family, died without male issue in 1638: a younger branch, which continued at Nantwich for some descents later, became extinct by the death of Edward Wright Esq. in 1745. The Wrights, who were settled for seven descents at Bickley, came out of Yorkshire, were quite a distinct family, and bore different arms: the last mentioned in the pedigrees of this family, which is supposed to be extinct, is Roger Wright, serjeant at arms to Queen Elizabeth, about the year 1600.

We now come to treat of such of the Cheshire families, as having become extinct in the male line, are continued by descendants, who have taken the names of their maternal ancestors. The Leighs of West-Hall, and the Leicesters of Tabley, have been already spoken of. The family of Aston, whose pedigree is to be traced up to the reign of Henry II. still continues indeed in the male line, in the person of the present baronet, Sir Willoughby Aston, but the male line of the elder branch failed in 1744, by the death of Sir Thomas Aston, whose brother-in-law, the Hon. Henry Hervey, D. D., on succeeding to the Cheshire estates, took the name of Aston.

The Booths descended from those of Barton in Lancashire, settled in Cheshire some time in the fifteenth century, in consequence of a marriage with the heiress of Venables of Bolyn, representative of the Barons Massey. Sir George

Booth of Dunham-Massey was created a baronet in 1611, his grandson was in 1661 created Lord Delamere; and the son of the first Lord Delamere was in 1690 created Earl of Warrington. The principal male line of the Booths, now represented by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington<sup>2</sup>, became extinct in 1758, by the death of George Earl of Warrington; the title of Baron Delamere then devolved to the descendant of Robert, fifth son of the first Lord Delamere, whose posterity became extinct in the male line, by the death of Nathaniel Lord Delamere, in 1770. The title of baronet, on the death of the last Earl of Warrington, of the Booth family, devolved to the descendants of Nathaniel, fourth son of William Booth Esq., eldest son of the first baronet. This branch of the Booth family, together with the title of baronet, became extinct by the death of the Rev. Sir George Booth Bart. in 1797. The Booths of Twemlow, who were descended from Edward, (a younger son of Sir William Booth of Dunham-Massey, who died in 1519,) settled at that place in consequence of his marriage with a co-heiress of Roger Knotsford: this branch of the family became extinct in the male line by the death of Thomas Booth Esq. in 1775. Walter Griffith Esq. Captain in the Royal Navy, his great nephew in the female line, and heir under his will, of the Twemlow estate, took the name of Booth, by his Majesty's sign manual, in 1792.

The Crewes, or Crues, are to be traced to the early part of the twelfth century, as settled at Crewe in Barthomley; the elder branch became extinct about the year 1294; when Joan, the eldest daughter and co-heir of Thomas de Crewe, brought Crewe-Hall to the family of Praers, whose heiress married Foulshurst: two younger brothers of this Thomas de Crewe left male issue, but their posterity appear to have failed after a few generations; Patrick, the fourth son, had two sons—Patrick the elder, was ancestor to the Crewes of Pulcroft; the co-heiresses of which family, in the reign of Edward IV., married into the families of Boydell, Chetwode, Leycester, and Wetenhall: the immediate posterity of David, younger son of Patrick, settled at Soonde; his great-grandson Thomas, who married a daughter of Henry Norbury, under-treasurer of England in the reign of Henry VI., and to his second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Patrick of Nantwich, settled in that town: his descendant, John Crewe of Nantwich, who married Alice Mainwaring, was father of Sir Randle Crewe, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and of Sir Thomas Crewe, Serjeant at Law, ancestor of the Lords Crewe of Stean in Northamptonshire, now extinct. Sir Randle Crewe, having purchased Crewe-Hall, which had been the seat of his ancestors, built the present mansion at that place; his posterity failed in the male line in the year 1684, by the death of

\* The only daughter of the last Earl of Warrington, married Henry Grey, Earl of Stamford, whose son, George Harry, the present Earl of Stamford, was created Earl of Warrington in 1796.

John Crewe Esq., whose daughter and eventually sole heir, Anne, married John Offley Esq., descended from the ancient family of Offley of Madeley-Manor in Staffordshire; their son, who in 1708 took the name of Crewe by act of parliament, and died in 1749, was grandfather of John Crewe Esq. of Crewe-Hall, created Lord Crewe in 1806. Ralph Crewe, a younger son of the Nantwich family, was of Alvaſton in the reign of Henry VII., and left an only daughter, married to an ancestor of the Walthalls. The Crewes of Cholmondeston are said to have been descended from one of the younger branches of the Crewes of Crewe-Hall, and one pedigree derives their descent from a younger son of Thomas Crewe, son of Thomas, who first settled at Nantwich: this branch is supposed to be extinct; none of the family have for many years resided at Cholmondeston. The Crewes, or as they have generally spelt their name, Crues, of Crewe near Farndon, and Holt in Denbighshire, are represented in some pedigrees of the family as descended from David, a younger son of Thomas Crewe, who died in the reign of Edward I.; the pedigree in Barthomley church, drawn up by Sir William Dugdale, makes no mention indeed of this David, or of the Crues of Holt, and Crewe near Farndon: but they are represented as descended from the Crewes of Crewe-Hall, in a very copious pedigree in the British Museum<sup>a</sup>; which appears to have been drawn up by Randle Holme, from the communications of Sir John Crewe of Utkinton. These Crues of Crewe became extinct in the male line in the fifteenth century; the co-heiresses married Dod and Bird, and the heiresses of Bird married Stringer. The Crues of Holt were of that place from the reign of Richard II., till the death of Samuel Crue Esq. in 1770; Thomas Crue Dod Esq. his sister's son, is the present representative of this family.

The Jodrells, whose family became extinct in the male line by the death of Francis Jodrell Esq. in 1757, came out of Derbyshire; and settled at Eardsley, or Yardsley in Taxall, in 1429. The co-heiresses of Francis Jodrell<sup>b</sup> married John Bower Esq. of Manchester, and Egerton Leigh Esq. of West-hall; the former assumed the name of Jodrell, and purchased Henbury, where he settled: it is now the property and seat of his son, Francis Jodrell Esq., who possesses also the estates of the Jodrells in Taxall.

The ancient family of Shakerley became extinct in the male line, about the end of the fourteenth, or at the beginning of the fifteenth century, when Geoffrey Tildesly of a Lancashire family, married the heiresses and took the name, which continued till the death of Peter Shakerley in 1781, when it became again extinct, and was resumed by Charles Watkin John Buckworth, (now Shakerley,) son of Charles Buckworth Esq. of Park-Place in Surrey, who married Elizabeth,

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2119.

<sup>b</sup> Frances and Elizabeth, his two grand-daughters, the only children of his son Francis, who died in 1756, the year before his father.

his daughter and sole heiress. The Shakerleys were for many generations of Hulme, which was acquired by a marriage of one of their ancestors, with a co-heiress of Grosvenor: afterwards, in consequence of a match with the heiress of Oldfield, they settled at Somerford-Radnor in Astbury.

The Swetenhams of Somerford-Booths, whose descent is to be traced as high as about the year 1200, became extinct in the male line by the death of Edmund Swetenham Esq. in 1768; his great-nephew in the female line, Roger Comberbach Esq., has taken the name of Swetenham, and resides at Somerford-Booths. The Swettenhams<sup>a</sup> of Swettenham, whose pedigree is to be traced to the reign of Edward I., became extinct by the death of Thomas Swettenham Esq. (who had assumed the name of Willis) in 1788. The name of Swettenham was assumed some years ago, by John Eaton Esq., (a distant relation of Millington Eaton Swettenham Esq. the present proprietor,) upon his coming into possession, by devise, of the Swettenham estate.

We now come to treat of such Cheshire families as retain their ancient patrimony, but have now no permanent residence in the county, as well as those who have no longer any connection with it: of the former class, we can enumerate only the families of Bunbury, Chetwode, Manley, Needham, Page, Poole, and Sneyd; to which may be added Brereton and Moreton, continued in the female line: of the latter, the families of Bostock, Daniel, Dukenfield, Fallows, Hankey, Hatton, Holford, Maisterfon, Torkington, and Vernon<sup>b</sup>.

The family of Bunbury may be traced to the reign of King Stephen, as resident at Bunbury: they are said to have been descended from the St. Pierres, and to have taken their name from the place of their residence: the elder branch failed in the male line, about the reign of King John, by the death of Humphry de Bunbury, one of whose daughters married Patrick; the other, who died unmarried, left her estate to Alexander de Bunbury, who continued the male line; his descendant David de Bunbury, having married the heiress of Stanney, in the reign of Edward II., removed the family residence to Stanney in Wirrall. Sir William Bunbury, father of the present baronet, removed into Suffolk. Stanney-Hall, the only mansion in Cheshire belonging to this family, is now a farm-house. The Beestons of Beeston, a younger branch of the Bunburys, who took that name from the place of their residence, about the reign of Edward I., became extinct in the male line<sup>b</sup>, by the death of Sir Hugh Beeston in 1627, and are now represented by Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart.

<sup>a</sup> So the Swettenhams of Swettenham spell their name.

<sup>b</sup> Lord Vernon possesses estates in Cheshire, which he inherits from the Venables family; but, we believe, not any of the ancient estates of the Vernons.

<sup>c</sup> William Beeston Esq., appointed governor of Jamaica in 1692, and Mr. Beeston a Welsh judge who died in 1744, are said (See Simpson's English Traveller, published in 1746,) to be descended from this family of Beeston; but there does not appear to be any younger sons in the Cheshire pedigrees we have seen, from whom they could have derived their descent.

The Chetwodes, a very ancient family, who were originally of Chetwode in Buckinghamshire, and afterwards of Okeley in Staffordshire, which is now the seat of Sir J. Chetwode Bart. had a seat in Cheshire for several generations, at Worleston in Acton. The present baronet has considerable property in the parish of Great-Budworth, by descent from the families of Touchet and Venables, and occasionally resides at Agden-Hall. The ancestors of Sir John Chetwode have married four Cheshire heiresses, or co-heiresses, Crewe of Pulcroft, Soonde of Soonde, Touchet of Whitley, and Venables of Agden.

The Manleys were of Manley in Frodsham, as early as the thirteenth century, the elder branch became extinct about the latter end of the sixteenth century; previously to which the family mansion was sold to the Birkenheads; a younger branch, which was of Poulton, and continued there in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is supposed also to be extinct: another younger branch was of Lache and Doddleston. Acton Manley Esq., settled at Oakhanger-Hall, in the parish of Barthomley, in consequence of his father's marriage with the heiress of Acton; this branch became extinct in the male line, by the death of John Acton Manley Esq., whose only daughter and heir, by her second husband John Ready Esq., left an only daughter, now the wife of the Rev. Dr. Whittington Landon, provost of Worcester College in Oxford. The present male representative of the Lache family, Isaac George Manley Esq., who resides at Braziers near Ipsden in Oxfordshire, has still an estate at Doddleston.

The Needhams were of Cranach, or Cranage in this county, as early as the reign of Henry III.: their descendant Lord Viscount Kilmorey has large estates in Cheshire; but neither he nor his ancestors have for many years had any seat in it. The Pages were of Drakelow in the reign of Edward III., afterwards of Erdshaw. Webb, in his Itinerary of 1622, speaks of this family as extinct; it probably was then extinct, in the elder branch: Thomas Leigh Page Esq., now of Pancras, in the county of Middlesex, is the representative of a younger branch, which settled at Hawthorne-Hall near Wilmslow. The Pooles, who are descended from the family of Pull, or Poole, of Barrets-Poole in Acton, were afterwards, about the reign of Richard II. of Poole-Hall in Wirrall, where they continued to reside, till the father of the present baronet removed into Sussex. Poole-Hall is now occupied by the tenant who rents the demesnes. The Sneyds, or as the name was anciently spelt, Sneads, were of Bradwall in Sandbach, as early as the reign of Henry VI.: they have long resided in Staffordshire. Walter Sneyd Esq. has still an estate in the parish of Wybunbury, which was purchased by his ancestor in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Breretons of Brereton, a very widely-spreading family, are to be traced at Brereton, where the parent stock was settled, to about the year 1200, or rather earlier.

earlier; the elder branch became extinct in 1722, on the death of Francis Lord Brereton, whose ancestor had been created Lord Brereton of Leighlin in Ireland in 1624; the present representative in the female line is the lady of Abraham Bracebridge<sup>c</sup> Esq. of Atherston in Warwickshire, who occasionally resides in the old mansion at Brereton. From Randle, a younger son of Sir William Brereton of Brereton, by the heiress of Malpas, descended the Breretons of Malpas, extinct in the male line, in the year 1611; and the Breretons of Ashley extinct in the male line in 1660: from the Breretons of Malpas, who were also of Ipstones in Staffordshire, descended the Breretons of Eccleston and Wetenhall; the Breretons of Tatton, extinct in or about the year 1600; the Breretons of Honford in Cheadle, extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Brereton Bart. in 1678; the Breretons of Wolvesacre in Malpas, the Breretons of Barrell, and the Breretons of Burros, or Burroughs in Denbighshire; the last-mentioned family, which was descended from a younger son of the first Randle Brereton of Malpas, became extinct on the death of the late Owen Salusbury Brereton Esq. F. R. A. S., who left his estates at Shotwick in this county to his cousin on the mother's side, Charles Trelawney Esq. (now Trelawney Brereton). The Breretons of Eccleston, Wetenhall<sup>d</sup>, and Wolvesacre, are supposed to be extinct.

The Moretons, who were for many generations of Little-Moreton, derived their descent from Gram de Lofstock, who married the heiress of a still more ancient family of that name: his son Geoffrey took the name of Moreton; which was continued by his posterity in the male line, till the death of Sir William Moreton, recorder of London in 1763: the Rev. William Moreton Moreton of Westerham in Kent, descended from a sister of Sir William, is the representative of this family in the female line.

The Bostocks of Bostock, who traced their descent up to the time of the Conquest, became extinct in the direct male line, towards the latter part of the 15th century, when the heiress of an elder son married Sir John Savage: a younger branch continued at Bostock for several generations afterwards<sup>e</sup>, and branches of the family were settled in various parts of the county, at Barton, Belgrave, Churton, Mobberly, Moulton, and Tattenhall: others settled at Abingdon in Berkshire, and at Tanridge in Surrey; none of the name, whose descent can be satisfactorily traced as connected with this family, are known to be still resident in Cheshire. Dr. Charles Bostock, now Sir Charles Rich Bart., who married the heiress of Sir

<sup>c</sup> Mary Elizabeth, only child of Sir Charles Holte of Aston, in the county of Warwick Bart. descended from Sir Robert Holte, who married Jane, sister and heiress of the last Lord Brereton.

<sup>d</sup> A younger branch of the Breretons of Wetenhall, was of Chester in 1664.—Dugdale's Visitation.

<sup>e</sup> The last of the family, who occurs in the parish register at Davenham, is Thomas Bostock, buried in 1704.

Robert

Robert Rich, and took that name, is descended from the Cheshire Bostocks. The Daniels of Over-Tabley and Daresbury, were descended from William Daniers, or Daniel, who was living in 1291: his elder son was ancestor of the Daniels of Tabley, which family became extinct in the male line by the death of Sir Samuel Daniel in 1726. Sir William Dukenfield, who inherited the estates, and took the name of Daniel, died without issue; the Daniels of Daresbury were descended from a younger son of William Daniers above-mentioned. The descendant of John Daniel Esq. of Daresbury sold his estate at that place in 1756, and the family now resides in Staffordshire.

The Dukenfields are to be traced as resident at Dukenfield, nearly to the time of the Conquest; the estate passed from the family, on the death of Sir William Dukenfield, who bore the additional name of Daniel, as representative of the Daniels of Over-Tabley; the present male representative of this family, Sir Nathaniel Dukenfield Bart., who is descended from a younger branch, settled at Bristol, has no residence in Cheshire. The family of Fallows, or Falwitz, descended from a younger branch of the Aldfords of Aldford, resided for many generations at Fallows-Hall, and afterwards at Heywood-Hall in Alderley; they afterwards removed into Derbyshire. William Fallows Esq. their present representative, resides in London. The elder branch of the Hankeys, who were of Churton for several generations, became extinct in the male line in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the death of John Hankey Esq., who left several daughters; a younger brother's family continued at Churton in the reign of Charles I., removed thence to Over; and afterwards settled in London, where they have been eminent bankers, and occasionally enjoyed the highest civic honours, for more than a century.

The descent of the Hattons of Hatton in Waverton, may be traced up to the time of Hugh Lupus: the elder branch became extinct in the fourteenth century; the heiress brought the manor of Hatton to the Vernons; the male line was continued by the posterity of a younger branch, who were for some time of Great-Aldersey; and settled in the reign of Henry IV. at Quoifty, or Koifty-Birches in the chapelry of Daresbury. Peter Hatton, who was of Quoifty-Birches in the reign of Edward IV., had several sons; the elder son removed into Shropshire, and left issue; the second son was of Quoifty-Birches, where his posterity continued in the seventeenth century; the third son was ancestor of the Hattons of Holdenby in Northamptonshire, from which family sprung the celebrated Sir Christopher Hatton, whose posterity were ennobled<sup>f</sup>; and the Hattons, baronets, of Long-Stanton in Cambridgeshire; the fourth son was ancestor of the Hattons

<sup>f</sup> Christopher Hatton was created a baron in 1643, and his son in 1682 Viscount Hatton; these titles became extinct in 1762.

of:

of Norley and Kingley; the fifth son was ancestor of the Hattons of Scroggs; the sixth son was ancestor of the Hattons of Weverham, whose rank in life became so widely different from that of the posterity of the other branches in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, that some of them were then butchers in Chester<sup>s</sup>; the seventh son was ancestor of the Hattons of North-wood, and the eighth of those of Stockton-yate, both in Cheshire: all of these seem to have had a numerous posterity; but we cannot find that there are any of the family, of the degree of gentry, now remaining in this county. The Hattons, who were for many generations of Wood-houses in Frodsham, branched off from the Hattons of Hatton, about the reign of Edward the First: some younger branches of these Hattons were of Groppenhall, Helsby, and Ince.

The Holfords of Holford were descended from the Tofts, one of whom settled at Holford, and assumed that name, about the reign of Edward II.; the direct male line of the Holfords of Holford, became extinct about the year 1600; when the heiress of that family brought Holford to the Cholmondeleys: there are none of the family now in Cheshire, but younger branches are settled in other counties: William Holford Esq. of Weston-Birt in Gloucestershire, is of the male line of this family. The Holfords of Davenham, who were descended from a natural son, as was supposed, of Sir John Holford, who lived in the reign of Henry VII., became extinct by the death of Allen Holford Esq. in 1788. The lineal descendant of the Maisterfons, who were settled at Nantwich, as early as the reign of Edward I., and continued there for about fifteen generations, resides in London. The Torkingtons of Torkington removed many years ago to Great-Stewkley in Huntingdonshire.

The Vernon family descended from Richard de Vernon, one of Hugh Lupus' barons, became extinct in the elder branch, by the death of Warin, the fifth Baron of Shipbrooke; a younger branch continued the male line for some time at Shipbrooke; the heiress of Vernon of Shipbrooke married Savage; a younger branch settled at Haslington, and became extinct by the death of Sir George Vernon, who was made one of the Barons of the Exchequer in 1627; a younger branch of this family, at an early period, settled at Erdswick in Cheshire, took the name of Erdswick, removed into Staffordshire, and were ancestors of Erdswick the historian; there are none of the name now in Cheshire, who are supposed to have been descended from the Shipbrooke family. Lord Vernon, descended from the Vernons of Haddon in Derbyshire, whose ancestor, Sir William Vernon, justice of Cheshire, was descended from a younger son of the third Baron of Shipbrooke, is now considered as the head of that family.

<sup>s</sup> Smith's Heraldic Collections.

Some of the ancient families, known to be extinct in the male line have been already spoken of; the following have also been ascertained to be extinct: the Actons of Oakhanger, extinct in 1702<sup>b</sup>; the Aldfords of Aldford, extinct about the year 1200<sup>c</sup>; the Allens of Bindley appear to have become extinct about the latter end of the 17th century, when the co-heiresses married Hewett, and Drew; the Alsfagers became extinct in 1768; the Astburys descended from Randle de Astbury, nephew of Randle de Blundeville Earl of Chester, became extinct about the year 1300, when the heiress married Somerford; the Audleys who had a seat at New-Hall, became extinct in the reign of Richard II., when the heiress married Touchet.

The Bartons of Barton became extinct early in the fourteenth century; the Bebingtons of Bebington became extinct, in the elder branch, in the reign of Richard II.; a younger branch settled at Nantwich, and is supposed to be also extinct; seven males of this family, six brothers, and an uncle, were slain at Flodden field. The Bellots, who represented the Moretons of Great-Moreton, became extinct by the death of Sir John Bellot in 1714. The Berringtons who possessed Moresbarrow, by marriage with the heiress of Moresbarrow in the reign of Edward I., and were afterwards of Bradwall, became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the heiress married Oldfield. The Birkenheads, whose pedigree is traced to the reign of Edward III. in the early part of the 16th century spread into three branches, all of which are supposed to be extinct; the eldest son, who married the heiress of Done of Crowton, settled at that place, but the male line did not continue beyond his son; the descendants of the second son were of Huxley in consequence of a match with the heiress of Huxley, and afterwards removed to Backford; this branch became extinct in the male line in 1724, and is represented by the Gleggs; the posterity of the third son, who settled at Chester, and a younger branch of the Huxley family, which continued at Huxley, are supposed to be also extinct. The family of Birchels, or Birtles of Birtles, became extinct about the year 1600; when the co-heiresses married Swetenham of Somerford and Kinsey of Blackden; the family of Blackmore, settled for many descents at Over, became extinct about the year 1788; the Boydells of Doddleston descended from Osborne Fitz-Tezzon, who lived in the reign of William the Conqueror, became extinct about the middle of the fourteenth century<sup>k</sup>; the Bretts of Davenham became extinct about the year 1600, the co-heiresses married Bostock and Wyche; the Brindleys of Wilsaiston were extinct before the year 1622<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> The heiress married into the family of Manley of Lache: Maria Augustina daughter of John Ready Esq. of Oakhanger, by the heiress of Manley, and wife of the Rev. Dr. Landon, provost of Worcester College in Oxford, is the representative both of the Actons and Mauleys. See p. 373.

<sup>b</sup> A younger branch took the name of Fallows, from the place of its residence. See p. 375.

<sup>k</sup> The husband of one of the daughters took the name of Boydell, which was again extinct in the reign of Henry V. <sup>l</sup> Webb's Itinerary in the Vale-Royal.

The Bromleys of Baddington, descended from a second son of Richard Bromley of Bromley in Staffordshire, became extinct in the male line in 1485<sup>m</sup>: Sir John Bromley, a younger son of the first Bromley of Baddington, was ancestor of the Bromleys of Mitley in Shropshire, and of Holt-Castle in Worcestershire. From Nicholas, a younger son of Roger Bromley, (grandson of Sir John above-mentioned,) who married the heiress of Mitley, descended the Bromleys of the Lower-House at Norbury in the hundred of Nantwich extinct before the year 1600, and the Bromleys of Hampton in the parish of Malpas, who continued the male line in this county nearly a century later, when the heiress married into the family of Dod. The Bromleys of Dorfold-Hall, who sold that place about the year 1600, are represented by Collins, as descended from a natural son of Thomas, who was of Baddington in the reign of Edward IV.; but other pedigrees represent them as descended from a younger son of a younger branch of the Baddington family; we have not been able to ascertain whether they are extinct, but they do not appear to have continued in the county after the sale of Dorfold. The Bruens, who had been for many generations before of Stapleford, divided in the reign of Richard II. into two branches; the Stapleford branch became extinct in 1715, and the other also is supposed to be extinct. The family of Burge, or Burges of Burge-Hall in Great-Budworth, became extinct in the reign of Henry III.

The Byrds, Birds, or Brydes, who were, at an early period, of Charlton in Malpas, divided into several branches, some of the descendants of which settled in Wiltshire, and some in London; the elder branch of the Byrds of Broxton became extinct in the reign of Edward III., when the heiress married Dod; the heiress of a younger branch, which was also of Broxton, married Bulkeley in the following century; a third branch remained in the same township, till the death of Charles Byrd Esq., about the beginning of the last century: a branch of the Byrds settled at Crewe near Farndon, in consequence of a match with the heiress of Crewe; this branch became extinct in the reign of Henry VIII., when the heiress married Stringer.

The elder branch of the Caldecotes of Caldecote became extinct in or about the reign of Edward II., when the heiress married Egerton; a younger branch was not extinct in the male line, till about the end of the seventeenth century. The elder branch of the Calveleys of Calveley became extinct in the reign of Edward III., when the heiress married into the Davenport family; a younger branch, which settled at Lea in the chapelry of Bruera, became extinct by the death of Sir Hugh Calveley in 1648<sup>n</sup>; and is represented by Sir R. S. Cotton Bart. The Capesthornes of Capesthorne became extinct about the year 1400; the heiress married Ward.

<sup>m</sup> A co-heiress brought Baddington to the Needhams.

<sup>n</sup> His widow, Dame Mary

Calveley, survived till the year 1705.

The

The Cardens, extinct in the reign of Edward III., are represented by the Leches of Carden: the Carringtons, who were of Carrington for three centuries, became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the heiress married Sir George Booth, but left no issue: the Chettletons who were of Baddington, early in the 13th century became extinct in the reign of Edward III., when the coheiresses married Brereton and Bromley. The Clives, who were originally of Clive, in the parish of Middlewich, settled at Huxley at an early period, by marriage of an heiress of that place and name: Sir George Clive, who, in consequence of his ancestor's marriage with the heiress of Styche, was of Styche in Shropshire and of Huxley, had two sons, one of whom was ancestor of Lord Clive; the heiress of the other, in whom the male line of the Huxley branch ended, married into the Wilbraham family; the heiress of a younger branch of the Clives, which remained at Clive-Hall, married into the family of Hulfe.

The Cockers, who were settled for several descents at Strethill in the township of Mere, became extinct in the year 1643; the Coddingtons, descended according to Camden, from the family of Malpas, were extinct before the reign of Edward I. The elder branch of the Cottinghams of Wrenbury became extinct in or about the reign of Henry VI., when a co-heiress married Sir Hugh Calveley of Lea; a younger branch continued for several descents later at Wrenbury: we have not been able to ascertain whether Thomas Cottingham Esq. of Little-Neston, whose ancestors have been of that place since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and who is supposed to have been descended from Thomas Cottingham, mayor of Chester in 1455, is of this family; it has long been removed from Wrenbury. The Cottons of Cotton-Edmunds in Christleton, became extinct in the elder branch in the reign of Henry VII. when the heiress married William Venables, Baron of Kinderton; from a younger branch descended the Cottons of Connington in Huntingdonshire, and those of Connington in Cambridgeshire, both extinct; we have not been able to ascertain whether the Cottons of Cotton-wood, or Cotton-*juxta*-Holmes-Chapel, are extinct; there are none of the family now in Cheshire: the estate which had belonged to his ancestors from the reign of Henry II., was sold by Thomas Cotton Esq. about the year 1653, to Sir Thomas Cotton of Huntingdonshire: a younger branch of these Cottons, which settled at Whittington in Gloucestershire, became extinct in the early part of the seventeenth century, and, through several female heirs, is now represented by the Earl of Derby. The Cowpers of Over-Legh, who settled at Chester in 1498, being a younger branch of the Cowpers of Strode in Suffex, became extinct by the death of Thomas Cowper Esq., barrister at law, and recorder of Chester in 1788; Earl Cowper is descended

° For an account of the Cottons of Cumbermere, who are of a different family, see p. 399.

• His widow still resides at Over-Legh.

from a younger branch of the same family. The elder branch of the Croxtons, who were of Croxtton in the reign of Henry III., became extinct in the fifteenth century, when the heiress married Mainwaring of an illegitimate branch of the Mainwarings of Peover; a younger branch of the Croxtons, which represented the elder branch of the Ravenscroft family, was of Ravenscroft, and became extinct by the death of Thomas Croxtton in 1696.

The Dareburies of Darebury became extinct in the reign of Edward I.; the heiress married Norris; whose heiress married Savage about the year 1344: the Domvilles were originally of Oxton and Brimstage in Wirrall; the elder branch became extinct about the reign of Edward III., when the heiress married Hulfe: a younger branch, seated at Lymm, continued the male line till the death of William Domville, Esq. in 1718<sup>p</sup>. The Dones were of Utkinton, as early as the twelfth century; a younger son of Henry Done, who acquired the office of bow-bearer of the forest of Delamere, by marriage with the co-heiress of Kingsley, about the reign of King John, or the beginning of that of Henry III.<sup>q</sup>, settled at Crowton, which branch became extinct in the male line in the year 1508; the heiress married Birkenhead. John Done of Utkinton, in or about the reign of Henry VI., had three sons; the second son settled at Flaxyards, the younger son at Oulton, the latter died without male issue in 1498, leaving an only daughter who brought Oulton in marriage to the Egertons: the elder branch of the Dones, which continued at Utkinton, became extinct in the male line in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the heiress having married the representative of the Dones of Flaxyards, that branch of the family removed to Utkinton, where it continued in the male line till the reign of Charles I.<sup>r</sup>; the co-heiresses married Arderne, Crewe, and Maisterfon; John Arden Esq. is the present immediate representative of the Dones and Kingsleys, and, as such, bow-bearer of Delamere: a younger branch of the Dones of Flaxyards settled at Duddon, and was not extinct in 1664<sup>s</sup>.

The Eatons of Eaton, or Eaton-boat, became extinct in the male line about the reign of Henry V., when the heiress married the ancestor of Earl Grosvenor; the Eatons, who settled at Blackden about the reign of Henry III. in consequence of a match with the heiress of Goostrey, became extinct in the latter part of the

<sup>p</sup> Domville Poole Esq. and Thomas Taylor Esq. are the representatives of this family in the female line; the latter still retains a moiety of the Lymm estate. <sup>q</sup> It was four generations before the year 1302, when there was a trial at law relating to the above-mentioned office: the father of Henry Done, who married the co-heiress of Kingsley, appears to have been of Utkinton.

<sup>r</sup> Sir John Done died in 1629; and his only son John Done Esq., either before or soon after him. <sup>s</sup> Dugdale's Visitation.

seventeenth century; it does not appear that the Eatons, who have been settled for nearly three centuries in the parish of Great-Budworth, ancestors of George Eaton Esq., now of the Pole in the hamlet of Antrobus, were connected with either of these families; the Etons of Stockport became extinct in the reign of Edward III.; the heiress married Warren. The Elcocks of Poole became extinct in the male line by the death of William Elcock Esq. in 1789<sup>a</sup>; the family of Elcock, *alias* Hardware of Chester, and afterwards of Peele-Hall in Tarvin, became extinct in 1639.

The Filkens, who were for several generations of Tattenhall, became extinct in the male line by the death of Peter Filken Esq. in 1750. The elder branch of the Fittons, who were of Bolyn, in the reign of Henry III., became extinct about the year 1370, when the heiress married Venables<sup>b</sup>; the Fittons of Pownall, a younger branch, became extinct about the year 1500<sup>c</sup>; those of Gawsworth, a younger branch of the Pownall family, became extinct in the direct line by the death of Sir Edward Fitton in 1643<sup>d</sup>; another younger branch of the Fittons of Pownall settled at Carden, and continued there in 1666; but is supposed to have been some time extinct. The Fullehursts, or Foulhursts, were of Edlahton in the reign of Edward I., the elder branch became extinct in the reign of Henry VI.; a younger branch by marriage with the heiress of Praers, who married the heiress of Crewe, was possessed of Crewe-Hall, in the reign of Edward III. and became extinct by the death of Robert Foulhurst, in or before the reign of Charles I.<sup>e</sup>; another younger branch of this family, was, for a short time, of Soonde. The ancient family of Frodsham of Frodsham<sup>f</sup>, afterwards of Elton, became extinct after a continuance of more than twenty generations, by the death of Peter Frodsham Esq. in 1766.

The Gamuls were of Buerton, as early as the reign of Edward IV.; the elder branch became extinct in the male line by the death of Sir Francis Gamul<sup>g</sup> in 1654; a younger branch was of Crab-hall<sup>h</sup>, near Chester, and became extinct in the male line, by the death of William Gamul Esq., in 1750.

<sup>a</sup> Mrs. Anne Elcocke, his sister, is living and resides at Poole.  
of Venables married Booth and Trafford.

<sup>b</sup> The co-heiresses

<sup>c</sup> The coheiresses married Newton and

<sup>d</sup> The descendant of a younger son of Sir Edward Fitton, vice-treasurer of Ireland, and grandfather of the first baronet, settled at Cork in Ireland; where their immediate representative is, or was lately, living.

<sup>e</sup> Webb in his Itinerary of 1622 (Robert Foulhurst being then living) speaks of the family as almost worn out.

<sup>f</sup> Represented by the Rev. Frodsham Hodson, B. D. rector of Stratford-Bow, in the county of Middlesex; whose grandmother was the eldest sister and co-heir of Peter Frodsham Esq.

<sup>g</sup> His only son was

killed in battle during the civil war, in 1644: of five daughters, who survived him, two died unmarried; the other three married into the families of Brerewood, Houghton, and Weever.

<sup>h</sup> Now the property of Samuel Gamul Farmer Esq. of Nonfuch-Park in Surrey, one of his representatives in the female line.

The

The Gerards of Bryn in Lancashire appear to have become connected with this county, by their match with the co-heiress of Kingsley, in the twelfth century; they first settled at Kingsley; in the reign of Richard II. they are described as of Crewdson; this line became extinct in its elder branch<sup>d</sup> about the beginning of the last century; a younger branch, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, settled at Frodsham, and afterwards at Wimbolds-Trafford; this branch became extinct in 1794 by the death of G. E. Gerard Esq., and is represented by George Perryn Esq.: a younger son of Peter Gerard, in or about the reign of Henry IV., married the heiress of Ince of Ince in Lancashire; the elder branch of this line continued at Ince for several generations, and is supposed to have been long extinct; from younger branches descended the Lords Gerard of Bromley, who were for some time possessed of Dutton, and the Gerards, Earls of Macclesfield, who possessed Gawsworth, in consequence of a marriage with the co-heiress of Fitton; both these have been extinct more than a century ago. The Gleaves, or Gleyves, who were of High-Legh for several generations, appear to have become extinct in 1673, and are represented by the Leighs (now Traffords) of Oughttrington<sup>e</sup>.

The Golbornes, according to Camden, were originally of the Malpas family, a branch of which settled at Golborne-David; the principal male line failed in the reign of Richard II., when a co-heiress brought Golborne to the Venables family; the other co-heiress married Goodman, who took the name of Golborne, and their posterity remained at Golborne-David in 1600; a younger branch of the male line continued a short time at Golborne-David, and having afterwards removed to Overton, continued there in 1600: a branch of the Golbornes was of Woodhey, as early as the reign of Edward II.; the heiress married Wilbraham, in or about the reign of Henry IV.: a younger branch of the Overton family, by marrying the heiress of Henhull, was for three generations of Henhull; a co-heiress married Brayne, about the year 1500; we have not been able to trace whether the Golbornes of Overton, or the Golbornes, (formerly Goodmans,) of Golborne-David are extinct, but there are none remaining of the name in Cheshire of the degree of gentry.

The Goostreys of Goostrey became extinct in the reign of Henry III., when the co-heiresses married Eaton and Kinsey. The Greens, who were for several generations of Congleton, were extinct before 1622<sup>f</sup>; a younger branch was of Stapeley, and was not extinct in 1670<sup>g</sup>. The Griffins, who are said, in some pedigrees, to have been lords of Bartherton, in the reign of William Rufus, became extinct in the direct male line, by the death of John Griffin, about

<sup>d</sup> Represented by the Leycesters of Toft.  
township; but not of the degree of gentry, or known to be descended from this family.

<sup>f</sup> Webb's Itinerary in the Vale-Royal.

<sup>e</sup> There are still some of the name in the  
<sup>g</sup> Stapeley was sold by the Greens in that year.

the middle or latter part of the fifteenth century; Edmund Griffin, son of this John, by a daughter of Done of Utkinton, (born before marriage,) must be considered as the founder of a new family, which appears to have become extinct by the death of Edmund Griffin Esq. of Burland in 1771. The Grimsditch family, which had been settled at Grimsditch in Over-Whitley, in the reign of Henry III., became extinct in its principal branch in 1726; the hall has been lately purchased by a person of the same name, who is said to be descended from a younger branch, settled at Chorley in Wilmslow.

The Hallums of Hallum, descended from Ranulph de Hallum, chamberlain to Hugh Kevelioc, Earl of Chester, became extinct after five generations; the co-heiresses married Hatton and Hemington. The Harthills, who were of Harthill in the reign of King John, became extinct in the reign of Edward III., when the heiress married Tattenhall, whose heiress married Calveley (now represented by Sir R. S. Cotton). The heiress of the Haslingtons of Hermitage married into the Winnington family, early in the reign of Henry VI.

The Haffalls, who were originally of Haffall in Sandbach, and afterwards, (in the reign of Henry VI.) of Hankelow in Audlem, became extinct in the principal branch about the reign of Charles II., when the heiress married Wybunbury: a branch of the Haffalls, which was for several descents of Nantwich, is supposed to be also extinct.

The Haughtons were of Haughton in Bunbury, from the reign of Henry III., (if not before) till the year 1740, when the family became extinct in the male line, and the estate was sold by the co-heiresses; the Hawkstones of Wrinehill became extinct about the latter end of the fourteenth century, when the heiress married Egerton; the Heaths of Hall-o'-heath in Barthomley were extinct at an early period; the heiress married More. The Hellebys of Helleby became extinct after five generations, in the fourteenth century, when the co-heiresses married Thornton, Beeston, Griffin, Trafford, and Hatton. The Henshaws, who were for several generations of Henshaw, became extinct in the male line<sup>2</sup> of its elder branch, in the early part of the seventeenth century, when the heiress married Thornycroft. The Heselwalls, whose ancestor married the heiress of Thurstanton, about the middle of the thirteenth century, became extinct in the male line, about the reign of Edward III., when the co-heiresses married Calveley and Egerton. The Heywoods, or Heawoods, who were long settled at Heywood in Alderley, became extinct in the male line in the sixteenth century, when the heiress married Holinshed. The Hockenhulls were of Hockenhull, at a very early period; the elder branch became extinct in 1704: a younger branch continued at Shotwick till 1750, and then removed: we have not been able to ascertain whether this branch is extinct, nor

<sup>2</sup> Lea Henshaw, of a younger branch, had two grandsons living in 1661. Dugdale's Visitation. could

could we learn any thing for certain of a younger branch settled for several generations at Duddon, and remaining there at the time of Glover's visitation in 1566: a third younger branch, which settled at Prenton in Wirrall, by marriage with the heiress of Gleave, became extinct in the male line by the death of John Hockenull Esq. in 1782. The Rev. William Hockenull, late of Lymm, who has taken the name of Molineux, and now resides at Chester, is of this family, probably of the Duddon branch.

The Holinsheds, or Hollinsheds, were originally of Holyns, or Hollins, in the township of Sutton in Macclesfield hundred: the heiress of Sir Hugh Holinshed, the last of the elder branch, at an early period, married into the family of Ravenscroft; his younger brother, who was of Sutton, married the heiress of Cophurst, and settled at Cophurst in the same township: the elder branch of this line became extinct in the male line, by the death of Ralph Holinshed the historian, whose sister and heiress married Corbet; from the younger son of one of his ancestors, in the reign of Henry VI. descended the Holinsheds of Bug-Lawton, the elder branch of which family became extinct in the sixteenth century: a younger son was of Macclesfield, and left posterity, some of whom settled in Nottinghamshire: from a younger son of the great-grandfather of the historian, descended the Holinsheds of Heywood in Alderley<sup>g</sup>, extinct in 1703. Ralph Holinshed, who married the heiress of Heywood, had several younger brothers, one of whom was of Bosley in this county, and left posterity, supposed to be extinct; another of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and a third of Tame in Oxfordshire.

The Hollingworths, who were for several generations of Hollingworth in Mottram, have lately become extinct, at least in the principal branch. The Hootons, who were for a few descents of Hooton in Wirrall, became extinct about the reign of Richard II., when the heiress married Stanley. The Hortons, a younger branch of the family of that name, of Catton in Derbyshire<sup>h</sup>, having settled at Coole-Pilate, in the reign of Henry IV., in consequence of a match with an heiress of the St. Pierres, became extinct in 1740. There was another family of Horton, of Horton in Tilston; the heiress of the elder branch of this family married into the family of Catherall in the reign of Edward I.; the heiress of a younger branch married also into the Catherall family in the reign of Henry IV.

The Houghs, who were of Thornton-Hough, by marriage with the heiress of Thornton in the reign of Edward III., became extinct in the principal branch, about the year 1579; the heiress married Whitmore, and this branch is now represented by Sir Thomas Mostyn: a younger branch continued the male line at Thornton some time longer, but is supposed to be also extinct.

<sup>g</sup> The heiress married Fallows.

<sup>h</sup> Eusebius Horton Esq., the present possessor of Davenport in right of his wife, is representative of the Hortons of Catton.

The Hulmes, or Holmes, of Tranmore in Wirrall, whose ancestor married one of the co-heiresses of Tranmore, appear to have become extinct about the early part of the last century, by the death of Randle Holme, the last Cheshire antiquary of that name, or his son.

The family of Hulfe are traced up to Sir William Hulfe, who married the heiress of Norbury, and settled at the township of that name, in the chapelry of Marbury, about the year 1300; the elder branch continued for many descents at Norbury: we have not been able to ascertain whether they are extinct or removed. Sir Hugh Hulfe, made justice of the King's Bench in 1389, was of a younger branch of this family, his grand-daughter and heir married Troutbeck; this branch is represented by the Earl of Shrewsbury. The Hulfes, who settled at Clive, in the reign of Edward IV., in consequence of a match with the co-heiress of Clive; and afterwards, by a marriage with the heiress of Raven, removed to Elworth in Sandbach, were probably of a younger branch of this family: the Hulfes of Elworth became extinct in 1790, by the death of the Rev. John Hulfe, founder of the Hulfian prize, and the office of Christian advocate, in the university of Cambridge. Sir Edward Hulfe, the celebrated physician, who, by the entry of his admission at Emanuel college in Cambridge, appears to have been a Cheshire man, was in all probability descended from one of these families. The Hurlestons descended from the family of that name in Lancashire, were of Chester about the latter end of the 15th century; this branch became extinct about the middle of the 17th century: another branch of the Hurlestons from Lancashire settled at Picton in Plemstall in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; this branch became extinct in the male line about a century ago, when a co-heiress brought estates in Picton and elsewhere to the Leches of Carden. The elder branch of the Huxleys of Huxley became extinct in the reign of Edward III., when the co-heiresses married Clive, Hockenhull, and Venables: a younger branch continued in the male line at Huxley for several descents; the heir of this branch is described as of Sydenhall, or Sidwall, in Glover's Visitation (1580). Ralph Huxley, who was then living, had several sons; we have not been able to trace whether this branch of the family is extinct: another younger branch of this family settled at Brindley, and was not extinct in 1664. The Hydes of Hyde in Stockport, now represented by George Hyde Clarke Esq. having been settled in that township as early as the reign of Henry III., became extinct in the male line, before the middle of the last century; they were of Hyde and Norbury, the manor of which last-mentioned place they acquired by a match with the heiress of Norbury, in the reign of Edward II.: the Hydes of Urmston in Lancashire; the Hydes of Shropshire and those of Wiltshire were of younger branches of this family: from the latter was descended the celebrated Edward Hyde Earl of Clarendon, whose daughter Anne married James Duke of York, afterwards King James II.

The Kingsleys, traced up to the reign of Henry I., became extinct about the reign of King John; the co-heiresses married Gerard, Done, Thornton, and Launcelyn. The Knotsforde, who were of Twemlow for five generations, became extinct about the reign of Richard II., when the heiress married Booth.

The Launcelyns, who were settled at Poolton in Bebington, became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the heiress married Green. The Leas, or Lees, of Lea in Wybunbury, were settled in that township, at least as early as the reign of Henry III. Henry Lee sold the Lea-Hall estate in the reign of Charles I., and removed to Darnhall. Thomas Lee Esq., who sold Darnhall to the late Mr. Corbet's father, was father of General Lee, some time since a celebrated officer in the American service: Robert Lee, a younger son, had a son of the same name, in whom the Cheshire line of Lee became extinct\*. The Lees, Earls of Litchfield, now extinct, were descended from a younger branch of this family, settled in Buckinghamshire in the fifteenth century: other younger branches of this family were of Aston in Staffordshire, and Winchcombe in Gloucestershire. The Lees of Cotton in Shropshire are descended from a younger branch of this family, branched off subsequently to its removal to Darnhall. The family of Leftwich descended from a younger branch of the Winningtons, settled at an early period at Leftwich in Davenham, became extinct in the male line in the year 1640; the heiress married Oldfield since extinct; a younger branch of the Leftwiches was of Northwich, and continued there in 1663. The elder branch of Lostock of Lostock-Gralam, became extinct at an early period, the heiress married Vernon; a younger son settled at Little-Moreton, took the name of Moreton, and continued for many generations as before-mentioned.

The Maddocks, who were of Crewe near Farndon, for several descents, became extinct in the elder branch in the year 1557; the Rev. Thomas Maddock M. A., one of the prebendaries of Chester, is supposed to be descended from a younger branch, which was settled at Edge in the 17th century. The Malpas family became extinct in its principal branch in the year 1361; when the heiress married Brereton as before-mentioned: the Cholmondeleys, and Egertons, still existing; and the Codingtons, Cotgreaves, Golbornes, and Overtons, (most of whom, are extinct,) sprang from younger branches of this family. The Marburys who were of Marbury near Budworth in the reign of Edward II. became extinct in 1684; there was another family of Marbury or Merbury, which became possessed of the manor of Walton in Runcorn, in the reign of Edward III., by marriage with the heiress of Walton, and continued settled in that township till the estate was sold, about the middle of the

\* Edward Townshend Esq. of Chester, married the daughter and eventually sole heir of Thomas Lee, brother of Robert above mentioned.

seventeenth century to the Brookes of Mere, beyond which period we have not been able to trace them.

The Mascies, who were of Sale before the year 1200, and afterwards of Hogh also in Audlem, became extinct in the early part of the last century: the heiress of Richard Mascie Esq., who died in 1720, married Malyn; the co-heiresses of William his brother, who died within a few years of the same time, married Halsted, and Taylor. The family of Meoles, or Meols, which were of Meols in Wirrall<sup>b</sup> in the reign of Edward II., became extinct about the end of the seventeenth century. The Meres, who were of Mere about the reign of King John, became extinct in 1785 by the death of the Rev. Peter Mayer<sup>c</sup>, vicar of Prestbury, great-grandson of William Mere Esq. who sold the Mere estate; his daughter is wife of John Latham M. D., of Bedford-Row; a younger branch, settled at Rostherne, is supposed to be also extinct. The Millingtons, who were for many generations of Millington, became extinct in the principal branch<sup>d</sup> in 1666. The Minshulls, who were of Church-Minshull, about the reign of Henry III., became extinct in the principal line in 1654, by the death of John Minshull Esq. whose heiress married the ancestor of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal; younger branches, which were of Erdswick and Nantwich, are supposed to be extinct: another branch settled at Wood-Norton in Norfolk: a younger branch of the Minshulls of Nantwich, settled at Boreton near Buckingham, and is represented by G. R. Minshull Esq., now of Aston-Clinton in that county<sup>e</sup>. The Mobberleys, who were of Mobberley in the twelfth century, became extinct about the year 1360. The Mores, who were for four descents of Hall-'o-Heath in Barthomley, became extinct about the beginning of the seventeenth century: the heiress married Walthall. The Moretons of Great-Moreton, descended from a younger branch of the Venables family, became extinct in the male line in the fifteenth century, the heiress married Bellot, since extinct. The heiress of the Moretons of Little-Moreton at an early period married into the Lostock family, who took the name of Moreton, as already mentioned: a family of the same name which we cannot connect with either of these, was of Congleton in the reign of Edward III., and continued in the male line in 1680; William Moreton, then living at the age of seventy, had three younger brothers, two of whom were settled in London; beyond this we have not been able to trace the family. The Mostons of Molton settled there before the reign of Edward I.,

<sup>b</sup> Mr. John Ramsbottom of Liverpool is the representative of this family. was so spelt for some years before the family became extinct.

<sup>c</sup> The name

who might have continued the male line, but we have not been able to trace them.

<sup>d</sup> There were younger sons,

<sup>e</sup> See p. 352.

became extinct, before the year 1400; the heiress married Warmicham. The Mottrams of Mottram-St.-Andrew became extinct in the elder branch in the reign of Edward III., when the heiress married Calveley; a younger branch appears to have continued at Mottram so late as 1666.

The Newtons, who were of Newton in Mottram, which they acquired in marriage in 1302; became extinct in the male line, about the year 1690. The Newtons of Pownall, a branch of the same family, became extinct in the male line soon after the year 1600; the co-heiresses married Benison, Mainwaring and Ward: a younger branch of the Newtons of Pownall settled at Fulshaw, and is supposed to be extinct. There seem to have been anciently two families of Norbury in Cheshire, one of which took its name from Norbury in Stockport; the other from Norbury in the chapelry of Marbury; the heiress of the former married Hyde, about the reign of Edward II.; the heiress of the elder branch of the other family married Hulfe, about the year 1300; a younger branch, from which was descended Sir John Norbury, lord treasurer of England, in the reign of Henry IV. removed to Stoke in Surrey; a younger branch of the Norburys of Stoke returning into Cheshire, settled at Frodsham, and afterwards at Chester, and became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The Nuttals, who settled at Cattenhall, in the reign of Edward IV., became extinct in or about the reign of Charles I.

The Oldfields, said to be descended from Guy of Provence, who married a Hefellwall, and settled at Oldfield in Wirrall in the reign of Henry III. removed afterwards by a match with the heiress of Berington, to Bradwall; their elder branch became extinct about the latter end of the 17th century, and was represented by the late Dr. Jackson, prebendary of Chester: a younger branch of the Bradwall family, in consequence of a match with the heiress of Somerford settled at Somerford-Radnor, about the year 1600; the heiress of this branch married Shakerley: another branch of the Oldfields married the heiress of Leftwich, about the year 1640, and became extinct by the death of Bowyer Leftwich Oldfield in 1735: a fourth branch was of Croxton, by marriage with the heiress of Mainwaring of that place; Croxton was sold in the reign of King Charles I., and we have not been able to trace the descent of this branch lower down. The Oldetons, or Oultons, who were of Oulton-Lowe as early as the reign of Henry III., became extinct about the year 1400, the heiress married Starkey; there was another branch of the Oultons of Wetenhall, which we have not been able to trace. The Orrebies, a Lincolnshire family, were but of short continuance, as connected with this county; Philip Orreby was justice of Cheshire in the reign of King John; his son left a daughter and heir, married about the middle of the thirteenth century to Walkelin de Arderne; a brother of the justice, married the heiress of Gawsworth, at which place his posterity

continued for a short time ; the heiress of his grandson married Fitton : Sir John Orreby was of Fulk Stapleford in the reign of Edward III., but left no male issue. The Overtons, said by Camden to have been a branch of the Malpas family, became extinct at an early period.

The Parkers, who were of Coppenhall about the year 1300, became extinct in or about the reign of Edward IV., when the heiress married Bromley : the family of Patrick, who had a moiety of the barony of Malpas, became extinct in the reign of Henry III. when the heiress is supposed to have married Sutton. The Partingtons, who were for several descents of Partington, became extinct by the death of Thomas Whalley Partington Esq. of Lower-Brook-street, about the year 1793. The Picmeres of Picmere became extinct at an early period, when the heiress married Bruen. The family of Praers, which was seated at Baddiley, almost as early as the time of the Conquest, became extinct in the principal branch about the reign of Richard II. the co-heiresses married Bromley, Honford, and Mainwaring ; a younger branch, which settled at Barthomley, became extinct rather sooner ; the heiress having married Sir Robert Foulshurst in the reign of Edward III. The heiress of the Prentons, who were for several descents of Prenton in Wirrall, married Gleyve. The Prestlands, descended from a younger branch of the Bulkeley family, were for many generations of Wardle in Bunbury ; they became extinct in the early part of the seventeenth century. The Pulfords of Pulford became extinct about the year 1362, when the heiress married into the Grosvenor family.

The Ravens, who were originally of Bromborough, where they continued for about four descents, removed to Elworth in Sandbach in the reign of Edward III., and became extinct about a century ago, when the heiress married Hulse, since extinct. The Ravenscrofts, who were of Ravenscroft as early as the reign of Henry III., became extinct in the male line of its elder branch, about the middle of the fourteenth century : a younger branch settled at Middlewich in the reign of Edward I. and afterwards removed to Bretton in Flintshire. The family of Reddish, which settled at Caterich in Groppenhall, by marriage with a co-heiress of Boydell in the reign of Henry V., became extinct about the year 1556 ; the heiress married Marbury. The Roles were for many generations of Odd-Rode, after the sale of which manor, in 1669, they removed to Betchton in Sandbach, and appear to have become extinct about the year 1740. The Ropes who settled at Stapeley in the reign of Edward III. having married the heiress of Stapeley, became extinct about the year 1600 ; the heiress married into the family of Green, soon afterwards extinct. The Rowes, who were settled for many generations at Macclesfield, became extinct in the early part of the last century : they were represented by the Harrimans, since extinct. The Rutters, who were of  
Kingsley,

Kingsley, as early as the year 1300, are supposed to have become extinct in the principal branch soon after their estate was sold, in the latter part of the seventeenth century : the Rutters of Moore, supposed to be of a younger branch, became extinct in 1758, and are represented by Lieutenant General Heron, now of Moore.

The heiress of the family of Sandbach of Sandbach after six descents married one of the Leghs of Booths in the fourteenth century. The Savages, who came out of Derbyshire, settled at Clifton, afterwards called Rock-Savage, in consequence of a match with the heiress of Daniel, in the reign of Edward III.; this family, now represented by the Earl of Barrymore, became extinct by the death of John Savage, Earl Rivers, in 1728; they had a seat also at Macclesfield: Sir Humphrey, a younger son of Sir John Savage, who died in 1498, was of Steynsby in Derbyshire, the original family seat; Sir Christopher, another son, was of Upton in Worcestershire; both of them left issue, as did Lawrence, a younger son of Sir John Savage the younger, who was killed at Boulogne, in the life-time of his father in 1492; this Lawrence settled at Walgrange in Staffordshire. The St. Pierres are supposed to have been originally of Bunbury, and to have been ancestors of the family of that name; the name of St. Pierre nevertheless continued<sup>f</sup>, and the family became possessed of a portion of the barony of Malpas, they were extinct in the early part of the fifteenth century; the heiresses of two brothers appear to have married Cokesey and Horton. The heiress of the Shaws, who were for eight descents of Shaw-Hall in Coppenthal, married Foulshurst, since extinct. The Shrigleys of Shrigley were extinct in the elder branch at a very early period; we suppose them to be represented by Edward Downes Esq. of Shrigley, who quarters the arms, although the match does not appear in the pedigree<sup>g</sup>: there was a family of Shrigley, for some descents at Beristal, or Beristow near Shrigley, which we have not traced lower than Glover's Visitation of 1580, when Thomas Shrigley, aged twenty-one, had several younger brothers: there are none now remaining in the neighbourhood of the rank of gentry.

The Smethwicks, who were of Smethwick in the reign of King John, became extinct in the principal branch in the reign of King Henry VIII., when the co-heiresses married Mainwaring<sup>h</sup>, and Brereton of Derbyshire; the descendant of a younger son who settled at Tutbury, is described as of Smethwick in 1655; but the family is supposed to have been extinct before the end of that century; when Smethwick

<sup>f</sup> William, the first-mentioned in the pedigree of St. Pierre, is described as a younger son, temp. Ric. I.

<sup>g</sup> There was a conveyance from Shrigley to Downes, in the reign of Edward III., about which time the pedigree is deficient as to the family names of the wives.

<sup>h</sup> A younger son of Mainwaring of Carincham, whose posterity settled at Calveley, and continued there for some descents.

was purchased by the Thornycrofts. The Smiths, who were of Chester before the year 1500, and afterwards, by purchase in 1517, of Hough in Wybunbury, became extinct by the death of the last baronet of that family about a century ago.

The Spurstows, who had been for many generations of Spurstow in Bunbury, became extinct by the death of Mr. John Spurstow of Chester in 1789; the family is now represented by Thomas Spurstow Moulson, a lieutenant in the navy, his sister's son. The Somerfords, who had been of Somerford-Radnor for fifteen generations, became extinct about the year 1600; the heiress married Oldfield. The Staleys, or Staveleys, who were settled in the township of that name, in the parish of Mottram, in the reign of Edward I., became extinct about the latter end of the fifteenth century, when the heiress married Ashton. The heiress of the Stapeleys, who were for a few descents of Stapeley in Wybunbury, married Rope, in the reign of Edward III.

The Starkies were originally of Stretton in Budworth, where they were settled almost as early as the time of the Conquest; the elder branch of the family, which resided at Nether, or Lower-Hall, in Stretton, became extinct in the male line by the death of Philip Starkey Esq. in 1714, and is represented by Dr. Renwick of Liverpool: a younger branch settled at Over-Hall in Stretton about the year 1287; we have not been able to trace this branch lower than 1672, the period of Sir Peter Leycester's history; it is probable that James Starkey Esq. of Heywood of Lancashire, who is of Cheshire origin, may be of this branch. In the reign of Richard the Second, two younger sons of the Starkey family, married two sisters, co-heiresses of the Oultons of Oulton and of Wrenbury<sup>1</sup>; Peter Starkey, who married Joan Oulton the elder daughter, settled at Oulton; his younger son, Sir Humphry Starkey, who was chief baron of the Exchequer, died without male issue; the posterity of the elder son were for many generations of Oulton and of Darley in Over<sup>2</sup>; they appear to have removed from both, in or before the reign of Charles I., and seem to have resided at Congleton, in the chapel of which place is the monument of John Starkey Esq. (described of Darley) who died in 1728; we have not been able to trace when this branch became extinct: the Starkies of Wrenbury, descended from the other co-heiress of Oulton, became extinct in 1803, by the death of Thomas Starkey Esq., whose widow still resides at Wrenbury. The Stocktons, who were for several generations of Cuddington, or Kiddington, are supposed to have become

<sup>1</sup> By marriage with the heiress of Wrenbury, temp. E. III.      <sup>2</sup> Ralph Starkey, the Cheshire antiquary who was of this family, is described in the pedigree, as of London, temp. Jac. I.

extinct in the male line by the death of John Stockton Esq. in 1700. The Suttons, who were of Sutton in Prestbury, nearly from the time of the Conquest, became extinct in the male line in 1611; the co-heiresses married Davenport and Monkton. Sir Richard Sutton, the founder of Brazen-Nose College in Oxford, was of this family. The Swanwicks, who were of Swanwick in the township of Norbury, and of Wirfwall, became extinct in the early part of the seventeenth century.

The Tattenhalls, who were of Tattenhall, for several descents, became extinct about the middle of the sixteenth century, when the heiress married Sir Hugh Calveley. The Thorntons of Kingsley, whose ancestor married one of the co-heiresses of Kingsley, became extinct in the male line in the reign of Edward III., the eldest of several daughters and co-heirs married Sir Thomas Dutton. The Tidringtons, or Titheringtons, who were of Titherington in the reign of Henry III. became extinct in the fourteenth century, when the heiress married Worth. The Tofts, who were of Toft in the reign of Richard I., became extinct in the male line in the reign of Henry VI., when the heiress married the ancestor of George Leycester, Esq. (now of Toft). The Touchets were of Bug-Lawton almost as early as the time of the Conquest; the elder branch, which continued for many generations at Bug-Lawton; in consequence of a marriage with the heiress of Audley, Lord Audley, inherited that barony, and removed into Staffordshire; the male line of this branch of the family became extinct by the death of the late Earl of Castlehaven in 1777, and is represented by his sister's son, George Thicknesse Touchet, now Lord Audley: a younger branch of the Touchets settled at Nether-Whitley in Great-Budworth, in the fourteenth century, became extinct in the elder branch of its male line by the death of Thomas Touchet Esq., who died without lawful issue in 1597, leaving some illegitimate sons, and a younger brother, John. The Traffords, who were for several generations of Bridge-Trafford, became extinct in the male line in 1647 by the death of the infant son of Captain Trafford, who was killed in the battle of Naseby; this family is now represented by the Barnstons. The Troutbecks, who were of Dunham-on-the-Hill in the reign of Henry VI., became extinct in the reign of Henry VIII., when the heiress married Sir John Talbot, ancestor of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The Truffels, who, in consequence of a marriage with the heiress of Mainwaring, settled at Warmincham in or about the reign of Edward III., became extinct in the year 1499: the heiress married Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford.

Younger branches of the family of Venables, Baron of Kinderton, settled in various parts of the county; all of which (except that which took the name of Legh) are believed to be extinct: the families of Venables of Rostherne, Newbold,

Newbold, and Eccleston, were extinct at an early period, that of Newbold continued from the reign of Henry III. to that of Edward III. Venables of Bradwall became extinct in the fourteenth century, when a co-heiress brought Bradwall to the Beringtons; the co-heiresses of Venables of Bollin, about the same period, married Booth and Trafford: a younger branch of Venables of Bollin settled at Antrobus, and afterwards at Wincham, and became extinct in the male line in 1687; this branch is now represented by Edward Venables Townshend Esq.<sup>1</sup>: the family of Venables of Agden, an elder branch of which had been settled at Horton near Northwich<sup>m</sup>, became extinct in the male line in the early part of the last century, and is represented by Sir J. Chetwode Bart.: the family of Venables of Chester became extinct about the year 1700.

A branch of the ancient family of Ward<sup>n</sup> settled at Capesthorpe early in the fifteenth century, having married the heiress of Capesthorpe; the elder branch became extinct about the year 1650; a younger branch which had settled at Monk's-Heath in the reign of Edward IV. continued the male line, became extinct in 1748, and is represented by Davies Davenport Esq. M. P. now of Capesthorpe. The Warrens descended from a younger branch of the Warrens, Earls of Surrey<sup>o</sup>, settled in Cheshire in the reign of Edward III., having married the heiress of Sir Nicholas Eton, Lord of Stockport and Poynton; this ancient family continued at Poynton till the elder branch became extinct in 1801 by the death of Sir George Warren, K. B., whose only daughter married Lord Viscount Bulkeley: Sir John Borlase Warren, K. B. is descended from a younger son of Lawrence Warren, who lived in the fifteenth century. The Waschets, who were for a few descents of Coppenhall, became extinct at an early period. The Weevers, who were of Weever in the twelfth century, became extinct in its principal branch in the reign of Henry VI., when the heiress married the ancestor of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.: a younger branch was of Aston near Nantwich, and afterwards of Poole: the Rev. Richard Weever, rector of Wistaston, who died in or about the year 1736, is supposed to have been the last of this branch.

The Wheelocks were of Wheelock from the reign of Henry II. till the year 1439, when they became extinct in the male line; the heiress married Worth, whose heiress married Leverage. The Whitmores, who settled at Thurstanton, or Thurstanton, in the reign of Edward III. became extinct in the elder branch in 1751; the

<sup>1</sup> See the account of Wincham.

<sup>m</sup> This elder branch became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

<sup>n</sup> From another branch descended the Lords Dudley and Ward.

<sup>o</sup> Mr. Watson, in his History of the House of Warren, derives the Warrens of Poynton from Reginald, a younger son of William, the second Earl of Warren and Surrey, who died in 1138, which Reginald married a daughter of William de Mowbray, and this accords with the pedigree of the family in Glover's Visitation.

heirefs of a younger branch which was fettled at Leighton, married Savage, whose heirefs married Mostyn. The Whitneys, who were of Coole-Pilate as early as the reign of Richard II., became extinct by the death of Mr. Hugh Whitney, about the middle of the last century. The Whittingham family, originally of Lancashire, fettled for some time at Middlewich and Morefbarrow, appears to have become extinct, in one of its branches, about a century ago, by the death of John Whittingham, whose heirefs married Vawdrey; we have not been able to trace the other branches: Dr. Whittingham, Dean of Durham, an eminent divine in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was of this family, and born at Chester.

The Winingtons, or Winningtons, were descended from Robert, son of Lidulphus de Twemlow, who fettled at Winnington, and died in the year 1294; the heirefs of this elder branch married Sir John Warburton in the year 1510: a younger son of Robert de Winington, fettling at Leftwich, was founder of the family of that name, which has been long extinct, as before-mentioned: a younger branch of Winington of Winington fettled in the reign of Edward II. at Birches, in the Chapelry of Witton, and became extinct in the early part of the seventeenth century, one of the co-heireffes married Starkey. A branch of the Birches family fettled at Northwich; Hugh Winington of this branch, became possessed of a place called the Hermitage in Cranage, by marriage with the heirefs of Haslington in the reign of Henry VI.; the last male heir of the Hermitage branch was Thomas Winington, who died in 1590, and left Hermitage to the Winingtons of Northwich, who were afterwards of Hermitage, sold by Lawrence Winington in 1657, beyond which we have not been able to trace this branch. A younger branch of Winington of Winington fettled at Offerton in Stockport, and became extinct in the male line, in the early part of the seventeenth century, when the heirefs married the ancestor of Lawrence Wright Esq. of Mottram-Andrew.

The Wistafstons, who were for several descents of Wistafston, became extinct before, or soon after the commencement of the thirteenth century: the co-heireffes of this family married Praers and Rope. The Woods of Hall-o-Wood in Balterley, who were fettled there in the reign of Edward I., are supposed to have become extinct about the beginning of the seventeenth century. The Woodnoths were of Swanley, at least as early as the reign of King John; before the end of the thirteenth century they were fettled at Shavington in Wybunbury, where they continued till the death of John Woodnoth Esq., the last heir male in 1637: this John Woodnoth drew up many Cheshire pedigrees, from deeds and other authentic documents, and made large collections from the same sources, relative to manerial and other landed property, from which we have derived much information. The  
Wrights

Wrights of Bickley descended from a Lancashire family, who married the heiress of Walker of that place; where they continued for six descents, appear to have become extinct in the male line by the death of Roger Wright Esq., serjeant at arms to Queen Elizabeth; his sisters married Bavand of Liverpool, Stockton of Cuddington, and Auchinton.

In speaking of the above families, all of which are extinct in the principal branch, it has been observed, that in several instances we have not been able to trace whether the younger branches are extinct. We have not been able to ascertain whether the following families, for the most part, are extinct in any branch; some of them, probably, are removed into other counties.

The Bowdens, who were of Bowden in the reign of Henry III., were not extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, below which we have not been able to trace them; the Brindleys we trace only to the time of Glover's Visitation in 1566, when Thomas Brindley had two sons, William and John; the Bolds, or Boulds, who settled at Upton in the fourteenth century, having married the heiress of Warwick, by an heiress of the family of Arderne, appear to have had a numerous male progeny, at the time of Glover's Visitation in 1580; they sold their estate at Upton about the middle of the next century, beyond which we have not been able to trace them. The Catheralls, of Catherall in Lancashire, settled at Horton in Tilston, having married an heiress of Horton in the reign of Edward I.; their descendant, Dutton Catherall, sold Horton about the year 1700; the last of the male line, buried at Tilston, was Nathaniel Catherall in 1728; Randal Catherall, who made heraldic collections relating to this county, was either younger son or younger brother of John Catherall, described as of Horton, in Glover's Visitation of 1580. The Chauntrells were of Bache, near Chester, in the reign of Henry VI.; we have not been able to trace them beyond the reign of James I., when William Chauntrell, the last mentioned in the pedigree, and probably the last of the family, joined with Dorothy his wife in the sale of the Bache estate. There was an ancient family of Comberbach, which took its name from the township of Comberbach, in Great-Budworth, as early as the reign of Richard I.: not having found any pedigree of this family in the Heralds' Visitations, we have not been able to ascertain whether it has become extinct in any of its branches, or whether Roger Swetenham Esq., whose name was Comberbach, is descended from it: the name appears to have continued for many centuries in the parish of Great-Budworth; a school was founded at Lower-Peover, by the Rev. Mr. Comberbach,

\* Roger Comberbach, an ancestor of Mr. Swetenham's, who possessed a small estate in Cheshire, which had belonged to his ancestors, and was supposed to be descended from the family of Comberbach of Comberbach, was a merchant in London in the seventeenth century.

who died about the year 1721. The manor of Haughton in Bunbury belonged for some time in the last century to a family of the name of Comberbach. A younger son of the family of Cotgreve, or Cotgreave, said to be descended from a branch of the Malpas family, who settled at Cotgreve in Nottinghamshire, married an heiress of the Cottons of Cotton-Edmunds; and settling in that township, his posterity became extinct in the male line of the elder branch after four descents; the co-heiresses married Dod and Tattenhall: a younger branch settled at Hargrave, and continued for some descents; a younger son of the Hargrave branch settled at Chester, and left issue<sup>\*</sup>.

The Duncalfes, who were of Foxhurst in Butley for several descents, had male issue at the time of Glover's Visitation in 1566, beyond which we have not traced them; a younger son settled at Holderness in Yorkshire. The Erdswicks were descended from the Vernons, Barons of Shipbrook: a younger branch of which family took the name of Hulgrave, on settling at Hulgrave-Hall; a son of Matthew Hulgrave settled at Erdswick, a hamlet of Minshull-Vernon, and took the name of Erdswick; it appears, by some pedigrees, that the name of Hulgrave was continued by the posterity of another son till the reign of Henry VIII., if not later: the elder branch of the Erdswicks removed into Staffordshire, and were ancestors of Sampson Erdswick, the historian of that county; another branch continued at Erdswick till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and there was a third branch at Nantwich; we have not traced whether either of these are extinct. The Folviles, or Fovills, of Middlewich, had at the same period a numerous progeny, as had the family of Heyes of Litley; we have not traced either of them farther. The descendants of Philip, a younger son of Sir Robert Latham, whose heiress married the Earl of Derby's ancestor, were settled at Astbury and Congleton in the reign of Henry VII. Dr. John Latham of London, who occasionally resides at Bradwall-Hall in Sandbach, which he purchased a few years ago, traces his descent from Alexander Latham Gent., who had lands in Astbury in the reign of James I. Ralph Latham, who was of Haslington in 1564, was ancestor of William Latham Esq., F. R. A. S., late of Queenby in Leicestershire, and of J. Latham, M. D., now of Rumsley, author of the "Synopsis of Birds:" the ancestors of Dr. Latham, last-mentioned, had estates in Bradwall and Wheelock, which were alienated early in the last century. The Litlers, or Littleovers, who appear to have been resident in the neighbourhood of Vale-Royal as early as the reign of Edward I., sold the manor of Wallerscote in 1636, but continued resident in that township in 1666.

<sup>\*</sup> Whilst these pages were going through the press, we were informed that Mr. Robert Cotgreave of Whitchurch, Shropshire, is the representative of the Hargrave branch, and that some of the family are still remaining in Chester.

The

The Macclesfields, who were settled for several generations at Mere, were descended from a younger son of Robert Legh of Adlington, who assumed the name of Macclesfield in the reign of Richard II.: we have not been able to trace this family below the year 1593, when William Macclesfield had one son, Peter, a minor, and several younger brothers. The Peckfortons of Peckforton sold the Hall of that name, which had been their ancient inheritance, about the middle of the seventeenth century. The Poveys, who were of Shocklach in the reign of Henry VII., descended from the Welsh family of Povey, or Ap-Hova, are to be traced to the year 1613, when there was a numerous male issue, and a younger branch at Tilston; there are none of the name now in the neighbourhood above the rank of respectable yeomen. The Shavingtons, or Shentons, who had been for many descents of Shavington, became extinct in the elder branch about 1500; but a younger branch continued the male line, and was not extinct in 1663; beyond which we have not been able to trace them. The Rowleys, who were originally of Rowley in Swettenham, were afterwards of Carincham and Lawton; the Rowleys of Carincham removed to Clinton in Huntingdonshire; the Lawton branch continued at Lawton in 1633; a younger branch of the Rowleys of Lawton settled in Ireland. The Smiths, who were of Old-Haugh in Warmincham in the reign of Edward IV., by marriage with the heiress of Old-Haugh, had a numerous male progeny, at the time that William Smith, rouge dragon pursuivant, who was of this family, made his heraldic collections, which we have had frequent occasion to quote. The Stapletons, who were for some descents of Upton, and afterwards removed to Macclesfield, are to be traced to the year 1663.

The Tilstons were for many generations of Tilston, and afterwards of Huxley; there was a numerous male progeny of this family at the time of Glover's Visitation in 1580; a younger branch was settled at Tattenhall, and younger branches of that branch in London, and at Newport in Shropshire: we have not been able to ascertain whether any of these are extinct. The Welds of Eaton, near Beeston, were descended from a son of William Weld, who was sheriff of London in 1352; they afterwards removed to Newbold-Astbury, where they continued in 1663: John Weld of London, Sir Humphrey Weld, alderman of London, and Richard Weld of Holt, all of whom had male issue, are described as younger brothers of this family in Glover's Visitation of 1580; we cannot learn that there are any of the family now remaining.

<sup>1</sup>The editors of the Biographia Britannica inform us, that archbishop Tillotson was grandson of Thomas, a younger son of Ralph Tilston, who settled at Newport; which Thomas settled at Wookliff in Craven, in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, and altered the orthography of his name to Tillotson.

in Cheshire. John Weld Esq., afterwards knighted, was founder of Southgate chapel, in the parish of Edmonton in Middlesex, where he was buried in 1622, and ancestor of the Welds of Lulworth-Castle in Dorsetshire: we have not been able to trace the Worths, who settled at Tytherington, by marriage with an heiress of that name, before the reign of Richard II. lower than the year 1634, when Jasper Worth Esq., the last-mentioned in the pedigree, is stated to have a son and heir.

Hitherto we have only spoken of such families as have been settled in this county before the year 1500; we shall now make mention of those families who have settled in Cheshire between that period and Dugdale's Visitation of the county in 1663 and 1664.

THE Balls, who were of Bickley in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, afterwards of Wirfwall, appear to have become extinct in the male line about the latter end of the seventeenth century. The Bavands, supposed to be descended from Richard Bavand, who was mayor of Chester in 1581, were for some time in the early part of the seventeenth century Lords of the manor of Bromborough, and had a seat at Christleton; they became extinct in the male line by the death of Robert Bavand, M. D. in 1741. The Bennets, of whom John Bennet Esq. alderman of Chester, is the present representative, were of Willaston-Hall in Wirrall as early as the middle of the sixteenth century, and are supposed to have farmed that estate at an earlier period, under the abbot of St. Werburgh; the Bennets of Barnston, Greasby, Newton, and Saughall, all extinct in the male line, and the Bennets, now of Neston and Shotwick, are of younger branches of this family. The Bradshaws, who were of Wybersley in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, (of which family was the celebrated president Bradshaw,) became extinct many years ago in the male line, and are represented by the Isherwoods; there was another family of Bradshaw of Chester in the seventeenth century, which, by a marriage with the heiress of Ellerker, removed to Risby in Yorkshire.

The Brerewoods, whose family was of some antiquity in Chester, became extinct in 1748. The Brets of Chester, of whom only two descents are given in Dugdale's Visitation, became extinct in 1777, the family being then in a reduced state: the Bretlands, who were of Thorncliffe in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, became extinct by the death of Tobias Bretland Esq., one of whose co-heiresses married the late Sir J. P. Chetwode Bart. Mr. Peter Broster of Haughton is the representative of the Brosters of Chester, of whom two or three descents are given in Dugdale's Visitation. The Brownes, who were for several descents of Nether-Legh, have been extinct in the male line nearly a century ago.

The

The Cartwrights, who were of Sheppenhall before the year 1600, are supposed to have been some time extinct; the estate was sold by them more than a century ago. The family of Church, as represented in Dugdale's Visitation of 1663, had been settled at Nantwich in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; Mr. Saboth Church, then heir of the family, was of Brazen-Nose College in Oxford: there are still some of the name at Nantwich.

The Cottons of Cumbermere-Abbey descended from the ancient family of Cotton of Cotton in Shropshire, now represented by Sir R. S. Cotton Bart., settled in Cheshire in the reign of Henry VIII.; they are the representatives in the female line of the Calveleys, Tattenhalls, Harthills, and other ancient Cheshire families: the Coulthursts of Chester, a Yorkshire family, became extinct, after a short continuance, in 1667: the Cromptons of the same place, a Staffordshire family, removed to Kennerton in Flintshire, and became extinct about 1730. The Gerards of Riddings, a younger branch of the family of that name, of Harrow in Middlesex, became extinct about the end of the seventeenth century, when the heiress married Domville. The Glascours, who were of Backford in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, removed afterwards to Chester, where they remained in 1760: they are not known to be extinct, but they have quitted Cheshire. The Greens, who were of Poulton-Lancelyn in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, became extinct in the male line in 1711; the name has been taken by their representative, now Joseph Green Esq.

The Hardwares of Bromborough became extinct by the death of Henry Hardware Esq. of Liverpool, about the year 1790: the family of Hardware, *alias* Elcock, of Peele in Tarvin, became extinct in 1665. The Harpurs of Huntinton became extinct in the male line in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and the Harveys about the same time. The Hintons, who settled at Rushton, on their purchase of that manor from the Earl of Kent in 1508, became extinct in the male line about the middle of the last century: the Marchioness of Lansdowne, being descended from the Maddocks of Denbighshire, is a representative of this family. The Hultons, a younger branch of the family of that name, of Hulton in Lancashire, became extinct by the death of William Hulton Esq. in 1755. The elder branch of the Inces, (supposed to be descended from the family of that name of Ince in Lancashire,) who were for several generations of Chester, became extinct soon after the year 1720; Townsend Ince Esq. of Christleton is of a younger branch of this family. The Malbons, who were of Bradley in Barthomley, became extinct about the year 1780, having quitted Cheshire some years before. The Rev. Dr. Mallory, Dean of Chester, descended from a Yorkshire family, settled at Mobberley in the reign of James I., and was ancestor of the Rev. J. H. Mallory, now of that place.

The Moulsons were of Hargrave-Stubbs about the year 1500; Sir Thomas Moulson, of this family, Lord mayor of London in 1634, was founder of Hargrave-Chapel and school; we have not been able to ascertain whether Mr. Edward Moulson, now of Chester, is one of their descendants.

The Pickerings, who were of Walford in Mobberley in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, removed to Thelwall, and were ancestors of Henry Pickering Esq. The Pooles, who were of Marley-Hall in Marbury for several descents, became extinct by the death of Charles Poole Esq., whose heiress married Tatton in 1731; there were two families of this name in Chester, one of which, being of a younger branch of the Pooles of Poole in Wirrall, removed into Nottinghamshire, the others are represented by Dugdale as having been settled at Buerton and Wolstanwood. Another family of this name was settled for several descents at Weston in Wybunbury; James Poole Esq. of Finneygreen in Staffordshire, and Mr. Poole, now a bookseller in Chester, are of this family. Charles Potts Esq. of Chester is the representative of the Potts of Pott, in the hundred of Macclesfield, of whom some descents are given in Dugdale's Visitation. The Prentons, who were for some time of Prenton in Wirrall, became extinct in the sixteenth century, when the heiress married Gleyve. The Sherds, or Sherts, foresters of Macclesfield, who were of Shert-Hall in Disley, early in the sixteenth century, appear to have become extinct in the male line in the year 1684. The Smallwoods, who were for several descents of Chelford, became extinct by the death of Thomas Smallwood Esq. in 1777. The Sparkes, who settled at Chester by marrying the heiress of Cotes, became extinct in the male line in 1716. The Steeles, who were for some descents of Leighton, and afterwards of Coppenhall, became extinct by the death of Mr. George Steele in 1808. The Streets of Chester became extinct by the death of alderman William Street in 1697.

Some male descendants of the Taylors, who are stated in Dugdale's Visitation to have been of Chester about the year 1600, still remain in that city; Mascie Taylor Esq. of Chester is of a different family, of Lancashire extraction. The Thorpes, or Throppes, have been extinct nearly a century ago. The Townsends, who were of Christleton for several descents, became extinct in the male line by the death of Robert Townsend Esq., recorder of Chester, about the year 1790; Townsend Ince Esq. is their representative in the female line. The family of Traves, or Travis, who were for several descents of Horton in Tarvin, are supposed to be extinct; the estate was sold about the year 1719. The Wainwrights (descended from a Shropshire family), who were of Chester about the year 1600, have been some time removed: there is a monument in the cathedral for Thomas Wainwright L. L. D., chancellor of the diocese, who died in 1720, put up by his son, John Wainwright Esq., one of the barons of the

Exchequer in Ireland. The Walleys, who were of Middlewich and Stanthorn, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, afterwards of Chester, became extinct in the male line about the year 1754.

The following families, of whom one or two descents are given in Dugdale's Visitation, we have not been able to trace; it is probable that many of them were of short continuance. Dod of Highfields in Audlem; Gardner of Alpraham, and Tilston-Fernall; Grestie of Warford; Leche of Chester, and Mollington, of a different family, and bearing different arms from the Leches of Carden; Lowndes<sup>r</sup> of Marthall, traced from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the year 1664, when there was male issue. Parker of Nantwich; Pownall of Witton; Rooe of Bickley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, not extinct in 1663, (the arms differing from those of Rowe of Macclesfield;) Tarbock of Witton; Taylor of Brimstage; and Wybunbury of Hankelow. Some of the above families had not made proof of their arms, when their pedigrees were entered in the Visitation book.

THE following list of Gentlemen's seats is confined chiefly to halls, parks, and manerial residences; but it is presumed, will be found to contain the seats of the principal gentry of the county; if any should be omitted, it is most probable that they will be found noticed in the parishes wherein they are situated; where several houses, which do not fall under the above description, will be spoken of.

Gentlemen's Seats.	Owners and Occupiers.
Abbey-Field near Sandbach, -	John Ford Esq.
Adlington, - - - - -	Richard Legh Esq.
Alderfey-Hall, - - - - -	Samuel Alderfey Esq.
Ashley-Hall, - - - - -	the property of William Henry Asheton Smith Esq. (in the occupation of John Arden Esq.).
Ashton-Hayes, - - - - -	Booth Grey Esq.
Astle, - - - - -	Thomas Parker Esq.
Aston, - - - - -	the property of H. H. Aston, a minor (in the occupation of the Hon. Mrs. Aston).
Bach-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Samuel Broadhurst Esq. (in the occupation of Hugh Hughes Esq.).
Backford-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Birkenhead Glegg Esq. (in the occupation of Mrs. Egerton).
Belmont, - - - - -	Henry Clarke Esq.
Birkenhead-Priory, - - - - -	the property of F. R. Price Esq. (vacant).

<sup>r</sup> There is a family of this name, which has had property in Sandbach for nearly two centuries; but we do not find them in any of the Heralds' Visitations, nor do they appear to be connected with the family of Lowndes of Marthall.

Gentlemen's Seats,	Owners and Occupiers,
Birtles-Hall, - - - - -	Robert Hibbert Esq.
Boleworth-Castle, - - - - -	Thomas Tarlton Esq.
Bonis-Hall - - - - -	belonging to the Legh family (in the occupation of the Rev. J. Watfon).
Booths, - - - - -	Willoughby Legh Esq.
Boftock-Hall, - - - - -	Thomas France Esq.
Bradwall-Hall, - - - - -	John Latham M. D.
Bramhall, - - - - -	William Davenport Esq.
Breton-Hall, - - - - -	the occasional residence of Abraham Bracebridge Esq.
Bromborough-Hall, - - - - -	James Mainwaring Esq.
Broxton-Hall, - - - - -	the property of John Egerton Esq. (in the occupation of Mrs. Hunter).
Burton-Hall, - - - - -	Richard Congreve Esq.
Calveley-Hall; - - - - -	the property of John Bromley Esq. (in the occupation of the Earl of Dyfart).
Capenhurst, - - - - -	Richard Richardson Esq.
Capethorne, - - - - -	Davies Davenport Esq. M. P.
Carden-Hall, - - - - -	William Leche Esq.
Chriftleton, - - - - -	Townfend Ince Esq.
Cranage-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Mrs. Harrifon (in the occupation of George Proctor Esq.).
Daresbury-Hall, - - - - -	Rev. George Heron.
Davenport, - - - - -	Eufebius Horton Esq., in right of his wife; occupied by his fon-in-law, Robert Wilmot Esq.
Delamere-Lodge, - - - - -	George Wilbraham Esq.
Dernhall, - - - - -	the heirs of the late Thomas Corbet Esq.
Dorfold-Hall, - - - - -	Henry Tomkinfon Esq.
Dukenfield-Lodge, - - - - -	Francis Dukenfield Astley Esq.
Eaton-Hall, - - - - -	Philip Antrobus Esq.
Edge-Hall, - - - - -	Thomas Crewe Dod Esq.
Fulshaw-Hall, - - - - -	vefted in the devisees of Peter Davenport Finney, and occupied by Thomas Tipping Esq.
Gayton-Hall, - - - - -	the property of John Glegg Esq. (in the occupation of John Staniflaus Townfhend Esq.).
Grange, - - - - -	the property of Nicholas Afkton Esq. (vacant).
Hankelow-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Jofeph Richards Esq. (occupied by Richard Clarke Esq.).
Haffall-Hall, - - - - -	Walter Daniel Esq.
Henbury, - - - - -	Francis Jodrell Esq.
Hermitage, - - - - -	Thomas Bailey Hall Esq.
High Leigh, (East-Hall)	George John Legh Esq.
----- (West-Hall) - - - - -	the occasional residence of Egerton Leigh ' Esq.
Hough, - - - - -	Rev. Richard Hill.
Hyde-Hall, - - - - -	George Hyde Clarke Esq.

\* It is the ancient feat of the family, but the prefont Mr. Leigh generally refides at Twemlow-Hall.

Gentlemen's Seats.	Owners and Occupiers.
Lache-Hall, - - - - -	vested in the devisees of Peter Snow (vacant).
Lawton, - - - - -	John Lawton Esq.
Lyme-Park, - - - - -	Thomas Legh, a minor.
Lymm-Hall, - - - - -	Thomas Taylor Esq.
Marbury-Hall, - - - - -	John Barry, a minor.
Marbury (near Nantwich), - - - - -	Domville Poole Esq.
Marple-Hall, - - - - -	John Isherwood Esq.
Mere-Hall, - - - - -	Thomas Langford Brooke Esq.
Mock-beggars-Hall (near Wallazey), - - - - -	in the occupation of Mrs. Boodée.
Mollington-Hall, - - - - -	John Fielden Esq.
Moor-Hall, - - - - -	Major-general Peter Heron, M. P.
Great-Moreton-Hall, (or Roe-Park)	George Ackers Esq. (in the occupation of his uncle, James Ackers Esq.).
Little-Moreton-Hall, - - - - -	the occasional residence of the Rev. William Moreton Moreton.
Moston-Hall, - - - - -	the property of John Masley Esq. (vacant).
Mottram-Andrew, - - - - -	Lawrence Wright Esq.
Norley-Bank, - - - - -	John Nuttall Esq.
Norley-Hall, - - - - -	George Whitley Esq.
Oakhanger-Hall, - - - - -	John Ready Esq.
Oldfield-Hall, - - - - -	William Rigby Esq.
Over-Legh, - - - - -	Mrs. Cowper.
Oughtrington, - - - - -	Trafford Trafford Esq.
Oulton-Park, - - - - -	John Egerton Esq. M. P.
Pole (the) - - - - -	George Eaton Esq.
Poole-Hall, (near Nantwich) - - - - -	Mrs. Anne Elcock.
Poulton-Lancelyn, - - - - -	Joseph Green Esq.
Preftbury-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Richard Legh Esq. (in the occupation of Thomas Hope Esq.).
Ravenscroft-Hall, - - - - -	the property of — Vawdrey Esq. (in the occupation of Peter Wetenhall Esq.).
Rode, - - - - -	Randal Wilbraham Esq.
Sale-Hall, - - - - -	the property of John Moore Esq. (in the occupation of John Mort Esq.)
Shrigley-Hall, - - - - -	Edward Downes Esq.
Somerford-Booths, - - - - -	Roger Swetenham Esq.
Somerford-Radnor, - - - - -	C. W. J. Shakerley Esq.
Statham, - - - - -	the property of James Sedgwick Esq. (in the occupation of Edward Lloyd Esq.).
Stretton-Hall, - - - - -	John Leche Esq.
Sutton-Manor-Hall, - - - - -	John Roylance Esq.
Swettenham, - - - - -	the property of Millington Eaton Swettenham Esq. (occupied by Edward Smyth Esq.).
Tatton, - - - - -	Wilbraham Egerton Esq.
Over-Tabley-Hall, - - - - -	the property of Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. (occu- pied by Mrs. Brooke).

## CHESHIRE.

Gentlemen's Seats.	Owners and Occupiers.
Thelwall, . . . . .	the property of Henry Pickering Esq. (occupied by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Black).
Thornycroft-Hall, . . . . .	Edward Thornycroft Esq.
Toft, . . . . .	George Leycester Esq.
Trafford-Hall, . . . . .	the property of the Rev. Richard Perryn (in the occupation of Edmund Yates Esq.).
Twemlow-Manor-House, . . . . .	William Booth Esq.
Twemlow-Hall, . . . . .	Egerton Leigh Esq.
Vale-Royal, . . . . .	Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. M. P.
Whatecroft-Hall, . . . . .	James Topping Esq.
Wincham, . . . . .	the property of Edward Townshend Esq. (in the occupation of his son, Edward Venables Townshend Esq.).
Wistaston-Hall, . . . . .	Peter Walthall Esq.
Old-Withington, . . . . .	John Glegg Esq.
Wrenbury-Hall, . . . . .	Mrs. Starkey.

MANY of the ancient Halls which belonged to the extinct gentry of this county have been wholly taken down; others remain, either entire, or in part, and are mostly occupied as farm-houses: among those of the latter description, which exhibit considerable remains of their former consequence, may be reckoned Aldford-Hall, a seat of the Fittons; Beeston-Hall, formerly the seat of the Beestons; Bexton-Hall, of the Daniels; Chorley-Hall, of a branch of the Davenports; Cotton-Hall, of the Cottons; Croxton-Hall, of a branch of the Mainwarings; Dutton-Hall, of the Duttons; Erdswick-Hall, of a branch of the Minshulls; Grafton-Hall, of a branch of the Warburtons; Holford-Hall, of the Holfords; Lea-Hall in Wybunbury, of the Leas, or Lees; Lea-Hall, in the Chapelry of Bruera, of the Calveleys; Leighton-Hall, of the Erdswicks; Marton-Sands, of a branch of the Mainwarings, and afterwards of the Fleetwoods; Prenton-Hall, of the Hockenhulls; Stoke-Hall, of another branch of the Minshulls; Tattenhall-Hall, of the Bostocks; and Utkinton-Hall, of the Dones. Hawthorn-Hall, formerly the seat of a branch of the Booths, afterward of the Pages; and Pownall-Hall, a seat of the Newtons, both in the parish of Wilmslow, are occupied as Schools.

*Geographical and Geological Descriptions of the County.*

CHESHIRE is bounded on the north by Lancashire, and a small part of Yorkshire; on the east by the counties of Derby and Stafford; on the south by Shropshire, and a detached portion of Flintshire; and on the west by Denbigh-

shire, Flintshire, and the estuary of the river Dee: the hundred of Wirrall is situated between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey, and is bounded, at the north-western extremity, by the Irish sea. The greatest breadth of this county, from north to south, is about thirty miles; the greatest length, from the extremity of the hundred of Wirrall, to that part of the hundred of Macclesfield, which adjoins Yorkshire, is fifty-eight miles: but across the middle part of the county, the length is not quite forty miles<sup>2</sup>.

Cheshire, according to Mr. Holland's statement, in his late survey of the county, contains 676,600 acres of land, of which he says that 620,000 are in cultivation, including parks and pleasure-grounds; 28,600 waste lands, commons, and woods; 18,000 peat-bogs and mosses; and 10,000 sea-fands, within the estuaries of the Dee and Mersey<sup>3</sup>. "Clay and sand," as Mr. Holland observes, "are the most predominant features in the prevailing soils of Cheshire, and of those a tolerably strong retentive clay exists in the largest portions:"—generally speaking, however, he adds, "these two earths are so blended together throughout the county, that it is only in particular districts that an observer would at once pronounce the soil to be clay, or sand; though soil, strictly speaking, should never be called either the one or the other. On this account, *clayey loam*, or *sandy loam*, according as clay or sand predominates, are the most accurately descriptive of the general nature of the Cheshire soils." The clay abounds most in the hundred of Wirrall; the greater part of the hundreds of Broxton and Nantwich; the parish of Budworth in Bucklow hundred; the neighbourhood of Middlewich, and the northern part of the hundred of Macclesfield. The sand is most abundant in the north-west extremity of Wirrall; the southern part of the hundred of Nantwich; the neighbourhood of Sandbach; the greater part of the hundred of Edisbury, and the southern part of that of Macclesfield. There is a considerable extent of black moor, or peat-moss land, principally in that part of the hundred of Macclesfield which borders on Derbyshire and Yorkshire; there are some mosses of smaller extent in the neighbourhood of Coppenhall and Warmincham. Coppenhall moss has been almost cleared of peat; in this moss were found numerous trees, principally oak, beech, and fir, which had been broken off, at various heights; and on some, particularly the fir, were marks of fire: an ancient gravel road passed through this moss. Delamere forest is a large tract of gravel, or white sand, with peat-moss in some parts.

The greater part of Cheshire exhibits an uniform flat surface; and has few woods of any extent; of course it has little claim to picturesque beauty; the

<sup>2</sup> Holland's Survey.      <sup>3</sup> Mr. Wedge's calculation in his general view of the Agriculture of Cheshire (1794) is somewhat lower.

principal.

principal hills are those on the borders of Derbyshire, which extend along the eastern side of the parishes of Astbury, Prestbury, and Mottram; a range of hills, in the hundred of Broxton, Bucklow-hills, Frodsham-hills, and Alderley-Edge, a singular insulated hill, in the hundred of Macclesfield. The view from this hill, and those from Halton and Beeston castles, from Mowcop, and Shutlingflow-hills, from Carden-cliff, and Overton-Scar, and from the Western-edge of Delamere forest, are among the most remarkable, for richness and extent of any in the county: that from Halton commands a great extent of the estuary of the Mersey, and the southern part of Lancashire. Beeston-castle is a very prominent feature in most of the Cheshire views, for an extent of many miles.

Although Cheshire has now but few woods, and those of small extent, it had, in former times, some very extensive forests, the timber in which, has been long ago destroyed<sup>a</sup>: the forests of Delamere<sup>b</sup> and Macclesfield<sup>c</sup>, are now large dreary tracts

<sup>a</sup> Amongst Sir Peter Leycester's MSS. at Tabley in some collections from the muniments of Vale-Royal abbey, is a claim of Peter Thornton, without date; but certainly as late as the reign of Edward I., to pannage of hogs in the forest of Delamere, timber for building, and fire-wood. In 1282, timber was cut down in Delamere forest for the buildings at Rhuddlan castle. Rot. Walliz, 10 Edward I. m. 5.

<sup>b</sup> The forest of Delamere was anciently called, the forest of Mara and Mondrem; a great part of this forest has been long in cultivation, as will appear by the subjoined list of townships within its limits; that division of it which was anciently called Mondrem, seems to have been the south-east part, which extended almost to Nantwich; Aston, in the parish of Acton, being one of the townships hereafter enumerated, is called Aston in Mondrem. Thomas Lord Stanley was, in 1461, made master-forester in fee, surveyor and ranger of the forest of Mara and Mondrem, to him and his heirs, to hold those offices, as fully as Thomas Lord Stanley his father had enjoyed them. John Arden Esq. is now-bearer of this forest, by inheritance from the Dones and Kingsleys, and has in his possession the ancient bugle-horn, by which his ancestors have held that office almost from the time of the Conquest. The following townships are described in an old MS. in the British Museum, (N<sup>o</sup> 2115. Harl. MSS.) as being within the limits of the forest of Mara and Mondrem, Bridge-Trafford, Wimbalds-Trafford, Thornton, Ince, Elton, Harpsford, Stoney-Dunham, Albanley, Manley, Helsby, Newton, Kingsley, Norley, Crowton, Codrington, Onston, Acton, Winnington, Castle-Northwich, Hartford and Horton, Wetenhall, Oulton and Lowe, Budworth, Rushton, Eaton, Tarporley, Church-Minshull, Aston, Worleston, White-Poole, Cholmondeston, Stoke, Rudheath, Wardle, Calveley, Alpraham, Tilston-Fernall, Teverton, Utkinton, Willington, Clotton, Duddon, Ashton, Great-Mouldsworth, Little-Mouldsworth, Horton-juxta-Ashton, Great-Barrow, and Little-Barrow: Tarvin, Hockenhull, and Kelsall, are described as not within the forest, being within the liberties of the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; Weverham, Merton, and Over, are described also as not within the forest, having been within the liberties of the abbey of Vale-Royal; and Frodsham, Overton, Netherton, Bradley, and Wood-houfes, as having been parcel of the demesnes of the Earls of Chester.

<sup>c</sup> This is called by Lucian the monk, Lyme forest, and is described as forming the boundary between  
Cheshire

tracts of waste land; that of Delamere contained 10,000 acres, but about 2000 have been inclosed. The forest of Wirral<sup>d</sup> was dis-forested in the year 1376, by King Edward III., in consequence of a request made some time before by the Black Prince, in behalf of the inhabitants of Cheshire, who had sustained many damages, grievances, and suits, by reason of the said forest; it is probable that the forest has been ever since in cultivation. The largest tract of waste land, exclusively of the peat-mosses already spoken of, is Rud-heath, in the parishes of Great-Budworth, Davenham, Middlewich, and Sandbach.

Mr. Holland observes in his Agricultural Survey, that although there are few woods or plantations in Cheshire, of any large extent; yet, the quantity of timber growing in the county in hedge-rows and coppices, greatly exceeds the general average of the kingdom; this timber is principally oak: he mentions the Earl of Stamford's, the Earl of Cholmondeley's, and Earl Grosvenor's estates, as particularly abounding in fine timber: there are some very fine old oaks at Dunham-Massey; and the late Earl of Warrington is said to have planted not less than an hundred thousand oaks, elms, and beech-trees; there are some remarkably fine beech-trees in Alderley-park<sup>e</sup>. The most extensive plantations in this county are those of Francis Jodrell Esq., which occupy not less than 1000 acres of land, begun by the late Foster Bower Esq., and completed by Mr. Jodrell: the next in point of extent, are those of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal, and of Nicholas Ashton Esq. on Delamere forest, consisting of 133 acres of land, planted with 477,000 trees, chiefly Scotch-firs and larches: for which he received a premium from the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce. A part of Rudheath has of late been planted with Scotch firs.

Cheshire and Derbyshire. (See Camden.) In the year 1461, Thomas Lord Stanley was made master-forester of Macclesfield, the office being granted to him and his heirs. The office of chief-serjeant of the forest was granted by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chelster, to Vivian de Davenport and his heirs, (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115;) there were other foresters also, whose office was hereditary, one of these was borne by the family of Sherd, or Shert, of Disley. The following townships are within the purview of the forest of Macclesfield; North-Rode, Bosley, Gawfworth, Sutton, Downes, Hurdsfield, Titherington, Upton, Bolinton, Prestbury, Butley, Rainow, Pott-Shrigley, Adlington, Poynton, Norbury, Offerton, Torkington, Marple, Disley, Taxall, Kettleholme, and Whaley. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115.)

<sup>d</sup> The bailiwick of the forest of Wirral was given, in the reign of King Stephen, by Ranulph Earl of Chester, to Alan Silvester, from whom it passed by a succession of female heirs, to the Banvilles and Stanleys. Sir T. S. M. Stanley of Hooton Bart., who is the present bailiff, possesses the ancient horn, by which this office was granted to his ancestor.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. 47 — 51 Ed. III.

<sup>f</sup> See the account of Alderley.

*Produce.*

*Produce.*

THE staple commodities of this county are cheese and salt; the former has been long celebrated, and one of its principal articles for exportation, as is supposed from a very early period<sup>a</sup>.

Mr. Webb, in his *Itinerary of Cheshire*, printed in King's Vale-Royal, speaking of Nantwich, and the excellency of the cheese made in the neighbourhood of that town; says, "notwithstanding all the trials that our ladies and gentlewomen make in their dairies in other parts of the county, and other counties of the kingdom; yet can they never fully match the perfect relish of the right Nantwich cheese; nor can, I think, that cheese be equalled by any other made in Europe, for pleasantness of taste and wholesomeness of digestion, even in the daintiest stomachs of them that love it." Fuller, in his *Worthies*<sup>b</sup>, speaking of Cheshire, says, "this county doth afford the best cheese for quantity and quality, and yet their cows are not (as in other shires) housed in the winter<sup>c</sup>; so that it may seem strange that the hardiest kine should make the tenderest cheese. Some essayed in vain to make the like in other places, though from thence they fetched both their kine and dairy-maids: it seems they should have fetched their ground too (wherein is surely some occult excellency in this kind), or else so good cheese will not be made. I hear not the like commendation of the butter in this county, and perchance these two commodities are like stars of a different horizon, so that the elevation of the one to eminency is the depression of the other."

Dr. Leigh, in his *Natural History of Cheshire*, and Dr. Campbell in his *Political Survey*, attribute the peculiar flavour of the Cheshire cheese to the abundance of saline particles in the soil of this county; and the latter observes, that in the neighbourhood of Nantwich, where the brine springs most abound, the cheese is esteemed to be of the most superior quality: the opinion that prime cheese is produced exclusively from pastures under which salt springs are found, is now exploded<sup>k</sup>. In Mr. Wedge's general View of the Agricul-

<sup>a</sup> We are told by Strabo that some of the Britons were ignorant of the art of cheese-making, but we may reasonably conclude, that the inhabitants of those counties, which have been so long celebrated for that manufacture, were not of the number.

<sup>b</sup> See p. 68.

<sup>c</sup> The cows in Cheshire are now housed in the winter, although they are not in many other counties, and in some districts much celebrated for the excellency of their cheese, as the Vale of Gloucester, North-Wiltshire, and Berkshire.

<sup>k</sup> The richest and best cheese is said to be produced from land of an inferior nature; but the greatest quantity from the richest land. Among the places and districts most celebrated for making the prime cheese, may be reckoned the neighbourhood of Nantwich, for a circuit of five miles; the parish of Over; the greater part of the banks of the river Weaver; and several farms near Congleton and Middlewich, among which we have heard that of Croxton-Hall particularly mentioned.

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Agriculture of Cheshire, published in 1794, may be found a copious account of the process of cheese-making, as practised in this county. Mr. Holland, in his late Survey, calculates that the number of cows kept for the dairy in Cheshire, is about 32,000; and that the quantity of cheese, annually made from them, is about 11,500 tons<sup>1</sup>: the greater part of the Cheshire cheese, particularly that of the south part of the county, is sold to the London cheese-mongers, through the medium of factors, who reside in the neighbourhood; some is sent by the Mersey to Liverpool; some inland, by the Staffordshire canal; and a considerable quantity by other canals, to the markets of Stockport and Manchester.

It is certain from the record of Domesday, that salt was one of the principal articles of commerce in this county, from a very early period; and that it produced a considerable revenue to the crown, before the Norman Conquest; the King having two thirds; and the Earl of Chester one third of the tolls; in which manner it continued to the time of Hugh Lupus. It appears that the *Wiches*, as they are called in the Survey, were very productive in the reign of Edward the Confessor. When Hugh Lupus was first created Earl of Chester, the salt-works, belonging to the King and the Earl, at Middlewich and Nantwich, having before produced a rent of 16 *l. per ann.*, were wholly disused and unproductive; and those at Nantwich, whence the King and Earl Edwin had derived an income of 20 *l. per ann.*, were nearly as much neglected; there being then in use only one salt-work, out of eight which had been formerly worked.

At the time of the Survey the salt-works had somewhat recovered their value, those at Nantwich being let to farm by the crown at 10 *l.*, those at Middlewich at 25 *s.*, and those at Northwich at 35 *s.* The Survey gives the particulars of the duties paid for each waggon-load, horse-load, &c. which varied for that which was sold in the hundred, or county, or carried out of either; the customs in the different *Wiches* varied also. The Earl had a salt-pit at Nantwich, for the use of his own household, toll-free; but if he sold any salt, he was to account with the King for two-thirds of the tolls. The proprietors of private salt-works were also permitted to have salt for the use of their families, toll-free; but paid toll for all which they sold. It is probable that the chief exportation of salt, at this early period, was to Wales: the people of which country are said to have called Nantwich, *Hellath Wen*, or the white salt-

<sup>1</sup> This calculation, probably is over-rated; we are informed that the quantity annually sent out of Cheshire, from the port of Chester, and by various canals, is about 4000 tons only; about four-fifths of which is the produce of the county.

pit, from the whiteness of the salt there made. As no mention is made by Pliny of the salt of Britain, it is probable that there were no salt-works in this county, so early as the time of the Romans. King Henry III., during his wars with the Welsh, caused all the salt-works in Cheshire to be destroyed, and the pits to be stopped up, to prevent the enemy from procuring any supply of that valuable article<sup>1</sup>.

The art of making salt appears to have been but imperfectly understood in England for several centuries after the Conquest. King Henry VI. invited John de Sheidam, a gentleman of Zealand, to come over to this country, with sixty persons in his company, to instruct his subjects in the improved method of making salt. Mr. Lowndes, a Cheshire gentleman, received a reward from Parliament, about the beginning of the last century, for making public some supposed improvements in this art; soon afterwards, Dr. Brownrig published a treatise on the art of making common salt, in which he suggested some improvements, which have been since adopted. Partly in consequence of those improvements, and partly from other causes, the manufacture of white salt has greatly increased in Cheshire: about a century ago, the salt manufacture there was not more than adequate to its own consumption, and that of a few adjoining counties. From May 1805, to May 1806, the salt manufactured at the Cheshire brine-pits<sup>m</sup>, exclusively of that made at Nantwich<sup>n</sup>, and Frodsham which was disposed of for home consumption, amounted to 16,590 tons, seventy-seven bushels. The annual average of white salt sent down the Weaver from Winsford and Northwich, for the last ten years, has been 139,317 tons; this has been principally for the supply of the fisheries in Scotland, Ireland, the ports of the Baltic, the United States of America, Newfoundland, and the British Colonies. The quantity manufactured at Northwich is supposed to have been doubled within the last ten years. Messrs. Marshall and Naylor, proprietors of some brine-pits at Anderton, having turned their attention to the investigation of means, by which salt-works might be constructed at the least expence, and the consumption of fuel diminished, have erected works upon this principle, at which they make a large grained salt, peculiarly well adapted to the purpose of curing fish and provisions. The proprietors, in the year 1806, obtained

<sup>1</sup> M. Paris, p. 599.      <sup>m</sup> At Lawton, Wheelock, Roughwood; in the townships of Anderton, Bechton, Lestwich, Middlewich, and in the neighbourhood of Northwich and Winsford.

<sup>n</sup> The manufacture of salt at Nantwich was much more extensive, in the early part of the seventeenth century than at the present time; for it appears, by some papers relating to the brine-pits, written in the reign of Charles I., that there were then two hundred and sixteen wick-houses, or salt-works, in Nantwich; there is now only one.

a patent for making this salt, for which there have been already very large demands; large quantities having been exported to Scotland, Ireland, Newfoundland, and Sweden. The discovery of the rock-salt in 1670, (which will be more particularly spoken of under the head of minerals,) forms an important æra in the history of the staple commodity of the county. There are now ten or twelve pits of rock-salt worked in the neighbourhood of Northwich, in the townships of Witton, Marston, and Wincham; from some of these pits they raise a hundred tons in a day. The rock-salt is sent down the Weever from Northwich; about a third of it is refined at the salt-works at Frodsham, and on the Lancashire side of the Mersey; but the greater part is carried to Liverpool, whence it is exported to Ireland, and the ports of the Baltic. The average quantity sent down the Weever from Northwich for the last ten years is 51,109 tons<sup>1</sup>. In 1805, there were 2950 hands employed in the manufacture of salt.

Among the produce of Cheshire, potatoes should not be omitted, which are cultivated to a great extent for exportation, in the neighbourhood of Altrincham and Frodsham, and in the hundred of Wirral: in Frodsham alone, it is calculated that 100,000 bushels<sup>2</sup> have been raised annually on an average for several years past; these are principally sent to the Lancashire markets, by the Mersey, and by the Duke of Bridgewater's canal. The town of Manchester is supplied with abundance of potatoes and other vegetables from the neighbourhood of Altrincham; and that of Liverpool, both from Frodsham and the hundred of Wirral: great quantities of early potatoes are raised in Wirral by a peculiar process<sup>3</sup>, and brought to market early in May, when they have sometimes sold at 3s. a pound, frequently at 2s. 6d.; from which price they gradually sink down to one penny.

<sup>1</sup> Holland's Agricultural Survey of Cheshire, where may be found a full account of the process of raising the brine and making the salt, with many other particulars relating to the salt manufactured from the brine-pits, as well as that procured from the salt mines. <sup>2</sup> The average produce of an acre is reckoned to be two hundred and fifty bushels.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Wedge, in his general View of the Agriculture of Cheshire, says, that 'this method was first practised by one Richard Evans of Wallazey in Wirral.' "The secret (he adds) consists in nothing more than in transplanting the sets, (which should be of the earliest kind) during winter; carefully guarded from the frost, in a warm place, where they may sprout at least three inches by the beginning of March. As soon after that time, as the weather happens to be favourable, they are, with the sprout on, to be carefully planted in a dry soil, in drills, with a small rib of earth between each drill, and the end of the sprout just under the surface of the ground. The plants should be kept covered with straw, or rushes, every night as long as the frost continues, and uncovered every favourable day."

*Natural History.*

*Fossils.*— Fossil-salt and coal are found in some parts of Cheshire in great abundance; the rock, or fossil-salt, was first discovered accidentally near Marbury in the parish of Budworth, in the year 1670, in searching for coal; it has since been found very abundantly in the townships of Witton, Wincham, and Marston near Northwich, where several pits are constantly worked: in 1779 fossil-salt was discovered near Lawton, about forty-two yards below the surface, and a pit was for some time worked, but afterwards discontinued; it has been found also between Middlewich and Winsford, a little below Winsford, and at Whitley, six or seven miles below Northwich, and two miles north of the Weaver.

Wherever rock-salt is met with, *fulphat* of lime appears to be very generally found mixed with the earthy strata above it. At Witton, after digging through several strata, consisting chiefly of clay and marle variously compounded, the fossil-salt is found about forty-one or forty-two yards below the surface; the first bed of salt, the only one known till of late years, is about twenty-five yards in thickness. In 1781 it was discovered, by the proprietor of one of the mines at Northwich, that there was a lower bed, which was found about ten yards beneath the other, after passing through a stratum of indurated clay; this lower bed has been penetrated into, to the depth of thirty-five, or thirty-six yards, and all the pits are now sunk to about this depth; some of the mines are worked in a circular form, and are as much as three hundred yards in diameter. The fossil-salt is of two kinds, the one white and transparent, the other of a reddish-brown; the former has been found, by analysis, to be an almost pure muriate of soda; the latter to contain a certain portion of earth from which its colour is derived †.

Coal of a good quality is found abundantly in the north-east part of the county, in the townships of Hurdsfield, Rainow, Bollington, Adlington, Pott-Shrigley, Worth, Poynton, and Norbury; a district from north to south of about ten miles: in some of these townships, particularly Worth and Poynton, are very extensive collieries, which supply the populous manufacturing town of Stockport. At Denwall in the township of Nettle, and in the hundred of Wirral, is a colliery belonging to Sir T. S. M. Stanley Bart., first opened about the year 1750; this colliery extends one mile and three-quarters from high-water-mark under

† Philof. Transf. Vol. 5. p. 2015.

‡ Holland's Survey, p. 38.

the river Dee; having two canals under the river, one of which is carried to the extremity of the work: the coal is principally exported to Ireland.

Copper and lead are found at Alderley-Edge and Peckforton-hills: several attempts have been made within the last century to work a mine at Alderley, but the quantity of ore obtained was not sufficient to answer the expence. In the year 1803 some gentlemen of Stockport were induced, from the discovery of a good vein at the extremity of the old works, to open a mine, and their undertaking promises better success; considerable quantities both of copper and lead-ore have been found, and buildings have been erected for crushing and smelting the lead-ore. A vein of copper was not long ago discovered on Peckforton-hills, upon the estate of John Egerton Esq of Oulton, which appeared to contain a large quantity of valuable ore; but after a considerable expence had been incurred, the attempt to work a mine was given up. Iron is found at Alderley-Edge, and in the township of Dukenfield. Dr. Aikin, in his description of the country round Manchester, says that the late Mr. Astley erected works for an iron-foundry on his estate in this township, which he afterwards let to a company at Manchester; but they were soon abandoned, and the building converted into a cotton-mill.

Cobalt ore was discovered at Alderley-Edge, on the estate of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. in 1807; it is found near the surface in very thin veins or filaments, in rocks of sand-stone, often contiguous to veins of copper and lead-ore; it is of a very dark blue colour, and many specimens appear like nothing more than grains of sand adhering together; some of the veins are of a much richer quality than others; the cobalt in all of them appears intimately mixed with lead, iron, copper, and manganese: a considerable quantity of cobalt procured from the mines at Alderley-Edge has been conveyed to Ferry-bridge in Yorkshire, where it has been manufactured into smalt, little inferior in colour to that imported from Saxony<sup>\*</sup>.

There are several quarries of excellent free-stone in this county, of which those at Runcorn, Manley, and Great-Bebington are most remarkable; the quarries of Runcorn being situated near the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, considerable quantities are sent to Liverpool, Manchester, and Chester. The County-hall, the gaol of the castle at Chester, and the new buildings at Earl Grosvenor's magnificent mansion at Eaton, are of stone from the Manley quarry. The pillars of the portico of the County-hall, are twelve in number, and twenty-three feet in height, each of which is formed of a single stone. The stone from the

<sup>\*</sup> The above account of the cobalt at Alderley-Edge, was obligingly communicated by Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.

quarry

quarry at Great-Bebington, is much whiter than the others. Lime-stone is found no where in Cheshire, except at Newbold-Astbury. Mowcop-hill, partly in the township of Odd-Rode in this county, has long been famous for its mill-stones. Mr. Holland, in his Agricultural Survey, speaks of a species of sand-stone on the hills at Kerredge, near Macclesfield, peculiarly adapted to the making of flags, or whetting tools; this stone is described by Mr. Kirwan, as a siliceous grit, with an argillaceous cement. Near Pott-Shrigley is a compact sand-stone of an extreme hardness, admitting of a good polish\*.

“Marle is found in almost every part of the county, but in greatest abundance, where the prevailing soil is a clay or clayey loam;” and is very generally employed as a manure: there are several varieties, distinguished by the appellation of clay-marle, slate-marle, and stone-marle†. Dr. Woodward mentions a talky fibrous substance, a kind of *asbestos*, as being found in great abundance in beds of marle about High-Legh‡.

We have not learnt that any extraneous fossils have been found in Cheshire; except the trunks of trees, and various vegetable remains, little changed from their original state, which abound in the different peat-mosses. Dr. Woodward, in his Catalogue of British Fossils‡, enumerates oak, fir, yew, birch, alder; the cones of fir, and hazle-nuts, as having been found in the mosses at Wilmslow, and on Delamere forest: great quantities of oak and fir have been raised from some of them, and used for fuel, and sometimes for inside-work in buildings; the fir, being slit into slender pieces, is also used by the poor in some places, as a substitute for candles.

*Rare Plants.*—The *Saxifraga hirculus*, which has been found in no other part of England, we saw growing in great abundance on Knutsford-moor, where it was found by Ray; the season was rather early, and we found it in flower on the 15th of July. For the following notices of other rare plants in the county, we are principally indebted to Mr. Okell of Chester; we add the *habitats* where they have been found, either by himself or the friends who have communicated them to him.

*Veronica scutellata*, near the road from Wrexham to Chester; *Utricularia vulgaris*, near Churton-heath; *Utricularia minor*, bogs in Delamere forest; *Menyanthes nymphoides*, bogs in Delamere forest; *Gentiana Pneumonanthe*, on the

\* Mr. Holland's Survey.

† Ibid. p. 221. where will be found a particular account of this substance; and a paper on its nature and origin, by Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. in the appendix to the same work, p. 348.

‡ Catal. Vol. i. p. 76.

§ Vol. i. p. 18—21.

commons,

commons, near Parkgate; *Gentiana campestris*, near Hyle-Lake and Parkgate; *Sifon inundatum*, Backford-heath; *Statice reticulata*, Hilbree-island; *Drosera Anglica*, marsh, near Holmes-Chapel; *Acorus calamus*, near Holford-Hall; *Narthecium ossifragum*, Delamere forest; *Alisma ranunculoides*, near Tarvin; *Andromeda polifolia*, Delamere forest; *Saxifraga aizoides*, Beeton-castle; *Stratiodes aloides*, pools, four miles from Holmes-Chapel; *Thalictrum minus*, banks of the Dee, below Parkgate; *Lathræa squamaria*, by the Dane side, below Congleton; *Bartsia viscosa*, near Hyle-Lake; *Cochlearia Danica*, at Parkgate; *Scutellaria minor*, bogs, on Delamere forest; *Iberis nudicaulis*, Weston-hill; *Geranium sanguineum*, banks of the Dee, near Parkgate; *Fumaria claviculata*, Broxton and Sandy-way-head; *Lathyrus Nissolia*, Blacon-point; *Vicia sylvatica*, woods, near Vale-Royal; *Hypericum Androsæmum*, woods, near Rock-Savage; *Senecio Saracenicus*, banks of the Dee, near Eaton-Boat; *Inula Helenium*, Eccleston; *Viola lutea*, on the hills, near Derbyshire; *Orchis conopsea*, Knutsford-moor; *Serapias palustris*, Blacon-point; *Littorella lacustris*, Budworth-common, near Oulton; *Empetrum nigrum*, Congleton-Edge; and *Pillularia globifera*, on Congleton Mofs.

The following plants are given on the authority of Turner and Dillwyn's "Botanist's Guide"—*Lysimachia thyriflora*, woods, near Stockport; *Campanula latifolia*, near the rivers Mersey and Tame, at Stockport; *Cicuta virosa*, near Stockport and Northwich, and Brereton-Mere; *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, meadows, near Cheadle-bridge; *Arbutus Uva-Ursi*, hills on the borders of Yorkshire; *Trollius Europæus*, in great plenty, in a wood between Stayley-Hall, and Scout-mill; *Limnifella aquatica*, near Frodsham; *Gnaphalium dioicum*, hills above Stayley; *Ophrys cordata*, Stayley-moors; and *Hymenophyllum Tunbrigense*, on the hills between Macclesfield and Buxton, upon mossy rocks.

We observed the *Dianthus deltoides* growing very luxuriantly in Wirral, not far from West-Kirkby church.

### Mineral Springs.

THE brine-springs, which are now in use, have been already mentioned: they are principally found in the valley, through which the rivers Weever and Wheelock have their course. These springs have been found at Aldersey, Anderton, Austerfon, Baddeley, Baddington<sup>b</sup>, Barnton, Brinepit-farm, between

<sup>b</sup> The brine-springs at Boddington and Hatherton were discovered not long before the year 1622, and were both then worked.—Webb, in his Itinerary of that date, says the method of boiling in iron-pans with coals for fuel, was first used at these pits. Vale-Royal, part II, p. 66, 67.

Audlem

Audlem and Nantwich; at Cumbermere, Dirtwich<sup>c</sup>, Dunham, Hartford, Hatherton, Leftwich, Middlewich<sup>d</sup>, Moulton, Newton, Weverham, Wharton, and Winnington: the pit at Weverham was worked in the time of William the Conqueror. The brine is found at various depths, and is of various degrees of strength; containing as appears by analysis, muriate of soda and *earthy salt*, in different proportions: those in the neighbourhood of Northwich contain more iron than the others; but the quantity is inconsiderable. The strongest brine-springs are said to be those at Anderton<sup>e</sup>.

At Bug-lawton is a spring containing sulphur, a small quantity of Epsom-salts, and calcareous earth, which has been found serviceable in scorbutic cases: at Shaw-heath, near Stockport, is a chalybeate spring, of considerable strength; Leigh, in his Natural History of Lancashire and Cheshire<sup>f</sup>, speaks of it as the most powerful of several which he enumerates: the others are in Lancashire, and the neighbouring counties.

In the year 1600 a pamphlet was published, entitled, "News out of Cheshire, concerning the New-found-Well." This well, which was situated in Delamere forest, about a mile and a half from the Chamber, or Old-Pale, towards the south-west side of the forest, is said to have been accidentally discovered, by John Greenway of Utkinton, who had been advised by his physician to drink of, and bathe in, any pure spring-water; the rumour of the benefit which he had received from the use of this water, and of two of his sons having been cured of fits by the same means, brought great numbers of people to the well; near which two pools were made for the purpose of bathing: the reports of this wonderful water, which was said to cure almost every disease, and even to restore the blind to sight, brought an immense concourse of people, not only from Cheshire, but from several neighbouring counties; the author of the Narrative says, that the number of persons daily resorting to the well was not less than two thousand, and that Mr. Done, the chief-forester, appointed

<sup>c</sup> Leland speaks of a decayed salt-pit at Dirtwich, and one newly made. (Itin. Vol. vii. p. 11.) in another place, he says there were *two or three* little-salt springs at which salt was sometimes made. (Itin. v. p. 91.) We are told that on the 28th of August 1643, Captain Croxton, Captain Venables, and others, with their companies, went to Dirtwich, and cut in pieces all the pans, pumps, salt-pits, and works, and carried some of their pans off, so that their salt-making was spoiled. Burghall's Diary, in the History of Cheshire. 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 918. <sup>d</sup> There were two salt-springs, or brine-pits, at Middlewich in Leland's time, and in 1622. Itin. Vol. v. p. 92. and Vale-Royal, part II. p. 82.

<sup>e</sup> See Holland's Survey, p. 46. The brine-springs at Leftwich and Witton appear to be the weakest of those of which the Analysis is there given: the brine-springs at Barnton are so weak as to require the aid of rock salt, for the purpose of manufacture. <sup>f</sup> B. i. p. 34.

one of his keepers to preserve order amongst the populace, and allowed him to provide entertainment for such as could afford to pay for it. Very little can be gathered from the pamphlet as to the nature of the water; it appears to have been cathartic, and is described as having "some smack of an allum-like composition."

#### Rivers.

THE principal Cheshire rivers are the Dee, the Mersey, the Weaver, the Dane, the Bollin, the Peover, the Wheelock, and the Tame.

The *Dee* which rises in Merionethshire, first becomes a boundary of Cheshire near Shocklach-green; it passes by Shocklach and Farndon, on its Cheshire side, and enters the county near Aldford; thence it passes by Eaton and Eccleston to Chester: from Bangor-bridge it is navigable for barges; at Chester-bridge, where it meets the tide-water, it is about a hundred yards wide; from thence it passes through an artificial channel<sup>a</sup>, along the marshes, under Hawarden castle, for about nine miles; near Flint castle, about three miles further, it becomes an estuary of three miles wide, much incommoded at low-water by sand-banks; the main channel then crosses over to the Cheshire side below Parkgate; ten miles further, near the island of Hilbree, being there of the width of about five miles, it falls into the sea. The parishes of Shotwick, Burton, Neston, Heswall, Thurston, and West-Kirkby, on the southern side of the hundred of Wirral, lie on the banks of the Dee.

The navigation of the Dee, by which, in ancient times, vessels were brought up to the walls of Chester, had been so much impeded by sands, from the frequent changing of the channel, that it occasioned the total ruin of the haven of Chester before the year 1449, as appears by a Commission of Inquiry of that date<sup>b</sup>: to obviate this great inconvenience, a new quay or haven was made, about six miles from Chester, but not before the middle of the following century. In the Harleian Collection is a letter from the citizens of Chester to the lord treasurer, (the Marquis of Winchester,) praying his intercession with the King for a sum of money in aid of their new haven or quay in Wirral, then building all of stone, "in the face and belly of the sea, which would at least cost 5000 *l.* or 6000 *l.*!"<sup>c</sup> In 1560, a collection for the new haven at Chester was made in all churches throughout the kingdom; in 1567 there was an assessment for the same purpose on the city. The new haven was at length completed, and for

<sup>a</sup> The first sod of this channel, called "the River Dee Navigation from Chester to the Sea," was cut on the 20th of April 1733.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1003—63.

<sup>c</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2082. f. 14.

many years, all goods and merchandizes coming to, and going from the port of Chester, were there loaded and unloaded.

The improvement of the navigation of the Dee by cutting a new channel, appears to have been first projected by Andrew Yarranton, who published a work entitled, "England's Improvement by Sea and Land," (in the year 1677): he tells us that vessels of twenty tons burthen could not then come higher than Neston; and proposes that an act of Parliament should be procured, for improving the navigation of the Dee; and enabling ships to come up to Chester, by a new channel to be cut from the river, nearly opposite Neston, to pass by Flint to Chester.

In 1693 Evan Jones brought forward a proposal for making the river Dee navigable, and bringing up ships of a hundred tons burthen to the Roodee, at his own expence, on condition that he should have all such lands as should be recovered, upon payment of the usual rent of recovered lands to the crown, and one-fourth of the clear rents or profits to the companies of the city\*; and that he and his heirs should be entitled to certain duties on coals, lime, and lime-stone. This proposal was rejected, on account of the required duty on coals, lime, &c. In 1698, Francis Gell Esq. made a proposal nearly similar to that of Evan Jones, with some modification of the duties on coals, &c. and some additional security as to his performance of the contract; but without any allotment of a fourth-part to the city companies; this proposal also was, in the first instance, rejected; but upon being a second time brought forward, and a still further security being proposed by Mr. Gell, who offered to deposit the sum of 1000*l.* in the hands of trustees for that purpose, it was agreed to on the 21st of October 1698<sup>1</sup>: a petition was in consequence presented to Parliament, and in 1700 an act passed, to enable the mayor and citizens of the city of Chester to recover and preserve the navigation upon the river Dee.

The undertakers of this work were incorporated by the name of the River-Dee Company; a subsequent act passed in 1732, which empowered them to inclose a large tract on the banks of the Dee, called the White-Sands, on condition that they made a navigable river from the sea to Chester: this new cut was begun the next year, and completed in 1754. In the year 1763, one thousand four hundred and eleven acres of land were recovered from the sea, six hundred and sixty-four acres in 1769, and three hundred and forty-

\* He proposed that the profits of this fourth part should accumulate for the purpose of building and freighting a ship for each company, to be employed in trade for the benefit of the said company, and afterwards the yearly profits to be paid to the aldermen and stewards of each company in equal portions.

<sup>1</sup> Corporation Records

eight acres in 1795. A further embankment commencing from the last embankment to Conna's-Quay on the Flintshire side, and to Barton's-Point on the Cheshire side, intended to contain about 1500 acres of land is in contemplation. In consequence of the great expence of cutting and embanking the new channel of the river Dee, and inclosing the adjacent lands, the proprietors did not receive any profits from the undertaking till the year 1775, when they divided *two per cent.* on their principal stock; the annual proceeds have since gradually increased, and the proprietors now receive *five per cent.*, with the prospect of an improving revenue. The new channel was at first intended only for ships of two hundred tons burthen; but it is now navigable for ships of six hundred tons burden.

The *Mersey* (esteemed the second of the Cheshire rivers) is formed by the junction of the Etherow and Goyt. The *Etherow* rises near Woodhead, at the junction of the counties of York, Derby, and Chester. From its source it forms the boundary, for some distance, between Cheshire and Derbyshire, the parish of Mottram being on the Cheshire side; it then enters this county, between Compstall-bridge and Marple-bridge, at its conflux with the *Goyt*, which rises in Macclesfield forest, and during a course of about nine miles is a boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire, passing on the Cheshire side Taxall, Whaley, Disley, and Marple. At the above-mentioned conflux, the united rivers take the name of the *Mersey*, which passes near Chadkirk, between Offerton and Bredbury to the town of Stockport; from thence to Liverpool, it forms the boundary between Cheshire and Lancashire; passing on the Cheshire side, the parishes and townships of Cheadle, Northenden, Ashton, Carrington, Partington, Warburton, Thelwall, Latchford, Lower-Walton, and Runcorn.

The *Mersey*, where it meets the tide-water, opposite Warrington in Lancashire, is only forty yards wide: at Runcorn-gap, where it communicates with the Trent and *Mersey*, or Grand-trunk, and the Duke of Bridgewater's canals, its width is three hundred yards; below the gap it immediately extends itself into a grand estuary of three miles in width, receiving in its course the navigable river Weever from Northwich and Frodsham. In its course northward, from Runcorn it gradually diminishes for six miles, and opposite Liverpool its width is only three quarters of a mile, but it forms a fine channel, at least ten fathom deep at low water, very commodious for shipping; at the distance of about five miles, measuring by the Cheshire coast, it falls into the Irish sea, by two or three different channels, much incommoded by sands, but the passage is rendered

secure by means of various land-marks, buoys, and light-houses; and the excellent system of pilotage, established by the Liverpool merchants. The Cheshire parishes of Eastham, Frodsham, Ince, Bromborough, Bebington, and Wallazey, extend to the banks of the Mersey. The whole course of this river is forty-four miles.

The *Weever* is truly a Cheshire river, rising on Bulkeley-heath, and never quitting the county during its whole course, 'till its confluence with the Mersey at Weston; passing through Ridley, by Cholmondeley-Hall, to Wrenbury; by Audlem, Hankelow, Nantwich, Minshull, and Weever, to Winsford-bridge; thence by Vale-Royal, and Eaton, to Hartford-bridge, and Northwich, where it joins the Dane, and soon afterwards the Peover; after which junction it passes by Weverham, Acton, Dutton, Frodsham, and Rock-Savage to Weston, where it joins the Mersey. In the year 1720, a set of gentlemen<sup>m</sup>, at the head of whom were the Hon. Langham Booth, and Sir George Warburton Bart., entered into a subscription for the purpose of procuring an act of Parliament, to make the Weever navigable from Frodsham-bridge to Winsford-bridge, a distance of about twenty miles: in its natural state it was navigable only at high-tides, and not more than six miles above Frodsham-bridge.

The subscribers agreed, and it was provided by the act, that after payment of the subscription and interest at five *per cent.*, and one *per cent.* yearly profit for their risk, the whole income arising from tonnage, &c. should be applicable to the like purposes, as the county rate of the county of Chester. All incumbrances were discharged in the year 1778, since which time the sum of 105,000 *l.* and upwards hath been paid into the county treasury, in aid of the rate. The tonnage has increased greatly within the last ten years, and the gross revenue is now upwards of 17,000 *l. per ann.*, a considerable part of which is expended in the execution of the trust, and in maintaining and improving the navigation of the river. In consequence of the great extension of the salt trade, the present accommodations on the Weever have been found insufficient, and an additional cut of about four miles in length, is now making from the Weir near Frodsham-bridge to Weston-point, in order to prevent the delays which have been experienced by the shallowness of the river at neap-tides: the charge of this additional channel, and other improvements intended to be immediately adopted, is estimated at 40,000 *l.* The expence of the magnificent public buildings on

<sup>m</sup> Philip Egerton Esq., John Egerton Esq., Henry Legh Esq., Randal Dod Esq., John Amson Esq., Henry Mainwaring Esq., Thomas Vernon Esq., John Williams Esq., Peter Warburton Esq., and James Mainwaring Esq.

the

the site of Chester-castle, has been wholly defrayed out of the revenues of the Weever navigation.

The river *Dane* rises in Macclesfield forest, near the Three-Shire Mere, and after forming, for some way, a boundary between Staffordshire and Cheshire, enters the latter county, within two miles of Congleton; from which town it passes by Radnor-bridge, Davenport, Hermitage, near Holmes Chapel to Cranage-bridge, and Byley-bridge; near Middlewich, Croxton, Shipbrook, and Daneham or Davenham, to Northwich, where it falls into the Weever. The course of the Weever is about thirty-three miles, that of the Dane about twenty-two; the Weever is narrow, deep, and slow; the Dane, broad, shallow, and swift.

The *Bollin* rises in Macclesfield forest from several heads, the two principal of which issue from the foot of Shutlingslow-Hill, near the hall of Ridge; it passes by Sutton, Macclesfield, Bollington, Prestbury, and Newton, Wimslow, Pownall, Ringey, Ashley, Dunham and Warburton, to Rixton, where it falls into the Mersey; its course is about twenty miles.

The *Peover* is formed of the junction of two streams, one of which rises near Macclesfield, the other near Gawsworth; they join at Chelford, whence the Peover passes to Over-Peover, Nether-Peover, Holford, and Wincham-bridge, falling into the Weever, near Northwich; the course of this river is about fifteen miles.

The *Wheelock* is composed of three streams, which rise near Moreton-Hall, Lawton, and Rode, and meet near Sandbach; whence the Wheelock passes to Wheelock, Elton, and Warmicham, and falls into the Dane at Croxton; its course having been about twelve miles.

The *Tame* rises in Yorkshire, and during almost the whole of its course, which is about ten miles, forms a boundary between Cheshire and Lancashire, passing on its Cheshire side, Staley, Dukenfield, Hyde-Hall, and Harden-Hall, between which and Stockport it falls into the Mersey.

Besides these principal rivers, there are several other smaller streams, which have been dignified with the name; as the *Gowcy*, which rises near Bunbury, and passes by Beeston-castle, Teverton, and Huxley, to Stapleford, Barrow, Flemstall, Bridge-Trafford, Picton, Stoak and Stanny, falling into the Mersey at Stanlow, and dividing the hundred of Edisbury from that of Broxton, during almost the whole of its course. There is a stream (erroneously described in King's Vale-Royal, as connected with this river) which rises in Harthill, takes its course by Tattenhall, Golborne-Bellew, and Lea-Hall; is joined near the latter by a brook that comes from Grafton, by Cuddington, Aldersey, and Bechin; and falls into the Dee at Aldford.

The *Betley* comes from Betley in Staffordshire, runs by Doddington, Wybunbury, and Bartherton, and falls into the *Weever*. *Afbbrook* rises in Delamere forest, passes between Over and Little-Budworth, near Darnhall, where it forms Darnhall-pool, and falls into the *Weever*, not far from *Weever-Hall*. The *Biddle* comes out of Staffordshire, and falls into the *Dane* near Congleton. The *Croco* comes out of Bagmere; passing by Brereton-Hall and Kinderton Park, and through Middlewich, it falls into the *Dane* at Croxton, near that town. The *Birkin* rises near Chelford, passes by Mobberley, and falls into the *Bollin*. The *Mar* comes out of the pool of Mere, and falls into the *Bollin*. The *Grimfditch* rises at Grimfditch, passes by Preston, Daresbury, and Kekwich; and falls into the *Mersey*. The *Walwarn* rises near Barthomley, passes by Crewe-Hall, and *Coppenhall*, and joining with the *Lea* which comes from Lea and Wistaston, falls into the *Mersey*. *Flookerbrook* rises near Chester, and running to Bach, there joins a stream\*, which in its course from Coughall, by Moston and Mollington, divides the hundred of Broxton from that of Wirral; and falls into the *Dee*, a little below Chester.

There are several small lakes, or, as they are called, Meres or Pools, in Cheshire. *Ridley-pool*, spoken of by Leland as one of the largest, has been drained and converted into tillage. *Combermere* is a fine piece of water, nearly three quarters of a mile in length, close to the site of *Combermere-Abbey*, to which it gave name, and is a great ornament to the grounds of Sir Robert Cotton. *Bar-mere* in the parish of Malpas is nearly of the same extent; the other principal ones are, the *Mere*, which gives name to a township in *Rostherne*, *Comberbach-mere*, *Oakhanger-mere*, *Pick-mere*, *Rostherne-mere*, and the *Chapel-mere*, and *Mofs-mere*, two beautiful pieces of water in front of *Cholmondeley-castle*. The meres, and most of the rivers, abound with the more common sort of fish: the *Dee* is noted for its fine flavoured salmon, of late years much diminished in quantity: the *Mersey* has salmon, plaice, flounders, smelts, &c. &c.

#### Canals.

Few counties, as Mr. Holland observes in his Survey, derive so many advantages from the internal intercourse, which has been produced by the system of artificial navigation, as Cheshire; that of the river *Weever* has been already spoken of; the canals, which intersect various parts of the county, are the *Duke of Bridgewater's*; the *Trent and Mersey*, or *Grand Trunk*; the *Ellefmere*; the *Chester and Nantwich*, and the *Peak-forest canal*.

\* This stream is now in great part merged in the line of the Chester canal.

The

The Duke of Bridgewater's canal, the design and execution of which first gave celebrity to that eminent engineer, Mr. James Brindley, was begun in 1761; the communication between Manchester and Liverpool was opened in 1772; and the whole of the works at first projected were finished in 1776. This canal, which takes its origin from the Duke of Bridgewater's estate at Worsley in Lancashire, enters Cheshire, near Ashton on the Mersey; passes near Altrincham, Dunham-Massey, Bollington, Lymm, Groppenhall, Higher-Walton, Preston-on-the-Hill; Moor, through Sir Richard Brooke's grounds at Norton to Runcorn, where it joins the Mersey, passing through a chain of ten locks. At this place is a rise of ninety-five feet, being the only deviation from the level in the course of the canal, except at the Vale of Bollin, between Lymm and Altrincham, where an embankment has been made for the purpose of preserving it.

The first act for making the Trent and Mersey, or as it is called the Grand-Trunk canal, passed in 1766. This canal communicates with the Duke of Bridgewater's at Preston-brook, and passes by Dutton, Barnton, Little-Leigh, Northwich, Shipbrooke, and Middlewich, not far from Sandbach to Lawton, a little beyond which it enters Staffordshire. In the course of this canal through Cheshire, there are four tunnels: one at Preston-on-the-hill, one thousand two hundred and forty-one yards in length; another at Barnton in Great-Budworth, five hundred and seventy-two yards long; another at Saltersfield, in the same parish, three hundred and fifty yards; and another at Hermitage, of one hundred and thirty yards.

The Ellesmere canal communicates with the Mersey at Whitby, five miles from Eastham, at a place now called Ellesmere-port; it passes the east-end of the hundred of Wirral, and the south-east part of Broxton, passing through Whitby, Great-Stanney, Stoak, Croughton, Chorlton, Coughall, Moston, and Upton, to Chester, where it joins the Dee, as well as the Chester canal. That part of the line, described in the act as passing from the Dee at Chester by Lache, Rough-hill, and near Pulford, towards Denbighshire, is not intended to be made. A branch of this canal from Whitchurch enters Cheshire at Grindley-brook in Wirwall, passes by Quoisley, Marbury, Norbury\*, Wrenbury, Baddeley, and Hurleston; in the last-mentioned township it forms a junction with the Chester and Nantwich canal. This branch, which was completed in 1806, extends through the county during a line of eleven miles.

The act for making the Chester and Nantwich canal passed in 1772, and it was completed in 1778; this canal passes from Chester through Great Boughton, Christleton, Waverton, Hargrave, Huxley, Beeston, Teverton, Tilston-Fernall,

\* It was intended to enter the township of Stoke, but the line was varied.

Wardle, Bar-bridge, Stoke, Hurleston, and Acton, between which place and the town of Nantwich it terminates: this canal proved so unproductive a concern, that the shares were sold at one time, for one *per cent.* of their original value; since the junction of this canal with the Ellesmere canal at Chester, and the subsequent junction with the Whitchurch branch of the same canal at Hurleston<sup>?</sup>, the shares, which were originally 100*l.* each, have sold at 30*l.* and are rising in value. The intended branch of the Chester canal, from Wardle-heath to Middlewich, has not been yet executed.

The Peak-forest canal, the first act for which passed in 1794, enters Cheshire from Lancashire, crossing the river Tame at Dukensfield, and passing through the townships of Hyde, Wernith, Bredbury, Romiley, Marple, and Disley, quits the county near Whaley-Bridge. This canal is carried over the river Mersey near Marple, by an aqueduct of three arches of sixty feet span, and seventy-eight feet height, the whole being 100 feet in height.

#### *Roads.*

ONE of the great roads from London to Holy-head enters Cheshire in the township of Bridgemere, one hundred and sixty-two miles from London, passes through Bridgemere, near Doddington-Hall, between Walgherton and Wybunbury; through Stapeley to Nantwich; thence through Acton, Hurleston, Stoke, Bar-bridge, Wardle, between Alphraham and Tilston-Fernall to Tarporley; thence through Cotton, Duddon, and Tarvin, by Stanford Bridge to Chester; three miles and a half beyond which it enters Flintshire, at Bretton, passing through this county for about thirty miles. All the roads from London to Manchester pass through a portion of this county: one of these enters Cheshire near Church-Lawton, about one hundred and fifty-six miles from London, passes through Odd-Rode, Smallwood, Brereton, Holmes-Chapel, Cranage, Allostock, near Over-Peover to Knutsford; thence through Mere, up Bucklow-hill, near Rostherne, between Dunham-Massey, and Bowden to Altrincham, thence to Cross-street in Ashton, a little beyond which it quits the county. The road from London to Manchester, by way of Leek, enters Cheshire not far from Bosley-mills, passes through Bosley, and a little to the left of Sutton to Macclesfield; thence between Prestbury and Bollington, near Butley and Adlington; through Poynton, Norbury and Bullock's-Smithy (in Torkington), to Stockport. The road from London to Manchester, through Buxton and Matlock, enters this county at Whaley-bridge in Taxall, and passes by Hoo-Lane, and Bullock's-Smithy, to Stockport.

<sup>?</sup> See p. 423.

The road from London to Liverpool enters Cheshire at Lawton, passes through Moreton, and Astbury, to Congleton; thence through Marton and Siddington, to Monks-heath; through Chelford and Ollerton, to Knutsford; thence through Mere, High-Legh, near Groppenhall, and through Latchford, to Warrington: from Monks-heath another turnpike road branches off through Alderley, Chorley, Wilmslow, Handforth, and Cheadle, towards Manchester.

From Stockport there is a turnpike road through Hyde, Hattersley, Mottram, and Tintwistle, by Woodhead-Chapel, leading on the right towards Barnsley, and on the left towards Huddersfield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. From Macclesfield there is a turnpike-road by Walkers-Barn, the new Inn, Stoney-gateway, and the Mofs-house, to Buxton; and another road through Hurdesfield, Rainow, and Kettlehulne, and near Taxall, leading towards Buxton and Chapel-in-Frith, from Macclesfield, toward Liverpool; this road passes through Birtles, and joins the London and Liverpool road at Monks-heath.

A road from London to Warrington<sup>1</sup> enters Cheshire near Lawton, passes through that village by Dean-hill to Sandbach; through Middlewich, Bostock, Davenham, Northwich, Great-Budworth, and Stretton, to Latchford, opposite Warrington.

The road from Chester to Manchester, by way of Warrington, passes through Flookersbrook, Hoole, and Mickle-Trafford, near Plemstall, through Bridge-Trafford, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Hapsford, near Helsby, through Netherton to Frodham; thence through Sutton, Preston-on-the-Hill, Daresbury, and the two Waltons, to Warrington. The road from Chester to Manchester, by way of Northwich, passes through Tarvin and Kelfall, across Delamere forest, by Sandyway-head, and Hartford, to Northwich; thence through Mere, up Bucklow-hill, having Rostherne and Bowden on the right, and Dunham-park, on the left, it passes to Altrincham, three miles beyond which, a little beyond Cross-street, it reaches the Mersey. A turnpike road to Knutsford branches off from this road in the township of Over-Tabley, five miles beyond Northwich, and within two miles of Knutsford.

There is a turnpike road<sup>2</sup> from Northwich through Leftwich, Davenham, Bostock, Stanthorne, and Newton, to Middlewich. The turnpike road from Chester to Middlewich, branches off at the nine-mile-stone on the forest of Delamere, which it crosses, to Over; and proceeds over Winsford-bridge, through

<sup>1</sup> Another road from London to Warrington, being comprised within the road from London to Liverpool, is described above.

<sup>2</sup> The ancient road from Northwich to Middlewich, which is not now a turnpike road, took the course of the Roman road, which is described in P. 432. 435.

Newton to Middlewich. From Tarporley is a turnpike road, which goes over Delamere forest, through Weverham, over Acton-bridge across the Weever, through Bartington, Higher and Lower-Whitley, to Stretton, where it joins the road from Northwich to Warrington.

The turnpike road from Whitchurch to Nantwich passes through Newhall, Aston, and Soond; a turnpike road from Drayton to Nantwich passes through Audlem, Hankelow, and Stapeley. The road from Whitchurch to Chester enters Cheshire at Grindley-brook, passes through Tushingham, Hampton, Duckington, Broxton, and Chowley, by Barns-hill, through Handley, and near Waverton and Christleton: a turnpike road branching off from this road, near Barn-hill, passes through Clutton, Barton, and Farndon, towards Wrexham.

There is no turnpike road to the town of Malpas, the road from Whitchurch to Chester, passes through the parish about eight miles, from Grindley-brook to Chowley. The road from Chester to Wrexham passes through Belgrave and Pulford, and quits the county a little beyond the five-mile-stone.

The road from Chester to Liverpool, passes by Upton, through Backford, Great and Little-Sutton, Childer-Thornton, Eastham, Bromborough, Bebington, and Tranmore, to the Wood-side, or Birkenhead-ferry, opposite to Liverpool, with intermediate roads to the several ferries of Eastham or Carlett, Royal-Rock, Tranmore, and New-ferry. The road from Chester to Parkgate, whence packets sail for Ireland, passes through Little-Mollington, the township of Shotwick, and the town of Great-Neston; this road is continued across the hundred of Wirral, through Thornton-Mayo, to Great-Bebington, where it joins the road from Chester to Liverpool. By this route the Irish and Chester mails are conveyed, from Tranmore-ferry across the Mersey to Liverpool.

#### *Manufactures.*

THE Manufactures of those important articles of food, cheese, and salt, have been already treated of, under the head of Produce; in addition to what has been there said it may be mentioned, that salt is manufactured at Frodsham, where there are no brine-pits, from rock-salt, brought by the canal from Northwich, mixed with the water of the Mersey. The cotton manufacture is carried on to a considerable extent in several parts of the county, particularly at Stockport and in its vicinity, at Wilmslow; Macclesfield, and Congleton. Mr. Bott's cotton-works at Nantwich, are very extensive, and employ several hundred hands. A considerable quantity of muslin is made at Macclesfield, and in Stockport and its neighbourhood; and some calicoe at Macclesfield, where the fustian manu-

manufacture has been dropped : there are silk mills at Macclesfield, Congleton, and Stockport. The manufacture of twist-buttons, which was formerly very extensive, at Macclesfield and in its neighbourhood, has much declined, but is still continued in a small degree ; the weaving of ribbands is carried on pretty extensively at Congleton, and that of silk handkerchiefs at Macclesfield ; where silk-ferret also is made : at Knutsford is a considerable manufacture of thread, which has been established many years. The manufacture of hats, for exportation, at Stockport ; of shoes at Sandbach, and Nantwich, and of gloves at Chester, and Nantwich, is extensive. At Altrincham is a manufacture for turning bobbins, worked by steam. At Thelwall is a large manufacture of gun-powder : at Chester some considerable works for making shot, and the manufacture of white and red lead : at Eaton in the parish of Astbury, are mills for making brads-wire, and rolling copper-sheets and bolts : some woollen-cloths are made at the north-east extremity of the county, in the parish of Mottram. Tanning is carried to a great extent throughout the whole county of Chester, more particularly in the middle, and northern parts. The calamine and brads-works at Macclesfield, and the brads-battery-works at Bosley, have been discontinued many years. The manufacture of tobacco-pipes at Chester, formerly very extensive, is now inconsiderable.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

*Roman Antiquities.*—Few Roman Antiquities have been discovered in this county, except within the walls of the city of Chester, which was for more than 200 years the station of the twentieth legion. Ralph Higden, the monk of Chester, who wrote in the fourteenth century, speaks of subterraneous passages, “*lapides opere mirabiliter testudinata, triclinia concamerata,*” and of Roman coins as found here in his time.

No part of the original Roman wall of Chester now exists, though the present wall, no doubt, stands on the same foundation. The Roman pavement is often discovered, at the depth of four feet below the modern, in the principal streets, which, in all probability, ran in the same direction as those of the Roman city. The old East-gate, which was taken down in the year 1766, was evidently a Roman work ; it consisted of two circular arches, formed of very large stones, the pier between them, being in the middle of the street, which is in the line of the Watling-street. There still remains a circular arch in the lower part of the wall,

\* Figured in Stukeley's Itin. Vol. ii. plate 65. and in Pennant's Wales, Vol. i. p. 114.

at a small distance to the westward of the bridge; it is called the Ship-gate, or Hole-in-the-Wall, and seems to be of Roman workmanship.

On a piece of sandstone rock, in a close on the south side of the river, nearly opposite to the castle, and facing the remains of a Roman road, leading towards Bangor, is a figure of Minerva, with an altar by her side, very rudely sculptured in bas relief; it has of late years been daubed over with paint<sup>1</sup>.

Considerable remains of Roman buildings have been, at different times, discovered within the walls of Chester; some of these, which were noticed a century ago, are still in existence, consisting of an hypocaust, fifteen feet long, and eight wide, with an adjoining chamber or *præfurnium*, of the same dimensions; they are situated at the back of a smith's shop, under the Feathers' Inn in Bridge-street. This hypocaust is supported by twenty-eight pillars of stone, two feet eight inches high<sup>2</sup>, and one foot square at the top and bottom. Over these pillars are placed bricks, eighteen inches square, and three inches thick: which support others, two feet square; perforated with small holes, about six inches asunder; immediately over this uppermost layer of bricks is a terrace floor, composed of several layers of lime, pounded bricks, &c. in different proportions and degrees of fineness. Another hypocaust, and the remains of several adjoining rooms of a Roman house, were discovered in the year 1779, in digging the foundation of houses near the Water-gate; but no part of them was preserved. Part of a mosaic pavement, about five feet square, was discovered in the year 1803, about six feet below the surface of the earth, on digging a cellar in the Nuns' gardens, near the castle<sup>3</sup>.

Several Roman inscribed altars have been found within the city of Chester: the first discovery of this kind we find recorded, is an altar, dedicated to Jupiter, with the British addition of *Tanarus*<sup>4</sup>, or the Thunderer. This altar, which is formed of the crumbling sand-stone of the place, was found on digging a cellar in the Foregate-street, in the year 1653; and is now preserved among the Arundelian marbles at Oxford. The surface is so much decomposed, that very few letters of the inscription are now to be traced; indeed it appears to have been in an imperfect state in Horsley's time<sup>5</sup>. On the authority of Dr.

<sup>1</sup> It has been figured in Horsley's *Britannia Romana*, Pennant's *Wales*, and Gough's *Camden*, but in none of them correctly. See the plan and section, p. 431. <sup>2</sup> Horsley's *Brit. Rom.* p. 318.

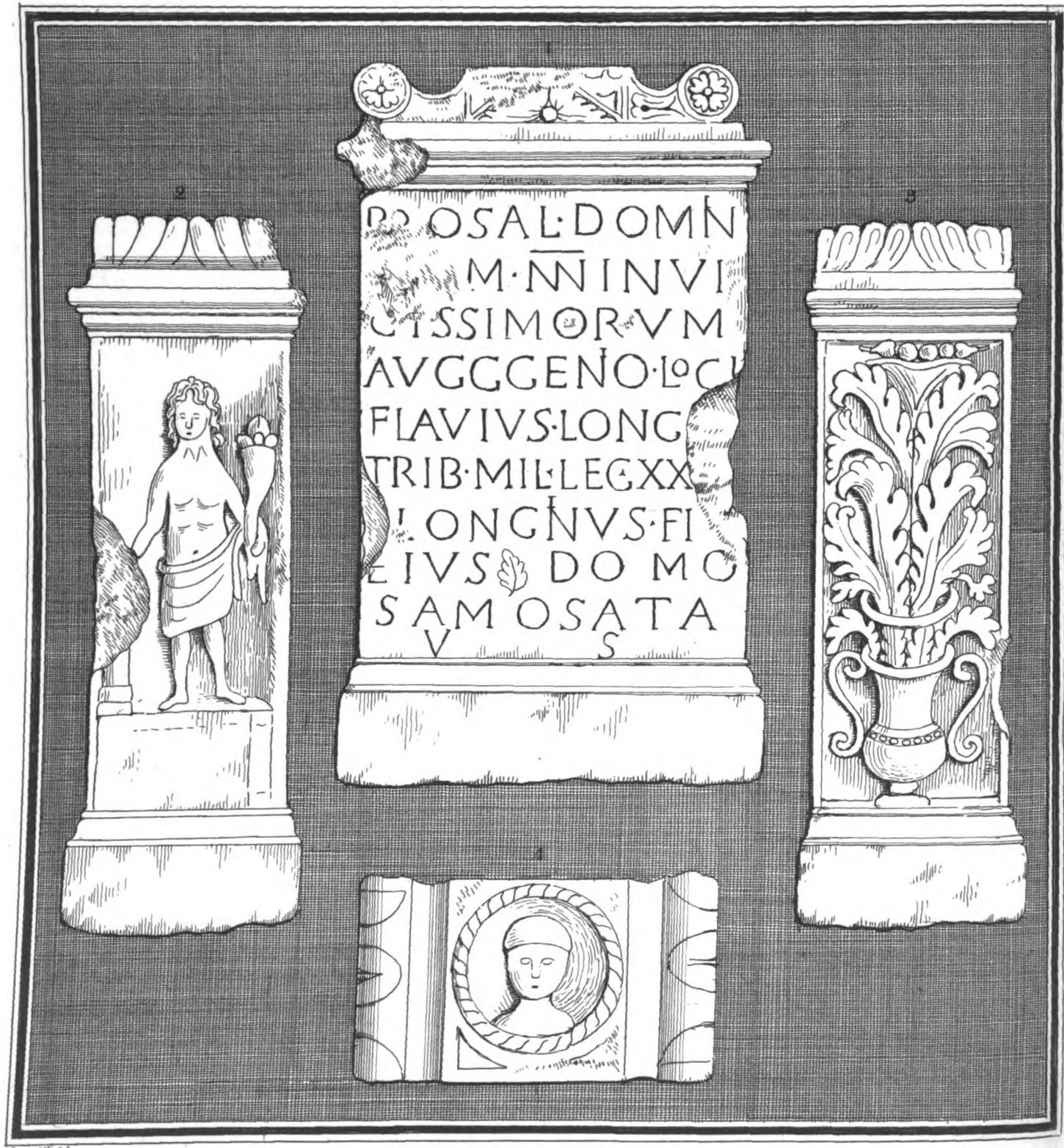
<sup>3</sup> From a drawing which we have seen of a small portion of this pavement, it appears to have been of a coarse kind, and the ornaments by no means elegant.

<sup>4</sup> It is probable that this was a blunder of the stone-cutter, and that it should have been *Taranus*; *Taran*, in the British is Thunder, and *Taranus* thundering. See Owen's *Welsh Dictionary*, in verbo.

<sup>5</sup> See his *British Rom.* p. 315.

Prideaux,





POSAL: DOMN  
 M·NINVI  
 C·SSIMOR·VM  
 AVGGENO·LOCI  
 FLAVIVS·LONG  
 TRIB·MILEGXX  
 LONGIVS·FI  
 EIVS·DO·MO  
 SAMOSATA  
 V S

ROMAN ALTAR FOUND AT CHESTER. A.D. MDCXCIII.



Prideaux, and of Randal Holme<sup>2</sup>, who was a native of Chester, and took a copy soon after the altar was discovered; it appears to have run thus:

“ I. O. M. TANARO. T. ELVPIVS. GALER. PRAESENS. GVNTA<sup>3</sup>. PRI.  
LEG. XX. VV. COMMODO. ET. LATERANO. COS<sup>4</sup>. V. S. L. M.”

On one side of this altar is the figure of a *præfericulum*, or pitcher, in bas-relief; and on the other a sort of *patera*; the back is plain, the upper part of the front is elegantly ornamented<sup>5</sup>.

In the year 1693 another altar was discovered, in digging a cellar in the East-gate-street, at the depth of about two feet, with a stone about two feet square, and one thick, which appeared to have been its pedestal; near it were found the heads, horns, and bones of oxen, and other animals<sup>6</sup>. This altar was, for many years, in the possession of Joseph Dyson Esq., alderman of Chester; it now belongs to the Rev. Charles Prescot, great nephew of Mr. Prescot, who possessed it in Horsley's time: the inscription, which is very legible, runs thus:

“ PRO. SAL. DOMINORVM. NN̄. INVICTISSIMORVM. AVGG. GENIO.  
LOCI. FLAVIVS. LONG. TRIB. MIL. LEG. XX. .... LONGINVS.  
FIL. EIVS. DOMO. SAMOSATA. V. S.”

This altar is ornamented with rude sculptures in bas-relief on the top, back, and sides: that on the back, represents a piece of drapery, with several sorts of fruits over it; on one of the sides is the figure of a *Genius*, as usually represented, with an altar and *Cornucopia*; and on the other a vase, filled with acanthus-leaves, supporting a plate of fruit: within the *thuribulum* on the top, is a man's head, with a close cap, in a circular compartment<sup>7</sup>.

A third altar, dedicated to *Fortuna redux*, *Esculapius* & *Salus*, was discovered near the Water-gate, in the year 1779, at the same time with the remains of an hypocaust, &c. before noticed: this is now in the possession of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton<sup>8</sup>. The lower part of the inscription was

<sup>2</sup> See his Acad. of Armoury, book iii. p. 464.

<sup>3</sup> *Guntia* is supposed to denote the place from whence the person dedicating the altar came, there having been a town of that name in Vindelicia. See Horsley's Brit. Rom, p. 315.

<sup>4</sup> A. D. 154.

<sup>5</sup> The figure in the last edit. of the Marmora Oxoniensia is pretty correct, those in Gale's Antoninus, and in Horsley, are by no means satisfactory.

<sup>6</sup> As described by Mr. Hen.

Prescot. See Leigh's Nat. Hist. of Lancashire, and Cheshire, book iii. p. 21.

<sup>7</sup> See the annexed plate.

<sup>8</sup> See the plate, p. 430.

a good

a good deal injured, at the time of its discovery; the following is so much of it as is still legible.

“ FORTVNAE. REDVCI. ESCVLAP. ET. SALVTI. EIVS. LIBERT. ET.  
FAMILIÄ..... PONT. T. F. CAL. MAMIL....RVFI....TISTIANI.  
FVNSVI. . N. VETTON...NI. LEG. AVG. D.D.”

The sides of this altar are ornamented with the symbols of Fortune, and Esculapius; and with instruments of sacrifice, sculptured in bas-relief; it stands on a plinth two feet square, similar to that discovered with the last-mentioned altar. Many bricks, tiles, &c. have been found in Chester, with these letters, LEG. XX. V. V. stamped on them; alluding to the twentieth legion, stationed there, which was entitled *Valens* and *Victrix*.

In Horsley's *Britannia Romana*<sup>b</sup>, is the figure of a stone, found in the year 1729, in digging a cellar for Mr. Dyson, in Water-gate-street, with an inscription, of which the following fragment only remained,

“ NVMINI. AVG..... ALMAECEIT..... MVSACTOR..... EXVOTO. FACI.”

this he considers as too imperfect to afford any satisfactory conjecture. Camden mentions twenty pigs of lead, found upon the shore near Runcorn, whilst he was correcting Dr. Holland's Translation of his *Britannia*<sup>1</sup>, with this Inscription :

“ IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER. DE. CEANG.”

on the one side; and on the other,

“ IMP. VESP. VII. T. IMP. V. COSS.”

Horsley observes<sup>c</sup>, that “ Camden gives us this account only from hearsay, and he therefore considers these inscriptions, as being of doubtful authority: which is rendered more so, by giving at the same time the title of *imperator* to Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian.” It is not known whence came the Inscription, DEAE. NVMPHAE. BRIG., which was first noticed by Selden, and afterwards given by Gale, in his Commentary on the Itinerary of Antoninus, among the Chester Inscriptions.

Horsley describes a small statue of stone, found near the river of Chester<sup>1</sup>, (in the possession of Mr. Precot): “ it had a Phrygian bonnet, and held a torch,

<sup>a</sup> The names of *Pontius*, *Mamilianus*, *Antiflianus* & *Vettonanus*, which appear to be the family names in this inscription, are all of them to be found in Gruter's “ *Corpus Inscriptionum*.”

<sup>b</sup> P. 192. N. 67. fig. VI.

p. 611.

N. 67. fig. 5.

<sup>c</sup> Brit. Rom. p. 316.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. it is figured at p. 192.



FORTVNA E·R·EDVCI  
 ESCVLAP·ET·SALVT·EIVS  
 LIBERT·ET·FAMILIA·  
 T·PONT·F·CALMAML·  
 RVFI·IT·STANI·FVNSVI·N·  
 VEI TO NI·IEGAVG·

D · D

ROMAN ALTAR FOUND AT CHESTER

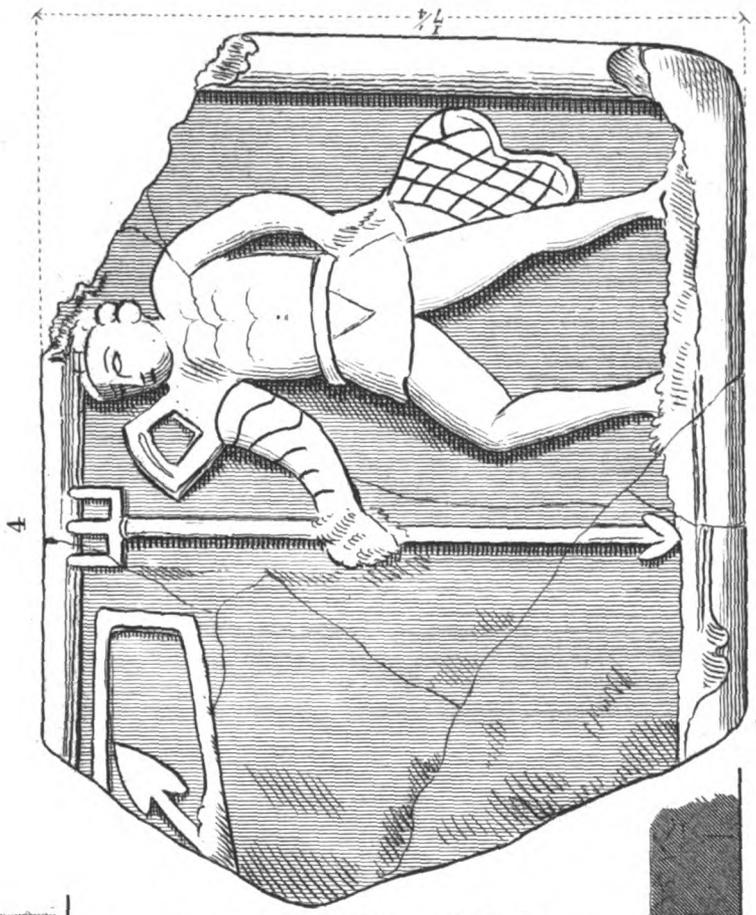
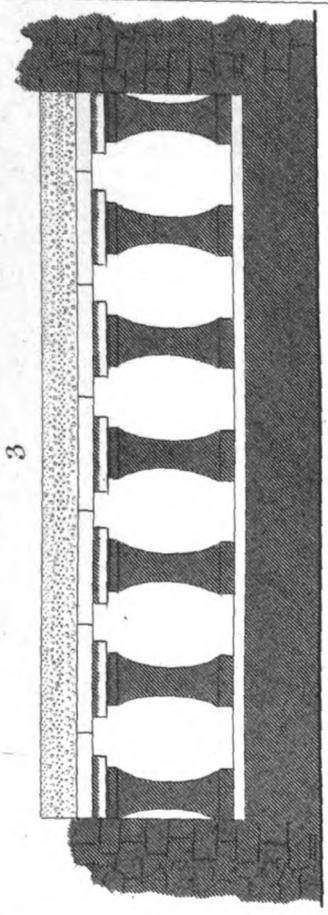
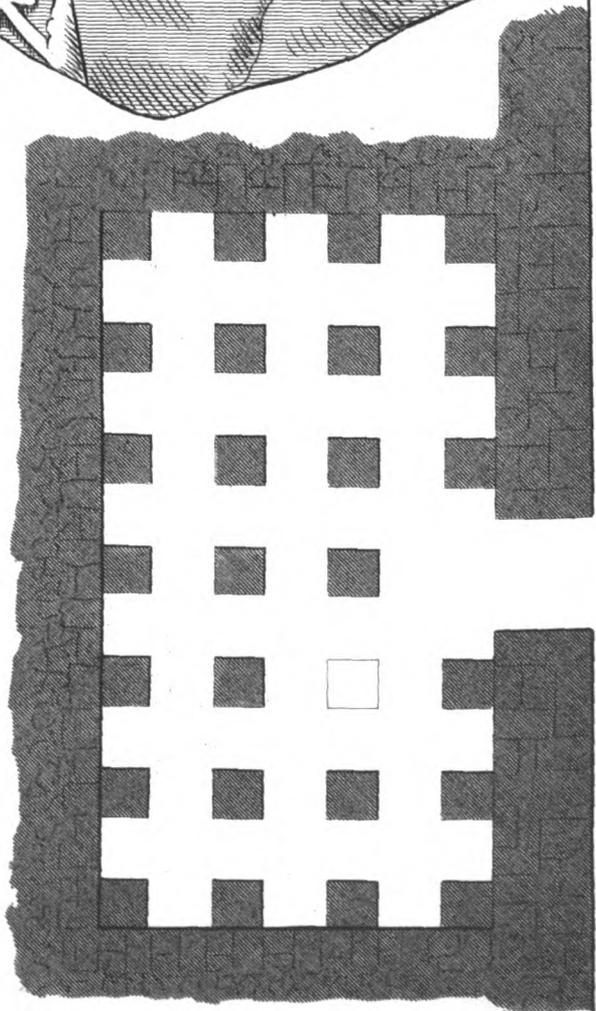
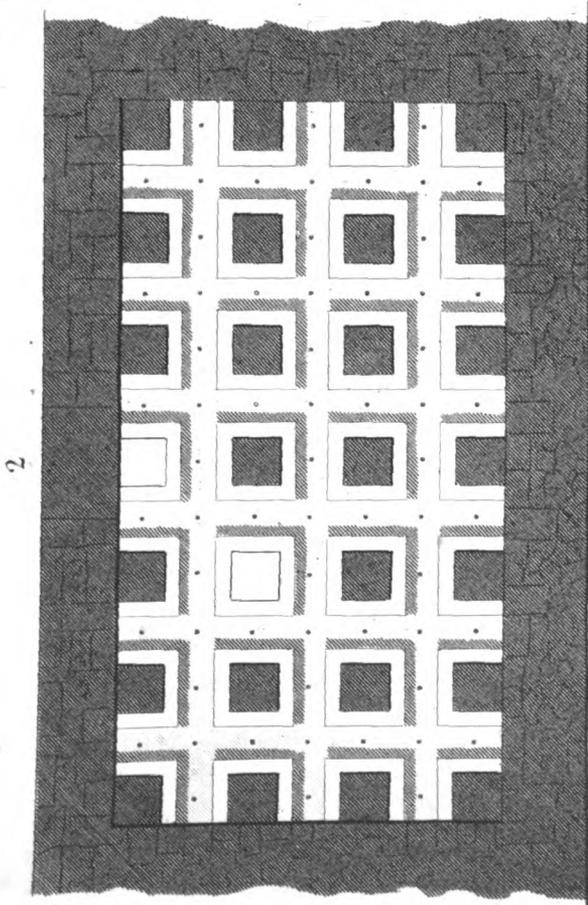
2. Incher

in the possession of John Ferguson Esq. of Oulton.









1 Plan of a Roman Hypocaust, in Bridge Street at Chester.— 2 Plan of the Roof of d.— 3 Section of d.— 4 Fragment of a sculptured Slate found at Chester in 1738.

J. Warner sculp.

Published by T. Cadell & W. Agar, Strand, near St. Dunstons Church.



as was supposed, at each end :” it was conjectured to have been designed for either Atys, or Mithras. On pulling down the old East-gate, a piece of rude sculpture, about two feet in height, representing a Roman soldier was discovered ; which was preserved for several years in the garden of Mr. Lawton <sup>m</sup>; but it is not there now, nor could we learn whether it be at present in existence. In the year 1738, in digging the foundation of a house in the market-place, the fragment of a stone tile was discovered, with the figure of a *Retiarius*, and part of the shield and spear of the *Secutor* <sup>n</sup> in bas-relief, it is now in the possession of Henry Potts Esq. Great abundance of the red Samian ware <sup>o</sup>, and other kinds of pottery, and many coins, and other Roman relicks, have been frequently found in digging foundations within the walls of Chester.

*British and Roman Roads ; and Roman Stations* <sup>p</sup>.—“The Romans having placed one of their principal towns in Cheshire, and from its convenience, as a military post, fixed there the head-quarters of one of the three legions which formed the standing army of Britain, we must expect of course to find many roads within the limits of the county ; and this is remarkably the case, with respect to detached parts of roads ; the nature of the soil having operated strongly against their preservation in an intire state. There is also one road, which from its name, and the nature of its course, was, probably, more ancient than the Roman times, and has a claim to be considered as British.”

This British road, which was called the *Walling-street*, and is met with under that name in the northern counties, and even in Scotland, seems to have formed the great communication between the north-east parts of Britain and the Welsh coast opposite Dublin ; as the southern-street, of the same name, did between the south-east shore and the same point ; the use of both being probably the same, to convey slaves, hides, and possibly the precious metals, with which Ireland then abounded, to different parts of the island ; and especially to such ports as might be frequented by the continental merchants. Nor let us be startled at

<sup>m</sup> Penant’s Wales, Vol. i. p. 115. <sup>n</sup> See the annexed figure ; an engraving of it was published by the Society of Antiquaries soon after it was discovered, being the 65th plate of the first Vol. of the *Monumenta Vetusta*, which is by no means accurate.

<sup>o</sup> On different fragments found at the castle, in the year 1789, in the possession of the Rev. Thomas Crane, are stamped the following inscriptions.

“ □ IVNV.—SEV.... — BELINOIM. — ALBINVS. — BITVRIXF. — ATILLVS. —  
VARIVSF. — I+ OFFIC. — CRESIM. — PVONIM. — ECVS IM.”

<sup>p</sup> Communicated by the Lord Bishop of Cloyne.

this idea of British roads, and British commerce; the commerce of that people must have been of some consequence, which could have furnished a naval force to the assistance of their allies, the *Veneti*, when attacked by Cæsar: and be our idea of their barbarous state what it may, they could not be more uncivilized than the savages of New Zealand are at present; who, it appears from authority not to be disputed, (though like the British tribes engaged perpetually in the most ferocious wars with each other,) have cut a large road through the whole length of their country, from north to south, for the convenience of their scanty commerce\*. This road then, which I suppose to have been made by the earliest inhabitants of Britain, enters Cheshire from the north by the ford over the Mersey, at Stretford; as the part of it here described was in the line between the Roman towns of *Mancunium* and *Condate*; it was adopted in later times, by these people, as their own; and marks of the elevated crest, peculiar to their military ways, still appear in it; but a little south-west of Bucklow-hill, the roads seem to have divided, the Roman road, as traced by Mr. Whitaker, continued with its crest once evident, though now much defaced, towards Kinderton, under the appellation of Kind-street; while the British way pursued its old direction, through Northwich, over Delamere forest to Chester, and the coast of Caernarvonshire: indeed it is by no means improbable, that the Romans might have used this road over the forest also; but no traces of its ever having been raised, are visible in any part of it.

The Roman road from Manchester to Kinderton has been so carefully followed by the intelligent antiquary above-mentioned, that nothing can be added to his account of it. The road having crossed the ford of the Mersey, continues along the lane to the village of Cross-street, proceeds through it to Broad-heath, where (the present road bending to the left towards Altrincham) the Roman way keeps the middle of the heath, and enters the new inclosures beyond it; here it was discovered on cutting the canal which crosses its line; it then is seen in the inclosures about Oldfield-Hall, and in a lately inclosed field beyond, it is still raised several yards, and in crossing the adjoining moor, is known by the name of Upcast. It now ascends the hills, enters Dunham-park, having communicated the name of Street-head to the height, and crossing the Bollin, falls again into the modern road at New-bridge: this is demonstrated, by the whole road from New-bridge, through Bucklow-hill, to Mere-town, being still peculiarly called *the Street*: about two miles beyond Bucklow-hill it is called Holford (probably Old ford) street,

\* See the Map of New Zealand in Collins's Account of the English Colony at New South Wales.  
 † History of Manchester, Vol. i. p. 96. (2d edition) do. p. 146.

and in half a mile more (the great road bearing for Northwich, the Roman road to the left); in that line, at a mile's distance, appears a broad lane, running strait for four or five miles, and known by the name of Kind-street; it leaves Rudheath on the left, and Newton on the right; passes through Ravenscroft, to the right of the bridge, and enters the field called the Harbour-field, in the parish of Kinderton, a parallelogram of ten acres situated between the Croco and Dane, with a strong fosse remaining on the other and less defensible sides. Here is supposed to have been the station of *Condate*.

It is certainly a strong confirmation of this hypothesis, that many ancient roads are still visible, pointing to or from Kinderton: one proceeding by Park-hall (which stands upon it), enters the adjoining closes, where the ridge is quite plain, and about five miles from Kinderton, falls into the road to Nantwich, and continues with it for near a mile, then enters the fields again, and crosses a small river three-quarters of a mile from Marthfield bridge; about two miles farther it passes over Stanford bridge, bearing strait across Bromhallg-reen, through Shropshire to the station of Wroxeter.

A second road leads from Kinderton towards Sandbach, which it leaves half a mile to the east, and passing by Betley, enters Staffordshire, where it can be traced to a considerable distance, being the great Roman way from Manchester and the north of England, to Worcester and the stations on the Severn. A third road by way of Street-forgo and Red-street, connected Kinderton with the station of Chesterton, near Newcastle under Line; it corresponded, as I conceive, with the tenth iter of Antonine, and Chesterton is the *Mediolanum* of that iter; of which circumstance I shall treat more at large when I come to examine the Roman towns in Staffordshire.

A fourth Roman way is conjectured to have gone by Holme-street hall, over the forest from Kinderton to Chester, falling in probably, in the latter part of its course, with the old Watling-street in its way from Northwich, and proceeding with it by Stanford bridge to the east gate of the Roman station; it is also extremely probable (as Mr. Whitaker had conjectured) that a fifth road led from Kinderton to Warrington, and that the Kind-street, which we before mentioned, having thrown off the Manchester road a little to the east of Northwich, continued its strait line through the village of Stretton, and to the Ford over the Mersey at Warrington; thus opening a communication between Cheshire and the whole western coast of Lancashire. Warrington itself is supposed by the same antiquary to be the *Veratinum* of Ravennas, which that geographer seems to place somewhere in the neighbourhood of Chester.

This county is traversed by other roads of considerable importance, several of which bear, as may be expected, for Chester itself. One of these is the road from Colchester, discovered by Dr. Macon; the course of which through Cambridgeshire, in its way to Leicester, we have already traced with great certainty. From Leicester it proceeded through Staffordshire, to the station of Chesterton, near Newcastle; and at the second bottom to the north of Chesterton, bears for Nantwich, under the name of the Watling-street, for a reason we before explained; the turnpike road, since the time of Dr. Macon has nearly obliterated it, except about Bunbury, where the modern road declines to the right, while the Roman way keeps straight under the north-east side of Beeston-hill, on which, being so commanding a situation, there was probably a post for the protection of travellers, and from whence the line of the old road is plainly to be distinguished for about two miles and a half, when the turnpike road again joins it, and proceeds with it to Chester.

From the South gate of the station at Chester, a great road runs straight to Eccleston, visible in the field on the left of the present turnpike road; it goes through Eaton-Park, and crosses the Dee at Oldford, proceeds to Caldecot, near Stretton, by Shocklach church, which stands on it; Broughton-church, and Sarnbridge to Banchor, from whence one branch of it continued to the *Mediolanum* of Antonine's second iter, which was probably on the banks of the Verniew, and the other bears through Shropshire for Wroxeter, being evidently the road travelled in the first iter of Richard.

From the West-gate of the certain Roman station of *Melandra* castle in Derbyshire, issues a road evidently pointing for Stockport, as appears by the gravel still often dug up in its course; but no one has yet had the curiosity to trace it through any part of North Cheshire.

Mr. Whitaker has proved that other roads, from different parts of Lancashire, must have passed the Mersey, and entered Cheshire at this same point of Stockport. One of these was the Roman road from Manchester to Buxton, which must have continued in or near the line of the present turnpike road; and a second, preserving its bearing from Cattleshaw in Yorkshire, through the south-east part of Lancashire, seems to pass through Stockport, in a line for Handford and Kinderton, an idea to which the village of Street lying exactly in this direction, and the name of the Pepper-street given to part of the road itself, seems to give some confirmation. I mention these, however, as deserving the attention of future travellers.

: See Archæol. Vol. iii.

The

The great road, mentioned by Camden, between Northwich and Middlewich, as "raised with gravel to such a height, as to be readily known for a Roman work," was undoubtedly the Kind-street, or Roman road from Manchester to Kinderton, which I have already mentioned; little of it now remains, except its ancient strait line and name; the gravel, and other materials, of which it was composed, became so great an object of plunder to the neighbouring farmers, that the ridge, high as it may have been in Camden's time, is now nearly defaced. At this work I have often found persons employed, in all the different counties of England, as the stones, the clay, or the gravel, of which the Roman road was composed, happened to be scarce in the particular district; and to this cause we must attribute the difficulty we now find in tracing roads, which in the times of our ancestors were raised (as Camden observes) to so great a height, as still appears on Bramham-moor, Lincoln-heath, and a few other places; and the uncertainty with which I have been often forced to speak of their course in this particular county, where so many pieces of them still exist, and names derived from them, seem remarkably to abound.

We have thus finished as much as is known of the roads in Cheshire. Of the Roman stations, one only is fixed, beyond a doubt; the site of the others is less certain. Chester is one of the towns, which, like London, York, Bath, and a few others, is universally allowed to be Roman; it was called by this people *Deva*, from the river which runs by its walls: and as early as the time of Agricola, or at least not long after; they fixed here the head-quarters of the twentieth legion, which, according to the military practice of the Romans, remained at Chester for upwards of two hundred years. It is not meant that the main body of the legion did not march into the field, whenever its services were required; but here they returned in winter, leaving detachments of their auxiliaries, to secure the proper posts in the conquered country; here their wives and children remained in security during the campaign; and here a numerous and warlike race of young men were continually growing up to fill their ranks, who, though natives of Britain, had no religion, interest, or manners but their's, and in fact no country but the camp of the legion itself. The different fortresses in Cheshire were garrisoned by the legionaries, the more distant dependencies, as I have said, by its auxiliary cohorts: the whole amounting to near 13,000 men, a force fully sufficient to keep all this part of the country in complete subjection: but the natives of Wales may reflect with some degree of pride, that the spirit of their gallant ancestors appeared so formidable to their conquerors, as to make them

† See the Inscription in Horsley's Cheshire, N<sup>o</sup> 3.

quarter one of the three legions which formed the British establishment, on their southern, and another on their northern borders, while the third was thought sufficient to repel all the efforts of the other Britons.

Chester, from this circumstance of having, for above two centuries, remained one of the most important military posts of the Romans in Britain, and, if we may rely on the testimony of Richard of Cirencester, been honoured with the title of a colony, may be supposed to have been filled with altars, tessellated pavements, and other remains of their magnificence; and such appears to have been the case by the antiquities above described, which have been found there. That Chester was the *Deva* of the Romans is therefore a matter beyond all controversy.

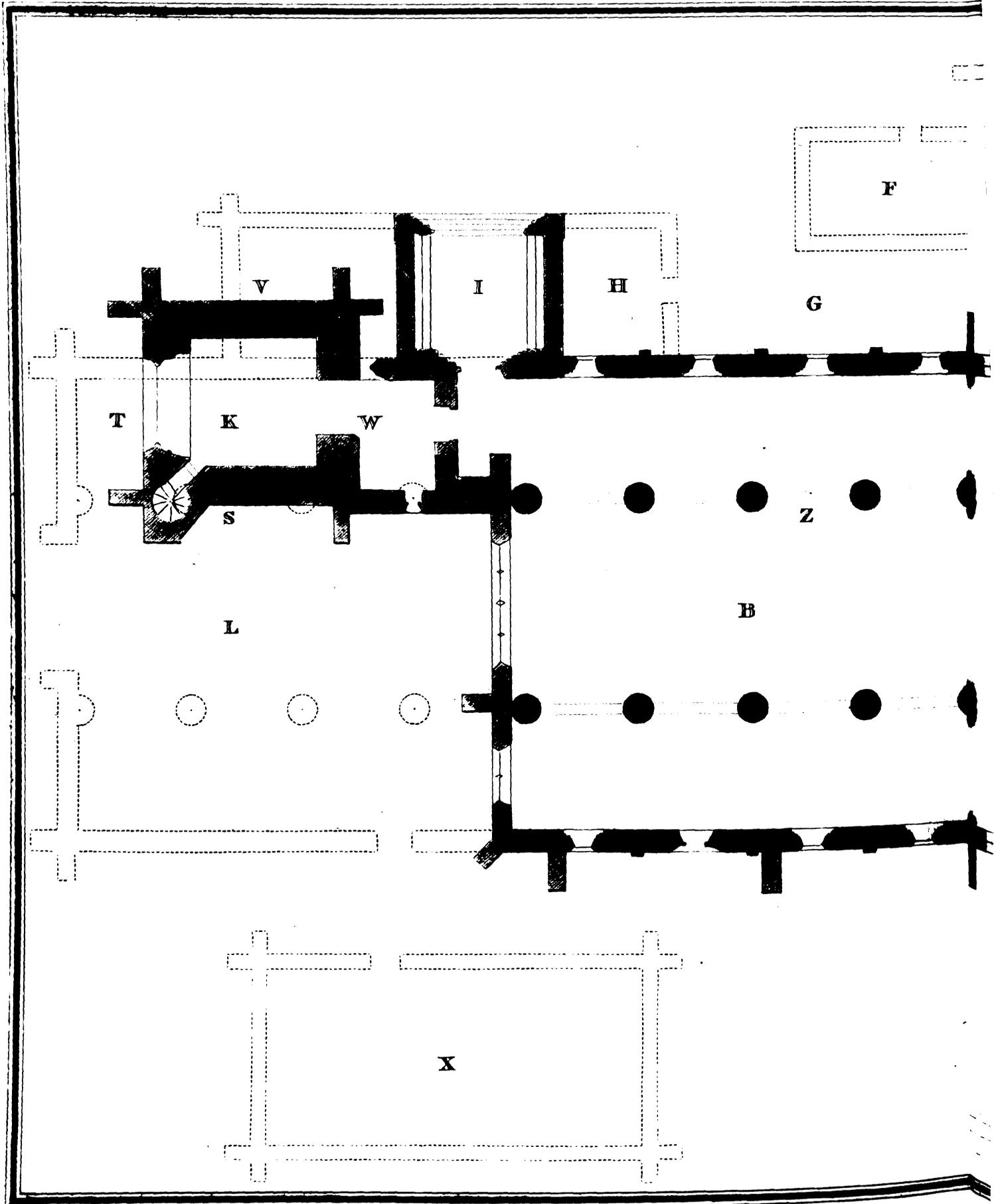
Of another Roman town, which appears from the Itineraries to have been within the limits of Cheshire, the situation has been the subject of considerable doubt. This is *Condate*, which Antonine makes eighteen miles from *Mancunium*, and Richard, in one place, twenty-three, and in another no less than thirty-six. Camden, led (as he was sometimes too much inclined) by the resemblance of the name, placed it, without any other reason, at Congleton; both Horsley and Stukeley supposed it to be at Northwich; and Mr. Whitaker, with more probability, at Kinderton near Middlewich: the three first named antiquaries have produced no reason for their conjectures; Stukeley confesses he "rests only on the distances," which as they do not agree with one another can prove but a feeble support; and Horsley allows "he knows nothing at Northwich, which has the appearance of being antique." A modern writer<sup>1</sup> prefers Middlewich itself, as the site of this station, but he has scarcely produced an argument in its favour, which will not equally suit the neighbouring position of Kinderton, except some reasoning from the appearance of the road in Cary's map, which seems to end at the former of these places, rather than the latter; but we should remember that the surveyor of a country, for the purpose of a modern map, not being directed to attend to Roman roads, and, perhaps, not understanding them, even if so directed, would, of necessity, carry on the line to the larger town, where the convenience of the present age has of course made a way, without regarding where the bank of gravel, the only mark of the Roman road, might deviate, or cease. The arguments of Mr. Whitaker, who traced the road from Manchester to Kinderton, where its name of Kind-street is lost, the very ingenious method by which he rectifies the contradictory numbers of the Itineraries<sup>2</sup>, and the fortification discovered by him, and Mr. Percival, in the Harbour or Harborough-

<sup>1</sup> See Reynolds's Comment on Antonine's Itin. p. 197.

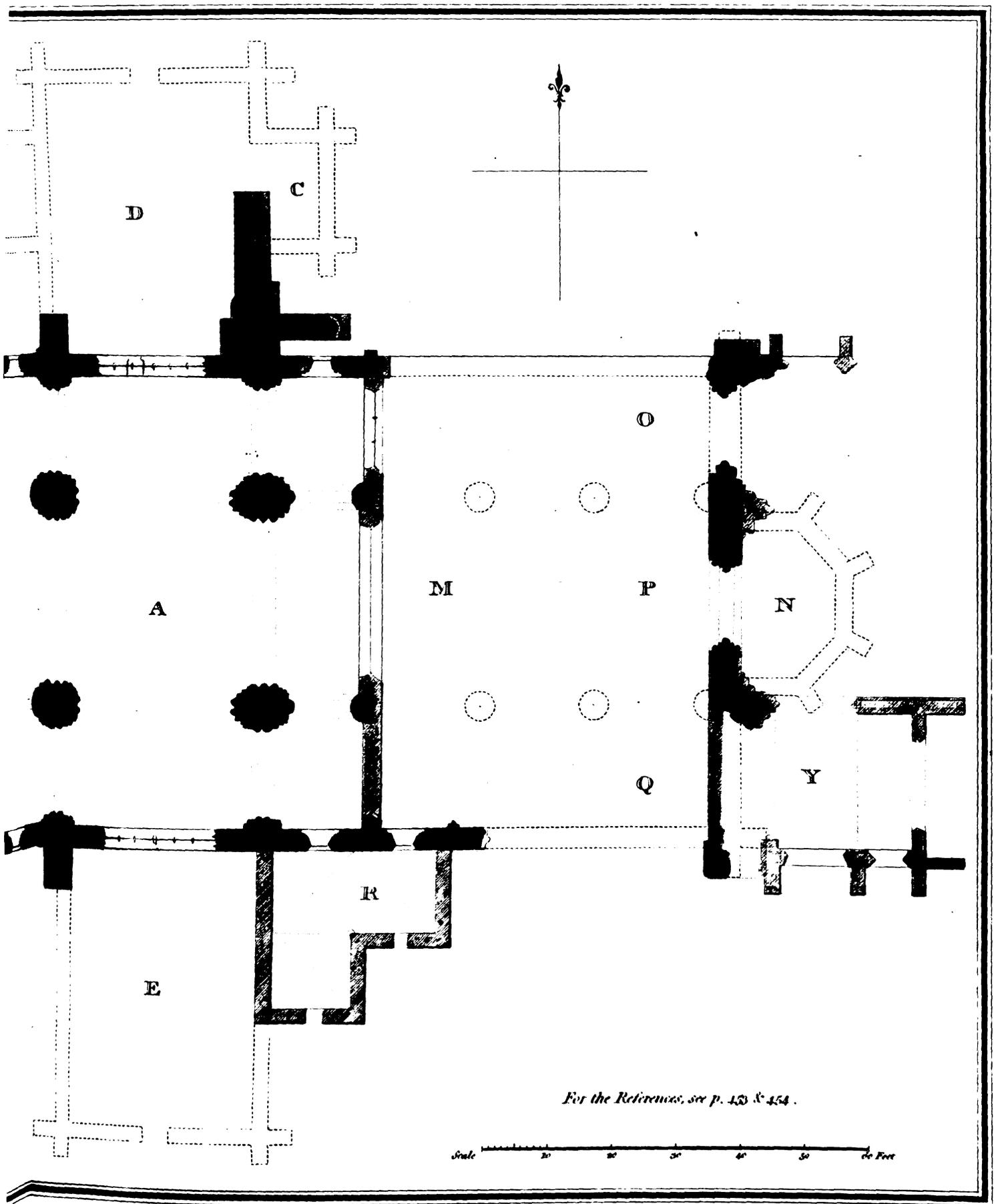
<sup>2</sup> P. 101.

field,





PLAN OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH



*For the References, see p. 453 & 454.*

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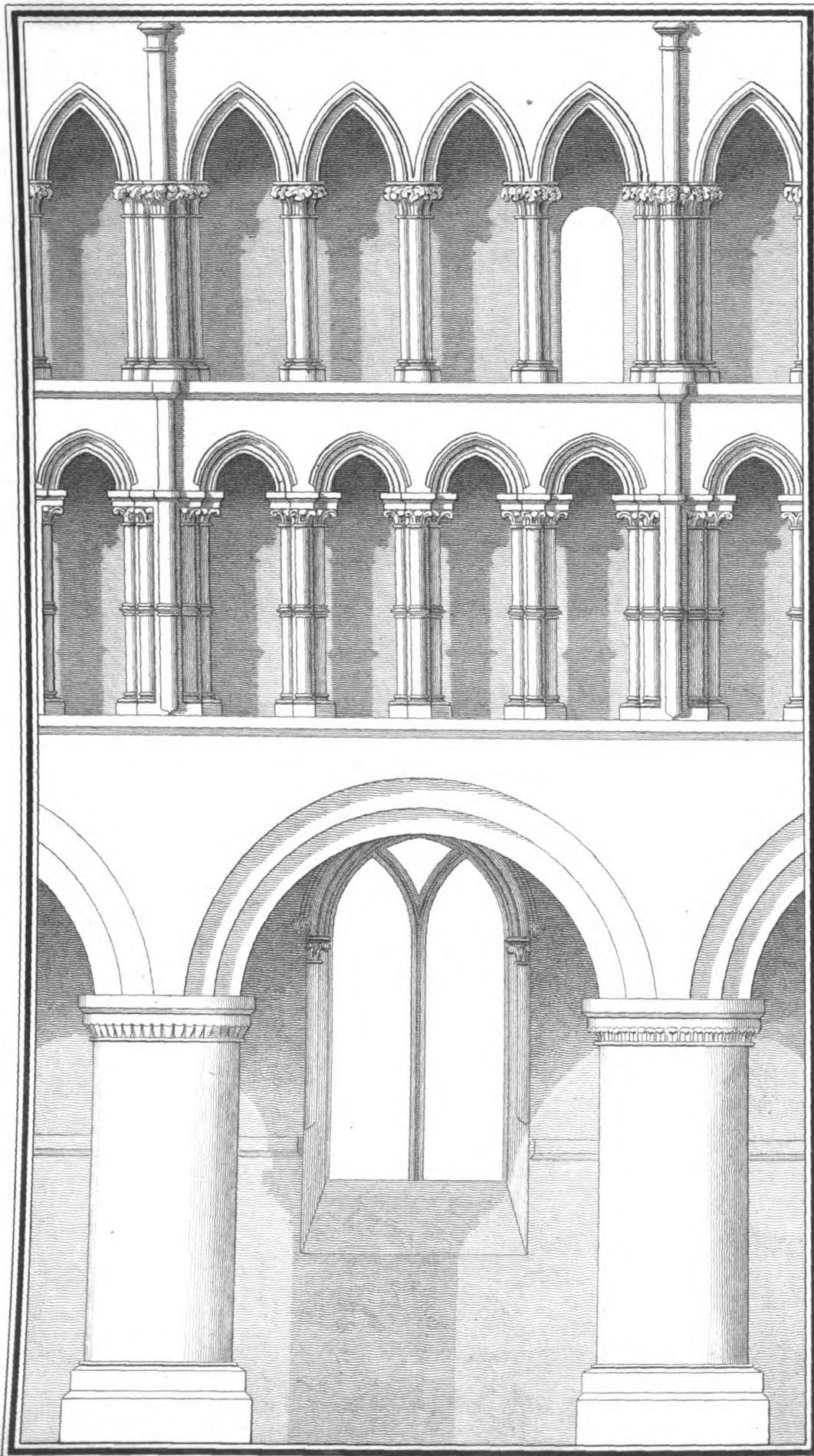
*J. Wilson sculp.*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHESTER.









C. M. H. 1851

15 20 30 40 Feet

PART OF THE NAVE OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHESTER

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Published by T. and A. W. Benson, 1851.

field, appear to me considerably stronger in favour of this hypothesis, than any thing that has been produced against it, at the same time the absence of all Roman remains<sup>7</sup> makes me cautious in pronouncing decidedly in favour of Condote being at Kinderton, though I see no other place which can produce pretensions in any degree to be compared with it.

In these contests of our zealous antiquaries, though I make no scruple of declaring whose conjecture appears to me to carry with it the greatest degree of probability, I do not hold myself justified in pronouncing a decided opinion, except I find myself supported by what are to me the convincing proofs of Roman Towns, viz. Roman remains being found on the spot, Roman roads meeting at it, and the distances (if the distances are mentioned in the Itineraries) agreeing with some degree of plausibility.

Mr. Whitaker has conjectured also, that Roman posts were fixed at Stockport, Stretford, and Warrington; and then he ventures to give the names of the two last, viz. *Ad-Fines*, and *Veratinum*; it is certain that the position of them all on a river of such importance as the Mersey, the Roman roads bearing to all, and the probability that places of this kind, so near the head quarters of the legion, would be protected by some of its detached cohorts, make in favour of the hypothesis; but it is a matter on which, agreeable to the position I have just made, I cannot speak with any sort of certainty, till the coins, or other distinguishing marks of this people, have been discovered on the spot."

*Ancient Church Architecture.*—The most considerable remains of Saxon Architecture in this county, and apparently the most ancient, are in St. John's church, without the walls of Chester, formerly collegiate. It has been asserted on the authority of Roger Hoveden, that this building was erected about the year 906, by Ethelred Duke of Mercia, and his wife Ethelfleda; but the passage in that historian does no more than raise a probable conjecture, that it might have been built about that time, when the city of Chester was restored by the command of those illustrious persons. Whenever it might have been originally built, this edifice appears to have been repaired by Leofric Earl of Mercia, who died in the year 1057. A portion of the nave, which is now used as the parish church, is, for the most part, of Saxon architecture, and in the style of the eleventh century; which renders it probable that it might have been a part of what was built in the time of Earl Leofric. In the annexed ground-plan of this building, these more ancient parts are expressed by a darker, the Gothic additions by a fainter shading;

<sup>7</sup> We were informed on the spot, that fragments of bricks and pottery have been lately found by the plough-men in the Harbour field.

and:

and those parts which are now entirely demolished, are restored in dotted lines, from a plan taken when they were in existence, and now preserved in the British Museum<sup>a</sup>.

The four massy piers, surrounded with half pillars, having Saxon capitals, and four plain semicircular arches (see the ground-plan, *a*)<sup>x</sup>, originally supported a large square tower, which fell down and destroyed a considerable part of the choir, probably about the year 1470, when the roof was repaired and covered with lead<sup>y</sup>. On either side of the nave is a range of massy pillars, each five feet six inches in diameter, with capitals<sup>z</sup> variously ornamented, and semicircular arches: four of these pillars remain on each side, where it appears, from the above-mentioned plan, that there were originally three others; over semicircular arches, are galleries, formed by two other tiers of arches, in the style of the early Gothic architecture. From some fragments, which appear on the outside of the east wall, which was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it appears that there was an upper tier of short pillars, and plain semicircular arches, over the semicircular arches of the choir. Part of the east end of the choir remains in ruins, where is to be seen a large semicircular arch, with several plain mouldings, and some capitals of pillars and half pillars, enriched with various ornaments<sup>z</sup>. It appears from the ancient ground-plan above-mentioned, that this arch opened into a recess, being five sides of an octagon, intended, no doubt, for the high altar.

In the north wall of the nave of Chester cathedral, several circular arches appear on the outside, where the south cloister formerly stood; and a cellar of the bishop's palace, adjoining the west end of the north aisle of the nave, about nineteen feet by seventeen, has a semicircular arch on the south side, the piers of which are ornamented with Saxon mouldings: these are probably as ancient as the time of Earl Leofric, by whom the church was repaired in the eleventh century. Adjoining the bishop's palace, and the west cloister, is a building ninety feet long, and thirty wide, with a row of short circular pillars running down the middle, from which spring diagonal vaultings of round arches. This seems to be coeval with the other parts of the building above noticed; and was the great cellar under the abbot's-hall, which remained entire until the year 1649<sup>b</sup>.

At a small distance, west of Prestbury church, stands an ancient Saxon chapel, now dilapidated<sup>c</sup>. At the west end is a door-way, ornamented with chevron, and other

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2073. f. 31.

<sup>x</sup> Annexed to the account of monastic remains.

<sup>y</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 74.

<sup>z</sup> See the annexed plate.

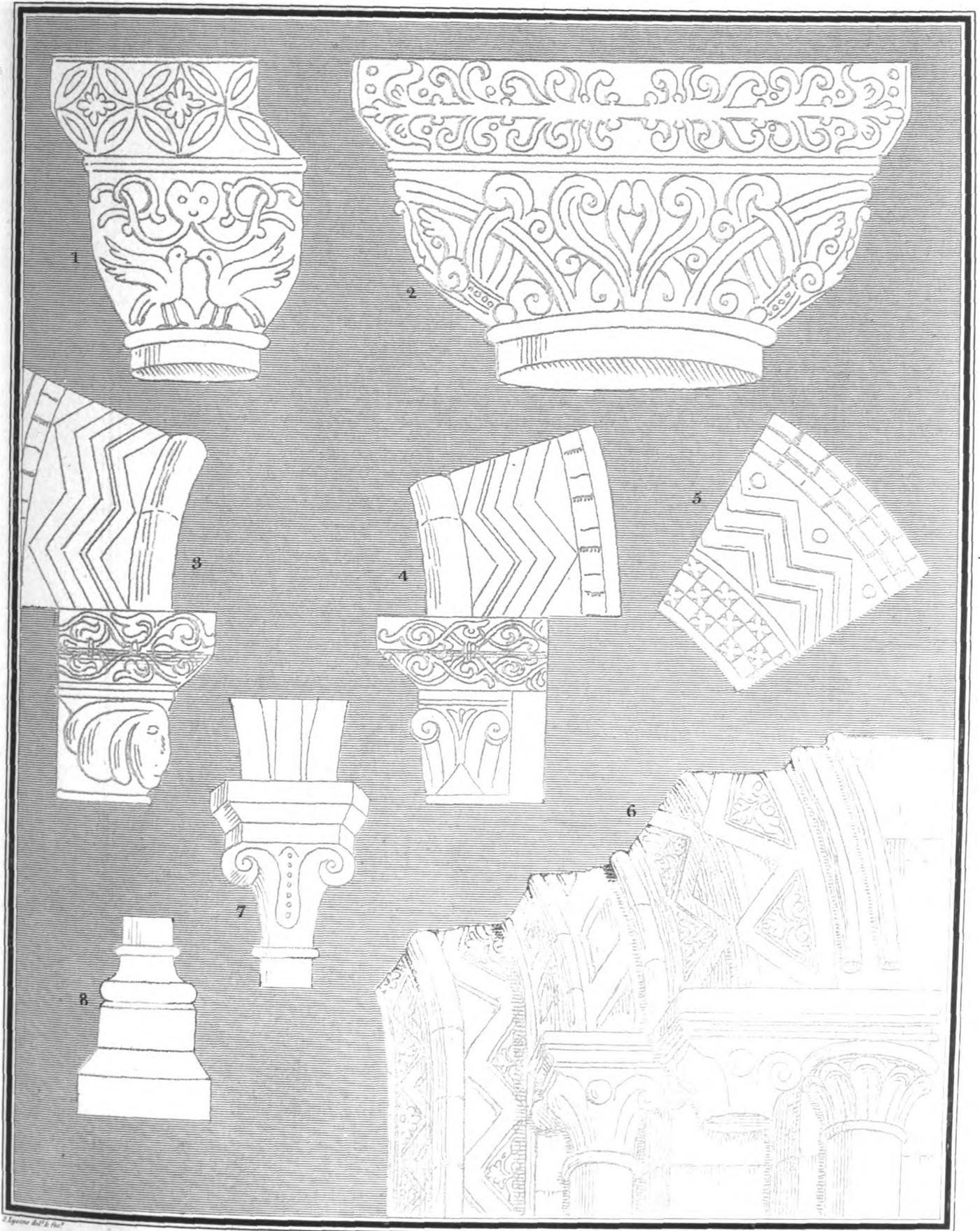
These are exhibited in the annexed plate, fig. 1, & 2.

<sup>z</sup> Some of Willis's Cathedrals, Vol. i. p. 321.

<sup>c</sup> It was fitted up by Sir W. Meredith, as a burial-place for his family.

Saxon

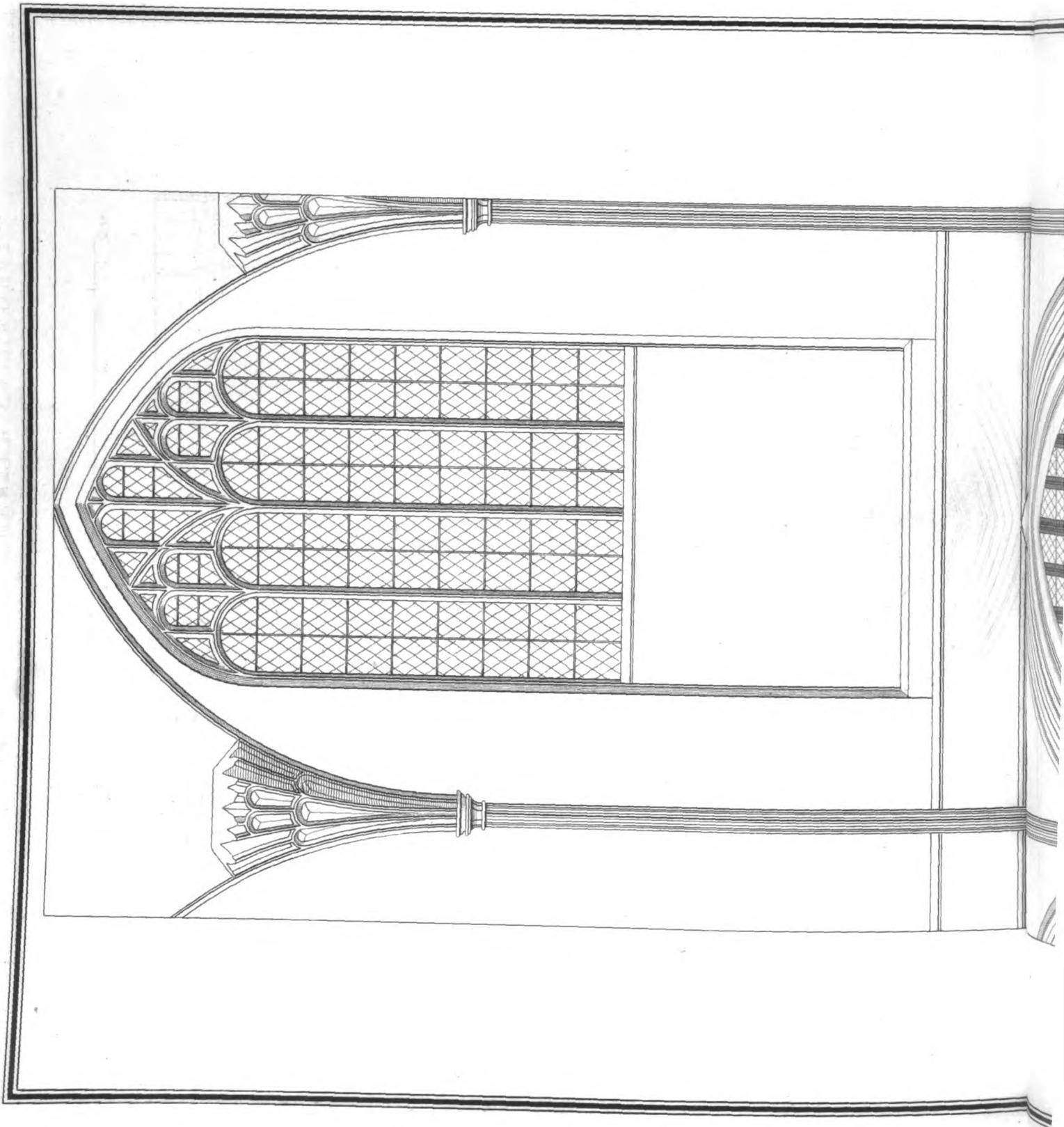
SPECIMENS OF SAXON ARCHITECTURE IN CHESHIRE.

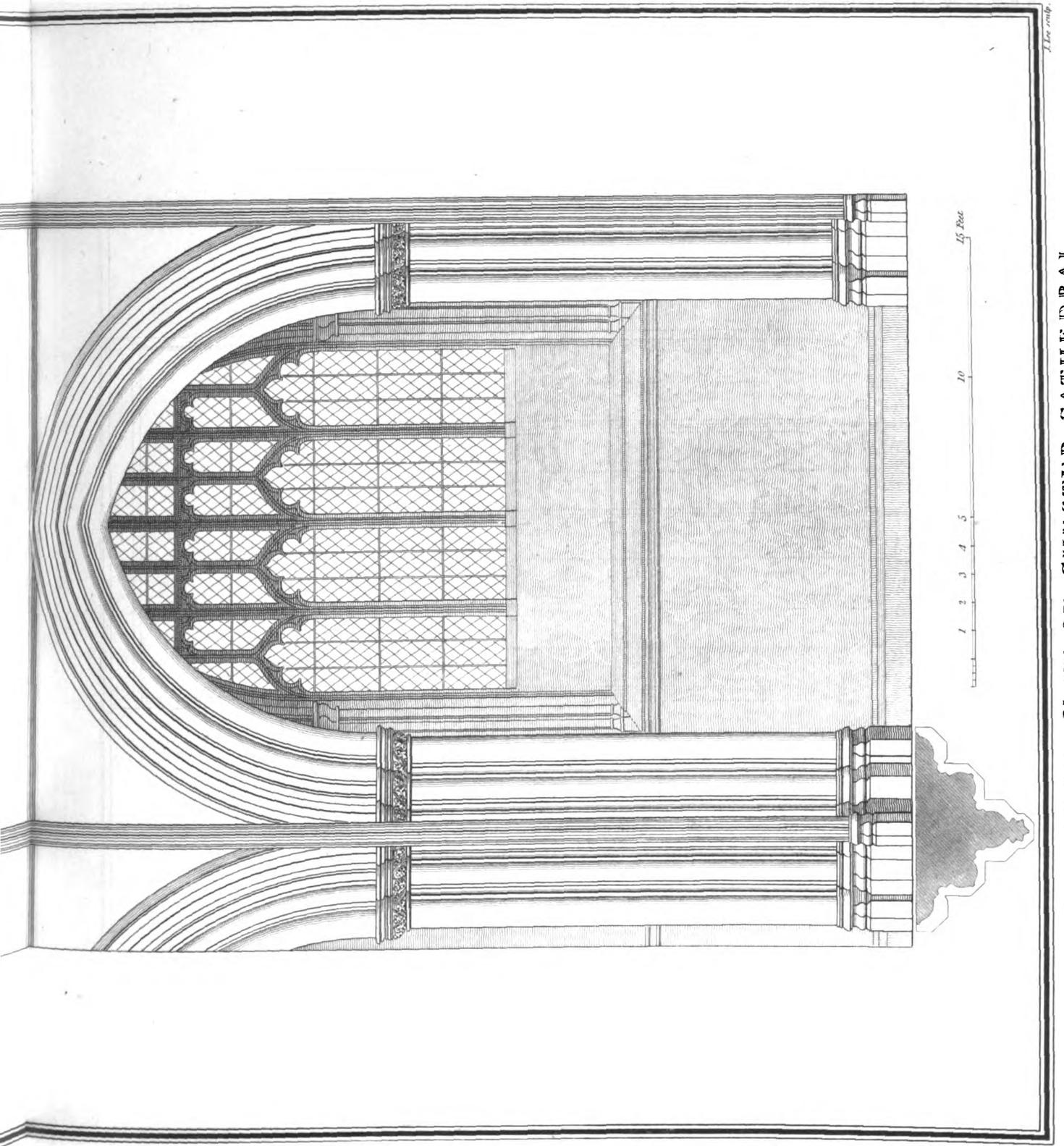


1. 2. Capitals in the Ruins of the Choir of S. John's Church Chester. 3. 4. From the Door way of the Chancel of Barthomley Church. 5. From the Door way of Shocklach Church. 6. From a Door way of Norton Priory. 7. 8. Capital & Base of a Pillar in Chester Castle









PART OF THE NAVE OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.  
*A specimen of the Capitals of the Pillars is shown on an enlarged scale in the Plate at page 148.*

J. Lee sculp.

Published by T. and A. Neave, No. 11, Abchurch Lane.



Saxon mouldings, and within the arch is a rudely sculptured bas-relief of our Saviour, in an oval compartment, supported by angels; over the door-way is a range of seven figures very coarsely executed; the middle one represents our Saviour, with the cross in his right hand, and a book in his left. A door-way, with a semicircular arch, enriched with the chevron and other Saxon mouldings, is in a cellar of Norton-Priory; having, no doubt, belonged to the church of that monastery. The western part of the nave of Great-Bebington church; the west end of Birkenhead-chapel, and Bromborough-church, retain traces of the same kind of architecture: the door-ways of Bromborough, Shocklach, and Shotwick churches, have semicircular arches, enriched with Saxon mouldings; that of Over-church has a pointed arch enriched in a similar manner. There are also some remains of Saxon architecture in Church-on-heath or Bruera-chapel, and in Coddington and Ince churches.

XIIIth Century.—The cathedral church of Chester affords several elegant and striking examples of the early Gothic architecture, particularly the chapter-house, and the ancient refectory of the convent, part of which is now converted into a school room: the chapter-house has lancet-shaped windows, between which are slender detached shafts, with rich foliated capitals. The vestibule of this room is a singular building, the groined roof being supported by pillars, which unite with the groins without any capitals. The refectory must have been a very noble room, it was ninety-eight feet in length, and thirty-four in width: the east window consists of several lancet-shaped lights, between which are slender pillars with fasciæ on the shafts; in the south wall, at the east end, is a stone stair-case, with trefoil-headed arches open to the hall. We find no mention of the erection of these buildings in any ancient writer, or in the Chronicle of the abbey<sup>d</sup>; but from the style of their architecture, there seems to be little reason to doubt, that it took place early in the thirteenth century; and it is probable, that the celebrated Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, who flourished at that time, might have been a benefactor to the abbey on this occasion; especially as the chapter-house was the burial-place of the Earls of Chester. The style of the architecture does not by any means agree with the time of Randal the third Earl, who has been supposed by some, to have been the founder of this edifice. The north aisle of the choir seems, from the form of the windows, to be not much more modern than the last-mentioned building. The two upper tiers of arches in the nave of St. John's church at Chester, which have clustered pillars with foliated capitals, may also be referred to the early part of the thirteenth century.

<sup>d</sup> Not known to be now in existence; but there are copious extracts from it in Bishop Gafrell's Notitia.

XIVth Century.—A great part of Chester cathedral appears to have been re-built in this century<sup>c</sup>; the pillars of the choir and nave are massy and clustered; the capitals of the former are plain, and those of the latter are much enriched with foliage; the arches are pointed, the part above them appears to have been re-built at a later period, except the space over one arch, westward from the cross, where the ballustrade of a gallery is formed of quatrefoils<sup>f</sup>; and where a break in the wall clearly indicates the beginning of the new work. Nantwich church is a very rich example of the style of this century, and has undergone no alteration in its form; but the external ornaments have suffered a good deal, from the decay of the crumbling sand stone of which it is built. It is in the form of a cross with an elegant octangular tower in the middle, resting on four arches, to the piers of which are attached a number of pillars, having foliated capitals. The chancel is very light and elegant, the windows being large and handsome, particularly the great eastern one: the roof is of stone, and groined; at the intersection of the groins are sculptured orbs with a great variety of ornaments, among which are representations of the Annunciation, the Crucifixion, and other subjects from the New Testament. The wooden stalls round the chancel are singularly elegant; a specimen of them is exhibited in the annexed plate.

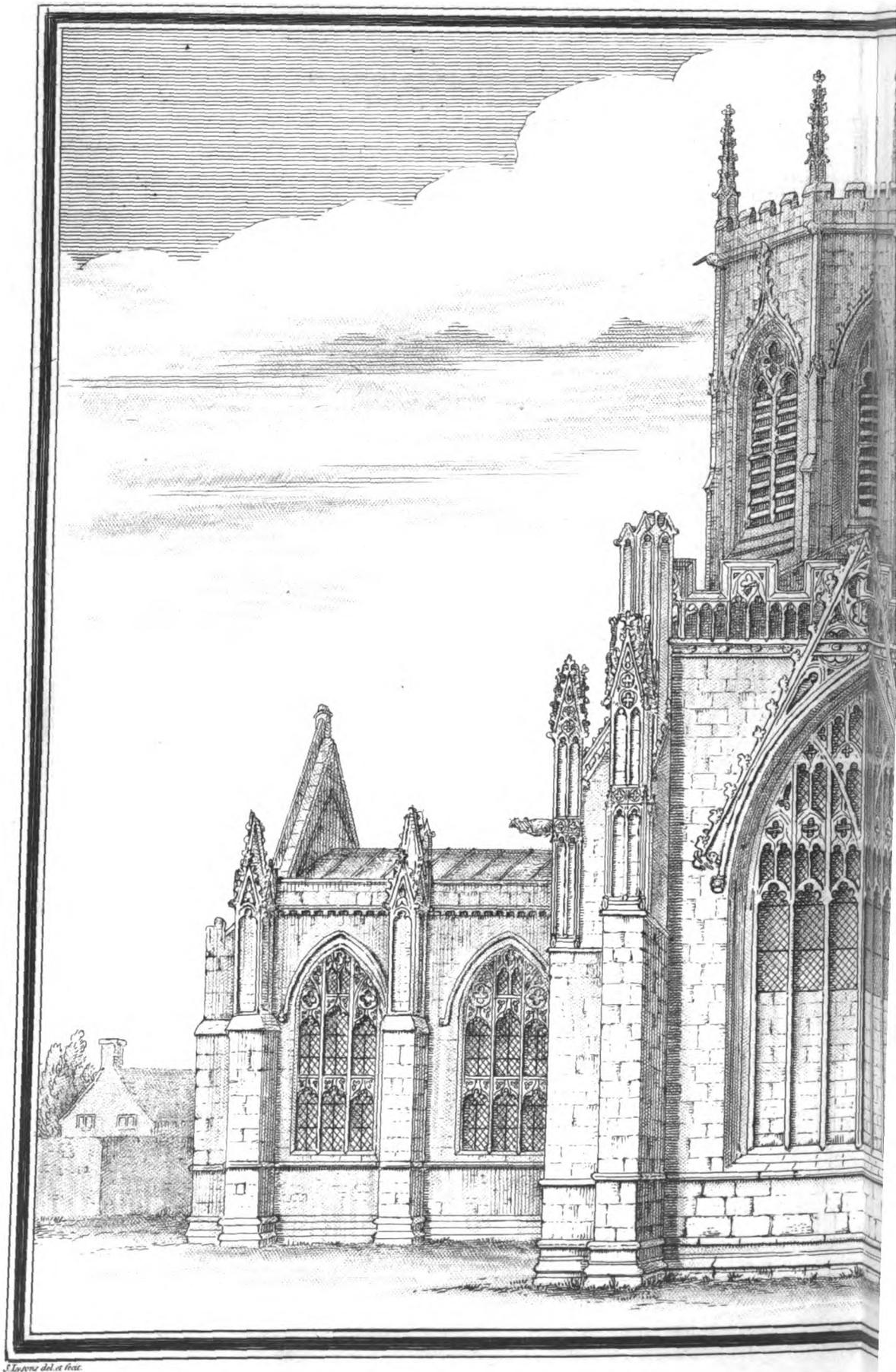
The chancel of what was the Collegiate church of Bunbury, founded in the eleventh year of King Richard II., remains in its original state; the tracery of the east window is very elegant; the other parts of the church are more modern. The tower of Wybunbury church is in the style of this century; it is a handsome building with pinnacles: on the west side is a door, having a nich on each side, containing the mutilated image of an ecclesiastic; over these are other niches on each side of a window with mutilated images, one of them of a lady in the dress of Edward III.'s reign; over the window is a carving of God the Father holding the crucifix.

XVth Century.—Mottram church is a large handsome Gothic building, erected about the year 1487; the eastern part of Great-Bebington church is also in the style of this century: the chancel has side-aisles, the windows are large and uniform, and the side walls beneath them are enriched with Gothic tracery; the pillars between the body and aisles of the chancel are clustered. Astbury church, one of the handsomest in the county, is of the same style; the nave is very high and lofty, with a very richly ornamented wooden roof, erected in the year 1647. The

<sup>c</sup> King's Vale Royal, part 2. p. 31.  
that of the choir of Carlisle cathedral, a work of the fourteenth century, where is a similar range of quatrefoils over the arches.

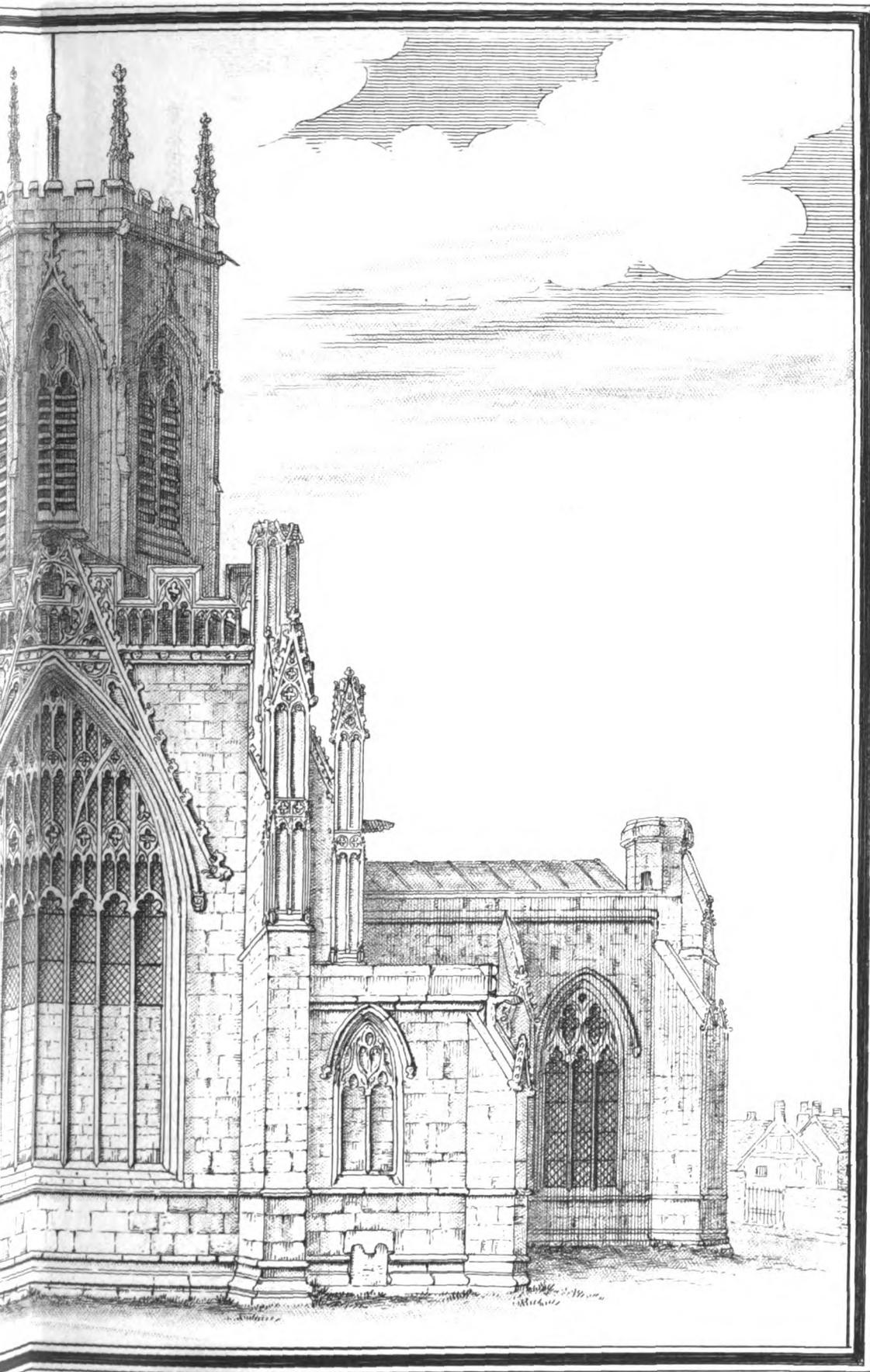
<sup>f</sup> The architecture of this part nearly resembles





*S. Lyons del. et fecit.*

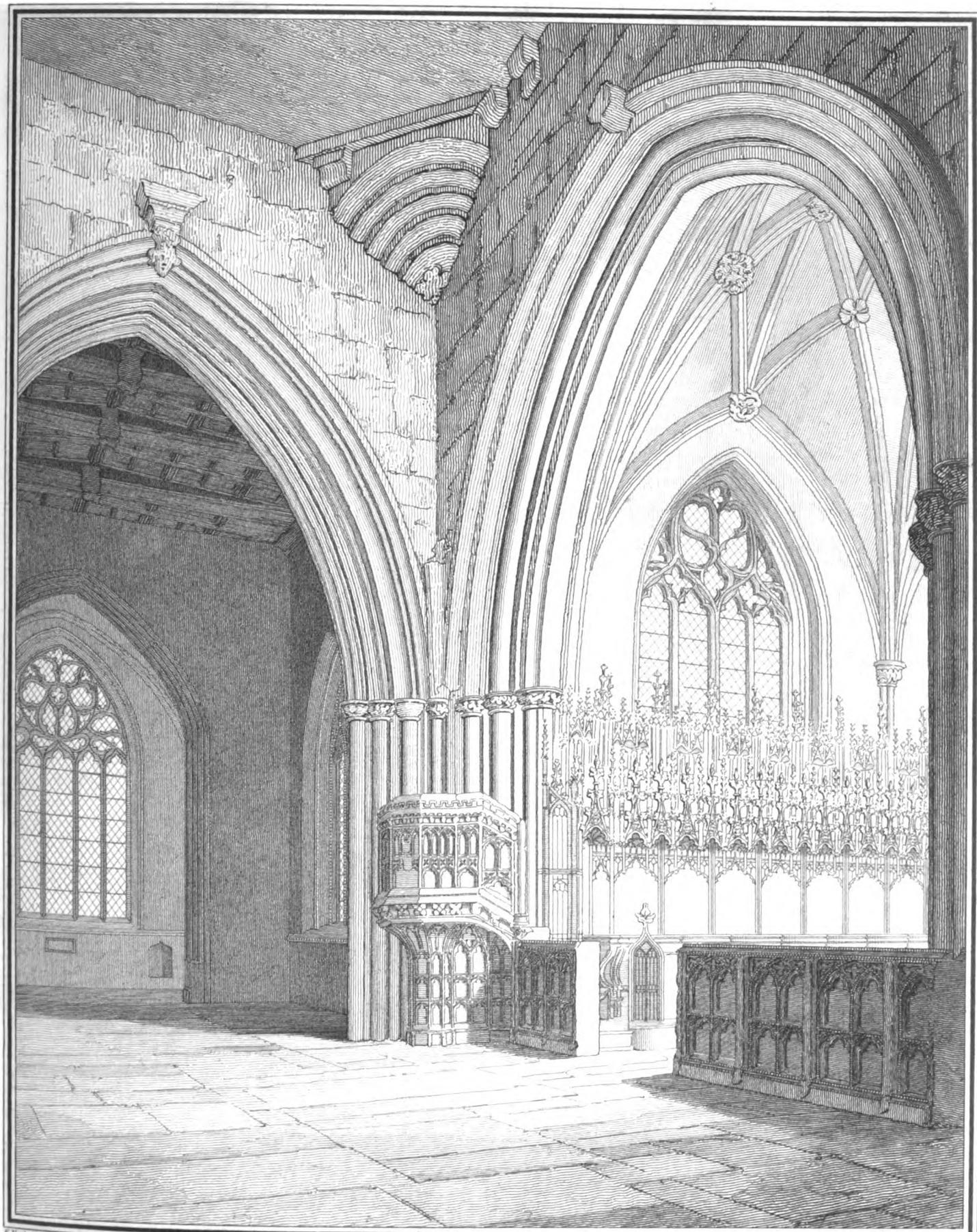
**EAST VIEW OF NATHAN**



NANTWICH CHURCH.







F. Nash del.

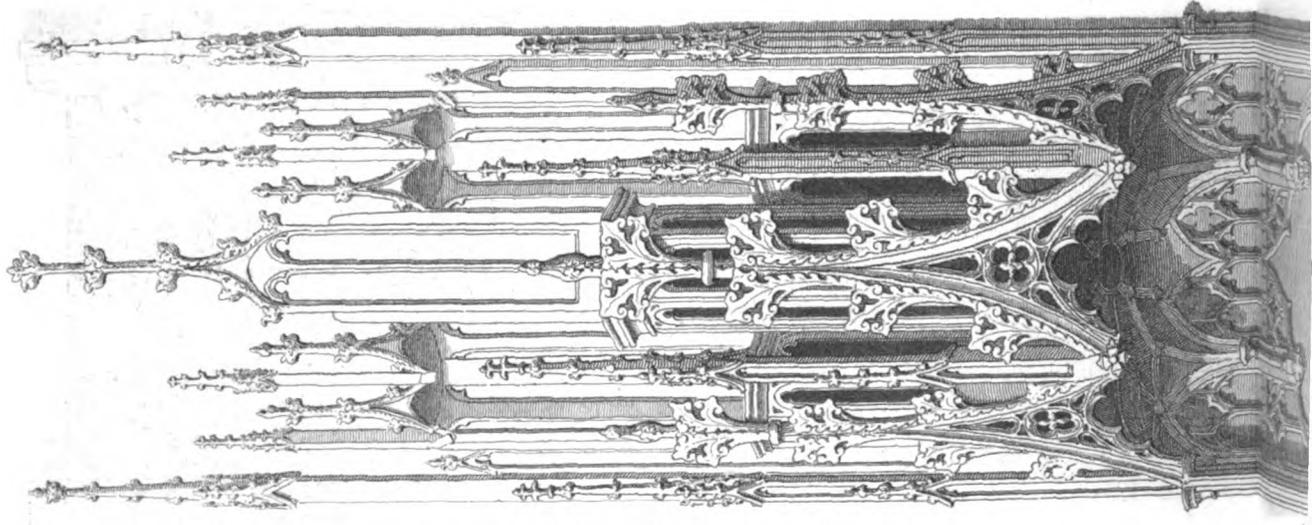
J. Lee sculp.

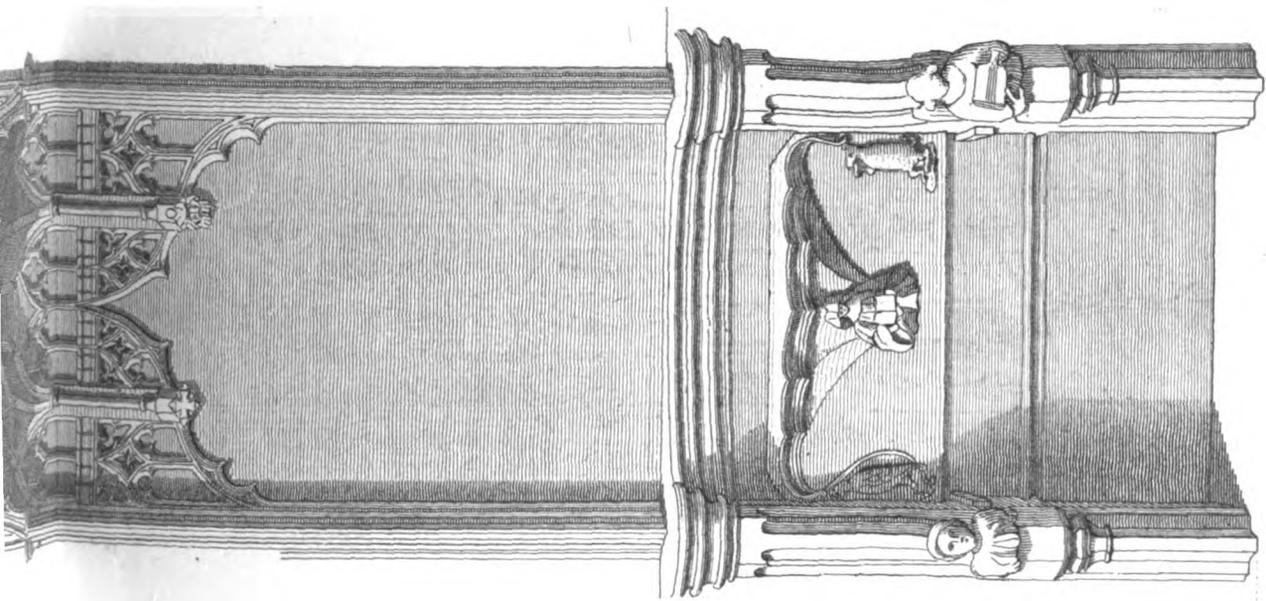
INSIDE VIEW OF PART OF THE CHANCEL, &c. OF NANTWICH CHURCH, CHESHIRE.

*Taken from the South Transept.*









ONE OF THE WOODEN STALLS IN THE CHANCEL OF NANTWICH CHURCH.



nave of Brereton church is a handsome uniform building, in the style of the latter part of the fifteenth century: the windows are large and handsome, the arches of them rather obtuse; they were formerly enriched with painted glass, no part of which now remains. The nave of Bunbury church is in the same style as that of Brereton: there are eight large windows on each side; it is separated from the side aisles by five light clustered pillars, and obtuse arches: the parapet of the nave is not embattled, but is enriched with Gothic tracery. Several parts of Chester cathedral were rebuilt, or repaired and altered in the latter end of this century and the beginning of the next, under the auspices of the Abbots Ripley and Birkenshaw, the former of whom was a great benefactor to the church. The western front <sup>a</sup>, the upper parts of the choir and nave; and part of the north transept, and the cloisters, were all of this date: their design appears to have been to vault the nave and choir, but it was never completed; the beginning of the vaulting appears in several places. The cloisters were a square of one hundred and ten feet; only the north, east, and west sides now remain: in the east cloister is a large lavatory, like that at Gloucester; the roof is groined with stone, and ornamented at the intersection of the groins with roses, the symbols of the Evangelists, and shields, on which are the arms of England and of Cardinal Wolsey, and those of the Earls of Chester.

*Ancient Painted Glass.*—Perhaps no county in England possessed a greater number of curious remains of ancient painted glass, than that of Chester, in the latter end of the sixteenth century; more especially such as preserved the portraits and armorial bearings of its numerous gentry: it is most probable that many of them were demolished by the puritans in the civil war. It appears, from a valuable volume of manuscript collections in the British Museum <sup>b</sup>, containing slight sketches of ancient monuments, and painted glass, in the Cheshire churches, taken in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I., that in Astbury church were portraits of the families of Latham, Maffey <sup>c</sup>, and Moreton <sup>d</sup>; in the east window of Bunbury

<sup>a</sup> It appears to have been their intention to have erected two towers at the west end; and these must have been meant by "the steeple of the abbey," which is said to have been begun in 1508. See King's Vale Royal, part ii. p. 79.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. 2151.

<sup>c</sup> Under the figure of a knight kneeling, in plate armour and surcoat, on the north side of the church, was this inscription: "*Orate pro bono statu Robti Maffey arm' et Petronille Consortis sue et Robti filii dñi Robti Maffey, qui hanc fenestram fieri fecit año 1493.*"—There was another with the date of 1505.

<sup>d</sup> In the east window were various portraits of knights and ladies, with this inscription under them: — "*Orate pro animabus Radulfi Moreton de Moreton Johis fris ejusq' parentum Benefactorꝝ et omnium fidelium defunctorꝝ qui vitriacione istius fenestre fecerunt.*"

church was a curious painting of the root of Jesse<sup>1</sup>; in the windows of Gawsworth church were many portraits of knights and ladies of the families of Mainwarring and Fitton; of the Boydells at Groppenhall<sup>m</sup>; of the Savages at Macclesfield, and of the Stanleys and Tattons at Northenden; but of these no traces remain.

In the east window of the south aisle of Groppenhall church are some remains of figures of saints; apparently coeval with that window, which is in the style of the fourteenth century. There are also some remains of painted glass in the windows of Nantwich, Tattenhall, and Plemstall churches; in the last of these are several portraits of benefactors, in a south window, with inscriptions much deranged; from the fragment of a date remaining, they appear to have been of the fifteenth century, when the church seems to have been built. In the east window of Tattenhall church is a figure of St. Alban, to whom it is dedicated.

One of the north windows of Brereton church was formerly ornamented with painted glass, representing the four knights who slew Thomas à Becket, standing under canopies, with their names inscribed on scrolls, and a fifth figure in armour, in the middle-light, supposed to have been designed for King Henry the Second<sup>n</sup>. The names of the knights are repeated in four Latin hexameter verses, at the bottom of the window<sup>o</sup>.

This window seems to have been coeval with the church, which is in the style of the latter part of the fifteenth century. There was also formerly much rich painted glass in the windows of Brereton-Hall, built in 1597; some of which, containing figures of the ancient Earls of Chester, was removed by Sir Lister Holt to Aston-Hall in Warwickshire, now the seat of Heneage Legge Esq. where it still remains; only a few coats of arms are left at Brereton-Hall. These figures of the Earls of Chester do not appear to be of greater antiquity than those which were in Brereton church, and were probably executed at the same time<sup>p</sup>. In the north window of the chancel of Tilston church is the figure of a

<sup>1</sup> Under it was this inscription, "*Sanctus Bonifacius intercedat Deum pro David de Banebury rector ejusdem . . . . . qui in ejus honorem banc fenestram composuit in vita An̄o D̄ni. M̄o. CCC̄o. XLV̄o.*"

<sup>m</sup> In Boydell's chapel, on the north side of the church, were figures of a knight, in mail and surcoat, kneeling, and his lady, with this inscription:

*"Priez pur sire William Boydell et  
Nichol sa compaygne s'il vous plect."*

<sup>n</sup> *Archæologia*, Vol. X. p. 335.

<sup>o</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. IX. p. 368, where is an engraving of this window, taken from a drawing made in 1608.

<sup>p</sup> Coloured prints of them, on a large scale, have been lately published by Mr. William Fowler. Figures of the seven Earls of Chester were also introduced in the windows of the Abbot of Chester's seat at Saughton-on-the-hill, by Abbot Ripley. — *Smith's Collections*, p. 68.

priest praying, in a blue gown and red hood, with this inscription, in text-hand, "*Orate pro Herico, Wat'ford.*" In the south aisle of Over church is a portrait of Hugh Starkey Esq. in armour, who rebuilt that church in the year 1543. There is a small figure of St. Agatha in the east window of Haslington church.

*Rood Lofts, Skreens, &c.*

BETWEEN the nave and the choir of Chester cathedral is a Gothic skreen of stone, in the style of the fourteenth century. At Audlem are remains of two niches, with canopies, on each side of the east window: at Astbury, a rood-loft, richly ornamented with Gothic tracery, the cornice is enriched with sculpture of vine leaves and birds: there are also Gothic rood-lofts in Wilmslow and Mobberley churches. On the north side of the chancel in Bunbury church is a rich Gothic skreen of stone, which separates it from a large chapel, formerly a burial-place of the Egerton family: the lower part is ornamented with grotesque figures, flowers, &c. painted in oil-colours in chiaro-scuro; the upper part with sculptured foliage and shields, with arms and various devices; on a frieze is this inscription, "*This chapel was made at the cost and charg of Syr Rauffe Eggerton Knyght, in the yere of owre Lord God MCCCCXXVII.*" Two of the arches between the nave and the south aisle of the same church are filled with wooden skreens, the upper part of which are of light Gothic open-work, the lower parts are ornamented with paintings, over which are the titles of the subjects represented, in text hand, as "*Salutatio Sancte Marie per Gabrielem Archangelum,*" "*Sancta Juhana,*" &c.

In Northenden church, between the chancel and the burial-place of the Tatton family, at the end of the south aisle, is a rich wooden skreen, inscribed with texts of Scripture, and enriched with a scroll of vine leaves along the frieze. In Malpas church, at the east end of the south aisle, the skreen of the Brereton chancel is of rich Gothic open-work; along the frieze is the following inscription, "*Pray good people for the prosperous estate of Sir Rondolph Brereton Knyght, Baronet, of thys werke edificatour, with his wyfe dame Helenour, and after this lyfe transytorie to obteyne eternal felicity, Amen, Amen.*" At the east end of the north aisle, in the same church, is a similar skreen of the Cholmondeley chancel, round the frieze of which is the following inscription, "*Orate pro bono statu Richardi Cholmondely et Elizabeth uxoris ejus hujus sacelli factores Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quartodecimo.*"

In Nantwich church is an elegant stone-pulpit, of an octagonal form, enriched

<sup>1</sup> Sic in Orig.

with Gothic tracery, in the style of the fourteenth century; adjoining one of the pillars on which the tower rests.

*Fonts.*—There are few fonts in the Cheshire churches which are sufficiently curious to be particularly noticed; that of Sandbach is the most remarkable, being octagonal, and surrounded with acanthus-leaves and flowers; Wybunbury is octagonal, and embattled with Gothic tracery, including shields of arms; Tilston is circular, surrounded with foliage.

*Stone-Stalls and Piscina.*—In the south wall of the chancel of Nantwich church are three stone stalls of equal height, enriched with crockets, pinnacles, and Gothic tracery, in the style of the fourteenth century; and three of equal height, (much enriched with Gothic ornaments,) in the chancel of Stockport church, with a double piscina; in Mobberley church, in the south aisle, are two of unequal height, and the same number in Westkirkley church, with a piscina. In Bunbury church are three stone stalls of unequal height, with plain ogee-arches, inclosing semi-quatrefoils. In the chancel of Malpas church are three plain stalls of unequal height; with pointed arches, filled with semi-quatrefoils. In the south wall of the south aisle of the same church, near the east end, is a large piscina, with a sharply pointed pediment, much enriched with trefoils, crockets, &c. in the style of the fourteenth century; and further westward, in the same wall, are three stone stalls of unequal height, with plain pointed arches, and a double piscina with pointed arches, filled with semi-quatrefoils.

*Ancient Sepulchral Monuments.*—XIIIth Century. In the north transept of Chester is a grave-stone, with a cross florée, and a shield charged with a fesse, in chief, two mullets pierced; on one side is this inscription, in Lombardic capitals: "*Rad: de: valletorta*"; near it lies another grave-stone, much defaced, with a cross-florée, and a shield, on which are faint traces of two bars: above the shield are fragments of an inscription<sup>p</sup>. In the chancel of St. John's church at

\* The Valletorts, who were a Cornish family, had some connexion with Cheshire; Jane, one of the co-heiresses of Thomas Bassett, who inherited a portion of the barony of Wich-Malbank, married to her second husband, Reginald de Valletort, 36 Henry III.: this Reginald had a brother Ralph. See Dugdale's Baronage, I. 522.

<sup>p</sup> Very little besides the beginning, "*Sit tibi*," can now be distinguished; a MS. copy in the British Museum, (Harl. MSS. 2151.) taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when more of it remained, gives the first line thus:

"*Sit tibi Warine de Vernun fons Medicine.*"

There were four successive Barons of Shipbrooke of the name of Warin de Vernon, the two first of whom lived in the reign of King Henry III.

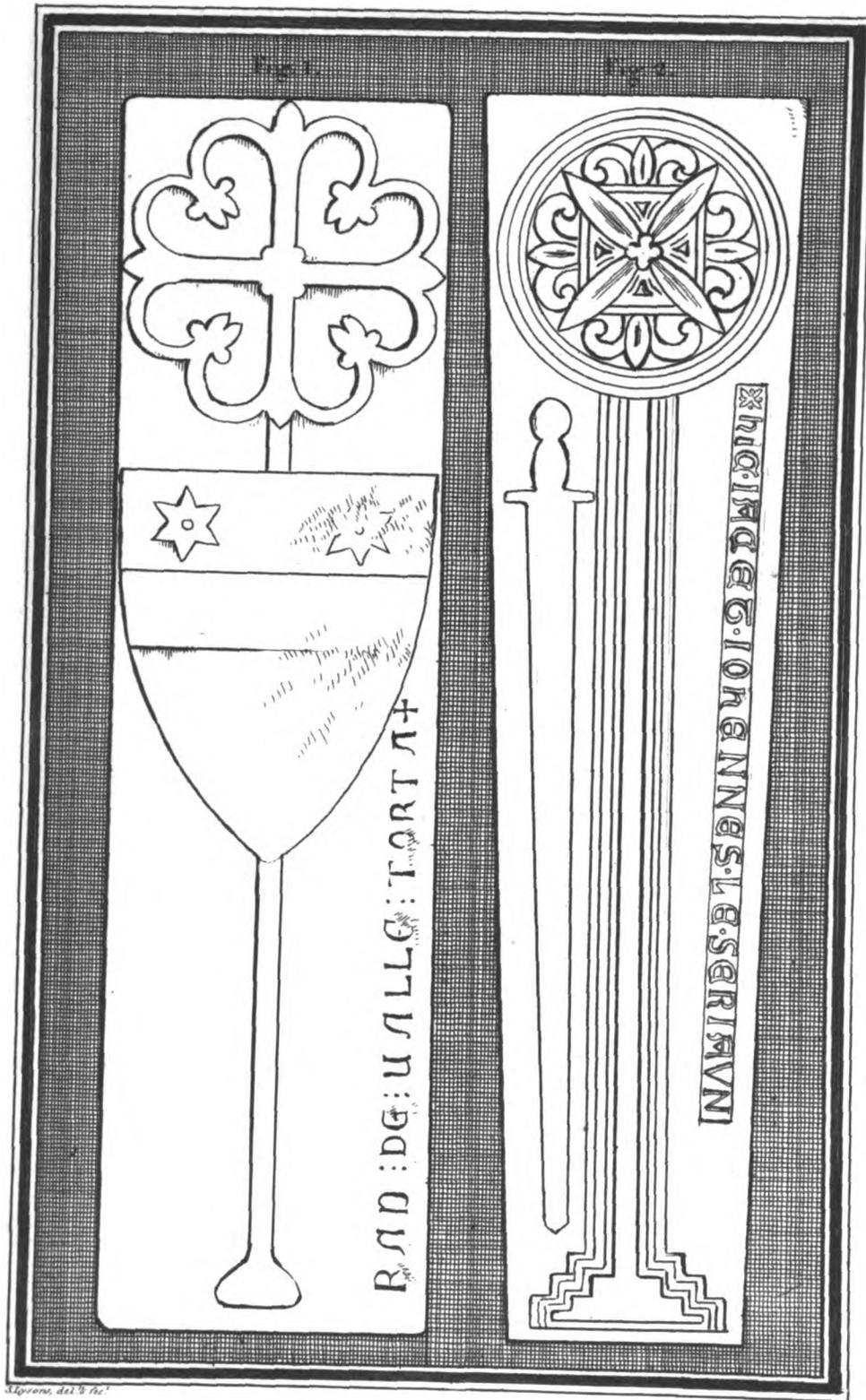
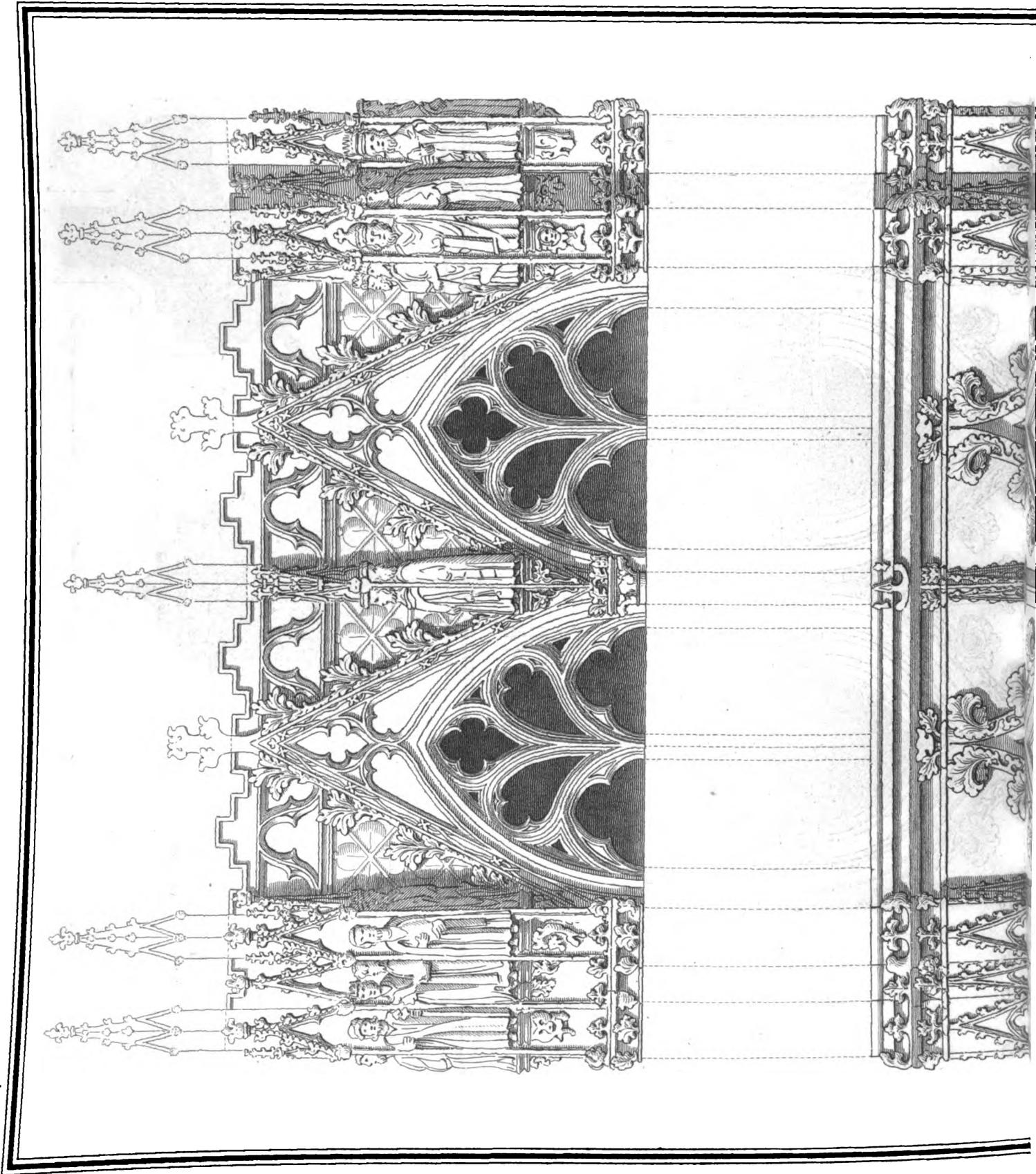


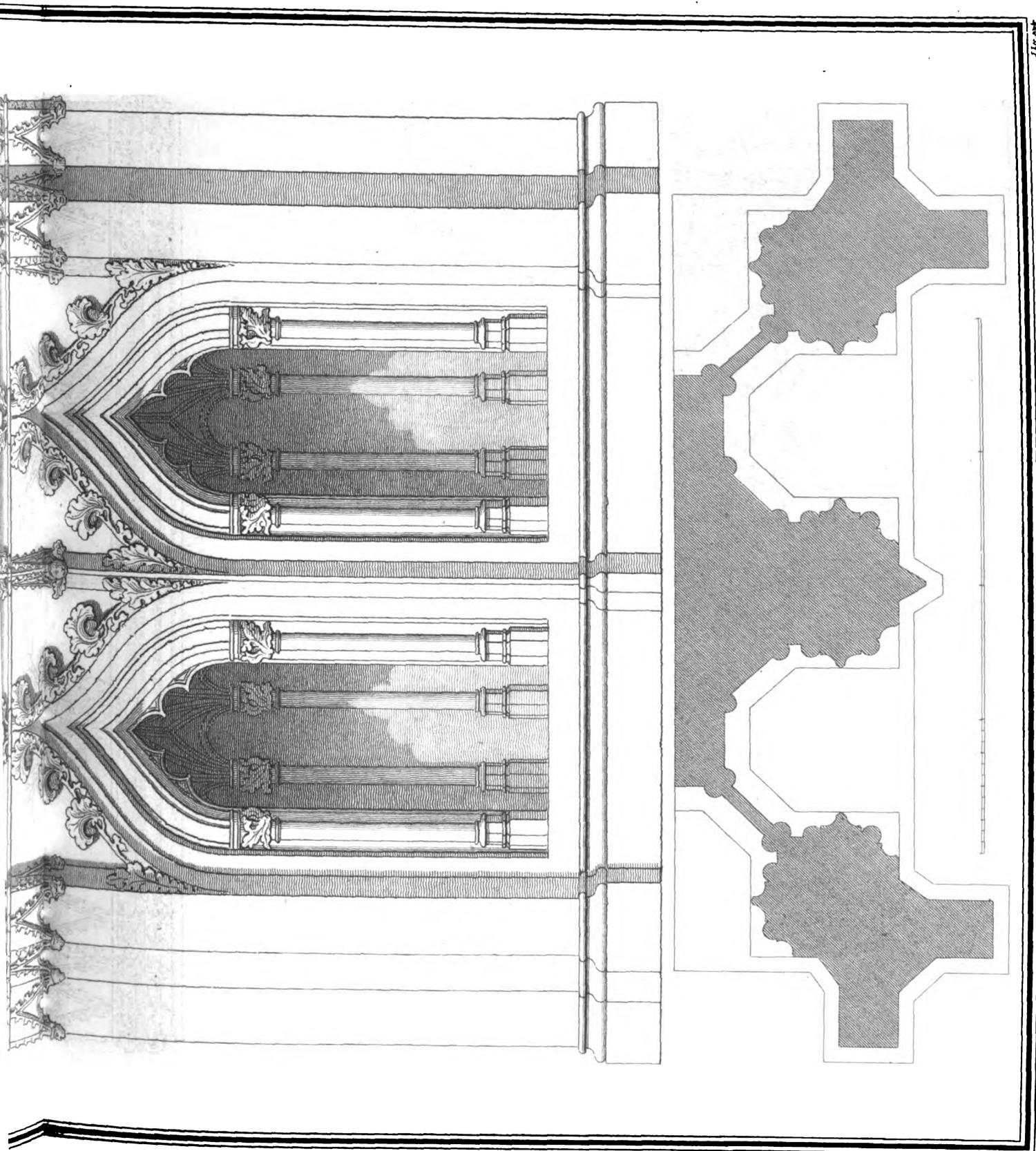
Fig. 1. Gravestone of Rad. de Valletorta in Chester Cathedral.

Fig. 2. Gravestone of John Le Serjaun in St. John's Church at Chester.









1/2 in.

7/16 in.



Chester, is a grave-stone with a cross florée, and a sword cut on it; and the following inscription, in Lombardic capitals, " *Ici gift Iohannes le Serieaun.*" In the chancel of the same church, close to the north wall, lies the mutilated effigies of a Crusader in mail and surcoat; it has been said that the arms of Carrington were on his shield, but they are not now to be discovered. In Rostherne church, against the north wall of the chancel, is fixed a monument of one of the family of Venables: it is a slab of stone, with the effigies of a knight, in mail and surcoat, rudely sculptured, with a lion at his feet; on his shield are two bars, the arms of Venables. It is most probable that this was designed for Sir Hugh Venables, the brother of William, fourth Baron of Kinderton, who died in the forty-fourth year of King Henry III., and is described as of Rostherne, Eccleston, and Astbury. In the church-yard at Bunbury, on the north side of the church, are several ancient monuments, to be referred to the latter end of this century, or the beginning of the fourteenth, which may have been originally in the church. One of them has the effigies of a Crusader in the act of drawing his sword, much mutilated; another, that of a lady, with a canopy over her head, much defaced: a third has the effigies of a knight, and near him that of a lady; round the edge of the latter is this fragment of an inscription in Lombardic capitals " *. . . . ur Ione. le. Spourstou. p. . . .*" In the same place are several slabs with crosses-floreés. On the outside of the wall of the chancel of Stoke church is a slab, with the following fragment of an inscription in Lombardic capitals " *Magister Andre . . . . . cuj' aie ppitiet: ds̄.*"

XIVth Century. —The most remarkable sepulchral monument in this county is that which formerly inclosed the shrine of St. Werburgh, the celebrated patron-saint of the abbey of Chester; and which stood in the *sanctum-sanctorum*, at the east end of the choir, whence it was removed soon after the Reformation, and converted into a throne for the bishop. It is of stone, and exhibits a rich specimen of Gothic architecture, in the style of the early part of the fourteenth century; the foliage of the crockets is singular, especially of those with which the arches of the base are ornamented: round the upper part is a range of small images, representing Mercian kings and saints, holding scrolls, on which were inscribed their names: these figures, having been much mutilated, either at the Reformation, or during the civil war, were restored, but in a bungling manner, about the year 1748. The upper part, or canopy of this monument, appears to have been shortened, when it was converted into the episcopal throne,

\* In the year 1580, one of the effigies of knights, among the ancient monuments in Bunbury church-yard, had the arms of Spurstow on his shield; another had those of St. Pierre. (Harl. MSS. 2151.)

\* Ibid.

\* See the annexed plate.

\* Pennant's Wales, Vol. I. p. 186.—An account of these figures, and the history of the kings and saints represented by them, was published by Dr. William Cowper in 1749, and republished in a History of Cheshire, 1778. 8vo. Vol. II. p. 527.

which

which gives it a heavy appearance; in the annexed engraving, a space is left for the defective part, and the pinnacles are restored in fainter lines.

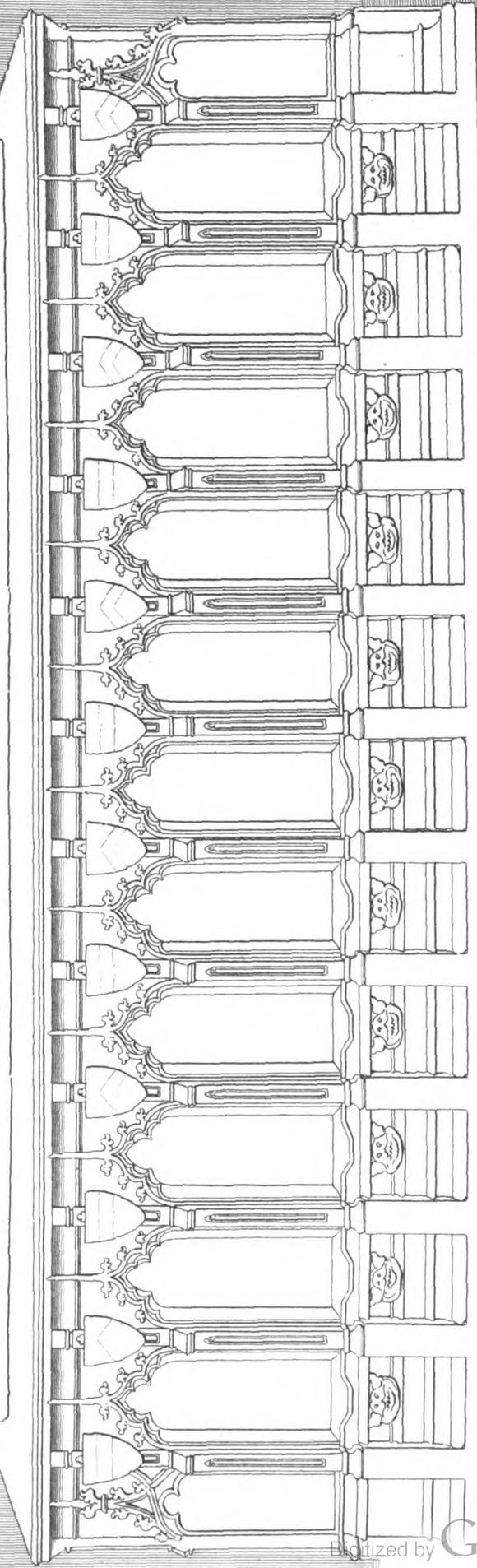
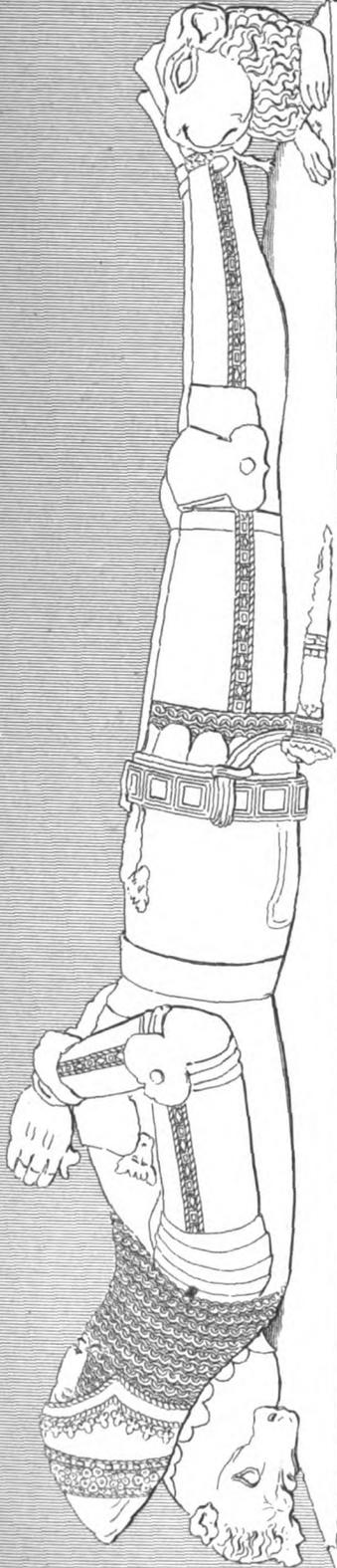
Under arches, in the south wall of the south aisle of the choir, in Chester cathedral, are three monuments of ecclesiastics; two of them have crosses-floreés on the slabs with which they are covered; these have been commonly ascribed to Abbot Birchelfey, who died in 1324; Abbot Bebington, 1349, and Abbot Merfhton, 1385. In a small building on the south side of the chancel of Stockport church is the grave-stone of Richard Vernon, parson of that church, with a cross-floreé. This Richard Vernon was living in 1325 (19 Edward II.); he was a younger son of Sir Ralph Vernon, the Old, (as he was called, on account of his longevity,) Baron of Shipbrooke.

In the chapel-yard at Marton are two monuments of Sir John Davenport of Davenport, who founded that chapel 17 Edward III., and of his son Sir Urian, with their effigies in stone, now much mutilated; under each of their heads is the crest of Davenport, being a man's head coup'd at the shoulders, with a halter round the neck. An embattled altar-tomb, at the east end of the south aisle of Astbury church, has the effigies of a knight in plate-armour and mail-gorget, with a dog at his feet; on his surcoat are the arms of Davenport, a chevron between three cross-crosslets fitchées. At the east end of the south aisle of the nave of Cheadle church, the ancient burial place of the family of Hondford, is an altar-tomb, with the effigies of a knight, in plate-armour, with a collar of S. S., and a pointed helmet, round which is a bandeau.

In the middle of the chancel of Bunbury church is a large altar-tomb of alabaster, richly ornamented with Gothic niches, between each of which is a shield, with arms painted on it: on this tomb lies the effigies of a knight in alabaster, seven feet ten inches in length: he is represented in plate-armour, richly ornamented down the seams with gorget and skirt of mail, and a lion at his feet; on his surcoat are his arms, a fesse between three calves, and under his head his crest, a calf's head issuing from a ducal coronet: his helmet is pointed, and ornamented with a rich bandeau of jewels, his hands are joined in prayer". This is the monument of the celebrated Sir Hugh Calveley\*, who distinguished himself greatly in the French wars during the reigns of King Edward the Third, and Richard the Second; he died in the year 1394: the arms above alluded to, as painted on this monument, have been those of Calveley; argent, a fesse gules, between three calves passant sable; and gules on a chevron-argent, three roses of the field (borne by Browe and Knolles) placed alternately; they are much defaced, and only the fesse remains of the one, and the chevron of the other.

" See the annexed plate.

\* See a further account of Sir Hugh Calveley in the description of Bunbury, in the parochial topography.

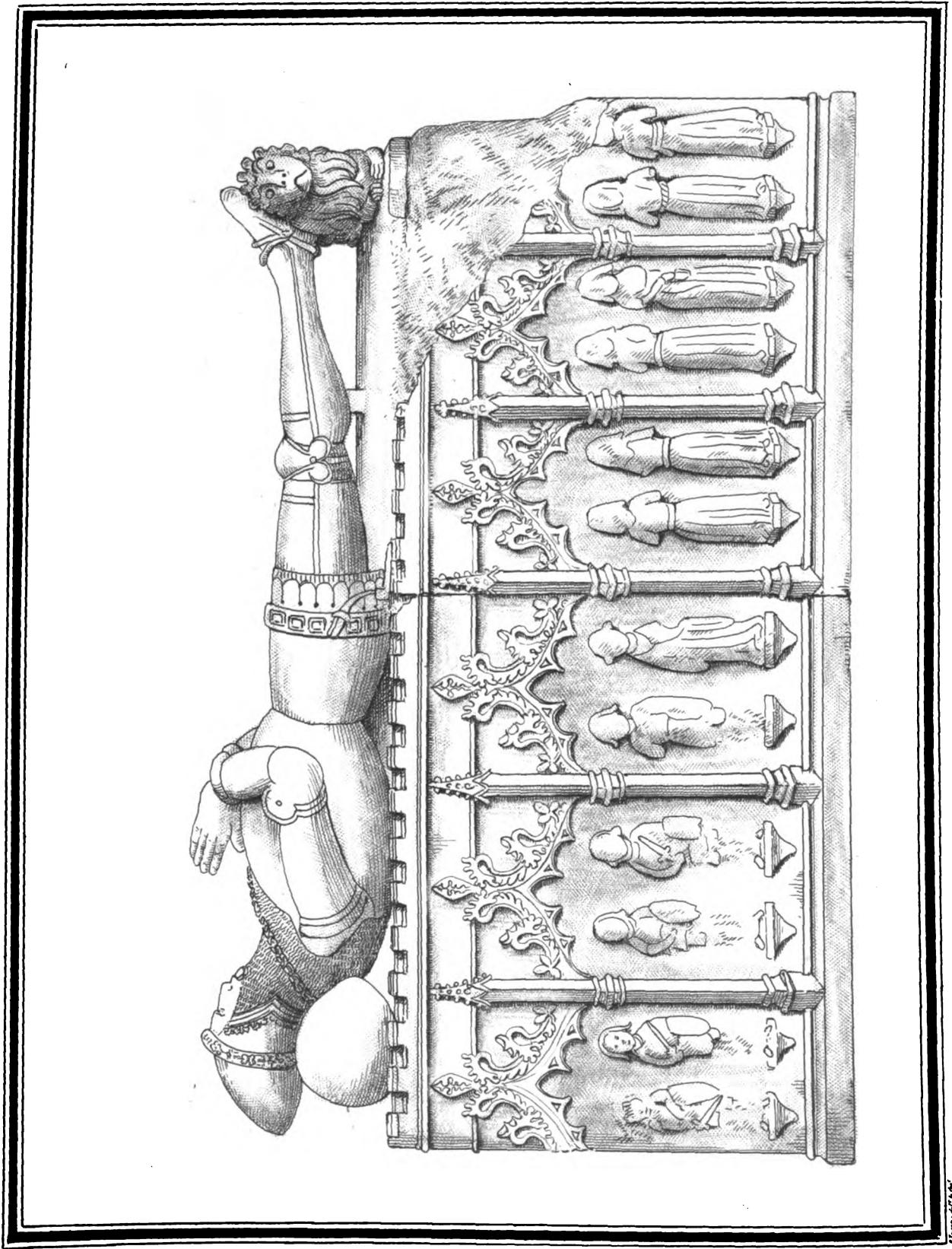


MONUMENT OF SIR HUGH CALVELEY, IN BUNBURY CHURCH, CHESHIRE.









MONUMENT OF SIR ROBERT FULSHURST IN BARTHOLOMEY CHURCH, CHESHIRE.

In the chancel of Barthomley church is the monument of Sir Robert Fulshurst, being an embattled altar-tomb, round which are the mutilated remains of knights, ladies, &c., sculptured in bas-relief, under Gothic arches, richly ornamented with crockets: the effigies of Sir Robert lies on the top, he is represented in armour, nearly similar to that of Sir Hugh Calveley; round his neck is a collar of S. S. and on his forehead a fillet, inscribed in text characters "*Iob Nazaren.*" He was a man of considerable consequence in the county of Chester, and was one of the four esquires of James Lord Audley, at the battle of Poitiers; he died 13 Richard II.

In Astbury church-yard, on the north side of the church, is an altar-tomb, with the effigies of a knight and his lady, carved in stone, now much defaced, under an open canopy, with a sharply-pointed pediment: at a small distance on either side lies another effigies, in stone; that on the south side is of a knight, on a low altar-tomb, with a dog at his feet; on his shield are his arms, two bars, with three lions<sup>y</sup>, or leopards' heads, in chief: that on the north side is of an ecclesiastic, and rests on a stone coffin; these are also much mutilated. Webb, in his Itinerary, speaking of these monuments, in the year 1622, says, "that the escutcheons of these knights have bars, which may, for ought can be known, (except the colours were known,) be ascribed to the ancestors of the Breretons, Venables, or Mainwarings, though there be also some others that put in claims to them<sup>z</sup>; and Camden, in the year 1637, speaks nearly to the same effect<sup>a</sup>." Sir William Brereton, soon afterwards, caused the Brereton arms to be fixed up under the canopy of the principal monument with this inscription, "*Hic jacent Radulphus Brereton miles, et Domina Ada uxor sua, una filiarum Davidis Comitis Huntingdoni,*" and placed a tablet, with an inscription in Brereton church, in which this is declared to have been the ancient burial-place of his family; it is nevertheless equally probable, that they might have been some of the family of Venables, since Newbold, a part of Astbury, was in the thirty-fourth year of Henry III. possessed by Richard Venables, a younger son of William, fourth Baron of Kinderton, whose descendants continued there for several generations, and might have borne the three lions' heads in chief, in their arms, as a difference; in the same manner as other branches of that family bore roundles<sup>b</sup>, and mullets<sup>c</sup> in chief, for the same purpose. Two bars, with three leopards' heads in chief, were borne by the family of Zouch of Cheshire: but that family does not appear to have had any connection with the parish of Astbury. At the east end of the south aisle of Mottram church, on a plain altar-tomb, are the effigies of a knight and his

<sup>y</sup> These are much mutilated, but one of them is sufficiently distinct to shew what they were.

<sup>z</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 80.

<sup>a</sup> Holland's Camden, p. 608.

<sup>b</sup> Borne by Venables of Bradwall.

<sup>c</sup> By Venables of Bollin.

lady, very coarsely executed in stone, which may be referred to this century; he has a pointed helmet and a collar of S. S., and a lion at his feet; the lady is habited in a long gown, with the head-dress of the reign of King Edward the Third, and a dog at his feet. In the south transept of Nantwich church is the monument of Sir David Cradock, who was living in 1375<sup>a</sup>, being an altar-tomb with a mutilated effigy of a knight in armour, with a lion at his feet; on his breast were his arms, (on a chevron, three garbs), now nearly obliterated.

In the south aisle of the choir of Chester cathedral is an altar-tomb, with a plain marble slab laid on it: the sides are ornamented with Gothic tracery in which are quatrefoils, inclosing leopards' heads and roses alternately; it is not known for whom this monument was erected, but it is very certain that it was not for an Emperor of Germany, who is said by Giraldus Cambrensis to have died and been buried at Chester; and to whom the tradition of the place has ascribed it. In the north aisle of Acton church is the monument of Sir William Mainwaring, who died in 1399, with his effigies in alabaster, in plate armour, with mail, gorget, and pointed helmet, surrounded with a rich bandeau; under his head is his crest, an ass's head, and a lion at his feet; on the edge of the tomb was this inscription, now much defaced<sup>b</sup>: *Hic jacet Willim Manuwar yng, quondā dñs de Badylege qui obiit die veneris P̄xm ante festum pentecost<sup>e</sup> anno dñi. MCCC. nonagesimo nono.* Over the effigies is a rich Gothic canopy, with an ogee arch, ornamented with crockets, and a rich finial; above which is a shield with the arms and crest of Mainwaring; on the sides over the arch is Gothic tracery, including shields with the arms of Mainwaring; there is the same kind of tracery also within the arch, with half-length figures of ecclesiastics painted<sup>b</sup>.

In the Chapter-house at Chester is preserved part of a stone coffin, joined to a stone ornamented with sculptured wreaths, in one of which appears a wolf's head erased, in the other are the initials R. S. joined in a cypher. This is said to be part of a stone coffin found in the Chapter-house in the year 1723<sup>c</sup>; and supposed to be that of Hugh Lupus, the first Norman Earl of Chester, whose bones were transferred from the cemetery into the Chapter-house in the reign of Henry I.: though it is much more

<sup>a</sup> History of Nantwich, p. 32.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MS. 2151. fol. 1.

<sup>c</sup> There is a figure of

this monument in Pennant's Journey from Chester to London, p. 22.

<sup>d</sup> This discovery was

made by Mr. Henchman, a schoolmaster of Chester. The stone coffin is said to have inclosed a body wrapt in leather; "the skull and all the bones were very fresh, and in their proper position, and the strings which tied the ankles together were entire." Simpson's English Traveller, Vol. I. p. 116. No mention is here made of the stone ornamented with a wolf's head, as being part of the coffin, or found with it; which renders the tradition of its having been then discovered very improbable: the only reason there assigned for its being the coffin of Hugh Lupus, is that the place where it was found agreed with the place of his re-interment, as mentioned in an ancient manuscript.

likely

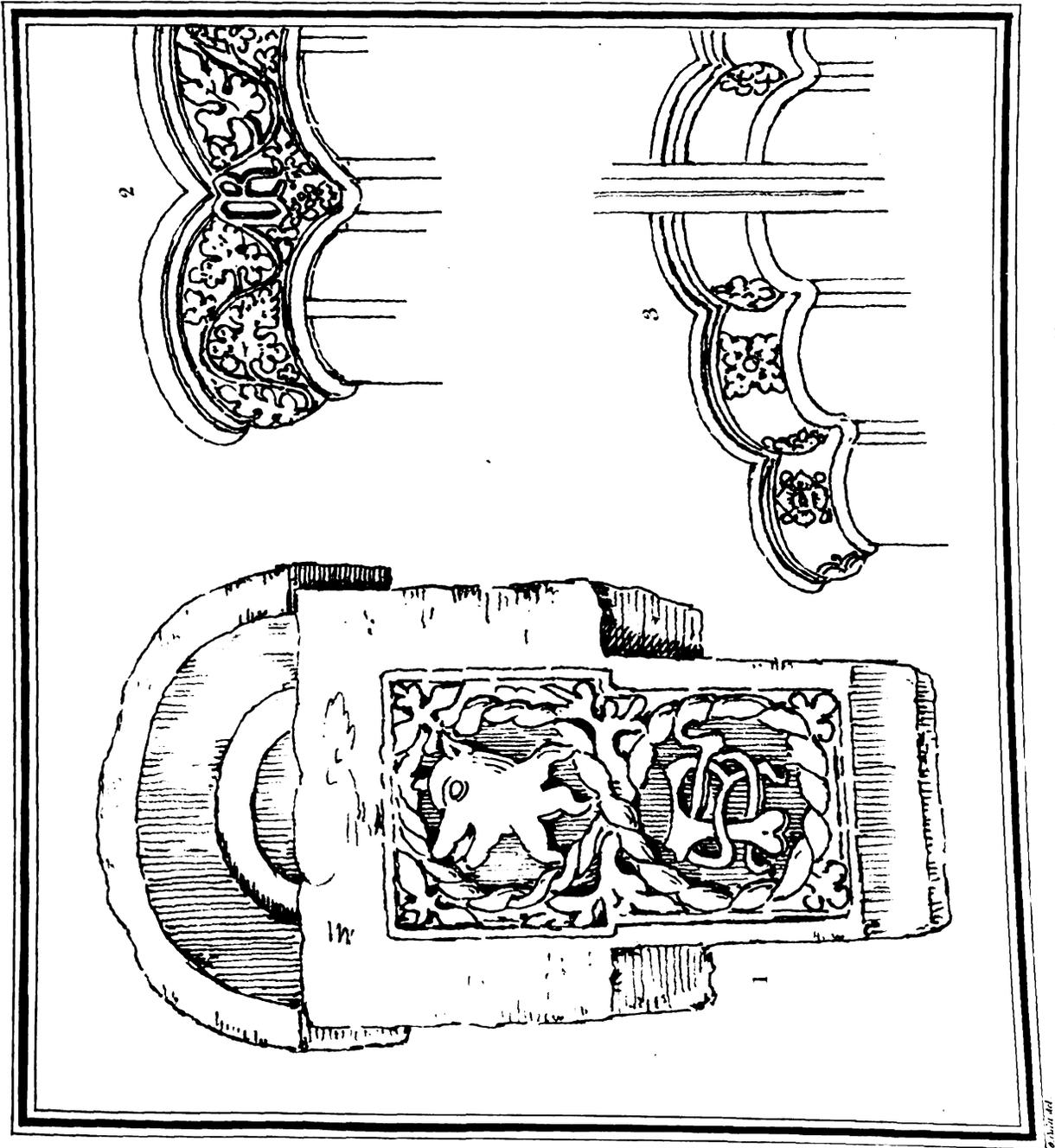
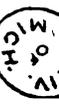


Fig. 1. Stone preserved in the Chapter-house, Chester.

2, 3. Capitals of Pillars in the Nave of Chester Cathedral.





likely to have been the work of a later age, when armorial devices were become common; which do not appear to have been introduced on works of art in this country, before the reign of Richard the First<sup>4</sup>, nor on sepulchral monuments till the thirteenth century: the form of the letters in the cypher is exactly that which prevailed in the fourteenth century; and the initials of R. S. would suit Richard Seynesbury, who became abbot in the year 1349. As he resigned in the year 1363, and is said to have been buried in Lombardy, this cannot be supposed to have been part of any sepulchral monument relating to him; it is nevertheless probable that it was part of a cross, or some other work, executed in his time.

XVth Century.—In the south wall of the south transept of Over-Peover church, under an obtuse arch, ornamented with crockets, pinnacles, &c. is an altar-tomb with the effigies of Randal Mainwaring who died in 1456, and Margery his wife, carved in alabaster. He is represented in plate-armour, with a collar of S S, and a richly ornamented helmet; on his forehead is a fillet inscribed in text-hand, *Ihc Nazaren*<sup>5</sup>; the lady is dressed in a long gown and mantle, with a rich reticulated head-dress and veil, and with a pendent from her necklace, inscribed *Ihc*. In a chapel on the north-side of the same church is an altar-tomb, with the arms and quarterings of Mainwaring; on it lie the effigies in alabaster of a knight and his lady: he is represented with whiskers, in plate-armour, with mail gorget, a collar of S S., and a pointed helmet, round which is a rich bandeau; on his frontlet is inscribed in text-hand, *Ihc Nazare*<sup>6</sup>; his feet rest on a lion. The lady is in a long gown and mantle, with a collar of S S, an angel supports her pillow; at her feet is a dog: round the tomb is painted this inscription, "*Hic jacent corpora dñi Ioh'is Mainwaring de Poever Militis ac Johanna ux' ejus filie Baronis de Stockport 9<sup>o</sup>. a<sup>o</sup>. regni Hnr' Sexti.*" In the Hondford chapel, in Cheadle church, is an altar-tomb of one of the Hondford family, apparently of this century, with his effigies in plate-armour, bare-headed, with a collar of S S; his helmet and crest lie under his head, and a lion at his feet.

In the north wall of the north aisle of Macclesfield church is a plain arch, under which is an altar-tomb with the effigies of a knight in plate-armour, bare-headed, with a collar of S S; under his head is his helmet, with crest and lambequin, and at his feet a bull. This is supposed to be the monument of one

<sup>4</sup> The earliest example of armorial devices we have remaining, is that which appears on the shield of this monarch, on his great seal. Though the wolf's head erased, is given by Brooke and others, as the armorial bearing of Hugh Lupus and his nephew, yet there is no reason for supposing it to have been coeval with them; in later times, indeed, it was considered by the convent of St. Werburgh as the arms of their founder, and as such, is introduced on some parts of the conventual buildings, and at Saighton-Hall, a seat of the abbot. <sup>5</sup> He is styled "the King's Servant" and "*Sagittarius de Corona.*" Leycester's Hundred of Bucklow, p. 334.

of the family of Downes<sup>d</sup>: it was probably repaired by Archbishop Savage, whose arms appear on it.

Under an open arch, on the north side of the chancel in Macclesfield church, is the monument of Sir John Savage Knt., and Katherine his wife, daughter of Thomas Lord Stanley, and sister of Thomas first Earl of Derby. It is an altar-tomb with the effigies of a knight and his lady; he is represented bare-headed, in plate-armour, with scalloped elbow-pieces, gorget and skirt of mail, and a collar of roses: under his head are his helmet and lambrequin, without the crest, and a dog at his feet. The lady has the reticulated head-dress and veil of King Edward the IVth's reign; the former has "Ihc" in text-hand within each mesh. On the altar-tomb are shields supported by knights and ladies, on which are the arms of Archbishop Savage, and the families of Savage, Stanley, Vernon, Latham, &c.\*. In the Savage chapel, on the south side of Macclesfield church, under two arches in the north wall, are altar-tombs, with the effigies of two knights, in alabaster; one of them is represented in plate-armour, bare-headed, with his helmet and crest, (a unicorn's head,) for a pillow; and a lion at his feet. The arches are enriched with crockets, &c.; in the pediments are shields, with the ancient arms of Savage, a pale fustilé, and the crest, a unicorn's head erased on each side: on the lower part of the tombs are blank shields held by angels. On the south side of the same chapel are two similar arches, now vacant, but which formerly contained effigies of knights in armour<sup>f</sup>.

XVIth Century.—In the Brereton chancel in Malpas church is the monument of Sir Randal Brereton and Eleanor his lady, by whom that chancel was built<sup>g</sup>: it is a rich altar-tomb of alabaster ornamented on the sides with figures of knights and ladies in Gothic niches; on it lie the effigies of a knight and his lady; he is represented in plate-armour, with a collar of S S, and a lion at his feet: she has the angular head-dress of Henry the Eighth's reign: round the edge of the tomb was the following inscription, "*Hic jacent Rondulphus Brereton miles Baronetus ac Camerarius Cestrie, et domina Elynora uxor ejus, qui quidem Rondulphus et Elynora dum in humanis vixerunt hanc tumbam fieri fecerunt videlicet in festo sancti Michaelis archangeli, An̄o. Dñi. millesimo quingentesimo vicesimo secundo quor' aniābs p'picietur Deus Amen*"<sup>h</sup>: of which only the date now remains. In the chapel, on the north side of the chancel in Over-Peover church, is an altar-tomb, with a slab of white marble, on which are engraved the effigies of Philip Mainwaring and Ann his wife, (1573). He is represented in plate-armour, with a beard and ruff; the lady also

<sup>d</sup> In a sketch made in the year 1584, the crest is represented as a stag's head; it is now too much defaced to be made out. <sup>e</sup> Some of these are now much defaced; they are all sketched as they were in 1584, in the MS. collection above mentioned. Harl. MSS. 2151. fol. 13.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. fol. 12.

<sup>g</sup> See p. 443.

<sup>h</sup> Harl. MSS. 2151. fol. 82. a.

has a ruff. On a plain altar-tomb on the north side of the chancel of Wilmslow church is the effigies of an ecclesiastic, carved in stone, with a book under his head, and this inscription in text hand painted round the edge, "*Hic jacet corp' Mr' Henric' Treffort, sacre theologie doctor, licēciat' quōd' Cācellarii metropolit' eccl'ie Ebor' et rector' de Holto' phi' rector' etiā eccl'ie de Sigliffborne et st' eccl'ie q' obiit primo die mēs'. Augusti Ann'. dñi. MCCCCXXXV' cuj' aiē oipotēs de' sit ppiti'.*" on the sides of the tomb are painted an emaciated body, and scrolls with inscriptions in text hand.

In the north wall of the north aisle of Wilmslow church are two arches, under which lie the effigies of a man and his wife, carved in stone; he is habited in a gown, having three tons under his head, and holding a scroll with the name of H. Newton inscribed on it; the lady is in a long gown and veil, with a purse hanging from her girdle: the following inscription was formerly on these monuments<sup>i</sup>, "*Orate pro Hum̄o Newton de Pownall ar' & Elene ux' ejus fil' & her' Tho. Fitton et Cecilie ux' ejus qui obiit A. D. MCCCCG.....* There was also a coat of arms in a window of the north aisle, with an inscription under it, stating that window to have been made at the cost of Humphrey Newton and Ellen his wife, A. D. 1523<sup>k</sup>.

On the south side of the Savage-chapel in Macclesfield church is an altar-tomb, with the effigies of a knight and his lady; he appears in plate-armour, with a collar of S.S., and a lion at his feet, she in the angular head-dress of King Henry the Eighth's reign, with a little dog at her feet; on the lower part of the tomb are figures of knights and ladies carved in bas-relief. The following inscription was formerly on an arch over this monument, "*..... Sir John Savage wch was made Knight in the wars of ..... which died the twenty-sixth day of July in the yeare 1527, and Lady Elizabeth his wife, dāu: to<sup>l</sup> ..... which Lady Elizabeth died the .... day of ..... Ano Dñi.....*"

In the chapel at the east end of the south aisle of Malpas church is a rich monument in alabaster, of a knight and his lady, much resembling that of Sir John Savage, last described; on account of its situation, only a part of the inscription running round this monument, is at present visible, which runs thus: "*[Hugo Cholmondeley de Cholmondeley miles, Walliæ march' vice-preses sextus vicecomes mortem obiit ano<sup>m</sup>.] atatis suæ 83 A° Dñi. 1596, et hoc humo sepelitur; filiusque et heres ejus Hugo Cholmondeley de Cholmondeley miles annum agens 50 diem clausit ultimum Anno Dñi. 1601, et hic jacet uxor ejus doīa Maria q̄ post viri obitum propter [charum ejus amorem] hoc fieri fecit monumentum, A. Dñi. 1605.*" In Hefwall church

<sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS. 2151. fol. 61.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> Charles Earl of Somersfet.

<sup>m</sup> The parts

of this epitaph printed between crochets are taken from Harl. MSS. 2151. fol. 82. 6.

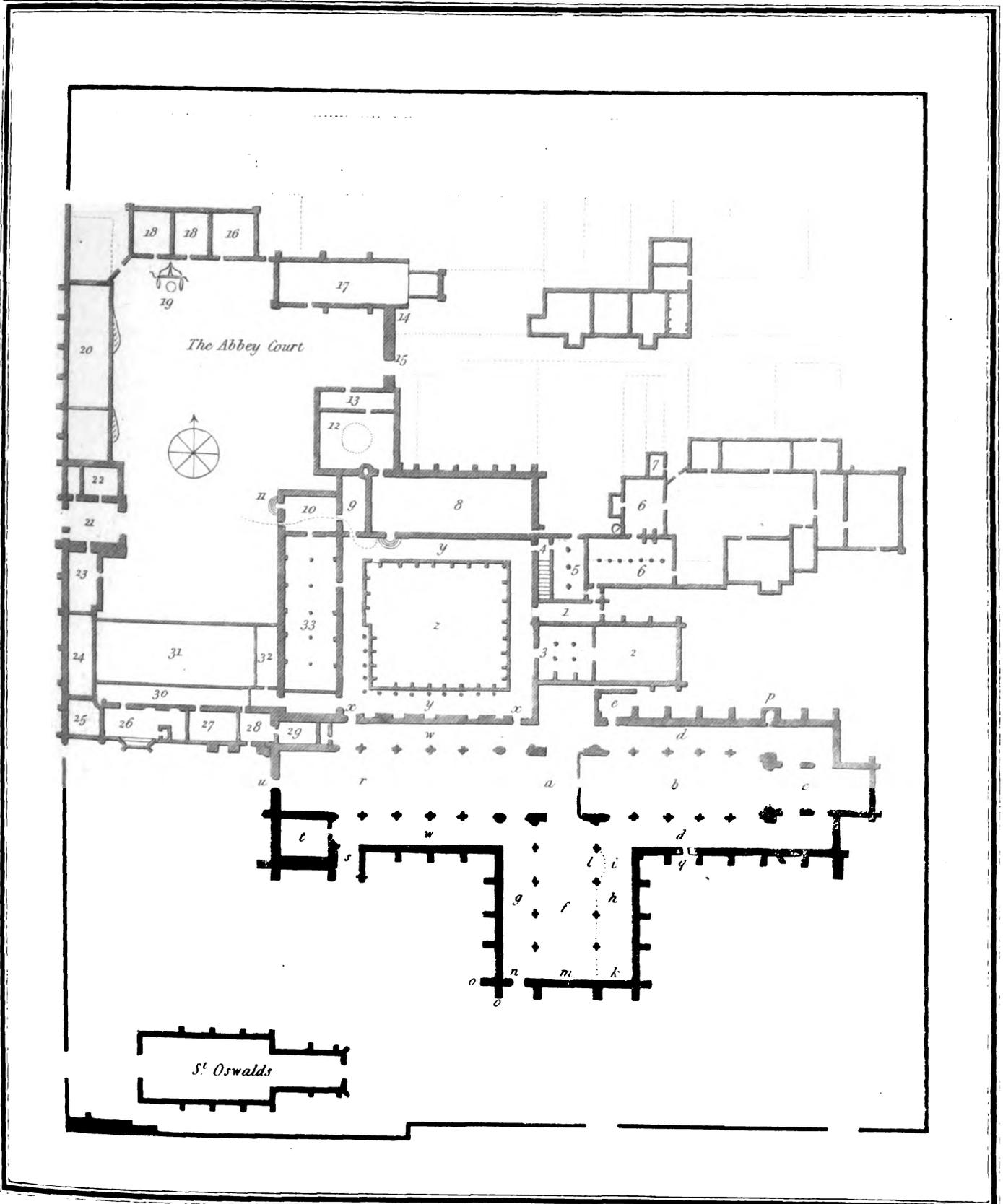
is a large copper-plate, with the figure of one of the Glegg family engraved on it; he appears in a ruff, with beard and whiskers, and with a long cloak and sword.

*Monastic Remains.*—Besides the remains of the abbey of St. Werburgh at Chester, already noticed under the head of ancient church architecture, some other parts of the extensive buildings of that monastery still exist, on the west side of what was formerly called the abbey-court, consisting of the gate-house, now converted into the register-office, the porter's lodge, and part of what was the abbot's kitchen<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See the plan of the Cathedral, which accompanies the account of the city of Chester, in the subsequent part of this volume, and the annexed plan, taken from the Holmes' Collections, in the British Museum, (Harl. MSS. 2073.) which shews the whole of the buildings of this monastery, as they remained a short time after its dissolution. The following references are there given.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. "The body of the church and great-square-steeples.</li> <li>b. The quire.</li> <li>c. La: Mary chapel.</li> <li>d. The side-isses of the quire.</li> <li>e. The vestry.</li> <li>f. The parish-church.</li> <li>g. The trough-isse.</li> <li>h. The chancel.</li> <li>i. Mary Magdalen chapel.</li> <li>k. St. Nich, chapel.</li> <li>l. The Skreen</li> <li>m. Steeple door.</li> <li>n. South-door.</li> <li>o. The two buttresses whereon the steeple stands.</li> <li>p. Turning stairs over Lady Mary's chapel.</li> <li>q. Door into green church-yard.</li> <li>r. Broad isle.</li> <li>s. Singing-school-porch.</li> <li>t. The old steeple, now consistory-court.</li> <li>u. West door.</li> <li>w. Side-isses to the broad aisle.</li> <li>x. Cloister doors.</li> <li>y. The cloisters.</li> <li>z. Sprise-Garden.</li> <li>1. Maiden's isle.</li> <li>2. The chapter-house.</li> <li>3. The entrance.</li> <li>4. Passage and stairs to the dormitory.</li> <li>5. Ancient priest's cellar.</li> <li>6. The priest's kitchens.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Cellars.</li> <li>8. Monks'-hall, or fraternity, now free-school.</li> <li>9. Monks' cellar.</li> <li>10. Passage from the abbey-court, through the cellar into the cloisters, and so to the church or dining-hall.</li> <li>11. Bishop's-gate, or porch of his palace.</li> <li>12. The kitchen, now queresters houses.</li> <li>13. The pantry, now consistory office.</li> <li>14. The passage.</li> <li>15. East-gate of the abbey-court.</li> <li>16. Bake house, with two ovens, the one nineteen feet in diameter.</li> <li>17. St. Thomas' chapel, now dean's-house.</li> <li>18. Brew-house and store-house.</li> <li>19. Great well.</li> <li>20. The great kiln, and drying-floors.</li> <li>21. The abbey-gates.</li> <li>22. St. Thomas' court.</li> <li>23. Porter's-lodge.</li> <li>24. Abbot's-kitchen.</li> <li>25. The tower and larder.</li> <li>26. Serving man's hall, over which is the great dining-room.</li> <li>27. Strong-beer-cellar, over it Darby-chamber.</li> <li>28. The pantry, over it the stone-hall.</li> <li>29. The wine-cellar.</li> <li>30. The gallery.</li> <li>31. The bishop's garden.</li> <li>32. The abbot's-well.</li> <li>33. The great cellar, over which is the great-hall, and the green-hall."</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

The



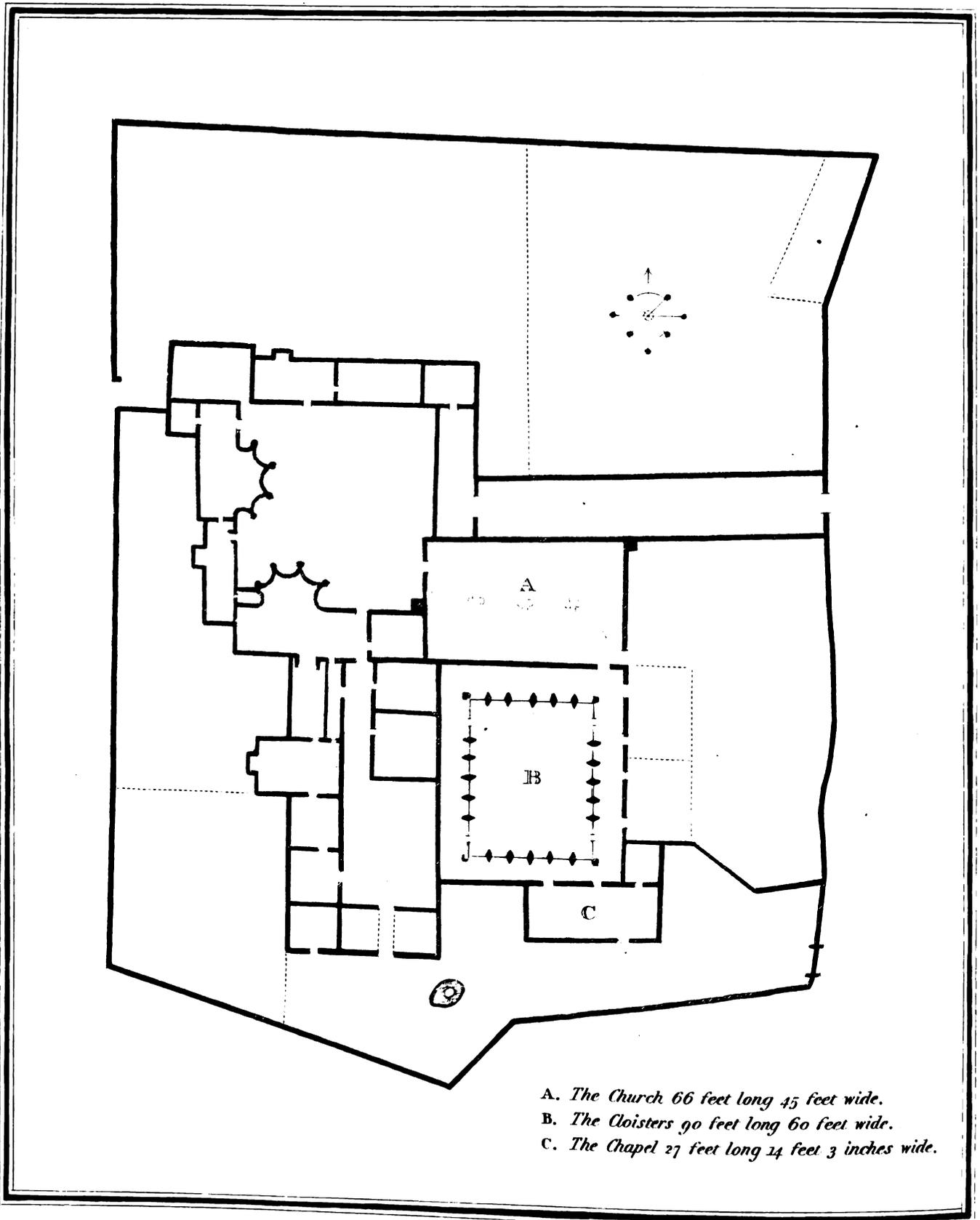
PLAN OF THE MONASTERY OF ST WERBURGH, IN CHESTER.

*As it remained at the time of the Dissolution, from a Drawing in the British Museum.*









- A. The Church 66 feet long 45 feet wide.
- B. The Cloisters 90 feet long 60 feet wide.
- C. The Chapel 27 feet long 14 feet 3 inches wide.

PLAN OF THE MONASTERY OF BENEDICTINE NUNS AT CHESTER.

*as it remained in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from a Drawing in the British Museum.*



The principal part of the abbot's lodgings, was converted into the bishop's palace after the reformation; the abbot's-hall, having been stripped of its lead in 1649, has since gone to decay<sup>2</sup>; the other parts of the bishop's palace were rebuilt from the ground soon after the year 1752; the Fraternity, or Monks-Hall, was converted into a school-room. Of the priory of the Benedictine nuns at Chester scarcely any traces now exist, except the name of the Nuns Gardens, preserved in the site of that monastery, near the castle: some of the buildings appear to have been standing in the year 1729, when Buck's View of Chester Castle was published: the annexed plan of this priory is taken from a drawing in the British Museum made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth<sup>3</sup>.

After the dissolution of monasteries, part of the buildings of three of the religious houses of this county were converted into mansion houses; Vale-Royal abbey became the seat of the Holcroft family, afterwards of the Cholmondeleys; Combermere abbey of the Cottons, and Norton-Priory of the Brookes; it appears from Buck's View taken in the year 1727, that Combermere abbey<sup>4</sup> was then built chiefly of timber, in the style of the Cheshire and Staffordshire mansion-houses of the sixteenth century; very little of the original building appears to have been then remaining. From his View of Norton-Priory<sup>5</sup>, taken at the same time, it appears to have been a very irregular building, chiefly of stone, and embattled, and to have retained a good deal of its original form; it has since been nearly rebuilt, and retains no traces of antiquity, except in the cellar, where is a door-way, with a circular arch, much enriched with Saxon ornaments<sup>6</sup>.

A considerable portion of the collegiate church of St. John at Chester still exists, and is used as the parish-church; besides what has been already mentioned, under the head of ancient church architecture, some parts of the monastery remain on the south side of the building, as may be seen in the annexed plate, where several parts of the church, which do not now exist, are shewn by dotted lines, taken from a plan in the British Museum, made in the year 1589<sup>7</sup>, and the more ancient parts now remaining are expressed by a darker shading. The remains

of

<sup>2</sup> Willis's Cathedrals, Vol. i. p. 321.      <sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2073.      <sup>4</sup> See Buck's Antiquities, Vol. i. plate 18.      <sup>5</sup> Ibid. plate 22. There is a sketch of the ground plan of this priory in the Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2073.      <sup>6</sup> See a specimen of this door-way in the plate at p. 438.

<sup>7</sup> Harl. MSS. 2073, the following references are there given, to the ground-plot of St. John's church. fol. 69. 71.

A. "The quire of the church wherein standeth a very fair window lately built, with all that east-end of the wall.

B. The body of the church, wherein standeth the pillars, and the pews.

C. A

of the Priory of Birkenhead are considerable, and nearly the same as they appear in Buck's View taken in the year 1727'. The chapel is entire, the door at the west end and the windows are round-headed; adjoining this chapel, at the north-west angle, is a large building with a stone groined roof; and opposite the west end of the chapel, the walls of the hall are standing.

- 
- C. A little low old-chapel, now used as a store-house to the church.
  - D. An aisle belonging to the church, lately fallen down, and ruinous at the north corner.
  - E. Another aisle opposite, the roof whereof is ruined and fallen down, the height of the wall is fourteen yards high.
  - F. An house built to the church-wall-side, reputed to be the woollen and linen webster's meeting-house, or hall.
  - G. A garden belonging to the house, built by the porch of the church.
  - H. A little house, adjoining to the church-porch.
  - I. The church-porch.
  - K. The steeple, whereof the one-half, or two sides, are ruined, and is building, being already neere twelve yards, and so standeth unfinished, being a very fair steeple, about twenty-six yards high.
  - L. The ruins of the west-end of the church, whereof part of the steeple, and the west-end of the church, and a fair window, was lately re-edified with stone.
  - M. A part of the church, at the east-end, behind the newly-built window, which now standeth ruined, and is a garden or yard, to keep tyMBER therein, some tyme a part of the church.
  - N. A fine little chapple, or the *sanctum sanctorum* of the church (part ruined) being arched, and richly adorned with carved-work in the stone; the walling and stones gone\*.
  - O. } Diverse chapells and fair rooffs, vaulted, or arched over with stone, richly carved and gilt,
  - P. } with walks on the sides ruined, yet part of the outward old walls standing, with
  - Q. } divers of the old pillars and partitions, belonging to the colledge.
  - R. An house, or some chambers, sometyne belonging to the church-priests, yet standing, partly in a reparation.
  - S. The south-side of the steeple, which is decayed.
  - T. The west-side of the steeple, which is decayed.
  - V. The whole, and very fair, and sound side of the steeple.
  - W. The other standing-side of the steeple.
  - X. The old parish-church, or chappell of St. James, now used for a garner."

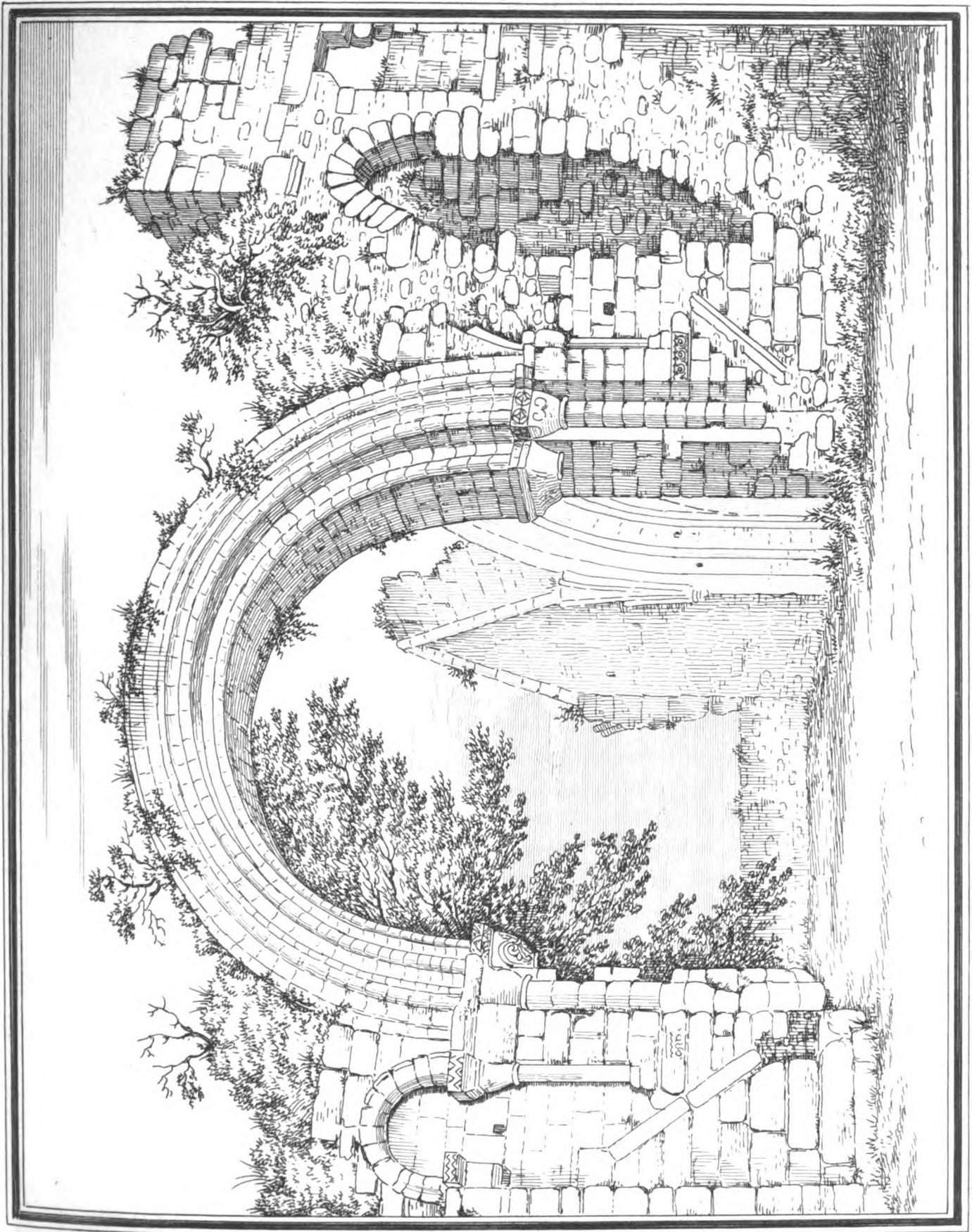
To these references may be added,

- Y. A chapel, now in ruins, adjoining the south-east corner of the choir.
- Z. The part of the nave, which is represented in the plate at p. 437.

\* Buck's Antiquities, Vol. I. plate 16.

\* The entrance to this chapel is represented in the annexed plate.

*Castles*



RUINS OF PART OF THE CHOIR OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

H. M. M. 1881

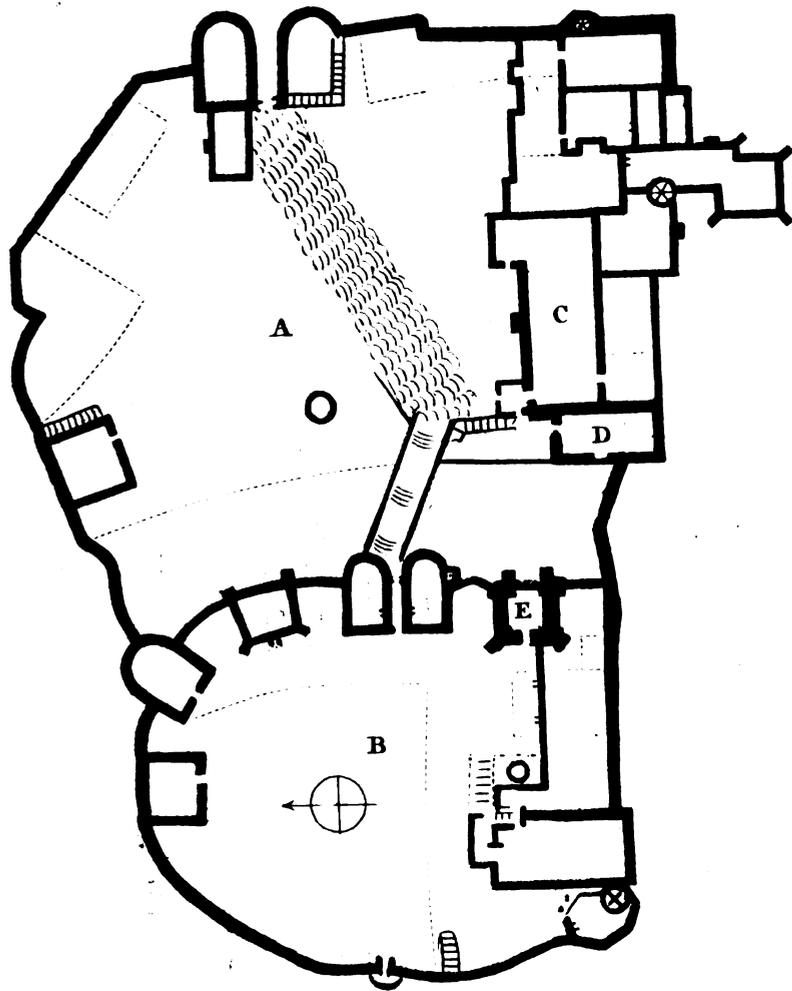




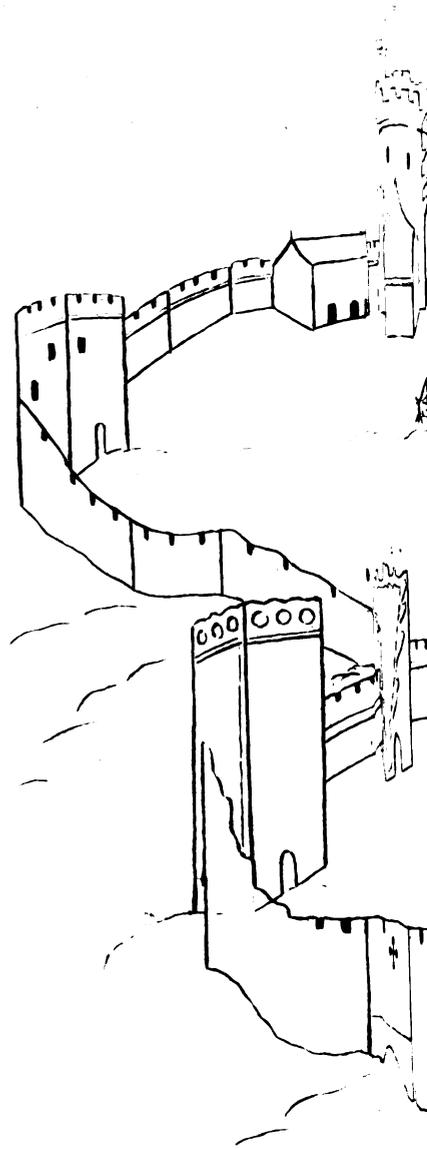




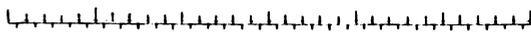




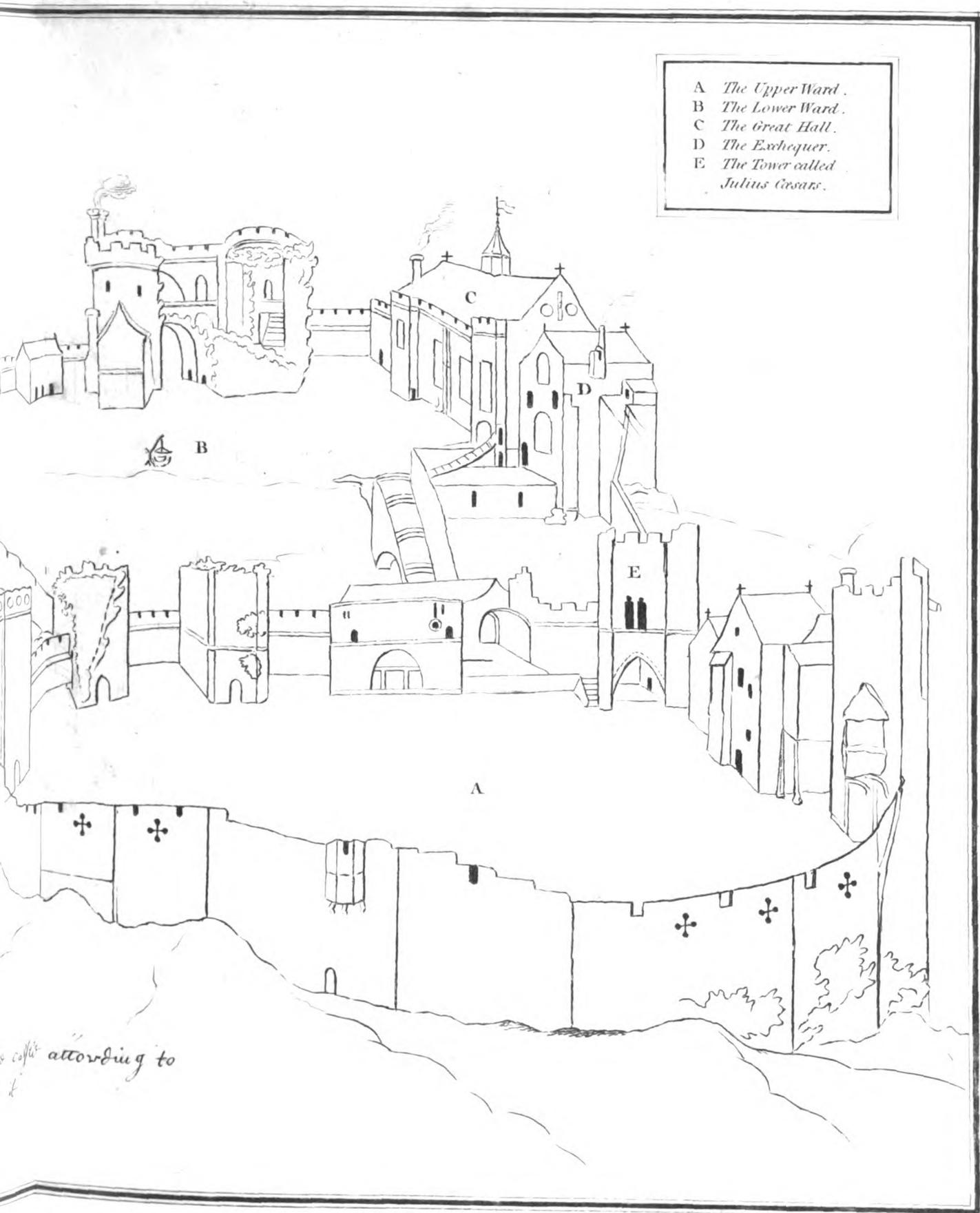
*the ground plot of the  
castle of Chester*



*the view of the castle  
the bridges in it*



PLAN AND SKETCH OF CHESTER CASTLE FROM



- A *The Upper Ward.*
- B *The Lower Ward.*
- C *The Great Hall.*
- D *The Exchequer.*
- E *The Tower called Julius Casars.*

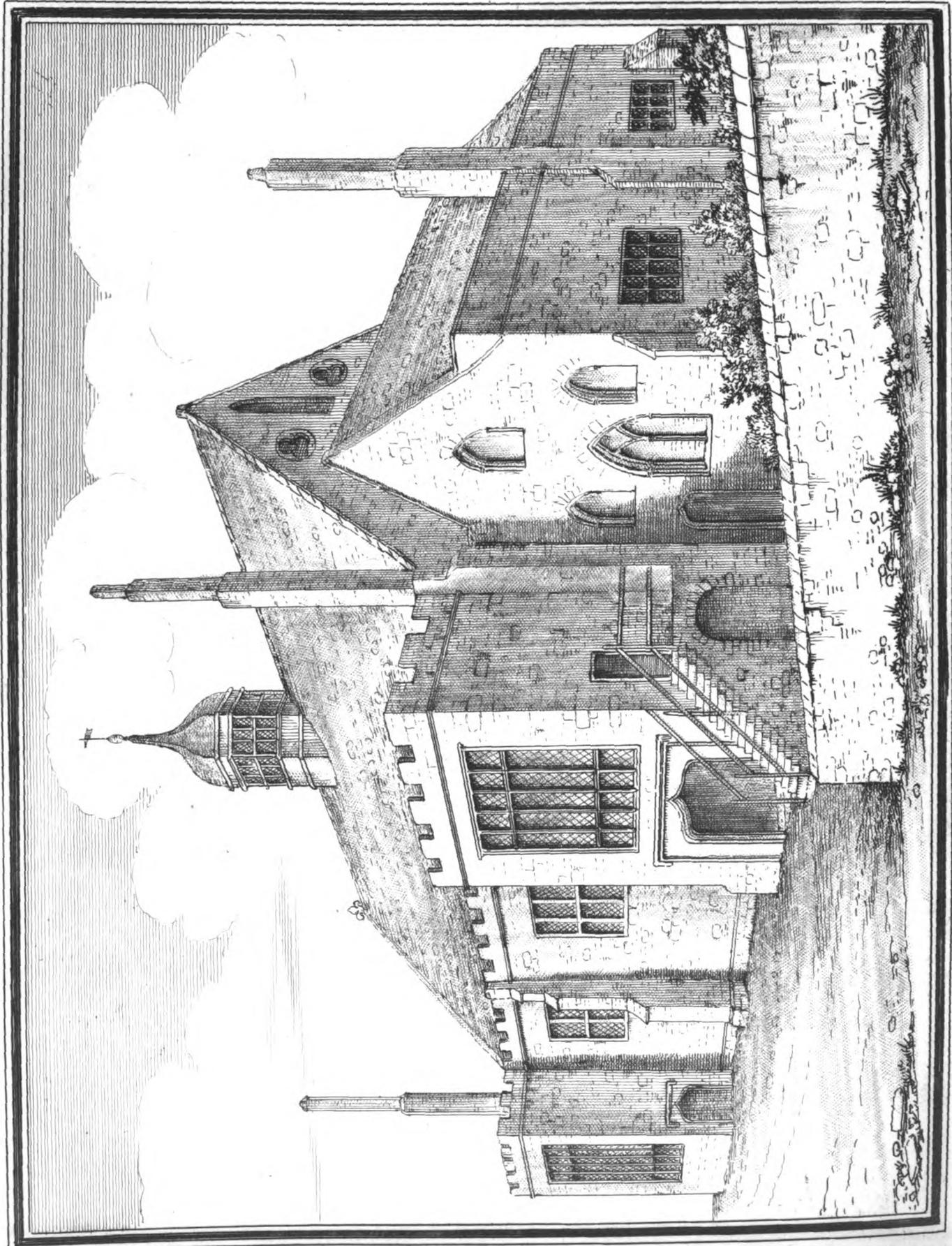
colle' according to

FROM A DRAWING IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.









VIEW OF HUGH LUPUS'S HALL, AND THE EXCHEQUER IN CHESTER CASTLE

from a Drawing in the Collection of the late William Nicholls Esq.



*Castles and Sites of Castles.*—The castle at Chester was a building of considerable extent, till a great part of it was taken down about the year 1790, for the purpose of erecting the new county-hall, gaol, and barracks: it was originally built by William the Conqueror, (though little of the Norman fabrick now remains); and consisted of two courts, “each with a strong gate, defended by a round bastion on each side, with a ditch, and formerly with draw-bridges.” The annexed ground-plan, and bird’s-eye sketch, taken from a drawing in the British Museum, which appears to have been made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, will convey a pretty good idea of its form. The massy tower in the upper-ward, called Julius Cæsar’s, still remains, and is now used as a magazine for gun-powder: there is an upper-chamber in this tower, about nineteen feet by sixteen, and about sixteen feet high, with a vaulted and groined roof of stone; the groins spring from slender pillars, with capitals in the style of the twelfth century; on one side is a plain pointed recess in the wall, the back of which appears to have been ornamented with painting; Mr. Pennant says that “the holy-water-pot, and some figures almost obsolete, were painted on the walls.” This room seems to have been a chapel, and under it is a crypt with a groined roof, but no pillars. On the south side of the lower-court stood the noble hall of the castle, called Hugh Lupus’s Hall, which was taken down about the year 1790, Mr. Pennant describes its dimensions, as nearly ninety-five feet, by forty-five, and says that “the roof was supported by wood-work, carved in a bold style and resting on brackets.” Adjoining to the west end of this hall was the Exchequer, a building in the style of the early Gothic, said to have been the parliament-house of the Earls of Chester; this was taken down at the same time with the great hall of the castle, which was an ancient structure, but had undergone considerable repairs and alterations in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Beefton castle is built on the side of a rocky insulated hill, rising with a regular but steep slope, and terminating in a high precipice. The outer-court includes a considerable space of ground: it is of an irregular form, with several round towers. The keep, which is not large, is surrounded with a deep ditch, sunk in the solid rock, over which it was entered by a draw-bridge; the entrance was defended by two circular towers, still remaining: the approach under this gate-way is very narrow, by rugged steps cut out of the natural rock. This castle has been in ruins, ever since it was dismantled during the civil war, in the reign of Charles the First.

\* Pennant’s Wales, Vol. i. p. 164.      † Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2073 – 31.      † See a figure of one of them at p. 438.      † Pennant’s Wales, Vol. i. p. 165.      † See the annexed plate.  
 † Pennant’s Wales, Vol. i. p. 165.      † King’s Vale-Royal of Chester, p. 38.      † There are Views of this castle in King’s Vale-Royal of Cheshire, p. 3. and in Buck’s Antiq. Vol. i. plate 15.  
The

The whole of Halton castle, except the gate-way, appears to have been in ruins as early as the year 1727, when Buck's Views of the Antiquities of this county were drawn<sup>c</sup>; at an earlier period, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it is said to have been "a goodly piece of building<sup>d</sup>." Very few traces of the ancient walls are now to be seen; a modern building, used as an inn, occupies a part of the site of this castle. The foundations of Aldford castle are still to be traced<sup>e</sup>. Shotwick castle appears, from a plan and sketch of it in the British Museum<sup>f</sup>, to have had a pentagonal wall, with several circular towers, inclosing a lofty square one. No part of the buildings of Shocklach castle remain: only some earth-works, and a high mount, are now to be seen: there are no remains of Frodsham castle, of which some ruins existed in the year 1727<sup>g</sup>.

*Ancient Mansion-Houses.*—A square embattled tower of Doddington-Hall, the ancient seat of the Delves family, still remains, and some fragments of the more modern mansion-house, forming a flight of steps leading up to it; the ballustrade is ornamented with that kind of lace-work in stone (so much in fashion during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and King James the First); here also remain statues of James Lord Audley and his four squires, in plate armour, with ruffs, which formed a part of the embellishment of this mansion<sup>h</sup>. Doddington-Hall is described in a MS. history of the Delves family, by Sir William Dugdale, as having been "a large pile of brick-building built in a square, with a court in the middle, and a stone castle adjoining thereto; all encompassed with a moat of water." This castle was, no doubt, the embattled tower above-mentioned as still in existence.

Bramhall-Hall, an ancient seat of the Davenports, and now of William Davenport Esq., retains much of its original form; it is chiefly built of timber, and some parts of it appear to be of as early a date as the reign of King Edward the Fourth, whose family devices are in some of the chapel windows<sup>i</sup>: in the east window of the chapel are various coats of arms of the Cheshire gentry. There is a large upper chamber, in its original state with a wooden roof; the walls are painted with flowers, grotesque animals, and other figures. The great chamber seems to have been altered in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, whose arms appear over the chimney-piece; the ceiling is enriched with pendent ornaments: on the door, which is richly inlaid, appears the date of 1592.

<sup>c</sup> See plate 20.

<sup>d</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 93.

<sup>e</sup> See p. 484.

<sup>f</sup> Harl. MSS. 2073.

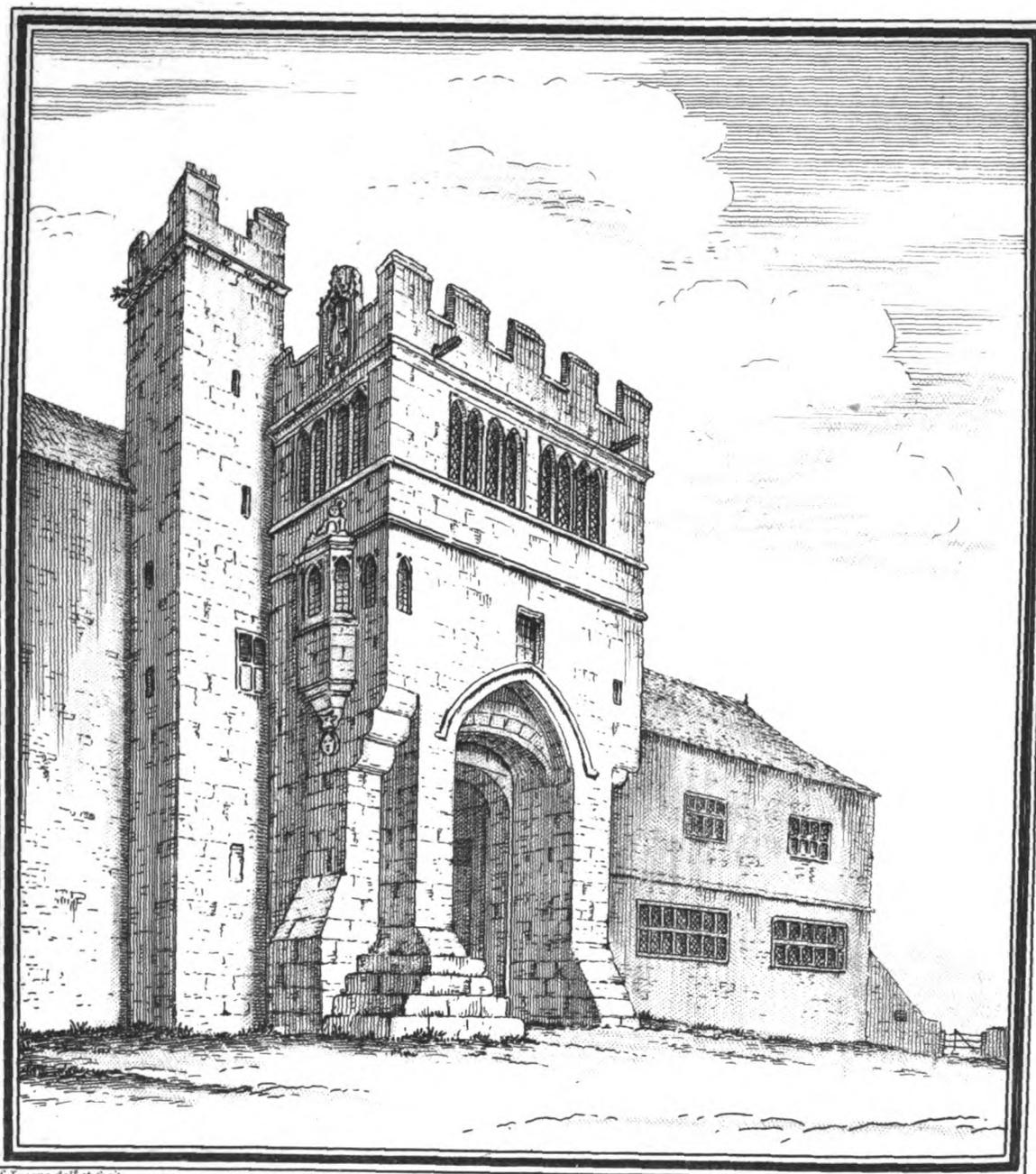
<sup>g</sup> See Buck's Antiquities, Vol. i. plate 19.

<sup>h</sup> They do

not seem older than the sixteenth century, and have not the least appearance of the antiquity which has been sometimes ascribed to them.

<sup>i</sup> The white rose, fetterlock, and broom-pod.





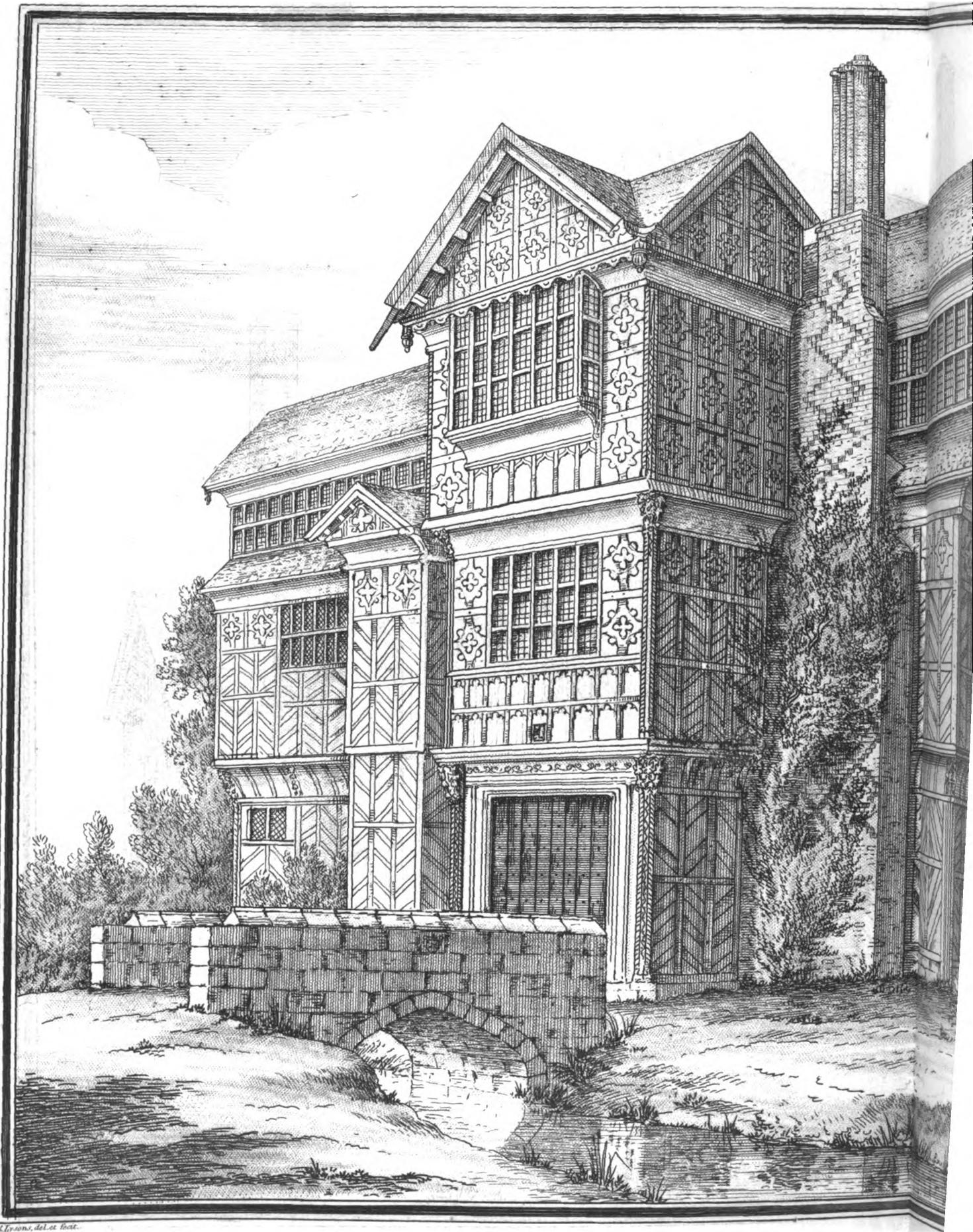
*J. Lyons del. et fecit.*

SAIGHTON HALL.

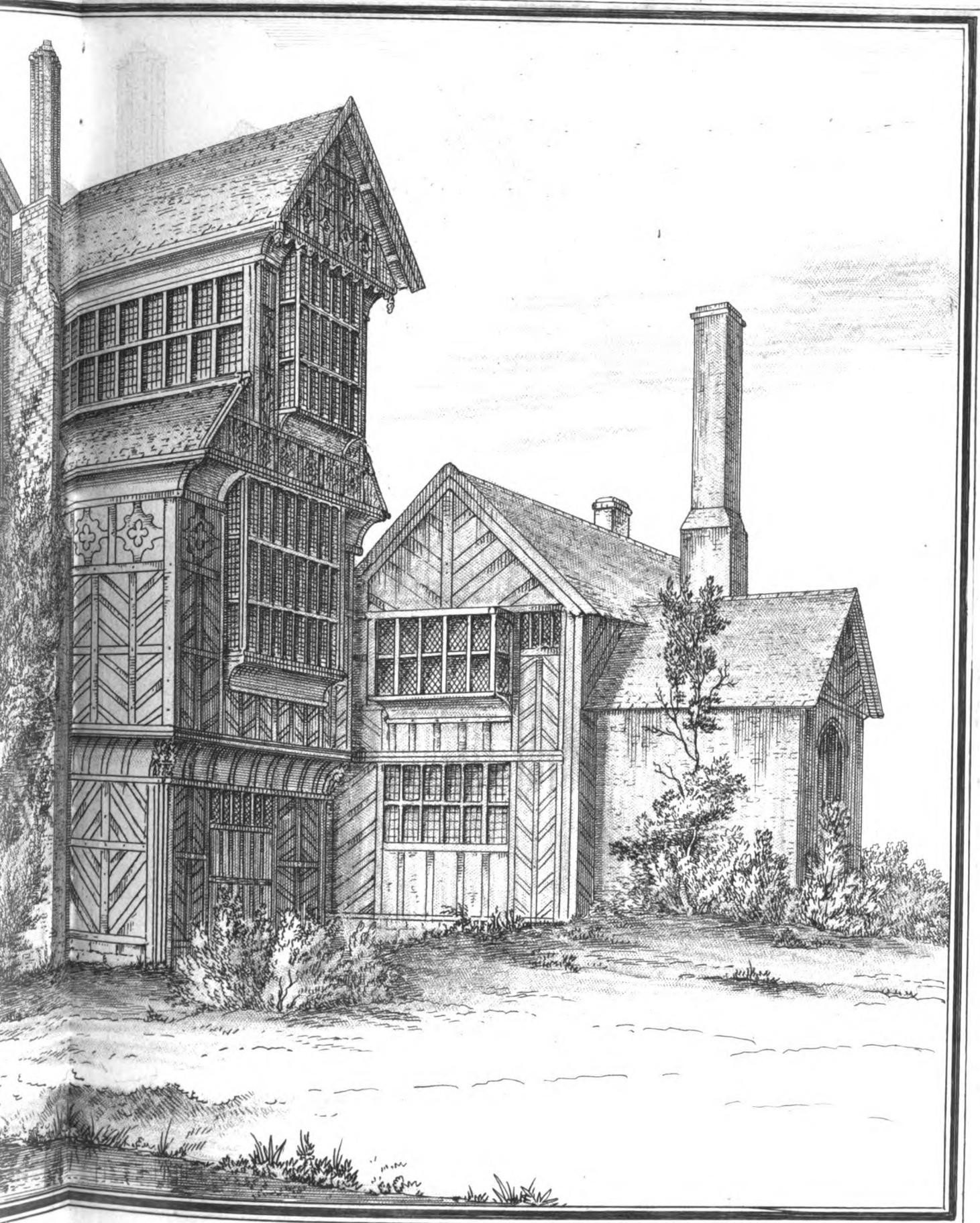
*One of the Seats of the Abbot of Chester.*







SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF LITTLE MORETO

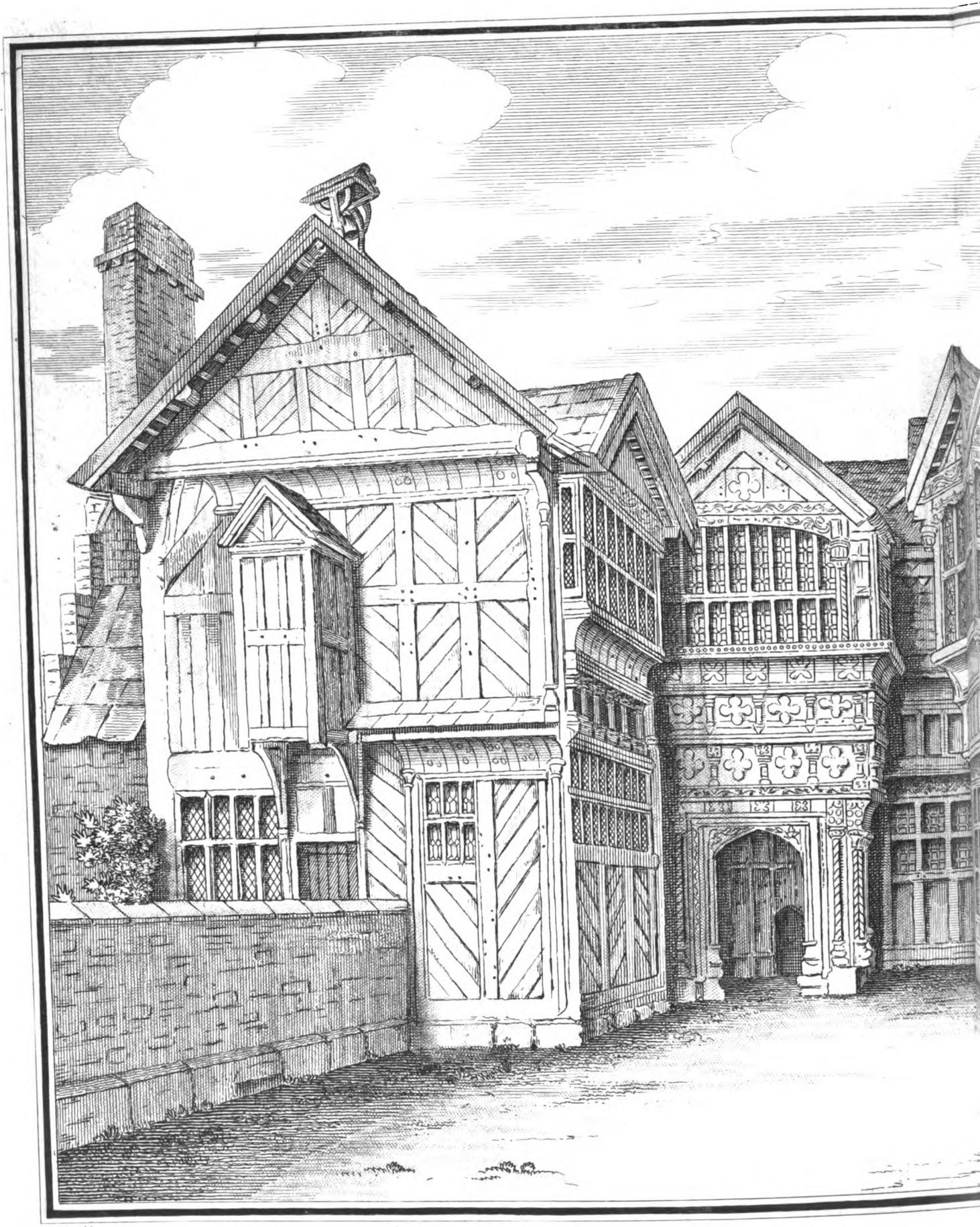


LITTLE MORETON HALL, CHESHIRE.



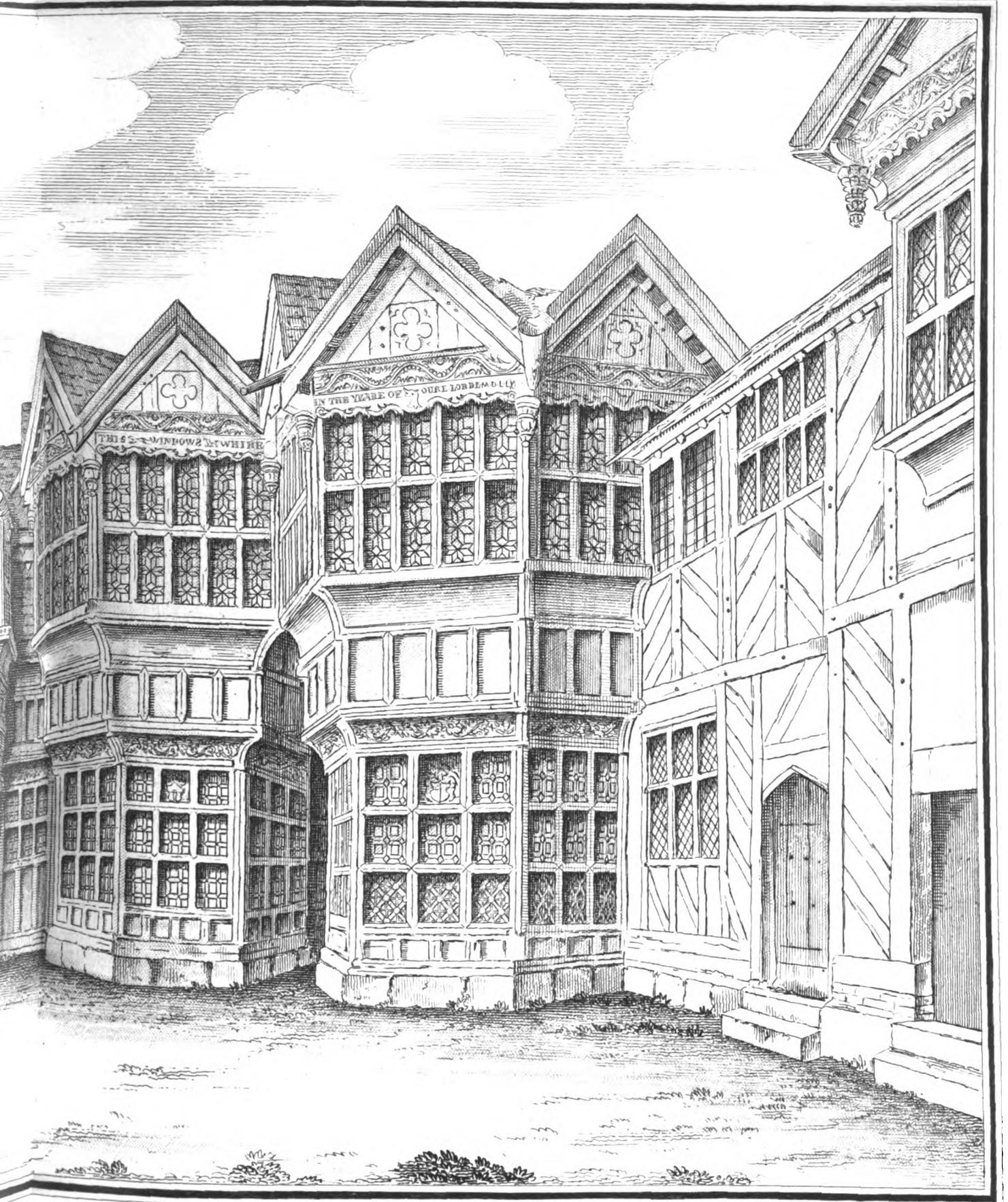






S. Lysons del.

VIEW OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE COURTYARD



COURT OF LITTLE MORETON HALL, CHESHIRE.

J. Bouveret sculp.





Of Saighton-Hall, which, before the dissolution of monasteries, was a seat of the abbots of Chester, a considerable part still exists, and is converted into a farm-house. The gate-way, which is of stone and embattled, and an adjoining turret, are said to have been built by Abbot Ripley, about 1489; within a nich, against one of the battlements of the gate-way, is an image of the Virgin Mary: and under a bow-window, the wolf's head, in allusion to Hugh Lupus, the founder of the abbey of St. Werburgh: other parts of Saighton-Hall have large tranform windows, and appear to have been built since the dissolution.

Little-Moreton-Hall, in the parish of Astbury, belonging to the Rev. W. M. Moreton, is a very remarkable building, almost wholly of timber; and from the singularity of its form, and its high state of preservation, is more deserving of attention than any other of the same kind in this county: it is surrounded by a moat, and occupies three sides of a court; on the north side of which is the hall, with a large bow-window, being five sides of an octagon; on the east side of the court is the chapel, on the walls of which are painted various inscriptions, in text-hand, and ornaments: the entrance is on the south side, over a stone-bridge, across the moat: the whole of the upper part of this side of the building, being sixty-eight feet in length, is occupied by a very light gallery, having a continued range of windows, on every side of it. The curious manner in which the timber-work of this building, and the glazing of the windows, are disposed, will be best understood by the annexed plates. Over the great bow-window of the hall are the following inscriptions carved in the wood-work, together with the arms and crest of Moreton, "*God is al in al thing. — This windows whire made by William Moreton in the yere of oure Lorde MDLIX. — Rychard Dale Carpēder made this window by the grac' of God.*" It is probable that some parts of the building, especially the chapel, might have been of an earlier date.

The remains of Dutton-Hall, once the splendid mansion of the ancient family of Dutton, are now converted into a farm-house; the hall appears to have been spacious, and handsome, with an enriched wooden roof; it is now converted into several rooms, and divided into two or three floors. Over the principal door are the arms of Dutton quartering Hatton, and this inscription in text-hand, "*Syr Peyrs Dutton Knyght Lorde of Dutton, and my Lady Dame Julian his wife, made this hall and buylding, in the yere of oure Lord God a MCCCCXIII., who thanketh God of all.*"

Poole-Hall, in the parish of Eastham, which appears to have been built about the middle of the sixteenth century, is a brick-building, nearly in its

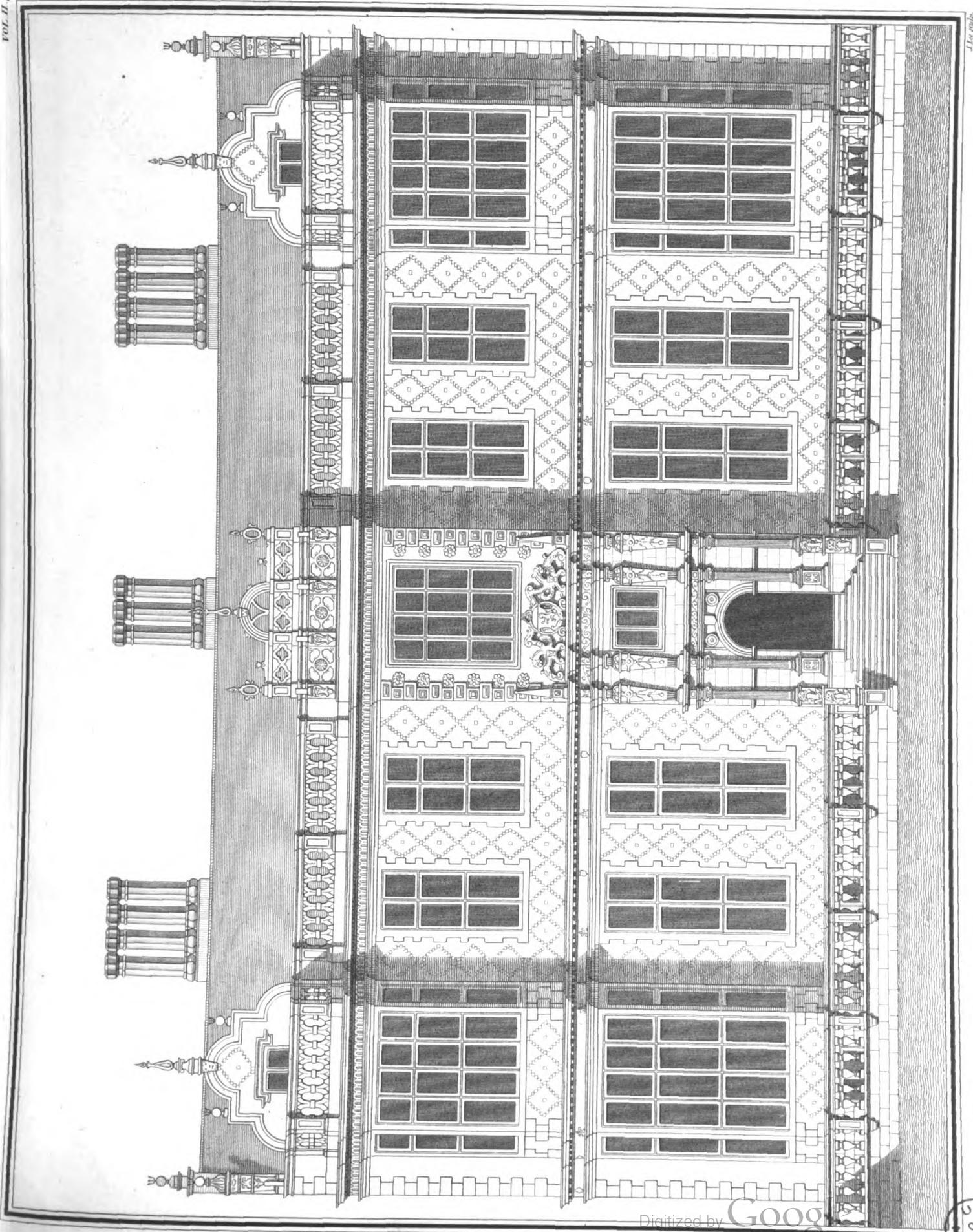
original state: some of the oaken wainscot, in the upper apartments, is very richly ornamented with heads, carved in bas-relief: and with coats of arms of the Poole family, and its alliances: over a chimney-piece in the hall, is the date of 1574.

Brereton-Hall, a part only of which at present remains, appears to have been a very magnificent mansion of brick; it was built by Sir William Brereton in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the style of Esher-place in Surrey: over the door are the arms of England, with the rose, crown, and portcullis; the arms of Queen Elizabeth are also over the chimney-piece in the drawing-room, where those of all the sovereigns of Europe are emblazoned round the cornice. On the cornice of the stair-case, and in the windows, are the arms of the principal gentry of Cheshire; several of those in the windows have the date of 1577. A part also remains of the ancient mansion of Lyme-Hall, which was built in the reign of James I., but altered and newly fronted by Leoni, in the last century: the principal rooms, which retain their original form, are the gallery at the top of the house, one hundred and twenty-four feet in length; a breakfast-room, much enriched with carved wainscotting, and with plaister ornaments; among which are arms of King James the First, and a representation of the house in its original state. In the drawing-room, the wainscotting is richly carved with arches, &c. above which, the walls are covered with a profusion of plaister-ornaments, as is also the ceiling; over the chimney-piece, which is composed of Ionic-pillars, terms, &c. are the arms of England, supported by the lion and dragon.

Crewe-Hall, the seat of Lord Crewe, was begun in the year 1615, by his lordship's ancestor Sir Randal Crewe, and completed in 1636; it is chiefly of brick, and one of the most complete specimens of the style of building of that time. The hall, the staircase, and several of the rooms, remain in their original state; the roof of the dining-room has pendant ornaments, the wainscot is enriched with terms, and other sculptured ornaments. At Bidston, is an old mansion-house of stone, with four gable-ends, and a large semicircular bow-window in front; before it is a court, with a handsome gateway of stone; this is mentioned in King's Vale-Royal, as "a goodly house of William Earl of Derby<sup>b</sup>." Tabley-Hall, the ancient residence of the Leycester family, is a considerable building of stone, with large transom windows; in the hall, which is large, is a chimney-piece, much enriched with a great variety of ornaments. Harden-Hall, formerly

<sup>a</sup> An elevation of Crewe-Hall, from which the annexed plate is taken, was published in a large print in 1742, by William Yoxall. There is a view of it in King's Vale-Royal of Cheshire, part ii. p. 75.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 124.



*See opp.*

CREWE HALL IN CHESHIRE.





the seat of the ancient family of Arderne, is likewise a stone-building, with indented gable-ends, and transom windows. Dorfold-Hall, now the seat of Henry Tomkinson Esq., which was built by Ralph Wilbraham Esq. in the reign of King James the First, is a handsome brick-building, with transom windows; and retains its original external form: the great chamber, which is very much enriched with plaster-ornaments, also remains unaltered.

*Ancient Crosses.*—Two very ancient stone-pillars, called the Bow-stones, or Park-moor-stones, fixed in a large stone, six feet four inches in length, and four feet in width, in form approaching to an oval, stand just without the eastern boundary of Lyme-park, near an ancient road, leading from Disley to Macclesfield: one of them is three feet two inches in height, and four feet three inches in girth at the base; the other four feet in height, and four feet in girth, at the base; the socket of each is eleven inches deep; they are round, and taper gradually from their bases: each of these pillars has a kind of rude capital, like those of the pillar near Valle-Crucis abbey in Denbighshire. About a mile and a half from the Bow-stones, in a field called Long-side-piece, in the township of Whaley and parish of Stockport, is a rude stone of an oblong form, about four feet long, and one foot thick, in which are two sockets, one of them, one foot seven inches, by one foot three inches, and six inches deep; the other, one foot five inches, by one foot, and seven inches deep, with the fragment of a stone-pillar, two feet three inches long, lying near it<sup>k</sup>.

In the market-place at Sandbach, formerly stood two very remarkable stone-crosses, raised on steps, and the lower part of one of them still remains there; the other parts were broken down and defaced during the civil war in the reign of King Charles the First. William Smith, rouge-dragon pursuivant at arms, who described these crosses in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, speaks of inscriptions engraven on them, of which, however, no traces now remain; if any such formerly existed they were probably Runic<sup>l</sup>. A large fragment of one of these crosses was removed by Sir John Crewe, to his seat at Utkinton-Hall; when that hall was converted into a farm-house, it was procured by the Rev. Mr. Allen, rector of Tarporley, and placed by him in a court adjoining to the parsonage-house, where it continued for several years: it has since been a third time

<sup>l</sup> Plate 37.

<sup>k</sup> From the information of the Rev. William Marriott.

<sup>l</sup> The same writer says, that "on Sunday morning, the first of November 1561, there were three chests, made of tin, or such like metal, found near the said river, but nothing in them; on the covers were certain letters, or characters engraven."—King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 46.

removed, and now stands in Mr. Egerton's grounds at Oulton, near the park-wall, not far from the lodge. This fragment, a representation of the four sides of which will be found in the annexed plate, was evidently a part of that cross, which has been entirely removed from its original position: it is five feet seven inches in length, and covered with figures in bas-relief, executed in the rudest manner: those on the two widest sides relate to our Saviour's passion: on one of them he appears bound, and Simon bearing the cross; on the other is the crucifixion, surrounded with symbols of the Evangelists; one of the other sides has an elegant scroll of foliage, with animals interspersed; on the top of this fragment is fixed another piece, about one foot in length, which evidently belonged to the other cross, a part of which still remains at Sandbach<sup>m</sup>.

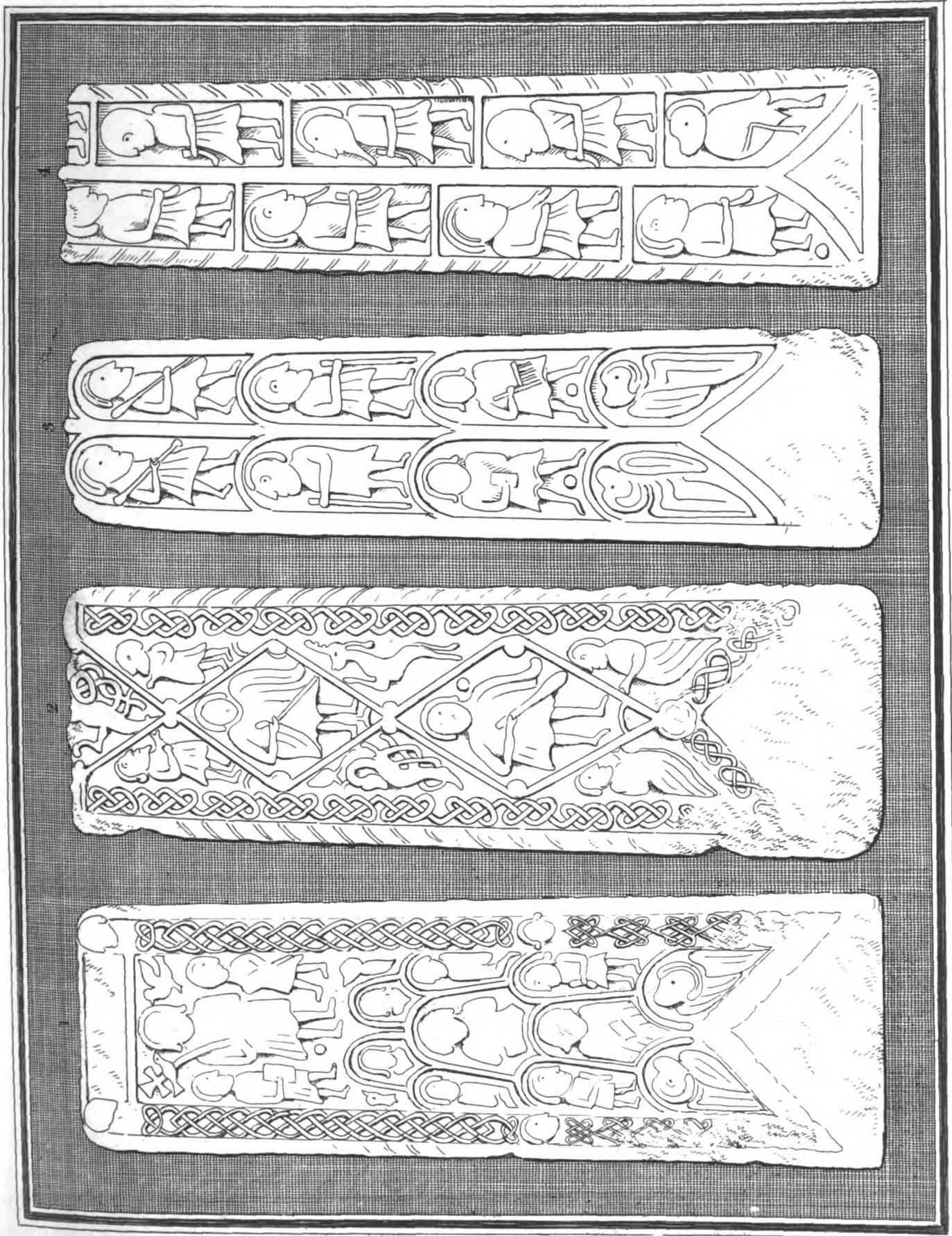
The lower part of the cross, or obelisk, now standing in the market-place at Sandbach, is of the Cheshire red grit-stone; it is six feet one inch in height, and two feet one inch and a half, by one foot eight and a half, at the base: the four sides are covered with figures, in bas-relief, executed in the same rude manner as those before-mentioned; on the east and west sides, which are the widest, are borders of braids and knots of elegant patterns. This obelisk is fixed in a large stone, one foot two inches in thickness, and nearly a square of four feet; at the distance of eight inches from this stone or plinth, is another, of larger dimensions, one of the sides of which is four feet; and each of the other three, about five feet. In this last-mentioned stone is a socket, two feet nine inches and a half, by two feet three inches and a half, wherein another obelisk has stood: both these plinth-stones are placed on a platform, composed of other large stones; at three of the corners of which are remaining stone-posts, three feet six inches in height, into which they have been morticed; and on which also have been sculptured rude figures, in bas-relief.

Three other fragments of a cross are lying at a well below the town, which evidently belonged to a part of that which had been removed by Sir John Crewe, and which is now at Oulton; and two of them formed the base of one side of it, (see the annexed plate of the elevation of the crosses, fig. 3, 4,) as they exactly fit the empty socket: several other smaller fragments, much defaced, are scattered about the town: the original position of one of them is clearly to be ascertained (see the last-mentioned plate, fig. 5). Part of the top of one of the crosses has been lately dug up, in a garden near the market-place<sup>n</sup>, which

<sup>m</sup> See the annexed plate of the elevation of these crosses (a).  
of Mr. Butts.

<sup>n</sup> Now in the possession

evidently

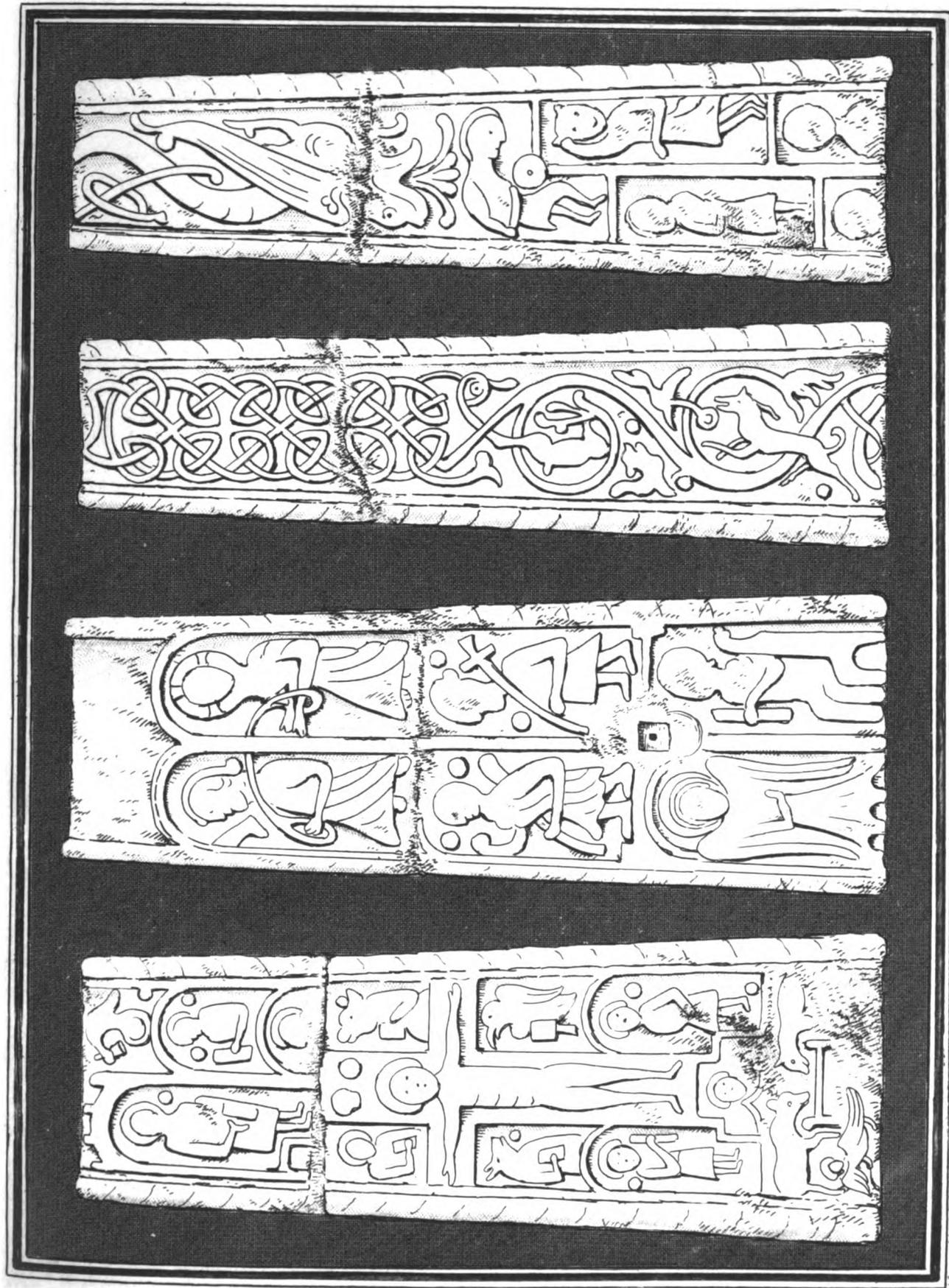


11 inches

THE FOUR SIDES OF PART OF A STONE CROSS IN THE MARKET PLACE AT SANDBACH, CHESHIRE.





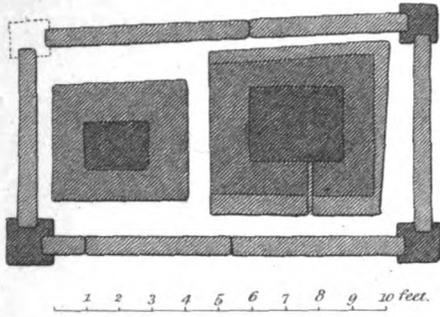


FRAGMENT OF ONE OF THE SANDBACH CROSSES.

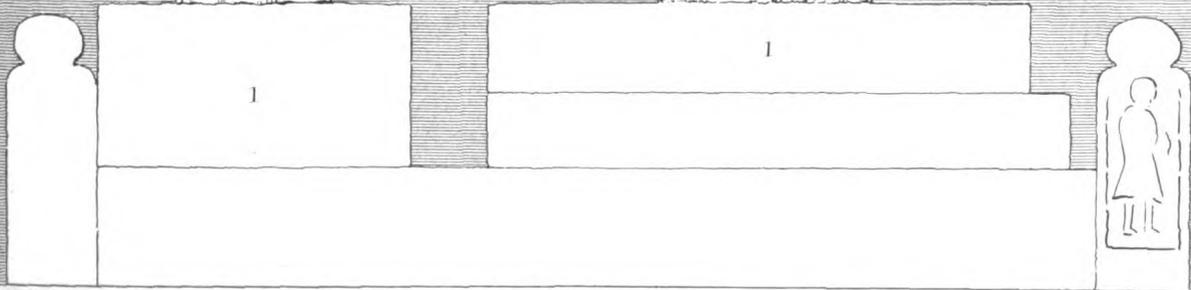
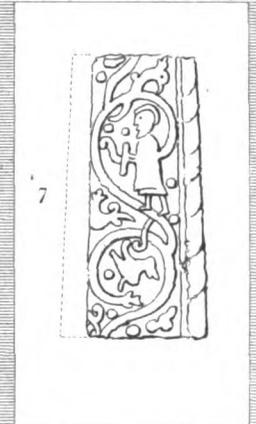
*In the Possession of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton.*



Plan of the Crosses



The three other sides of the Fragment N° 6.



1 2 3 4 5 6 feet.

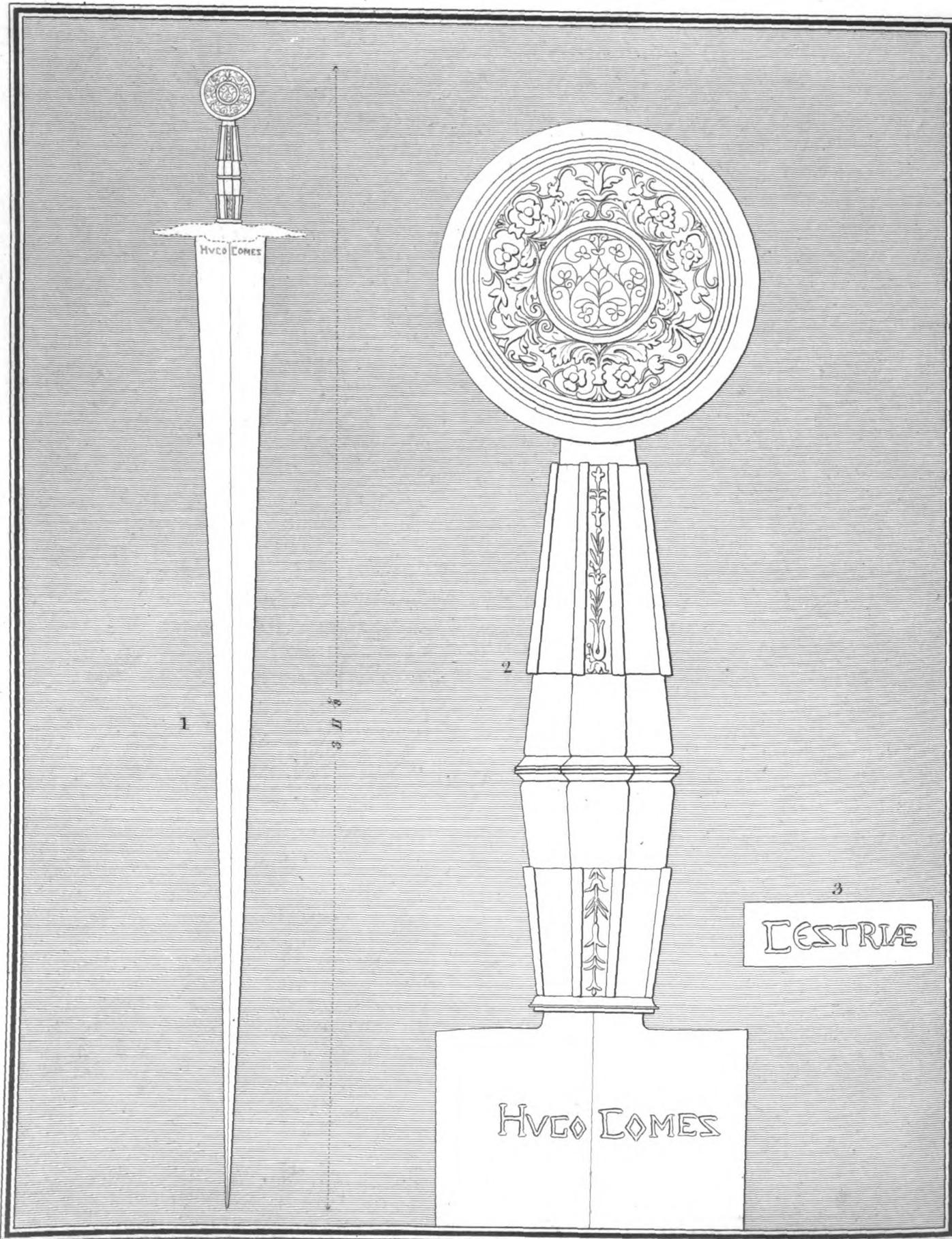
PLAN AND ELEVATION OF THE SANDBACH CROSSES.

1.1. The part now remaining in the Market Place, at Sandbach.— 2. 2 Fragments in Market Place, at Sandbach.— 3. 4. 7. Fragments lying at a Well, below Sandbach.— 5. Fragment in the Street of Sandbach.— 6. Fragment dug up in the Market Place.









1

3 III

2

3

CESTRIAE

HVCO COMES



THE SWORD OF HUGH LUPUS, EARL OF CHESTER, PRESERVED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

2. The Hilt & part of the Blade of the same size as the Original. 3. The Inscription on the opposite side of the Blade.

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Published by T. Cadell, & W. Davies, Strand 2 May 1809

evidently belonged to the Oulton fragment, and afforded an opportunity of ascertaining what had been the height of this cross, or obelisk (see the annexed plate of the elevation fig. 6). The height was undoubtedly eighteen feet, and if the top was circular, as it seems to have been, it must have measured about three feet more; making the whole, including the base and platform, nearly twenty-five feet, which considerably exceeds that of any cross now standing in this country; from the rudeness of its sculpture, it seems to have as great a claim to antiquity, as any one which has been noticed; and may be referred to a period not long subsequent to the introduction of Christianity among our Saxon ancestors.

The cross supported by four pillars, standing at Lymm, which has been sometimes represented as an ancient Gothic cross, bears no appearance either of Gothic architecture, or of antiquity; probably there was once an ancient cross on the numerous steps on which it stands: some of them are cut out of the natural rock. In Great-Bebington church-yard is the stump of an ancient cross.

*Camps and Earth-works.*—In Leland's Itinerary (Vol. v. folio 82.) is the following passage, "There is a place in the forest of Delamer cawllid *the VII. Loos*, wher be feene *VII. Castle Dikes*. The people there speke much of them. I think that they were made by men of warre." We supposed this description to have applied to the site of Edebury (the town built by Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred, in Delamere forest), but found nothing to answer it, at the Chamber of the forest, or Old-Pale, supposed to be the site of that town<sup>o</sup>; nor could we learn, on the most diligent enquiry, that any such remains, as those described by Leland, are now to be found, in any part of the forest; nor any ancient earth-works, except two elevated spots, to the north of the new pale, called Castle-cob, and Castle-hill, which tradition says have been fortified places.

Horfeley mentions *tumuli* in the park at Dunham-Massey, in which urns had been found<sup>p</sup>. On the top of a high hill, in the parish of Mottram, on the borders of Yorkshire, is a vallum with a deep ditch, called Buckton castle; it is of an irregular form, approaching to an oval, about one hundred and fifty feet by one hundred and twenty (reckoning the width of the ditch); and commands a very extensive view over Lancashire, Cheshire, and part of Yorkshire.

<sup>o</sup> In Ashmole's MSS. Collections is the following passage, "A mile south of the chamber in the forest are the seven *loos*, ut dicitur."

<sup>p</sup> Brit. Rom. p. 415.

*Miscellaneous Antiquities.*—The sword of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, who died in the year 1101, is preserved in the British Museum; it is three feet eleven inches and one eighth in length; the blade is two inches and three eighths wide at the top, and tapers gradually, until it ends in a sharp point: the handle is gilt, and elegantly ornamented with scrolls of foliage and flowers; some parts of it are inlaid with mother of pearl: the guard is wanting<sup>p</sup>. On the two sides of the upper part of the blade is the following inscription in capitals, for the most part Roman, “*Hugo comes Cestriae*,” a fac simile of which is given in the annexed plate; this sword is among the curiosities in Sir Hans Sloane’s Collection, but it is not known whence it came. It has been supposed that it was the sword of Dignity, by which Hugh Lupus held the county of Chester, as before-mentioned.

Sir Thomas Stanley is in possession of an ancient bugle-horn, one foot six inches and a half in length, and nine inches and a half in diameter at the largest end; the mouth piece is hooped with gold, and ornamented with a wreath of knots. The office of bailiff of the forest of Wirral was formerly conferred by the delivery of this horn, as that of chief-forester, or bow-bearer of Delamere forest, was by the delivery of a black bugle-horn, hooped with gold, in the possession of the present chief-forester, John Arden Esq. These horns much resemble the Borstall horn, and that by which the office of Feodary, &c. of the honour of Tutbury was holden, both of which are figured in the third volume of the *Archæologia*, Plate I.

In the year 1808, several cairns were discovered, about a yard below the surface of the earth, in a field in the township of Butley, adjoining the high-road from Stockport to Macclesfield; “around the circumference of the area, occupied by these cairns, were placed at certain intervals large boundary stones, apparently of an hundred weight, and upwards<sup>q</sup>.” Near the extremity of one of them was found an urn filled with ashes.

#### *Customs.*

OF the customs and ceremonies peculiar to certain parts of the kingdom, Cheshire has its full share; we shall notice some of those which are most remarkable. There is a custom among the young men, of placing, on the first of May, large birchen-boughs over the doors of the houses, where the young women reside to

<sup>p</sup> The guard appears in a very indifferent engraving of this sword, published in the second edition of Dr. Gower’s *Sketch of the Materials for a History of Cheshire*; it is added in a dotted line in the annexed plate, on this authority.

<sup>q</sup> *Chester Courant*, 25th of July, 1808.

whom

whom they pay their addresses<sup>r</sup>; and an alder-bough is often found placed over the door of a scold.

“ Another singular custom which prevails in this county, is that of *lifting*, at Easter. On Easter Monday, the young men deck out a chair with flowers and ribbands, and carry it about, compelling every young woman they meet to get into it, and suffer herself to be lifted, as high as they can reach into the air, or to be kissed, or pay a forfeit. On Easter Tuesday the young women deck out their chair, and lift the men, or make them pay a fine<sup>r</sup>.” This custom, which also prevails in some of the neighbouring counties, or something very like it, seems to have been admitted among the highest ranks in the thirteenth century: for it appears, from a wardrobe account preserved among the records in the Tower, that King Edward the First, in the eighteenth year of his reign, paid a large sum of money, more than equivalent to four hundred pounds at this time, to the Queen’s seven ladies of the bed-chamber and maids of honour, on a similar occasion.

*Rush-bearing*, or carrying rushes to the churches, and there strewing them, was a custom which formerly prevailed generally in Cheshire: but has been much disused for many years, since close pews have been erected in most churches. It took place on the day of the wake, and was attended with a procession of young men and women, dressed in ribbands, and carrying garlands, &c. which were hung up in the church: we saw these garlands remaining in several churches.

The most prevalent custom of this county is the shouting of the *marlers*, when any money has been given to them. When a marle-pit is to be dug, the set of labourers, or marlers, as they are called, who undertake it, choose one of their number to be lord of the pit. When at work, they never ask for money, but if any is given them, they are summoned together, by their lord, and after announcing with great solemnity the donation, and the name of the

<sup>r</sup> Mr. Owen in his Welsh Dictionary, under the word *bedw*, birch, says, that it “ was an emblem of readiness, or complacency, in doing a kind act. If a young woman accepted of the addresses of a lover, she gave him the birchen-branch, mostly formed into a crown; but if he was rejected she gave him a *collen*, or hazel.”

<sup>r</sup> The following is the entry in that account. “ *XV die Maii, vii Dominabus et Domicellis Regine, quia ceperunt Dominum Regem in lecto suo in Crastino Pasche, et ipsum fecerunt finire versus eas pro pace regis quam fecit de dono suo per manus Hugonis de Cerru Scutiferi Domine de Weston.*” — xiiij. li. Lib. Controtulat’ de Anno XVIII Ed. I. fol. 45. b.

donor,

donor', " they join their arms, forming a ring, and make four bows, towards the center of it, shouting every time: the fourth time they give a lengthened and much louder shout, letting the sound die away gradually: this ceremony is repeated several times, in proportion to the sum given; they shout four times for silver, though only six-pence; six times for a shilling; for half-a-crown, the shouts are continued as long as their breath will hold out. My lord keeps the money till the next Saturday evening, when it is spent at the next ale-house, and the shouts are there renewed, as the healths of the givers are repeated in succession. When the marlers have finished their work, they dress up a pole, with flowers and ribbands, and hanging their silver watches, spoons, and other glittering articles on it, carry it about to collect money; this is called carrying the garland'."

At Knutsford a custom prevails of strewing the streets with brown sand, over which various devices are figured with white sand, before the doors of the inhabitants, on occasion of weddings, and other joyful events, and for persons in all ranks of life.

' One stepping aside, cries *oyez* three times; another says with great solemnity, " Mr. A. B., dwelling at the township of C., has been here to-day, and has given to my lord and all his men, part of a thousand pounds: I hope another will come by and by, and give us as much more, and we will return him thanks therefor, and shout *larjo*," the last word is evidently a corruption of *largess*.

' We are indebted for the greater part of this information respecting the Cheshire customs, to Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.

PAROCHIAL

## PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

THE only part of Cheshire, of which we have any regular history, is the hundred of Bucklow, written by Sir Peter Leycester, who has, with much industry, and apparent accuracy, traced the history of property and families in that district, from a very early period, down to the year 1666, and in some instances a few years later: the work was published in 1673. Dr. Gower, in his Sketch of the Materials for a History of Cheshire, of which we shall make more particular mention, says that it had been asserted, that Sir Peter collected for all the hundreds; his own opinion, he tells us, was, that he did not collect for them professedly, but that the manuscripts which had been submitted by Lady Leicester to his care, related to, and extended over the whole county; containing a prodigious fund of very valuable information. Through the indulgence of Sir J. F. Leicester we have had an opportunity of inspecting his ancestor's MSS., which are now in his possession, at Tabley; and we found them to contain ample collections for the hundred of Bucklow, written by Sir Peter Leycester, in a very neat hand, but scarcely any thing relating to other parts of the county, except a large volume of pedigrees, written also by Sir Peter himself, being chiefly copied from the collections of Mr. John Booth of Twemlow, with some additions made by Sir Francis Leycester, Sir Peter's successor.

The earliest printed work relating to the county palatine of Chester is that generally known by the name of King's Vale-Royal, for which the editor, Daniel King, an engraver, seems to have enjoyed a much greater portion of fame than was his due. The first part consists of a brief geographical account of Cheshire, the course of its rivers, a summary account of the several hundreds, brief descriptions of the city of Chester, the market towns, and a few of the principal villages; lists of the gentry in each hundred, and engraved coats of arms, in alphabetical order; and annals of the city of Chester, all by William Smith, rouge-dragon purfuiant at arms, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The most valuable article in the second part, is an itinerary of Cheshire, divided into the several hundreds, made in the year 1622\* by William Webb, M. A., who was clerk in the mayor's court at Chester, and had been under-sheriff to Sir Richard Lea, in the year 1615. The second part contains also a short history of the Earls of Chester, their Barons, the Bishops of Mercia and Chester, the government of the county and city, and a

\* Dr. Gower says most probably about 1600, but the year is expressly mentioned in one part of the itinerary.

more copious epitome of the annals of the latter, compiled from the corporation books, by Mr. William Aldersey, twice mayor of Chester, who died in 1617. A work entitled a History of Cheshire, in two volumes octavo, was published in 1778, being merely a copy of the Vale-Royal, with extracts from Sir Peter Leycester's History of Bucklow hundred; an anonymous History of Nantwich (written by the Rev. Mr. Partridge) which had been published separately in 1774<sup>2</sup>; extracts from a brief history of Eccleston, which had been published by the Rev. Thomas Crane in 1774; the diary of Edward Burghall, some time rector of Acton, relating chiefly to public transactions during the civil war; and extracts from Pennant's Journey from Chester to London, and other modern publications. The life of St. Werburgh, written in verse by Henry Bradshaw, a monk of Chester, and printed by Pynson, of which only two or three copies are known to be extant, contains many historical particulars relating to the city of Chester.

The MS. collections for this county have been uncommonly numerous: an account of most of these is given in a Sketch of the Materials for a History of Cheshire, in a letter addressed to Thomas Falconer Esq., and printed, first anonymously in 1771, and a second edition afterwards with his name, by Foote Gower, M.D., who meditated a history of the county upon an extensive scale; the most important are the very voluminous collections of the Randal Holmes<sup>3</sup>, (of which name there were four in succession) now among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum; containing an immense mass of copies of charters, deeds, &c. taken from public records and private muniment rooms; pedigrees; letters and various other matter collected by them, or copied from the collections of others; the collections of John Booth, Esq. of Twemlow, Mr. Roger Wilbraham's collections for the town and district of Nantwich; Mr. John Warburton's collections, consisting of the descents of manors, and an account of the principal families; those of the Rev. John Stones, rector of Coddington, and those of Mr. William Vernon, of Shakerly in Lancashire, consisting of many folio volumes, comprising extracts from deeds and other authentic instruments, descents of families, and a variety of matter relating to several towns and parishes in Cheshire. The collections of Laurence Bostock, Sampson Erdswick, Ralph Starkey, Randal Catherall, Roger Wilcoxon, the

<sup>2</sup> Prefixed to "the common English translation of the 45th psalm, carefully corrected according to the true meaning of the Hebrew original, with a paraphrase and notes."

<sup>3</sup> The Holmes were an ancient family, who had a moiety of the manor of Tranmol in Wirral, by descent from a coheirefs of Tranmol; they were all herald-painters. The elder was mayor of Chester in 1633; his son in 1653; his grandson was gentleman sewer to King Charles the Second, deputy to garter principal king of arms, and author of "The Accidence of Armory." The great grandson, who was deputy to Norroy king of arms, died in 1707. See the account of St. Mary's church in Chester.

three Chaloners and others, most of which are now among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, are also described, and two very valuable epitomes made about a century ago from the several voluminous collections relating to this county; the one containing the descent of the principal landed property compiled by Dr. Williamson, a physician, under the title of *Villare Cestriense*; the other an epitome of the ecclesiastical history of each parish, with an accurate account of charitable donations and institutions, under the title of *Notitia Cestriensis*, compiled with great industry by Dr. Gastrell, bishop of Chester, by whose means the large collections of the Holmes, being offered to sale after the death of Randal Holme in 1707, were purchased for the Earl of Oxford's library, and have eventually become the property of the public. The principal collector for the History of the City of Chester, was the Rev. Archdeacon Rogers, who died in 1595; his notes were arranged and classed in chapters by his son, who drew up a very curious history of "The laudable exercises yearly used within the Citie of Chester;" a copy of these collections is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and another in the possession of William Nicholls Esq. of Chester.

It appears by Dr. Gower's *prospectus*, that he was possessed of the originals of some of the collections which he has described, that he had transcripts of some, and that others had been confided to his care by their respective owners. At the time of his death, which happened in 1780, the plan of his work is said to have been nearly completed, and the publication was undertaken in 1792 by John Wilkinson M.D. who became possessed of all his materials for the history, except such as had been lent to Dr. Gower, and on his death had been returned to their respective owners. Dr. Wilkinson having afterwards declined the task, through want of sufficient leisure to fulfil his intentions, all Dr. Gower's collections, with such additions as had been made to them by Dr. Wilkinson, came into the hands of the late William Latham Esq. F.R. and A.S., who in 1800 published renewed proposals for a History of Cheshire, visited several parts of the county, and made some progress in the undertaking: since his death, which happened in 1807, most of the Cheshire collections\* above mentioned, have passed

\* See the account of Chester, where it is printed at full length.      \* Dr. Gower describes a MS. which he calls the Cheshire Domesday, as a record containing the lineal and uninterrupted succession of almost every acre of Cheshire property, for at least 500 years. This he speaks of as his own property, as well as Sir William Brereton's Letters and Transactions during the civil war, in five folio volumes; but neither of these are now, as Dr. Wilkinson assures us, in his possession. It seems not improbable that the MS. which Dr. Gower speaks of, and which, by his description of it, must have been very unlike the Domesday Survey, was a calendar of the clauferolls in the Exchequer at Chester, a copy of which we have, and which certainly gives the descent of a great part of the Cheshire property for several centuries.

again into the hands of Dr. Wilkinfon, in whose poffeffion they now are. The Rev. Mr. Watfon, rector of Stockport, made collections relating to that town and neighbourhood, with the intention of publication; they are now in the hands of his fon.

The principal MS. fources from which we have derived the information contained in the following brief parochial histories, are the collections of the Randal Holmes and others, in the British Mufeum; the records at the Tower; abstracts of the records in the exchequer at Chefter; the collections of John Woodnoth Esq. of Shavington; Smith's, and various other heraldic collections; Dr. Williamfon's *Villare Ceftriense*; Bifhop Gaftrill's *Notitia Ceftriensis*; and the answers of the Cheshire clergy to the inquiries of Bifhop Cleaver and Bifhop Porteus, relative to various parochial matters in 1778 and 1789<sup>b</sup>. We had an opportunity of purchafing feveral of the above MSS., which had formerly been the property of Mr. Francis Baffano deputy-herald for Chefter, who was fheriff of that city in 1734, and afterwards of Mr. John Orme organift, who was fheriff in 1773. The abstract of records in the exchequer at Chefter is now in the record office at the Tower; Dr. Williamfon's *Villare Ceftriense*, and Woodnoth's collections, we have deposite in the British Mufeum; Smith's collections, and a book of pedigrees, drawn up, as it appears, from deeds and pleadings, by Mr. John Booth of Twemlow, and Mr. John Woodnoth, in the heralds' college, as well for the convenience of public reference, as a flicht mark of gratitude, for the valuable materials which we have from time to time obtained from thofe ample fources of information. We have been favoured by Mifs Harwood of Nantwich, with the loan of the tranfcript of Bifhop Gaftrill's *Notitia*, which was made by the Rev. Mr. Harwood her father, for Dr. Gower's ufe, and returned after his deceafe; from the fame lady we have been favoured alfo with the loan of a MS. narrative of the fiege of Chefter, which had belonged to her father<sup>c</sup>, and fome other papers. For the hiftory of Chefter we have had the ufe of Archdeacon Rogers's MS., now the property of William Nicholls Esq.; we have had accefs to the corporation muniments and journals, and have taken notes from fome copious annals of Chefter among the Holme's MSS., and from a journal of the fiege by one of thofe antiquaries. With refpect to the more modern hiftory of the county and city, we have perfonally vifited every parifh, and feveral of them a fecond time: for the defcent of property within the laft century, and for various other matters relating to the general hiftory of the county; and to that of the feveral parifhes, we are under great obligations to William Nicholls Esq. deputy regiftrar, who, with indefatigable induftry and zeal has circulated que-

<sup>b</sup> Depofited in the regiftry at Chefter.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 310. *Note (g)*.

ries for the purpose of our work, and collected a great store of information from every part of the county; and we have to express our obligations both to those of the gentry and clergy who, through his hands, have favoured us with such information, as well as to those who have honoured us with immediate communications.

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ACTON, in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich, lies about a mile N. E. from Nantwich on the road to Chester. It contains, exclusively of the parochial chapelry of Wrenbury, the townships of *Acton, Aston, Austerfon, Badington, Brindley, Burland, Cholmondeston, Coole-Pilate, Edlaston, Faddiley, Henbull, Hurleston, Poole, Stoke, Worleston*, and part of the township of *Soond*, the remainder being in the chapelry of Wrenbury.

The manor of Acton, which had been anciently parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, passed by a coheirefs of William de Maldebeng or Malbank, to the Vernons, and by a coheirefs of Warren de Vernon to the Littleburys, who sold their share (being an eighteenth part) of the barony of Wich-Malbank, and including the manors of Acton and Hurleston, with Dorfold-Hall, (in the parish of Acton,) to John de Wetenhall; Ellen, the sister and coheirefs of this John's grandson, married Sir Henry Arderne, whose son, Sir Ralph, appears to have died seised of these manors in 1420; yet about the year 1464 they were conveyed by the heirs male of the Wetenhalls, to feoffees in trust, for the use of Sir John Bromley, who passed over these estates to Lord Stanley. Thomas, Earl of Derby, appears to have died seised of them in 1522, but it is probable that they were only held in trust: it is certain that the Bromleys were in immediate possession, and resided at Dorfold for several generations. Collins represents the Bromleys of Dorfold, as descended from Thomas, a natural son of Thomas Bromley of Badington, who died without lawful issue; but a pedigree in Mr. Woodnoth's collection makes William Bromley of Dorfold, the elder son of another Thomas Bromley, by his wife Joan, sister and coheirefs of Thomas Parker of Coppenhall, which Thomas was only son of Sir John Bromley the younger, grandson of Sir John Bromley who distinguished himself in the wars with France, by his second wife Martha, daughter of Richard Widville, Earl Rivers, by Jaquetta Duchefs of Bedford, and sister to the Lady Elizabeth Grey, Queen of Edward the Fourth. The manor of Acton, with Dorfold-Hall and Hurleston, continued in the Bromley family till about the year 1600, when they were purchased of William Bromley Esq. by Sir Roger Wilbraham master of

the requests, and by him conveyed to his younger brother Ralph <sup>d</sup>, of whose descendants they were purchased in 1752, by the father of Henry Tomkinson Esq. the present proprietor. Ralph Wilbraham Esq. above-mentioned built the present hall at Dorfold, (now the seat of Mr. Tomkinson,) in the year 1616, on the site of an old mansion which had been the residence of the Bromleys. Dorfold-Hall remains nearly in its original form; the drawing-room, a spacious apartment, has a coved ceiling much enriched with pendent ornaments, and a richly ornamented chimney-piece, which appear to be coeval with the house.

On the 16th of October 1643, Lord Capel, advancing with some of the King's forces towards Nantwich, took possession of Dorfold-Hall and Acton church, but evacuated both during the following night <sup>e</sup>. After this, they were made garrisons by the parliament. Dorfold-Hall was taken by Lord Byron on the 2d of January following <sup>f</sup>; Acton church, which had been converted into a prison, was defended by Capt. Sadler against many assaults of the Royalists, who fired several cannon shots at it, and are said to have lost six men in the attack <sup>g</sup>: it was taken before the middle of that month. On the 25th of January the siege of Nantwich was raised, and a body of Lord Byron's infantry, consisting of about 1500 men, occupying Dorfold-Hall and Acton church, and being detached from the rest of the army, were obliged to surrender to Sir Thomas Fairfax <sup>h</sup>. Above threescore officers were taken prisoners <sup>i</sup>, among whom was the celebrated General Monk, then a colonel in the King's army, who was sent to London, and remained for a considerable time a prisoner in the Tower.

In the parish church at Acton is the monument of William Mainwaring Esq. of Baddiley, who died in the year 1399: his father, who was a military officer of some note in the reign of Edward the Third, and died in 1394, bequeathed 10 marks towards the building of the north aisle or chapel in which he is interred. There are monuments also for the Wilbrahams of Woodhey <sup>k</sup>, and for the Wilbrahams of Dorfold.

The rectory of Acton was given by Hugh, Baron of Wich-Malbank, to the abbot and convent of Combermere. After the dissolution of that monastery, the rectory and advowson of the vicarage were granted by King Henry VIII., to Richard Wilbraham of Woodhey <sup>l</sup>, whose representative the Earl of Dysart is

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense. of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 921.

<sup>e</sup> Burghall's Diary, printed in the History

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. 926.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. 927.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

931, and Partridge's History of Nantwich, p. 73, 74.

<sup>i</sup> Partridge, p. 79. 81.

<sup>k</sup> Sir Richard Wilbraham, who was created a baronet in 1621, and died in 1643; and Sir Thomas Wilbraham, the second baronet, who died in 1660.

<sup>l</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriens.

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the present proprietor and patron of the vicarage. It appears, by the endowment of this church, in the registry at Lichfield, bearing date 1285, that the vicar was entitled to half the tithes of hay, and to all the oblations and obventions in the parish church of Acton, and in the chapels of Nantwich and Wrenbury. The free-school at Acton was originally founded by subscription, in 1662, as a maintenance for Mr. Burghall, the ejected non-conformist minister<sup>m</sup>, whose Diary (which we have frequently had occasion to quote) is printed in the second Volume of the 8vo History of Cheshire: the master's salary is now *20l. per ann.* One of the Wilbraham family<sup>n</sup> founded an alms-house at Acton for two old men, and endowed it with some adjoining lands: two apartments in the alms-house founded at Nantwich by Sir Roger Wilbraham in 1613, are appropriated to poor men of Acton.

The township of *Aston*, which being within the limits of the ancient forest of Mondrem, is called, to distinguish it from other places of the same name; *Aston-in-Mondrem*, lies about four miles north from Nantwich; the manor was anciently parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank; at an early period it became vested in that branch of the Crewes, whose co-heiress married Praers. Aston-Hall became the property of the Minshulls, whose ancestor had married a co-heiress of Crewe; Edmund Dutton Esq. married the heiress of Minshull, about the year 1360; upon the failure of issue male, from the elder branch of Dutton in 1526, Aston-in-Mondrem was one of the estates allotted to the co-heirs, and in the division appears to have fallen to the share of the Cholmondeleys; Richard Cholmondeley, who married Eleanor one of the daughters of Sir Thomas Dutton, died seized of this estate in 1538: it was purchased of the Cholmondeley family, by John Darlington Esq., whose daughter brought it in marriage to Henry Tomkinson Esq., the present proprietor. The royalty, which passed in the same manner as the Crewe-Hall estate<sup>o</sup>, was purchased in 1802 by Henry Tomkinson Esq. Brayne's-Hall, in this township, the seat for many generations of the ancient family of Brayne, was lately sold by John Brayne Esq., to Mrs. Elcock of Poole: it is occupied by a farmer.

<sup>m</sup> Answer to the Queries of Bishop Porteus in 1778, in the Bishop's Registry.

<sup>n</sup> We could not procure either the founder's name, or the date of the foundation: Bishop Gaffrell, as it appears, could not satisfy himself in this particular a century ago: Sir Thomas Wilbraham, (there were two of that name,) and a Lady Wilbraham, are each spoken of in his notes as the founder: the foundation seems to have been by deed of gift. By the return of charitable donations made to Parliament in 1786, (in which there is no mention of the founder's name, or date of foundation,) it appears that this alms-house is endowed with eighteen statute-acres of land adjoining the house. The pensioners receive four pounds *per ann.* each, and some clothes: the Earl of Dyfart is trustee, as representative of the Wilbraham family.

<sup>o</sup> Aston was held under the Foulshurfts by the Duttons, 12 Henry VI. Villare Cestriense.

Webb,

Webb, in his Itinerary, speaks of seats of the families of Aston and Weever in this township <sup>p</sup>.

The manor of *Austerfon*, or *Alstanton*, was, at an early period, the property of the Alstantons, from whom it passed by successive female heirs to the families of Bulkeley, Wetenhall, Praers, and Bromley <sup>q</sup>; Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Bromley who died in the year 1485, brought it in marriage about the latter part of the fifteenth century to Sir William Needham of Shavington, ancestor of the right honorable Robert Needham, Viscount Kilmorey, who is the present proprietor.

The township of *Badington* lies about two miles and a half S. S. W. from Nantwich; the manor was acquired by the Bromleys about the reign of Edward III. in marriage with an heiress of the family of Chettleton <sup>r</sup>, and has passed with Austerfon to Lord Kilmorey. There are no remains of the halls, either at Austerfon or Badington; the latter was an ancient seat of the Bromleys. The brave Sir John Bromley, who recovered the standard of Guyenne at the battle of Le Corby, in the reign of Henry V., was second son of William Bromley of Badington, of which manor he is said to have died seised in 1420; but as Sir John left male issue, and his brother's family inherited Badington, it is probable he held it only in trust.

The townships of *Brindley* <sup>s</sup> and *Burland* <sup>t</sup> are both esteemed to be within the manor of Baddiley. Sir Thomas Mainwaring and Sir Thomas Brereton are described as the joint lords in 1671 <sup>u</sup>. They are now the joint property of Wilbraham, Earl of Dyfart, and of Henry Tomkinson Esq., who purchased in 1798 of the devisees under the will of the late Sir Henry Mainwaring Bart. Branches of the Wilbraham family resided formerly at Brindley and Burland. The Allens, an ancient family, had a seat at Brindley for more than two centuries <sup>v</sup>: Brindley-Hall passed by marriage from the Allens to the Hewitts and Holfords, and was sold by the executors of Allen Holford Esq., the last heir male of that branch of the Holford family, (who died in 1788,) to Mr. Richard Darlington, the present owner; it is now occupied by a farmer. At Burland is an old hall, (now Mr. Robert Cawley's,) occupied also by a farmer, which was formerly a seat of the Griffins, and afterwards of the Hewitts. Edmund Griffin Esq. the last heir male of the Burland family, was buried at Nantwich in 1771, and a maiden sister in 1807. In this township is Swanley, or Swanlow-Hall, formerly a seat of the Mainwarings of Carincham <sup>w</sup>; it is now a farm belonging to Henry Tomkinson Esq. of Dorfold.

<sup>p</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 73.

<sup>q</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>r</sup> The Chettletons were possessed of it, 19 Edward II.

<sup>s</sup> Brindley lies nearly five

miles, W. N. W. from Nantwich.

<sup>t</sup> Burland lies about three miles and a half W. N. W.

from Nantwich.

<sup>u</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>v</sup> *Cheshire Pedigrees*.

<sup>w</sup> Vale-Royal,

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Mr. George Huxley, in the year 1717, gave by will thirty-three statute acres of land for the support of four widows, or elderly women of the townships of Brindley, Burland, or Faddiley, and from that part of the parish of Acton, called Hurleston-quarter, and Cholmondeston-quarter.

The township of *Cholmondeston* lies five miles N. by W. from Nantwich; the manor was, at an early period, in the family of Crewe, under whom it was held, by the Wetenhalls. The family of Wetenhall of Cholmondeston became extinct by the death of William Wetenhall Esq., about the year 1600. Lawrence Wright Esq., who married Susan, one of his sisters and co-heirs, became possessed in her right of one-fourth of the manor, and having purchased the other shares of his wife's sisters and their husbands, sold the whole to Sir Thomas Egerton, afterwards Viscount Brackley<sup>a</sup> and Earl of Bridgewater. In the year 1686, John Earl of Bridgewater sold it to Sir John Werden, under whose will it passed, on the death of his son without issue, to his grand-daughter, Lucy, Duchess of St. Alban's: it is now the property of George Harley Drummond Esq., whose father became possessed of it, under the will of George Duke of St. Alban's. Cholmondeston-Hall is now occupied by a farmer: this manor was held in the reign of Edward I., by the service of finding a man in arms to keep guard at the gates of Chester, during the time of the fair<sup>a</sup>.

The township of *Coole-Pilate* lies nearly five miles S. S. W. from Nantwich. The manor, which was anciently parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, is now the property of Lord Kilmorey: in this township were two halls, with considerable estates annexed, one of which belonged to the Whitneys, who became possessed of it in the reign of Richard II., and had a seat there for many generations; this estate was purchased in 1744<sup>b</sup> of Mr. Hugh Whitney, by whose death the family is supposed to have become extinct, by Mr. John Darlington, whose daughter brought it in marriage to Henry Tomkinson Esq. of Dorfold, the present proprietor; the hall is occupied by a farmer. The other estate belonged to a branch of the St. Pierres, and passed by a female heir to the Hortons, in or about the reign of Henry IV.<sup>c</sup>: the last heir male of this family died about the year 1740, when his estate devolved to Dr. William Davenport of Laycock in Wilts, whose representative sold it in 1786 to Joseph Skerret Esq. the present proprietor: the old hall has been taken down, and a farm-house built on the site.

The manor of *Edlafton* belonged, at an early period to the Edlaftons, who sold it in or about the year 1298, to the Foulhursts. From this family it is supposed to have passed by sale to the Cholmondeleys<sup>d</sup>, who were possessed of

<sup>a</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

it as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It is now the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley; the hall is occupied by a farmer.

*Faddiley* <sup>c</sup> was anciently esteemed an appendage of the manor of Baddiley, but the owners of Woodhey had, at an early period, a manor here, held under the lords of Baddiley, and the manor of Faddiley is now vested in Wilbraham Earl of Dyfart, proprietor of the Woodhey estate. Woodhey was in the reign of Edward II. the seat of the Golbornes, from whom it passed by a female heir in the fifteenth century, to Thomas Wilbraham Esq., fifth in descent from Sir Richard Wilbraham of Radnor, sheriff of Cheshire in 1269. Sir Richard Wilbraham of Woodhey was created a baronet in 1627; his father, Thomas Wilbraham Esq., was patron of William Webb, who wrote the Itinerary of Cheshire in "King's Vale-Royal;" the title became extinct in 1692, by the death of Sir Thomas Wilbraham the third baronet, in whom the male line of this branch of the Wilbraham family ended. The Woodhey estate passed with Grace, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Wilbraham, to Lord Huntingtour, afterwards Earl of Dyfart, from whom it has descended to the present Earl; the greater part of the hall, which was the seat of the Wilbrahams, has been taken down; the remains are fitted up as a farm-house. A domestic chapel was built at Woodhey about the year 1700, by Lady Wilbraham, widow of the last baronet, and endowed in 1703 with 20*l.* *per ann.* for the minister, who is appointed by the Earl of Dyfart; 2*l.* *per ann.* for the clerk, and 3*l.* *per ann.* for repairs <sup>f</sup>.

The manor of *Henhull* was the property and seat of a family of that name, which held it under the Vernons, Barons of Shipbrook: about the reign of Edward IV. it was divided among the co-heirs of Richard Henhull <sup>g</sup>. This manor was afterwards in the Claytons, of which family it was purchased in 1573, by the ancestor of George James, Earl of Cholmondeley, the present proprietor. Mr. Webb, in his Itinerary of Cheshire, (in King's Vale-Royal,) written in the year 1622, speaks of Henhull as once a fair seat of the Claytons, a family then almost worn out.

The township of *Hurleston* lies three miles N. W. from Nantwich: the manor which passed with Acton, as before-mentioned, is now the property of Henry Tomkinson Esq.

The township of *Poole*, which lies about two miles N. N. W. from Nantwich, is divided into three parts, called Barratt-Poole, War-Poole, and White-Poole, each of

<sup>c</sup> This township lies nearly five miles W. by N. from Nantwich.  
of 25*l.* *per an.* upon the manor of Newton in Staffordshire, was settled by deed of gift of that date, as appears by Lady Wilbraham's will, bearing date 1707.

<sup>f</sup> A rent-charge  
<sup>g</sup> Villare Cestriense.  
which

which has a separate manor. Barratt-Poole is the property of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton, whose ancestors have possessed it for a considerable length of time<sup>b</sup>; War-Poole of the Earl of Dyfart, and White-Poole of Mrs. Elizabeth Elcock, whose ancestors have possessed this estate, and had a seat there for more than two centuries<sup>c</sup>. Poole-Hall, now a farm house, which belonged to the family of Leycester<sup>k</sup>, and afterwards to the Taggs of Acton, has lately been purchased by Mrs. Elcock.—Webb, in his Itinerary (anno 1622), speaks of an ancient house in this township, which had belonged to the Boydells, a respectable family then worn out<sup>l</sup>.

The manor of *Soond*, or *Sound*, was formerly in a family of that name, whose heiress brought it to the Chetwodes, in or about the reign of Edward IV. In 1662 it was in the crown<sup>m</sup>: it is now the property of George James Earl of Cholmondeley. Soond-Hall, now a farm-house, belonged to the Sneyds of Bichton in Staffordshire, of whom it was purchased about the year 1770, by the father of Mr. Ashton Becket, the present proprietor.

The manor of *Stoke* was given by Randal de Praers, to his son Randal, whose posterity assumed the name of Stoke: from the Stokes it passed by successive female heirs, to the families of Beefton and Aston<sup>n</sup>: before the year 1622, it was purchased of the Astons, by Edward Minshull Esq.<sup>o</sup>, whose family resided at Stoke-Hall more than a century: Milton's third wife, who survived him, and died at Nantwich in 1726, was of this family. The manor and hall of Stoke were sold in 1719, by Edward Minshull Esq. to Mr. Thomas Williams, whose son, in 1753, conveyed it to Roger Wilbraham Esq. In 1781 it was purchased of the Wilbrahams, by the late Richard Craven Esq., and is now vested in his daughters<sup>p</sup>: the hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Wordleston* or *Worleston* lies three miles and a half north from Nantwich: the manor was anciently in a family of that name; a moiety of it was sold by Walter de Worleston about the year 1290, to the Harcourts, and passed by co-heirs to the Cholmondeleys and Bromleys; the other moiety continued a century later in the Worlestons, and passed by co-heiresses to the

<sup>b</sup> Sir Philip Egerton was Lord of Poole in 1662. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>c</sup> See King's Vale-Royal.

<sup>k</sup> The Leycesters of Poole, of which family was Richard Leycester, mayor of Cheller in 1650, (see p. 366.) were descended from a younger son of Ralph Leycester, who married the heiress of Toft.

<sup>l</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 73.

<sup>m</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>n</sup> Villare Cestriense.—Isabel daughter and heir of Randal de Stoke (about the latter end of the fourteenth century), married William Beefton, whose grand-daughter Isabel, married Sir Robert Aston of Aston.

<sup>o</sup> See Webb's Itinerary in the

Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 73.

<sup>p</sup> Elizabeth, wife of John Jasper Garnett Esq. of Nantwich, Mary wife of Mr. John Richardson, and Anne Craven spinster.

families of Crewe and Knolles: the co-heiresses of Crewe brought estates in this township to the Boydells, Leycesters, and Chetwodes<sup>1</sup>; Roger Chetwode, who married the co-heiress of Crewe of Pulcroft, was ancestor of the Chetwodes of Okeley and Worleston, at which last-mentioned place they had a feat for many years<sup>2</sup>: another of the co-heiresses of Crewe brought a portion of this estate to a younger branch of the Leycesters of Tabley, who settled at Worleston, and continued there several generations; this portion of the manor of Worleston is now (by inheritance from the Werdens) the property of George Harley Drummond Esq., having passed with Cholmondeston; the other has lately been purchased of Mrs. Craven, and the representatives of her former husband, Mr. Fagg, by Mrs. Anne Elcock of Poole. Worleston-Rookery, an ancient mansion, which belonged probably to some of the families before-mentioned, is the property and residence of Daniel Vawdrey Esq. A branch of the Wilbrahams had a feat in this township, called Rease, or Reese-Heath-Hall, which passed by marriage to the Windfors, and was purchased, in 1772, by Henry Tomkinson Esq. of Dorfold; the present proprietor, of the representatives of John Windsor Esq.

The chapelry of *Wrenbury* comprises the townships of *Wrenbury*, *Wrenbury-cum-Frith*, *Bromball*, *Chorley*, *Smeaton-wood*, and *Woodcote*, besides part of the township of *Dodcot-cum-Wilksley*, and the greater part of *Newhall* and *Soond*.

The township of *Wrenbury* lies about five miles S. W. by W. from Nantwich; the manor was held under the Vernons, by the family of *Wrenbury*, about the year 1300: from the *Wrenburys*, this manor, or at least a part of it, passed by successive female heirs to the *Oultons* and *Starkeys*: the latter became possessed about the close of the fourteenth century. Mrs. *Starkey*, relict of the late *Thomas Starkey Esq.*, now possesses one-third of the manor of *Wrenbury-cum-Frith*, and resides at *Wrenbury-Hall*; the other two-thirds belong to *Sir R. S. Cotton Bart.*, and it is probable were formerly parcel of the possessions of *Combermere-Abbey*. A manor of *Wrenbury* appears to have been in the family of *Le Strange*, in the reign of *Edward II.*<sup>3</sup> The *Earl of Cholmondeley* gives a deputation for *Wrenbury-cum-Frith*, as standing in the place of the *Vernons*, who formerly held the paramount-manor.

*Wrenbury-chapel*<sup>4</sup>, which stands about five miles from Nantwich, and three miles from the mother-church of *Acton*, is a handsome Gothic building, with a tower: it contains several monuments and other memorials of the fa-

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestriense.

See *King's Vale-Royal*.

it is usually called a parish-church, and *Webb* in his *Itinerary* says, "that it was so deemed in 1622; but it differs in no respect from the other parochial-chapels of *Cheshire*, and has never been instituted to, as a parish-church."

<sup>2</sup> They continued to have a feat there in the reign of *James I.*

<sup>3</sup> Records in the Exchequer at *Chester*.

<sup>4</sup> From its antiquity

milies of Cotton, Starkey, and Barrow: the monument of Samuel Barrow Esq. of Sheppen-Hall, who died in 1798, is by Bacon. The principal monuments of the Cotton family are those of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, who died in 1748, and Sir Lynch Salusbury Cotton, who died in 1776. The chapel of Wrenbury, which has been for several centuries parochial, is in the patronage of the vicar of Acton, who is charged with the payment of a stipend of 10*l.* *per ann.* to the curate: the register of baptisms and burials for this chapelry commences in the year 1593.

A free-school was founded at Wrenbury by Mr. Ralph Bulkeley in 1605; it is endowed with the interest of 230*l.* given by various benefactors, for the education of eight poor children, and there is a stock of 260*l.* the interest of which is appropriated to bind them apprentices. Mr. George Palin gave the sum of 200*l.* to be laid out in lands for the use of the poor of this chapelry<sup>u</sup>. The chapel stock is said by bishop Galtrell to have been in his time 75*l.* *per ann.* out of which, 10*l.* *per ann.* was paid to the curate, and 10*l.* to the schoolmaster.

The township of *Bromhall* lies about three miles and a half S. W. by S. from Nantwich: the manor, which had been parcel of the barony of Nantwich, belonged, at an early period to the Chettletons, and has passed with Badington to Lord Kilmorey. Bromhall-Hall is a farm-house.

The township of *Chorley* lies nearly six miles W. by S. from Nantwich: the manor, heretofore parcel of the barony of Nantwich, was, in the reign of Edward II. held under the Audleys, by Robert Harcourt, whose daughters and co-heiresses both married into the Cholmondeley family; Isabel brought a moiety of the manor to Hugh Cholmondeley, whose daughter and heir, Lettice, married Roger Bromley of Basford; after continuing in the Bromley family for several descents, this moiety was purchased in 1561, by Hugh Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley, ancestor of the Earl of Cholmondeley, the present proprietor: the other moiety passed with Maud, the other daughter and co-heir of Robert Harcourt<sup>z</sup>, to the ancestor of the Cholmondeleys of Chorley, who were settled in this township for several descents. Sir Richard Cholmondeley, a distinguished military officer, who had a command at Flodden-field, and was afterwards lieutenant of the Tower, was the last of the family who resided at Chorley. By his will, made in 1521, he left his estates to his brother Roger, who had settled in Yorkshire, and in default of heirs male, to the Cholmondeleys of Cholmondeley: this Roger Cholmondeley was ancestor of Sir Hugh Cholmley<sup>y</sup>, the brave

<sup>u</sup> Fuller's Worthies, p. 183.  
made to marry an heiress of Chorley of Chorley.  
Yorkshire branch of the family.

<sup>z</sup> In some of the pedigrees of the family he is erroneously  
? So the name has been spelt by the

defender

defender of Scarborough-castle, who was created a baronet in 1641<sup>a</sup>. The last-mentioned moiety of Chorley was purchased of the Cholmondeleys of Chorley by the Earl of Cholmondeley's ancestors in the reign of Henry VI., long before they became possessed of the other moiety by purchase from the Bromleys, and before the Chorley branch migrated into Yorkshire<sup>b</sup>: Sir Roger Cholmondeley, or Cholmley, (as his name was usually spelt,) chief justice of England, and founder of the grammar-school at Highgate near London, was a natural son of Sir Richard before-mentioned.

The manor of *Smeaton-wood* belongs to Sir R. S. Cotton Bart. having been parcel of the possessions of Combermere-Abbey. Within this township, in an extreme angle of the chapelry of Wrenbury, stands Burley-dam-chapel, built by the Cotton family, not long after the dissolution of Combermere-Abbey, for the accommodation of their tenants: the curate is nominated by Sir R. Salusbury Cotton Bart. The present chapel was built by Sir Lynch S. Cotton, not far from the site of the old one, and consecrated in 1769; the gates and iron-rails were brought from Llewenny. This chapel has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. A skirmish between a party of Lord Capel's forces from Whitchurch, and about a thousand of the parliamentary garrison at Nantwich, took place near Burley-dam-chapel, April 11, 1643<sup>c</sup>.

The township of *Newhall*, the greater part of which lies in this parish, is situated about five miles S. W. by S. from Nantwich. The manor belonged for several generations to the baronial family of Audley, who had a castle at Newhall, of which, in Dugdale's time, some ruins remained. Leland speaks of "Newhaule Tower, a place of the Lord Audley's," as dilapidated in the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>d</sup>; this estate descended with the barony of Audley to the Touchets: in the reign of Henry VIII., being then vested in Sir Anthony Browne and his wife, it was by them surrendered to the crown<sup>e</sup>; it appears to have been afterwards in a branch of the Egerton family, which had been before settled at Christleton<sup>f</sup>, and is now the property of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton Bart., whose family have possessed it for several generations.—Aston is a hamlet of this township.

In that part of the township of *Dodcot-cum-Wilksley*, which is situated within this chapelry, is Combermere, (or as it is called in ancient charters Cumbermere,)

<sup>a</sup> This title became extinct by the death of Sir William Cholmley in 1688; the male line was continued by a cousin, who married the heiress; but became extinct by the death of Nathaniel Cholmley Esq. in 1791: his son-in-law, Henry Hopkins Fane took the name of Cholmley, and has male issue.

<sup>b</sup> 33 and 35 Henry VI.—Cholmondeley Evidences.

<sup>c</sup> Burghall's Diary printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. 911.

<sup>d</sup> Itin. Vol. VII. p. 31.

<sup>e</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>f</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 65.

the seat of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton Bart., on the site of which Hugh de Malbank in the year 1133, founded an abbey of Benedictine monks, and dedicated it to the virgin Mary and St. Michael, endowing it with the fourth part of the barony of Nantwich, and several manors, lands, and churches<sup>c</sup>. The revenues of this monastery were estimated in the year 1534 at 225*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* clear yearly value; in or about 1540 the site and a great part of the estates of the abbey were granted to George Cotton<sup>d</sup> esquire of the body to Henry VIII. and Mary his wife<sup>e</sup>. In consequence of this grant they fixed their residence at Combermere, which has ever since been the seat of their posterity: it stands on the site of the monastery, some of the buildings of which are standing, but greatly altered; the present library, which is forty feet by twenty-seven, is supposed to have been the refectory, but seems to have been altered soon after the dissolution; the ceiling and wainscot being much enriched with the ornaments then in use. Sir Robert Cotton, who had been knighted by King Charles II. at the Restoration, was created a baronet in 1677, and was great grandfather of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton the present baronet.

Sir R. S. Cotton's seat is pleasantly situated on the banks of an extensive and beautiful mere from which the place derives its name: this mere, which is skirted with woods, is of no great width, but is about three quarters of a mile in length, and from its circuitous form has, in some situations, the appearance of a river; it is of great depth, and abounds with various kinds of fish.

The parish of ALDERLEY, which contains three townships, *Over-Alderley*, *Nether-Alderley*, and *Great Warford*, lies in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, the church being situated in Nether-Alderley, about six miles N. W. from Macclesfield, and about seven miles due east from Knutsford: it had anciently a market on Saturday, granted about the year 1253 to Walkelin de Arderne<sup>f</sup>, together with a fair for three days at the festival of St. Lawrence.

The manor of *Over-Alderley*, at the time of taking the Domesday survey, was in moieties, between William Fitz-Nigel and Bigot, brother of Bigot the Earl Marshall. It does not appear how the latter moiety passed; probably in marriage to the family of Montalt, for the Barons of Montalt are stiled in some ancient pedigrees lords of Over-Alderley. Leuca, who was aunt and eventually heiress of Robert, the last baron of Montalt<sup>g</sup>, married Philip de Orreby the younger, whose

<sup>c</sup> See Dug. Mon. i. 764, 765.

<sup>d</sup> Son of John Cotton Esq. whose family had been settled

for many generations at Cotton in the county of Salop.

<sup>e</sup> Fee-farm roll, Augmentation-

office. <sup>f</sup> Pat. and Cart. 37 and 38 Henry III.

<sup>g</sup> See a volume of Cheshire pedigrees

in the Heralds' College, formerly belonging to Mr. Francis Bassano, deputy herald for Chester, p. 71. The pedigree of the Montalts is taken from a plea at Chester, *Glegg versus Stanley*, 25 Henry VI.

only

only daughter and heir married Walkelin de Arderne above-mentioned, to whom she seems to have brought one moiety of Over-Alderley in marriage. His possession of the other moiety may be accounted for by descent from the Aldfords, whose ancestor, Sir Robert Aldford, married Sarah daughter of Richard Fitz-Eustace<sup>b</sup>, baron of Halton<sup>i</sup>, and probably had with her in marriage the moiety of Over-Alderley, which the said Richard possessed by inheritance from William Fitz-Nigel above-mentioned. Walkelin de Arderne, who was some time chief justice of Chester<sup>k</sup>, appears to have been possessed both of Over and Nether-Alderley, which were separated after the death of his grandson, and not again united till the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Over-Alderley appears to have passed in the early part of Edward the Third's reign to a younger branch of the Arderne family, the heiress of which<sup>l</sup> brought it in marriage to the Weevers, and the heiress of Weever, after two or three generations, to John, third son of Thomas, Lord Stanley, who was summoned to Parliament in the year 1456, and younger brother of the first Earl of Derby. Thomas Stanley Esq. the lineal descendant of this John, was created a baronet in the year 1660, and was the immediate ancestor of Sir John Thomas Stanley Bart., who is lord of the manors of Over-Alderley and Nether-Alderley<sup>m</sup>. A third part of the manor of Over-Alderley was purchased by the present Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. of Sir J. F. Leycester Bart. of Tabley: this portion of the manor which had been separated from the remainder at an early period, was conveyed in 1337 by Richard Mottershed to the Grosvenors, a co-heiress of which family brought it to the Leycesters of Tabley.

The manor of *Nether-Alderley* was at a very early period in the family of Aldford of Aldford, by grant from one of the Earls of Chester; about the year 1202 Sir John Arderne married the heiress of Aldford: his descendant and namesake died about the year 1423, without issue male; leaving a daughter and sole heir married to Thomas Stanley Esq. of Elford in Staffordshire, second son of Sir John Stanley K. G. and great uncle of John Stanley who acquired Over-Alderley by marriage with the heiress of Weever. A grandson of Thomas Stanley above-mentioned, being the last heir male of that branch of the family, sold the reversion of Nether-Alderley to Sir William Stanley of Holt, brother of John Stanley

<sup>b</sup> Some pedigrees make her Mary, sister of Robert Fitz-Eustace.  
of Over-Alderley is still held of the fee of Halton.

<sup>i</sup> The manor

<sup>l</sup> Between the years 1250 and 1258. King's Vale-Royal.

<sup>k</sup> Peter Arderne, who

died in 1346, had two daughters; Christiana, who married John Fitton of Bollin, and died without issue; and Margaret married to Richard Weever of Weever, whose great grandson of the same name had an only daughter married to John Stanley above-mentioned.

<sup>m</sup> Most of the particulars relating to the manors of Over-Alderley and Nether-Alderley, and the several halls in Nether-Alderley, were obligingly communicated by Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.

of Weever and Alderley. This Sir William Stanley was beheaded by King Henry the Seventh, and on the death of John Stanley of Elford and Pype Esq. this manor became forfeited to the Crown: King Henry the Eighth granted it to William Brereton Esq. groom of the chambers to Queen Anne Bolen, who soon afterwards lost his life on the scaffold, for supposed criminality with his unhappy mistress. The manors of Nether-Alderley, Aldford, and Etchells, having been granted for a term of years to Sir Edmund Peckham, cofferer of the household to the King, and afterwards for life to Margaret Moreton, gentlewoman of the chamber to Queen Mary, were at length sold to Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth, and Robert Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw, who having divided their purchase, Alderley was sold by Sir Edward Fitton to Sir Thomas Stanley, ancestor of the present proprietor, in whom, as hath been already mentioned, the two manors became united. The tenants of this manor are exempt from attendance at the hundred courts.

Alderley-hall in Nether-Alderley was from an early period the seat of the Stanleys, who had a considerable estate in that township before they acquired the manor. The hall, which had been newly fronted, and in great part rebuilt<sup>a</sup> by Sir Edward Stanley in 1754, was burnt down in the year 1779; the offices have been since fitted up as a farm-house: the family removed to an old mansion called the Park-house, at the southern extremity of the park, now the seat of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. Alderley-Park abounds with remarkably fine beech trees, growing by the side of an extensive sheet of water called Radnor-mere: these trees, which were planted about the year 1640 by Sir Thomas Stanley the first baronet, vary in girth from about 12 to 14 feet, and continue of nearly the same girth to the height of 20 feet: the largest contains 192 feet of timber in the boll, and 128 in the branches. Above the park is a high ridge of ground called Alderley-edge, which rising rather abruptly out of a flat country, affords one of the richest and most extensive prospects in the county; Sir J. T. Stanley has made a drive of easy ascent to the top. This hill produces in small quantities near the top, copper, lead, and cobalt ore<sup>o</sup>. Webb, in his Itinerary of Cheshire, written in 1622, speaks of a conspicuous beacon on Alderley-edge<sup>p</sup>.

There were four other halls in Nether-Alderley, formerly the seats of respectable gentry; two of these, Heywood-Hall and Sofs-Mofs-Hall, are standing and occupied by farmers, the others, Fallows-hall and Monks heath-hall, have been taken down, and farm-houses built on their sites. Heywood or Hea-wood-Hall was the seat of an ancient family of that name, which became extinct in the male line in

<sup>a</sup> The hall of a former mansion built by Thomas Stanley Esq. in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was suffered to remain; it was 50 feet by 40. <sup>o</sup> See p. 413. <sup>p</sup> Vale-Royal, part 2. p. 89.

the sixteenth century: the heiress married Ralph Holinshed a younger son of the Holinsheds of Bosley, and cousin and namesake of Holinshed the Chronicler. This branch of the ancient family of Holinshed having for many generations resided at Heywood, became extinct in the male line in 1703, when Heywood passed by a female heir to the family of Fallows of Fallows-Hall, in the same township; upon this event the Fallows family removed to Heywood. In 1801 William Fallows Esq. sold Heywood-Hall, which had then been long occupied by farmers, (his family having removed into Derbyshire,) to J. T. Stanley Esq. (now Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.) the present proprietor.

Sels-Moss-Hall was for many generations a seat of the ancient family of Wyche, or De la Wyche, who were before of Davenham: Sir Peter Wyche, who was ambassador to Constantinople in the reign of King Charles I., was first cousin of Richard Wyche, the first of the family who settled at Alderley<sup>9</sup>: in 1753, it was sold by William Wyche Gent. to Sir Edward Stanley Bart., and is now the property of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. Some of the Wyche family still reside on a small farm, in which Mr. Wyche reserved a life interest when he sold his estates in Alderley to Sir Edward Stanley.

Fallows, or Falwitz-Hall, was for many generations the seat of the family of Fallows or Falwitz, descended from Thomas, a younger son of the ancient family of Aldford of Aldford, who in the reign of Henry III. assumed the name of De Falwitz from Falwitz in Nether-Alderley, where he fixed his residence. William Fallows Esq. the lineal descendant of this Thomas, being possessed of Heywood-Hall in consequence of his father's marriage with the heiress of Holinshed, sold Fallows-Hall, with the demesne attached to it, in or about the year 1697, to the ancestor of the present proprietor, Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle. William Fallows Esq. the lineal descendant of the ancient family above-mentioned removed into Derbyshire; his son now resides in London.

Monks-Heath-Hall became the seat of a younger branch of the Wards of Capesthorpe about the latter end of the fifteenth century; it belonged afterwards to the family of Antrobus, but before the year 1671<sup>10</sup> was repurchased by the Wards, then by the extinction of the elder branch become Wards of Capesthorpe. Monks-Heath-Hall has been long ago taken down, and a farm-house built on the site. In 1748 the ancient family of Ward became extinct in the male line; the estate is now the property of Davies Davenport Esq. one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Chester, whose grandfather married the daughter and only child of John Ward Esq. the last heir male.

<sup>9</sup> Heraldic Collections by W. Smith rouge-dragon pursuivant, in the Heralds' college, f. 78.

<sup>10</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's MSS. at Tabley.

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The manor of *Great-Warford* which had been held at a very early period under the Mainwarings by the family of Poutrell, was given by Roger Mainwaring Esq. to his brother Ralph; the date of the grant is uncertain, but it appears that Lawrence Mainwaring, son of Ralph, successfully maintained his right to this manor against Richard Poutrell about the year 1286<sup>1</sup>. In or about the year 1337, this manor was conveyed by Geoffrey de Stockport and Eleanor his wife, to John de Motlow and his wife Joyce<sup>2</sup>; it is not known how or when it passed to the Mafseys of Podington, who were in possession at least as early as the year 1449<sup>3</sup>; having passed with the Podington estate, it is now the property of Sir Thomas Stanley Mafsey Stanley Bart.

In the parish church are a few memorials of the families of Stanley, Ward, and Holinshed; there was formerly a monument for Sir Peter Arderne, who died in the reign of Edward III. and his wife Christiana<sup>4</sup>: Sir J. T. Stanley is patron of the rectory, the advowson of which has always been attached to the manor of Nether-Alderley, in which township the church is situated.

The school-house at Alderley was built by the Rev. Hugh Shaw, curate of the parish, in 1628; the school has since been endowed with the sum of 100*l.* given by Mr. Thomas Deane, who resided as a tenant at the Park-house, and died in 1695; 100*l.* given by John Parker Esq.; 50*l.* given by Mr. George Baguly; and 2*l.* 10*s.* by Mr. Robert Norbury<sup>5</sup>. The feoffees, of whom the rector is one, nominate the master; the school-house is repaired by, and belongs to the parish.

The parish of ALDFORD, which is situated in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Malpas, contains the townships of *Aldford*, *Buerton*, *Edgerley*, and part of *Churton*: the church stands about four miles S. E. from Chester. This place had in ancient times a market on Tuesday, granted to Walkelin de Arderne about the year 1253<sup>6</sup>, together with a fair for three days at the festival of the exaltation of the holy cross. Aldford was for many generations the seat and manor of the ancient family of the Aldfords, who acquired it by grant from one of the Earls of Chester: it having descended by the same title as the manor of Nether-Alderley to the Fittons, Sir Edward Fitton Bart., the last heir male of the Gawsworth family, bequeathed it to Charles Gerard, Lord Brandon, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield, whose niece Lady Mohun, jointly with her second husband Charles Mordaunt Esq. sold it about the year 1729 to Sir Richard Grosvenor, ancestor of Earl Grosvenor, the present proprietor. Aldford Hall, an

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>2</sup> Records in the castle at Chester 11 Edw. III.

<sup>3</sup> Esch. 28 Henry VI. in the castle at Chester.  
Cheeshire churches after the civil war.

<sup>4</sup> When Randal Holme visited the

<sup>5</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>6</sup> See Pat. and Cart. 37 and 38 Henry III.

ancient mansion, is now occupied by a farmer. There was in ancient times a castle at this place, the chief seat of the family of Aldford, who had large possessions in Cheshire; the foundations of the castle, moated half round, are still visible, and on an adjoining eminence those of the keep, with a circular fosse. A garrison was placed at Aldford by Sir William Brereton during the siege of Chester.

A large mansion at Aldford, called Mockbeggars' Hall, now a farm-house, erected about the year 1650, was occasionally inhabited by Lord Mohun when he was possessed of the manor.

The parish church contains nothing remarkable: Earl Grosvenor is patron of the rectory.

The manor of *Buerton*<sup>a</sup> was held of the Aldfords in the reign of Edward I., by the family of Pulford, by service either of repairing a certain portion of Aldford castle<sup>b</sup>, or of assisting in the ward of it<sup>c</sup>. From the Pulfords this manor passed successively by female heirs to the Grosvenors of Hulme<sup>d</sup>, and the Stanleys of Hooton<sup>e</sup>; Sir Thomas Stanley Maffey Stanley Bart. is the present proprietor.

The township of *Edgerley* or *Eggerley*, which contains only one house<sup>f</sup>, belonged in ancient times to the families of De la More and Heath<sup>g</sup>. In or before the year 1451 it became the property of the Maffies of Coddington, a younger branch of which settled at Edgerley, and continued to reside there for several generations. In the reign of King Charles II. they sold this manor to the Smallwoods, of whom it was purchased about the year 1770 by the Rev. Thomas Ince rector of Handley, grandfather of Townsend Ince Esq. the present proprietor.

The township of *Churton* is within the manor of Farndon, and is the property of Roger Barnston Esq.: the northern part of this township is in Aldford, the southern side, with the hall, in Farndon.

The parish of ASHTON-ON-MERSEY, which lies in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, contains a part only of the township of *Ashton* and the whole township of *Sale*. The township of *Ashton-on-Mersey*, which is situated, as its name implies, on the banks of the Mersey, lies eight miles south from Manchester, five miles north from Altrincham, and nine miles W. N. W. from Stockport.

A moiety of the manor which was held under the barons of Dunham-Maffey for many generations by the Carringtons of Carrington, passed by a female heir to the Booths, from whom it descended to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington,

<sup>a</sup> This township consists only of one farm.

<sup>b</sup> Esch. 15 Edward I. in Chester castle.

<sup>c</sup> Esch. 18 Edward I.

<sup>d</sup> About the year 1380.

<sup>e</sup> About the year 1477.

<sup>f</sup> Edgerley-Hall, now occupied by a farmer.

<sup>g</sup> Villare Cestriense.

the present proprietor: the other moiety was held under the Boydells by the Hondfords of Hondford, from whom it passed by marriage to the Breretons, and continued in their possession till after the middle of the seventeenth century: this moiety became afterwards the property of Lord Viscount Allen of the kingdom of Ireland, and was sold by him in 1749 to George Earl of Warrington; the whole now belongs to his representative the present Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

The manor of *Sale* was the property of Geoffrey, son of Adam Dutton<sup>b</sup>, ancestor of the Warburtons, who is said to have bestowed it in the year 1187 on two of his gentlemen, Richard Mascie and Thomas Holte<sup>c</sup>: their descendants continued to hold it in moieties in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1684 the whole manor was vested in Richard Mascie Esq.; his only daughter brought it in marriage to Robert Malyn of Nottingham, whose son, the Rev. Mascie Malyn, died in 1727. The manor having been divided between his two sisters and coheirs, one moiety passed by marriage to — Noble of Lichfield, whose daughters sold it in 1763 to Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton; the other passed in marriage to Peter Mainwaring of Manchester M.D., and by his bequest to the Leghs of High-Legh. The whole is now, by purchase from the Egertons and Leghs, the property of John Moore Esq. of Cross-street in Ashton, who has purchased also the hall of Sale, now in the occupation of John Mort Esq.

ASTBURY lies in the deanery of Middlewich, and for the most part in the hundred of Northwich<sup>k</sup>: the church is situated on the great Manchester road, about a mile from the town of Congleton, which is one of the townships of this parish; its townships are twelve in number: *Newbold-Astbury, Bug-Lawton, Congleton, Davenport, Eaton, Hulmewalsfield, Great Moreton, Odd-Rode, Radnor, Smallwood, Somerford-Booths, and Somerford-Radnor.*

<sup>b</sup> It is said, both in the Collections of Laurence Bostock and James Chaloner (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 139, f. 68. and 1535, at the end), that John de Lacy, Baron of Halton, gave Sale and many other manors, which are enumerated, to Adam de Dutton, in marriage with his daughter Alice; but it is certain that Adam Dutton's wife was named Agnes (see a deed of this Adam in Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 384), and she is said to have been the daughter and heir of Roger Fitz-Alured or Alfred (Sir Peter Leycester, p. 355 and 384). John Lacy had a daughter Alice (Sir P. Leycester, p. 267); it seems not improbable that she married Geoffrey Dutton, son of Adam, of whose wife there is no account in the pedigrees of the Warburton family (see Kimber's Baronetage); and as a confirmation of the conjecture, there is a deed printed in Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities (p. 229), by which John Lacy gives the manor of Clifton to *Geoffrey Dutton*, with the expression, *scilicet de uxore desponsatâ*.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Williamson says that the Holtes inherited their moiety of the manor from the family of Sale in the reign of Richard II. Villare Cestriense.

<sup>k</sup> Hulmewalsfield,

Somerford-Booths, and Eaton, are in the hundred of Macclesfield.

Each:

Each township has its overfeer and other officers, but the whole parish is under the government of one church-warden, which office is served in rotation by eight persons, commonly called "the posts of the parish;" properly *præpositi*, or provosts: the mayor of Congleton is always one, and the office, which is served by deputy, is attached to six of the principal halls<sup>k</sup>, and to Brereton-Hall, which was formerly within this parish.

The township of *Newbold-Astbury* appears to have consisted of two manors, Newbold, and Astbury, belonging anciently to the families of Venables and Astbury; from the last-mentioned family Astbury passed by a female heir to the Somerfords. Sir Richard Venables, a younger son of William Venables, Baron of Kinderton, settled at Newbold in the reign of Henry III., and his posterity appear to have continued there for four descents; his great, great-grandson, William Venables, being described of Newbold in 1336<sup>l</sup>. Both these manors were purchased in the reign of Edward III., by Sir Thomas Hawkstone<sup>m</sup>, and passed in marriage with a grand-daughter of his brother, Sir John Hawkestone (one of Lord Audley's Esquires) to the Egertons of Betley, afterwards of Wrinchill, who appear to have sold them to the Oldfields before the year 1640<sup>n</sup>. Archdale Palmer Esq., who purchased of the Oldfields, was possessed of this estate in 1662<sup>o</sup>; it is now the property of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton, to whose family it is supposed to have passed from the Palmers by marriage. Wall-hill, in this township, now a farm-house, was, for many years, the seat of a branch of the Rode family.

The parish church of Astbury is a handsome Gothic structure, with a spire; the roof, which is richly carved in wood, was put up in 1616 and 1617; the artist's name, Richard Lowndes, and the names and arms of the principal gentry of the parish, who were the *præpositi*, or posts, appear on the frieze. In the chancel is the monument of Mary, daughter of Richard Grosvenor, and wife of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, put up in 1609; at the east end of the south aisle, is an ancient figure in plate armour, with mail gorget, who by the arms on the surcoat appears to have been of the Davenport family. In a chapel at the end of this aisle, are monuments of the Bellots of Moreton; and in the same

<sup>k</sup> Davenport, Somerford-Radnor, Great and Little-Moreton, Eaton and Odd-Rode.

<sup>l</sup> From an account of the Venables family, drawn up by Sampson Erdswick, at the end of Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*, now in the British Museum.

<sup>m</sup> Adam de Drayton who probably had married a daughter of William Venables conveyed Newbold to Thomas de Hawkestone, 24 Edw. III. Robert de Wyrhall, and Agnes his wife conveyed Newbold-Astbury, 44 Edw. III. Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>n</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>o</sup> Harl. MSS. N° 2010.

aisle,

aisle, those of Peter Shakerley of Somerford-Hall, who died in 1781, and Edmund Swetenham Esq. of Somerford Booths, who died in 1768, being the last heirs male of those ancient families. The chapel at the end of the north aisle is the burial-place of the Moretons of Little-Moreton, but there is no other memorial for them than a slab, inscribed to the memory of Sir William Moreton, recorder of London, the last heir male, who died in 1763, and his lady; there are monuments also in this chapel for Randle Wilbraham of Rode-Hall, M. P., who died in 1770, and the late Richard Wilbraham Bootle Esq. <sup>p</sup>, who represented the city of Chester in five successive parliaments, and died in 1796. In the church-yard are some very ancient monuments, ascribed to the Breretons; one of which, by an inscription of comparatively modern date, is appropriated to Sir Ralph Brereton and his wife Ada, daughter of David Earl of Huntingdon; but there is more reason to suppose that some of these, if not all, belonged to a younger branch of the family of Venables <sup>q</sup>, which was settled for several descents at Newbold in Astbury.

Richard de Mefnilwaring gave the advowson of this church to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh at Chester <sup>r</sup>, the Venables family notwithstanding for many years claimed the right of presentation, but after a long law-suit, William Venables, in the year 1298, gave up the contest, and surrendered his claim to the Abbey <sup>s</sup>. In 1393 the great tithes were appropriated to the abbot and convent, and a vicarage endowed <sup>t</sup>, but it appears that they were again vested in a rector, before the dissolution of the monastery <sup>u</sup>. The advowson of this valuable rectory was given by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Chester, but the grant being afterwards annulled, it was granted in fee-farm, by Queen Elizabeth. After passing through several hands, it was purchased by the Crewe family, and is now the property of the right honourable Lord Crewe. Among the records in the Tower is a licence from King Edward I., during his wars with the Welsh in 1282, to John de Stanley, rector of Astbury, for buying provisions for the support of his household at St. Botolph's fair <sup>v</sup>. The following instance of longevity occurs in the register of burials belonging to this parish: "Alice Walker widow, aged almost 105, buried Nov. 28, 1747."

The township of *Bug-Lawton* lies nearly three miles N. E. by E. from Congleton. Bug-Lawton was a seat of the ancient family of Tuchet or Touchet.

<sup>p</sup> See p. 369.

<sup>q</sup> See p. 447.

<sup>r</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. I. p. 201.

<sup>s</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>t</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>u</sup> The abbot and convent presented to the rectory of Astbury in 1512. Bishop Gastrell.

<sup>v</sup> Rot. Wall. 11 Edw. I.

from nearly the time of the Conquest<sup>7</sup>. Sir Robert Touchet of Bug-Lawton, had summons to Parliament as a baron in the reign of Edward II. ; his grandson, Sir John Touchet, (who distinguished himself in the wars with France, and was slain in an engagement with the Spanish fleet before Rochelle,) married the sister and co-heir of Nicholas Lord Audley ; in consequence of which match his posterity enjoyed the title of Lord Audley. James Touchet, Lord Audley, was slain at Blore-heath, where he had the command of the Lancastrian forces ; his son, John Lord Audley, was some time Lord High Treasurer of Ireland ; James, Lord Audley, the next in succession, was beheaded on Tower-Hill, having been taken prisoner among the rebels in the battle of Black-heath in 1497. John Lord Audley, son of this James, having been restored to the rank and possessions of his father, surrendered the manor of Bug-Lawton in 1535, to King Henry VIII<sup>2</sup>. In the year 1565, this manor belonged to the Bagnall family : in or about the year 1596, Sir Henry Bagnall sold it to Sir Randal Mainwaring<sup>3</sup>. It was purchased of the Mainwarings, by John Stafford Esq. of Macclesfield, and by him sold to Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton, from whom it has passed with the Tatton estate to Wilbraham Egerton Esq., the present proprietor. The Hall and demesne, having been separated from the manor, belonged to the family of Bullock, and was purchased in 1807, by R. Keymer Esq., now of Bug-Lawton-Hall. Crossley, in this township, (now only considered as a farm,) the property of Col. Ram, M.P. for Wexford, belonged, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to the family of Johnson ; it was then reputed a manor<sup>4</sup>. In the township of Bug-Lawton is a mineral spring, the water of which is said to have been found serviceable in scorbutic cases<sup>5</sup>.

The town of *Congleton* is pleasantly situated in a hilly and well-wooded country on the banks of the river Daven, or Dane, over which is a handsome stone-bridge built in 1782 ; the great road from London to Liverpool passes through this town, which is distant one hundred and sixty-one miles from the former, and forty-three from the latter.

The borough was incorporated by Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, between the years 1281 and 1310<sup>6</sup>, but it appears to have been so denominated at an earlier

<sup>7</sup> Woodnoth's Pedigrees.

<sup>2</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>3</sup> Ancient abstract of Evidences in the possession of the Mainwaring family, compiled by Sir William Dugdale.

<sup>4</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 416.

<sup>6</sup> This charter was subsequent to the King's charter for the market, 10 Edw. I., and must have been before 1310, which was the year of the Earl's death. Bishop Gastrell speaks of this charter as bearing date 10 Edw. I. (1281, or 1282), the same year as the grant of the market, but the Charter among the muniments of the corporation is without date.

period,

period, the grantees in the Earl's charter, being described as the free-burgesses of Congleton; who are thereby empowered to have a gild-mercatorial, to elect out of their body, a mayor and inferior officers, and to be exempt from toll, throughout Cheshire: King Henry VIII. exempted the townsmen from attendance at the county-courts, and Queen Elizabeth granted them further privileges. The corporation now consists, under a charter of King James I. of a mayor and eight aldermen, two of whom are justices, and sixteen capital-burgesses: the mayor and justices are empowered to hold a general sessions of peace for the borough, and the mayor and town-clerk to take cognizance of debts; the corporation elect a high-steward, by whom, or his deputy, the courts-leet are held. The celebrated president Bradshaw, who was many years an inhabitant of Congleton, where he practised as a barrister at law, was an alderman of the borough, and served the office of mayor in 1637: it appears that he was afterwards high-steward. It was resolved, Jan. 21, 1655-6, "that John Bradshaw Esq. of this borough, learned in the law, be continued high-steward of, and council for this borough; as formerly, and be paid the same salary quarterly, for counsel, as heretofore hath been paid, and that he be acquainted herewith, and his acceptance thereof desired." President Bradshaw had been made chief-justice of Chester by the Parliament in 1647.

The guild-hall at Congleton was re-built with brick in 1805; this building contains a room for the confinement of debtors, and two arched stone-cells for criminals: it has a piazza, with stone pillars, for the use of the market people. The market, which is on Saturday, was granted by King Edward I. to Henry Lacy Earl of Lincoln, in the year 1281, or 1282<sup>f</sup>, with a fair for three days, at the festival of the Holy Trinity; this fair has been discontinued. King James's charter recognizes three ancient fairs, on the feasts of St. Philip and James, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Translation of St. Martin the Bishop; and grants a fourth on the Thursday before Shrovetide; the fairs now held, are on the 12th of May, the 13th of July, and the 22d of November; they are principally for the sale of horses, cattle, and Yorkshire cloth. The market is chiefly for butchers meat, and other provisions; it was some years ago a considerable open corn-market.

There was formerly a manufacture of leather-laces at this town, which were called Congleton-points; this has been discontinued; ribbon-weaving for the Coventry merchants was for many years carried on to a great extent, but has of late rather declined. A silk-mill was established at Congleton about the year 1752,

<sup>f</sup> Extract from "orders, laws, and ordinances of the corporation," communicated by Holland Watson, Esq.      <sup>f</sup> Cart. 10 Edw. I.

and brought to perfection by Mr. Samuel Pattison, who died in 1756; this manufacture has greatly increased, and is now in a very flourishing state, there being no less than sixteen mills occupied by silk-throwsters, besides the capital mills established by Messrs. Pattison: there are five cotton mills also in and near the town, and one paper-mill. In 1451, upon petition having been made to that effect, by the corporation to King Henry VI., that monarch gave them permission to turn the course of the river Dane, by the inundation of which the town had received great injury, and to remove the King's mills, which by the same grant were given to the corporation in fee-farm: these mills are on lease to Messrs. Pattisons, and are used for grinding corn.

According to the returns made to Parliament, pursuant to the population act, which passed in 1801, there were then eight hundred and fifty-five houses in Congleton, (of which twenty-seven were uninhabited,) and three thousand eight hundred and sixty-one inhabitants, of whom two thousand two hundred and ten were employed in trades, manufactures, or handicraft. The plague was very fatal at Congleton in 1603, and 1641, as appears by the corporation books.

The manor of Congleton was in ancient times parcel of the barony of Halton, and having passed with that barony to the Plantagenets by the marriage of the Earl of Lancaster with the heiress of Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and constable of Chester, became vested in the crown, and was made parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster. It was granted by King Charles I., in fee-farm to Ditchfield and others<sup>b</sup>; some years afterwards it seems to have been in a family of the name of Toxteth, and to have passed by successive female heirs to the Grahams and Rawdons; in 1745 it was purchased of Sir John Rawdon, and Helena his wife, by Peter Shakerley Esq. and has since descended, with Somerford-Radnor, to C. W. J. Shakerley Esq. who had an allotment as lord of the manor, when the commons were inclosed under the authority of an act of Parliament passed in 1795. A court-leet is held by the corporation for the borough of Congleton, which is a distinct jurisdiction.

There were formerly two chapels in this town, distinguished by the names of the Higher and the Lower Chapel, both dependent on Astbury as the mother-church. It appears from documents in the possession of the corporation, that they were both existing in the year 1450. The lower chapel adjoining to the bridge, which appears to have been consecrated nearly two centuries ago<sup>c</sup>, is mentioned by Bishop Gastrell in 1724<sup>d</sup>, as having been then lately repaired; it has been

<sup>b</sup> Record in the Duchy of Lancaster-office.  
entry, under the article of expenditure, of "sack and claret for the Lord Breerton, when Breerton bells were cast in the old chapel in 1633."

<sup>c</sup> Among the corporation books is an  
<sup>d</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

for many years occupied as a work-house. The higher chapel was re-built, and most probably enlarged, in 1740, but the tower was not rebuilt till 1786, before which time the new church was higher than the old steeple. In this chapel are memorials for the ancient family of Alfager of Alfager<sup>1</sup>; James Starkey Esq. of Darley, 1728; and the monument of Samuel Pattison, who died in 1756: his epitaph speaks of him as the first introducer of the silk-mills, which he lived to see brought to perfection. Before the year 1686, the inhabitants of Congleton buried their dead at Astbury.

There is an ancient grammar-school at Congleton in the gift of the corporation; the time of its foundation is uncertain, but it is known to have existed as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth<sup>m</sup>; it is free only to the sons of burgesses: the corporation allow a salary of 16*l. per ann.* to the master, who has a house, a garden, a close, containing an acre of land, and the interest of 20*l. per ann.* given by Mr. Hulme about the year 1736.

The corporation of Congleton have one of the ancient instruments of punishment for a scold, called a bridle, which is still sometimes used: there is another of the same kind at Macclesfield<sup>n</sup>.

The township of *Davenport* lies about five miles N. W. by W. from Congleton; the manor, which was in the family of Davenport as early as the reign of William the Conqueror, continued in the male line, through a regular descent of more than twenty generations, till the death of John Davenport in 1676, when it passed by marriage with his eldest daughter and co-heir to Robert Davies Esq. of Manley. Sir Matthew Deane Bart., who married the heiress of Davies, sold Davenport about the year 1740, to Richard Davenport Esq. of Calveley, who dying without male issue in 1771, it passed under his will to his grand-daughter Phœbe<sup>o</sup>, now the wife of Eusebius Horton Esq. of Catton, in the county of Derby. Davenport-Hall is at present in the occupation of Robert Wilmot Esq. Mr. Horton's son-in-law.

The townships of *Eaton* and *Hulmewalfield*<sup>p</sup> are said to have no manors, nor have we found any intimation of them in ancient records: Mrs. Starkey gives a deputation for Hulmewalfield, with Radnor. Eaton-Hall is the property of Philip

<sup>1</sup> John Alfager Esq., the last heir male of the family, died in 1768; his sisters, who survived him, all died unmarried, and were founders of Alfager chapel, in the neighbouring parish of Barthowley.

<sup>m</sup> From the information of the Rev. J. Wilson, the present master, by whom several particulars relating to the borough were obligingly communicated, under the sanction and by desire of the mayor, in 1806.

<sup>n</sup> See p. 735.

<sup>o</sup> Daughter of the late Davies Davenport Esq. of Capthorne by Phœbe, younger daughter and co-heir of Richard Davenport Esq. of Calveley above-mentioned.

<sup>p</sup> The township of *Eaton* lies two miles and a half N. N. E. from Congleton; that of *Hulmewalfield* about two miles N. by W.

Antrobus Esq. Hulmewalfield-Hall is now a farm-house, the property of Colonel Ford of the Abbey-field near Sandbach.

The manor of *Great-Moreton* belonged at an early period to Ralph de Venables, whose son Robert assumed the name of Moreton from the place of his residence, and was great grandfather of Stephen Moreton, living in the year 1342<sup>o</sup>; the great grandson of Stephen left an only daughter and heir, married to John Beliot Esq.<sup>p</sup>, whose descendant of the same name, in the eighth generation, was created a baronet in 1663. Sir Thomas Bellot, the last baronet of the family, sold Great-Moreton to Edward Powis Esq., of whose son Thomas Jelph Powis Esq. it was purchased by the late Mr. Holland Ackers of Manchester; it is now the property of his son George Ackers Esq.

A moiety of the manor of *Odd-Rode*<sup>q</sup> belonged for several generations to the ancient family of Rode, who had their residence at Rode-Hall; this moiety was purchased in 1669 of Randle Rode Esq. by Roger Wilbraham Esq., great grandfather of Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Rode-Hall, the present proprietor: the ancient hall was taken down, and the present mansion erected on the site, about the year 1752.

Little-Moreton Hall, a remarkable old mansion of timber and plaster<sup>r</sup>, in this

<sup>p</sup> Cheshire Pedigrees.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid.

<sup>r</sup> The joint tenure of this manor with the Moretons, was probably the original cause of those variances, which in the reign of Henry VIII. occasioned the following curious award, obligingly communicated by the Rev. Mr. Moreton;—"Whereas William Morton and Thomas Rood of Odrude in the countie of Chester, Gentilmen, stande bounde by there dede obligatory to abyde, stande, and obey to suche awarde, arbitrement, and direction as George Bromeley lieutenant, Justice of Chester, and William Brureton Esquier arbitrators, indifferently by theym elect and chosyn: of and upon all suche causes and matiers as be and wer depending in debate and variaunce betwene the saied parties: in all whiche causes of varyaunce, except one, the saied arbitrators have gyven effectuall awarde, lyke as thei thought moſte convenient, and according to right and reason, the whiche cause except is concernyng the pre-eminence of seignory, whiche of theym shuld sit highest in the churche, and foremost goo in proceſſion, with suche other divers light causes of varyaunce. Whereupon the saied lieutenant-Justice, by th' assent of the saied parties, remytted the direction and ordering thereof unto the saied William Brureton, calling to him xii of the moſte auneynt men inhabiting within the parishe of Aſtebery, and to examyne theym how the auncestors of the parties beforesaid have used theym in tyme passed, by cause it was thought that of all lyklyhod thei shuld knowe the veray trouthe of every thing concernyng the premisses, how be it the saied William Brureton couth have but easy informacion and knowledge of the saied auneynt men, wherby to determyne the cause rightfully. Wherefor the saied William Brureton Esquier favoring nor lenyng to neyther partie more to one than to the other, but indifferently tendring the final ende of there evyll willes, and extending to fet unite, peas, and concorde between theym, doth awarde this caus of varyaunce, in manner and forme following, that is to say, that whither of the saied gentylnen may dispende in landes by title of enberitaunce, 10 mark or above more than the other, that he shall have the pre-eminence in sitting in the churche, and in going in proceſſion, with all other lyke causes in that behalf. In witnes whereof the saied William Brureton hath set his seall to this his award, the 12 daye of July, the 5th yere of the reigne of our soverain lord King Henry the VIIIth."

! See two views of it at p. 457.

township,

township, belonged at an early period to the Moretons, whose heirefs, about the reign of Henry III., married Gram de Loftock; his fon took the name of Moreton, and was grandfather of Gram de Moreton living in 1354; his descendants continued in the male line, poffeffed of this hall, and the other moiety of the manor of *Odd-Rode*, which was given by Gram de Loftock above-mentioned to his fon Geoffrey, till the death of Sir William Moreton recorder of London, the laft heir male, who died in 1763, having bequeathed this eftate to his nephew, the Rev. Richard Taylor, vicar of West-Firle in Suffex, who affumed the name of Moreton, purfuant to his uncle's will, and was father of the Rev. William Moreton Moreton the prefent proprietor, now of Wefterham in the county of Kent. The hall built in 1559, being a fingularly curious fpecimen of the richly ornamented timber edifices of its time, is inhabited by Mrs. Thornicroft, the tenant of the eftate, a few rooms being referved for the ufe of Mr. Moreton, who ufually refides there during a fhort time in the fummer. Part of Mowcop Hill is in this township.

The manor of *Radnor* was anciently in a branch of the Venables family, with an heirefs of which it paffed, in the thirteenth century, to the Wilbrahams. About the year 1620 it was fold by Sir Richard Wilbraham to Philip Oldfield Efq. of Somerford Hall, from whom it defcended, with Somerford, to C. W. J. Shakerley Efq. Mrs. Starkey claims manerial rights in Radnor, where fhe poffeffes an eftate bequeathed by Mr. Haywood of Chefter, to her late husband Thomas Starkey Efq. of Wrenbury.

The township of *Smallwood* lies about three miles eaft by fouth from Sandbach; the manor was given by Sir Ralph Mainwaring to Henry Aldithly or Audley, in frank-marriage with his daughter Beatrice. It continued in the Audleys for three or four defcents, and afterwards paffed to the Hawkftones; one of the coheireffes of Sir John Hawkftone brought it in marriage about the year 1400 to a branch of the Egertons, from whom it paffed, in like manner, to the Willoughbies; Sir Henry Willoughby, who married the coheirefs of John Egerton, was father of Hugh Willoughby the circumnavigator; Sir Percival Willoughby and Bridget his wife, fold it to Sir William Brereton: this manor came afterwards, by purchafe, to the Powis family, and has fince paffed with Great-

\* See two plates and farther defcription of it, p. 457.

† The township of *Radnor* lies

nearly two miles N.W. from Congleton.

‡ Efch. Edw. III.

\* Dr. Williamfon's

Villare Ceftriense.

† Thomas de Hawkftone purchafed of Drayton, 24 Edw. III.

‡ Cheshire Pedigrees, Herald's college.

Moreton.

Moreton. Overton-Hall in this township, now a farm-house, belongs to the Master and Fellows of Caius College in Cambridge.

The manor of *Somerford-Booths* <sup>a</sup> was in the family of Swetenham, who possessed this estate and resided at Somerford from about the year 1200 <sup>b</sup>, till the death of Edmund Swetenham Esq. the last heir male in 1768; it is now the property and seat of his great nephew in the female line, Roger Comberbach Esq., who has taken the name of Swetenham. In this township is a farm called Shanewick, (in ancient records termed a manor) which is now the property of Sir Thomas Stanley Mafsey Stanley Bart.: it was bequeathed, with other estates, to his grandfather, by William Mafsey Esq. of Puddington, whose ancestors possessed it as early as the year 1450 <sup>c</sup>.

The manor of *Somerford-Radnor*, after having continued for fifteen generations <sup>d</sup> in the ancient family of Somerford, passed by successive female heirs to the Oldfields <sup>e</sup> and Shakerleys: it is now by inheritance from Peter Shakerley, the last heir male of the ancient family of Shakerley of Hulme, who died in 1781, the property of his grandson Charles Watkin John, son of his only daughter and heiress, the wife of Charles Buckworth Esq. of Park-place in Surrey, who has assumed the name of Shakerley, and resides at the hall of Somerford-Radnor.

The parish of AUDLEM, which lies in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich, contains the townships of *Audlem*, *Buerton*, *Coole-Lane*, *Hankelow*, *Titley*, or *Tittenley*, and part of the townships of *Doccote-cum-Wilkesley*, and *Newhall*. The township of *Audlem*, or, as it was anciently written, *Aldelym*, lies nearly seven miles south by east from Nantwich. In ancient times there was a market on Thursdays in this township, granted in or about the year 1294, together with a fair, at the festival of St. James, to Thomas de Aldelym <sup>f</sup>, whose ancestors the Tralebews are said to have possessed the manor from the time of the Conquest: two daughters and co-heiresses of this Thomas, who from the place of his residence had assumed the name of Aldelym, or Audlem, brought moieties of the manor in marriage to the families of Hogh and Wrenbury <sup>g</sup>. Ellen, daughter and heir of Richard de Hogh, married Richard de Mascie, who died in 1403, being seized in right of his wife of a moiety of this manor <sup>h</sup>. His descendants

<sup>a</sup> This township lies nearly three miles N. W. from Congleton.      <sup>b</sup> Hugh de Swetenham of Somerford, the first in the pedigree, was grandfather of William Swetenham living in the reign of Edward I.      <sup>c</sup> Esch. 28 Henry VI.      <sup>d</sup> Pedigrees of the family.

<sup>e</sup> The marriage of Philip Oldfield with the heiress of Somerford took place about the year 1600.

<sup>f</sup> Cart. 23 Edward I.      <sup>g</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.      <sup>h</sup> Esch. among the records of Chester.

being

being a younger branch of the Mascies of Sale, were for many years distinguished by the name of Mascie de Hogh; this moiety continued in the family of Mascie, till the death of William Mascie Esq.<sup>i</sup>, who in 1712 had purchased the greater part of the other moiety, which passed from the family of Wrenbury to the Smiths of Hough<sup>k</sup>. A sixth part of the manor which had been conveyed to the Wetenhalls by the Wrenbury family in the reign of Richard II., was in 1808 purchased by Mascie Taylor Esq. of Chester, second son of Robert Taylor Esq., who inherited the Audlem estate from his maternal grandfather William Mascie Esq. above-mentioned. The ancient hall of the manor, called the Mofs-house, was, till the year 1760, a seat of the Mascies and their representatives, the Taylors; it is now occupied by a farmer.

In the parish church is the monument of Nathaniel Wetenhall Esq., who died in 1778. A free grammar-school was founded at Audlem in 1655, by Sir William Bolton, and ——— Gamul, citizens of London, and endowed with 30*l.* *per ann.* for a master, and 10*l.* for an usher; 20*l.* of which is paid by the Merchant-Taylors' company, and 20*l.* charged on an estate in Coole-Lane<sup>l</sup>. In 1719 Mrs. Tryphena Bolton widow, founded a charity-school for children of the townships of Audlem and Hankelow, and endowed it with 4*l.* 9*s.* *per ann.* out of a modus for tythe-hay in Audlem<sup>m</sup>. The great tythes were formerly appropriated to the priory of St. Thomas near Stafford, to which they had been given, by Thomas de Aldelym: the impropriation and the advowson of the vicarage have been lately purchased of the Rev. William Wicksted, by Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart.

The township of *Buerton* lies about seven miles and a half S. S. E. from Nantwich: the manor, which was anciently in a family of that name, and afterwards, for several generations, in the Pooles of Poole in Wirral<sup>n</sup>, was sold in the year 1725, by Francis Poole Esq., to James Dicken Esq. of Woollerton in Shropshire, of whose family it was purchased by Sir Thomas Broughton Bart. the present proprietor. Another hall at Buerton, was as early as the reign of Edward IV. a seat of the Gamuls: the brave and loyal Sir Francis Gamul who

<sup>i</sup> He was brother of Richard Mascie, buried at Audlem in 1720, and is supposed to have died within a few years of the same time. See p. 387.      <sup>k</sup> Purchased, in 1517, by Thomas Smith Esq. alderman of Chester.      <sup>l</sup> Bishop Gastrells' Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.      <sup>n</sup> From the reign of Henry VII. to the year 1662, if not longer. See Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense, and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

was.

was created a baronet by King Charles I.<sup>p</sup> was dispossessed of this hall and the annexed estate, for his zeal in the service of his royal master; his family were nevertheless permitted to inherit, pursuant to an existing entail, but Sir Francis's life interest was put up to sale, and purchased in 1653, by William Plymley of Norton, in the county of Salop: after the death of Sir Francis, which happened in 1654, the inheritance devolved to his daughters and co-heirs, his only son having died without issue. Mr. Brerewood, who married Sidney, one of the co-heiresses, sold the Buerton estate to Sir George Warburton; it does not appear that the hall, which had belonged to the Gamuls, is now standing; and we have not been able to ascertain who is the present proprietor of the estate.

The township of *Hankelow* lies about five miles south by east from Nantwich; the manor belonged anciently to a family of that name; afterwards, for more than ten generations, to the Hassals, from whom it passed by a coheir's in the seventeenth century, to the family of Wibbenbury<sup>q</sup>; it was purchased of the latter, by James Bayley Esq. of Wistaston, great-grandfather of James Bayley, Esq., the present proprietor; the old hall is in the occupation of Mr. Knight. Another capital ancient mansion in this township, with a demesne attached, was, before the year 1640, the property of Gabriel Wetenhall Esq., a younger son of the family of Wetenhall of Nantwich; this branch of the Wetenhalls became extinct in the year 1778, by the death of Nathaniel Wetenhall Esq. Edward Tomkinson Esq., who inherited under his will, assumed the name of Wetenhall, and has lately sold this estate to Mr. Joseph Richardson of Beeston the present proprietor; the old mansion is occupied by a farmer.

The manor of *Titley*, or *Tittenley*, belonged for several generations to a family of that name, of whom it was purchased about the year 1526, by Sir Robert Needham, ancestor of Lord Viscount Kilmorey, the present proprietor: Titley-Hall had formerly a park, and was a seat of the Needhams.

The townships of *Newhall*, and *Dodcote-cum-Wilkesley*, in the latter of which is the site of Combermere-Abbey, have been spoken of under Wrenbury, in which chapelry the greater part of these townships is situated.

The parish of BACKFORD contains the townships of *Backford*, *Chorlton*, *Coughall*, *Lea*, and *Great-Mollington*; it lies within the deanery of Wirrall, and within the hundred of the same name, except the township of *Coughall*, which is

<sup>p</sup> Sir Francis Gamul's name does not appear in the baronetages; but in his private account-book (still extant) is said to be an entry of the fees paid for his patent.

<sup>q</sup> Villare Cestriense.

in the hundred of Broxton: the church of Backford is situated about three miles north by east from Chester; the manor was, during a great part of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, in the Masseys of Timperley<sup>r</sup>, afterwards in the Parres, who resided at Backford rather more than a century: about the year 1580 it was sold to Thomas Aldersey, by whom it was soon afterwards alienated to Henry Birkenhead Esq.<sup>s</sup> The Birkenheads resided at Backford-Hall till the family became extinct in the male line by the death of Thomas Birkenhead Esq. in 1724: the manor is now the property of their representative, Birkenhead Glegg Esq.; the hall is occupied by Mrs. Egerton, widow of the late Philip Egerton Esq. of Oulton. The manor of Rouche's-croft in this township, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Stanlowe, and afterwards to the Birkenheads, is not now known, but it is probable that it passed, with the Backford estate, to Mr. Glegg.

In the parish church of Backford are memorials of the families of Birkenhead and Morgall. The rectory and advowson, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, were granted to the bishop of Chester and his successors by King Henry VIII.<sup>s</sup> The rectorial estate is held on lease for lives under the bishop, by the Rev. Sir Henry Poole Bart. The rector of St. Mary's, in Chester, receives a moiety of the great tithes of the township of *Chorlton*<sup>r</sup>; a part of which is said to have been formerly in that parish: there is no manor in Chorlton; among the principal land-owners are, William Nicholls Esq. and Richard Wicksted Esq., who reside in the village.

The township of *Coughall* lies about three miles and a half north by east from Chester; the manor belonged for several generations to a family of the same name: Roger de Coughall, who died about the beginning of the fifteenth century, left two daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom married John Massey of Puddington Esq. the other, Sir John Osbaldeston of Chadlington in Oxfordshire<sup>r</sup>: the first-mentioned moiety has passed with the Puddington estate to the present proprietor, Sir Thomas Stanley Massey Stanley Bart.; the other part is vested in the feoffees of the grammar-school at Whitchurch, in the county of Salop. This estate was purchased in the reign of Edward VI., being then rented at 13*l. per ann.*, with a sum of money given by Sir John Talbot, parson of Whitchurch: the present rent is 300*l. per ann.*

<sup>r</sup> Esch. 2 Edw. II. — 10 Hen. V.  
Augmentation-office.

<sup>r</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>r</sup> Record in the

<sup>r</sup> This township is nearly four miles north from Chester.

<sup>r</sup> Villare Cestriense.

The township of *Lea* lies about three miles and a half N. N. W. from Chester; the manor, having belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in 1579, to William Glaseour Esq. of whose family it was purchased, in 1718, by Thomas Bootle Esq. : it is now the property of John Fielden Esq., who purchased of the Bootles in 1802.

The township of *Great-Mollington*, or *Mollington-Tarrant*, alias *Torrold*, lies about two miles and a half N. W. by N. from Chester: the manor appears to have belonged to the family of Tarrant, or Torrold, in the fourteenth century; they were succeeded by the Hattons, from whom it passed by marriage to the Booths<sup>7</sup>: in the reign of Henry VIII. it was held by the Booths under the family of Glegg<sup>8</sup>, who afterwards became themselves possessed of it, by the marriage of William Glegg Esq. of Gayton, with Cecilia, daughter and co-heir of Robert Sefton, who was seized of it in 1613<sup>9</sup>. In 1770 it was purchased of the Glegg family by Thomas Hunt Esq., who, in 1797, sold it to John Fielden Esq. the present proprietor. Mollington-Hall, a modern mansion, is now the seat of Mr. Fielden.

BADDILEY, which consists only of one township, lies in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich; the church is situated about three miles S. E. from the town of that name. The manor of Baddiley belonged, as early as the reign of William the Conqueror, to the ancient family of Praers: in the reign of Edward III. it passed by marriage with the co-heiresses of William Praers Esq. of Baddiley, to the families of Bromley, Mainwaring, and Hondford. The Bromleys, having released their interest in this estate to the Mainwarings<sup>b</sup>, it remained long in moieties between them and the Hondfords, and their representatives, the Breretons<sup>c</sup>, but afterwards became solely vested in the Mainwarings: it was purchased of the executors of the late Sir Henry Mainwaring Bart. (having been sold pursuant to the directions of his will) by the present proprietor, William Rigby Esq. of Oldfield-Hall, near Altrincham. Baddiley-Hall, the ancient seat of the Praers family, and afterwards of the Mainwarings, was formerly moated, and had a park; it was rebuilt by Sir Randle Mainwaring in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was taken down by the late Sir Henry Mainwaring: the site is now occupied by a farm-house. Philip Mainwaring Esq. who died in 1642,

<sup>7</sup> See Esch. 22 Hen. VII. and Collins's Peerage F.dit. 1768, Vol. vii. p. 70.

<sup>8</sup> Esch.

20 Hen. VIII.

<sup>a</sup> At this time the Mordaunts appear to have been possessed of the paramount lordship.

<sup>b</sup> The Mainwaring family derived their title to this estate wholly from the above-mentioned release, there being no descendants, after the first generation, from the match with Praers.

Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2022. f. 162.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.

left his library at Baddiley as an heir-loom, and expressed his wish that an addition of good and choice books should be from time to time made to it.

In the parish church, a small wooden structure, is the monument of Sir Thomas Mainwaring Bart. the twenty-ninth male heir in succession of the Mainwarings of Peover, who died in 1726, and some memorials of the Davenports of Blackhurst in this parish. The church of Baddiley was given by William de Praers, in 1354, to the abbot and convent of Combermere; the rectory is now in the patronage of Sir H. M. Mainwaring of Peover Bart.

The parish of BARROW, which contains only one township in two divisions, (*Great and Little-Barrow*) lies in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Chester: the church is about five miles E. N. E. from Chester. The manor of Barrow was given by Ranulph, Earl of Chester, to his nephew, William de Albini, Earl of Arundel<sup>d</sup>: on a partition of the lands of Hugh de Albini, Earl of Arundel, Barrow passed to Nichola, wife of Roger de Somery, who made it one of his chief seats<sup>e</sup>. The manors of Great and Little-Barrow were, at a later period, in the Despencers<sup>f</sup>, and after their attainder were granted at two several times by King Edward III. to Sir Roger de Swinerton<sup>g</sup>; Maud, the daughter and heiress of his grandson Sir Robert, brought these manors in marriage to Sir John Savage, who was knighted by King Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt<sup>h</sup>. The Savages had formerly a feat at Barrow: the above-mentioned manors are now the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley, whose great-uncle, General Cholmondeley, married the daughter and heir of James, Earl of Barrymore, by the daughter and heir of Richard Savage, Earl Rivers.

The church, or free-chapel of Barrow<sup>i</sup>, was given by Robert de Bachepuz, in the reign of Henry II., to the knights-hospitallers, who established a preceptory there; the free-chapel was under the government of a secular warden, or rector<sup>k</sup>. The benefice is now a rectory, of which the Earl of Cholmondeley is patron. The chancel of the parish church was built, in 1671, at the expence of Dr. Bridgman, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who was then rector. There is a charity-school in this parish, endowed with sundry small benefactions, which produce a salary for the master of about 6*l.* *per ann.*

<sup>d</sup> Holinshed, Vol. iii. 641.  
Little-Barrow appears to have been purchased of the Chamberlayn family by Hugh le Despencer, 17 Edw. III.

<sup>e</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, i. 613.

<sup>f</sup> The manor of

<sup>g</sup> Pat. 8 Edw. III., and Cart. 12 Edw. III.

<sup>h</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense, and pedigree of the family, in Smith's Collections.

<sup>i</sup> It is called the chapel of Barrow in the marriage settlement of Sir Robert Swinerton, and Elizabeth Beek, 7 Hen. IV. Smith's Collections, p. 42.

<sup>k</sup> Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

The parish of **BARTHOMLEY**, which is situated on the border of Staffordshire, and extends into that county, lies within the hundred and deanery of Nantwich : it contains five townships, *Barthomley*, *Alfager*, *Barterley*, *Crewe*, and *Hastington* : Barterley lies chiefly in Staffordshire. The township of *Barthomley* lies about seven miles and a half E. from Nantwich<sup>1</sup> : the manor, which is the property of Lord Crewe, has passed with Crewe-Hall and manor, as will be hereafter more particularly mentioned : the manors of Stoke in Acton, and Tramols in Bebington, were held formerly as parcel of this manor.

The nave of the parish church has a richly carved wooden roof put up in 1589, and ornamented with the arms of Acton, Delves, Egerton, Venables, &c. In the chancel is the monument of Sir Robert Fullehurst, or Foulshurst<sup>k</sup>, one of Lord Audley's Esquires, at the battle of Poitiers. In the Crewe chapel is a pedigree of the ancient family of that name, and a monument for Anne and Elizabeth, co-heiresses of John Crewe Esq.<sup>l</sup> the last heir male, who died in 1684, and lies buried in Westminster-Abbey. There are memorials also in the church, for the family of Malbon of Bradley, and in the church-yard for those of Acton, Alfager, and Kelfall<sup>m</sup>. The patronage of the rectory has passed with the manor, being now vested in Lord Crewe.

On the 22d of December, 1643, a troop of Lord Byron's, passing through Barthomley, made an attack upon the church, into which several of the inhabitants had gone for safety ; they soon got possession of it, and having set fire to the forms, rushes, and mats, made such a smoke, that the men who had retreated into the steeple were obliged to call for quarter, but their assailants, having got them into their power, are said to have stripped them all naked, and most cruelly murdered twelve of them in cold blood, three only being suffered to escape<sup>n</sup>.

A free-school was founded at Barthomley in 1676, by the Rev. Mr. Steele, who gave the sum of 50*l.* towards its endowment ; with this sum, and 100*l.* given by John Crewe Esq. to the school, and 300*l.* given by the same benefactor to the poor, lands were purchased, out of the rents of which the annual sum of 10*l.* 4*s.* is appropriated to the school. There are ten poor children educated in it. Lord Crewe appoints two, and the kindred of Mr. Steele, the founder, have a right of admission.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 502.

<sup>k</sup> See p. 447. where is a figure of it.

<sup>l</sup> See p. 371.

<sup>m</sup> The last heir male of the Actons died in 1702 : the last of the Alfagers (to whose memory there is a monument at Congleton) in 1768 : the last of the Kelfalls in 1802.

<sup>n</sup> Burghall's Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 925, 926.

The township of *Alfager*, or *Alfacher*, commonly pronounced *Auger*, lies nearly six miles south-east by south from Sandbach; the manor was at an early period in the Vernons, afterwards in the Minshulls: about the reign of Henry III. it was held by the ancient family of Alfager<sup>o</sup>, which became extinct in the male line by the death of John Alfager Esq. in 1768. Alfager manor and hall, which were inherited by his three sisters and co-heiresses, are now under the wills of Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Judith Alfager, the two last surviving sisters (bearing date 1792), the property of Catherine, relict of Richard Sheridan Esq. and her three maiden sisters, the elder of whom, Anne, has taken the name of Alfager<sup>r</sup>. In the year 1789 Mrs. Mary, Mrs. Margaret, and Mrs. Judith Alfager, ladies of the manor of Alfager, procured an act of Parliament to enable them to finish and complete a new church or chapel, to be called Christ's-church, or chapel, in Alfager; their successors in the manor to have the appointment of the minister, for whose maintenance fifty-nine statute acres of land were appointed<sup>9</sup>; and to nominate the church-wardens, clerk, and sexton; the minister to have the privilege of christening and burying at Alfager, preserving the rights of the rector of Barthomley. The same ladies built a school-house, and founded a school at Alfager, for the education of boys and girls, as an endowment for which, they directed that thirty acres of land should be inclosed, and that the schoolmaster should have the surplus of the profit of letting the pews, after deducting the repairs, &c. of the church, to be disbursed by the church-wardens: this surplus has been about five pounds *per ann.*: only eighteen acres of land have as yet been inclosed. The management of the school, after the death of the founders, was vested by the act in trustees, who are to appoint the schoolmaster; the minister of the chapel to have the preference.

The manor of *Barterley*, or *Balterley*, which township is situated chiefly in the county of Stafford<sup>r</sup>, is part of the inheritance of John Lawton of Lawton Esq. A charity-school was founded at Balterley, about the year 1730, by the Kelfall family of Hall-o'-wood in this township, which was for many generations the seat of the family of Wood<sup>r</sup>, and passed to the Kelfalls by marriage.

The township of *Crewe* lies about four miles S. W. by S. from Sandbach: it was, from a very early period, the seat and inheritance of the family of

<sup>o</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.      <sup>r</sup> These ladies were daughters of Mr. James Williams, who married the daughter and heir of Roger Wilbraham Esq., which Roger married the daughter and only child of the Rev. Samuel Alfager, great uncle to the three maiden sisters, who founded Alfager chapel.      <sup>9</sup> This land, when measured, appeared to be only forty acres; it is old inclosure, worth about three pounds an acre *per ann.*      <sup>r</sup> It lies about six miles and a half N. W. by W. from Newcastle-under-Lyne.      <sup>r</sup> The hall at this place is said to have been built by Thomas Wood, lord chief-justice of the common-pleas, in the early part of the sixteenth century.

Crewe,

**Crue, or Crewe.** About the year 1288, Thomas de Crewe became possessed of a knights' fee, parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, which, in 1253, had belonged to Philippa, countess of Warwick; this comprised the lordship of Crewe, to which some other manors were attached as parcel of that lordship: about the year 1300, Joan, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas de Crewe, the last male heir of the elder branch of the family, married Richard Praers, whose grand-daughter brought Crewe in marriage to Sir Robert Fullehurst, or Foulshurst, one of Lord Audley's Esquires at the battle of Poitiers: Sir Christopher Hatton purchased it of the Foulshursts in 1578<sup>a</sup>. About the year 1610, Sir Randle Crewe, serjeant at law, descended from Patrick, a younger brother of Thomas de Crewe, (whose daughter Joan, three centuries before, brought this estate to the Praers family,) purchased the manor of Crewe of Sir Christopher Hatton's heirs, and built Crewe-Hall; which, with the manor, continued in his descendants of the male line till the death of John Crewe Esq. in 1684; Anne, his elder daughter<sup>b</sup>, and eventually sole heir, married John Offley Esq., whose ancestors had been settled at Madeley-manor, in Staffordshire, as early as the year 1237; John, his eldest son, took the name of Crewe by act of Parliament in 1708, and was grandfather of the present proprietor, who, in 1806, was created Baron Crewe.

Crewe-Hall, the seat of Lord Crewe, remains in its original state, and exhibits a good specimen of the more enriched style of architecture which was in use in the early part of the seventeenth century<sup>c</sup>: it was begun in the year 1615, and completed in 1636; the ceilings and wainscots of several of the rooms, as well as the principal stair-case, retain their original decorations. The gallery, which is one hundred feet in length, is fitted up as a library, and contains many family portraits. During the civil war, Crewe-Hall was garrisoned by the Parliament: on the 28th of December 1643, it was taken by Lord Byron<sup>d</sup>. It is said that the garrison sustained a furious assault, and in the first instance repelled their assailants, of whom they slew sixty and wounded many more, but were obliged to surrender for want of victuals and ammunition<sup>e</sup>. It was then made a garrison for the King, but after the relief of Nantwich, it fell again into the hands of the Parliament, having been re-taken without resistance on the 4th of February 1643-4<sup>f</sup>. Not

<sup>a</sup> Aston in Mondrem; Cholmondeston, and Leighton; these continued, together with Crewe, what was deemed a knights' fee, and was one of three which had belonged to the countess of Warwick. (Woodnoth's Collections, p. 28. b. & 2656). It was held by the service of finding a judge in the county-court at Chester; and an armed man to keep the peace during the fairs.—Villare Cestriense, and Esch. 22 Edw. I. <sup>b</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense. <sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth, the other daughter, married Charles Turner Esq., and died without issue.

<sup>e</sup> See an elevation of it in p. 458. <sup>f</sup> See Heath's Chronicle, and Dugdale's View of the Troubles.

<sup>g</sup> History of Nantwich, and Burghall's Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 926.

<sup>h</sup> Burghall's Diary in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 932.

having

having sustained any formal siege, this venerable mansion had the good fortune to escape any material injury.

A free school was founded at Crewe, in the year 1717, by Mr. Thomas Leadbeater, who gave the interest of 120*l.* for an endowment. The school, and the master's house, were built by subscription: Lord Crewe nominates the master.

The township of *Haslington* lies four miles S.S.W. from Sandbach; the manor having been anciently parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, passed by one of the co-heiresses of the last baron to the Vernons. Sir Ralph Vernon, Baron of Shipbrooke, called "the Old," from his living to the great age of one hundred and fifty years, settled his estates, in case of the failure of male issue from the posterity of his elder son, on the heirs-male of Richard Vernon his son by Maud Grosvenor, who in some pedigrees is represented as his second wife, in others as his concubine. In consequence of this settlement, there was a long litigation between the heirs of the above-mentioned Richard, and the heirs of Thomas, a younger son of Sir Ralph, the Old, (by his first wife,) who was passed over by his father<sup>c</sup>. It seems probable that this suit was settled by compromise, for the barony of Shipbrooke, and other estates remained with the posterity of Richard; but Haslington was enjoyed by the descendants of Thomas<sup>d</sup>, who resided at Haslington-Hall for many generations. The last heir-male of the Haslington branch of the family was Sir George Vernon, who was made one of the Barons of the Exchequer in 1631; his daughter and heir married one of the Aislabies of Studley-Park in Yorkshire. It is now the property of the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., who purchased it of Messrs. Sparrow and Henshull, to whom it had been alienated by the late William Aislable Esq. Haslington-Hall is now occupied by a farmer.

At Haslington is an ancient chapel, built by the Vernons, as a chapel of ease for themselves and their tenants; (Haslington being more than two miles from Barthomley-church) and endowed with 20*l. per ann.* A bill was brought into Parliament to make this chapel a parish church, but it never passed into an act: in 1689 both the chapel and hall (in which the Vernon family had ceased to reside) were licensed for a meeting-house<sup>e</sup>. The chapel has since been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the minister is appointed by the rector of Barthomley, to whom the tithes of Haslington, which had been given to the church of

<sup>c</sup> See more particulars of this and the references in the account of Shipbrooke, in the parish of Davenham.

<sup>d</sup> See Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2008, and Collins's Peerage.

<sup>e</sup> The Vernons were

in possession in 1704. Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

! Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

Barthomley

Barthomley about the reign of Edward I. by Sir Ralph Vernon, were adjudged by a decree<sup>o</sup> of the Exchequer in the reign of Charles I.<sup>f</sup> The tithes and patronage have nevertheless passed of late years with the manor, and are now possessed by Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.

At Winteley, in this township, is a dissenters meeting, which has been established for many years<sup>g</sup>; the structure appears to be about the same age as the chapel at Haslington, and was probably built in or about the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Oakhanger-Hall, in this township, was formerly the seat of the Actons, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Manleys of Lache. It is now the property and residence of John Ready Esq., who married the heiress of the Manley family. Bradley-Hall, now a farm-house, was the seat of the Malbon family, some time since extinct<sup>h</sup>. Hall-o'-heath, in the township of Haslington, belonged anciently to the family of Heath, passed by a female heir to the Mores, who resided there for several generations<sup>i</sup>, and is now the property of Peter Walthall Esq. of Wistalton, whose ancestor married the heiress of More early in the seventeenth century: Hall-o'-heath is now a farm house. Clayhonger-Hall, now a farm-house, is the property of the Rev. W. Bayley of Wheelock.

BEBINGTON parish, which lies in the hundred and deanery of Wirrall, consists of five townships; *Great*, or *Lower-Bebington*, *Little*, or *Higher-Bebington*, *Tranmore*, *Storeton*, and *Poolton-cum-Spittle*.

*Great-Bebington*, in which the parish-church is situated, lies about five miles N. E. by N. from Neston. The manor was given, at a very early period, by Hugh Boydell of Doddleston to the family of Lancelyn, who appear to have been possessed of property here as early as the time of the Conquest<sup>k</sup>. The heiress of the Lancelyns brought this manor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the Greens<sup>l</sup>, and it continued in the male line of that family till the death of John Green Esq. in 1711: his daughter, Mrs. Parnell, who, on the decease of her brother Edward without issue, inherited this estate, and, dying in 1792, bequeathed it to Joseph Kent Esq., son of the sole surviving daughter and heir of Richard Green Esq. (the heir at law of her brother Edward), in whom the male line of the family became extinct. This gentleman, who is the present proprietor, has, pursuant to Mrs. Parnell's will, assumed the name and arms of Green. The manor of the township of *Poolton-cum-Spittle* has passed by the same title, and the manor-house is the seat of Mr. Green; of whose ancestors there are some monuments in the parish church of Bebington. The advowson of Bebington

<sup>o</sup> Woodnoth's Cheshire Collections, p. 63.

<sup>f</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> See p. 399.

<sup>i</sup> Cheshire pedigrees, in the possession of Henry Tomkinson Esq. of Dorfold.

<sup>k</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid.

was given by Seward Lancelyn in 1093, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, and confirmed by his descendants, Robert and William Lancelyn, in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I.<sup>m</sup>. The patronage is now vested in the Rev. Roger Jackson the present rector.

It appears by ancient records, that in the reign of Henry III. there was a chapel in this parish, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket<sup>n</sup>; it is probable that it was the chapel of the spital, of which William Lancelyn died seized in 1382<sup>o</sup>: this spital, of which there are now no remains, is spoken of in a record of the reign of Edw. I.<sup>r</sup>, as a hospital for lepers.

A charity-school for the children of Great-Bebington, and the demesnes of Poolton, was founded in 1655, and endowed by the land-owners with twenty acres of land, being parcel of a common then inclosed<sup>o</sup>: the master is elected by trustees; the rector of Bebington, and the proprietor of the manor of Poolton, being always of the number. Among other benefactions to the poor of the parish are several sums of money, for providing parish cows<sup>r</sup>: there are now ten in number, which are let out by the rector and church-wardens, at five shillings a year for each cow, for the purpose of forming a fund to keep up the stock: the cows are brought once a year for inspection.

The manor of *Higher*, or *Little-Bebington*, was held for several generations<sup>r</sup> under the Worlestons, by the family of Bebington, the elder branch of which became extinct in the reign of Richard II.; a younger branch settled at Nantwich: it is remarkable that Richard Bebington, of this family, had six sons and a younger brother, slain at Flodden-field. The manor of Bebington passed with the heiress of the elder branch to the Minshulls<sup>r</sup>, whose heiress, in the early part of the seventeenth century, brought it to the Cholmondeleys of Vale-Royal. This estate was sold to several persons, under the authority of an act of Parliament passed in 1736: Daniel Orred Esq., who, in consequence of various purchases, possesses a great part of the township; and Mr. Joseph White, who has purchased other parts of the estate, (including the Rock-ferry,) both give deputations for the manor: Derby-house in this township, formerly a seat of the Minshulls, was purchased of the Cholmondeley family by the Robinsons, and by them sold to Dr. Watson of Preston in the county of Lancaster, the present proprietor.

The manors of Great and Little-Storeton, in the township of *Storeton*<sup>n</sup>, were given by Ranulph, the third Earl of Chester, to his steward Alan Sylvester<sup>r</sup>, whose son Ralph Sylvester, or Savage, left an only daughter and heir, given

<sup>m</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.      <sup>n</sup> See Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.  
<sup>o</sup> Esch. 6 Rich. II.      <sup>r</sup> See Tanner's Notitia Monastica.      <sup>s</sup> Notitia Cestriensis.      <sup>t</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>u</sup> Before 31 Edw. I.      <sup>v</sup> Villare Cestriense.      <sup>w</sup> This township is five miles N. by E. from Great-Neston.      <sup>x</sup> Ibid.

in marriage by Hugh Kevelioc Earl of Chester, to Alexander his son's tutor, or, as some pedigrees describe him, the steward of his household: this Alexander took the name of de Storeton, and left an only daughter, married to Sir Philip Bamville; Joan, their eldest daughter and co-heiress, married Sir William de Stanley<sup>2</sup>, the immediate ancestor of Sir T.M.S. Stanley Bart., the present proprietor. The hall is occupied as a farm house.

The township of *Tranmore* lies about seven miles N. by E. from Great-Neston; the manor belonged in ancient times to the family of Tranmore<sup>2</sup>, or Tranmols, whose co-heiresses, in the reign of Edward III., brought it in moieties, between the families of Bebington and Holme<sup>2</sup>: the whole became united by purchase in the Minshulls, heirs of the Bebingtons, and passed with Little-Bebington to the Cholmondeleys of Vale-Royal: it is now the property of Daniel Orred Esq.; Tranmore-Hall, the property of Mr. Roger Collier, (by purchase from Sir Foster Cunliffe Bart.) is occupied as a farm-house.

BIDSTON, in the hundred and deanery of Wirrall, lies on the side of a hill on a yellow sand-stone rock, about two miles S. of the Mersey, about four miles from Woodside-ferry, and about eighteen miles from Chester: the parish consists of four townships, *Bidston*, *Cloughton*, *Moreton*, and *Saughall-Massey*. The manor of *Bidston*, which was parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey, was sold by the Masseys to Henry Earl of Lancaster, and having been given in exchange to Sir Roger le Strange, passed by an heir female to the Stanleys, Earls of Derby. In 1653 it was sold by the Derby family, to William Steel Esq., and by him a few years afterwards to the Earl of Kingston.<sup>b</sup> It is now the property of Robert Vyner Esq. of Gautby in Lincolnshire, by inheritance from Sir Robert Vyner Bart. (some time lord mayor of London) to whom it was conveyed in the reign of Charles II. by the Earl of Kingston and others.

Bidston-Hall, an ancient mansion still standing, and occupied as a farm-house, was a seat of the Derby family, and is said to have been a favourite residence of William Earl of Derby, Lord Lieutenant of the county, and chamberlain of Chester in the reign of James I.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A portion of the manor belonged for some time to the families of Bechinton, or Bechton and Laken, by marriage with the other co-heiresses, but the whole ere long became vested in the Stanleys. See Dr. Williamfon's *Villare Cestriense* and *Escheats*. <sup>a</sup> In the reign of Edward III. it was held under Thomas de Praers, as parcel of the manor of Barthomley.

<sup>b</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.—These Holmes were ancestors of the antiquaries of that name.

<sup>c</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 124. <sup>d</sup> It seems probable that the Earl afterwards gave it up to his son, James Lord Strange, (who afterwards, when Earl of Derby, fell a sacrifice to Cromwell's resentment at Bolton,) the grant of the piece of waste for the school in 1636 having been the act of Lord Strange, William Earl of Derby being then living.

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The charity-school is said to have been founded in 1636, a sum of money amounting to 200*l.*, a great part of which was afterwards lost, having been then subscribed by the inhabitants, and a school-house built on a piece of the waste given by Lord Strange: the remainder of the money was, some years ago, laid out in land, which now produces 8*l. per ann.* Ford is a hamlet of this township, which is sometimes called *Bidston-cum-Ford*. The church of Bidston belonged to the priory of Birkenhead, the curate's salary being 6*l. 13*s.* per ann.* Since the Reformation the rectory has been annexed to the fee of Chester; it is held on lives, under the bishop, being now charged with the sum of 20*l. per ann.* payable to the curate, who is appointed by the lessee: the curacy has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty; the present lessee is Benjamin Keene Esq.

The light-house at Bidston was erected pursuant to an act of Parliament passed in 1762, empowering the corporation of Liverpool to purchase land for that purpose; it is supported by a duty paid by all ships sailing to or from the port of Liverpool. Signals to announce the approach of different vessels are affixed to the light-house, and many of the Liverpool merchants have private signal-posts near it.

The manor of *Claughton* belonged to the prior and convent of Birkenhead, and having passed with the priory estate<sup>d</sup>, is now the property of F. R. Price Esq. The manors of *Moreton* and *Saughall-Maffey*<sup>e</sup> have passed with Bidston; there are no halls at either. In the township of Moreton there was formerly a chapel, demolished about the year 1640.<sup>f</sup>

**BIRKET, or BIRKENHEAD**, in the hundred and deanery of Wirrall, is an extra-parochial chapelry, situated about nine miles N. N. E. from Great-Neston, having been the site of a priory founded by Hamo de Maffey, the third baron of Dunham-Maffey, in the reign of Henry II. or his successor, for sixteen Benedictine monks<sup>g</sup>. This priory was dedicated to St. Mary and St. James, and made subordinate to the Abbey of St. Werburgh at Chester: its revenues were valued at the time of the dissolution of monasteries at 90*l. 13*s.* clear yearly income*<sup>h</sup>. The site of the priory and the manor of Birkenhead were granted to Ralph Worsley Esq., whose eldest daughter and co-heir, about the year 1572, brought this estate in marriage to the Powells of Horsley.<sup>i</sup> Thomas Powell Esq. of Birkenhead, was created a baronet in 1629; the title was extinct before the publication of Wotton's Baronetage in 1727;

<sup>d</sup> See below.

<sup>e</sup> The township of *Moreton* is about nine miles and a half N. by W. and *Saughall-Maffey*, about nine miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston.

<sup>f</sup> Bishop Gallrell's Notitia.

<sup>g</sup> Tanner.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

<sup>i</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense. Birket-priory belonged to Thomas Powell Esq. in 1622. Webb's Itinerary printed in the Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 121.

the Birkenhead estate was purchased about the year 1715; probably of the representatives of the last baronet, by John Cliveland Esq. M.P.; Mr. Cliveland's only son dying without issue, it was inherited by his daughter Alice, married to Francis Price Esq. of Bryn-y-pys in the county of Flint, whose great-grandson, Francis Richard Price Esq., is the present proprietor. Birket-house, which is situated near the remains of the priory, on a pleasant bank sloping down to the Mersey, immediately opposite to Liverpool, having been garrisoned for King Charles during the civil war, for the purpose of securing the passage of the river, was taken by the Parliament on the 22d of September 1644<sup>k</sup>; it is at present uninhabited. The chapel of the priory is standing, and was considered, after the Reformation, as a domestic chapel, till it was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the minister is appointed by Mr. Price.

The parish of BOWDEN, or BOWDON, which lies in the hundred of Bucklow, and deanery of Frodsham, contains the townships of *Bowden, Altrincham, Ashley, Baguley, Bollington, Carrington, Dunham-Massey, Hale, Partington, and Timperley*, besides half of the townships of *Agden*, and *Ashton*: the other half of *Ashton* is in the parish of that name; the other half of *Agden* in Rostherne. The whole parish is divided into four districts<sup>l</sup>, each of which has a church-warden appointed by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

The manor of *Bowden* was in ancient times parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey; a moiety of it was given by Hamo de Massey, about the year 1278, to the prior and convent of Birkenhead; the other moiety had before passed to a younger branch of the Massey family, and became subdivided: one half of it was sold in the reign of Henry III., by Robert de Massey to the Bowdens of Bowden, who in the reign of Queen Elizabeth sold lands in this township to the Booths of Dunham-Massey; the other half of this moiety, about the year 1500, passed by marriage with the heiress of Samuel Massey of Rixton, to the Holcrofts, who were afterwards of Vale-Royal: this portion of the manor belonged in 1666, to the heirs of William Brereton Esq., who, as Sir Peter Eycester was informed, had purchased it of the Holcrofts in the reign of King James I.<sup>m</sup> The whole of the manor is now the property of the Earl of Stamford.

In the parish church, which stands on a hill about a mile west from Altrincham, are several handsome monuments, principally for the family of Booth. In the

<sup>k</sup> Carte's Ormond Letters, I. 65.      <sup>l</sup> Viz. 1. *Bollington, Carrington, Dunham-Massey*, and part of *Agden*, and *Ashton*. 2. *Altrincham, Baguley*, and *Timperley*. 3. *Hale*. 4. *Ashley* and *Bowden*.

<sup>m</sup> Historical Antiquities, p. 224, 225.

north aisle or chapel, which was built pursuant to the will of Sir William Booth, who died in 1476<sup>n</sup>, is a grave-stone much worn, in memory of Sir William Booth, who died in 1519, and his wife Eleanor; in the same aisle are two handsome monuments, one of which was erected in memory of Henry Earl of Warrington and his countess; the other, supported by columns of the Ionic order, and ornamented with medallions of the deceased, in memory of the Earl's younger sons, Langham and Henry Booth. The Earl of Warrington died in 1694, at the age of forty-two; "he was thrice committed to the Tower on accusations of high-treason, and having been tried by his peers, was acquitted Jan. 14, 1686, a day which he ever afterwards commemorated;" his countess, who was daughter and heir of Sir James Langham Bart., died in 1691. The Hon. Langham Booth, who several times represented the county of Chester in Parliament, died in 1724, at the age of forty, and was buried at Bowden; his brother Henry died at the same age, and was buried at Rotterdam. The Earl of Warrington above-mentioned, being then Lord Delamere, was tried on a charge of high-treason, before his professed enemy, Lord Chancellor Jefferys, who sat as high-steward, and a select number of peers, being such as were supposed to be most devoted to the court; yet, so clear were the proofs of his innocence, that he was acquitted by the unanimous verdict of his judges. On the first intelligence of the approach of the Prince of Orange, he put himself at the head of an armed force, and on the happy accomplishment of an almost bloodless revolution, was one of the persons selected to carry to the fallen monarch, who had so lately put his life to hazard, the message which enforced his removal from the palace of Whitehall. Lord Delamere was created Earl of Warrington by King William, in 1690.

To return to the description of Bowden church.—In the north aisle is the monument of William Brereton Esq. of Ashley-Hall, who died in 1630, and his wife Jane, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Peter Warburton Esq. of Arley, with recumbent figures of the deceased. Dr. Williamson in his manuscript collections speaks of the monuments of George Booth Esq., Elizabeth his wife, and of Sir William Legh of Baguley. In the chancel is the grave-stone of George, the first Lord Delamere, distinguished for his premature attempt, when Sir George Booth, to restore King Charles II. in 1659; he died in 1684: in the nave is a handsome monument by Westmacott, in memory of Thomas Asheton Esq. of Ashley, who died in 1759, his son Thomas Asheton Smith, who died in 1774, and that of Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall Esq. (tenant of Ashley-Hall) who died in 1788.

† Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 225.

The church of Bowden, which had been given by Hamo de Mafsey, the fifth of that name, to the priory of Birkenhead, became vested in the crown on the dissolution of that convent, and was annexed by King Henry VIII. to the see of Chester. The bishop is patron of the vicarage; the rectory is held on lease under the see, by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, whose family have been lessees ever since the reign of James I., when it was granted for three lives, to Sir George Booth.

At Bowden is an ancient free grammar-school, to which Edward Vaudrey left *4l. per ann.* about the year 1600: the school-house was re-built with a convenient house for the master, in the year 1806. There is a charity-school at Seaman's-Mofs, and another at Little-Heath, both of which are endowed out of the interest of 1000*l.* given for charitable uses, by Mr. Thomas Walton, who had been many years a servant at Dunham-Mafsey, and died in 1757. These schools have been liberally augmented by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington's family: the Earl nominates the children at Seaman's-Mofs; the master of which school has *40l. per ann.* and a house. At Little-Heath, children of a younger age, both boys and girls, are taught by a school-mistress, and clothed.

The town of *Altrincham* is situated on one of the roads from London to Manchester, one hundred and eighty miles from London, seven from Knutsford, and eight from Manchester: it was made a free borough by Hamo de Mafsey, Baron of Dunham-Mafsey, who granted the burghesses a mercatorial-gild and various privileges: the chief officer of the town has been long called a mayor, but is not appointed under the authority of any charter: a market at Altrincham on Tuesday, which is still continued, was granted to Hamo de Mafsey, by King Edward I. in 1290, together with a fair for three days at the festival of the assumption of the Virgin Mary<sup>p</sup>; this fair is now held on the 5th of August, and there is another on the 2d of November. In the answer to Bishop Porteus's Inquiries<sup>q</sup> in 1778, the township of Altrincham is stated to contain only one hundred and eighty-five houses; by the return made to Parliament, under the Population Act in 1801, it appears that there were then three hundred and forty-three houses, (of which three were uninhabited,) and one thousand six hundred and ninety-two inhabitants.

There are two large cotton-manufactories at Altrincham, and a manufactory for turning bobbins, the lathes of which are worked by steam. Many of the inhabitants gain their livelihood by raising vegetables for the Manchester market,

<sup>o</sup> See the Charter in Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 203.

<sup>p</sup> Cart. 18 Edw. I.

<sup>q</sup> In the registry at Chester.

particularly early potatoes, which, at their first coming in, are sold at three shillings a pound.

The manor of Altrincham was of the ancient fee of the Barons of Dunham-Massey, and has descended with other lands belonging to that barony, to the present proprietor the Earl of Stamford and Warrington.

A chapel of ease was built at Altrincham in 1799, at the expence of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and other subscribers; the vicar of Bowden appoints the minister. Oldfield-Hall in this township, formerly a seat of the family of Parker<sup>1</sup>, is now the property and residence of William Rigby Esq.

The township of *Ashley* lies nearly five miles N. N. E. from Knutsford: the manor was anciently parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey; from the Masseys it passed in exchange to the Dutton family, a branch of which seating themselves at this place, assumed the name of Ashley in or about the reign of Edward I. About the year 1540, Thomasine, daughter and heir of George Ashley Esq., brought this estate in marriage to Richard, younger son of Sir William Brereton of Brereton, whose posterity settled at Ashley. On the death of Thomas Brereton Esq. without issue in 1660, the manor of Ashley devolved to his three sisters, married to Alexander Barlow Esq. of Barlow in Lancashire, Robert Tatton of Withenshaw, and Ralph Afsheton Esq. of Kirkby in Yorkshire<sup>2</sup>. Ashley is now the property of William Henry Afsheton Smith Esq.<sup>3</sup>, lineal descendant of Ralph Afsheton above-mentioned: the hall is in the occupation of John Arden Esq. of Harden.

The township of *Baguley* lies about six miles W. by S. from Stockport; the manor having been part of the barony of Dunham-Massey, became at an early period the property of the Baguleys, a co-heiress of which family brought it in marriage to Sir William Legh<sup>4</sup>, son of Sir John Legh of Booths. Dr. Gower, in a letter to the late Rev. Mr. Harwood of Chester says, on the authority of Dr. Percy (late bishop of Dromore<sup>5</sup>), that one of the Leghs of Baguley wrote several historical poems in the reign of Henry VII. Edward Legh, the last heir male of this branch of the Legh family, died in 1688, having some time before his death sold Baguley, which in 1722 was the property of Joshua, Viscount Allen of the kingdom of Ireland: in

<sup>1</sup> Alienated by that family in 1672.      <sup>2</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities: Ralph Afsheton was a younger son of Sir Richard Afsheton of Middleton in Lancashire.      <sup>3</sup> The name of Smith has been assumed.

<sup>4</sup> Sir William Legh, who settled at Baguley, died in 1403.

<sup>5</sup> Probably from verbal communication; we find no mention of it in the bishop's publications, nor have we met with any other authority for this Cheshire Poet.

1749 it was purchased of John Viscount Allen, by the late Joseph Jackson Esq. of Rostherne, who, dying in 1803, bequeathed this estate to his cousin, the Rev. Millington Maffey, who took the name of Jackson, and is lately deceased: it is now vested in his only daughter. The old Hall is occupied by a farmer; a more modern mansion in this township, with an estate annexed, is the property and residence of the Miss Houghtons.

The township of *Bollington* lies about six miles N. by W. from Knutsford: the manor was anciently parcel of the barony of Dunham-Maffey. Hamo, one of the barons, gave a moiety of Bollington in free-marriage with his daughter Agnes, to Gessery Dutton, whose descendants assumed the name of Chedle: this moiety passed by a female heir to the Radcliffes Earls of Suffex, and by sale, to the Carringtons, from whom it descended, through the Booths to the present Earl of Stamford and Warrington: the other moiety was, as early as the reign of Henry III. in the family of Mere; half of this moiety passed by sale to the Bramptons and Booths; the whole now belongs to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, the remaining fourth, which had passed by successive conveyances from the Meres to the Bollingtons, and the Leghs of Booths<sup>2</sup>, having been, not many years ago, acquired by purchase.

The township of *Carrington* lies about eleven miles N. from Knutsford: the manor was held for more than three centuries by the family of Carrington, under the Barons of Dunham-Maffey, of whose barony it had been anciently a part. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Jane, the daughter and only heir of John Carrington Esq., brought it in marriage to Sir George Booth of Dunham-Maffey<sup>1</sup>, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Stamford and Warrington: Carrington-Hall is now occupied by a farmer.

A chapel of ease for the townships of Carrington and Partington was built at Carrington, by George Earl of Warrington, and consecrated in 1759, being dedicated to St. George: it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty; the sum of 600*l.* having been given towards its endowment by Mary, Countess of Stamford<sup>2</sup>: the Earl of Stamford and Warrington is patron. John Rider, bishop of Killaloe, author of an English and Latin Dictionary, who died in 1632, was a native of Carrington<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities of Bucklow hundred.      <sup>2</sup> Their marriage settlement contained this remarkable clause, that "if the said Jane should after marriage be detected of incontinency, the estate should remain to the family of Booth." Collins's Peerage. Edit. 1768. Vol. vii. p. 77. Sir Peter Leycester observes, that Sir George Booth had no issue by Jane Carrington, "yet enjoyed Carrington's lands, which after her death he recovered by a tedious suit." Historical Antiquities, p. 229.      <sup>3</sup> Answers to the Inquiries of Bishop Porteus.

<sup>4</sup> Anthony Wood's Athen. Oxon.

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The township of *Dunham-Massey* lies about six miles and a half north from Knutsford. Dunham-Massey was the seat of the barony of that name, and was held by the Barons Massey, under the Earls of Chester, by military service, they being bound to attend the King in time of war, with a certain number of horse and foot, and immediately to repair to the king's summons, with their whole *posse*, if an enemy's army should come into Cheshire, or if Chester-castle should be besieged. Hamo, the last Baron of Dunham-Massey, died without male issue, about the year 1341, having sold the reversion of Dunham-Massey, and other estates, to Oliver Ingham justice of Chester, whose heirs, the Stranges, Lords of Knockin, were for a while possessed of it, but not without disturbance from the Fittons; John Fitton having married the elder sister and co-heir of the last Baron of Dunham-Massey. The heiress of Fitton having married into the Venables family, and the co-heiress of William Venables of Bollin having married Robert, afterwards Sir Robert Booth, the claim was by him renewed in the reign of Henry VI., and it was at length agreed that Sir Robert should have half of the manors of Dunham-Massey, Altrincham, and Hale<sup>b</sup>. This Sir Robert Booth was of a younger branch of the Booths of Barton in Lancashire, and half-brother of Laurence Booth, archbishop of York: having partly succeeded in his claim, he settled at Dunham-Massey, which, by subsequent purchases, became wholly vested in his descendants. Sir George Booth, the seventh in descent from Sir Robert, was created a baronet in 1611, on the first institution of that order; his grandson of the same name was created Baron Delamere of Dunham-Massey, at the coronation of King Charles II., and Lord Delamere's son, Henry, the second Lord Delamere, was, as before-mentioned, created Earl of Warrington by King William. Mary, only daughter and heir of George Booth, the second and last Earl of Warrington of that family<sup>c</sup>, who died in 1758, brought Dunham-Massey and other large estates, to Henry Grey, Earl of Stamford, father of George Harry the present Earl, who had the title of Warrington conferred on him by a new creation in 1796. Dunham-Massey, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, was rebuilt in 1730, from the designs of Mr. John Norris: there is an engraving of the old mansion by Kip, in the *Nouveau Theatre de la Grand Bretagne*. Lord Stamford has a valuable collection of pictures at Dunham-Massey, among which are numerous portraits by

<sup>b</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, p. 242, 243.  
devolved on the Rev. George Booth.

<sup>c</sup> The baronetage, since extinct,

Hans Holbein, Cornelius Janfen, Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller, &c. &c. <sup>d</sup>.

*Sunderland* and *Dunham-Wood-houses* are hamlets in the township of Dunham-Massey.

The township of *Hale* lies nearly six miles N. E. by N. from Knutsford. One half of the manor, which had in ancient times been parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey, became (in consequence of the compromise which took place as already spoken of,) in the reign of Henry VI. the property of Sir Robert Booth, and has descended with Dunham-Massey to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington: the other half remained with Sir Thomas Stanley, as heir of the Stranges; this moiety, including *Ringey*, a hamlet of Hale, has been for more than one hundred and fifty years in the family of Crewe <sup>f</sup>, and is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Crewe. The Hale-Hall estate, which belonged for several descents to the family of Birch, has been sold to Isaac Worthington Esq., who has taken down the old hall, and erected a commodious mansion on the site, now in the occupation of the Rev. Robert Harrop. In this township is an ancient dissenters' meeting-house. At *Ringey*, or *Ringway*, was an ancient chapel, which, after the Restoration, was occupied for many years by the non-conformists <sup>g</sup>: in 1720 it was rebuilt by Lord Crewe's grandfather, who gave

<sup>d</sup> Of these may be enumerated Sir Thomas Gresham, and Christiana Duchefs of Loraine, (daughter of Christian II. King of Denmark), by Holbein; Henry, the first Earl of Warrington; Sir John Booth Knight; Lady Diana Cecil (daughter of the second Earl of Exeter), wife of Henry Vere Earl of Oxford, and afterwards of Thomas Bruce, Earl of Elgin, and her sister, Lady Elizabeth Cecil, wife of Thomas, Earl of Berkshire, by Cornelius Janfen; the Countess of Oxford and Elgin above-mentioned; Lady Killigrew; Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery; Lady Anne Carr, Countess of Bedford, and Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby, by Vandyke; Anne, Queen of James II.; the Duchefs of Portsmouth; the Countess of Ranelagh; the Countess of Meath; Sir George Howard and his Lady; the Hon. Archibald Grey; the first Earl of Shaftesbury; Lady Anne Cecil, the first Countess of Stamford; Henry, the first Earl of Stamford; George, Lord Delamere, and his lady, (daughter of the first Earl of Stamford) and William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire, by Sir Peter Lely; the Duchefs of Orleans, sister of King Charles II., by Largilliere; Barbara Villiers, Duchefs of Cleveland; Henry, the first Earl of Warrington, and his second daughter, Lady Mary Robarts; John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough; Lady Elizabeth Delves, daughter of the first Earl of Warrington; and the Hon. Langham Booth, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. There is a curious ancient portrait of Elizabeth, the Queen of King Edward IV.; and there are several portraits of the Warrington family by Dahl, Dobson, and other artists; and one of Frances, the celebrated Duchefs of Richmond, in the reign of James I. (the artist's name unknown.)

<sup>e</sup> See the preceding page.

<sup>f</sup> See Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

200l. towards its endowment, and procured for it Queen Anne's bounty<sup>h</sup>, since which time the nomination of the minister has been vested in the Crewe family.

The township of *Partington* lies ten miles N. by W. from Knutsford: the manor, anciently parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey, was at an early period divided into severalties: in 1666 Lord Delamere had a third part, which had belonged to the Carringtons; the remainder was divided between the families of Warburton, Owen, Hadfield, and Partington<sup>i</sup>; the Earl of Stamford and Warrington is now lord of the whole. Partington-Hall is a farmhouse; Milbank, a modern mansion in this township, is the property and residence of Mr. Robert Speer, who purchased it in 1807, of the trustees of the late Walter Kerfoot Esq. In this township is a dissenters' meeting which has been many years established.

The township of *Timperley* lies about eight miles and a half N. N. E. from Knutsford: a moiety of the manor belonged at a very early period to the family of Timperley, and passed by successive female heirs to the Masseys, Chattertons, and Radcliffes<sup>k</sup>: the co-heiresses of Radcliffe married Parre and Arderne; the Parres conveyed their half of this moiety to the Booths, who thus became possessed of a fourth part of the manor<sup>l</sup>, which has descended to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington; the other half passed in marriage to the Breretons of Ashley, and afterwards became vested in Sir Amos Meredith, in right of his wife, who was daughter of Robert Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw, husband of Anne, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Thomas Brereton Esq., who died in 1660<sup>m</sup>. The other moiety of the manor of Timperley was held at a very early period under the barony of Dunham-Massey, by the Cheadles and their representatives the Bulkeleyes of Cheadle<sup>n</sup>: this estate belonged to Lord Bulkeley in 1702: in consequence of purchases made by the last earl and countess of Warrington, the whole of the manor of Timperley is now united to the Dunham-Massey estate. Timperley-Hall, and its annexed demesne, are now the property of the Rev. Croxton Johnson, rector of Wilmslow, having been purchased by his father: the hall is in the occupation of Joseph Hanson Esq.

*Riddings* in the township of Timperley, in some ancient records called a manor, was anciently in the family of Saunford<sup>o</sup>, afterward in the Vawdreys, of whom it was purchased about the year 1660, by the Gerards<sup>p</sup>: it is now by purchase the property of Mr. Twyford of Manchester; the hall is a farm-house. The

<sup>h</sup> Bishop Galtrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>i</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.      <sup>o</sup> Esch. 4 Edw. 3.

<sup>l</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 329.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.      <sup>n</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities.

<sup>p</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

Vawdreys resided for many generations at Bank-hill, in the township of Hale, now belonging to Joseph Foden Esq.

The township of *Agden*, partly in Bowden parish, and partly in that of Rostherne, lies about five miles and a half N. N. W. from Knutsford. A moiety of the manor passed by successive female heirs from the Aketons, or Agdens, to the families of Daniel and Venables; the other moiety was sold by Agnes, widow of John Leech, and heir of Robert de Aketon, to the Savages, and by them, in 1619, to the Venables family, who had been possessed of the former moiety as early as the year 1401<sup>a</sup>. William Venables, who married the heiress of Daniel, and settled at Agden, was grandson of Hugh Venables Baron of Kinderton, and nephew of Sir Richard Venables Baron of Kinderton, who was slain at Shrewsbury. In 1727, the heiress of George Venables Esq. of Agden, married Sir P. T. Chetwode Bart., grandfather of Sir John Chetwode Bart., the present proprietor of this manor, who keeps the hall in his own occupation for his occasional residence.

The township of *Ashton* on *Mersey* has been spoken of in the account of that parish<sup>b</sup>.

BRERETON parish, which consists only of one township, including the hamlet of *Smethwick*, lies in the hundred of Northwich and deanery of Middlewich; the village is situated three miles north from Sandbach, and six east from Middlewich: it had formerly a market on Thursday, granted in 1368, to William Brereton Esq., together with a fair at the festival of St. Peter *ad Vincula*<sup>c</sup>. Smith in his description of Cheshire (1585) speaks of a fair then lately purchased, held on Brereton-Green, on Lammas-day, Aug. 1.<sup>d</sup> The manor of Brereton was held under the barony of Kinderton, nearly as early as the time of the Conquest<sup>e</sup>, by the ancient family of Brereton, who continued to possess it for many generations in uninterrupted lineal descent: Sir William Brereton of Brereton, the head of this ancient family, which had spread into several branches in various parts of Cheshire, was, in 1624, created Lord Brereton of Leighlin in Ireland: on the death of Francis Lord Brereton in 1722, the male line of this principal branch of the family became extinct, and the manor of Brereton passed under the will of William Lord Brereton, their father, to his sisters Jane and Elizabeth, and being afterwards vested in the latter, was bequeathed by her to her sister's son, Sir Charles Holte Bart. of Aston in Warwickshire. Heneage Legge Esq. of Aston

<sup>a</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.  
part i. p. 49.

<sup>b</sup> See p. 484, 485.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 42 Edw. III.

<sup>d</sup> Vale-Royal,

<sup>e</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.

(whose

(whose aunt, Lady Jane Legge, was the first wife of Sir Lister Holte Bart.) is the present proprietor of this estate, under Sir Lister's will, subject to a lease for life, and twenty-one years after, to the present occupier, Abraham Bracebridge Esq. of Atherston in Warwickshire, who occasionally resides at Brereton-Hall. The reversion of Brereton, in case of the decease of Heneage Legge Esq. and the Rev. Wriothesley Digby of Meriden<sup>x</sup>, in Warwickshire, without issue, is vested under Sir Lister Holte's will, in the heirs of the above-mentioned Abraham Bracebridge, descended from an ancient family long settled at Atherston, by his wife Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charles Holte his younger brother, the last baronet of that family, and representative in blood of the ancient family of Brereton. Brereton-Hall, called by Webb "the stately house of Brereton, and described as one of the most complete brick-buildings in Cheshire", was erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir William Brereton<sup>z</sup>: a part only of this ancient mansion, which is the occasional residence of Mr. Bracebridge, is now remaining: the arms of Brereton occur in several of the windows, in stained glass, with the date, 1577; in the windows, and round the top of the stair-case, are the arms of many of the principal gentry of Cheshire. Some windows of painted glass, representing the Saxon Earls of Chester; Hugh Lupus made Earl of Chester by William the Conqueror, and the six succeeding Earls, which were formerly in the hall at Brereton were removed by Sir Lister Holte, and are now at Aston-Hall in Warwickshire, the seat of Heneage Legge Esq.

In the parish church is the monument of William Smethwick Esq. of Smethwick, who died in 1643: on a rich marble monument in the chancel is an inscription in Latin, importing that in ancient times the church of Brereton was a donative chapel in the parish of Astbury; that the ancestors of Sir William Brereton, Baron of Malpas, who erected the monument in the year 1618, were buried in the church-yard at Astbury, where their tombs (being of that kind termed "knights' burials") still existed<sup>a</sup>, but that after the chapel of Brereton had been made parochial, the ancestors of the said Sir William Brereton, patron of the church of Brereton, had been buried in the chancel of that church. On the north side of the chancel was formerly a window of painted glass, with four figures, representing the persons who slew Thomas à Becket, at the high-altar in Canterbury, in 1170; and a fifth, which is supposed to be intended for King Henry II. A coloured drawing of this window, which it is probable was destroyed

<sup>x</sup> Dr. Bagot some time bishop of St. Asaph (and since deceased without issue) was also in the entail.

<sup>y</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 80.

<sup>z</sup> Camden speaking of Brereton says, that Sir William Brereton had "of late added very much credit and honour to the place, by a magnificent and sumptuous house that he had there built."

<sup>a</sup> See p. 447.

during the civil war, with an inscription, denoting that it was portrayed by the order of Sir William Brereton in 1608, was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries, on the 22d of May 1788, by Owen Salusbury Brereton Esq. vice-president, and is engraved in the ninth volume of the *Archæologia*. The chapel of Brereton was originally built about the reign of Richard I.: it was made parochial, and endowed with the tithes of Brereton and Smethwick, in or about the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>b</sup>: the advowson of the rectory is attached to the manor.

The manor of Smethwick<sup>c</sup> was given by Ralph Brereton, in or about the reign of King John, to his nephew, Orme de Smethwick and his heirs, paying twelve-pence yearly to the chapel of Brereton<sup>d</sup>. The hall and demesne of Smethwick were purchased of the representatives of the Smethwicks about a century ago, by the ancestor of Edward Thornycroft of Thornycroft, the present proprietor: the hall is occupied as a farm-house.

BROMBOROUGH, in the hundred and deanery of Wirrall, lies about eleven miles north from Chester, and six miles E. N. E. from Neston: the parish contains the townships of *Bromborough* and *Brimstage*; Bromborough had formerly a market on Monday, granted in 1277, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, (who were then possessed of the manor,) together with a fair for three days at the festival of St. Barnabas<sup>e</sup>. The manor which had been given to the abbey, in compensation for some injuries done to the monks, by Randal de Gernon, Earl of Chester<sup>f</sup>, was soon after the dissolution in the Cotton family: Henry Hardware died seized of it in 1622<sup>g</sup>; and his descendants appear to have continued in possession of the hall, until the year 1720, when it was purchased by the Mainwarings. The manor was in the Bavands from 1625 to 1656, or perhaps a few years later; afterwards in Dr. John Bridgman, bishop of Chester, from whose family it passed by successive sales to the Greens and Bradshaws. It was purchased of the latter about the year 1681, by James Mainwaring Esq. ancestor of James Mainwaring Esq., now of Bromborough-Hall, descended from the Mainwarings of Whitmore<sup>h</sup> in Staffordshire, a younger branch of the Mainwarings of Over-Peover, in this county. The church of Bromborough which had been given with the manor to the monks of St. Werburgh, was granted by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter, who are now patrons of the donative. Mr. Mainwaring is impropiator of the great tithes.

<sup>b</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, part i. p. 194.  
four miles N. E. by E. from Sandbach.

<sup>c</sup> The hamlet of Smethwick is nearly

<sup>d</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. 6 Edw. I.

<sup>f</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>g</sup> Harl. MSS. Brit. Museum, N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>h</sup> George Mainwaring, father of James, who settled at Bromborough, was of a younger branch of the Mainwarings of Whitmore.

The

The township of *Brimstage*, or as it is called in ancient records, *Brinstall*, *Brumstagb*, *Burnstache*, and *Brunstath*, lies about four miles N. by E. from Great-Neston; the manor was held by the family of Domville, as early as the reign of Edward I., and passed by a succession of female heirs to the families of Hulfe, Troutbeck, and Talbot<sup>1</sup>: it is now the property of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The hall, an ancient structure, is occupied by a farmer.

GREAT-BUDWORTH, in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, is esteemed the largest parish in Cheshire, except Prestbury<sup>2</sup>, being fifteen miles long, ten miles wide, and containing nineteen townships, exclusively of those which are in the parochial chapelries of *Lower-Peover* and *Witton*: these chapelries are, for the most part, in the hundred of Northwich. The townships of Great-Budworth<sup>1</sup>, are *Budworth*, *Anderton*, *Appleton-cum-Hull*, *Aston-juxta-Budworth*, *Barnton*, *Barterton*, or *Bartington*, *Cogshall*, *Comberbach*, *Dutton*, *Little-Legh*, *Marbury*, *Marston*, *Picmere*, *Stretton*, *Nether-Tabley*, *Over-Whitley*, *Nether Whitley*, and *Wincham*. The village of Great-Budworth lies about two miles N. E. by E. from the town of Northwich: the manor, in the beginning of Henry the Third's reign, was possessed by Geoffrey, son of Adam, a younger son of Hugh de Dutton, which Geoffrey, from his residence at that place, was sometimes called de Budworth; Peter, his grandson, removed to Warburton, assumed that name, and was the immediate ancestor of Sir Peter Warburton Bart., the present proprietor. Geoffrey de Budworth gave a third part of Budworth to the prior and convent of Norton: after the dissolution, this estate was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Grimfditch<sup>3</sup>; it was afterwards divided, and sold in severalties. Belmont-house in this township was built by J. H. Smith Barry Esq., who deposited in it his valuable collection of pictures and statues, afterwards removed to Marbury; it is now the property and seat of Henry Clarke Esq., who purchased it of Mr. Barry.

The tower of the parish-church, which has the arms of Sir John Warburton, and some other coats under the great west window, appears to have been built or repaired about the year 1520. In the chapel, at the end of the south aisle, are some monuments of the Pooles; in the south transept are the monuments of Sir John Warburton Knight, who died in 1575, and Sir George Warburton, the first

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>2</sup> Including its chapelries, it comprises thirty-two townships. <sup>3</sup> *Antrobus*, *Crowley*, and *Seven-Oaks*, which are (as we have been since informed,) hamlets of *Over-Whitley*, are erroneously inserted in p. 332, as townships of Great-Budworth; the two former are called townships, and Seven-Oaks, a hamlet, in the population abstract, printed by order of the house of commons.

<sup>4</sup> See Sir Peter Leyceller's Antiquities, p. 226.

baronet of the family, who died in 1676. In the North chapel are the monuments of Sir Peter Leycester Bart. the historian of the hundred of Bucklow; Sir Robert Leycester his son, who died in 1684; and Sir Francis his grandson, the last heir male of that ancient family, who died in 1742. On Sir Peter Leycester's monument, (which has lately been repaired by Sir J. F. Leicester<sup>o</sup>, the present proprietor of Tabley,) is an inscription, which consists merely of names and dates. Sir Peter Leycester died October 11, 1678, and his lady, who was the youngest daughter of Gilbert Lord Gerard, on the 26th of Jan. following.

The rectory of Budworth, which had been given to the priory of Norton, with a third of the manor as before-mentioned, was granted by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Christ-church college in Oxford, who are patrons of the vicarage: the great tithes are held on lease under the college, by the trustees of the late William Maffey Esq. of Moston. In the church-yard is a school founded about the year 1600, by John Dean, rector of St. Bartholomew the Great<sup>r</sup>: it is endowed with the interest of 200*l.* given by Mr. Pickering of Thelwall, and Mrs. Glover: the master is nominated by the vicar.

The township of *Anderton* lies nearly two miles N. W. by N. from Northwich. The manor was at a very early period in the family of Lofstock; Urian de St. Pierre, who died seised of it in 1286, possessed it by gift from Richard de Lofstock: from the St. Pierres it passed by successive female heirs, to the Cokeseys and Grevilles; Sir Thomas Cokesey, *alias* Greville, died seised of it in 1499, or 1500<sup>o</sup>. It was afterwards in the Suttons of Sutton, near Macclesfield, and was purchased of that family in 1600, by Sir Peter Warburton, one of the justices of the common-pleas, whose daughter and heir brought it in marriage, to Sir Thomas Stanley of Alderley<sup>r</sup>, ancestor of Sir John Thomas Stanley Bart., the present proprietor. It was a proverbial saying concerning Anderton, that it had no ale-house, nor was there a gentleman, beggar, charterer (*i. e.* free-holder), or cottager, within its limits, but that it had a common without end, the township being quite surrounded by a common<sup>r</sup>.

The township of *Appleton* lies nearly eight miles N. by W. from Northwich, and about four miles and a half S. S. E. from Warrington in Lancashire. The manor of Appleton, with its hamlets of *Hull* and *Stockton*, belonged in the reign of Henry III. to Geoffrey Dutton, and has passed with Budworth, to Sir Peter Warburton Bart. The manor of Appleton has been inclosed, by virtue of an act of Parliament passed in 1764. The manor of *Bradley*, a hamlet of Appleton,

<sup>o</sup> This spelling has of late years been adopted by the family.  
Cestriensis.

<sup>r</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>r</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia  
Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

was

was given by Geoffrey, the son of Adam de Dutton, to the ancestor of Thomas Daniers, or Daniel, whose daughter and heir, in the reign of Edward III., brought it in marriage to the Savages<sup>1</sup>: in 1622 it was a feat of the Greggs<sup>2</sup>; at a later period it was in the Egertons of Oulton, of whom it was purchased in 1800 by Richard Wilson Esq. the present proprietor. There is a school at Appleton, founded by Sir George Warburton, who died in 1743; it is not endowed.

The manor of *Aston-juxta-Budworth* has passed with Budworth to Sir Peter Warburton. Arley, in this township, has been the feat of the Warburtons ever since the reign of Henry VII. when Peter Warburton Esq. built Arley-Hall, and removed thither the family-residence from Warburton; Sir John Warburton, his son, was one of the knights of the body to King Henry VII.: Sir John's grandson, Sir Peter, was one of the justices of the common-pleas; George, the great-grandson of Sir John Warburton above-mentioned, was created a baronet in 1660. Arley-Hall, the ancient feat of the Warburton family, was re-built by Sir Piers Warburton in 1495<sup>3</sup>: the present mansion, now the feat of Sir Peter Warburton Bart. was built about the year 1755.

The manor of Heild in this township became the property of Sir Nicholas Leycester in the reign of Edward I., by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Geoffrey de Dutton: in 1355 it was sold to the family of Heild, and having devolved in moieties to co-heiresses of that family, was repurchased at two several periods, in 1500 and 1601, by the Leycesters<sup>4</sup>; it is now the property of Sir J. F. Leicester Bart. The hall at Heild, an ancient feat of the Leycester family, is now a farm-house. The manor of Wethale, which was part also of Margaret Dutton's marriage portion, passed to her descendants the Leycesters in uninterrupted succession: a branch of the Leycester family resided for some time at Wethale<sup>5</sup>.

The township of *Barnton* lies nearly two miles N. W. by W. from Northwich; the manor was purchased in the reign of King John by the Duttons, and afterwards held under them in moieties, by the families of Berthington and Starkie. Since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Starkie's moiety is known to have been sold in severalties<sup>6</sup>; the manor has been annihilated, the proprietors of lands being all freeholders of inheritance<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Esch. 28 Edw. III. and 6 Hen. VI.

<sup>2</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> Smith's MS. Collections.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 215.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>7</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

The township of *Barterton*, or *Bartington*, lies about four miles N. W. by W. from Northwich; the manor was purchased in the reign of Edward I. by Sir Hugh Dutton, of the co-heirs of the Kingsleys, who were possessed of it as early as the reign of Richard I.<sup>c</sup>. It descended with the Dutton estate to the Gerards and Fleetwoods; has since passed by sale through various hands, and is now the property of Henry Charles Hervey Aston, a minor, whose grandfather purchased it in 1785: there is no hall on this estate.

The township of *Cogshall*, or *Cogshull*, lies three miles and a half N. N. W. from Northwich; the manor was given by Hugh de Durholme to Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and by him successively to two of his servants, Hugh Clyderow and John the Falconer; it reverted to the Lacys, and having become vested in the crown as parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, the lands were purchased in parcels in fee-farm in the year 1612<sup>d</sup>. Cogshall is now esteemed to be within the lordship of Over-Whitley. Burge-Hall, or Burgefs-Hall, in this township, (now called Cogshall-Hall,) was the seat of the ancient family of Burges, extinct in the male line in the reign of Henry III.; one of the co-heiresses brought a moiety of this estate to the Starkies, who, in 1689, purchased the other moiety, which had descended from the Booths to the Ashtons: Richard Starkey, who died in 1722, by his last will directed this estate to be sold; after passing through several hands, it was purchased by the late Mr. Peter Jackson of Frandly, and is now the property and residence of his natural son, Mr. Peter Shakerley.

The township of *Comberbach* lies four miles N. by W. from Northwich; the manor was given by John de Lacy to Adam de Dutton, ancestor of the Warburtons<sup>e</sup>. This Adam gave a moiety of the estate to the prior and convent of Norton<sup>f</sup>: after the dissolution these lands were granted to John Grimfditch, and most of them were sold by him to Robert Eaton<sup>g</sup>, whose descendant, George Eaton Esq., is now possessed of a considerable estate in this township. The other moiety of Comberbach was given by Roger Lacy, in or about the reign of Richard I., to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, on condition that it should be held under them by the family of Comberbach<sup>h</sup>: this moiety became divided into severalties: the manor has descended from Adam de Dutton above-mentioned, to Sir Peter Warburton Bart. the present proprietor.

The township of *Dutton* lies nearly five miles east from Frodsham; the manor was divided in the reign of William Rufus, as appears by the survey of domesday,

<sup>c</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Sir Peter Leycester,

<sup>g</sup> See p. 485, (note <sup>b</sup>.)

<sup>f</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1535.

between Odard, Osbern son of Tezzon, and William Fitz-Nigel, Baron of Halton, all of whom held under the Earl of Chester. Odard, son of Yvron, viscount of Constantine, (whose name is written in most records of later date, Hodard, or Hudard,) was the immediate ancestor<sup>1</sup> of the ancient and numerous family of Dutton of Dutton, which name was assumed from the place of his residence<sup>2</sup>, by Hodard's son, Hugh. Osbern was ancestor of the family of Boydell. Hodard had the larger share; his grandson, Hugh, purchased the lands which had belonged to the Baron of Halton, for a coat of mail and a charger, to which was added a palfrey and a sparrow-hawk, by Hugh, his successor<sup>3</sup>; the estate which belonged to the Boydells, was purchased by Sir Thomas Dutton in the reign of Edward III<sup>4</sup>. Hugh Dutton, the third in descent from Hodard, had a grant about the year 1216 from John de Lacy, Baron of Halton and constable of Chester, of the controll, or magistracy, *magistratum*, or as it is expressed in some records, (nearly as old as<sup>5</sup> the original grant,) the advowry or protection, "*advocariam<sup>6</sup> omnium leccatorum et meretricum totius Cestershiræ.*"<sup>7</sup> This privilege is said to have been originally granted to Roger Lacy, father of John, for his rescue of Ranulph Earl of Chester, then a prisoner at Rhuddlan castle, with an armed force, hastily collected and made up of all sorts of disorderly persons, who were assembled at Chester fair.<sup>8</sup> It may be doubtful, perhaps, whether the word *leccator* is to be interpreted, as Sir Peter Leycester translates it, in its more obvious sense, or whether it may not rather be rendered a buffoon, or jester; Du-Cange gives the word *scurra* as one of its synonymes. It is certain that the word *leccator* does not occur in any existing record relating to this privilege of the Dutton family, after the original grant. In the 23d year of King Edward I. (scarcely fourscore years from the date of the grant) it is stated in the inquisition taken after the death of Hugh Dutton, that he died seised of the advowry *omnium minstrellorum et meretricum, &c.* The minstrels appear to have been itinerant musicians, who under the protection of the court, or other competent authority, exercised their vocation for the amusement of the public, and were generally rewarded highly for their services.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> We have seen some pedigrees which make Hodard marry the heiress of Dutton. <sup>2</sup> Three branches of this family assumed the names of Ashley, Cheadle, and Warburton, from the place of their respective residence. <sup>3</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 250. <sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 253. <sup>5</sup> Esch. 22 Edw. I. <sup>6</sup> See p. 300. <sup>7</sup> See Peter Leycester's Antiquities, p. 142. where the deed is printed at length. <sup>8</sup> Ibid. <sup>9</sup> When King Edward the First's queen lay in at Rhuddlan castle in 1281, the sum of 10*l.* (equal to 300*l.* of the present currency) was given to the minstrels on the day of her churching. Archæol. Vol. xvi. p. 47. At the brotherhood feasts at Abingdon, in the fifteenth century, it appears that they gave four-pence each to twelve priests to sing a dirge, and 2*s.* 3*d.* each besides their diet, and horse meat, to twelve minstrels to make them merry.

It appears by the pleadings in a *quo warranto*, brought against Lawrence Dutton Esq. in the year 1498, that it was customary for all minstrels in Cheshire to meet the Lord of Dutton at Chester on Midsummer-day, on which occasion they were to present him with four flaggons of wine and a lance, and he was entitled to receive from every minstrel the sum of four-pence half-penny, and “*de quolibet meretrice*,” in the city and county of Chester, “*officium suum exercente*,” the sum of four-pence. After this time we hear nothing of any other controul exercised by the family of Dutton than that over minstrels<sup>1</sup>, an authority recognized by several acts of Parliament, which exempt the minstrels of Cheshire from the penalties of those acts by which all other wandering fiddlers and minstrels are deemed rogues and vagabonds<sup>2</sup>.

This right was exercised by the Duttons, and their representatives the Gerards and Fleetwoods, as long as they continued in possession of the Dutton estate; and though not originally attached to the estate, but vested in the heirs of Dutton, yet it appears to have been alienated with it. The minstrels<sup>3</sup>, or minstrelly courts<sup>4</sup>, were, till within a few years of their disuse, held annually at Chester, on St. John Baptist's Day, (being the day of the Midsummer fair,) by the heir, or Lord of Dutton, or his steward. A banner, or pennon, emblazoned with the arms of Dutton, was hung out of the window of the inn where the court was held, and notice given by a drummer proclaiming in the streets, and summoning all persons concerned to appear at the court, between certain hours. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the procession moved from the inn in the following form:—A band of music;—two trumpeters;—licensed musicians, with

<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the *advocaria meretricum* continued till the public stews at Chester were suppressed by proclamation in the reign of King Henry VIII. <sup>2</sup> In the statutes of 14 Eliz. c. 5. and 39 Eliz. c. 4, this right of the Duttons is recognized and saved: in 43 Eliz. c. 9. the saving clause was continued only one year, unless before the end thereof John Dutton Esq. and his heirs, should procure the lords chief-justices, and lord chief-baron, or two of them, after hearing his allegations and proofs, to make certificate into chancery, to be there enrolled, that the said John Dutton, or his heirs, ought lawfully (if no statute against rogues or beggars had been made) by charter, tenure, or prescription, to have such liberty of licensing of minstrels, as he claimed and used. In statute 1 James I. c. 25. the right was recognized without limitation, so that the proof required by the last statute was probably adduced; and a similar saving clause is contained in statute 17 Geo. I. cap. 5.

<sup>3</sup> The minstrels, who were under the protection of the Earls of Lancaster, held an annual court at Tutbury in Staffordshire, on the 16th of August, when a king of the minstrels, and four stewards, were chosen; a jury was impanelled, a charge given, and such minstrels as had been guilty of any offence against the ancient rules and orders of the society, were punished by fine. John of Gaunt granted a charter of privileges to the king of the minstrels, 4 Rich. II. In Shaw's History of Staffordshire, is a full account of the proceedings of the minstrel court at Tutbury, principally taken from Dr. Plott, and Mr. Pegge.

white napkins across their shoulders;—the banner borne by one of the principal musicians;—the steward on horseback, with a white wand in his hand;—a tabarder, his tabard emblazoned with the arms of Dutton;—the Lord, or heir of Dutton (if present), attended by many of the gentry of the county and city, on horseback. In the middle of the Eastgate-street, a proclamation<sup>a</sup> was made, to give notice of the holding of the court, after which the procession moved forwards to the church of St. John the Baptist: on entering the chancel, the musicians, by notice from the steward, played several pieces of serious music upon their knees; after which, divine service was performed, and the heir, or Lord of Dutton specially prayed for; after the service another proclamation<sup>b</sup> was made, and the procession then returned to the inn in the same order that it came; entertainments were given to the lord's friends and to the musicians; in the afternoon a jury<sup>c</sup> was impanelled from among the licensed musicians, to whom a charge<sup>d</sup> was given by the steward; the jurors then gave in their verdicts,  
and

<sup>a</sup> “ Oyez, Oyez, Oyez, This is to give notice to all musicians and minstrels, that the court of the honourable Charles Gerard Fleetwood Esq. (descendant heir of Eleanor, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Dutton of Dutton in the county of Chester Esq., by Sir Gilbert Gerard, son and heir of Thomas Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley, in the county of Stafford), is this day held at the house of Robert Cluff, at the Eagle and Child, in the Northgate-street, Chester, where all such musicians and minstrels as do intend to play upon any instrument of music, for gain, within the county of Chester, or within the county of the city of Chester, are required to appear and take licence for the year ensuing, otherwise they will be adjudged and taken up as rogues and vagabonds, and punished accordingly. God save the King, and the lord of the court.”

<sup>b</sup> “ God save the King, the Queen, the Prince, and all the Royal family; and the honourable Charles Gerard Fleetwood Esq., (heir descendant of that ancient worthy family of the Duttons of Dutton in Cheshire, and of the right honourable family of the Gerards of Gerard's Bromley in the county of Stafford); long may he live, and support the honour of the minstrel court.”  
N. B. The two foregoing proclamations were in the time of Mr. Gerard Fleetwood, who about the year 1745 sold Dutton and the advowry of the minstrels, to R. Lant Esq. of Putney in Surrey.

<sup>c</sup> Among other articles the jury were to inquire of any treason against the King, or the Earl of Chester; likewise whether any man of their profession had exercised his instrument without licence from the lord of the court; and what misdemeanours they had been guilty of; and whether they had heard any language amongst their fellows tending to the dishonour of their lord and patron, the heir of Dutton.

<sup>d</sup> Form of the oath to a musician or minstrel.—“ You are hereby required to behave yourself lively, as a licensed minstrel of this court ought to do, during the time that you are licensed to play upon any instrument of music, or minstrelly, within the said county of Chester, or county of the city of Chester, and you shall inform the lord of the court, or his steward, or deputy for the  
time

and presentments; an oath<sup>a</sup> was administered to the musicians, and licences granted to all who were adjudged worthy, authorizing them to play upon their musical instruments within the county and city of Chester, for one year. Some

time being, if you know of any person that shall play upon any instrument of music, for gain, or reward, within this city, or within the county of Chester, not having first obtained and had his or their licence so to do.— So help you God.” — Or, as follows: — “ You are hereby to behave yourself lively, as a licensed minstrel of this court ought to do.— You shall not at any time play upon any instrument of music, within the county palatine of Chester, nor within the county of the city of Chester, for hire, gain, or reward, without the licence of this court, first had and obtained; neither shall you know, nor suffer any person to play upon any instrument of music, within the said county, or city, for gain, hire, or reward, not having the licence of this court so to do; but you shall make the lord of this court acquainted thereof, or his steward; and in all other respects you shall demean yourself according to the purport and true meaning of your licence. You shall give your yearly attendance upon the court, so long as you intend to play upon any musical instrument for gain within either of the said counties, to take a licence for the same, and are able so to do. — So help you God.”

The following charge was given by the steward of Mr. Lant, at one of the last courts. — “ Gentlemen of the jury. The oath which you have just now taken seems to make it proper to say something by way of charge; otherwise your own knowledge and experience would have rendered it quite unnecessary; but as the duty of the office of steward of this honourable court, and your oath require that a charge should be given to you, I shall beg leave to take up a little of your time, and say something to you concerning this honourable court; the duty and privilege of musicians in this city and county of Chester, and your duty as jurors.”

“ The records relating to this honourable court, which are still preserved, shew it to have been of great antiquity; and the readiness and zeal which the musicians heretofore shewed in redeeming their prince when he was surrounded by his enemies, have been a means of perpetuating their service; and of establishing this honourable court, which Mr. Lant the present lord of the manor of Dutton claims, and the privileges thereto belonging, from Roger Lacy, constable of the castle of Chester, who raised the siege at Rhuddlan castle, and brought the prince in great triumph to Chester; some of which privileges are, that all musicians shall appear and do their suit and service at this court; and no musician shall play upon any instrument, for gain, without having a licence from the Lord of Dutton, or his steward of this court; and if any person does presume to play for gain, without such licence, he is not only liable to be prosecuted by a due course of law, but also to be punished as a rogue, vagrant, and vagabond; these privileges have been confirmed and allowed by several acts of Parliament, and Mr. Lant is determined that the power and authority of this court shall be preserved, and that none shall exercise the employment of a musician for gain, without a licence from him or his steward; and therefore gentlemen, he expects, and the oath which you have just taken requires, that you should inquire of all such persons, playing upon any instrument of music, for gain, either in the county of Chester, or the county of the city of Chester; and if you know, or are properly informed of any such, you are to present them to this court, that they may be proceeded against, and punished according to law; which the lord and the steward thereof are determined to do, with the utmost severity.”

years

years before these courts were disused, they had been held only occasionally, at intervals, sometimes of two or three, sometimes of four or five years, and the attendance on them was much lessened; the fee for a licence was 2*s.* 6*d.*: in 1754, there were twenty-one licences granted. The last court was held in 1756, R. Lant Esq. being then Lord of Dutton, and possessing the advowry of the minstrels by purchase.

Sir Peter Dutton, the eleventh in descent from Hodard, was in arms with Harry Hotspur, for which he was pardoned by King Henry IV. the pardon was dated at Cirencester, Nov. 5, 1403. Sir Peter Leycester relates a circumstance of this Sir Peter, which exhibits a striking trait of the licentious spirit which prevailed at that period, even among persons of the higher ranks. Sir William Atherton of Lancashire having plundered Sir Peter Dutton of some horses and saddles, he determined to retaliate, and with the assistance of some of the most respectable gentry of the county, the Bostocks, Warburtons, Dones, Manleys, Leycesters and Leighs, went to the estate of the said Sir William, and forcibly carried away forty of his oxen, and forty cows. Sir Thomas Dutton, grandson of Sir Peter, was slain at Blore-heath in 1459, with his brother John Dutton, and, as it is said, his eldest son, Peter<sup>b</sup>. The elder branch of the Duttons of Dutton became extinct by the death of Laurence Dutton Esq. in 1526, when great law-suits arose between Sir Piers, or Peter Dutton, of Hatton, and the co-heirs of Sir Thomas Dutton, who was slain at Blore-heath. Sir Piers was lineally descended from Hugh Dutton, who settled at Hatton, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of Vernon: this Hugh was a younger son of Edmund, a younger son of Sir Thomas Dutton of Dutton, who died in 1381. The suit was determined by the award of King Henry VIII., and confirmed by act of Parliament in 1535<sup>c</sup>: the great inheritance of the Duttons was by this award divided between the co-heirs of Sir Thomas Dutton, and Sir Peter Dutton of Hatton, who was declared to be the next heir male, and to whom was allotted, among other estates, the manor and lordship of Dutton, with the *advowry*<sup>d</sup> of the minstrels of Cheshire. Upon this decision, Sir Peter, who was the fifteenth in lineal descent from Odard, removed his residence to Dutton, and rebuilt the manor-house, which is still standing. John Dutton, the grandson, who died in 1593, had a large family by his wife, but only one son, who married and had issue: Sir Peter Leycester mentions a natural daughter of this John Dutton, who married Mr. Marshall, chaplain to Lord Gerard, and was mother "of the two Marshalls," as they were called, "then (1672) famous women.

<sup>b</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 256.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 257.

<sup>d</sup> See (note <sup>b</sup>) p. 300.

actors

actors in London:" one of these Marshalls, who was the original Roxana, in Lee's *Alexander the Great*, was decoyed into a sham marriage, by Aubrey Vere, the last Earl of Oxford of that family: it is said that King Charles II. insisted on the Earl's settling a pension upon her; and that she never appeared on the stage afterwards. Thomas Dutton Esq. (son of John) the last heir male of the elder branch of the Duttons of Hatton, and then of Dutton, died in 1614, leaving an only daughter, who was married in 1609, at the age of thirteen, to Gilbert Gerard, son and heir of Thomas Lord Gerard of Bromley in Staffordshire, who succeeded to his father's title in 1618; after Lord Gerard's death she married Robert Needham, viscount Kilmorey, and went with her husband to reside at Dutton, the house being repaired and fitted up for their reception<sup>f</sup>. Lord Kilmorey died at Dutton in 1653, and his lady in 1665, being the last of the family who resided there<sup>g</sup>. Sir Peter Leycester tells us that Lady Kilmorey had in her possession a sword, which according to tradition had belonged to her progenitor Hodard, and had been kept as an heir-loom in the family. After the death of Lady Kilmorey, Dutton devolved to her grandson (by her first husband) Charles Lord Gerard, son of Dutton Lord Gerard, who died in 1640. Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Digby, the last Lord Gerard who died in 1711, having married James Duke of Hamilton, was the same year created an English Peer, by the title of Duke of Brandon, and Baron Dutton of Dutton in Cheshire, but these titles being supposed contrary to the act of Union, were not for many years recognized. In 1782, Douglas, then Duke of Hamilton, submitted his claim to these honours to the House of Peers, which having been allowed, he took his seat as Duke of Brandon, and Baron Dutton, on the 14th of June, that year. The Marquis of Douglas, eldest son of the present Duke, was, in 1806, summoned to Parliament by writ, as Baron Dutton of Dutton in Cheshire, and takes precedence according to the date of the original creation in 1711. The Dutton estate, by virtue of a settlement made by Charles Lord Gerard in 1660, passed (after the death of his son Digby Lord Gerard) with the title to his third cousin, Charles Lord Gerard, whose sister and heir brought it in marriage to Thomas Fleetwood Esq. About the year 1745, Charles Gerard Fleetwood Esq. sold Dutton to R. Lant Esq. of Putney in Surrey, whose sister brought it in marriage to John Bullock Esq. of Faulkburn-Hall in Essex. It is now the property of Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, who bought it of Mr. Bullock, in or about the year 1776. Dutton-Hall, now inhabited by a farmer, exhibits a curious specimen

<sup>e</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 258.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. p. 249.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 260.

of

of the ancient mansions of the Cheshire gentry; it was rebuilt by Sir Peter Dutton as before-mentioned, soon after his acquisition of the estate<sup>b</sup>, and attached to an ancient chapel built by Sir Thomas Dutton, about the year 1270, which before stood at some distance from the house<sup>i</sup>. The prior of Norton, soon after its first erection, granted Sir Thomas Dutton a free chantry in this chapel, reserving the rights of the mother-church of Budworth: the chapel had been long disused when Lord and Lady Kilmorey came to reside at Dutton; it was then newly pewed, and divine service was for some time regularly performed in it, for the accommodation of the township and neighbourhood<sup>k</sup>: it has now been long ago taken down. Newborough, or Newbrooke, in this township, was for many years the seat of a younger branch of the Holfords<sup>l</sup>, who held it on lease under the Duttons and their representatives: having continued to be attached to the Dutton<sup>l</sup> estate, it is now the property of Mr. Brooke.

The township of *Legh*, or *Leigh-juxta-Barterton*, otherwise *Little-Legh*, lies about three miles and a half N. W. by W. from Northwich: the manor was purchased about the reign of King John of Simon Fitz-Osbern<sup>m</sup>, and descended, with other estates of the Duttons, to the Gerards and Fleetwoods; it was purchased of the latter, by the Leighs of Stonely in Warwickshire, and is now, under the will of the Hon. Mary Leigh, and under that of the last Lord Leigh, the property of the Rev. Thomas Leigh of Addlestrop in Gloucestershire, as heir general of the Leighs of Stonely. In Little-Legh is a chapel of ease for that township, Barnton, Bartington, and Dutton, which was repaired in 1664, and rebuilt from the ground in 1718; it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the vicar of Budworth, which is about three miles distant, appoints the minister. A school has been held from time immemorial in the chapel; the master's salary is only 2*l.* per ann. arising from interest of money given by some person now unknown<sup>n</sup>.

The township of *Marbury* lies two miles N. by W. from Northwich: the manor was as early as the reign of Henry III. the property and residence of the ancient family of Merbury, or Marbury<sup>o</sup>, which became extinct by the death of Richard Marbury Esq. in 1684. In the year 1708 it was purchased under a decree of the high court of chancery, by Richard Earl Rivers of Rock-Savage,

<sup>b</sup> In the hall of this mansion still remains the following inscription: "S<sup>r</sup> Pyers Dutton, Knyght, Lord of Dutton, and my Lade Dame Julian his wife, made this hall and buyldynge in the year of oure Lord God, MCCCCXLII. who thanketh God of all. S. P. D. R."

<sup>i</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 249.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> Webb's Itinerary in the Vale-Royal.

<sup>m</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>n</sup> Answers to the Bishop's Queries in the registry at Chester.

<sup>o</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 312.

whose daughter and heir brought it in marriage to James Earl of Barrymore; having passed to the Earl's second son the Hon. Richard Barry, and on his decease, without issue, to the eldest son of his next brother, the late James Hugh Smith Barry Esq., it is now under the will of the latter, the property of his natural son, John Barry, a minor. Marbury-Hall was much enlarged by James Earl of Barrymore, who added the wings. The valuable collection of pictures and antique marbles, purchased chiefly at Rome, by Mr. J. H. Smith Barry, and originally deposited at his house at Belmont in this parish, were removed to Marbury, pursuant to the will of the late Mr. Barry, who directed that they should remain here as heir-looms, and that a room adjoining the house should be built for their reception; this part of his will has not as yet been fulfilled, nor has the mausoleum, which he directed to be built near the house, been yet erected. The most remarkable *antiquis* in the above-mentioned collection<sup>2</sup>, are a statue of Antinous, in the character of Abundance; a groupe of *Paris equestris*, a colossal bust of Lucius Verus, and a fine *puteal* surrounded with figures in *bas-relief*, now converted into a vase. The pictures are chiefly of the Italian school. Budworth, or Marbury-Mere, a fine piece of water, nearly a mile in length, and extending over a hundred acres of land, lies to the north-east of Marbury-Hall.

The township of *Marston* lies about two miles N. N. E. from Northwich: the manor which belonged from a very early period to the family of Venables, Barons of Kinderton<sup>3</sup>, passed by descent to the Vernons, and was sold in or about 1757 by Lord Vernon, to Sir Peter Leicester Bart., father of Sir J. F. Leicester Bart., the present proprietor.

The township of *Picmere*, or *Pickmere*, lies about three miles and a half N. E. from Northwich; the manor was divided into moieties as early as the reign of King John: one of these moieties having been successively in the families of Mainwaring and Audley, became afterwards subdivided; one half belonged to the Cockers of Picmere<sup>4</sup>, from the reign of Henry III. till after the year 1622, about which time it passed to the Marburys; the rest was split into severalties<sup>5</sup>. The other moiety passed by grant from the family of Venables, to that of Picmere, from the latter by successive female heirs to the Bruyns, Hulfes, Troutbecks, and Talbots<sup>6</sup>: in the year 1620, the Earl of Shewsbury sold this moiety to his tenants:

<sup>2</sup> A catalogue of the collection may be seen in Mr. Dallaway's "Anecdotes of the Arts in England," p. 354. <sup>3</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, 313. <sup>4</sup> Hugh Cocker sold the reversion in 1634, after his own life, to Thomas Marbury (Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities). Hugh Cocker was living, and resided at Picmere in 1622. Webb's Itinerary in the Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 98.

<sup>5</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 339.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 340.

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The township of *Stretton* lies about seven miles N. N. W. from Northwich, and about four and a half S. by E. from Warrington in Lancashire: the manor was granted, or rather confirmed, in or before the reign of Henry II. to Richard Starkey, to be holden by the said Richard, as freely as any of his ancestors had enjoyed it<sup>2</sup>; the posterity of Richard Starkey continued to possess this estate till the death of Philip, the last heir male in 1714; one of his two sisters and co-heirs dying without issue, this manor passed to the heirs of the other, Frances, married to Thomas Coppock, whose only son dying without issue, the manor of Stretton passed in marriage with his daughter and eventually sole heir, to Michael Renwick Esq. of Liverpool, father of Thomas Renwick M. D., the present proprietor.

Lower-Hall in Stretton, the ancient residence of the elder branch of the Starkeys, was sold with its demesne by the heirs of Philip Starkey above-mentioned, under a decree in Chancery in the year 1719, to Henry Wright Esq. of Mobberley: in 1790, the Rev. Henry Offley Wright exchanged this estate with Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, for lands in Mottram. Lower-Hall was sold by Mr. Brooke in 1807 to Mr. Benjamin Whitelegg, and Mr. Peter Leather, the present owners: Moss-Hill, which passed with this estate till 1807, was then sold to Henry Clarke Esq. of Belmont. Over-Hall, in the same township, became the seat of a younger branch of the Starkey family, about the year 1287<sup>3</sup>: this branch is supposed to have become extinct within the last century: Over-Hall is now the property of Peter Dutton Esq. of Warrington. In the township of Stretton was an ancient chapel of ease, of which there are now no remains; it is said by Sir Peter Leycester to have been very ruinous in 1666.

The township of *Lower-Tabley* lies about one mile and a half W. S. W. from Knutsford; the manor, which was held of the see of St. John of Jerusalem, passed in marriage with the daughter of Geoffrey de Dutton, about the year 1276, to Sir Nicholas Leycester<sup>4</sup>, in whose descendants it has continued to the present day. John Leycester Esq., who died in 1398, built the old hall at Lower-Tabley about the year 1380, and fixed his residence there<sup>5</sup>, the family having before resided at Wethale in Aston. Sir Peter Leycester the antiquary, and historian of the hundred of Bucklow, who was born at Tabley in the year 1612, was the twelfth in lineal descent from Sir Nicholas Leycester, the first of the family who possessed this estate; he was created a baronet in 1660, and died in 1678: the male line of this ancient family became extinct by the death of his grandson Sir Francis, in 1742, when the Tabley estate passed to Sir John Byrne, a baronet of Ireland, the

<sup>2</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 353.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 355.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 357.

son of his only daughter, who assumed by act of Parliament the name and arms of Leicester<sup>b</sup>: Tabley is now the property of his son, Sir J. Fleming Leicester Bart. Lower-Tabley-Hall, which was the birth-place and residence of Sir Peter Leycester above-mentioned was newly fronted by him in the year 1671: in the hall of this old mansion, which is still standing, is a richly ornamented chimney-piece. Tabley-house, now the seat of Sir J. Fleming Leicester, stands on a rising ground, about a quarter of a mile from the old hall: it was completed about the year 1769, from the designs of Carr of York. The portico, which is of the Doric order, is supported by columns, twenty-three feet four inches in height, and nine feet in circumference, each of which is formed out of a single block of stone, from the Runcorn quarry. A grand saloon, seventy-two feet by thirty-two, exclusively of a spacious bow, has been lately fitted up, and is intended to be appropriated exclusively to the works of British artists: at present there is in it, among other pictures, a portrait of Lord Byron, by Vandyke. The stables at Tabley-house, which form a spacious quadrangle, are of great extent and singularly commodious. Near the old hall is a domestic chapel, originally built about the year 1387, and re-built by Sir Peter Leycester, who laid the first stone on the 29th of June 1675; it was completed in 1678, the year in which he died<sup>c</sup>.

The township of *Over-Whitley* lies about six miles N. N. W. from Northwich; the lands were formerly copyhold, held under the barony of Halton, till the year 1612, when they were purchased of King James, by several persons in fee-farm<sup>d</sup>. Since this purchase, the freeholders have been esteemed lords of the manor, but it still does suit and service at the court of the Barony of Halton, where the constables are sworn. *Antrobus*, *Crowley*, *Norcot*, and *Seven-Oaks*<sup>e</sup>, are hamlets of Over-Whitley; Antrobus lies about five miles N. N. W., and Crowley about five miles N. from Northwich. Antrobus-Hall, with its demesne, belonged to the family of Antrobus from an early period till the reign of Henry IV., when it was sold by Henry Antrobus to Thomas Venables, nephew of Sir William Venables of Bolyn. This branch of the Venables family resided for several generations at Antrobus, and afterward removed to Wincham; the Antrobus estate was purchased in 1808 of Edward Townshend Esq. of Chester<sup>f</sup>, by Edmund Antrobus Esq. descended

<sup>b</sup> The name is so spelt by the present family.

<sup>c</sup> MS. at Tabley.

<sup>d</sup> Sir Peter Leycester. <sup>e</sup> Antrobus, Crowley, and Seven-Oaks, are, as we have been since informed, erroneously called townships in p. 332. They all maintain their own poor, and are described as townships in Carlisle's Dictionary; the two former are also called townships in the printed abstract of returns made under the population act.

<sup>f</sup> See the account of Wincham.

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from a younger son of Henry Antrobus above-mentioned. The Pole, a seat of George Eaton Esq., whose ancestors have resided nearly three centuries as freeholders in the parish of Budworth, is in this hamlet. The principal land-holder in Crowley is Mr. James Stilfox.

The township of *Nether-Whitley* lies about four miles N. W. by W. from Northwich; the manor was given by Randle de Blundeville Earl of Chester, about the reign of Richard I. to Alfred de Combre; Alice, daughter and co-heir of Roger de Combre, son of Alfred, (sometimes called Roger Fitz-Alured,) brought this estate in marriage to Sir Robert Touchet of Bug-Lawton, ancestor of the Touchets, Barons Audley, and of the Touchets of Nether-Whitley<sup>g</sup>, or Whitley-Touchet, whose posterity remained there till the death of William Touchet, in 1684; his daughter and heir married Philip Chetwode Esq. father of Sir John Chetwode, created a baronet in 1700, and ancestor of Sir John Chetwode Bart., the present lord of the manor of Nether-Whitley: the hall is inhabited by a farmer.

Grimsditch-Hall and demesne, lying principally within this township<sup>h</sup>, were granted to Adam, son of Hugh de Grimsditch, in the reign of Henry III.<sup>i</sup>, and continued in the same family, till the death of Mr. Daniel Grimsditch, the last heir-male in 1726; it has since passed by successive conveyances to the Chetwodes and Blackburns. In 1808, the hall, and that part of the estate which lies in Lower-Whitley, were purchased of Mr. Fairhurst (who had purchased of J. Blackburn Esq. in 1799) by ——— Grimsditch of Chorley supposed to be descended from a younger branch of the Grimsditches of Grimsditch. In this township is a donative chapel, in the gift of Sir J. Chetwode, which was rebuilt about the year 1600, by Thomas Touchet Esq. at his own cost; its present endowment is 63*l. per ann.*, consisting of interest of money, and the rent of some lands in Antrobus, purchased with money given by sundry persons: one of its principal benefactors was Mr. Pierfon, minister of Brampton-Bryan in Herefordshire, who, in 1633, bequeathed the sum of 200*l.*<sup>k</sup>: the chapel stands about half a mile from Whitley-Hall. The school at Whitley was founded in the year 1645, and endowed with the interest of 100*l.* given by Mr. Eaton<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>g</sup> Robert Touchet Esq. of Whitley was son of Robert Lord Touchet, by his first wife Joan; Sir Thomas Touchet, elder son of Lord Touchet by his wife Agnes, was father of Sir John Touchet, who married the heiress of Audley, and possessed the inheritance of his ancestors at Bug-Lawton. See Woodnoth's Pedigrees.

<sup>h</sup> Part of the land is in the township of Over-Whitley, and part in the township of Newton (in Darcsbury chapelry).

<sup>i</sup> Sir Peter

Leycester, p. 387.

<sup>k</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid.

The township of *Wincham*, or *Winsham*, called in the survey of Domesday, and other ancient records, *Wynundesbam*, and *Wymincham*, lies two miles N. E. by E. from Northwich. The manor was anciently parcel of the Barony of Kinderton; soon after the year 1200 it passed in marriage with Maud Venables, to the family of Elets; in or about the year 1233 it came into the Venables family again by purchase, and soon after passed by marriage to that of Wastneys<sup>1</sup>; Alice and Margaret, daughters and co-heiresses of John Wastneys, brought it in moieties to the Leghs of Easthall, and the Cholmondeleys<sup>2</sup>. One moiety passed successively by marriage, from the Leighs of East-Hall, to the Masseys of Wincham and the Leghs of Westhall, and from the latter by successive sales to the Grosvenors, Pultons, Egertons, and Harcourts<sup>3</sup>. The other moiety passed from the Cholmondeleys to the Bulkleys of Eyton, and from them by marriage to the families of Leftwich and Harcourt<sup>4</sup>, in the latter of whom both moieties were united in 1606<sup>5</sup>; William Harcourt, who became possessed of one of the moieties about the year 1563, by marriage with the daughter and heir of Richard Leftwich Esq., settled at Wincham, where his posterity remained in 1668, about which time the reversion was sold to Robert Venables Esq. of Antrobus<sup>6</sup>, it being the third time that this manor had been vested in the family of Venables<sup>7</sup>. Upon the death of Robert Venables, the last heir male of this branch of the family in 1687, this manor passed to his sister, Frances, the wife of Thomas Lee Esq. of Darnhall, and was possessed by their second son, Robert, whose son of the same name left two daughters, co-heirs. Hester, who married Charles Legh Esq. of Adlington, became eventually sole possessor, and dying without issue, devised this estate to the present proprietor, Edward Townshend Esq. of Chester, whose first wife was daughter and eventually sole heir of Thomas Lee, only brother of the above-mentioned Robert. Wincham-Hall is now occupied by Mr. Townshend's eldest son, Edward Venables Townshend Esq., who is representative of the family of Venables of Antrobus.

The chapelry of *Lower-Peover*, in the parish of Great-Budworth, comprises the townships of *Great-Peover*, *Little-Peover*, *Allostock*, and *Plumley*.

*Great-Peover* is principally in the hundred of Northwich, *Little-Peover* in Bucklow hundred: the manor of each of these townships has been from time

<sup>1</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 389.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 390.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> In which year Richard Harcourt purchased one moiety of Sir Richard Egerton

of Ridley.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 392.

<sup>7</sup> The elder branch of the Venables family

always claimed a paramount authority over this manor, as parcel of the barony of Kinderton.

imme-

immemorial held in moieties, which have passed through the same hands: a moiety of Great and Little-Peover<sup>a</sup> passed by successive sales from the family of de Peover, to those of Hawarden, Bonetable, Mobberley, and Grosvenor<sup>b</sup>, and by marriage, about the reign of Edward IV., from Grosvenor to the ancestor of Sir John Leicester Bart. of Tabley the present proprietor. The other moiety of Great and Little-Peover was anciently in the family of Poole, or De-la-Poole, from which it passed in the reign of Henry VII. to the Holfords<sup>c</sup>. Mary, daughter and heir of George Holford, having married Sir Hugh Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley, a law-suit arose between this lady and the heirs male of Holford, which after forty years' litigation was determined by a friendly award, by the result of which the above-mentioned moiety of Great and Little-Peover, and several other estates, were divided between them; this moiety appears to have been purchased at some subsequent period by the Leicester family, Sir John Leicester being now in possession of the whole. The chapel of Nether-Peover, which is four miles from the parish-church of Budworth, was originally built in the reign of Henry III. In the chancel of this chapel are memorials for the family of Cholmondeley of Holford in Plumley; in the Shakerley aisle is the monument of Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, an eminent loyalist, who was several times imprisoned during the civil war; he was appointed by King Charles II. governor of Chester castle, and died in 1696. Mr. Pennant has printed an anecdote of this Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, in the appendix to the first volume of his "Wales," relating to the expedition with which he conveyed a message from Sir Marmaduke Langdale at Rowton-heath, to the king in Chester, to accomplish which he ferried himself over the Dee in a wooden tub, with a batting staff for an oar. It is added that he engaged to deliver such orders as the king might entrust him with to Sir Marmaduke in a quarter of an hour, but that such delays were made by some about the king, that no orders were sent for several hours, to which the disastrous event of the Rowton-heath fight is attributed.

Sir Robert Leicester endowed Peover chapel with an estate in Alderley parish, now worth about 60*l. per ann.*, on condition that he and his heirs should nominate the curate. The Rev. Mr. Comberbach, in 1710, founded a school in Lower-Peover, and at his death, which happened about the year 1721, endowed it with the interest of 645*l.*

The township of *Allostock* lies five miles S. by W. from Knutsford, in the hundred of Northwich; the manor was conveyed to the Grosvenors in the reign

<sup>a</sup> The township of *Great*, or *Lower Peover*, lies about three miles S. by W. and *Little-Peover* about three miles S. by W. from Knutsford.      <sup>b</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.      <sup>c</sup> *Ibid.*

of Edward I. by John de Lofstock\*. The Grosvenors had their chief seat at Hulme in this township, (purchased in the reign of Henry III. of Gram de Runchamp<sup>†</sup>,) till the death of Robert Grosvenor Esq. in whom the male line of the elder branch became extinct in 1465, when his estates were divided between his daughters and co-heirs. The manor of Allostock is now divided between Sir John Leicester Bart., who possesses two-fifths, and C. W. J. Shakerley Esq. of Somerford, who possesses three-fifths. Sir John Leicester inherits one-fifth from his ancestor, who married one of Robert Grosvenor's co-heiresses; the other was purchased of the Stanleys of Hooton, whose ancestor married another of the co-heiresses. Mr. Shakerley inherits one-fifth from his ancestor, who married the heiress of John Legh of Booths by one of the co-heiresses of Grosvenor; the other shares have most probably been acquired by purchase. The manor of Hulme appears to have been wholly vested in the Shakerleys in the reign of Henry VII., and Hulme-Hall was for many generations the seat of that family, before they removed to Somerford-Radnor. The manor of Hulme is now the property of C. W. J. Shakerley Esq., the representative in the female line of the Shakerley family<sup>‡</sup>: the hall is occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Plumley* lies three miles and a half S. W. from Knutsford, in the hundred of Bucklow: the manor was given about the year 1119, by Roger de Mainwaring, to the monks of St. Werburgh in Chester; it continued to be held under the abbey, by mesne lords, and after the dissolution the tenants of Plumley did suit and service to the manor of Barnshaw, which had belonged to the abbey of Chester. About the year 1277, a moiety of the manor of Plumley passed in marriage with Joan, daughter of Richard de Lofstock, heir to her two brothers, who died without issue, to William de Toft, a younger brother of Roger de Toft, whose posterity settling at Holford, (a hamlet in this township,) took the name of Holford from the place of their residence; the Holfords possessed this moiety of the manor of Plumley, till the death of Christopher Holford Esq. in 1581<sup>§</sup>, when it passed in marriage with the heiress of that family to the Cholmondeleys. Robert Cholmondeley, Earl of Leinster, bequeathed this estate to his natural son, Thomas Cholmondeley Esq., whose grandson Robert, having no children, devised it to his wife Jane, afterwards married to Seymour Cholmondeley Esq. The manors of Plumley and Holford, with Holford-Hall, the ancient seat of the Holfords, were purchased in 1791, by the present proprietor, Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, of Thomas Asheton

\* Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.

† Collins's Peerage.

‡ See p. 371.

§ Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.

Smith

Smith Esq. to whose grandfather, Thomas Asheton Esq., they were given by Mrs. Cholmondeley before-mentioned. Holford-Hall was rebuilt by Dame Mary Cholmondeley, (heirefs of the Holfords,) who resided in it during her widowhood: this lady, in allusion to her spirited law-suit with the Holfords, is said to have been called by King James I. "the bold Lady of Cheshire:" the hall is now occupied by a farmer. The other half of Plumley appears to have been subdivided; the greater part belonged to the Mobberleys, and having passed from them to the Leicesters, is now the property of Sir J. F. Leicester Bart.

The chapelry of *Witton* lies partly in the hundred of Edisbury, and partly in that of Northwich; in the former are the townships of *Castle-Northwich*, *Hartford*, and *Winnington*; in the latter those of *Witton-cum-Twambrooke*, *Northwich*, *Birches*, *Hulse*, *Lach-Dennis*, and *Lofstock-Gralam*. The whole chapelry is divided into four districts, called quarters, *Northwich*, *Witton*, *Hartford*, and *Lofstock-Gralam*.

The town of Northwich lies on one of the roads from Chester to Manchester, eighteen miles from the former, twenty-one from the latter, and one hundred and seventy-four from London; it has a weekly market on Friday by prescription, and two fairs, Aug. 2, and Dec. 6. The market has of late years become very considerable, in consequence of the increased population, occasioned by the extension of the salt trade<sup>b</sup>; a good deal of corn is sold here, chiefly by sample. The fairs, which continue nearly a fortnight each, are for Yorkshire and Manchester goods, and various other commodities, which are exposed to sale in booths erected for the purpose, about a quarter of a mile from the town.

Sir William Brereton fortified Northwich for the Parliament in the beginning of the year 1643<sup>c</sup>, and he appears to have had his head-quarters there in 1644<sup>d</sup>, but by an entry in the parish register, which speaks of some of its records as having been lost, or burnt by the *cavaliers* and others of the *garrison*, it seems as if at some period during the civil war it had been garrisoned for the King. This town was the birth-place of Sir John Birkenhead<sup>e</sup>, author of the *Mercurius Aulicus*, or Court Journal, published at Oxford during the civil war, and several political poems.

The township of *Northwich* was granted by King Richard II. to John Holland Earl of Huntingdon<sup>f</sup>, from whom it descended to Henry Holland Duke of

<sup>b</sup> The great increase of the salt-trade at this place, has been principally occasioned by the discovery of the rock-salt: there were 165 salt-works, connected with the brine-pits in the reign of Charles I. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010. f. 251.) See some mention of the mines of rock-salt, and the brine-pits in the neighbourhood of Northwich, p. 410, 412. The townships of *Northwich*, *Castle Northwich*, and *Witton*, over all of which the town extends, contained, in 1801, 3254 inhabitants.

<sup>c</sup> "Cheshire's Successes," 1642-3.

<sup>d</sup> MS. journal of the siege of Chester.

<sup>e</sup> He is said to have been the son of Randal Birkenhead, a saddler, and to have been born in the year 1615.

<sup>f</sup> Pat. 12 Rich. II. p. 1.

Exeter; it was afterwards for several generations in the Earls of Derby; the present Earl sold it in 1784, to James Mort Esq., of whose son-in-law, Mr. Thomas Wakefield of Witton, it was purchased in 1808, by Mr. Arthur Heywood of Liverpool banker, who is the present proprietor.

The township of *Castleton*, or *Castle-Northwich*, is divided from the township of *Northwich* by the river Weever, and forms part of the suburbs of the town: the manor belongs to the Earl of Dyfart, as representative of the Wilbrahams: the late Lord Penrhyn claimed an interest in this manor, and gave a deputation in right of his lady, whose ancestors the Winningtons held a moiety of *Castle-Northwich* at an early period, under the Wilbrahams.

The township of *Witton* adjoins to *Northwich*, appearing to form part of the same town. The manors of *Witton-cum-Twambrooke*, and *Le-Crosse*, which were for many generations in the family of Venables, Barons of Kinderton, were sold by their representative Lord Vernon, in the year 1757, to Sir Peter Leicester, father of J. F. Leicester, the present proprietor. The parochial chapel of *Witton* is a handsome Gothic structure: it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, towards which Mr. Vernon of *Middlewich* gave 200*l.* on condition that he and his heirs should have the nomination of the curate; the present patron is Sir J. F. Leicester Bart.

Sir John Deane, prebendary of Lincoln, and parson of St. Bartholomew the Great in London, founded a grammar-school at *Witton* in the year 1558, and endowed it with some lands in the hundred of *Wirral*, and houses in *Chester*, described as late parcel of the possessions of the monastery of St. Anne in that city<sup>1</sup>, then of small value<sup>2</sup>, now nearly 100*l. per ann.* and likely to be improved, by the falling in of some leases in *Chester*. The founder directs in his statutes (among other things), "that a week before Christmas and Easter, (according to the old custome,) the scholars should barre and keep forth of the schoole the schoole-master, in such sort as other schollers doe in great schools: and that as well in the vacations, as the other days afore said, they use their bowes and arrowes onely, and eschewe all bowlinge, cardinge, dycing, quiteinge, and all other unlawful games."<sup>3</sup> The government of the school is vested in twelve feoffees, by whom the master and scholars are appointed.

The township of *Hartford* lies about one mile and a half S. W. by W. from *Northwich*; the manor was successively in the families of *Hartford*, *Horton*, *Masley* of *Rixton*, *Holcroft*, *Marbury*, and *Davies*; by the latter it was sold in parcels to the several tenants<sup>4</sup>; there are now eleven lords, who exercise manerial

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. British Museum, N<sup>o</sup> 2176. f. 97.  
rents of the estate should ever exceed 12 *l. per ann.* an usher was to be appointed.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2099. f. 423.

<sup>3</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>4</sup> The founder provided that if the

rights in rotation. A manor, called Horton in this township, is said to have passed from the Horton family, to the Davies's by the same title as Hartford; no such manor is now known: the court-leet for this township belongs to Sir J. F. Leicester Bart.

The township of *Birches* lies two miles and a half E. S. E. from Northwich; the manor passed with the daughter and heir of Nicholas de Birches in the reign of Edward II., to Nicholas de Winnington, in whose family it continued for several generations; in the reign of King Charles I. a co-heiress of the Winningtons brought it to Ralph Starkey of Morthwaite, who continued in possession in 1662: this manor in 1695 was the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Dobson, who by her deed of that date, conveyed it to Thomas Cholmondeley Esq., and Peter Shakerley Esq., as trustees for herself, during life, and after her death for the use of the said Peter Shakerley, and his wife if he should marry \*, during their lives, and after their decease the trust to continue in the heirs-male of the Cholmondeleys, for the purpose of educating two boys, one to be the son of a counsellor at law, bred up in one of the inns of court, the other the son of an orthodox episcopal divine of the doctrine of the church of England, as by law established. Peter Shakerley died unmarried in 1726, since which time boys appointed by the Cholmondeley family have been educated in constant succession from the funds of this charity.

The township of *Hulfe* is esteemed to be within the lordship of Goostrey-cum-Barnshaw, belonging to Sir H. M. Mainwaring; that of *Lach-Dennis*, within the lordship of Rudheath; Edward Antrobus Esq. is, by purchase, the principal land-owner in *Hulfe*, and William Harper Esq. in *Lach-Dennis*. Ancient records speak of a manor of Lach-Dennis, or Lach-Park near Rudheath, which, in the reign of Edward II. belonged to the Moreton family, and at a later period to the Mainwarings<sup>1</sup>; there is no estate now known by this name.

The township of *Loflock-Gralam* lies two miles E. N. E. from Northwich; the manor belonged successively to the Holfords and Cholmondeleys, and having passed with Holford and Plumley, is now the property of T. L. Brooke Esq. of Mere.

The township of *Winnington* lies one mile N. W. from Northwich; William Boydell, by deed without date, granted a moiety of the manor to Lidulph de Twamlow, whose son Robert took the name of Winnington, and was ancestor of the Winningtons, who being afterwards possessed of the whole of the manor, held it till the death of Richard Winnington in 1504, when it passed by

\* The township of *Hulfe* lies nearly four miles E. by S. from Northwich; *Lach-Dennis*, about the same distance, E. S. E. <sup>1</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

marriage to the Warburtons. Thomas, son of Sir George Warburton, the first baronet, by his second wife, became possessed of the Winnington estate, which passed in marriage with the only daughter and heir of his son General Warburton, to Richard Pennant Esq. (afterwards created Lord Penrhyn of the kingdom of Ireland,) since whose death, which happened in 1806, the Winnington estate has been purchased by Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. Winnington-Hall was the occasional residence of the late Lord Penrhyn, and is now one of the seats of Sir J. T. Stanley.

LITTLE-BUDWORTH, or BUDWORTH-in-the-Frith, situated in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Middlewich, about four miles N. E. by E. from Tarporley, consists only of one township called *Little-Budworth-cum-Oulton*. The manor of Little-Budworth was anciently in the Grosvenors, from whom it passed, by female heirs, to the families of Mere and Twyford. In or about the year 1431 it was purchased of the Twyford family, by William Troutbeck Esq.<sup>1</sup>, from whom it descended to the Earl of Shrewsbury, the present proprietor. The manor of Oulton, (formerly Aldington or Aldeton,) was successively in the families of Kingsley, Oulton, and Becheton; of the latter it was purchased about the reign of Edward IV., by Hugh Done<sup>2</sup>, whose daughter and heir brought it about the year 1500 to John Egerton Esq. ancestor and namesake of the present proprietor. John Egerton Esq. of Oulton is descended from Sir Philip, a younger son of Sir Rowland Egerton of Egerton and Oulton, who was created a baronet in 1617: the present baronet is Sir Thomas Egerton, now Earl of Wilton; in the event of whose death, without male issue, Mr. Egerton of Oulton, is heir to the baronetage. Oulton-Hall, a magnificent structure, was built in or about the year 1716; the old mansion then taken down was built in the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>3</sup> Sir John Vanburgh is said to have been the architect of the present hall. In a summer-house are some Roman altars found at Chester, and in the grounds not far from the lodge, part of a very ancient cross, which stood formerly in the market-place at Sandbach<sup>4</sup>.

Little-Budworth was formerly esteemed part of the parish of Over: it was sometimes so described (the church being called a free-chapel), and sometimes as a parish of itself, in the leases of the nunnery of St. Mary at Chester, to which monastery the great tithes were appropriated<sup>5</sup>; they are now vested in Samuel Peploe Esq. as lessee under the bishop of Chester; the lessee appoints the curate, subject

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Leland's *Itin.* vol. vii. p. 32.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 460.

<sup>5</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

to the approbation of the bishop. Catharine Lady Egerton, (widow of Sir Philip,) founded a school at Oulton, about the year 1706<sup>9</sup>; the master's salary is 21*l. per ann.* for teaching eight poor children, who are appointed by Mr. Egerton. Ralph Kirkham Esq. who died in 1798, having bequeathed the sum of 1000*l.* to the poor of this parish, directed that 10*l. per ann.* should be paid out of the interest for teaching poor children of Little-Budworth; this sum is now paid by the minister, who is the only trustee; to the master of Oulton school, for teaching twelve children of Little-Budworth, of whom he has the nomination<sup>r</sup>.

Dame Isabella, relict of Sir Samuel Dod, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, by her will bearing date 1720, and proved in 1722, gave a sum of money to be laid out in lands for the maintenance of six poor old men and six poor old women, in an alms-house to be erected at Little-Budworth: with this money an estate at Wetenhall was purchased, which now produces a rent of 127*l. 8s. 6d. per ann.* The paupers in this alms-house are clothed annually; provided with fuel, and have an allowance of 2*s. 6d.* or 3*s.* a week, besides the sum of 2*s. 6d.* each, paid to them on Christmas-day, pursuant to a codicil in Lady Dod's will. Ralph Kirkham above-mentioned, gave by will the sum of 1000*l.* towards rebuilding the church, and 1000*l.* to the poor; 20*l.* of the interest of the latter he directed to be distributed in clothes on Michaelmas-day; 10*l.* as before-mentioned to be appropriated for teaching children, and the remainder to be distributed in money.

There were formerly, about the reign of Charles I. horse-races, near Little-Budworth, it was a four-mile course, and there was an annual plate of 20*l.* value<sup>r</sup>.

BUNBURY, in the hundred of Edisbury, and deanery of Nantwich, is situated about thirteen miles from Chester, and seven from Nantwich; the parish is extensive, and contains twelve townships; *Bunbury, Alpraham, Beeston, Burwardsfley, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Teverton, Tilston-Fernall, and Wardle.*

The manor of Bunbury belonged, at a very early period, to the ancient family which took its name from this town; the elder branch became extinct about the reign of King John, when Humphrey de Bunbury dying without issue male, this manor was divided between his two daughters and co-heiresses Ameria and Joan; Ameria's moiety descended to the Patricks, from whom it passed to the St. Pierres; Isabella, daughter and heir of Urian de St. Pierre, brought it in marriage about

<sup>r</sup> Bishop Gafrell's Notitia Cestriensis.  
the present minister.  
Brit. Mus. No. 2155.

<sup>r</sup> From the information of the Rev. Mr. Williamfon,  
MS. by John Legh Esq. of Ridge, about anno 1630. Harl. MSS.

the beginning of the fourteenth century, to Sir Walter Cokeley<sup>1</sup>, in whose family, and its representatives the Grevilles, it continued nearly two centuries. This appears to be the estate which in 1598 was sold by Lord Keeper Egerton to Thomas Wilbraham Esq. whose representative, the Earl of Dyfart, is now lord of the manor of Bunbury. A joint claim was formerly maintained by Sir Charles Bunbury's family, who are the lineal descendants of Alexander de Bunbury, great grandson of David, brother of Henry, who lived in the reign of King Stephen: this Alexander de Bunbury, who was the next male heir of Humphrey before-mentioned, inherited a moiety of the manor of Bunbury, in the early part of the 13th century, from Joan the younger daughter of his kinsman. It seems probable that the manerial rights were divided, for in 1662 Thomas Bunbury Esq. of Stanney in Wirral is described as lord of the township, and Sir Thomas Wilbraham as lord of the court<sup>2</sup>. Sir Charles Bunbury has still a small estate in the parish, but his ancestors removed to Stanney in Wirral in the fourteenth century<sup>3</sup>, they have not for many years exercised any manerial rights in Bunbury.

Sir Hugh Calveley having purchased a moiety of the advowson of Bunbury, of Sir Walter Cokeley, in the year 1385, founded a college the following year for a master, sub-master, two chaplains, two chanters, and two choiristers; a few years afterwards<sup>4</sup> he purchased the other moiety of the advowson of David de Bunbury, and settled the whole upon the college. In the parish church, formerly the collegiate church, which is dedicated to St. Boniface<sup>5</sup>, is the monument of Sir Hugh Calveley, the celebrated Cheshire hero, with his effigies in alabaster, on an altar-tomb richly ornamented<sup>6</sup>. This celebrated warrior, who was a younger son of Kenrick de Calveley, of Calveley in Bunbury, served under King Edward III. in the French wars, but he does not appear to have particularly distinguished himself before the treaty of Bretigny in 1360, when, with other disbanded officers, he became one of the leaders of a formidable independent army of veterans, known by the name of "The Companions," who for a while committed great ravages in the provinces of France, and held themselves in readiness to join in any warlike expedition in which their services were wanted. Being engaged to assist John de Montford in his claim to the Duchy of Brittany, they fought at the battle of Auray in 1364, under Sir John Chandos, and the fortune of the day was turned in favour of Montford, by the bravery of Sir Hugh Calveley, who had the command of the rear-guard<sup>7</sup>. During these wars, Sir Hugh and his

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>2</sup> 16 Rich. II. Bishop Gastrell.

<sup>3</sup> Holinshed.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 442, (note <sup>1</sup>)

<sup>6</sup> See p. 372.

<sup>7</sup> See p. 446.

affiliate

associate in arms, Sir Robert Knolles <sup>c</sup>, were among the thirty English officers who are said to have successfully encountered in combat the same number of Bretons. The "Companions" after this assisted in expelling Peter the Cruel from the throne of Spain, but when the Black Prince had been induced to espouse the cause of the dethroned monarch, they ranged themselves under the banners of their prince; and the great victory of Najara, which for a while reinstated him on his throne, is attributed, by historians, to the valiant prowess of Sir John Chandos and Sir Hugh Calveley <sup>d</sup>.

The first public situation which Sir Hugh Calveley held was the government of Calais, to which he was appointed by King Edward III. in 1375<sup>e</sup>. In 1377, he burnt twenty-six ships in the harbour of Boulogne, and destroyed part of the town<sup>f</sup>; about the same time he retook the castle of Marke, the same day in which it had been lost through negligence, and plundered the town of Estaples; the next year he and Sir Thomas Percy were made admirals of England<sup>g</sup>; in 1379, having convoyed the Duke of Brittany to St. Maloes, he drove off

<sup>a</sup> Sir Robert Knolles was a native of Cheshire, but the place of his birth is unknown; he attained at least equal celebrity with his companion Sir Hugh Calveley. In 1358 he distinguished himself by taking the city of Auxerre and the town of Chastelon sur Loigne, for the King of Navarre, he had the command of a battalion at the battle of Auray, and shared in the glories of the victory of Najara. In 1369, the Black Prince made him commander in chief of his forces in Gascony. The next year, Sir Robert Knolles having in the mean time paid a visit to his native country, was sent with the chief command of an army into France, where he burnt several towns and laid waste the country to the gates of Paris. Lambard, in his Perambulation of Kent, says, that the sharp points and gable ends of the buildings which were then laid in ruins, were many years afterwards called Knolles's mitres. The last public act of Sir Robert Knolles's life, was the service he rendered in the suppression of Wat Tyler's rebellion in 1381. It has been already mentioned that the place of Sir Robert Knolles's birth is not known, nor has any thing been handed down to posterity relating to his family or connections, but he is said to have been of humble origin. It is a singular circumstance, that Sir Hugh Calveley should have had a nephew named Robert Knolles, the son of his sister Eve, who married Richard Knolles, on which Robert, the manor of Lea, in case of the failure of issue male from Sir Hugh Calveley and his brother David, was entailed by a deed of the 10th of April, 1354; and it is further remarkable, that the arms which were borne by the family of Knolles, are placed alternately with those of Sir Hugh Calveley, on Sir Hugh's tomb. Did not the circumstance of their being evidently so nearly of an age render it improbable, there would be strong reason for supposing that the two celebrated Cheshire warriors were uncle and nephew; they certainly both went to the continent about the same time; but the name of Sir Robert Knolles is first mentioned by our historians, as one of the officers who accompanied the Black Prince to France, in 1356. Sir Hugh Calveley, who is called by Holinshed an ancient captain, in 1383, died at an advanced age in 1394; Sir Robert Knolles died in 1407, at which time Fuller conjectures that he must have been nearly ninety years of age. Sir Hugh Calveley, Sir Robert Knolles, and Sir John Hawkwood, were joint founders of an English hospital at Rome, in 1380. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2111. f. 100. b.

<sup>d</sup> Holinshed. <sup>e</sup> Rot. Franc. 49 Edw. III. m. 12. <sup>f</sup> Holinshed. <sup>g</sup> Pat. 3 Rich. II., part 1. m. 19. dors.

some

some French gallies with much bravery, and succeeded in the safely landing of every thing belonging to the Duke and his household; not long afterwards he narrowly escaped shipwreck in a violent storm, which proved fatal to Sir John Arundel and several other officers, and above one thousand seamen<sup>a</sup>. In 1382, Sir Hugh was one of the commissioners empowered to treat with the Earl of Flanders<sup>b</sup>. The next year he and Sir Thomas Fogg of Chester<sup>c</sup> accompanied Sir Henry Spencer, the warlike bishop of Norfolk, in his expedition into Flanders: the bishop on his return was blamed for his conduct, and some of his officers were sent to the Tower on suspicion of treachery, but we are told, that Sir Hugh Calveley, "that auncient captain," as Holinshed calls him, was retained by the Duke of Lancaster, who did him all honour "by reason of his old approved valiancie." After this we hear nothing further of his public services, but he continued in the government of the island of Guernsey, which he had for some years enjoyed, till the time of his death, which happened in 1394: about eight years before his death he founded Bunbury college, as will be hereafter more particularly mentioned.

The story of Sir Hugh Calveley having married a Queen of Arragon, who, in some pedigrees of the family, is called Margaret, appears to rest on a very slender foundation; and not to be at all corroborated by the annals of that kingdom. The circumstance appears to be first mentioned by Webb, in his Itinerary, written in 1622<sup>d</sup>. Fuller, in his Worthies, says, Sir Hugh Calveley "married a queen of Arragon, which is most certain, her arms being quartered on his tomb, though I cannot satisfy the reader in the particularities thereof"; but it appears from notes taken by the third Randle Holme<sup>e</sup>, who was a contemporary of Fuller, that the only arms on Sir Hugh's tomb were those of Calveley, and gules, on a chevron argent three roses of the field (borne by Browe and Knolles,<sup>f</sup>) placed alternately all round it, as they are now to be seen, although so far decayed that only the fesse on the one and the chevron on the other are visible. In some pedigrees of the family, Sir Hugh Calveley is described as having married to his first wife Margaret, Queen of Arragon, and to his second the heiress of Mottram; but it is pretty evident that this statement is wholly erroneous, and it is not improbable that Sir Hugh Calveley, who died without issue, was never married<sup>g</sup>. It is apparent from  
several

<sup>a</sup> Holinshed.      <sup>b</sup> Rot. Franc. 6 Rich. II. m. 1.      <sup>c</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2111. f. 95. b.

<sup>d</sup> There is no mention of it in Camden.      <sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2151.      <sup>f</sup> The arms of Calveley are, arg. a fesse gules, between three calves passant, sable.

<sup>g</sup> There is no figure of a lady on his tomb, as was usual on the tomb of married knights; the arms, which are placed alternately on the tomb, were borne, as before-mentioned, by the families of Browe and Knolles, both of which families appear to have been in some sort connected with that of Calveley; Sir Hugh Browe's name occurs in some family conveyances relating to the Calveley estate. See Woodnoth's

several inquisitions in the castle at Chester, that it was not Sir Hugh, but his brother David, who married the heiress of Mottram; and the story of his marriage with the Queen of Arragon rests, as we before observed, on a vague tradition, not only unsupported, but almost in contradiction to historical evidence, and certainly not corroborated, as Fuller says, and others have asserted on his authority, by the arms on his tomb. The only Queen of Arragon that could have married Sir Hugh Calveley, was Eleanor, dowager of Alphonso IV., who became a widow nearly twenty years before Sir Hugh went to the continent; and we have no evidence that she was then living. Alphonso's successor, Pedro IV. died in the year 1387, after Sir Hugh Calveley had retired from public life; his dowager was Sybille de Forcia. Sir Hugh Calveley the younger, son of David, younger brother of Sir Hugh the elder, died the year before his uncle. There was formerly in Bunbury church the tomb of Sir Hugh Calveley (son of the last-mentioned Sir Hugh), who died in 1415, and Christian his wife; and there is a memorial for Dame Mary, widow of Sir Hugh Calveley, the last of the elder branch of that ancient family<sup>o</sup>, who died without male issue in 1648; the said Dame Mary died in 1705, having survived her husband fifty-seven years.

In Bunbury church are monuments also for the Beeston family, and in the Spurstow chapel, a memorial for George Spurstow Esq. of Spurstow, who died in 1669. The monument of Sir George Beeston, a brave veteran, who was one of Queen Elizabeth's admirals, at the destruction of the Spanish Armada in 1588, has his effigies in armour, and the following inscription, by which it appears, that he died in 1601, at the great age of one hundred and two years, and that consequently he must have been in his eighty-ninth year when he was knighted for his services in the memorable sea-fight above-mentioned.

" Hic situs est Georgius Beeston, eques auratus, virtutis et veritatis cultor, a juventute bellicis artibus emeritus; ab invictissimo Rege Henrico VIII. cum obfi-

Woodnoth's Collections, p. 25. and in p. 101. the seal of Sir Hugh Browe, with his arms as before described. It is most probable, if Sir Hugh Calveley was married, that his wife was the sister of Sir Hugh Browe: it appears by Woodnoth's Collections, p. 22, that the latter had two sisters, but the names of their husbands do not appear. The arms on Sir Hugh Calveley's tomb not being impaled, might have been those of his executor, and might have been either Browe or Knolles. It is remarkable that although they do not follow alphabetically, the arms of Calveley, Browe, and Knolles, are placed together in some collections of Cheshire arms, in the Herald's college. Sir Hugh Calveley, Sir Robert Knolles, and Sir Hugh Browe, accompanied the Duke of Gloucester to the continent in 1380. (Holinshed.)

\* The co-heiresses married Cotton of Combermere, and Legh of Lyme; the latter family being extinct, Sir R. S. Cotton, Bart. is now the sole representative of the elder branch of the Calveleys.

deret Boloniam in cohortem pensionarior. co-optatus; meruit sub Edwardo VI. in prælio contra Scotos apud Muffelborow; postea sub eodem rege, Mariâ et Elizabethâ, bellis navalibus, vel ut classis præfectus vel sub-præfectus. A quâ post profligatam potentissimam illam classem Hispanicam 1588, equestri dignitate ornatus est, jamque gravescente ætate, cum fidem principibus, fortitudinem hostibus egregiè probasset, Deo gratus, bonisque charus, Christum diu expectans, in Christi anno 1601, ætatis suæ 102, obdormivit ut in ipso lætus resurgat." The inscription also commemorates his lady (Alice Davenport of Henbury), who died in 1591, after having lived in marriage with him sixty-six years, Sir Hugh Beeton, his son, who died in 1627, and Sir George, his grandson, who died during the life-time of his father, in 1611.

In the Ridley chapel, which was built by Sir Ralph Egerton of Ridley, standard-bearer to King Henry VIII., in the year 1527, was formerly an altar-tomb in memory of the founder°. In the church-yard are several ancient monuments, which it is probable were originally in the church<sup>o</sup>. Bunbury church was set on fire by a party from the king's garrison at Cholmondeley-House, on the 20th of June 1643<sup>o</sup>. The ruins of Bunbury college, not far from the church, remained in 1622<sup>r</sup>; the site belongs to the Earl of Dysart.

Bunbury college having been dissolved pursuant to the statute of 1 Edward VI., its revenues, including the great tithes of Bunbury, were valued at 48*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* *per ann.* The college consisted then of a dean, five vicars, and two choiristers. In the year 1575, Thomas Aldersey, citizen and haberdasher of London, purchased of the queen the rectory and advowson of Bunbury, the rectory being then leased for a term of years at the rent of 27*l.* 18*s.* out of which 20*l.* *per ann.* was appropriated for the maintenance of two ministers. After the expiration of this lease, Mr. Aldersey, in or about the year 1592, granted a long lease to his own family, of the greater part of the rectory<sup>1</sup>, at the rent of 122*l.* appointing that one hundred marks *per ann.* the best of the houses, and land of about the value of twenty marks<sup>2</sup> *per ann.* should be allotted to a preacher; 20*l.* *per ann.* to an assistant or curate; 20*l.* *per ann.* a small portion of land<sup>3</sup> and a house to a school-master; 10*l.* *per ann.* with a house and garden to an usher, and 10*l.* *per ann.* to the poor; the preacher, curate, master, and usher, to be appointed by the Haber-

<sup>o</sup> There is still to be seen a stone placed in the wall, from which a brass plate with the figure of a man bearing a standard has been taken, and two shields with coats of arms. <sup>r</sup> See p. 445.

<sup>1</sup> Burghall's Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. vol. ii. p. 915. <sup>2</sup> Webb's Itinerary of that date—Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 184. <sup>3</sup> All except the tithes of Ridley, which he leased for the same term to the Egerton family, at the rent of 8*l.* *per ann.* <sup>4</sup> It is about twenty-four acres. <sup>5</sup> An acre and a half.

dashers<sup>2</sup>

father's company, in whom, after the expiration of the above-mentioned term of years, he vested the fee\*.

Mr. Thomas Gardener, late of Chester, about the year 1750, gave the interest of 200*l.* to the minister and church-wardens in trust, for the purpose of establishing a school for such poor children of this parish as are not of the township of Bunbury. This money was laid out in the purchase of land, which now produces 8*l.* 10*s.* per ann.

The township of *Alpraham* lies about three miles and a half S. E. by E. from Tarporley; the manor was, about the year 1380<sup>v</sup>, divided amongst the seven daughters and co-heiresses of Matthew de Alpraham, in whose family it had been for several generations. One of the co-heiresses<sup>a</sup> married into the Bulkeley family, and her share descended by successive female heirs to the Ardernes and Stanleys. In 1701 the estate was divided between the Wilbrahams, Mostyns<sup>b</sup>, Crewes<sup>c</sup>, and Leghs of High-Legh<sup>d</sup>, but the manor, which in the reign of Queen Elizabeth belonged to Sir Thomas Egerton, is spoken of in 1662 as the property of Sir Thomas Wilbraham<sup>e</sup>, and it now belongs to his representative the Earl of Dyfart.

The township of *Beeston* lies between two and three miles S. S. W. from Tarporley; the manor was the ancient inheritance of the Beestons, descended from Henry de Bunbury, a younger son of Bunbury of Bunbury, who assumed the name of Beeston from the place of his residence. On the extinction of the male line of this family, by the death of Sir Hugh Beeston, son of Sir George Beeston the admiral, in 1627, this manor passed by successive female heirs to the families of Whitmore, Savage, and Mostyn<sup>f</sup>. It is now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart. Beeston-Hall is inhabited by Mr. Richardson, Sir Thomas Mostyn's agent; there are but small remains of the ancient mansion which was the residence of the Beestons, and had sustained much injury in the civil war, having been set

\* We could not learn for certain the extent of the term for which the lease was granted, (it is said to have been for 500 years, of which about 235 have expired,) nor in what manner the profits of the estate are eventually to be disposed of. The deed of gift does not appear to have been enrolled either in chancery or in the Exchequer at Chester, and we were unsuccessful in our endeavours to procure information from any other quarter.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Bulkeley, who married one of the co-heiresses, was possessed of a share of this manor, Richard II. Esch. <sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense. <sup>3</sup> The share which belonged to the Mostyns was inherited from the Beestons through the Savages. <sup>4</sup> The portion of this manor, which belonged to the Crewes, was inherited from the Dones, who for several generations possessed three parts out of seven. Esch. Henry VI. and VII. and Car. I. <sup>5</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>6</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2010. <sup>7</sup> Villare Cestriense. The Mostyns were possessed of it as early as the year 1662. Harl. MSS. No. 2010.

on fire by the garrison from the neighbouring castle, on the 9th of March, 1645<sup>f</sup>.

Beeston castle in this township was built about the year 1220, by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, after his return from the holy land<sup>g</sup>. In 1236, Henry de Audley was sent with Hugh le Despencer and Stephen de Segrave to take charge of this castle<sup>h</sup>; in 1256, Fulke de Orreby was appointed governor<sup>i</sup>. Not long before the battle of Evesham in 1265, James de Audley and Urian de St. Pierre took possession of Beeston castle for the king; immediately after the battle, Prince Edward marched thither with Humphrey de Bohun, Henry de Hastings and Guy de Montfort in his train, as prisoners<sup>k</sup>; in 1312, Robert de Holland was made governor of the castle<sup>l</sup>; in 1333 it was granted by King Edward III. to the Black Prince<sup>m</sup>. In the year 1399, Beeston castle was garrisoned with one hundred men, and well victualled by King Richard II., who is said to have deposited there his jewels and other treasures, but it was surrendered without a siege, on the approach of Henry of Lancaster, who found in it treasure to the value of 200,000 marks, which he carried with him to Chester<sup>n</sup>. Upon the conclusion of the short-lived peace between King Henry VI. and his successor in 1460, Beeston castle was given to the Duke of York<sup>o</sup>. During the civil wars in the seventeenth century, this castle, which is described by Leland as being, in his time, in a ruinous state<sup>p</sup>, was repaired and garrisoned by the Parliament, having been taken possession of by a party of their forces on the 21st of February, 1643<sup>q</sup>.

“ On the 13th of December, 1643,” says Mr. Burghall in his Diary, “ a little before day, Captain Sandford<sup>r</sup> who came out of Ireland, with eight of his firelocks, crept up the steep hill of Beeston castle, and got into the upper ward, and got possession there. It must have been done by treachery, for the place was almost impregnable. Captain Steel, who kept it for the Parliament, was accused, and suffered for it, but it was verily thought he had not betrayed it wilfully; but some of his men proving false, he had not courage enough to withstand Sandford. What made much against Steel was, he took Sandford down into his chamber, where they dined together, and much beer was sent up to Sandford’s men

<sup>g</sup> Burghall’s Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. vol. ii. p. 942.

<sup>h</sup> Hen. Knighton iater Decem Script. 2430.

<sup>i</sup> Collins’s Peerage.

<sup>l</sup> Dugdale’s

Baronage, vol. ii. p. 57.

<sup>k</sup> Extracts from an ancient Chronicle in Bishop Gastrell’s Notitia.

<sup>l</sup> Dugdale’s Baronage, vol. ii. p. 73.

<sup>m</sup> Cart. 7. Edw. III.

<sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2111.

f. 98. Extracts from various Chronicles by the second Randle Holme.

<sup>o</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. v. p. 380.

<sup>p</sup> In his poem on the birth of King Edward VI. prefixed to the ninth volume of his Itinerary.

<sup>q</sup> Burghall’s Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. vol. ii. p. 907.

<sup>r</sup> In Lloyd’s Worthies, p. 360, this exploit is attributed to Sir Charles Compton, who is said to have obtained admission with six men disguised as persons bringing provisions, which, by an intercepted letter, he found were at that time expected.

and

and the castle, after a short parley delivered up '." Captain Steel had liberty to march to Nantwich, where he was immediately put in prison, and about six weeks afterwards, (soon after the battle of Nantwich, and the relief of that town by Sir Thomas Fairfax,) was shot to death <sup>1</sup>. Beeston castle was besieged by the parliamentary army about the beginning of Dec. 1644 <sup>2</sup>; it was relieved on the 17th of March following, by Prince Maurice and Prince Rupert <sup>3</sup>, but again besieged within a few weeks; the besieging army "had begun to raise a brave mount with a strong ditch about it, and had placed great buildings thereon," when, on the reported approach of the King with his army from Shropshire, the works were abandoned <sup>4</sup>. After the battle of Rowton-heath it was again closely besieged, and at length the provisions of the garrison being quite exhausted, was surrendered to Sir William Brereton on the 6th of Nov. following. Burghall says, "there was neither meat nor drink found in the castle, but only a piece of a turkey-pie, two biscuits, and a live pea-cock, and pea-hen <sup>5</sup>. Soon after the taking of Chester, which happened in February 1646, Beeston-castle was demolished <sup>6</sup>.

The site of Beeston-castle, which had been originally parcel of the manor, was granted by Queen Elizabeth in fee-farm, to Sir Christopher Hatton, of whom it is supposed to have been purchased by the Beestons, having been about that time re-united to the manor with which it has since passed. The remains of the castle occupy the side of a hill, which rises with a regular, but steep ascent, to the brink of a lofty and inaccessible precipice; the walls of the outer court, in which are now some large stone-quarries, are of considerable extent, of an irregular form with several towers; at the gate of entrance, are two circular towers; the entrance under the gate-way is very narrow over rugged steps, formed out of the natural rock: the keep is surrounded by a deep ditch, sunk in the solid rock, over which is a draw-bridge. The remains of this venerable fortress form a striking object in the scenery of a large surrounding district.

The township of *Burwardfley* lies five miles S. S. W. from Tarporley: the manor was given by the abbot of St. Werburgh at Chester, to Roger de Combre, or Fitz-alured, on condition that he should be champion for the monastery; his daughter and co-heir brought the whole, or a part of this estate to the Touchets. Robert Lord Cholmondeley is described as Lord of Burwardfley in 1662 <sup>b</sup>: of late years the manor has been esteemed as subordinate to that of Tattenhall, which belonged also to the Touchets. Burwardfley was sold in 1804,

<sup>1</sup> History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 924.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 931.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 938.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 942.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 944.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 945.

<sup>8</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

by John Crewe Esq. (now Lord Crewe) to Thomas Tarlton Esq. of Boleworth-castle, who is the present proprietor. In this township is a chapel of ease, built on the waste by subscription, principally at the expence of Mr. Kiffin, a baker, about the year 1735<sup>b</sup>. Some land of small value was given as an endowment by Mr. Hodgkis, and it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty; the minister is appointed by the trustees of the endowment.

The township of *Calveley* lies about six miles N. W. by N. from Nantwich; the manor was given by Richard de Vernon, about the reign of Richard I. to Hugh de Calveley, ancestor of the celebrated Sir Hugh Calveley, who was of Lea-Hall in the chapelry of *Brucra*: the elder branch became extinct by the death of Sir Hugh's uncle Robert, whose daughter and heir in the reign of Edward III. brought Calveley in marriage to a younger branch of the Davenports of Davenport, which family became extinct by the death of Richard Davenport Esq. in 1771. Calveley is now vested in John Bromley Esq., who married the elder daughter and co-heiress of Mr. Davenport; Mr. Bromley having no issue, the reversion is vested in Davies Davenport Esq. of Capesthorpe, one of the present representatives for the county, whose father married the younger daughter. A part of Calveley-Hall is rented by the Earl of Dyfart, for his occasional residence; the tenant of the farm occupies the other part.

The manor of *Haughton*, was as early as the reign of Henry III., if not at an earlier period, in the ancient family of that name<sup>c</sup>, which continued in the male line till about the year 1740; it was purchased of the co-heiresses of the last heir male, by the family of Comberbach, who about the year 1790 sold it to Mr. Garnet, the present proprietor. The old hall was partly taken down, and in part altered by the late owner, in the year 1760; Mr. Garnet has fitted up some rooms for his own residence, and lets the remainder of it to a farmer, who rents the demesnes.

The township of *Peckforton* lies nearly five miles S. S. W. from Tarporley; the manor was held for many generations by the St. Pierres, and their representatives, the Cockseys<sup>d</sup>; it was afterwards successively in the Corbets of Shropshire, and the Beestons<sup>e</sup>; having since passed with Beeston, it is now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart.

Peckforton-Hall, which had belonged to the family of Peckforton is the property of Lord Crewe, whose ancestor became possessed of it before the year

<sup>b</sup> It was consecrated in that year. Answers to Queries in the Bishop's Registry at Chester.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Webb's Itinerary in the Vale-Royal,

part ii. p. 104.

1662<sup>f</sup>; it is occupied by a farmer. The manor, or reputed manor of Horsley in this township, has passed with the manor of Peckforton,<sup>g</sup> and is now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn.

The township of *Ridley*, anciently written *Ridgley*, lies about six miles W. N. W. from Tarporley; the manor was for several generations the inheritance of a family of the same name, who held it under the knights of St. John of Jerusalem<sup>e</sup>; from the Ridleys it seems to have passed by a female heir to the Daniels; it was afterwards successively in the families of Venables<sup>h</sup> and Stanley. On the attainder of Sir William Stanley, this manor became vested in the crown. King Henry VIII. gave it to his standard-bearer, Sir Ralph Egerton, of whose descendants it was purchased in the reign of King Charles II., by Sir Orlando Bridgman, lord-keeper of the great seal. From the Bridgmans, Ridley passed about the year 1720, by the foreclosure of a mortgage, to the family of Pepys, and is now the property of Sir William Weller Pepys Bart.

“Ridle Hawlle” (says Leland) “was made of a poore old place, the fairest gentleman’s howse of al Chestreshire, by Syr William Standeley, Helper to King Henry VII.” in another place he calls it “a right goodly house of stone and tymbre, buildid by Sir William of Standeley, that much favorid King Henry the VII. parte at Bosworth-feeld.”<sup>i</sup> During the civil war Ridley-Hall was garrisoned by the parliament; an unsuccessful attack appears to have been made upon it on the 4th of June 1645, by a party from the garrison at Beeston castle<sup>l</sup>. This hall was for three or four descents the seat of a branch of the Egertons; Sir Thomas Egerton, the lord keeper, ancestor of the Bridgewater family, was the natural son of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley. The site of Ridley-Hall, which was burnt down about the year 1700, is now occupied by a farm-house. Ridley-mere, spoken of by Leland as the fairest mere in Cheshire, has been drained, and brought into cultivation.

The township of *Spurstow* lies about four miles S. by E. from Tarporley: the manor, which had been the ancient inheritance of the family of that name<sup>m</sup>, was sold by Charles Spurstow Esq. the last heir male<sup>n</sup>, to Sir John Crewe, from whom it has descended to the Right Hon. Lord Crewe, the present proprietor: the old hall was pulled down in 1757, and a farm-house built on the site. Lower-Spurstow-Hall, with a demesne annexed to it, passed by a female heir from the

<sup>f</sup> See Harl. MSS. N° 2010.

<sup>e</sup> Esch. 23 Edw. III.

<sup>h</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>i</sup> Itin. Vol. vii. p. 33.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. Vol. v. p. 91.

<sup>l</sup> Burghall’s Diary printed in the History

of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 943.

<sup>m</sup> William de Spurstow died seized of it, 35 Edw. III.

<sup>n</sup> He died in 1685, and was buried at Bunbury.

family of Stalker to the Alderseys, ancestors of Thomas Aldersey, the great benefactor to the township of Bunbury, in whose collateral descendants it is still vested, being now the property of Robert Aldersey Esq. : a great part of the old hall remains, and is occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Teverton*, or *Tiverton*, lies two miles S. from Tarporley : the manor passed by successive female heirs, from the family of Hulgrave, to the Beestons and Astons \*. In 1662 it belonged to Sir Thomas Wilbraham †, from whom it has descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Dysart. A skirmish took place in Teverton-field, on the 21st of February 1643, in which one of Colonel Mainwaring's officers, on the side of the Parliament, and a few of the King's officers were killed ; they were buried at Tarporley ‡.

The township of *Tilston-Fernall*, or *Fernhall*, lies nearly three miles S. E. from Tarporley : the manor so called, to distinguish it from the parish of Tillton, belongs to the Earl of Dysart, as part of the inheritance of the Wilbrahams. The hall, which in 1622 was one of the seats of the Wilbraham family †, has been long taken down ; the out-buildings are fitted up as a farm-house.

The township of *Wardbull*, or *Wardle*, lies about five miles N. W. from Nantwich : the manor is the property of the Earl of Dysart, by inheritance from the Wilbraham family. Sir Thomas Wilbraham, who was possessed of this manor in the middle of the seventeenth century, purchased the hall (which is now a farm-house), from the Prestlands †, who had been settled there for several descents, being a younger branch of the Bulkeley family.

**BURTON**, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies about eight miles west from Chester, and two miles east from Neston, on the banks of the estuary of the Dee : the parish contains two townships, *Burton*, and *Puddington*. *Burton* had, in former times, a market on Thursday, obtained in 1298, together with a fair for three days, at the festival of St. James, by Walter Langton, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry †, to which see the manor of Burton had then for some time been annexed. It was held as a copy-hold under the see many years by the Masseys of Puddington, who were succeeded in 1715 by the Congreves. The see of the manor was purchased in 1806, under the land-tax redemption act, by Richard Congreve Esq. then lessee, who has since built a house on the estate for his own residence.

\* Villare Cestriense.

the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 907.

Royal, part ii. p. 106.

† Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

‡ Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

† Burghall's Diary, printed in

Webb's Itinerary of that date in King's Vale-

‡ Cart. 27 Edw. I.

In the parish-church, which was rebuilt in 1721, are the monuments of Sir John Stanley Massey Stanley Bart., who died in 1794, in the eighty fourth year of his age, and his son Sir Thomas Stanley Maffey Stanley Bart. 1795. Dr. Hough, Bishop of Worcester, who had been some time bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, gave 50*l.* towards re-building the church; in the former structure were some monuments of the Maffeys of Puddington.

The tithes of Burton were appropriated in 1238, by Alexander de Savenby, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, to the hospital at *Denwall*, a hamlet of this township <sup>u</sup> by the sea-side, on account of its poverty. About the year 1494, King Henry VII., at the request of Bishop Smith, gave this hospital with all its revenues, to the hospital of St. John Baptist at Lichfield, founded by that prelate. The hospital of Denwall has been long ago taken down; the estate, including the rectory of this parish, still belongs to the hospital above-mentioned, the master of which is patron of the curacy. An act of Parliament for inclosing the township of Burton was passed in 1807. In the year 1724, the pious Dr. Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who was a native of this parish, built a school-house at Burton, and endowed it with lands, now worth about 30*l.* *per ann.* clear income; this endowment was increased with the sum of 200*l.* given by Dr. Wilson, the bishop's son. The school is free to poor children of the township of Burton, and four from the township of Puddington <sup>v</sup>.

The township of *Puddington*, or *Podington*, said to have been anciently written *Pudican*, lies about seven miles and a half N. W. from Chester; the manor was given, together with that of Storeton, by Randal de Gernon, Earl of Chester, to Alan Silvester <sup>v</sup>. The Maffey family, whose ancestor Richard Maffey (a younger son of Hamo de Maffey, great grandson of Hamo Baron of Dunham-Maffey, who lived in the time of William the Conqueror) settled at Puddington in the thirteenth century, held this manor for many generations, under the Lords of Storeton; William Maffey Esq. of Puddington, the last heir-male of this branch of the Maffey family, by his will, bearing date 1715, bequeathed his estates to his godson and adopted heir, Thomas Stanley Esq. (a younger son of Sir William Stanley of Hooton Bart., who died in 1740,) Mr. Stanley assumed the name of Maffey, on succeeding to the Puddington estate, which he afterwards assigned to his younger brother John. Mr. John Stanley, when he came into possession, took the name of Maffey, but resumed his own family-name upon inheriting the Stanley title and estate, on the death of his nephew Sir William Stanley the

<sup>u</sup> For an account of the colliery at Denwall, see p. 412.  
Cestriensis. <sup>v</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>v</sup> Bishop Gaſſell's Notitia

fifth baronet of the family. His grandson, Sir Thomas Stanley Mafsey Stanley Bart., a younger brother of Sir William, the last baronet, is the present proprietor of this manor. The ancient seat of the Mafseys has been long ago taken down: Puddington-Hall, a modern edifice, is the property of Sir T. S. M. Stanley, but is not at present inhabited.

**CHEADLE, or CHEDLE**, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies on the banks of the Mersey, and the borders of Lancashire, about three miles S. W. from Stockport, and about seven miles S. E. from Manchester: it consists of three townships, *Cheadle-Bulkeley*, *Cheadle-Mofley*, and *Handforth-cum-Bofdon*.

The manor of *Cheadle* belonged to a family of that name, as early as the middle of the twelfth century; Geffrey de Dutton having acquired it in marriage with an heiress of this family, took the name of Chedle; his grandson, Roger, left two daughters, co-heirs; Clemence married to William de Baguley of Baguley, and Agnes to Richard de Bulkeley: their heirs possessed this manor in moieties; one moiety passed by marriage to the Leghs; Sir Peers Legh of Lyme (grandson of John Legh, who married the heir of Baguley) having married the widow of Sir John Savage, this estate passed to the son of her first marriage, Sir John Savage<sup>a</sup>, who was knighted at the battle of Agincourt, and descended to his namesake<sup>b</sup>, who was slain at Boulogne in the reign of Henry VII. The other moiety continued more than three centuries in the Bulkeley family, immediate ancestors of Lord Viscount Bulkeley, who were for several generations settled at Cheadle, and at Whatcroft in Davenham; the elder branch of the Bulkeleys of Cheadle and Whatcroft removed to the isle of Anglesea about the year 1500: a younger branch continued at Cheadle more than a century longer. The whole of this manor became eventually vested in Lord Bulkeley's family, whose ancestor Sir Richard Bulkeley Knight, married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Savage, about the year 1558. After the death of James Viscount Bulkeley, this manor was sold, under an act of Parliament in 1756, to the Rev. Thomas Egerton of Cheadle, and having passed by devise to the Beresfords, was conveyed in 1806 by the trustees under the will of Edward Beresford Esq. to Mr. John Worthington of Ringway, the present proprietor. Upon the division of Cheadle between the co-heiresses of Roger de Chedle, the Bulkeleys had the capital messuage<sup>c</sup> belonging to the estate, and the advowson of the church<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Esch. 6 Henry VI.  
house.

<sup>b</sup> Esch. 11 Henry VII.  
<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> This old mansion is now the parsonage-

In the parish church are chapels belonging to the Handforth and the Cheadle-Hulme estates. In the Handforth chapel are some ancient monuments of the Honfords or Handfords<sup>e</sup>, whose heiress married Sir Urian Brereton, and that of Sir Thomas Brereton Bart., who died in 1673. In the chancel is a memorial for one of the Bulkeley family, who died in 1678; and in the nave several for the family of Kelfall of Bradshaw. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart. is patron, and his son is the present incumbent of the rectory.

The township of *Cheadle-Hulme*, or *Cheadle-Mosley*, lies nearly four miles S. S. W. from Stockport; the principal estate in this township, which had belonged to the Savages, passed in marriage to the Marquis of Winchester, and was purchased of him by Sir Nicholas Mosley Knight<sup>f</sup>, who was lord mayor of London in the year 1599: about the year 1695, the daughter and heir of Sir Edward Mosley Bart. brought it to Sir John Bland Bart. of Kippax-park, in the county of York, whose grandson having obtained an act or Parliament for that purpose, sold it in 1754 to John Davenport Esq. of Stockport; having passed by devise to the family of Bamford, it devolved, on the death of William Bamford Esq. without issue male in 1807, to Robert Hesketh Esq. of Upton near Chester, who has assumed the name of Bamford, and is the present proprietor. Bradshaw-Hall in this township, the property of Oldfield Kelfall Esq. of Chester, was for many generations the seat of his ancestors: it is now occupied by a farmer.

A free-school in this township, which had been built by a subscription of the inhabitants, was endowed in 1788, by the late Jonathan Robinson of Stockport, with three acres of land, Cheshire measure, now let at 40*l.* per ann.

The township of *Handforth*, *Handford*, or *Hondford*, lies about five miles S. W. by S. from Stockport; the manor, as early as the reign of Henry III., was in the family of Hondford, from whom this manor and that of Bosdon, a hamlet of Handford, passed by a female heir about the year 1566 to Sir Urian Brereton, a younger son of Sir Ralph Brereton of Malpas. Sir William Brereton of Handford was created a baronet in 1626; the title became extinct on the death of Sir Thomas Brereton in 1678. Sir William Brereton, in the year 1666, settled the manor of Hondford, in default of male issue from his son, on Nathaniel Booth Esq. of Mottram-Andrew, in tail-male. In 1766, Nathaniel Booth, Lord Delamere, alienated it to Edward Wrench of Chester Gent., whose nephew, in 1805, sold it to Mr. Joseph Cooper of Hondford: it is now the property of Mr. William Pafs of Altrincham, who purchased it in 1807 of the trustees under

<sup>e</sup> See p. 446. 449.

<sup>f</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

Mr. Cooper's will. Cheadle-house in this township, the seat of the late James Harrison Esq., is now occupied by his widow.

CHESTER, the metropolis of the county palatine of that name is situated on the banks of the river Dee, at the extremity of the hundred of Broxton, and adjoining the east end of the peninsula of Wirral: its distance from London by way of Northampton and Lichfield is one hundred and ninety miles; by way of Newport and Coventry, one hundred and eighty-one; being on the great road to Ireland, either by way of Holy-head, or Park-gate.

The first origin of this ancient city is enveloped in obscurity; the conjecture of Sir Thomas Elliot, that it was called Neomagus, and that it was built by a great-grandson of Noah, is entitled to as much credit as the legend of Ralph Higden, the monk of St. Werburgh, who attributes its foundation to Leon Vawr, a great giant, and makes king Lear its restorer. The most probable conjecture is, that Chester was one of the fortresses constructed by Ostorius Scapula for the security of the Roman army, after the discomfiture of Caractacus. It is certain that the twentieth legion, called "the Victorious," was stationed at Chester in the reign of Galba, and the allusion to this circumstance in the British name of the city, *Caer-Leon, ar Dufyr Dwy*, (the city of legions on the water of Dee) seems to connect it with its first origin.

It has been asserted by some writers, that the walls of Chester were first built by Marius a British king, grandson of Cymbeline, who began his reign in the year 73, and that he was buried in this city; but little credit seems due to this account. Holinshed, whose history is a compilation from various ancient chronicles, tells us that Marius was buried at Carlisle: that city therefore, if any, is more likely to have been indebted to him for its buildings; but the whole of the history of Marius is doubtful. It is certain that Chester was a walled city before the year 908, and there is no reason to doubt that the walls were originally built by the Romans; the old East-gate was unquestionably a Roman work, and the various antiquities discovered within the walls are a proof that the Romans occupied the site of the present city.

The first event of any note relating to Chester, which we find recorded in history, is the defeat of the Britons under its walls, and the capture of the city by Ethelfrid, king of Northumberland, in the year 607<sup>h</sup>. It appears to have been recovered ere long by its old masters, for we are told that in the year 613

<sup>h</sup> Chron. Sax.

the

the Britons held an assembly at Chester, on which occasion they elected Cadwan to be their king<sup>1</sup>; Hardyng in his Chronicle says that Cadwall, son and successor of Cadwan, was crowned king of the Britons at Chester. About the year 830 King Egbert, who united under his government all the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy, took Chester from the Britons, or Welshmen, and added it to his dominions<sup>2</sup>. Athelwolf, his successor, is said by some to have been crowned at Chester<sup>3</sup>.

In the year 892, or according to some accounts 894, the Danish army took possession of Chester: Ralph Higden speaks of a siege which they endured in this city, during which they were reduced to such extremities that they were compelled to feed on horse-flesh<sup>4</sup>; but Matthew of Westminster<sup>5</sup> mentions this circumstance as happening at the siege of Buttingden, and adds that the Danes, who escaped from thence, joined a garrison of their own countrymen at Chester, and that Alfred pursued them and laid siege to that city, but finding his attempts to gain it ineffectual, he laid waste the surrounding country to prevent the Danes from procuring a supply of provisions.

In or about the year 907<sup>6</sup>, Ethelred, Earl or Duke of Mercia, and his wife Ethelfleda (sister of King Edward the Elder), repaired the city of Chester, which had suffered much injury from the Danes, and rebuilt the walls, enlarging them, as some say, to double their former extent, and adorning them with turrets<sup>7</sup>. We find, that after the death of this heroic lady, who, during her widowhood, had governed the province of Mercia with consummate and successful valour<sup>8</sup>, Chester fell again into the hands of the Welsh, from whom it was recovered by King Edward a few days before his death, which happened in 924<sup>9</sup>. In or about the year 971, King Edgar being with his army<sup>10</sup> at Chester, was visited by six petty sovereigns, who came to pay their homage, and Ralph Higden relates, that he was rowed by them in his barge from the palace to St. John's church<sup>11</sup>.

Giraldus Cambrensis mentions it as the tradition of the place, that Harold having survived his wounds at the battle of Hastings, spent the remainder of his

<sup>1</sup> Holinshed, i. 156; some say 609.      <sup>2</sup> Holinshed, i. 204.      <sup>3</sup> "Athelwolfe was crowned kyng at his citee of West-Chester, in all royal estate." Hardyng's Chronicle, f. 104. b.  
<sup>4</sup> Hist. Ang. Scrip. Vol. iii. p. 258.      <sup>5</sup> P. 179.      <sup>6</sup> The Saxon Chronicle says 907; some Chronicles 905; others 908.  
<sup>7</sup> Holinshed, J. Bromton, Ralph Higden, and Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh.      <sup>8</sup> Ethelred Earl of Mercia died in 912. (Sax. Chron.) Ethelfleda his countess in 919.      <sup>9</sup> William of Malmesbury.      <sup>10</sup> The writer of the Saxon Chronicle says all his *naval forces*.      <sup>11</sup> See also Henry Huntingdon.

days.

days as an anchorite, in a cell near St. John's church in Chester. The same tradition is mentioned by John Bromton, who adds, that his tomb was shewn in the middle of the area behind the cross at St. John's church: that there were those who asserted that he was yet alive when King Henry I. returned through Chester from Wales, and that he had an interview with that monarch; the historian himself inclines to the more generally received opinion, that King Harold died in battle, and was buried at Waltham. Henry de Knighton and other historians relate, that Queen Alghitha<sup>1</sup>, Harold's consort, after the conqueror's success, was for a while removed to Chester as a place of security, by her brothers Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar. The above-mentioned historian, Giraldus, relates a tradition also, that Henry, Emperor of Germany, spent the latter part of his days as a hermit in a desert place near Chester, and was buried in that city, having confessed his rank when on the point of death. Camden in noticing this tradition speaks of Henry IV. as the emperor of whom it was told, but all the circumstances mentioned by Giraldus, who only calls him "*Imperatorem Romanum Henricum*" apply to Henry V. There has been a tradition of very old standing; that this emperor led a retired life under the borrowed name of Godescallus, or Godstallus; and a lane near the cathedral, called Godstall-lane, is said to have obtained that appellation from him<sup>2</sup>. In an ancient Chronicle, called the Red Book of the abbey of Chester, was the following passage, which seems to give some countenance to these traditions. "A° 1110, Rex Henricus dedit filiam suam Godescallo imperatori Alemannæ, qui nunc Cestriæ jacet<sup>3</sup>." Notwithstanding the authority of this passage, and that the time when Giraldus Cambrensis found the tradition current at Chester, was but about sixty years after the death of Henry V. Emperor of Germany, yet it seems evident, from the authority of the best historians, that it was wholly void of foundation<sup>4</sup>; since we are told, that the Emperor Henry V. died at Utrecht, and that our monarch King Henry I.

<sup>1</sup> Henry Knighton inter Dec. Scrip. 2344. Roger de Hoveden, John Bromton, &c.

<sup>2</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 22.—Godstall, or St. Godstall-lane, is spoken of in a Survey of the Streets of Chester, temp. Edward III. It is described as near the wall on the north side of Eastgate-street, adjoining the church-yard of St. Werburgh, and it is said to have been the habitation of one Godescallus, or Godeftallus, who having been an Emperor, led in his latter days a holy and religious life, and died at Chester. See Harl. MSS. Brit. Mus. No. 2111. fol. 53. b. 56. a.

<sup>3</sup> Extract in Woodnoth's Collections, f. 238. b.

<sup>4</sup> Unless we suppose that some person of the name of Godescallus, or Godstallus, really lived and died at Chester, as is represented, but that the circumstance of his having been Emperor of Germany was a fiction.

who

who was then in Normandy, sent immediately for his daughter Maud the Empress, and brought her with him to England<sup>a</sup>.

It has been said, that when William the Conqueror gave the earldom of Chester, to Hugh Lupus, that monarch accompanied him as far as Malpas, where he invested him with the sovereignty of the county, and that the Earl then marched towards Chester, and took the city after having been thrice repulsed<sup>a</sup>. We are told, that upon another occasion the above-mentioned monarch, having determined on an expedition against the Welsh, marched with his army to Chester, where he rebuilt the castle, and placed in it a strong garrison<sup>b</sup>. In the year 1156 King Henry II. was at Chester, and encamped his army on Saltney-marsh, previously to his expedition into Wales<sup>c</sup>; the ensuing year he received at Chester the homage of Malcolm, King of Scotland<sup>d</sup>. In 1180, the greater part of this city was destroyed by fire<sup>e</sup>; a similar calamity happened in 1278<sup>f</sup>. King John was at Chester in 1212<sup>g</sup>.

In 1237, Hugh le Despencer, Stephen de Segrave, and Henry de Audley, were sent by King Henry III. to take charge of Chester castle<sup>h</sup>. In the year 1256, Prince Edward, who had two years before been created Earl of Chester, came to this city on the festival of St. Kenelm, being met on the road by the clergy and citizens in grand procession: he staid three days receiving the homage and fealty of the nobles of Cheshire and Wales, after which, having visited his castles and lands in the latter province, he returned through Chester and went to Darnhall<sup>i</sup>. In 1257 the king summoned his barons, spiritual and temporal, to be at Chester<sup>k</sup> with their vassals on a certain day, in order to revenge the inroads of the Welsh, and invade their territories.

During the war with the Barons in 1264, William le Zouch, then justice of Chester, and the citizens, fearing lest the city should be besieged either by the Barons or the Welsh, began to render it more secure by digging a deep ditch, for which purpose they destroyed some houses and gardens belonging to the abbey

<sup>a</sup> See Holinshed, M. Paris, &c.      <sup>b</sup> See Harl. MSS. No. 2155. p. 27. and Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh.      <sup>c</sup> Hist. Norm. Scrip. p. 516.      <sup>d</sup> Caradoc's History of Wales by Powell, edit. 1774, p. 118.

<sup>e</sup> Roger Hoveden in Scrip. post Bedam, fol. 281. b.      <sup>f</sup> Archdeacon Rogers's MS. History of Chester.      <sup>g</sup> Extracts from an ancient Chronicle of Chester abbey in Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.      <sup>h</sup> M. Paris.      <sup>i</sup> Collins's Peerage, I. 348.

<sup>j</sup> Extract from the Chronicle of Chester abbey, in Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

<sup>k</sup> Mr. Pennant justly observes, that Chester appears to have been a constant rendezvous of troops for every expedition on that side of the kingdom, from the time of the Normans to the reign of William III.

of

of Chester in Bagge-lane<sup>1</sup>. It appears that the fears of the citizens were not without cause, but their precautions seem to have been ineffectual, for we are told by our historians, that the Earl of Derby, in the course of the same year, came to Chester with a great army, and took possession of the city and castle for the Barons<sup>m</sup>. After the king and his son had fallen into the hands of Simon de Montfort, they made peace with that powerful baron, by investing him with the earldom of Chester; and his son Henry went to Chester in his father's name, received the homage of the citizens and of the nobles and freeholders of the county, and having made Luke de Taney justice, after a stay of ten days departed. The next year James de Audley and Urian de St. Pierre came to Chester, and with the concurrence of the citizens, besieged Luke de Taney the justice, and his adherents, for ten weeks, but without effect, the castle being in an excellent state of defence; but after the battle of Evesham, which proved fatal to Montfort and his party, Taney hearing that Prince Edward had arrived at Beeston Castle with some noble prisoners, and that he was advancing towards Chester, surrendered the castle, and threw himself upon the mercy of the king, who, after a short imprisonment, set him and his adherents at liberty<sup>n</sup>.

King Edward I. was at Chester in 1276 and 1277; in the former year he went for the purpose of summoning Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, to do his homage, who refusing to comply, he returned the next year with an army, and marching from Chester took Rhuddlan castle<sup>o</sup>. The same monarch was at Chester in the year 1282, from the 6th of June till the 4th of July, during which period many persons procured grants of protection, that their corn and other provisions might not be seized for the use of the king's forces; and others had safe convoys granted them for the purpose of victualling the army<sup>p</sup>; the following year having been victorious in his campaign against the Welsh, he was at Chester with his queen, and heard mass in St. Werburgh's church on St. Augustine's day, on which occasion he presented the convent with a cloth of great value<sup>q</sup>. In 1284, King Edward was at Chester for four days in the beginning of September<sup>r</sup>. He passed

<sup>1</sup> From the Chronicle before-mentioned, the writer of which says that the Justice promised the abbot an equivalent for the damage. On the Patent Roll of 51 Henry III. (1267), is an order for enquiring into the extent of the damage, and making compensation. <sup>m</sup> See Holinshed.

<sup>n</sup> Extracts from the Chronicle of Chester abbey in Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

<sup>o</sup> Walsingham. <sup>p</sup> Rot. Wallise in Turr. Lond. <sup>q</sup> Extracts from the Chronicle of Chester Abbey, *ut supra*.

<sup>r</sup> Rot. Wall.

through this city again on the feast of St. Nicholas, in 1294, being on his march to quell the rebellion of Madoc in North Wales<sup>1</sup>. In 1300 the Welsh finally submitted to the sovereignty of England, and did homage at Chester to Edward of Caernarvon, Prince of Wales<sup>2</sup>. In 1312 King Edward II. went to Chester to meet his favourite, Piers de Gaveston, on his return from Ireland<sup>3</sup>. In 1353, Edward the Black Prince, with the Earls of Warwick and Stafford, at the head of an armed force, came to Chester to protect the justices itinerant, Sir Richard Willoughby and Sir Richard Snaresnull, in the execution of their duty, from the violence of the populace<sup>4</sup>; the occasion is not mentioned, but it is probable, that there had been some commotion on account of the dearness of provisions, that year being recorded as a year of great scarcity<sup>5</sup>.

In the year 1394, King Richard II. came to Chester with the Duke of Gloucester and the Earls of March, Salisbury, Arundel, Nottingham, Rutland, and others, on his way to Ireland<sup>6</sup>. This monarch towards the close of his reign testified a great partiality towards the inhabitants of Cheshire; in the year 1397, when he scarcely knew whom to trust about his person, he appointed a corps of two thousand Cheshire archers for his body guard<sup>7</sup>. The next year, "for the love he bare to the gentlemen and commons of the shire of Chester, he caused it to be ordained (in the parliament holden at Shrewsbury) that from thenceforth it should be called and known by the name of the principality of Cheshire<sup>8</sup>." From this time he took the title of Prince of Chester: the act for making Cheshire a principality was revoked in the next reign.

When Henry of Lancaster was in arms against King Richard II. in 1399, Sir Robert and Sir John Legh, with other gentlemen of Cheshire, went to render their submission to him at Shrewsbury, from whence they accompanied him to Chester. The Duke staid several days in the city, and made a muster of his troops before the walls<sup>9</sup>. During his stay, Piers-a-Legh of Lyme, for his faithful adherence to King Richard, was executed, and his head placed on the highest tower of the city, and it is said by some authors, that the Duke of Surrey, having been sent on a message by the king, was imprisoned in the castle<sup>10</sup>. On the 19th of August the Duke of Lancaster marched to Flint, and drew up his army before the walls of the castle, in which the King was then stationed: a conference took place, the event of which is well known: the King having no other alternative, put

<sup>1</sup> Hist. Ang. Scrip. ii. p. 126. (Th. Wikes.)      <sup>2</sup> Caradoc's History of Wales, by Powell.  
<sup>3</sup> Leland's Collectan. i. 248.      <sup>4</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, i. 161.      <sup>5</sup> See Walsingham.  
<sup>6</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2111. f. 97. b. Extract from various Chronicles, by the second Randal Holme; the date is there erroneously written 1395.      <sup>7</sup> Holinshed.      <sup>8</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>9</sup> Ibid.      <sup>10</sup> Ibid.

himself into the power of the ambitious Henry; the following night they both slept at Chester previously to their departure for London<sup>o</sup>.

In 1405 a pardon was granted to the citizens of Chester, for having been in rebellion with Henry Percy<sup>f</sup>. Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, who was condemned to perpetual imprisonment in 1447, for practising the king's death, was for a while confined in the castle at Chester. Robert Needham, a Cheshire gentleman, who was supposed to have been concerned with the Duke her husband in devising a plan for her deliverance, was with others hanged at Tyburn, taken down alive and pardoned, after he had been stripped by the executioner to be quartered. In the year 1453, or as some of the annalists say, 1455, Queen Margaret, consort of Henry VI. "came to Chester upon progresse with manye greate lordes and ladyes with her, and was graciously received by the mayor and citizens<sup>g</sup>." In the summer preceding the battle of Blore-heath the queen came again to Chester in her progress, where she is said to have kept "open and royal house," and by her liberality to have gained the hearts of the gentry<sup>h</sup>. In an inquisition taken in the 28th year of King Henry VI., the city of Chester is represented as being then become so decayed and depopulated, by reason of the choaking of its harbour by sands, and the consequences of the late rebellion in Wales, that the citizens were unable to pay their rent to the crown<sup>i</sup>.

In 1474, or as some say, 1475, Edward Prince of Wales, son of King Edward IV. being then only five years old, came to Chester about Christmas, and was conveyed to the castle in much pomp<sup>k</sup>. On the 18th of July, 1494, King Henry VII. with his mother, and the queen, came to Chester with a great retinue, and went thence to Hawarden<sup>l</sup>; "the Earl of Derby and a number of gallants of Chester attending<sup>m</sup>." In 1498, Prince Arthur appears to have resided at Chester from the 4th of August till the 9th of September<sup>n</sup>. One of the Chester annalists mentions a circumstance, which though not connected with this city, may be noticed as not being spoken of by our historians; that King Henry VIII. narrowly escaped being drowned in the year 1524, by leaping over a ditch after his hawk<sup>o</sup>. This monarch, by his royal mandate, granted the inhabitants of Chester an exemption from being pressed for the wars, by the royal placards, it being

<sup>o</sup> Holinshed.      <sup>f</sup> Records of the Corporation.      <sup>g</sup> Annals of Chester. Harl. MSS. No. 2125. f. 222. &c. and King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 185.      <sup>h</sup> Harl. MSS. 2111. f. 112. b. Extracts from divers chronicles, by the second Randal Holme; the date is there 1458, but it seems to have been erroneously written for 1459.      <sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2082. 1.      <sup>k</sup> King's Vale Royal, p. 187. and Harl. MSS. No. 2125.      <sup>l</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2125., where this visit is said to have taken place in 1497.      <sup>m</sup> King's Vale-Royal.      <sup>n</sup> Ibid. p. 190.

<sup>o</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2125.

meet

meet that they should remain at home for the defence of their own city<sup>o</sup>. In the year 1551 there happened a very destructive flood, by which great numbers of cattle were destroyed in Saltney-marsh, and several lives were lost in the suburbs and neighbourhood of Chester<sup>q</sup>: in 1584 happened another great flood, occasioned by a violent storm of thunder, lightning, and hail. Much damage was done by this storm, but it does not appear that any lives were lost. The hail-stones are said to have been five inches in circumference<sup>r</sup>.

It does not appear that Queen Elizabeth ever visited Chester, but her two great favourites, the Earls of Leicester and Essex, the former in 1583<sup>s</sup>, the latter in 1598, were received with almost regal honours. The Earl of Essex was at Chester both on his road to Ireland and on his return. About this time the influx of soldiers passing and re-passing to and from Ireland was so great, that the city was not able to contain them, and many riots and disorders ensued<sup>t</sup>. The Earl of Tyrone, who had so long maintained a rebellion against the Queen, was brought through Chester in 1603, and lodged at the mayor's house<sup>u</sup>.

The Chester annalists have recorded, among the remarkable events of the seventeenth century, the arrival of "a stranger and his wife, in 1606, who both danced on a rope tied overthwart the street at the High-Cross, and showed strange feats of activity<sup>v</sup>"; and of an Italian in 1649, "who never ate meat but stones, but he took tobacco, and drank wine or strong drink till he could neither go nor stand<sup>w</sup>". This must have been Francis Bataglia, of whom there is an engraved portrait, by Hollar.

On the 21st of August, 1617, King James I. with a great retinue came to Chester, where he was received by the citizens with all the magnificence they could devise, and entertained with a sumptuous banquet at the Pentice. The mayor, Mr. Edward Button, presented his Majesty with 100*l.* in a gold cup, and was offered knighthood, but refused. The King went the same night to Vale-Royal<sup>x</sup>.

<sup>o</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 1980. f. 185. *b.*  
at Bretton. Harl. MSS. No. 2125.

<sup>q</sup> One Fulke Ducker was drowned, with six children  
<sup>r</sup> King's Vale-Royal.

<sup>s</sup> A meeting of the corporation was held on the 13th of May, 1583, to settle how the Earl of Leicester should be entertained; it was proposed that there should be a banquet, and that for the present supply of money, all members of the corporation should lend from 20*s.* to 6*s.* 8*d.* according to their degree. This intention was afterwards given up, and it was determined to present the earl with forty angels of gold, in a cup valued at 18*l.* Harl. MSS. No. 1989. f. 392.

<sup>t</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2125.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. In King's Vale-Royal it is said to have been in 1603.

<sup>v</sup> King's Vale-Royal, p. 211. and Harl. MSS. No. 2125.

<sup>w</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2125.

<sup>x</sup> Extract from the Register of the parish of Whitegate.—"A. D. 1617, the 21st daye of August, the same daye being Thursdaye, King James came to Vale-Royal, and there kept his court until Monday next after."

On the 18th of September 1630, we are told that the Duchess of Tremouille<sup>†</sup> mother-in-law of Lord Strange, was received at Chester even with greater state than King James; she was met at Hoole-heath by at least six hundred horsemen, the corporation, the gentlemen of the artillery, &c. A banquet was prepared for her at the Pentice, and the annalist observes that it was said, that there never were so many knights, esquires, and gentlemen, assembled together in Chester before<sup>‡</sup>.

One of the Cheshire annalists has recorded, that on the 28th of March 1640, the wife of John Owen, taylor, was brought to bed in the Castle-lane of four children, all alive and christened; "they were all females, and died the day after;" the annalist observes, that this prognosticated the troubles and sickness which after ensued<sup>§</sup>.

The first interruption of the peace, which happened at Chester, after the commencement of the war between king Charles I. and his Parliament, was on the 18th of August 1642, when a drum was beaten for the Parliament by order of Sir William Brereton: the loyal citizens, who appear to have composed by far the more numerous party, rose in consequence in arms, and Sir William Brereton, who was afterwards commander-in-chief of the parliamentary forces in this county, and to whose repeated assaults the city, after a long siege, was at length compelled to yield, was, at the intercession of the mayor, (William Ince Esq.,) with much difficulty saved from the fury of the populace<sup>¶</sup>: not long after this the king went to Chester for the purpose of securing that city in his interest, and was staying there when Sir Richard Crane came from Prince Rupert with tidings of some successes obtained by his forces before Worcester, and presented to him the colours taken on that occasion<sup>¶</sup>. The King and the Prince remained at the bishop's palace<sup>¶</sup> at Chester, from the 23d to the 27th of September; when, having given orders for fortifying the city, he returned through North-Wales to Shrewsbury. The corporation presented the King with 200*l.*, and the Prince with 100*l.*, and attended him on his road towards Wrexham<sup>¶</sup>. The beginning of the next summer by "the advice of Colonel Ellis, Major Sydney, and other skilful engineers, a trench was cut, and mud-walls made from Dee-side, without the bars, to Dee-side at the New-Tower; the walls repaired and lined with earth; the New-gate and New-tower-gate, mured up; divers pieces of cannon placed in convenient places, both for offence and defence, draw-bridges

<sup>†</sup> Wife of Claude de la Tremouille, Duke of Thouars, Prince of Palmont, and mother of Charlotte, Lady Strange, afterwards Countess of Derby, celebrated for her brave defence of Latham-house.

<sup>‡</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>§</sup> Ibid.

<sup>¶</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative of the Siege of Chester.

Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155. f. 97.

<sup>¶</sup> Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 34.

<sup>¶</sup> Harl. MSS. N 2125.

<sup>¶</sup> Ibid.

at

at the North-gate, East-gate bridge, and castle, made; and turnpikes at all the outworks, as bars; Cow-lane-end, without the North-gate, and at the mount at Dee-lane-end, by Little-St.-John's; besides several mounts, pit-falls, and other devices, to secure the out-works, and annoy the enemy's approach to the city."

The out-works are described as beginning "about the middle of that part of the city walls, which lies between the New-tower (looking towards Hawarden) and the North-gate, and proceeding towards the stone-bridge, leading towards Blacon; inclining then to the north-east, and taking in the utmost limits of the further North-gate-street, then turning eastward, near Flooker's-brook, and encompassing Horn-lane, the jutting-croft, and all that part of the town to Boughton; from whence the works were carried to the brink of the river."

Sir Nicholas Byron was sent by the King to be colonel-general of Cheshire, and governor of Chester; in which situation he appears to have continued till he was taken prisoner by the parliamentary forces, between Chester and Nantwich; in Jan. 1644<sup>b</sup>: it appears nevertheless that Sir Abraham Shipman acted as governor of Chester in November and December 1643; Sir William Legge, lieutenant-general of the ordnance, was made governor of Chester in May 1644; and continued in that situation in the month of August following<sup>c</sup>; in the latter month Colonel Marrow either succeeded Sir William Legge, or acted as lieutenant-governor. During the latter part of the siege Lord Byron, son of Sir Nicholas, had the government of the garrison.

On the 18th of July Sir William Brereton came with his forces before Chester; and on the 20th made a violent assault on the works, but was repulsed<sup>d</sup>: soon afterwards Spital-Boughton-chapel was pulled down, and several houses and barns in the neighbourhood, to prevent their affording harbour to the besiegers. In the month of November following, Sir William Brereton, being then at Hawarden, and renewing his threats against the city, the suburbs of Handbridge, Over-Legh-Hall, Bache-Hall, and Flooker's-brook-Hall, were burnt down by order of the governor, for the same purpose<sup>e</sup>. In Feb. 1644-5, Great-Boughton

<sup>a</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative. <sup>b</sup> MS. Narrative of the Siege of Chester, from which Mr. Broffer's printed History of the Siege is chiefly taken. See p. 468. <sup>c</sup> Clarendon, ii. 145, 8vo. <sup>d</sup> Whitlocke, p. 76. <sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2135. f. 22. and 60. <sup>f</sup> Narrative of the Siege of Chester.

<sup>g</sup> Besides these, Brewer's-Hall, on the other side of the Dee; Nun's-Hall, Sir William Brereton's; Dutton-Hall, in upper North-gate-street, Mr. Jolly's; Hoole-Hall, Mr. Bunbury's; Lord Choimondeley's Hall, in St. John's church-yard; and the houses of Mr. Gamul and Mr. Werden, were all destroyed; some by the besiegers, but mostly by the besieged, for the purpose above-mentioned: the cathedral and St. John's church sustained great injury, the whole damage being estimated at 200,000*l*. The burning of Handbridge, as Randal Holme observed, caused the ruin of some hundreds of people. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

shared the same fate, and the hospital and chapel of St. John without the North-gate were rased to the ground<sup>e</sup>, a party of the parliamentary forces being then stationed at Christleton. Prince Rupert having been appointed generalissimo of Cheshire and Lancashire, arrived at Chester on the 11th of March, being received with much joy, and entertained with public feasts: in the month of June following, the city works were much improved by the Prince's engineers, the mud-walls were heightened, several new mounts made, and trenches cut<sup>f</sup>. On the 18th of Aug. Colonel Marrow, then governor, received his death's-wound in a skirmish with a party of Sir William Brereton's forces: Prince Rupert was then in the garrison, and the next day made an unsuccessful sally, with two regiments of horse<sup>g</sup>. In the month of October 1644, Chester was blockaded by Sir William Brereton<sup>h</sup>. Prince Maurice was at Chester in the months of February and March 1645, and caused a protestation or test, to be tendered to the inhabitants: after the prince was gone the parliamentary army came again from Wales, and fixing their quarters so near to the city, as Nether-Legh, made an attack upon it from Handbridge, but were repulsed. After this attack Handbridge was again burnt by the citizens, together with all the glovers' houses, under the walls, and the houses without Water-gate<sup>i</sup>. On the 20th of May 1645, Sir William Brereton drew off his forces from Chester; on the 22d the siege was raised, and the town relieved by the King's forces.

On the 19th of September, Colonel Jones having drawn off a large party of his forces from the siege of Beeston castle, marched by night to Chester, and stormed the out-works before day-break. The attack was so sudden, that they not only possessed themselves of Boughton, but St. John's church, the steeple of which they turned into a battery<sup>k</sup>; and a great part of the suburbs, with the mayor's house, (where they seized the sword and mace), before the garrison were well prepared for their defence; but no impression was made on the city itself, before the King, who was on his march thither, when he heard of Colonel Jones's success, arrived at Chester, on the 23d of September. His Majesty lodged at Sir Francis Gamul's house, near the bridge: on the 25th, the battle of Rowton-heath was fought, between Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who had the command of the forces which accompanied the King for the relief of Chester, and major Poyntz, who came to the relief of the besiegers. This battle, which proved so fatal to his cause, the King had the mortification of seeing, first from the leads of the Phoenix-tower, and afterwards from St. Werburgh's steeple,

<sup>e</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative.

<sup>f</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

<sup>i</sup> Whitlocke.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

where a shot from some of the assailants' works killed an officer with whom he was conversing by his side<sup>l</sup>. His Majesty was attended by the mayor, Sir Francis Gamul, and alderman Cowper: he remained that night at Chester, and on the morrow, not without some danger, escaped with five hundred horse to Denbigh castle, whither he was attended by Mr. Cowper and Sir Francis Gamul.

The King, before he quitted Chester, commissioned Lord Byron to surrender the garrison, if he saw no hopes of assistance within eight days; the brave governor defended it nevertheless for more than four months. The besiegers now repossessed themselves of the suburbs, and on the 29th made a breach in the walls near the New-gate, but were prevented from forcing an entrance. From the first to the ninth of October, the besiegers made various unsuccessful attempts upon the walls; on that day Sir William Mainwaring and Captain Adlington were killed in the street<sup>m</sup>.

“By this time,” (says Randal Holme,) “our women are all on fire, striving through a gallant emulation to out-do our men, and will make good our yielding walls, or lose their lives to shew they dare attempt it. The work goes forwards, and they, like so many valiant Amazons, do outface death and dare danger, though it lurke in every basket; seven are shot, and three slain; yet they scorn to leave their matchless undertaking, and thus they continue for ten days space, possessing the beholders that they are immortal. Our ladies likewise, like so many exemplary goddesses, create a matchless forwardness in the meaner forts by their dirty undertakings, that he who saw them would have thought a hundred suns eclipsed, at least-ways clouded with our loyal dust, had he been in that place, which they wipe off with such a pleasing smile, that they seem rather silent solicitors of a new deformity, than willing partners with that purchased honour<sup>n</sup>.” About this time the besiegers made a bridge of boats, which the citizens made several ineffectual attempts to destroy; the Dee-mills and the water-tower, were several times attacked by the besiegers, and the citizens were kept in perpetual alarm by renewed assaults, and by the explosion of hand-granadoes, the effects of which are minutely described by Randal Holme<sup>o</sup>.

On

<sup>l</sup> Randal Holme.

<sup>m</sup> See Whitlocke, 185; and Randal Holme's Narrative.

<sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

<sup>o</sup> Some of his descriptions are expressed in a very whimsical manner, ill according with the nature of the scenes which he describes: the following may serve for a specimen: speaking of the mischief caused by the bursting of some granadoes December 10, he says, “Two houses in the Water-gate-street skip joint from joint, and create an earthquake, the main-posts jostle each other, while the frighted casements fly for fear; in a word, the whole fabrick is a perfect chaos, lively set forth in this metamorphosis; the grand-mother, mother, and three children, are struck starke dead and buried in  
the

On the 10th of December, Colonel Booth, with the Lancashire forces, joined Sir William Brereton in his blockade of Chester, when such dispositions were made, "that the city was quite encompassed, nor was ever any place more straitly beleagued," so that the town and garrison were obliged to feed on horses, dogs, and cats; notwithstanding this distress, they refused nine several summonses, nor did they answer the tenth, till they had received undoubted assurance that there was no hope of any succours. No shot was fired after the 25th of December; a treaty was then set on foot, which was carried on for several weeks by commissioners on each side: the result was that the city and castle were surrendered on the third of February 1646, upon terms equally honourable to the besiegers, and to the besieged. Sir William Brereton immediately took possession of the castle, with its ordnance and arms, the county-palatine seal, sword, and records: pursuant to one of the articles of the treaty, two thousand stand of arms, and five hundred and twenty head-pieces were brought into the castle-court; the sword and mace were restored to the city, but contrary to the terms of the treaty, the parliamentary army pulled down the high crosses; defaced the choir of the cathedral; destroyed the organ; broke the painted glass in all the church-windows, and demolished all the fonts.

In the month of May 1648, some attempts being then on foot in the north for restoring the King's power, the fortifications at Chester were put in complete repair. In the month of August following, Captain Oldham formed a plan for seizing the city and castle, for the use of the King, but the design being discovered, they both suffered death. In July 1649, Colonel Robert Dukensfield was appointed governor of Chester: in 1651, the Earls of Derby and

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the ruins of this humble edifice."—"About midnight they shoot seven more, one of these lights in an old man's bed-chamber, almost dead with age, and sends him some days sooner to his grave, than perhaps was given him:—the next day, (December 11,) six more breake in upon us, one of which persuades an old woman to bear the old man company to heaven, because the times were evil." Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155, f. 112.

<sup>p</sup> MS. Narrative of the Siege.

<sup>q</sup> Randal Holme.

<sup>r</sup> The governor, Lord Byron, was to march with due attendance, and to have two coaches and four for his lady and other ladies and gentlemen in his suit; to take eighty of his books, and all his deeds and evidences, and MSS.; all other noblemen and officers, according to their ranks, to have a proportionate attendance, and to be allowed to take a limited sum of money; the citizens to be secured in their persons, goods, and liberties; no churches, or any evidences, or writings belonging to them to be injured; the castle without any injury to be delivered up to Sir William Brereton, with all the ordnance, arms, records, &c. also the horses, arms, &c. not to be taken away from the garrison, but to be brought into the castle-court, &c. &c.

<sup>s</sup> Randal Holme.

<sup>t</sup> Whitlocke.

<sup>u</sup> MS. Narrative of the Siege of Chester.

<sup>v</sup> Perfect Diurnal.

Lauderdale,

Lauderdale, were prisoners in the castle<sup>7</sup>. When Sir George Booth put himself at the head of a formidable insurrection against the then ruling powers, in the year 1659, he took possession of Chester, and appointed Colonel Croxton governor; who after Sir George's defeat at Northwich, on the 16th of August, surrendered it to General Lambert, on his first summons<sup>8</sup>.

In the month of November 1688, Lord Molineux and Lord Aston, two Roman catholic peers, seized Chester for King James<sup>2</sup>. Upon the approach of the rebels from the north in the year 1745, this city was garrisoned with several regiments of soldiers, commanded by the Earl of Cholmondeley, and his brother the general; the walls were lined with guards day and night; the gates were secured, and no one allowed to go in or out without a pass-port: the engineer had prepared a plan for extending the works of the garrison, but it was not carried into execution.

Chester having been the metropolis of the little sovereignty, with which Hugh Lupus and his successors were invested by King William the Conqueror, the castle, built by that monarch, became their palace; the ancient hall, which stood in the lower-ward, and had of late years been used as the shire-hall<sup>b</sup>, bore Hugh Lupus's name<sup>c</sup>; the court of Exchequer, adjoining to the end of the great hall, was said to have been the room<sup>d</sup> in which the Earls held their parliament. A survey of the castle of Chester, made in 1624, states that the shire-hall was much decayed, and the chapel much more ruinous than before. Among rooms mentioned in this survey, are the Great-chamber, the Prince's-chamber, and the hall to the Prince's chamber<sup>e</sup>.

Most of the ancient buildings of the castle were begun to be taken down in the year 1789, for the purpose of erecting a new county gaol<sup>f</sup>, shire-hall, &c. The county gaol, (called the gaol of the castle of Chester,) the shire-hall, the

<sup>7</sup> Perfe& Diurnal, September 29, 1651.

<sup>8</sup> See Lord Clarendon, and Heath.

<sup>a</sup> Howell's Medul. Hist. Ang.

<sup>b</sup> There appears to have been formerly a shire-hall without the castle walls. In 1581, the citizens having obtained from the queen a grant of the old shire-hall, for the sum of 40*l.*; removed it from the side of the castle, to North-gate-street; the upper part was then made a store-house for the stowage of corn and other provisions of the queen, for the service of Ireland; the lower part was used by the city for a butcher's shambles. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2020. f. 421. & N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>c</sup> Pennant describes this hall as about ninety-nine feet in length, and forty-five in breadth; the height very awful; the roof supported by wood-work, in a bold style, carved; and placed on the sides, resting on stout brackets. Tour in Wales, i. 165.

<sup>d</sup> Pennant describes this room as having two seats at the upper end, with Gothic arches, for the earl and the abbot, and eight on one side for the eight barons. Tour in Wales, i. 165

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2091. f. 310.

<sup>f</sup> The act for taking down and re-building the gaol at Chester passed in 1788; and an act to grant farther powers for this purpose in 1807.

prothonotary's-office, and record-rooms, now occupy the south-east side of the ancient lower-ward. The gaol, a spacious and commodious structure, was completed and opened in the year 1798. The shire-hall, situated in the centre of the lower-ward, is a magnificent structure; each of the columns of the portico, being twelve in number, is formed of one stone, twenty-three feet in height, from the Manley quarry; there are also twelve columns within the hall, each of one stone, nineteen feet in height, besides the capital; these are of the Ionic order, those of the portico, of the Doric; the hall is eighty feet by fifty, and forty-four feet in height; the south-east side is semi-circular. On the south-west side of the lower-ward is an armory, completed in the year 1807, capable of containing thirty-thousand stand of arms<sup>s</sup>. All these buildings have been erected from the designs, and under the superintendance of Mr. Harrison; the armory at the joint expence of the crown and county; the others at the sole expence of the county, having been defrayed out of the revenues of the Weever navigation. The north-east and north-west sides of the area were occupied by the barracks, which are now in part taken down, and an exchequer-court, to be used occasionally as a sessions-house; new-barracks are begun to be erected near the same site. All the upper-ward, or *Ballium* of the castle<sup>b</sup>, remains, except the gate-way which separated the two wards: at the south-east angle is the ancient building, called Julius Cæsar's-tower, now used as a magazine for gun-powder. A new magazine is now erecting in a more secure place, in the fosse under the battery, on the south-west side of the upper-ward; in the same ward are store-rooms, and apartments belonging to the governor, which are occupied by the officers of the fort and barracks, except during the assizes, when the judges reside in the castle, of which the chief justice has then the custody, and gives the watch-word.

The castle is usually garrisoned by two companies of invalids<sup>1</sup>, and is under the command of a governor, lieutenant-governor, and constable. The constable has the charge of the prisoners, both criminals and debtors, the sheriff not having any authority over either: he holds his office for life by patent from the crown, his fee being 18*l.* *per ann.* Mr. Matthew Hudson is the present constable. When the city of Chester was made a county of itself, in the reign of Henry VII., the castle, with its precincts, was excepted, and still continues attached to the shire, being extra-parochial.

<sup>s</sup> See the annexed plan of these buildings, with which we have been favoured by Mr. Harrison, the architect.

<sup>b</sup> See the more ancient parts described under the head of Castles, &c. in the introduction, p. 455, where will be found an antient plan, &c. of the castle, and a view of Hugh Lupus's Hall, &c.

<sup>1</sup> In time of war generally by a detachment of regulars, or the militia.





In the township of Glovers-stone, adjoining the castle, the bodies of convicts left for execution are delivered by the constable, or his deputy, to the city-sheriffs, whose office it has been from time immemorial to see the sentence of the law fulfilled within their own limits. There have been various unsatisfactory conjectures respecting the origin of this custom, which is sufficiently elucidated by some ancient records of the corporation. It is stated in an inquisition taken in the year 1321, for the purpose of ascertaining the tolls payable at each of the city gates, that the mayor and citizens, as keepers of the north-gate, had a right to certain tolls, for which privilege they were bound to watch the said gate, and the prisoners in the prison of the Earl there imprisoned, to keep the key of the felons' gallows; to hang up the condemned criminals; to execute the sentence of pillory; proclaim the ban of the Earl within the city<sup>k</sup>, &c. &c. Another record, entitled, "the claims of the citizens of Chester," after reciting their claim to various privileges and immunities, states that there were certain customary tenants of the city, sixteen in number, who by their tenure were bound to watch the city three nights in the year, which are specified, and also to watch and bring up felons and thieves condemned, as well in the court of the judiciary of Chester in the county there, as before the mayor of Chester in full crown-mote, as far as the gallows, for their safe conduct and charge, under the penalty which thereto attaches; for which services the said customary tenants had certain privileges and exemptions<sup>l</sup>. This record is without date, but from the names of Sir Hugh Hulfe and some others, to whom the houses to which these services were attached belonged, it appears to have been about the year 1400. Some houses, held by this tenure, still pay a composition of five shillings each, called Execution Rents, in lieu of the service above-mentioned, which is performed by the sheriffs.

The most ancient religious house in Chester was that of St. Peter and St. Paul, which formerly occupied the site of what was afterwards the abbey of St. Werburgh. Some writers have asserted that a nunnery was founded at Chester, by Wulphere, King of Mercia, and that his daughter Werburgh, afterwards canonized, was the abbess; but for this there is no authority. It is better ascertained that about two hundred years after Wulphere's time, there was a monastery at Chester, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and that the bones of St. Werburgh were removed thither for security, during an invasion of the Danes in 875<sup>m</sup>.

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<sup>k</sup> Black book of the city of Chester, p. 20.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. p. 27.

<sup>m</sup> Henry Bradshaw, in his life of this saint gives an account of her shrine being received at Chester with great solemnity, and being deposited in the old church of St. Peter and St. Paul. He relates many legendary tales of the miraculous preservation of the city, by the interposition of St. Werburgh, particularly

It is not certainly known of what sex the religious of this convent were, but we learn that having fallen into a state of decay, it was rebuilt and enlarged in the reign of King Athelstan, by Ethelfleda countess of Mercia, who placed in it secular canons, and altered the patron saints from St. Peter and St. Paul, to St. Oswald, and St. Werburgh<sup>1</sup>. Leofric Earl of Mercia is said to have been a great benefactor to this convent, and to have repaired its decayed buildings. In the year 1093, Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, having expelled the secular canons, founded an abbey of Benedictine monks<sup>2</sup>, under the direction of the celebrated Anselm, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, whom he invited over to England for that purpose. The founder ended his days in this monastery, in the year 1101, having been professed a monk, as it is said, three days before his decease<sup>3</sup>. This monastery, which was munificently endowed by Hugh Lupus, and enriched by the donations of numerous benefactors, continued in opulence and splendour till the general dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII., when its revenues were estimated at 1003*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* clear yearly income. There are now scarcely any other remains of the abbey than the refectory, which is occupied as a grammar-school, and the gateway: the abbot's hall was standing in 1649<sup>4</sup>.

About three years after the dissolution, the King changed the conventual into a cathedral-church, to be called the cathedral-church of Christ, and the blessed Virgin Mary; and placed in it a dean, and six prebendaries; Thomas Clerk, the last abbot, became the first dean; Henry Man, the second dean, afterwards bishop of Sodor and Man, had been a Carthusian monk at Sion. Chester was at the same time made a bishop's see, and John Bird, who had been provincial of the Carmelites, and afterwards bishop of Bangor, was appointed the first bishop<sup>5</sup>. Ample endowments consisting of manors, rectories, advowsons, &c. which had belonged to the dissolved monastery of St. Werburgh, were given to the bishop,

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particularly in one instance, where he tells us that the army of Griffin King of Wales, then besieging the city, was stricken with blindness, in consequence of the saint's shrine being placed on the walls. <sup>1</sup> Henry Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh. <sup>2</sup> Henry Bradshaw speaking of

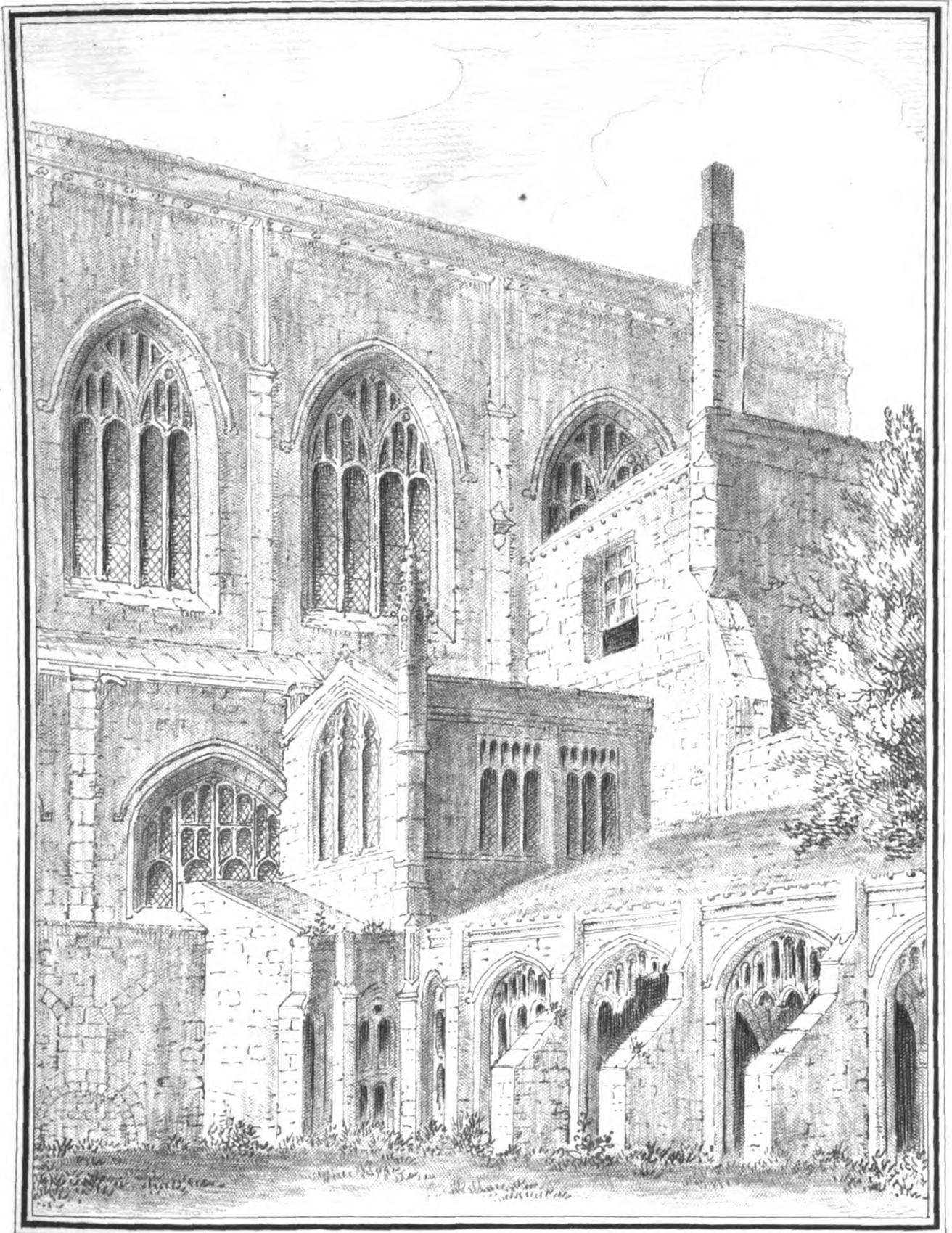
Hugh Lupus's foundation says,

" The founder also buylded within the monasterie,  
Many mighty places convenient for religion,  
Compas'd with stronge walles ou the west partie,  
And on the other syde, with walles of the towne,  
Closed at every ende with a sure postron.  
In south part the cimiterie environed rounde aboute,  
For a sure defence enemies to holde oute."

<sup>3</sup> Ordericus Vitalis inter Hist. Norman. Scrip. p. 787. <sup>4</sup> See Willis's Cathedrals. A more particular account of the present state of the abbey buildings will be found in p. 452, 453.

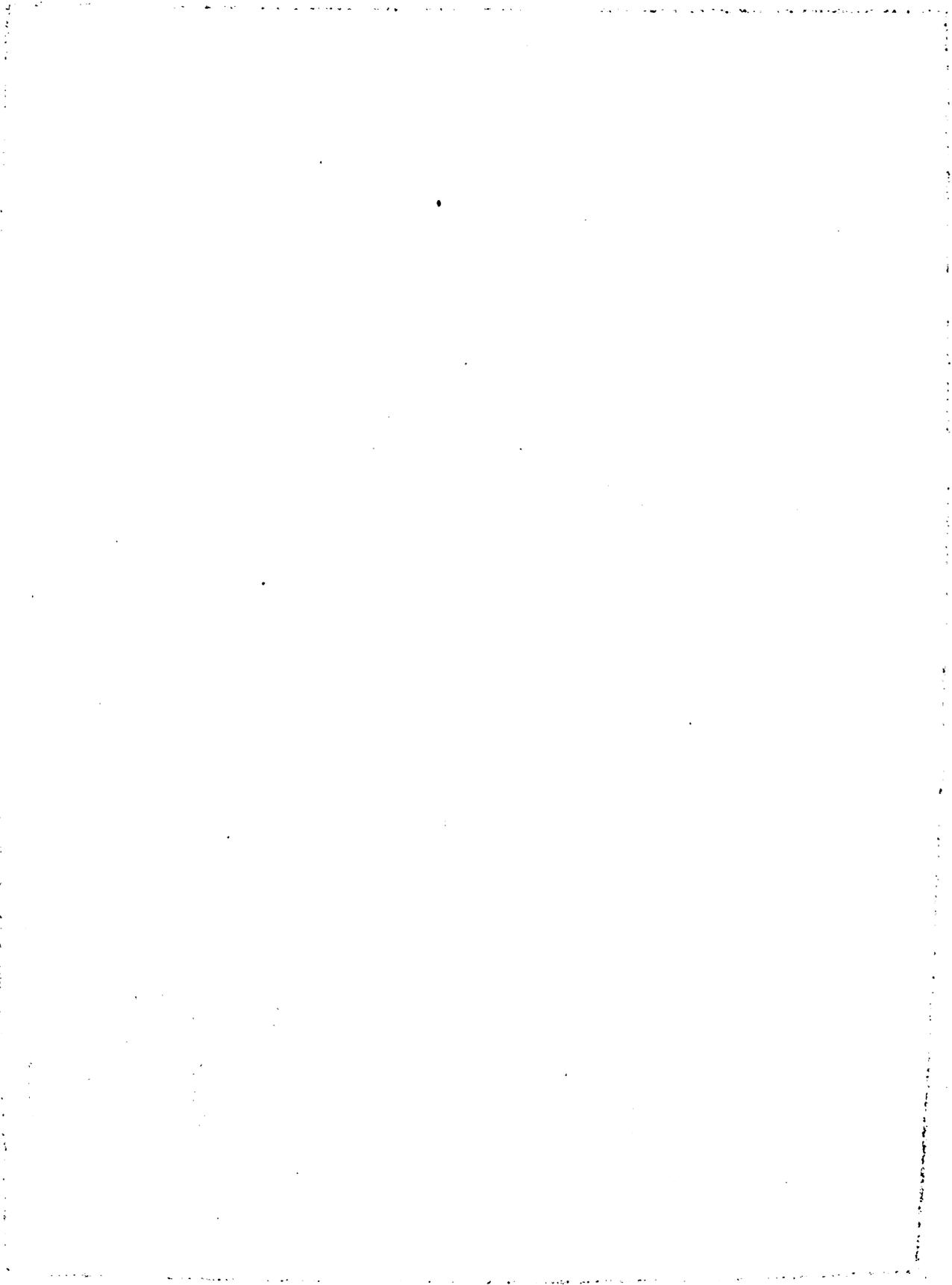
<sup>5</sup> He was deprived by queen Mary for being married, and died in 1556.

and

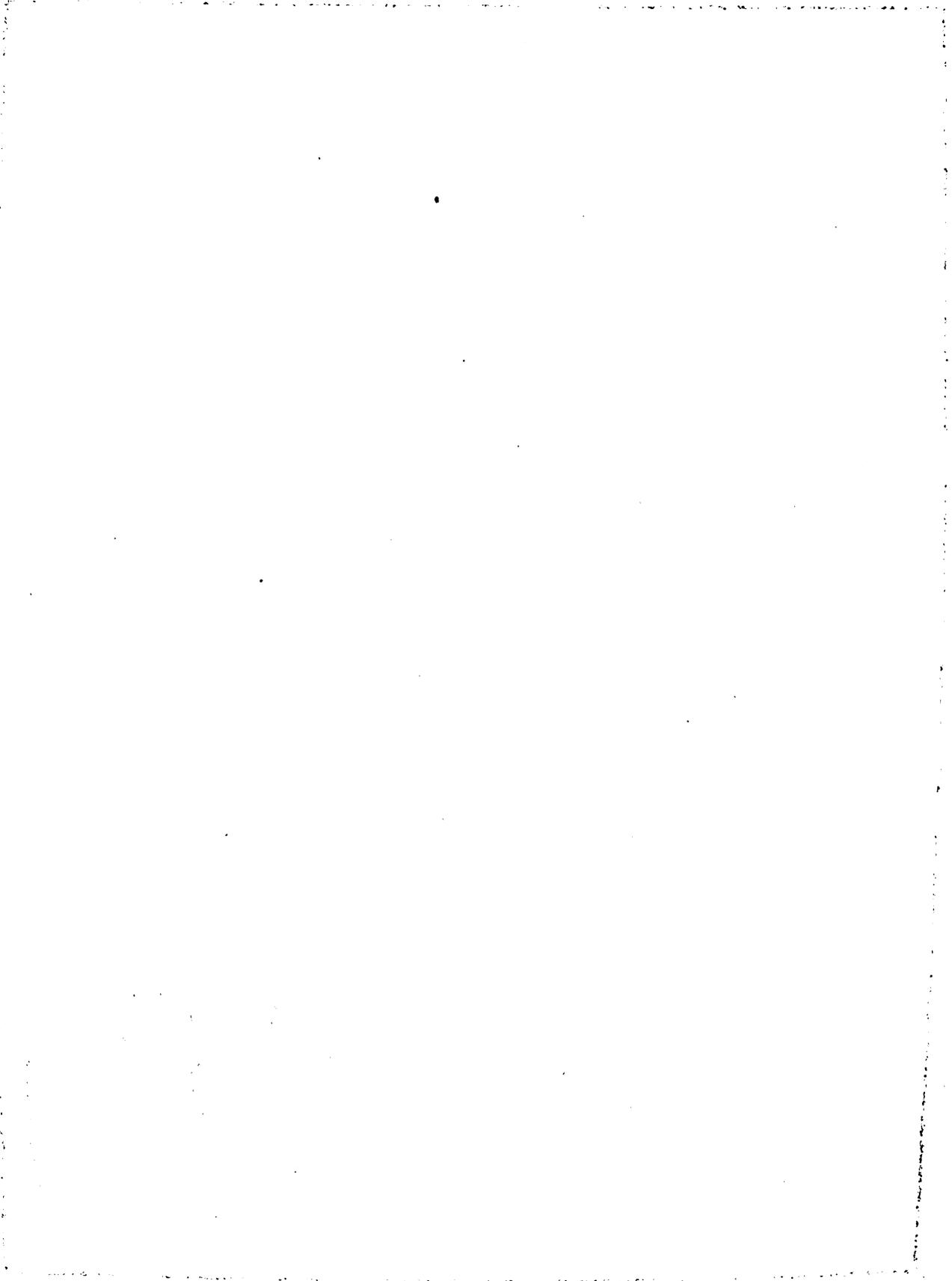


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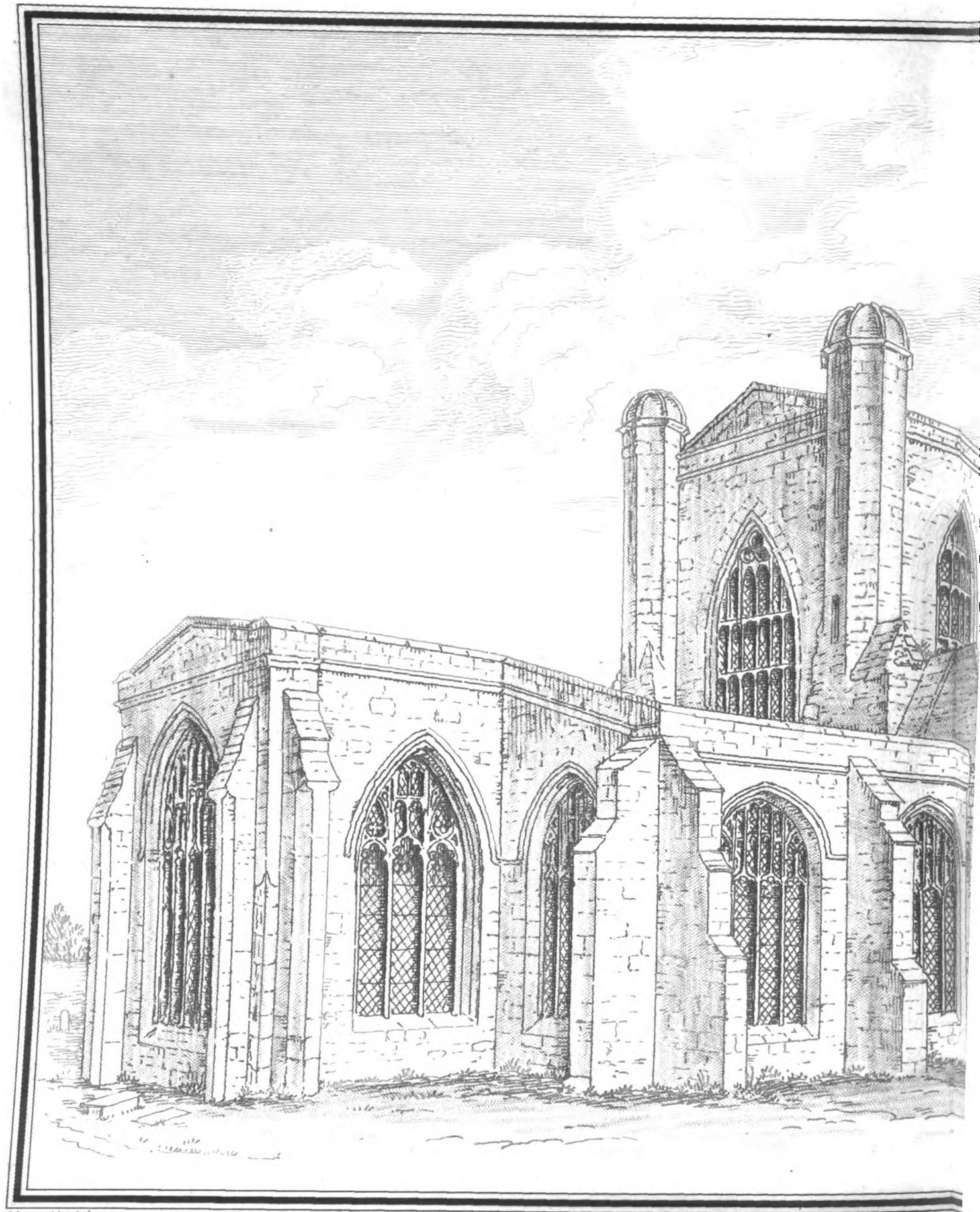
**PART OF THE NAVE AND CLOISTERS OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL,  
AND OF THE BISHOP'S PALACE ADJOINING.**



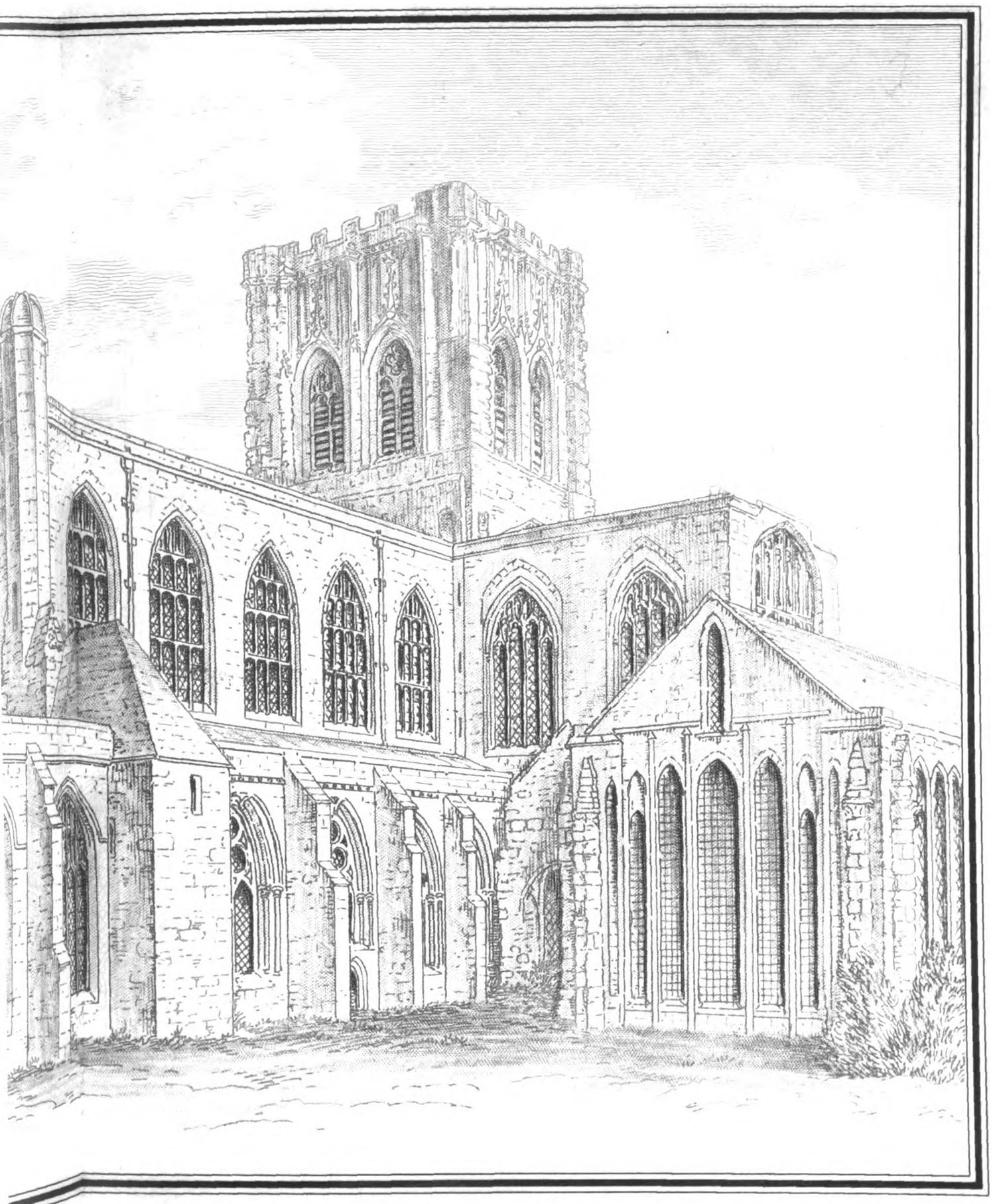








*J. Lyons del. et fecit*



VIEW OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.





and to the dean and chapter. By some unfortunate circumstances, which occurred not long afterwards, the dean and chapter lost the estates<sup>o</sup>, which had been intended by King Henry for their endowment, getting in lieu of them only certain fee-farm rents issuing out of the same manors, which were incapable of improvement<sup>p</sup>. The appointment of the prebendaries as well as of the dean was originally in the crown, but in the reign of Philip and Mary the appointment of the prebendaries was given to the bishop and his successors. The bishop's palace was wholly rebuilt at the expence of 2200*l.* by bishop Keene soon after his promotion to the see in 1752<sup>q</sup>.

<sup>o</sup> The original grant comprised the manors of Bromborough, Barnshaw, Tilston-Fernall, Huntington, Ince, Ireby, Salghton, Sutton in Wirrall, and Upton; the great tithes of St. Oswald in Chester, Bromborough, Ince, Neston, Prestbury, Shotwick, Sutton, West-Kirkby, Upton, and Willalton in Cheshire, and Campden in Gloucestershire; and the advowsons of St. Mary's and St. Peter's in Chester, Astbury, Bebington, Chisleton, Coddington, Dodleston, Eastham, Handley, Neston, Northenden, Prestbury, Thurston, and West-Kirkby in Cheshire, and Campden in Gloucestershire.

<sup>p</sup> Sir Richard Cotton, comptroller of the household to King Edward VI., having procured the imprisonment of dean Cliffe, and two of the prebendaries of Chester in the Fleet-prison, wrought upon them by intimidation to convey almost the whole of their estates to him, reserving only a yearly rent of 603*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* to the chapter. The two succeeding deans endeavoured to set aside this bargain as extorted by compulsion, and at length the chapter having discovered that the original grant to their predecessors, by King Henry VIII., was null in consequence of the accidental omission of the word *Cestria*, in the description of the grantees, made this circumstance known in a petition to the queen, wherein they prayed that as, in consequence of this flaw, the right was vested in the crown, she would grant these estates which had been illegally obtained by Sir Richard Cotton, to them, pursuant to her royal father's intention. Sir Richard it should be observed, doubting the legality of his proceedings, had sold the estates in question some years before, to several Cheshire gentlemen for small prices. In consequence of this petition the matter was argued in the exchequer, by serjeant Popham for the crown, and Mr. Egerton, (afterwards lord chancellor,) for the fee-farmers, who were in possession of the lands, and a second time, by serjeant Gaudye for the crown, and Mr. Plowden for the fee-farmers. The latter, finding that they were likely to lose their cause, engaged the Earl of Leicester in their interest, by giving him six years' rent of the land; the Earl in consequence procured the law proceedings to be stopped, and a commission to be issued for hearing the matter before himself and other lords of the privy council. The event was, that both parties surrendered all the estates in question to the queen, who, in the year 1579, granted them to the several fee-farmers, subject to certain rents payable out of each, which at the same time she granted to the dean and chapter; these rents form the principal part of their present endowment. See a full account of all the proceedings among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, N<sup>o</sup> 2060. p. 90—113; and N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 166, 167.

Several of the manors, and other lands, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Chester, and were included in King Henry's charter, were claimed by Peter and Edw. Grey, under a general grant of concealed lands in Cheshire, made to them by Queen Elizabeth. Their interest in these estates was conveyed to Bostock and Hitchcock, and became vested in the latter, as the survivor: most of the fee-farmers of the several estates purchased Hitchcock's interest in them, to make their titles the more secure. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 166, 167.

<sup>q</sup> Coles MSS. Brit. Museum. Vol. xxix. fol. 33, 34, 35.

It.

It appears that the cathedral church of St. Werburgh suffered great injury during the civil war, and continued in a very dilapidated state in 1656<sup>r</sup>. The present state of its buildings having been already described, we shall here only observe in addition that the length from east to west is three hundred and forty-eight feet, and the width of the choir and nave seventy-four feet six inches, and make mention of the more remarkable monuments and monumental inscriptions. Among those whose memory is here recorded, may be enumerated the names of Dr. George Hall<sup>r</sup> (1668), Dr. Nicholas Stratford (1707), and Dr. Samuel Peploe (1752), bishops of Chester; Sir William Mainwaring, who lost his life during the siege of Chester in 1644<sup>r</sup>; Dr. James Arderne, dean of Chester, 1688<sup>r</sup>; Mrs. Barbara Dod, 1703<sup>r</sup>; Laurence Fogg, S. T. P. 1718<sup>r</sup>; Lieutenant-Gen.

<sup>r</sup> Lee's Chronicon Cestriense, Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 46.      <sup>r</sup> Bishop Hall's monument has lately been removed from the east end of the choir to the west end of the nave.

<sup>r</sup> On Sir William Mainwaring's monument, which has lately been removed from the east end of the choir to the west end of the nave, is the following inscription:—"To the perpetual memory of the eminently loyal Sir William Wainwaring knight, eldest son of Edmund Mainwaring Esq. chancellor of the county-palatine of Chester, of the ancient family of the Mainwarings of Peover, in the said county, who died in the service of his prince and country, in the defence of the city of Chester, wherein he merited singular honour for his fidelity, courage, and conduct. He left by Hester his lady, (daughter and heiress unto Christopher Wase, in the county of Bucks Esq.,) four sons and two daughters. His eldest daughter Judith married unto Sir John Busby of Addington, in the county of Bucks, Knight; his youngest daughter Hester unto Sir Grobham How, of Kempley in the county of Gloucester, Knight. He died honourably but immaturally in the 29th year of his age, October 9, 1644. His lady relict erected this monument of her everlasting love, and his never dying honour. October 25, 1671."

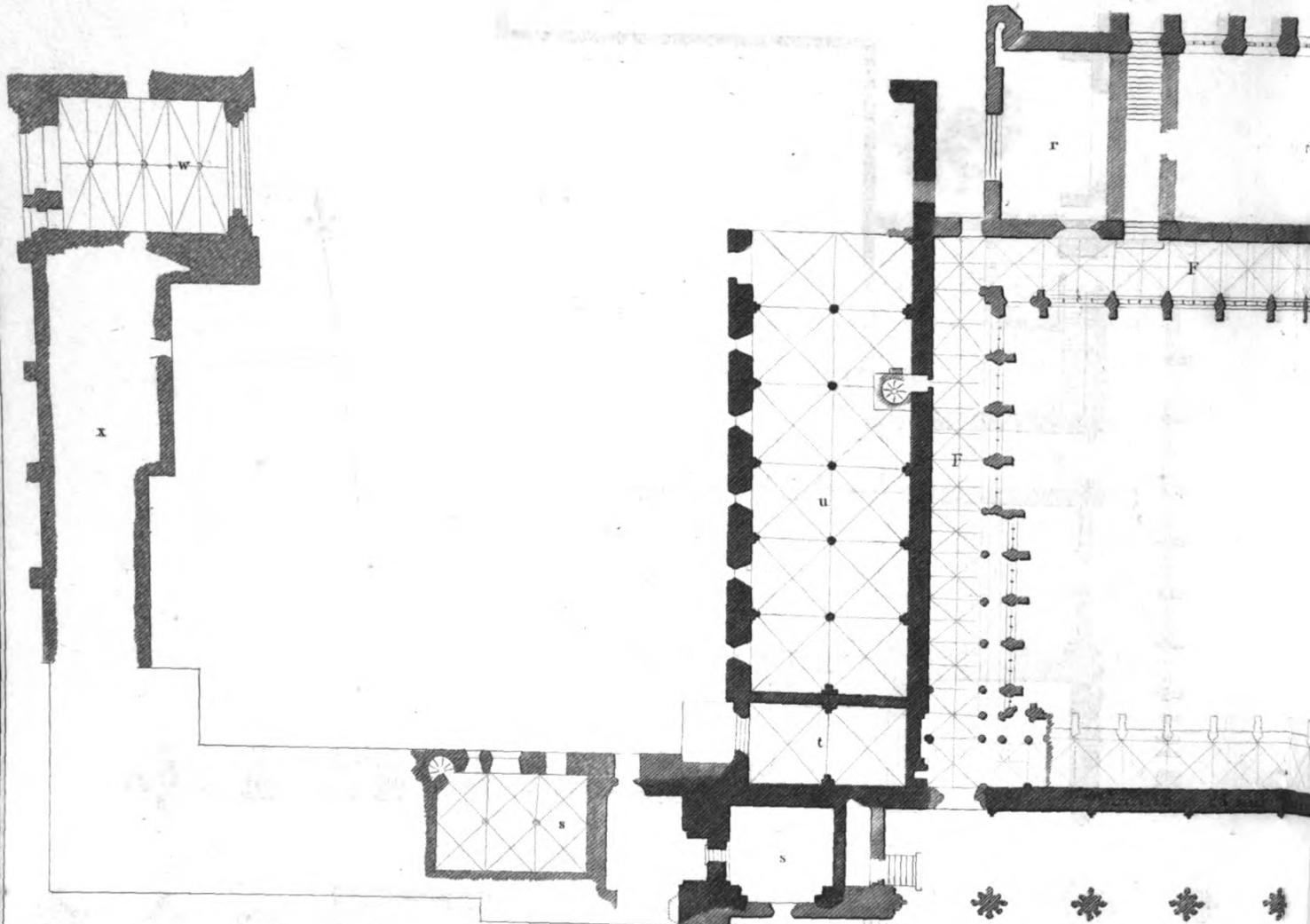
<sup>r</sup> Dean Arderne, who was author of "Directions concerning the matter and style of sermons," and other works, is said to have been designed by King James II. for the bishoprick of Chester on the death of Bishop Cartwright, which happened on the eve of the Revolution; and it is farther said, that in consequence of his attachment to that monarch, he received several affronts and indignities from the populace (A. Wood's Athen. Oxon.). The dean gave his whole estate by will "to the glory of God and the service of the cathedral church of Chester, and more particularly for the founding a library of books, to be set up in the chapter-house there, and as a stock for defending the rights and privileges of the dean and chapter, and to be disposed of as should be most conducive to the welfare of the cathedral," and appointed the dean and chapter his executors. This disposition of his property is spoken of in his epitaph as follows: "he gave the substance of his bequeathable estate to the cathedral, which gift, his will was, should be mentioned, that clergymen may consider whether it be not a sort of sacrilege to sweep away all from the church and charity, into the possession of their lay kindred who are not needy." Upon a partition of the estates of the Done family, which had descended to the Ardernes under a decree of chancery in 1725, one-sixth part of the manors of Tarpoley, Utkinton, &c. and of the advowson of the church of Tarpoley, was apportioned to the dean and chapter, and has been from time to time applied by them according to the donor's will.

<sup>r</sup> This lady devised her lands in Boughton and Childer-Thornton to the six minor canons of Chester cathedral, which circumstance is recorded in her epitaph.

<sup>r</sup> Author of "Treatises on the Christian Religion," and other theological works.

Whitley,



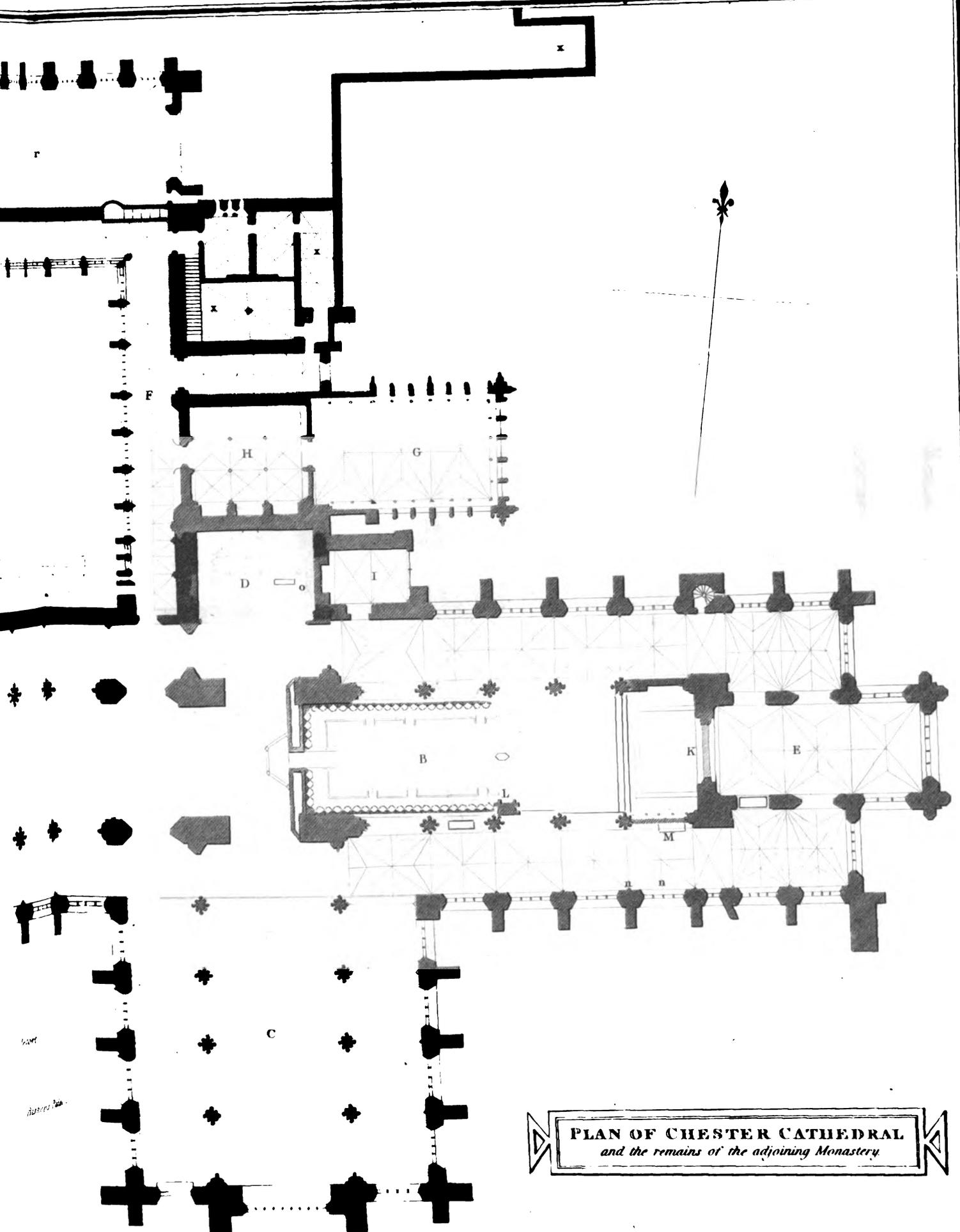


- A. The Nave.
- B. The Choir.
- C. The South Transept used as the parish Church of S<sup>t</sup> Oswald.
- D. The North Transept.
- E. The Lady-Chapel.
- F.F.F. The Cloisters.
- G. The Chapter-House.
- H. The Vestibule of D<sup>o</sup>.
- I. The Vestry.
- K. The High Altar.
- L. The Shrine of S<sup>t</sup> Werburgh now the Bishop's Throne.
- M. Monument called the Emperor of Germany's.

NB. The parts shaded black are of Saxon Architecture.

- n.n. Tombs of Ecclesiastics.
- o. Gravestones of Warin de Vernon and Ralph de Valletore.
- p. The Font.
- q. The Consistory Court.
- r. r. The Eratry of the Abbey, now the School-room.
- s. s. Parts of the Monastery of S<sup>t</sup> Werburgh under the Bishops Palace.
- t. D<sup>o</sup> under the Bishops Chapel.
- u. The Abbots Cellar.
- w. The Abbey Gate-house now the Register-Office.
- x.x.x. Other remains of the Monastery.





**PLAN OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL**  
*and the remains of the adjoining Monastery*



Whitley, 1771; Samuel Peploe, LL.D.<sup>7</sup> chancellor of Chester and warden of Manchester, 1781; John Hamilton Esq. M.P. secretary of the war department in Ireland, and only son of Sir Robert Hamilton of Silverton-Hall, Bart. 1781; William Smith, D.D. dean of Chester, 1787<sup>2</sup>; Sir Charles Levinge Bart. 1796; and the Rev. George Travis, archdeacon of Chester, 1797<sup>3</sup>. In Webb's Itinerary, printed in King's Vale-Royal, are the epitaphs of Dr. William Downham bishop of Chester, who died in 1577; Dr. George Lloyd, bishop of Chester, 1615; Dr. John Lloyd, an eminent civilian, 1607, and some others, which have been either removed or obliterated. Many brass plates with effigies of abbots and other ecclesiastics had been removed before Webb's account was written<sup>b</sup>.

In the south aisle of the cathedral is an altar-tomb, which by a tradition, destitute, as we have already shewn<sup>c</sup>, of any foundation, has long been said to be that of Henry IV., Emperor of Germany<sup>d</sup>. It appears by some notes of the third Randal Holme, written about the middle of the 17th century, that there was at that time the figure of an emperor in his robes and crown, painted in oil colours on the topstone of this tomb<sup>e</sup>. This had been done probably at no very remote period, by order of one of the abbots who believed in the tradition. The lady's chapel, at the east end of the cathedral, was formerly used as the consistory court, where bishop Coates sat for the trial of heretics in the reign of Queen Mary, and gave judgment on George Marth<sup>f</sup>. The south transept of the cathedral, which forms the church of the parish of St. Oswald, will be elsewhere spoken of.

The Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary at Chester, has been generally supposed to have been founded by Randal, second Earl of Chester; but his charter, which seems to have been erroneously printed in the Monasticon, as a foundation charter, appears on perusal to be a grant to the prioress and nuns of a piece of ground to build

<sup>7</sup> His monument is by Nollekens.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Smith's monument, which is by Banks, has the following inscription; "Sacred to the memory of William Smith, D. D. dean of this cathedral, and rector of West-Kirkby and Handley in this county, who died the 12th of January 1787, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. As a scholar his reputation is perpetuated by his valuable publications, particularly his correct and elegant translations of Longinus, Thucydides, and Xenophon; as a preacher he was admired and esteemed by his respective auditories, and as a man his memory remains inscribed in the hearts of his friends."

<sup>3</sup> Archdeacon Travis's monument is ornamented with a medallion of the deceased, by Turner, and has the following inscription.—"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. George Travis, M. A. late archdeacon of Chester and vicar of Eastham in this county, who departed this life February 24, 1797: he was a man whose extensive learning, active mind, and generous heart, were assiduously exercised in the service of religion, his country, and 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."

<sup>b</sup> See Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 36 and 53.

<sup>d</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 37.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 448; and the matter more largely discussed, p. 559.

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2111. f. 56.

<sup>f</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 33.

their new church upon; which is a clear proof that the monastery had existed at an earlier period; and there can be no doubt that it was the same monastery of St. Mary which is spoken of in the Survey of Domesday, as being situated near the church of St. John. The learned editor of bishop Tanner's Notitia makes a query, whether the monastery of St. Mary, mentioned in the Domesday Survey, might not be some remains of an ancient nunnery which occupied the site of St. Werburgh's; but it may be observed, that the secular canons of St. Werburgh are mentioned in the same page; and indeed, there is no very good evidence that the convent of St. Werburgh, or, as it was originally called, St. Peter and St. Paul, was ever occupied by nuns. The origin of the nunnery of St. Mary cannot be traced: it is probably the same monastery of St. Mary which is mentioned in the Survey of Domesday, as being near the church of St. John's, and that it was removed to a new site by Randal Earl of Chester, who has been generally deemed the founder: this nunnery continued till the dissolution of the smaller monasteries, when, though its revenues, according to Dugdale, did not exceed 66*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* *per ann.* clear income, its community seem not to have been small, for it appears, that in the year 1553 nearly twenty years after the surrender of the convent, there were thirteen of the nuns living and enjoying pensions. The site of this nunnery<sup>f</sup> was granted in 1541 to Urian Brereton the elder, and Urian Brereton the younger.

Nuns-Hall continued to be a seat of the Breretons till the reign of Charles I., when it was destroyed during the siege of the city<sup>g</sup>. The site which is now occupied as a garden exhibits scarcely any remains of buildings; it is the property of E. O. Wrench Esq., except a small part which he has lately sold to the county as a convenient space adjoining to the new buildings erecting at the castle. A mansion now called Nuns-Hall, built probably soon after the civil war, stands near the east end of the Nuns' garden, but not on its site, or connected with it. This house was the property and residence of the Holmes, the Cheshire antiquaries, and belongs now to Mrs. Fairclough of Knutsford. It appears by a record in the exchequer at Chester, that, in the year 1350, Cecil de Compton was seized of a house in Northgate-street, which had been the residence of a prioress and nuns<sup>h</sup>.

The three principal orders of friars had establishments in Chester. The monastery of White-friars or Carmelites, was founded in 1279, by Thomas Stadham<sup>i</sup>; the foundation of the others is uncertain; the sites of all three were granted by King Henry VIII. to John Cokke<sup>k</sup>, but soon passed into

<sup>f</sup> See a plan of the buildings of this monastery, p. 453.

<sup>g</sup> History of the siege.

<sup>h</sup> Esch. 23 Edw. III.

<sup>i</sup> Speed.

<sup>k</sup> Bishop Tanner.

different

different hands. The monastery of White-friers, which was in the parish of St. Martin, became the property of the lord-keeper Sir Thomas Egerton, by whom the church, with its fine spire, which had been built only a century<sup>1</sup>, was taken down. One of the Chester annalists observes, that "in 1597 the White-freeres steeple, curiously wrought, was taken downe and a faire house built there by Sir Thomas Egerton, Knight, lord-keeper: a great pitie that the steeple was put away, being a great orn̄ament to the citie. This curious spire steeple might still have stood for grace to the city, had not private benefit, the devourer of antiquitie, pulled it down with the church, and erected a house for more commodity, which since hath been of little use, so that the city lost so goodly an ornament that tymes hereafter may more talk of it, being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester<sup>m</sup>." Sir Thomas Egerton's house stood between White-friers-street and Common-hall-lane; the site is now occupied by dwelling-houses and gardens belonging to various persons; in one of the houses some of the old walls are still visible; a building, supposed to have been a chapel, was taken down about the year 1795. A part of Sir Thomas Egerton's mansion, facing Common-Hall, which was standing in 1772, proved the scene of a most dreadful calamity. This building was then occupied by a poor family, and the first floor had been let out to a puppet-show man, "and at the moment he was exhibiting to a very full audience<sup>n</sup>, by some unknown accident, eight hundred pounds weight of gunpowder, which was lodged in a warehouse beneath, then in the occupation of a grocer, took fire, and blew up three stories: twenty-three people perished, and eighty-three were much burnt and bruised<sup>o</sup>."

The site of the Black-friers, which was also in St. Martin's parish, became the seat of Sir Peter Warburton one of the justices of the Common Pleas, and descended to his grandson Sir Thomas Stanley<sup>p</sup>; it stood on the north side of the west end of Nicholas-street, formerly called Black-friers-lane, where part of an ancient mansion is to be seen with the date 1591; this site still belongs to the Stanley family; the greater part has recently been granted out on building leases: the vaults, spoken of by Mr. Pennant, have been built on and walled up.

The Grey-friers, which stood in the parish of the Holy Trinity, was some time the property and seat of Sir Thomas Smith of Hatherton<sup>q</sup>; the ground, which extends some way north of the west end of Water-gate-street, including Stanley-

<sup>1</sup> In the Vale-Royal, p. 190. the steeple of the White-friers is said to have been built in 1496; other annalists say 1495. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125. and Archdeacon Rogers's MS.      <sup>m</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.      <sup>n</sup> About 140.      <sup>o</sup> Pennant's Wales, vol. i. p. 176. In the 8vo History of Cheshire it is said, that twenty-six persons were killed on the spot, and that six afterwards died of their wounds.      <sup>p</sup> Archdeacon Rogers's MSS.      <sup>q</sup> Ibid.

place, was formerly called Grey-friers-croft; but it is more probable, that the convent stood on the south side of Water-gate-street, where, in the map of Chester in Braun's "*Civitates Orbis terrarum*," bearing date 1574, a large mansion is represented, which we suppose to be that of Sir Thomas Smith, built on the site of the Grey-friers: there are no remains of this mansion.

With respect to the monastery of St. Michael's in Chester, and the college of the Holy Cross, we know nothing of their foundation, history, or establishment; no records relating to either being extant. The existence of such religious houses is ascertained by their being mentioned in records relating to other monasteries. The monastery of St. Michael which was confirmed to the prior and convent of Norton by King Henry III. is supposed to have been in Bridge-street.

Some lands, which now form part of the endowment of Witton school, are said to have belonged to the *monastery* of St. Anne in Chester; a manuscript in the Harleian collection speaks of the *church* of St. Anne in Chester, as ruined and not to be found, but adds, that the lands were remaining<sup>u</sup>, and the new houses of St. Anne's in the Northgate-street are mentioned as a boundary of the debtors' walks in the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>v</sup> All these, no doubt, allude to the hospital of St. Anne, in St. John's church-yard<sup>v</sup>: there are no records of any other religious house in Chester dedicated to that saint.

The foundation and establishment of the collegiate church of St. John will be more particularly noticed when we come to speak of that parish.

It appears by the record of Domesday, that in the eleventh century the immediate government of the city of Chester was vested in twelve judges, selected from the vassals of the King, the Earl, and the Bishop, who, as being severally entitled to the penalties paid for various offences, were each interested in the decisions of a court of judicature: the particulars of the fines paid for each offence, and to whom they were payable, are stated in the record. As the criminal laws by which these penalties were regulated appear to have been local, some of the most remarkable will be mentioned in the note<sup>z</sup>.

<sup>u</sup> See Bishop Tanner. <sup>v</sup> Harl. MSS. 2176. f. 97. <sup>w</sup> Ibid. 2125. f. 267. <sup>x</sup> See p. 301, note (p).

<sup>y</sup> It appears that the hospital of St. Anne had certain messuages in Northgate-street as above-mentioned. See a rental of that hospital, Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2159. f. 112.

<sup>z</sup> The fine for bloodshed on certain holidays, which are specified, was 20s. and on other days 10s.; for murder in a house, the forfeiture of lands and goods, and the party to be deemed an out-law; for man-slaughter on those days 4*l.*, on other days 40s.; unchastity in a widow, 20s.; in an unmarried woman 10s.; for a rape, if committed in a house, for robbery or insurrection, 40s.; the making false measure, 4s.; making bad ale, the punishment of the tumbrel, or a fine of 4s. In case of a fire, the person in whose house it broke out was subject to a fine, besides a payment of 2s. to his next-door neighbour.

Randal,

Randal, the first Earl of Chester of that name, who died in 1128, granted to the citizens the privilege of an exclusive trade, except at the two fairs; and this privilege was confirmed by the succeeding Earls. The chief citizens had established themselves into a gild mercatorial, of which the principal officer was called a mayor, as early as the year 1242. King Edward I., by his charter bearing date 1300, granted the city to the citizens in fee-farm, subject to an annual rent of 100*l.*; and the better to enable them to raise that sum, gave them certain waste places to build on. This charter, among other privileges, empowered the mayor and bailiffs to hold common pleas of the crown; the charter of Edward the Black Prince granted some valuable privileges, and appropriated the North-gate as a prison for the city<sup>a</sup>. King Henry VII. in the first year of his reign, remitted for ever to the citizens of Chester the sum of 80*l. per ann.* being parcel of their fee-farm rent; the remaining 20*l.* is still paid. The same monarch, by his charter of the year 1506, made the city of Chester a county of itself, and incorporated the citizens by the name and style of the Mayor and Citizens of Chester, the body corporate to consist of a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-four aldermen (including the mayor and recorder) and forty common-council men, to be chosen by the commonalty of the said city; the election of officers to be yearly, on the Friday after St. Dennis's-day; the sheriffs to be chosen, one by the majority of the mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs then present, the other by the citizens at large; the mayor to be chosen by the mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, out of two persons (not having served the office of sheriff for three years), who should be nominated by the citizens and commonalty. This charter also granted various privileges to the mayor and corporation, among which was the jurisdiction of the river Dee, from Iron-bridge to Arnold's-eye (now called the Red-stones), near Hoyle lake. King James the First, in the first year of his reign, granted to the mayor and citizens of Chester for ever the privilege of all wines brought into the port of Chester, or any of the creeks thereof; it had been before leased to Robert Singleton for thirty years<sup>b</sup>.

On the 17th of September, 1659, the charter of the city of Chester was taken away, and the corporation dissolved by a vote of Parliament, which on the 17th of the ensuing February was declared null and void<sup>c</sup>. In 1664 King Charles II.

<sup>a</sup> It appears by the inquisition spoken of in p. 571, that in the preceding reign it was a prison belonging to the Earl of Chester.      <sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2003, f. 746.      <sup>c</sup> Mercurius Politicus, March 1, 1660.

confirmed the charter of Henry VII. with all the privileges belonging to the city, but declared, that no recorder or town-clerk should be elected or appointed, without being previously approved by the crown. In the same reign, the King having seized the franchises of the city into his own hands, granted the citizens a new charter in the year 168 $\frac{1}{2}$ , with very ample privileges, accompanied with a grant of the hospitals of St. John and St. Giles, but reserving to the crown the power of removing, at pleasure, by order and under seal of the privy-council, any or all of the corporate officers; which power appears to have been exercised by King James, who displaced the mayor, recorder, and some other members of the corporation. This monarch at the eve of the Revolution<sup>d</sup> restored all the rights and privileges of the corporation, which had been granted to them by King Henry VII., and confirmed by Queen Elizabeth.

The present mode of electing the officers of the corporation varies very little from that prescribed by the charter of Henry VII.; the principal difference is, that the first sheriff is nominated by the newly-elected mayor: the recorder is chosen by the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, as are the town-clerks and the inferior officers of the corporation. A question has frequently been agitated, whether the aldermen should be elected, as they now are, by the corporation; or by the citizens at large, pursuant to the charter of King Henry VII. This controversy appears to have arisen as early as the year 1572, when the citizens made an unsuccessful attempt to recover the right of election as described in King Henry's charter, continual usage having even then been in favour of the other mode<sup>e</sup>, under a bye-law made in the year 1518. In 1693, the right of election by the citizens at large was again brought forwards, and Roger Whitley, who was then mayor (in which office he continued three years), being favourable to it, this mode of election was consented to by the corporation, and continued till 1698, when at a general assembly the old mode of election was confirmed<sup>f</sup>. In the year 1732, a *quo warranto* was brought by certain of the citizens to try this long contested right; the cause was heard in 1735, before Mr. Justice Verney, when the corporation pleaded ancient custom and their bye-laws, and proved successful. In 1784 a similar proceeding took place, on which occasion the corporation grounded their right on the second charter of King Charles II., and gained their cause at the Shrewsbury assizes; but it was after-

<sup>d</sup> His charter bears date the 26th of October, in the 4th year of his reign.  
corporation in the Town-clerk's office.

<sup>e</sup> Records of the

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

wards determined by the House of Lords, that this charter of Charles II. having been only partially acted upon by the corporation for two or three years immediately after it was granted, could not be considered as accepted. The corporation, however, relying as it seems, on the validity of their bye-laws and the ancient custom, which had been confirmed in 1735, have continued to elect their own members, and the matter has not been since called in question.

Two of the common-council of this corporation are by the mayor annually appointed leave-lookers. In ancient times, before the name or office of mayor existed in this city, the leave-lookers are supposed to have been its chief officers. Their office now is to inspect the markets, to see that the customs and duties belonging to the corporation are duly paid, and that no strangers exercise their trade within the limits of the city. Another ancient office is that of the murengers, whose duty it is to receive the murage duties, and superintend their expenditure in the repair of the walls: two murengers, generally the two senior aldermen, are annually appointed by the mayor and other city magistrates. Two of the aldermen also are annually appointed coroners and treasurers: these offices are generally held together by the two aldermen next in rotation to serve the office of mayor.

By very ancient usage<sup>a</sup> confirmed by the charter of King Henry VII. the mayor has a crown-mote and a port-mote<sup>b</sup>, that is, the right of holding courts for the trial of all criminals except traitors, and the determination of civil actions. These courts are held before the mayor, assisted by the recorder, who passes sentence of death, and respites at his pleasure. Another court, denominated the Pentice-court, supposed to have been more ancient than the others, although the first roll now preserved bears date a few years later<sup>c</sup>, is held before the sheriffs, and has cognizance by plaint of all personal actions to any amount; but its jurisdiction does not extend on the river Dee: suits from this court are removable to the portmote-court by order of the mayor or petition of the suitors. There is also a court called the Passage-court, for trial of causes brought to issue in the Pentice-court, and anciently, trials for petty assaults and misdemeanours were had in it, but these have been long disused. Sessions of the peace for the city have been held ever since the year 1347.

<sup>a</sup> A roll of these courts is preserved for the year 1277, and it appears that they had then been held from time immemorial.

<sup>b</sup> In this portmote-court recoveries for assurances of land are suffered by immemorial usage by plaint, without writ; and fines are levied on writs of covenant from the court of exchequer at Chester, by virtue of an act of parliament, 43 Elizabeth. The jurisdiction of these courts extends throughout the city and its liberties, and on the river Dee within high-water mark, (to the Red-stones, formerly called Arnold's-eye), near Hoyle-lake, including Hilbree island.

<sup>c</sup> A<sup>o</sup>. 1282.

An

An ancient building called the Pentice, situated at the junction of the North and East-gate-streets, called in some old charters the *Appentice*<sup>i</sup>, was formerly the place in which the sheriffs' courts were held, and banquets given to such royal and noble guests as honoured the city with their presence. The north side of this building, which had been erected in 1498<sup>k</sup>, was taken down about the year 1780 for the purpose of widening the south end of Northgate-street, and in 1805 the remainder of this ancient edifice was taken down for the purpose of a similar improvement in East-gate-street. The sheriffs' court, with its records and the offices belonging to it, have been removed to the exchange, a part of which has been commodiously fitted up for that purpose. The exchange was built at the close of the seventeenth century<sup>l</sup>, for the purpose of holding the mayor's courts, public meetings of the corporation, and transacting various city business; a handsome room, thirty-nine feet by twenty-six and a half, is appropriated for the corporation entertainments, assemblies, &c. In the court-room are portraits of several persons of the families of Grosvenor, Bunbury, Egerton, Cholmondeley, and others, who have been recorders, or otherwise connected with the city. In the room where the special sessions and corporate meetings are held, is a whole length portrait of his present Majesty in his robes, given to the corporation by Earl Grosvenor in 1808. Before the building of the exchange the corporation held their common hall in St. Nicholas's chapel, which was fitted up for that purpose in the year 1545<sup>m</sup>, having been purchased by the corporation, and held under the dean and chapter. At an earlier period the common-hall of the city was in the lane which is still called Common-hall-lane: this building afterwards became the property of the Smiths' and Cutlers' company, whose hall it was for some time; after which it was occupied as a conventicle: the present proprietor, a carpenter, of the name of Golding, has recently (in 1806) fitted it up as a dwelling-house. A very commodious gaol for the use of the city was built near the Water-gate, in the year 1807; the old gaol at the North-gate was taken down in the year 1808.

<sup>i</sup> *Appentitium* is defined in the glossaries to be a smaller building annexed to a larger one: the name probably was given to this building as descriptive of its situation with respect to St. Peter's church.

<sup>k</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 190.

<sup>l</sup> It was begun in 1695, and finished in 1698. On the 14th of October in the latter year, an order was made for removing the place of election of the mayor and other officers, the courts of crown-mote, port-mote, and the general quarter-sessions, from the ancient common-hall, then decayed and unfit for use, to the new common-hall lately built in the North-gate-street. The site of the chapel of St. Nicholas is now occupied by a theatre.

<sup>m</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 196.

There

There have been in Chester, from a very early period, certain guilds or incorporated companies, (now twenty-five in number,<sup>a</sup>) for the regulation of trade; twenty-one of which are governed by aldermen and stewards, three by masters and wardens, and one by wardens only; these governors are chosen annually at various times of the year at the companies' meetings. These companies have from time immemorial done homage to the mayor, by their governors walking before him with banners, annually to St. Oswald's church. This ceremony was formerly observed with great pageantry<sup>o</sup> on Midsummer-day, which, since the Restoration, has been changed to the 29th of May.

<sup>a</sup> The number has formerly somewhat varied.

<sup>o</sup> "The watch, or show, on Midsummer-eve, instituted in 1497\*, or in 1498†, appears to have been composed of processions of the different companies attended by various pageants and devices. Among the Harleian MSS. ‡, is an agreement between Sir Lawrence Smith, mayor of Chester §, and two artists, "for the annual painting of the city's four giants; one unicorn, one dromedarye, one luce, one camel, one affe, one dragon, six hobbyhorses, and sixteen naked boys."

In 1599, Henry Hardware being mayor, "caused the giants in the Midsummer-show not to go; the devil in his feathers not to ride for the butchers, but a boy as the others, and the cuppes, and cannes, and dragon, and naked boy, to be put away; but caused a man in complete armour to go before the showe in their stead ||."

The next mayor restored all the old pageants, most of which continued till the final abolition of the show.

" Payments for the Show, 1628.

To four men that carried the two beafts	- - - - -	4s. 8d.
To the five men that held the boys that ridd	- - - - -	2s. 6d.
For painting the beafts and hobby-horses	- - - - -	43s. 0."

During the government of the puritans, all shows and pageants were of course suspended, and the giants and hobby-horses all fell a prey to the worms and the moths. In 1657, it was determined to revive, "the ancient and laudable custom of the Midsummer-show ¶, by the late obstructive times much injured," and an estimate was then made for a set of new pageants, a copy of which, as here subjoined, is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

" Estimate of new-making the city mount, called the Mayor's Mount, as anciently it was, and for hiring of bayes for the same, and men to carry it - - - - - 3l. 6s. 8d.

For making a-new the marchant mount, as auintiently it was, with a shippe to turne, hyring of bayes, and five men to carry it - - - - - 4l. — —

" For

\* Harl. MSS. No. 2125      † King's Vale-Royal part ii. p. 160.      ‡ No. 1968.  
 § He was mayor in 1558, 1563, and 1570.      || Harl. MSS. No. 2125.      ¶ Harl. MSS. No. 2150:  
 the date was procured from the Corporation Records.

The following account of other shows and pastimes, which were annually exhibited by the various companies, under the superintendance of the corporation, appears to have been drawn up by a son of the Rev. Robert Rogers, archdeacon of Chester, who died in 1595<sup>a</sup>; it contains many curious particulars which have never been published, respecting these ancient customs long since abolished, and of the races on the Rood-eye, which are to this day continued.

<sup>a</sup> The manuscript referred to, is the property of William Nicholls Esq. of Chester, and is entitled, "Certayne collections of anchiante times concerninge the anchant and famous cittie of Chester, collected by that Reverend man of God, Mr. Robert Rogers, bachellor of divinitie, archdeacon of Chester, parsons of Gooseworth, and preband in the cathedral of Chester; being but in scattered notes, and by his son reduced into these chapters following."

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"For finding all the materials, with the workmanship of the four great giants, all to be made new, as neer as may be, like as they were before, at 5*l.* a giant, the least that can be, in all 20*l.* — —  
 For four men to carry them - - - - - 20*s.* —  
 For making a-new the elephant and castell, and Cupitt to look out of it, and two men to carry it - - - - - 56*s.* 8*d.*  
 For making a-new the four beafts for the leave-lookers, called the unicorn, the antelop, the flower de luce, and the camell, at 33*s.* 4*d.* a-piece - - - - - 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*  
 For eight men to carry them - - - - - 16*s.* —  
 For four hobby-horses, at 6*s.* 8*d.* a-piece, and four boys to carry them - - - 26*s.* 8*d.*  
 For the two hance-staves, (hand-staves probably,) for the boys that ride for the sheriffs 6*s.* 8*d.*  
 For six garlands for Mr. Maior's halberts, 23*s.* and 4*d.* a-peece, and for Mr. Sheriff's at 20*d.* a-peece.  
 For balls, for the Maior and Sheriffs burches - - - - - 10*s.* —  
 For the making new the dragon 5*s.*, and for six naked boys to beat at it - - - 6*s.* —  
 For the morris dancers, and tabrett, and pipe - - - - - 20*s.* —"

The whole expence amounted to 45*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, part of which was paid by the mayor, part by the sheriffs, and part by the leave-lookers. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2150.—374.)

In 1666 it was ordered that all who were of the common-council, of what company soever they were, should accompany the leave-lookers from the bars, all the time of the show, according to ancient custom, upon pain of forfeiting 10*s.* a-piece, and that all others who were members of any company should attend their company decently, upon pain of forfeiting 5*s.* a-piece. In 1670, it was ordered, that the show usually held at Midsummer, should be observed on Whit-Tuesday, (as the most convenient time), and that any person making default, without a reasonable excuse to be allowed by the mayor, should pay 5*s.*, and that every company failing to put forth their boy and horse, should pay 5*l.* to the city. In the year 1678 this ancient custom was finally abolished, by an order of the corporation; the companies nevertheless still attend the mayor in procession, on the 29th of May, to St. Oswald's church.

commonly

*“ Of the laudable Exercises yearly used within the Cittie of Chester.”*

Mem. “ That whereas the companie and corporation of shoemakers within the cittie of Chester, did yearely, time out of memory of man, upon Tewfday, commonly called Shrove-Tuesday, or otherwise *Goteddeffe* day at afternoon, at the crosse upon the Roode-Dee, before the mayor of the same cittie, offer unto the Company of Drapers of the same cittie a ball of leather, called a foote-ball, of the value of 3*s.* 4*d.*, or thereabouts: and by reason of greate strife which did arise among the younge persons of the same cittie, (while diverse partes were taken with force and stronge hande to bringe the said ball to one of these three houses, that is to say to the mayor’s house, or any one of the two sheriffs’ houses of the time being); much harme was done, some in the great thronge fallinge into a trance, some having their bodies brused and crushed; some their arms, heades, or legges broken, and some otherwise maimed, or in perill of life; to avoyd the said inconveniences, and also to torne and converte the saide homage to a better use; it was thought good by the mayor of the saide cittie, and the rest of the common-council, to exchange of the said foote-ball as followeth: that in place thereof, there be offered by the shoemakers to the drapers, six gleaves \* of silver, the which gleaves they appoynted to be rewards unto such men as would come, and the same day and place, passe and overrunne on foote all others; and the said gleaves were presently delivered according to the runninge of every one; and this exchange was made in the time when Henry Gee was mayor of Chester, A. D. 1539, and in the thirty-firste yeare of Kinge Henry the Eighth.”

“ Alfoe,

\* An obsolete word for a hand-dart.

† The following is a copy of the order for the above-mentioned change, extracted from “ The Orders and Acts of Assembly, of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council of the City of Chester, in the Town-clerk’s Office.

10 Jan. 3 Hen. VIII. Henry Gee Mayor.

After reciting the ancient use of archery and shooting in the long-bow, for the honour and defence of the realm, and that the same is much decayed, and other unlawful games more in use, “ Ordered by the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, with the consent of the whole occupation of drapers, sadlers, and shoemakers, that the said occupation of shoemakers, (which always have, time out of mind, given and delivered yearly, on Shrove-Tuesday in the afternoon, unto the drapers, before the mayor, at the crosse on the Roodee, one ball of leather, called a foot-ball, of the value of 3*s.* 4*d.*, or above, to play at from thence to the common-hall of the said city, and further at the pleasure of the evil-disposed persons; whereof hath arisen great inconveniences), shall give and deliver yearly to the said drapers, before the mayor at the said time and place, six silver gleaves, each of the value of 27*d.*, or above, to be disposed of at the pleasure of the said mayor and

“ Alfoe, whereas the companye and occupation of the fadlers within the cittie of Chester did yearely by custome, time out of memorie of man, the same day, hour, and place, before the mayor, offer upon a truncheon, staffe, or speare, a certain homage to the drapers of the cittie of Chester, called the fadler’s ball, profitable for few uses or purposes, as it was, beinge a ball of filke of the bigness of a bowle, was torned into a silver bell, weighing about two ozs., as is supposed, of silver: the which saide silver bell was ordayned to be the rewarde for that horse, which with speedy runninge, then should rune before all others, and there presently should be given the daye and place. This alteration was made the same time, and by the same mayor, like as the shoemakers foote-ball was before exchanged into fixe silver gleaves.

“ Alfoe, whereas of an anchant custome, whereof man’s memorie nowe livinge cannot remember the original and beginninge, the same daye, hower, and place, before the mayor, for the time beinge, every person which is married within the liberties of the saide cittie, dwelling wherefoever without, and all those that dwelle within the saide cittie, for one yeare before, and marye elsewhere, did offer likewise a homage to the said companye of drapers before the mayor, a ball of filke, of the like bigness of a bowle; the same mayor torned the same balls into silver arrowes, the which arrowes they tooke order should be given to those which did shoote the longest shoote, with divers kinds of arrowes: this exchange was made as before is mentioned of the shoemakers’ foote-ball, and the fadlers’ ball.

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drapers, to him that shall win a foot-race before them, that or any other day; and that the fadlers, (who have time out of mind given and delivered yearly, at the same time and place, every master of them, unto the drapers, before the mayor, one painted ball of wood, with flowers and arms, upon the point of a spear, being goodly arrayed upon horseback accordingly), shall henceforth give and deliver to the said drapers, before the mayor, at the same time and place upon horseback, a bell of silver, to the value of 3 s. 4 d., to be disposed of at the discretion of the mayor and drapers, to him that shall get the horse-race on that day; and that every man that hath been married in the said city, since Shrove-Tuesday, then last past, shall then and there also deliver to the said drapers before the mayor, an arrow of silver, to the value of 5 s. or above, instead of such ball of silk and velvet, which such married men ought then to have given and delivered by the ancient custome of the said city (used time out of mind), which silver arrow shall be disposed of by the mayor and drapers, for the preferment of the said feat and exercise of shooting in the long-bow, for avoiding the said inconveniences, any use or prescription to the contrary notwithstanding: and also, the said drapers and their successors, shall keep yearly their recreation and drinking, as they have used to do, time out of mind, and that the shoemakers and fadlers, and persons hereafter to be married, shall observe this order, upon pain of 10 l. for every offence, *tolies quoties*, to be forfeited to the drapers according to ancient custome.”

“In

“ In which exchanges there appeared greate wifdom, anchent and fage fenators, whoe had great studye and regarde to torne the foresaide thinges unto foe profitable uses and exercifes: so that there is three of the most commendable exercifes and practices of war-like feates, as running of men on foote, runninge of horses, and shootinge of the broade arrowe, the flighte, and the butt-shafte, in the long bowe, are yearely there used; which is done in very few (if in any) citties of England, foe farr as I understand.”

“ *Of the Sherriffes’ Breakefaste.*”

“ There is an anchant custome in this cittie of Chester, the memory of man now livinge not knowinge the original<sup>a</sup>, that upon Monday in Easter-weeke, yearely, commonly called Black Monday<sup>a</sup>, the two sheriffes of the cittie doe shoote for a breakfaste of calves-heades and bacon, comonly called the sheriffes’ breakfaste<sup>b</sup>, the maner beinge thus: the daye before the drum sowndeth through the cittie with a proclamaion for all gentelmen, yeomen, and good fellowes, that will come with their bowes and arrowes to take parte with one sherriff or the other, and upon Monday-morning, on the Rode-dee, the mayor, shreeves, aldermen, and any other gentelmen, that wol be there, the one sherife chosing one, and the other sherife chosing another, and foe of the archers; then one sherife shoteth, and the other sherife he shoteth to *shode* him, beinge at length some twelve score: foe all the archers on one side to shote till it be *shode*, and foe till three shutes be wonne, and then all the winers’ side goe up together firste with arrowes in their handes, and all the loofers with bowes in their hands together, to the common-hall of the cittie, where the mayor, aldermen, and gentlemen, and the reste take parte together of the faide breakfaste in lovinge manner; this is yearly done, it beinge a comendable exercife, a good recreation, and a lovinge assembye.”

<sup>a</sup> By some MS. annals, quoted in another part of archdeacon Rogers’s book, it appears to have been begun in 1511.

<sup>a</sup> So called from remarkably dark and inclement weather, which happened on an Easter Monday, when King Edward the Third lay with his army before Paris, and proved fatal to many of his troops. See How’s Chronicle.

<sup>b</sup> In the year 1640, the sheriffs gave a piece of plate to be run for, instead of the calves-head breakfast. In 1674 a resolution was entered in the corporation Journals, that the calves-head feast was held by ancient custom and usage, and was not to be at the pleasure of the sheriffs and leave-lookers. In the month of March 1676-7, the sheriffs and leave-lookers were fined 10*l.* for not keeping the calves-head feast. The sheriffs of late years have given an annual *dinner*, but not on any fixed day.

*"Of St. George's Race, of late time invented, and when alter'd."*

"In A. D. 1609<sup>c</sup>, Mr. William Lester<sup>d</sup>, mercer, beinge mayor of Chester, one Mr. Robert Amerye, ironmonger, fomtime sherife of Chester, (A. D. 1608,) he, with the assente of the mayor and cittie, at his own coste chiefly, as I conceive, caused three silver cupps of good value to be made, the whiche saide silver cuppes were, upon St. George's daye, for ever to be thus disposed: all gentlemen that woulde bringe their horses to the Rood-dee that daye, and there rune, that horse which with speede did over-rune the reste, shoulde have the beste cuppe there presently delivered, and that horse which came seconde, nexte the firste, before the reste, had the second cuppe there also delivered: and for the third cuppe it was to be rune for at the ringe, by any gentleman that woulde rune for the same, upon the saide Rood-dee, and upon St. George's daye; being thus decreed, that every horse putt in soe much money as made the value of the cupps or bells<sup>e</sup>, and had the money, which horses did winne the same, and the use of the cupps, till that daye twelve month, being in bond to deliver in the cupps that daye; soe also for the cuppe for the ringe, which was yearely continued accordingly untill the yeare of our Lord 1623; John Brereton, inn-holder, being mayor of Chester, he altered the same after this manner, and caused the three cupps to be fould, and caused more money to be gathered and added, soe that the intereste thereof woulde make one faire silver cuppe, of the value of 8*l.*, as I suppose, it maye be more worth<sup>f</sup>, and the race to be altered, *viz.* from beyonde the New-tower a great distance, and soe to rune five times from that place rownd about the Rood-dee, and he that overcame all the rest the last course, to have the cuppe freely for ever, then and there delivered, which is continued to this daye. But here I must not omitt the charge, and the solemnitie made, the first St. George's-daye; he had a poet, one Mr. Davies, whoe made speeches and poeticale verses, which were delivered at the high-crosse, before the mayor and aldermen, with shewes of his

<sup>c</sup> In Mr. Amorye's own account, it says 1610. See the next page.

<sup>d</sup> Leicester.

<sup>e</sup> Among the corporation records are some old articles of a race for two bells, and likewise for a cup to be run for at the ring: the bell appears to have been first given as a prize at the horse-races at Chester in 1512, see p. 586. From this custom of running for a bell as a prize, arose, it is probable, the proverb, "to bear the bell."

<sup>f</sup> In the year 1629 the companies contributed to St. George's Race, to make up a sum of money; in 1640 the sheriffs gave a piece of plate of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* value, to be run for on Easter-Tuesday, in lieu of the sheriffs' breakfast. Corporation Records, and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

inven-

invention<sup>s</sup>, which booke was imprinted and presented to that famous Prince Henry, eldest sonne to the blessed King James, of famous memorie. Alsoe, he caused a man to goe upon the spire of St. Peter's-steeple in Chester, and by the fane, at the same time he sowned a drum, and displayed a baner upon the top

\* The following description of this show, written, as it appears, by Mr. Amorye himself, is copied from some Cheshire Collections, among the Harleian MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2150. f. 356. It appears, that instead of three cups, as stated by Mr. Rogers, the prizes that year were two bells and one cup.

"The maner of the showe, that is, if God spare life and health, shall be scene by all the beholders upon St. George's day next, being the 23d of April 1610, and the same with more addytions to continue, being for the Kyng's crowne and dignitie, and the homage to the Kyng and Prynce, with that noble victor St. George, to be continued for ever.—God save the Kyng."

"Item. Two men in greene liveries, set with worke upon their other habet, with blacke beare, and blacke beards, very ougly to behoulde, and garlands upon their heads, with fir-works to scatter abroad, to maintaine way for the rest of the showe.

It. One on horsebacke, with the buckler and head-peece of St. George, and three men to guide him, with a drum before him, for the honor of Englande.

It. One on horsebacke, calld Fame, with a trumpet in his hand, and three men to guide him, and he to make an oration, with his habit in pompe.

It. One call'd Mercury, to descend from above in a cloude; his wings, and all other matters, in pompe, and heavenly musicke with him; and after his oration spoken, to ryde on horsebacke, with his musicke before hym.

It. One called Chester, with an oration, and drums before him, his habit in pompe.

It. One on horsebacke, with the Kyng's armes upon a shield, in pompe.

It. One on horsebacke, conteening the Kinge's crowne and dignity, with an oration, in pompe.

It. One on horseback, with a bell, dedicated to the Kyng, being double-gilt, with the Kyng's armes upon it, carried upon a septer, in pompe, and before him a noyse of trumpets, in pompe.

It. One on horseback with an oration for the Prynce, in pompe.

It. One on horseback with the bell, dedicated to the Prynce, his armes upon it, in pompe, and to be carried on a septer, and before the bell, a noyse of trumpets.

It. One on horseback with the cup for St. George, carried upon a septer, in pompe.

It. One on horseback with an oration for St. George, in pompe.

It. St. George himselfe on horseback, in complete armor, with his flag and buckler, in pompe, and before him a noyse of drums.

It. One on horseback, called Peace, with an oration, in pompe.

It. One on horseback, calld Plentye, with an oration, in pompe.

It. One on horseback, calld Eavy, with an oration, whom Love will comfort, in pompe.

It. One on horseback, calld Love, with an oration to maintaine all, in pompe."

"It. The maior, and his brethres, at the pentes of this citty with ther best apparell, and in scarlet; and all the orations to be made before him, and scene at the high-crosse, as they passe to the Roodye, wher by Gent. shall be runne for by thirr horses; for the two bells on a double staffe, and the

top of the same spire. And this was the original of St. George's-race, with the change thereof, as it is now used.

"Also the said Mr. Robert Amorye caused the jacks, or boyes, which strike quarterly at St. Peter's at High-crosse, to be made and erected in A. D. 16 . . .<sup>1</sup>."

"*Nowe of the Playes of Chester, called the Whitfun Playes.*"

"These playes were the worke of one Randall Higden, a monke in Chester-abbeye<sup>1</sup>, whoe in a good devotion translated the Bible into several partes and playes,

cup to be runne for at the ryng in the same place by Gent. and with a greater mater of the showe by armes, and shott, and with more than I can recyte, with a banquet after in the Pentis to make welcome the Gent. ; and when all is done, then judge what you have seene, and so speak on your mynd, as you fynd—the

Actor for the presente,"

"Robert Amorye."

"Amor is love, and Amorye is his name,  
That did begin this pompe and princelye game ;  
The charge is great to him that all begun,  
Who now is satisfied to see all so well done."

Notwithstanding Mr. Amorye had entertained the citizens so well in 1610, it was ordered in 1612, "that the sports and recreations used on St. George's day, should in future be done by the direction of the mayor and citizens, and not of any private person." — Corporation Records.

<sup>1</sup> The date is not perfect in the MS.; it was 1612.

<sup>1</sup> In the following proclamation among the Harleian MSS., these plays are attributed to Sir Henry Francis, a monk of St. Werburgh; but a marginal note in another hand, asserts that they were written by Randal Higden, to whom they are generally ascribed. It is probable, that Sir Henry Francis only procured the pardons mentioned in the proclamation. It is said in a note prefixed to a copy of these plays in the British Museum, Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2124., that Higden was thrice at Rome before he could obtain leave of the pope, to have them represented in the English tongue.

"The proclamation for Whitfun playes, made by William Newall, clerk of the Pentice, 24 Hen. VIII., William Snead, second time mayor."

"Forasmuch as of ould tyme, not only for the augmentation and increase of the Holy Catholic Faith of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and to exhort the minds of common people to good devotion, and hollome doctrine thereof, but also for the comonwelth and prosperity of this city, a play and declaration of divers storyes of the Bible, beginning with the creation and fall of Lucifer, and ending with the general judgment of the world, to be declared and played in the Whitfun weeke, was devised and made by one Sir Henry Francis, sometyme monke of this monasterye dissolved, who obtayned and gat of Clement the bushop of Rome a thousand dayes of pardon, and of the bushop of Chester, at that tyme, forty dayes of pardon, graunted from thenceforth to every person resortinge in peaceable manner with good devotion, to heare and see the sayd playes, from tyme to tyme, as oft as they

playes, soe as the comon people might learne the same by their playinge; and also by action in their fighte, and the first time they were acted, or played, was in the time of Sir John Arnewaye, about the firste yeare of his maroltie, aboute A. D. 1328; we must judge this monke had no evil intention, but secret devotion therein, soe alsoe the citizens, that did acte and practise the same, to their great coste. Here I must show the maner of the performinge of these anchent playes, (which was) all those companies and occupations, which were joyned together to acte, or performe their severall partes, had pagents, which was a building of a great height, with a lower and higher rowme, beinge all open, and set upon fower wheels, and drawne from place to place, where they played. The firste place where they begane, was at the abbeye gates, where the monks and churche mighte have the first fighte; and then it was drawne to the high crosse before the mayor and aldermen, and soe from streete to streete, and when one pagent was ended another came in the place thereof, till all that were appoynted for the daye was ended; thus of the maner of the playes, all beinge at the cittizens' charge, yet profitable for them; for all, both far and near, came to see them."

"Now follow what occupations bring forth at their charges the playes of Chester, and on what dayes they are played yearly. These playes were sett forth, when they were played upon Mondaye, Tuesdaye, and Wenfedaye in the Whitfun weke."

- |    |                                     |              |                            |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | "The Barkers and Tanners            | bringe forth | The falling of Lucifer.    |
| 2. | Drapers and Hofiers                 | - - -        | The Creation of the World. |
| 3. | Drawers of Dee, and Water-leaders   | - - -        | Noe and his Shippe.        |
| 4. | Barbers, Wax-chandlers, and Leeches | - -          | Abraham and Ifacke.        |

they shall be played within the sayd citty (and that every person or persons disturbing the said playes, in any maner-wise, to be accursed by the authority of the sayd pope Clement's bulls, untill such tyme as he or they bee absolved thereof); which playes were devised to the honor of God, by John Arnway, then maior of this citty of Chester, his brethren, and whole cominalty thereof, to be brought forth, declared, and played, at the coste and charges of the craftsmen and occupations of the said citty, hitherto have, from tyme to tyme, used and performed the same accordingly: wherefore Mr. Maior, in the King's name, strealy chargeth, that every person and persons, of what estate, degree, or condition soe-ever, he or they be, resortynge to the sayd playes, do use themselves peaceable, without making any assault, affray, or other disturbance, whereby the same playes shall be disturbed, and that no maner of person or persons, whosoever he or they be, do use, or weare any unlawful weapons within the precinct of the sayd citty, duringe the tyme of the sayd playes, (not only upon payne of cursing by the authority of the sayd pope Clement's bulls, but also) upon payne of imprisonment of their bodyes, and making fine to the Kyng at Mr. Maior's pleasure."

5. Cappers, Wire-drawers, and Pinners, bring forth King Balaak, and Balam, with Moses.
  6. Wrights, Slaters, Tylers, Daubers, }  
and Thatchers - - - } - - - The Nativity of our Lord.
  7. Paynters, Brotherers, and Glaziers - - - The Sheppards'-Offering.
  8. Vintners and Merchants - - - King Herod and the Mounte Victorial.
  9. Mercers and Spifers - - - The Three Kings of Coline.
- " These Nine Pagents above-written, be played on the Firste Daye."

1. Gouldsmiths and Masons - bring forth The slaying of the Children by Herod.
  2. Smithes, Forbers, and Pewterers - - - Purification of our Ladye.
  3. Bouchers' - - - - - The Pinackle with the Woman of Canaan.
  4. Glovers and Parchment-makers - - - The arisinge of Lazarus from death to life.
  5. Corvefers and Shoemakers - - - The coming of Christe to Jerusalem.
  6. Bakers and Millners - - - Christe's Maundy, with his Disciples.
  7. Boyers, Fletchers, Stringers,  
Cowpers and Torners - } - - - The scourginge of Christe.
  8. Ironmongers, and Ropers - - - The crucifigeing of Christe.
  9. Cookes, Tapsters, Hoflers, and  
Inn-keepers - - - } - - - The harrowinge of Hell.
- " These Nine Pagentes above-written, be played upon the Second Daye, being  
Tueddaye in Whitson Weke."

1. Skynners, Cardmakers, Hatters, }  
Poynters and Girdlers } bring forth The Resurrection.
  2. Sadlers and Fusters - - - The Castell of Emmaus, and the Apostles.
  3. The Taylors - - - - - Ascension of Christe.
  4. Fishmongers - - - - - Whitsonday—the making of the Crede.
  5. Shermen - - - - - Profetts afore the Day of Dome.
  6. Hewsters and Bell-founders - - - Antechriste.
  7. Weavers and Walkers - - - Domefday."
- " These Seven Pagents above-written, were played upon the Thirde Daye, beinge  
Wensedaye in Whitson Weke."

" These Whitfun playes were played in AD. 1574, Sir John Savage Knight beinge mayor of Chester, which was the laste time they were played, and we may praise God, and praye that we see not the like profanation of Holy Scripture; but O the mercie of God for the time of our ignorance: God, he regardes it not, as well in every man's particular as also in general causes."

These plays, abounding with popish superstitions, were seldom performed after the reformation: they were brought forward in 1560, 1566, 1567<sup>k</sup>, and in 1571; the last-mentioned year an inhibition was sent from the archbishop of York to

<sup>k</sup> Archdeacon Rogers's MS. and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

suppress them, but it came too late. In 1574, Sir John Savage being mayor, the corporation, "to the great dislike of many, as is said<sup>b</sup>, because the plague was then in the city, ordered the Whitfun plays to be set forth and played in such orderly manner and sort as had been accustomed, and with such correction and amendment as should be thought convenient by the said mayor, and the charge thereof to be borne by the inhabitants of the city, as had been before used<sup>c</sup>." By such corrections, which it is probable were nothing more than an omission of such passages as were most obnoxious to the reformed church, it seems they expected to conciliate the archbishop; but the matter was nevertheless further prosecuted both against Sir John Savage, Mr. Hankey, who had been mayor in 1571, and several of the citizens who had performed in the plays<sup>d</sup>; and Mr. Rogers, who wrote about the year 1623, positively asserts that they were never afterwards repeated. There is a MS. copy of these Whitfun plays extant in the British museum, written by George Bellin, with a prologue, or, as it is called, "a Banes, reade before the beginning of the playes of Chester, June 14th, 1600." This circumstance has led Mr. Pennant to assert, that the Chester plays were acted in the year 1600, but as it is impossible that Mr. Rogers could have been ignorant of a fact which is in direct contradiction to his assertion, it is much more probable that the date refers merely to the transcribing of the plays<sup>e</sup>, and that the alterations alluded to in the prologue were then made by order of the corporation in 1574. A copy of the prologue, with specimens of some of the dramas from the MSS. in the British museum, will be found in the note<sup>f</sup>.

Besides

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>c</sup> Corporation records.

<sup>d</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, p. 88.

<sup>e</sup> The date of 1600 appears at the end of almost every play, thus, "*Finis Deo gratias, per me George Bellin, 1600*," it may be observed that the 14th of June never happened in the Whitfun week, when the plays were always acted; it is probable, therefore, that the date of June 14, which occurs but once in the MS. merely relates to the day on which Bellin began his transcript. It may be further observed, that the many Chester annalists who have all recorded the abolition of the Whitfun plays in 1574, would scarcely have omitted to notice their revival, if they had been revived in 1600.

<sup>f</sup> "The banes which are reade beefore the beginnunge of the playes of Chester."—14 June, 1600.

" Reverende lordes and ladyes all  
 That at this time here assembled bee,  
 By this messauge understand you shall  
 That sometymes there was mayor of this citie  
 Sir John Arnwaye knighte, who most worthilye  
 Contented hymselfe to sett out in playe  
 The devise of one Done Rondall moonke of Chester Abbey.  
 This moonke, moonke-like, in scriptures well scene

Besides the Whitfun plays, both sacred and profane dramas appear to have been occasionally performed by the citizens of Chester. The "Assumption of our Lady,"

In storyes travilled with the best forte,  
 In pagentes set fourth apparently to all cyne  
 The old and new testament with lively comforth,  
 Interminglinge therewith only to make sporte,  
 Som things not warranted by any writt;  
 Which to glad the hearers he woulde men to take yt.  
 This matter he abbreviated into playes twenty-foure,  
 And every play of the matter gave but a taste;  
 Leaving for better learninge the circumstance to accomplishe,  
 For all his proceedinges maye appeare to be in haste.  
 Yet all together unprofitable, his labours he did not waste;  
 For at this day and ever he deserveth the fame  
 Which all monkes deserves professinge that name.  
 These storyes of the testamente at this time you knowe,  
 In a comon Englishe tongue never read nor harde;  
 Yet thereof in thes pagentes to make open shewe,  
 This moonke and moonke was nothing afreyde,  
 With feare of hanginge, brenninge or cuttinge off heade,  
 To set out that all maye differne and see,  
 And parte good be leste beleve you mee.  
 As in this citie divers yeares the have bene sete out,  
 Soe at this tyme of Penticoste, called Whitfontyde,  
 Although to all the citie follow labour and coste,  
 Yet God giving leave, that tyme shall you in playe,  
 For three dayes together, begynnyng on Mondaye,  
 See these pagentes played to the best of their skill;  
 Where to supplye all wantes, shall be noe wante of goodwill  
 As all that shall see them shall most welcome be,  
 Soe all that here them wee most humblie praye  
 Not to compare this matter or storie  
 With the age or tyme wherein we presently stay;  
 But in the tyme of ignorance wherein we did straye;  
 Then doe I compare that this lande throughout,  
 Non had the like, nor the like dose sett oute.  
 If the same belikeinge to the comens \* all,  
 Then our desier is to satisfie, for that is all our gaine;  
 Yf noe matter or shewe thereof speciall  
 Doe not please, but mislike the most of the trayne;  
 Goe backe I saye to the first tyme againe;

\* Sic Orig. in another copy it is commons.

Then

Lady," was played before Lord Strange at the High-crofs in 1488<sup>a</sup>, and Prince Arthur, at the Abbey-gate, in the month of August 1498<sup>b</sup>; it was

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>b</sup> King's Vale-Royal, p. 190.

again

Then shall you fynde the fyne witt at this day aboundinge,  
 At that day and that age had verye small beinge.  
 Condepne not our matter where groffe wordes you here,  
 Which ymporte at this daye small fence or understandyng,  
 As some tyme *possie lewtie*, in good manner or in feare,  
 With such like will be uttered in their speeches speakinge,  
 At this tyme those speeches carried good likinge,  
 Tho at this tyme, you take them spoken at that tyme,  
 As well matter as wordes, then all is well and fyne.  
 This worthy knyghte Arnwaye then mayoe of this cittie,  
 This order toke, as declare to you I shall,  
 That by twenty-fower occupations, artes, craftes or misteries,  
 These pagentes should be played after brieve rehearfall;  
 For every pagente a cariage to be provided withall:  
 In which fort we purpose this Whitfontyde,  
 Our pageants into three partes to devyde.  
 Now you worshipful Tanners that of custom old,  
 The fall of Lucifer did set out, &c. &c.  
 ————— therefore be boulde  
 Lustely to play the same to all the rowtte;  
 And yf any therof stande in any doubte,  
 Your author his author hath your shewe let be,  
 Good speech, fyne players, with apparell comelye," &c.

The following short extracts will serve as a specimen; (a few lines here and there are purposely omitted.)

" From " NOE and his SHIPPE."

" Then Noe shall goe into the arke with all his familye his wife except, the arke must be borded rounde aboute and upon the bordes all the beastes and fowles hereafter rehearsed must be painted that there wordes may agree with the pictures."

NOE.

" Wife come in, why standes thou there  
 Thou arte ever frowarde I dare well sweare."

NOE'S WIFFE.

" Yea fir, set up your sayle  
 And row forth with evill haile,  
 For withouten faile I will not out  
 Out of this towne;

4 G 2

But

again played in 1515; together with the "Shepherd's Play" in St. John's church-yard<sup>1</sup>. In 1529, the play of "Robert Cicell<sup>2</sup>," was performed at the High-cross:

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. This was the play of Robert King of Sicily, or as he was called Robert le Diable, from the French Morality. See Pennant's Wales.

ON

But I have my goffippes every eich one,  
 One foote further I will not gone;  
 The shall not drowne by St. John,  
 And I maye save there life;  
 But thou wylt let them into that cheift,  
 Else rowe forth Noe where thou list,  
 And get thee a new wife."

The good Goffippes.

"The flood comes flitting in full fast,  
 One every syde that spreadeth full farr;  
 For feare of drowning I aine agaste,  
 Good goffippes let us drawe neere;  
 And let us drinke or we departe,  
 For oft-tymes we have done soe,  
 For at a draught thou drinks a quarte,  
 And soe will I doe or I goe;  
 Here is a pottell full of Malmeseye gode and stronge,  
 Yt will rejoyce both hart and tonge;  
 Though Noe thinke us never so longe,  
 Yet we will drinke alike."

JAPHAT.

"Mother we pray you all together,  
 For we are here your owne children;  
 Come into the shipp for feare of the weather."

NOE'S WIFE.

"That will I not for all your call,  
 But I have my goffipes all."

SEM.

"In fayth mother yet thou shalt  
 Whether thou wylt or not."

NOE.

"Welcome wife into this boat."

WIFE.

on the Sunday after Midsummer-day 1563<sup>1</sup>, the "History of Æneas and Queen Dido" was played on the Rood-eye, set out by one William Crofton, gentleman,

<sup>1</sup> King's Vale-Royal, 1594. In Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125., it is 1564.

and

WIFE.

" Have thou that for thy note  
(*et dat alapam* \*.)

NOB.

" Ha! ha! marye, this is hott,  
It is good for to be fill;  
A! children methinkes my boate remeves,  
Our taryng here highly me greeves;  
Over the lande the water spreades,  
God doe as he will."

Extract from "KING BALACK AND BALAAM," with the prologue.

" Cappers and lynnendrapers, see that you fourth bring  
In well decked order, that worthy storee  
Of Balaam and his asse and of Balacke the kinge;  
Make the asse to speake and set yt out livelye."

ASINA.

" Master thou doest evill likerly,  
Soe good an asse as me to nye;  
Nowe thou hast beaten me here thrye,  
That bare thee thus aboute."

BALAM.

" Burnell, why begylest thou me  
When I have most nede of thee."

ASINA.

" That fighte that before me I see,  
Maketh me downe to lowte:  
Am not I, master, thyne own asse  
To beare thee whether thou wilte passe,  
And many winters ready was,  
To smyte me it is shame.  
Thou wottest well, master, pardye  
Thou hadest never non lyke to me,  
Ney never yet foe served I thee,  
Now ame I not to blame."

\* She gives him a box on the ear.

From:

and one Mr. Man, Master of Arts, "on which triumph there was made two forts and shipping on the water, besides many horsemen well armed and appointed".<sup>\*</sup> In 1577, the "Shepherds' Play" was performed before the Earl of Derby at the High-crofs, and other triumphs on the Rood-eye.<sup>\*</sup> In 1589 a play was performed at the High-crofs, called the story of "Kinge Ebranke with all his sonnes".<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> King's Vale-Royal 199.      <sup>\*</sup> Archdeacon Rogers's MS.      <sup>\*</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.  
Ebrank was one of the early British kings, whose history, if they ever existed, is much involved in fable. Ebrank is said to have had twenty-one wives, and fifty-nine children, of whom twenty were sons; his sons are said to have invaded and subdued Germany. Ebrank is said to have built York and Edinburgh. See Holinshed.

From "THE CREATION OF THE WORLD."

"Then God taketh Adam by the hand and causeth him to lye downe and taketh a rybb out of his side & sayth —", &c. &c.

"Then God doth make the woman of the ribb of Adam; then Adam wakening speaketh unto God as followeth.

ADAM.

"I see well Lorde through thy grace,  
Bone of my bone thou here make,  
And fleshe of my fleshe she hafe;  
And my shape through thy sawe,  
Wherefore she shall be called, I wyffe,  
*Virago*, nothing amisse,  
For out of man taken she is,  
And to man shall she drawe."

"Then Adam and Eve shall stande naked and shall not be ashamed<sup>\*</sup>;—then the serpent shall come up out of a hole and the divill walking shall say,

"That of woman is forbidden to doo,  
For any thinge they will there too;  
Therefore that tree she shall come to,  
And assaye what yt is:  
A manner of an edder is in this place,  
That winges like a bird she hafe,  
Fete as an edder, a mayden's face,  
Her kinde I will take:  
And of the tree of paradise  
She shall eate through my contyfe;  
For women they be full licorife,  
That will not she forsake."

There are two copies of these Whitfun plays in the British museum, Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2013 and 2124.

<sup>\*</sup> In one of the copies the minstrels are afterwards directed to play whilst Adam and Eve are adjusting their fig-leaves.

St. George's races at Chester, which as it appears may be traced as far back as the year 1512<sup>9</sup>, are still held in the week within which St. George's-day O. S. happens; on that day the city or St. George's plate is run for, being now a purse of 65*l.*: a purse of one hundred guineas is given by the Earl of Chester; a purse of 65*l.* by Earl Grosvenor, and one of the same value by the city members.

Among the ancient pastimes sanctioned by the corporation of Chester, was one not mentioned by Mr. Rogers, but properly enough omitted among those which he has termed "laudable," that of bull-baiting, a cruel, and in all places a dangerous amusement; but more particularly so in the centre of a populous city. Mr. Hardware, the active and spirited magistrate before-mentioned, not only caused this ancient but mischievous practice to be discontinued in his mayoralty (1599), but with a view to its total suppression, ordered the bull-ring to be taken up. It does not appear that he succeeded in his good intentions beyond his own year of office, and it was not till the year 1754, in the mayoralty of Dr. William Cowper, that the corporation withdrew their sanction, by absenting themselves from this cruel diversion. An ineffectual attempt having been made to abolish it altogether in the mayoralty of Mr. Brodhurst, it continued till the year 1803, when it was suppressed under the powers of an act of parliament then passed.

The following curious extracts from "the orders and acts of assembly of the mayor, aldermen, and common-council," show that in former times the authority of that worshipful body was not confined to those matters only with which it is now conversant, but was exercised also on various other occasions; not only respecting the morals and decorous behaviour of the inhabitants in general, but even, in some instances, regulating the dresses of the fair sex.

"21 Nov. 3 Hen. VIII. (1512) Henry Gee, mayor.—For avoiding of idleness, all children of six years old or upwards, shall on week days be set to school, or some virtuous labour, whereby they may hereafter get an honest living, and on Sundays and holydays they shall resort to their parish churches, and there abide during the time of divine service, and in the afternoon all the said male children shall be exercised in shooting with bows and arrows for pins and points only, and that their parents furnish them with bows and arrows, pins and points, for that purpose, according to the statute lately made for maintenance of shooting in long bows and artillery, being the ancient defence of the kingdom."

<sup>9</sup> See p. 586.

<sup>1</sup> It was an act to amend a former act for lighting and cleansing the streets of Chester, and for preventing nuisances and annoyances in the streets, rows, and passages of the said city, and for other purposes.

"12 May,

“ 12 May, 32 Hen. VIII. (1540), Henry Gee, mayor.—Whereas all the taverns and alehouses of this city be used to be kept by young women otherwise than is used in any other place of this realme, whereat all strangers greatly marvel and think it inconvenient, whereby great slander and dishonest report of this city hath and doth run abroad: in avoiding whereof as also to eschew such great occasions of wantonness, brawls, frays, and other inconveniences as thereby doth and may arise among youth and light-disposed persons, as also damages to their masters, owners of the taverns and alehouses, ordered, that after the 9th of June next, there shall be no tavern or alehouse kept in the said city by any woman between fourteen and forty years of age, under pain of 40*l.* forfeiture for him or her that kepeth any such servant.”

“ In 1581 (23 Eliz. Oct. 26.) there was an order that no wife, widow, or maid, should keep any tavern, ale or beer-cellar in Chester.”

“ May 12, 32 Henry VIII. Henry Gee, mayor.—Whereas great expence and superfluous charge hath been and doth grow by reason of costly dish-meals and drinks, brought unto women lying in childbed, and by them likewise to the other recompenced at their churchings, whereby such as are of mean substance strain themselves to more charge than they can well sustain; order'd, that henceforth no such dish-meals nor wines be brought to women in childbed, or at churchings; and that no women (except the midwife, mother, sisters and sisters-in-law of the woman churched) shall go into the house of her that is churched, but bring her to the door and so depart, on pain of 6*s.* 8*d.* upon the owner of the house, and 3*s.* 4*d.* upon every person offending *toties quoties*.”

“ 32 Hen. VIII. Henry Gee, mayor.—To distinguish the head-dresses of married women from unmarried; no unmarried woman to wear white or other coloured caps; and no woman to wear any hat unless when she rides or goes abroad into the country, (except sick or aged persons,) on pain of 3*s.* 4*d.*”

“ 3 and 4 Ph. and Mar. John Webster, mayor.—The breakfasts used on Christmas-day to be laid aside, that men may apply themselves to religious duties.”

“ 3 and 4 Ph. and Mar.—Ale to be no more than a penny a quart, and *it* to be full.”—“ All mumming and disguises to be left off at Christmas time.”

“ 20th Oct. 13 Jac. (1616), Thomas Thorpe, mayor.—No players to be allowed to act in the common-hall”, and further, that for avoyding several incon-

<sup>1</sup> Yet we find that in 1567, Richard Dutton being then mayor, is said “ to have kepte a very worthy howse for all comers duringe all the tyme of Christmas with a lorde of mis-rule and other pastymes,” of which mumming were generally a principal part. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>2</sup> The site of what was then the common-hall is now that of the theatre; the remarkable change of hours it will be unnecessary to make any observation upon.

veniences, ordered that they shall not act in any place within the liberties of the city *after six in the evening*.

“ In 1606 there was a controversy about the right of carrying the city sword with the point upwards in the cathedral, which had been resisted by one of the prebendaries; it was terminated in favour of the corporation, the charter of King Henry VII. having granted them the privilege of having their sword carried with the point upwards upon all occasions, and in all places, except in the royal presence.

“ In 1619 it was determined, by Segar, Garter, and St. George, Norroy king of arms, (and is recorded in the Corporation Journals,) that Mr. Gamull being an alderman and justice of peace in the city, had right of precedence over Mr. Roger Hurlestone, a young gentleman commorant within the same.”

It appears that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth there was a custom (then called an ancient one) for the aldermen and justices, sheriffs and leave-lookers, to meet every Sunday in the Inner Pentice to have a *shot* or a drinking, and every man to spend a penny. In 1657 the mayor sat every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, for the administration of justice.

Chester, having been, as before-mentioned, the metropolis of a little sovereignty, did not send burgessees to parliament till some time after the privileges of the county-palatine had been abridged. In the year 1541 an act of parliament passed, by which it was provided, that from the end of the then session the county palatine should have two knights, and the city two burgessees, to represent them in all future parliaments. The right of election is in the mayor, aldermen, and council-men, whether commorant in the city or elsewhere, and the rest of the freemen who have been resident therein for one year immediately preceding the election. At a contested election in 1690, the number of voters who polled was somewhat more than 900: they are now about 1300.

In the reign of Henry VIII. Chester was by act of parliament made one of the sanctuaries for term of life for all persons guilty of minor offences, but in consequence of a petition from some of the principal inhabitants, Stafford was substituted in its stead\*. The privilege of sanctuary was wholly abolished in the reign of James I.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor there were 431 houses in Chester which paid tax to the king, and fifty-six others which paid tax to the bishop; but it is by no means certain that these numbers included the whole population of the city, as there might have been houses exempt from paying taxes either to the king or bishop. It appears from the survey, that when Hugh

\* See more particulars, p. 301, 302.

Lupus received the city of Chester from the hands of William the Conqueror, its value was much diminished from what it had been in the reign of King Edward, 205 houses out of 431, which had formerly paid taxes, being then in ruins, none having been re-built when the survey was taken. We have no intermediate accounts of the population of Chester till the year 1774, when the inhabitants of Chester having been numbered under the superintendance of Dr. Haygarth of Bath, then resident in this city, they were found to be 14,713. Dr. Haygarth, in his observations on the population and diseases of Chester in that year, has shewn, that it was in a very extraordinary degree more healthy than most other large towns and cities<sup>a</sup>, and that during a period of ten years preceding, the proportion of deaths had been only one in forty, and within the walls, exclusively of the suburbs, only one in fifty-eight. It appears by the returns made under the act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom in 1801, that there were then 3194 houses in Chester, of which 3109 were inhabited, and that the total number of inhabitants was 15,152, of which 6492 were males and 8560 females.

The sweating-sickness and the plague, those dreadful scourges of the human race in the days of our ancestors, appear to have been more than usually destructive in this city. In 1507 ninety-one householders are said to have died in three days of the sweating-sickness, of which only four were widows<sup>b</sup>: in 1517 there was so great a plague in Chester that the grass is said to have grown in the streets a foot high<sup>c</sup>: the sweating-sickness was again fatal in 1550<sup>d</sup>. The plague continued in Chester from September 1602 till the month of February 1605; it was very fatal during the years 1603 and 1604: six hundred and fifty persons died in the former year, nine hundred and eighty-six in the latter; at one period about fifty-five died weekly: during this dreadful visitation the fairs were not held, the court of exchequer was kept at Tarvin, the assizes at Nantwich.

<sup>a</sup> It appears by a table at the end of these observations, that the proportion of deaths in London is 1 in 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; in Edinburgh 1 in 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; in Dublin 1 in 22; in Liverpool 1 in 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and in Manchester 1 in 28. Dr. Haygarth attributes the healthiness of Chester to its elevated situation; its being built on a loose rock which quickly absorbs moisture; and its being surrounded by the Dee. He observes also that the air is uncommonly clear, there having been but six foggy, and thirty-two hazy mornings during the four years then preceding; and he considers the opportunities for taking air and exercise, afforded even to invalids by the rows and walls, well adapted to preserve and restore health. Dr. Aikin in his History of the country round Manchester truly observes, "that the small proportion of deaths, when compared with the number of inhabitants at Chester, is in part owing to the much less proportion of the lowest class of poor than that in manufacturing towns."

<sup>b</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 191. The account in the Annals of Chester, Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125. is somewhat different, stating that the sweating-sickness in 1506 carried off in one day threescore and eleven householders, of whom only five were women. <sup>c</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 193.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 197.

Most of the principal citizens fled into the country, but Edward Dutton Esq. the mayor, to his eternal honour, although his own house was infected, and some of his children and servants died, stood to his post, and continued his exertions by removing the sick from those who were not infected, to endeavour to lessen this dreadful calamity, and check its progress: cabbins were made for the poor in the quarries without the walls<sup>c</sup>. We have no account of this dreadful malady being particularly destructive at Chester in 1625 or 1665; in the former year we have some intimation that the city was by extraordinary care kept free from infection<sup>d</sup>. In 1631 there was no fair held at Chester by reason of the infection in the adjacent country<sup>e</sup>. In 1647 the plague was more fatal than at any former period, 1906 persons dying between the 22d of June and the 21st of October<sup>f</sup>: in 1661 there was no Michaelmas fair by reason of the infection<sup>g</sup>.

Two weekly markets have been held at Chester on Wednesday and Saturday, from time immemorial; they are spoken of in an ancient record among the privileges which the city claimed by prescription. These markets are plentifully supplied with fish, butchers' meat, and other provisions, and they were formerly considerable markets for corn, but of late years little trade has been carried on in that article: the corn market was removed from the East-gate-street to the North-gate-street in the reign of Edward I. In 1655 it was determined, that a horse-market should be kept every Wednesday in North-gate-street, between the gate leading to the corn-market and the Abbey gate<sup>h</sup>.

There are three annual fairs at Chester; at Midsummer, Michaelmas, and on the last Thursday in February; the latter called Horn and Hoof fair, is of modern date, having been granted by King Charles II.; it is principally for the sale of horses and cattle: the others are of great antiquity, being recognized as established fairs by the charter of Hugh Lupus earl of Chester, who granted to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh the extraordinary privilege, that no criminals resorting to their fairs at Chester should be arrested for any crime whatever, except such as they might have committed during their stay in this city. The origin of the jurisdiction of the Dutton family over the Cheshire minstrels, already spoken of<sup>i</sup>, is attributed to a circumstance which happened at the Midsummer fair in the time of Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. It is said, that this earl being besieged by the Welsh in his castle of Rhuddlan, John Lacy, constable of Chester, by the aid of certain minstrels then at the fair, collected together a great number of disorderly people, whom the protection before-mentioned had drawn together from all parts, and sent them under the command of Hugh Dutton his steward

<sup>c</sup> Annals of Chester, Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>f</sup> History of Cheshire, 8vo. 1778. Vol. ii. p. 949.

<sup>g</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>h</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>i</sup> See p. 523—527.

to the Earl's relief, which was instantaneously effected; for the Welsh seeing their numbers, and not being aware of their want of arms and discipline, immediately raised the siege. The Earl, in gratitude for his delivery, is said to have granted to the constable the jurisdiction before-mentioned, which was immediately conveyed by him to Hugh Dutton and his heirs. It was customary until the middle of the last century for the minstrels of Cheshire to accompany the lord of Dutton or his steward to St. John's church on Midsummer-day, with music playing, and from thence after divine service to the place where he kept his court; the last procession of minstrels was in 1756<sup>k</sup>. The citizens of Chester appear to have possessed a prescriptive right with respect to the two ancient fairs of St. Werburgh and St. John, collateral with that of the abbot and convent. The grant to the convent, of a fair on the festival of St. Werburgh is in Hugh Lupus's charter, and confirmed by a charter of Ranulph de Blundeville<sup>l</sup>: after much litigation, the right of holding fairs was adjudged, not long before the Reformation, to be vested in the citizens solely<sup>m</sup>. These fairs, which are still continued, are great

<sup>k</sup> See p. 527.

<sup>l</sup> Ranulph de Blundeville earl of Chester granted permission to the abbot and monks of St. Werburgh to hold their fairs and markets before the Abbey gates. Dugdale's Monast. Vol. i. p. 40. Henry Bradshaw in his Life of St. Werburgh speaks of this as a grant of Hugh Lupus.

"The erle gave the place many grete freedoms  
Within Chestre cite whiche ben knowen of olde,  
With singular privileges and auncient customs,  
Saynte Werburghe faire with profites manyfolde.  
That no marchandise shoulde be bought ne folde  
Enduryng the faire dayes in writyng as we finde,  
But afore the Abbay-gate, to have and to holde."

Nothing of this appears in Hugh Lupus's charter; only the grant of a fair for three days, with its tolls.

<sup>m</sup> It appears that in the reign of Edward IV. the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh claimed tolls at the fair of St. Werburgh for two days and a half; they claimed also to have the fair of St. John held before the gates of the abbey; the mayor and citizens on the contrary contended, that they had a right to expose their merchandize any where within the city. By an agreement then made between the parties, the abbot and convent retained their right to tolls; the citizens were allowed to build booths in the Abbey-green, but not so as to obstruct the passage to the Abbey; and the abbot and convent agreed not to let their houses near the fair whilst the citizens' booths remained unoccupied, but afterwards they were to let them either to citizens or strangers. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2072. f. 28.) Notwithstanding this agreement litigations still continued between the convent and the city, till the year 1513, when an award was made by Sir Charles Booth and others on several matters in dispute between the parties; by this award it was determined, that for the future the abbot should have no longer any interest in the fair of St. Werburgh; their claim as to the fair of St. John the Baptist appears to have been settled by the former agreement: the award of 1 Henry VIII. is copied at length in Randal Holme's collections; (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2159. f. 95. &c. &c.) By his answer to a *quo warranto* in the reign of Henry VII. it appears that the abbot then claimed a fair for three days at the festival of St. Werburgh; the privilege of arresting transgressors during the fair, and committing them to his own prison; of trying criminals for felony to be executed at the Earl's gallows, and that no thief should be taken up by the Earl's bailiff, or by the mayor. (Harl. MSS. 2060. p. 31.)

marts for the sale of various sorts of goods, particularly Irish linens<sup>a</sup>, muslins, and other articles manufactured in Lancashire; woollen cloths from Yorkshire; flannel from Wales and Lancashire; hardware from Sheffield and Birmingham; hops, &c.: on the two first days there is a great sale of horses and other cattle. There is little appearance of business in the principal streets; the shops of most of the tradesmen who resort to the fair being arranged in rows within halls appointed for that purpose. In 1663 the linen-cloth market was ordered to be removed from the East-gate-street, to the rows in Water-gate-street, where it had been anciently held<sup>o</sup>; in 1755, the dean and chapter built a linen cloth hall, between the cathedral and North-gate-street: the present Irish linen-hall, situated a little to the north of Water-gate-street, is a spacious brick structure of a quadrangular form, built in the year 1778, at the expence of some of the principal linen merchants; it contains thirty-six double and twenty-four single shops: the old linen-hall above-mentioned is now occupied, during the fairs, by shops for Yorkshire cloths, Scotch manufactures, hardware, &c.: the Manchester hall in East-gate-street, is principally for the manufactures of that populous town: the shops for coarse Welsh linen, flannels, &c. are in the exchange, and there are many temporary shops and standings in the rows for woollen cloths, flannels, muslins, &c. &c. A large commercial hall, called the Union-hall, is now erecting in Fore-gate-street; it is intended principally for Yorkshire woollen cloths and Manchester goods, and is to contain sixty single and ten double shops, besides a covered space large enough for eighty stalls: the building is one hundred and sixty-eight feet long and ninety-two wide. Courts of piepowder are held by the sheriffs at each of the fairs. In 1615 there was a lottery of silver-plate and jewels at the Talbot,

<sup>a</sup> Mr. Pennant informs us, that the linen-trade at Chester began in the year 1736, in which year 449,654 yards were imported; he says, that the importation regularly increased till the last year of the then late war, from which time till the date of his Tour in Wales (the preface of which is dated 1778), it continued at a par. He states the annual importation at 1300 boxes and packs, including 300 boxes and packs imported into Liverpool, and sent across the Mersey to Chester; and he calculates the annual importation by the yard at two millions of yards, or one million at each fair. This latter part of the calculation appears to be much under-rated, but the exact quantity cannot be ascertained, as the number of packs and that of boxes are not distinguished. In 1786, when the trade appears to have been at its greatest height, there were 1684 packs and 738 boxes brought into the port of Chester, exclusively of such linens as had been imported to Liverpool, making about five millions and a half of yards. Since this time the linen trade at Chester has been on the decline; in 1796 only 582 packs and 808 boxes were imported into Chester, and in 1806 only 327 packs and 936 boxes. The quantity of bye-goods, which are linens imported at Liverpool, or such as have been previously purchased at Chester and conveyed back again for sale, from Manchester and other places, have considerably increased since the date of Mr. Pennant's Tour, and may be averaged at about 60 packs and 740 boxes each year, which will make the whole quantity of linen now brought into Chester annually for sale about three millions and a half of yards.

<sup>o</sup> Corporation Records.

near

near the East-gate, at the Midsummer fair; "the box was kept by sheriff Holme, and every day brought thither by a trumpet, and the mottoes delivered by the sheriff's son<sup>p</sup>." It appears that at an early period William Wistaston held the manor of Wistaston, and lands in Rope, Willaston, &c. by the service of finding a man and horse to keep the fairs at Chester twice a year, according to the custom of the fairs<sup>q</sup>. A glove is hung out at St. Peter's church fourteen days before the commencement of each fair, and till its conclusion, being twenty-nine days, during which time non-freemen are allowed to trade within the city, but little business is transacted before the commencement of the fairs. It is not improbable, that the glove might allude originally to what was considered as the staple trade of the city; in corroboration of which it may be observed, that at the Midsummer show a glove was formerly delivered by the wet-glovers to the mayor, as a part of their homage, and to this day it is not unusual for the glovers to present the mayor with a pair of gloves on his election.

From its situation on the estuary of the Dee, Chester has always been a seaport of some consequence. It has been supposed, that in the time of the Saxons horses and slaves were among the chief articles of exportation from this county, and that the prisoners taken in their frequent skirmishes with their neighbours the Welsh, furnished its inhabitants with the chief supply for the latter<sup>r</sup>. It appears by the Domesday survey, that martin-skins formed one of the chief articles of commerce about the time of the conquest. Cheese, for which this county has been celebrated from time immemorial, was one of the principal exports many centuries ago, and wine appears to have been in the twelfth century<sup>s</sup>, as till of late years it continued to be, the most considerable foreign import. Among the chief imports of the present day, are linen in considerable quantities from Ireland<sup>t</sup>, skins from

<sup>p</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125. <sup>q</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, f. 237. *b*. There is no date to the record, but it appears to have been in or about the reign of Edward I. <sup>r</sup> See Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. i. p. 133, 134, where a description of the sale of slaves at Bristol is quoted from Malmesbury's Life of Bishop Wulfstan. <sup>s</sup> Lucian, a monk, who lived in that century, speaks

of their having wine in plenty and profusion at Chester, from the copious vintages of foreign countries. See Camden. Henry Bradshaw, in his Life of St. Werburgh, speaking of Chester, says,

"There is great merchandise, shypys, and wyues strong,  
With all thyngs of pleasure the citezens among."

<sup>t</sup> Irish linen and skins were among the principal articles of importation about the year 1430, as appears by the following extract from a poem published in Hakluyt, Vol. i. p. 199.

"Irish wooll, and linen cloth, faldinge,  
And martens good be her merchandie,  
Hertes hides and other of venerie,  
Skins of otter, squirrel, and Irish hare,  
Of sheep, lambe and foxe is her chaffare,  
Felles of kiddes and conies great plentie."

Leghorn,

Leghorn, timber, hemp, and flax: the principal exports are lead, lead-ore, and coals: oak-bark was formerly a considerable article of exportation, principally to Ireland. The trade of Chester, injured by its vicinity to the flourishing port of Liverpool, and by the impediments<sup>v</sup> which, notwithstanding all that has been done, still exist in the channel of the Dee, has been gradually declining, and the duties now amount to scarcely more than one-fifth of what they produced twenty years ago<sup>x</sup>. The Custom-house at Chester was built in 1633; the present quay was constructed in the year 1768<sup>y</sup>.

Ship-building has been carried on at Chester for many centuries, but not to so great an extent as of late years; there are now more ships built here than at Liverpool, they being in great estimation among the merchants at that and other principal sea-ports of England and Scotland, as particularly well founded, and in the mariner's phrase, *sea-worthy*. The Swan sloop, built about the year 1740, is the only ship of war built at this port.

<sup>v</sup> See an account of the improvements of the river Dee, p. 418, 419, and of the Chester Canals and others communicating with it, p. 423. <sup>x</sup> The comparative state of the trade of Chester for the last thirty years may be seen from the following Table.

TRADE OF CHESTER.	1776.	1786.	1796.	1806.	
Coasting Vessels entered inwards	208	241	206	149	} considered foreign.
D <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> outwards	619	454	402	350	
Ireland inwards	140	48	32	195	
D <sup>o</sup> outwards	104	103	51	329	
America inwards	2				
D <sup>o</sup> outwards	5	2			
Isle of Man, and other foreign parts, outwards.	3	13	1	9	
D <sup>o</sup> inwards	4	23	15	1	
Exported to foreign Parts, Chaldrons of Coals	2877	2616	272	16519	
Tons of Lead	1184	1410	160	11	
Ore	168	245			
Bark	18	370	695	16	
Exported coastways, Tons of Lead	2813	1058	1163	2200	
Ore	431	309	376	490	
Number of Ships in foreign trade	22	8	6	13	} belonging to this port.
coasting trade	13	25	17	14	
Amount of duties or murage *	£159 19 8	£293	£122 0 10	£61 4 9	

\* A small duty paid by all merchandize imported into Chester, for the purpose of keeping the walls in repair.

<sup>y</sup> History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 644.

The manufacture of gloves was formerly carried on in this city to a great extent. Mr. Pennant speaks of it as the only manufacture, and they were considered as the staple commodity of the place: but this trade has much declined, and there are now not more than two or three hundred persons, mostly women, employed in it. The tanners and skinners still carry on a considerable trade, but not so extensive as formerly<sup>a</sup>.

There was formerly a very extensive manufacture of tobacco-pipes at Chester, established nearly two centuries ago; the pipes were esteemed the best in Europe, and about thirty years ago, were exported in great quantities to foreign countries; pipes of a peculiar sort, called hog-pipes, being shorter than those in common use, were made for the Guinea trade: the home trade now only remains, and that in a diminished state: the clay now used in this manufacture is procured from Devonshire. The editors of the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, speak of the trade of Chester, as having been much augmented by the industry and ingenuity of a colony of Dutch, who had then lately settled there. We cannot find any trace of such a circumstance, nor do any Dutch names appear in the parochial records of that period. It is not improbable that the Palatines were meant, for it appears that many of those distressed foreigners who sought a refuge in England in the year 1709 remained in this kingdom, and some of them are known to have resided at Chester, in St. John's parish. The most considerable manufactures of the present day, besides those already mentioned, are tobacco, snuff, needles, white lead, iron, and patent shot.

The Dee mills, situated near the bridge in the parish of St. Mary, belong to Edward Ommany Wrench Esq., and are let, chiefly for the purpose of grinding flour, to several tenants: they were in great part burnt down on the 27th of September 1789, and rebuilt upon a larger scale. These mills, which belonged formerly to the Earl of Chester and produced a considerable revenue, are of great antiquity; they were existing in 1119, and some of them were rebuilt by John Scot Earl of Chester, who died in 1237<sup>a</sup>. In the year 1284 they were leased by King Edward I. for twelve years, at the high rent of 200*l.* *per ann.*<sup>b</sup> to Richard

<sup>a</sup> See p. 606. Queen Elizabeth granted a licence to Arthur Balsano, to export from Chester 6000 dickers of leather of calves-skins, annually for seven years; King James I. granted a licence to James Maxwell Esq., to export 18,000 annually for twenty-one years.—Harl. MSS. No. 2004, f. 735.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. No 2003. f. 43.

<sup>c</sup> Equal to 600*l.* *per ann.* of our present

money.

the

the Engineer <sup>c</sup>: the Black Prince granted them for life to Sir Howell y Fwyall, in reward for his bravery at the battle of Poitiers, where he took the French King prisoner <sup>d</sup>: King Edward VI. granted the Dee-mills with the fishery at Chester, in exchange for estates in Lincolnshire, to Sir Richard Cotton, of whose family they were purchased in 1587, subject to a reserved rent of 100*l.* *per ann.* by Thomas Gamul Esq., father of Sir Francis Gamul Bart. In 1646 it was ordered by parliament that the Dee-mills, (erroneously described as having been then lately held under the crown by Francis Gamul a delinquent,) and the causey, being a great annoyance and obstruction to the trade of the city, should be taken down and destroyed within four months <sup>e</sup>; that within a year, new water-courses should be made for other mills to be erected upon the Rood-eye, or some other lands belonging to the corporation, employing the materials of the old mills and the causey; the profits of the new mills, over and above the fee-farm-rent and other outgoings, to be for the use and benefit of the city <sup>f</sup>. This order appears never to have been carried into execution. In 1652 it was again in contemplation to pull down the Dee-mills, and to destroy the dam across the river, for the purpose of making a harbour <sup>g</sup>. The Dee-mills were inherited by Sir Francis Gamul's five co-heiresses, the husband of one of whom having purchased two of the other shares, three-fifths passed by inheritance and devide to the Shaws of Eltham in Kent, of whom they were purchased in 1742 by Mr. Edward Wrench, uncle of the present owner; who is now possessed of the whole of this valuable property; another share of which was purchased of the representatives of Sydney Gamul in 1753, by the late Mr. Wrench, and the remaining share, which had undergone several alienations, by E. O. Wrench Esq., the present proprietor, in 1808. The reserved rent was purchased of the assignees of the Cotton family in 1776.

It appears by the record of Domesday, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor there were seven mint-masters in Chester, who, when their mints were worked, paid 7*l.* to the King, over and above the accustomed rent. In the reign of King William III. Chester was one of the six cities in which mints were erected

<sup>c</sup> *Ingeniatori Noſtro*. Writ of Inquiry to ascertain the damages done to the mills by inundations, which damages were to be allowed out of the rent. Richard Lewgenor, *alias* Ingeniator, probably the lessee of the mills, was mayor of Chester in 1305. King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 169.

<sup>d</sup> Pennant's Wales, Vol. i. p. 157.

<sup>e</sup> Some such measure as this (at least as far as relates to the causey), had been in contemplation in 1608, and was then resisted by the Gamul family: the matter was referred to the privy-council, and by them to the judges, who decreed that the causey should remain. — Vale-Royal.

<sup>f</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>g</sup> Several proceedings of Parliament, March 1652.

for recoining the silver of the kingdom<sup>b</sup>. By an act of Parliament passed in the year 1700 the goldsmiths of this city were incorporated into a company, who were to elect an assayer for the purpose of assaying all wrought plate of gold or silver.

The city of Chester, still surrounded by its ancient walls<sup>c</sup>, is divided into four principal streets, called Eastgate-street, Northgate-street, Bridge-street, and Watergate-street. The carriage road in these streets is on a level with the underground warehouses: over these are open galleries, called *rows*, for the accommodation of foot-passengers, which occupy the space between the front of the tradesmen's shops and the street; the upper rooms of the houses project over the rows, so as to be even with the warehouses beneath. The general appearance of these rows is as if the first stories in front of all the houses had been laid open, and made to communicate with each other, pillars only being left for the support of the superstructure: the foot passengers appear from the street as if they were walking along within the houses, up one pair of stairs. At the intersections of the streets there are flights of steps leading to the opposite rows. Some of the rows are so wide that the proprietors of the houses place stalls between the footway and the street, which they let out advantageously to other tradesmen, particularly during the fairs. Mr. Pennant thinks that he discerns in these rows the form of the ancient vestibules attached to the houses of the Romans who once possessed this city: many vestiges of their edifices have certainly been discovered at Chester, as we have already noticed<sup>d</sup>, but there seems to be little resemblance between the Chester rows, and the vestibules of the Romans, whose houses were constructed only of one story. Some have attributed the origin of the rows to the period when Chester was liable to frequent attacks from the Welsh, which induced the inhabitants to build their houses in this form, that when the enemy should at any time have forced an entrance, they might avoid the danger of the horsemen, and annoy their assailants as they passed through the streets<sup>e</sup>.

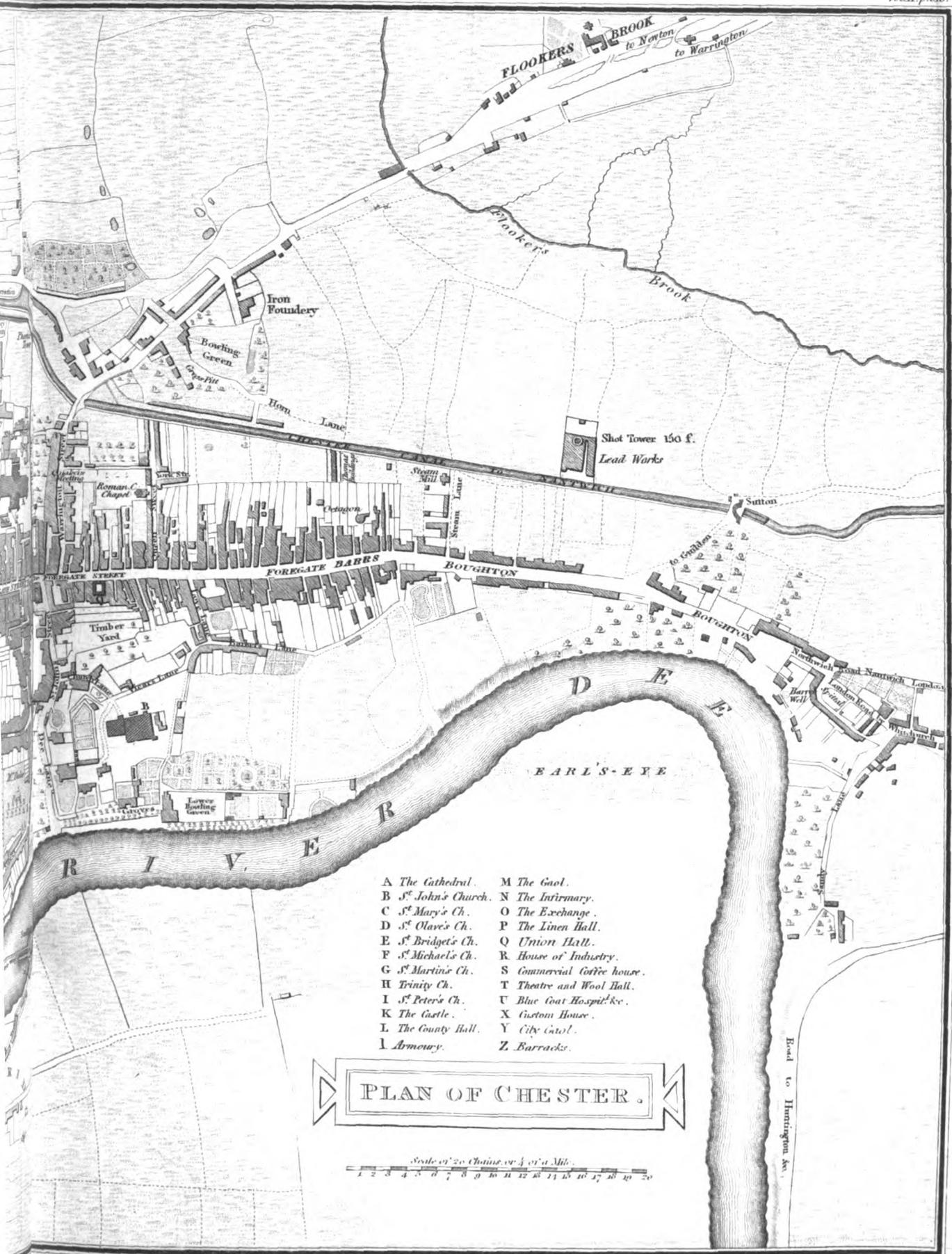
Elthelred and Ethelsteda, Earl and Countess of Mercia, are said to have re-built the walls of Chester about the year 608, and to have enlarged their circuit to double their former extent; but the fact of their enlargement is reasonably doubted by Mr. Pennant; their form being so entirely Roman, and Roman antiquities having been found every where within their circuit, seeming to

<sup>b</sup> See the act of 12 & 13 William III. whose walls still remain entire; those of Conway are the most so, since the recent demolition of a great part of the walls of Carlisle. part ii. p. 20. & Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1989.

<sup>c</sup> There is no other city or town in the kingdom  
<sup>d</sup> See p. 428—431.  
<sup>e</sup> King's Vale-Royal,







- A The Cathedral.
- B St. John's Church.
- C St. Mary's Ch.
- D St. Olave's Ch.
- E St. Bridget's Ch.
- F St. Michael's Ch.
- G St. Martin's Ch.
- H Trinity Ch.
- I St. Peter's Ch.
- K The Castle.
- L The County Hall.
- M The Gaol.
- N The Infirmary.
- O The Exchange.
- P The Linen Hall.
- Q Union Hall.
- R House of Industry.
- S Commercial Coffee house.
- T Theatre and Wool Hall.
- U Blue Coat Hospit'ke.
- X Custom House.
- Y City Gaol.
- Z Barracks.

PLAN OF CHESTER.

Scale of 20 Chains or 1/4 of a Mile.





denote clearly that they occupy the same site as those of the Roman town. The walls were repaired and strongly fortified by the Norman Earls; we first read of murage duties being granted to the citizens for their repair in 1307<sup>m</sup>: by these duties the walls have been ever since kept in repair, under the management of certain officers, called murengers, chosen by the corporation as before-mentioned. The walls are somewhat more than a mile and three-quarters in circumference; on the top is a paved walk of sufficient width for two persons to walk a-breast, which in its circuit affords a great variety of pleasing prospects, in which the river Dee, Beeston-castle and rock, Broxton and Peckforton hills, and those of Flintshire and Denbighshire, with the castle and church of Hawarden, are prominent features.

There are four principal gates in the walls of Chester, besides posterns; the North-gate, East-gate, Bridge-gate, and Water-gate: all these, except the North-gate<sup>n</sup>, of which the citizens had the charge<sup>o</sup>, were kept by persons who held by serjeanty under the Earls of Chester, and were entitled to certain tolls, which are specified in an inquisition, taken in the year 1321<sup>p</sup>. The custody of the gates, with the tolls payable at each, have at several times been purchased by the corporation. The custody of the Bridge-gate<sup>q</sup>, with the serjeanty of Bridge-street, and the custody of the garden of the castle at Chester, belonged, in the reign of Edward III. to the Raby family<sup>r</sup>, from whom they passed by co-heiresses to the Norris's of Speke in Lancashire and the Troutbecks; the moiety, which belonged to the Norris family was purchased by the corporation of Sir William Norris in 1624; the other moiety was purchased of the Earl of Shrewsbury, as representative of the Troutbecks in 1660, when a suite of rooms (still vested in the Shrewsbury family), was reserved to the use of the Earl and his heirs, in a house near the bridge, now belonging to John Cotgreave Esq. In an inquisition (20 Jac. 1.) Sir William Troutbeck is said to have held the serjeanty of the Bridge-gate, and the custody of the castle-garden, by reason of his possessing the manors of Little-Nelton and Hargrave, but it does not appear that the tenures were connected at an early period, or that the

<sup>m</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 169.      <sup>n</sup> The North-gate, which was taken down in 1808, is now re-building after a design of Mr. Harrison's, of the Doric order, at the expence of Earl Grosvenor.

<sup>o</sup> See p. 571.

<sup>p</sup> Entered in the Black-book of Chester, among the muniments of the corporation.

<sup>q</sup> The inquisition of 1321 states that the keeper of this gate was bound to find locks and keys for the Bridge-gate, and the neighbouring postern, called Ship-gate, and a man to watch and open and shut the said gates.

<sup>r</sup> Esch. 23 Edw. III. and 43 Edw. III., in the castle at Chester.

Rabys, from whom Sir William Troutbeck claimed, ever possessed those manors. Philip de Raby, in the reign of Edward III., together with the custody of the Bridge-gate, had that of the Earl's garden at the castle, for which service he was entitled to the fruit of a certain tree, called a "Restyng-tree," and to the fruit of the other trees in the garden, after the first shaking; and he was to furnish the Earl's household from the said garden, with colewort from Michaelmas to Lent, and with leeks during Lent. The old Bridge-gate had two round towers, on the westernmost of which was an octagonal tower, built<sup>o</sup> for the purpose of the water-works; the gate and towers were taken down in the years 1780 and 1781; the gate was re-built in 1782.

The serjeanty of the East-gate, with the buildings and houses above and within, was given by King Edward I. to Henry Bradford, in exchange for the manor of Bradford in Delamere<sup>1</sup>: it was afterwards in the Truffells, from whom it descended to the Veres Earls of Oxford, and passed to Sir Christopher Hatton, and the Crewes with Brewer's-Hall and other estates, which had belonged to the Bradfords and Truffells. The keeper of this gate was bound by his serjeanty to find a crannock and a bushell for measuring the salt brought in. The weights and measures of the city are still inspected by the serjeant of the East-gate. Sir Randal Crewe appears to have been in treaty with the city, about purchasing the tolls of the East-gate<sup>2</sup>, but the business was not finally settled till 1662, when John Crewe Esq. released his right in these tolls to the corporation, in consideration of a rent-charge of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* on the Rood-eye: he reserved the custody of the gate, and the adjoining shops and buildings, with the appointment of the bailiff, or serjeant of the gate, and stipulated that his own cattle, carts, horses, &c. and those of his heirs, should be toll-free<sup>3</sup>. The appointment of the serjeant is now vested in his descendant, Lord Crewe. On the site of the East-gate is an arch, built at the expence of Richard Lord Grosvenor<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Escheats in the castle at Chester, 24 Edw. III.

<sup>2</sup> It appears to have been a part of the plan of the engineer of the water-works in 1583, to construct a circular tower on the Bridge-gate (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2093.); but it is most probable the tower was not built till John Tyrer undertook the water-works in 1600, as Webb in his description of Chester (written in 1622), says, "the Bridge-gate has of late been beautified by a seemly water-work of stone, built steeple-wise, by the ingenious industry and charge of a late worthy member of the city, John Tyrer Gent."—Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2057, f. 147.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. N<sup>o</sup> 2091. f. 241. b.

<sup>5</sup> Corporation Records.

<sup>6</sup> The corner-stone was laid in 1767; the centres were struck April 7, 1768. History of Chester, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 644.

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The custody of the Water-gate belonged for several generations to the Earls of Derby, of whom it was purchased by the corporation about the year 1778. The serjeant of this gate is bound to execute the mayor's processses on the river Dee. On the site of this gate a new and spacious arch was erected in 1788, the expence being defrayed out of the murage duties.

The principal postern gates were Cale-yard gate, obtained by the abbot and convent, in the reign of Edward I., as a passage to their kitchen-garden; New-gate, formerly called Woolfield or Woolf-gate (which was repaired and enlarged in 1608), leading to Pepper-street<sup>b</sup>, and Ship-gate, leading to the passage over the Dee, still used as a foot-way: the arch of the latter is supposed to be of Roman architecture.

There were formerly several towers on the city-wall, built for the purpose of defence, and for annoying the enemy. The New-Tower, sometimes called the Water-Tower, projecting from the walls towards the Dee, twenty-four feet in height, was built by the citizens in 1322, at the expence of 100*l.*, according to the contract made with John Helpstone the architect. Large iron rings are attached to this tower for the purpose of fastening vessels, which before the harbour was choaked with sands, came up to the walls. A thoroughfare-tower, leading to the water-tower, was anciently called Bonewaldesthorne-tower. The Phœnix-tower, from which King Charles I. was a sad spectator of the defeat of his army on Rowton-heath, takes its name from the crest of the painters-stainers' company placed on the front, with the arms of other companies who held their meetings in the tower: it appears to have been formerly called Newton-tower<sup>c</sup>. There are scarcely any remains of the Goblins tower, which was called also Pemberton's-tower; the lower part of it is arched over and fitted up with stone benches. The sadlers'-tower, where the company of sadlers held their meetings, was taken down about the year 1780.

At the intersection of the four principal streets was a cross, called the High-cross<sup>d</sup>, taken down in the year 1646<sup>e</sup>, after the city had fallen into the hands of the parliamentary army; the ancient fonts in all the churches were at the same time destroyed.

<sup>b</sup> This gate has been sometimes called Pepper-gate, as in the Chester proverb, "When the daughter is stolen, shut Pepper-gate," said to have originated from the circumstance of the daughter of a mayor of Chester having made her escape with her lover through this gate.

<sup>c</sup> Rogers's MSS.

<sup>d</sup> From a sketch of it in the Harleian Collection of MSS. No. 2072, it appears to have been a clumsy erection, of the age of King James I.

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. No. 2125,

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The bridge over the Dee consists of seven stone arches : it is an erroneous opinion, that the present structure is of very remote antiquity, it was originally of timber, and we have two records of its total destruction, in consequence of an irruption of the sea in the thirteenth century<sup>l</sup>. The south end of the present structure was newly built in the year 1500. The ancient gates, which stood one at each end of the bridge, were taken down in the years 1782 and 1784.

The black friers appear to have made an aqueduct for bringing water from Spital-Boughton to Chester, as early as the reign of Edward I<sup>s</sup>. These works had gone to decay before the year 1537, when Dr. Wall began to make conduits at Boughton, for the purpose of bringing water to the Bridge-gate in pipes of lead : in 1583 a conduit was begun by the contrivance of an ingenious workman<sup>b</sup> for conveying water to the High-crofs at the expence of the citizens, to which the Offley family, Mr. Alderley, and Mr. Withers, are said to have been principal contributors. In or about the year 1600, a new water-work at the bridge was begun by Mr. John Tyrer, for conveying water to most parts of the city : in 1622 Mr. Tyrer procured a grant of the Boughton water-works : in 1692 Tyrer's works having become decayed and ruinous, some new works were begun, but the scheme not answering, other water-works were begun in 1698 ; by these the city is still supplied with water, which is conveyed by six forcing pumps ; the greatest elevation is about twenty yards : the original undertaking was divided into six shares, each of which is now worth about 1700*l.* and produces nearly 80*l. per ann.* Tyrer's tower on the west side of the Bridge-gate, was taken down in the year 1780. An act of Parliament for lighting, paving, and cleansing the streets, rows, and passages in Chester, passed in the year 1761 ; this act was amended and altered, and its powers enlarged by an act passed in 1803.

<sup>l</sup> Pons Cestrie totus cecidit, 1227—Mare erupit, Pontem Cestrie confregit et asportavit, 1279. See extracts from an ancient chronicle of Chester-abbey in Bishop Gastrall's Notitia.

<sup>b</sup> Bishop Tanner.

<sup>a</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 202, 203.— In 1573, Richard Dutton, then mayor, made an agreement with Peter Morris for making a conduit from St. Giles's-well, at Spital-Boughton to the crofs at St. Bride's-church, but this seems not to have taken effect : in 1583 William Styles being mayor, an agreement was made with John Sanderfon, for a conduit from Boughton to the High-crofs ; and in 1584 another agreement was made, by Robert Brerewood then mayor, for making a font house at the High-crofs, for the cisterns. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2093. f. 205, & 207.

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The city of Chester is divided into nine parishes and twelve wards<sup>1</sup>. The parishes are St. Oswald's, St. John's, St. Peter's, Trinity, St. Bridget's or St. Bride's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's, St. Olave's, and St. Martin's.

The parish of St. Oswald comprises the chapelry of *Brucra*, or Church-on-Heath, and several townships, extending into the hundreds of Broxton, Edisbury, and Wirral, some of them four or five miles from the city, and the little Isle of Hilbree, twenty miles distant, at the mouth of the Dee. That part of the parish of St. Oswald which is within the walls, contained in 1801 seven hundred and twenty-four houses, of which seven hundred and six were occupied, and 3377 inhabitants.

The ancient church of St. Oswald which gave name to the parish, is supposed to have occupied the site of the present church of that name; and it has been conjectured, that at an early period, the abbot and convent, wishing to attach it to the cathedral, built the chapel of St. Nicholas, at a little distance to the south-west, for the parishioners<sup>2</sup>. The parish-church of St. Oswald was re-built in the reign of Henry VII., as appears by an agreement between the abbot of Chester and the parishioners of St. Oswald, bearing date 1488, concerning the proportion to be paid by each towards the expences: in this agreement it is called the New-church of St. Oswald, then lately edified at the end of the chapel, called St. Nicholas'-chapel, within the precincts of the monastery of St. Werburgh<sup>3</sup>: it appears also by this agreement that the roof, battlements, &c. were to be finished in 1490. After this, the chapel of St. Nicholas having been suffered to go to decay, was, in 1545, sold to the corporation by whom it was repaired and used for some time as their common-hall: it was afterwards fitted up as a theatre.

In St. Oswald's church is the monument of Sir William Gerard, one of the justices of Wales, lord chancellor of Ireland, and recorder of Chester, who died in 1581: memorials for some of the Booth family, particularly Sir John Booth Knt., who died in 1678, and his son George Booth<sup>4</sup> Esq. who died in 1719; the Farringtons  
of

<sup>1</sup> According to a division of wards, which took place in 1533, they were then fifteen in number: viz. East-gate, St. Oswald's, Corn-market, North-gate, St. Thomas, St. Peter, St. Bridget, St. Michael, Beast-market, St. Mary, St. Olave, St. Giles, St. John, St. Martin, and the Holy Trinity: the three last had two constables each, the others only one. The wards of St. Peter, the Corn-market, and the Beast-market have been incorporated with some of the others.

<sup>2</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2103. f. 24.

<sup>4</sup> George Booth son of Sir John Booth Knt., and grandson of Sir George Booth Bart. of Dunham-Massey, was many years prothonotary of Chester, and published a well-known law-book, on the  
Nature

of Chester, and several mayors and other members of the corporation, among whom may be particularized William Aldersey Esq., who died in 1577, and William Aldersey Esq. 1608, father and grandfather of William Aldersey, who was alderman, and twice mayor of Chester, and compiler of the annals of that city printed in King's Vale-Royal. When Webb wrote his description of Chester in 1622, the mayor and corporation usually attended divine service at St. Oswald's church in the forenoon, on Sundays and other festivals<sup>n</sup>: in the afternoon, it appears they went to St. Peter's<sup>o</sup>.

The manor of St. Thomas, called St. Thomas's-court, in the city of Chester<sup>p</sup>, lying chiefly within the parish of St. Oswald, and formerly belonging to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, is now vested in the dean and chapter: to this manor, the manors of Great-Boughton and Bridge-Trafford pay suit and service, and their constables are elected at the court of the dean and chapter.

The townships of St. Oswald, exclusively of those in the chapelry of *Bruera*, are *Bach*, *Great-Boughton*, *Croughton*, *Huntington*, *Idinshaw*, *Newton*, and *Werwin*.

The township of *Bach*, containing only three houses, lies in the hundred of *Broxton*, a mile north from Chester. The family of Chauntrell were, for many generations, settled at *Bach-Hall*<sup>q</sup>, and possessed of the manor, which before the reformation they held under the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, and afterwards under the dean and chapter<sup>r</sup>: in the year 1606, it was purchased of the Chauntrells, by Robert Whitby Gent. From his family it passed, partly by

Nature and Practice of Real Actions, with some records of the county palatine of Chester; he published also a translation of Diodorus Siculus. Mr. Booth died at the age of eighty-four; Elizabeth, an unmarried sister, died in 1734, at the age of ninety-six; his daughter, Catherine, who married James Howard Esq., nephew of the Earl of Berkshire, died in 1765, at the age of ninety-three.

<sup>n</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 39.—The sermons at St. Oswald's were then preached by the bishop, dean, and prebendaries, or their substitutes; there was a seat for the corporation, and the bishop sat with the mayor: soon after this, the dean and chapter removed the sermons into the choir, but finding the congregation incommoded for want of room, they erected a new pulpit, and placed some seats at the west-end of the nave. There was a dispute on these and other matters, between the chapter and the corporation. See the case stated, and the opinion of the learned Selden, which was in favour of the corporation, in Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2103. f. 32, 33.

<sup>o</sup> See the account of that parish.

<sup>p</sup> St. Thomas's church, or chapel, is now the deanery-house.

<sup>q</sup> As early as the reign of Henry VI. Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>r</sup> The paramount authority over this manor was among the estates of the dean and chapter, which Sir Richard Cotton obtained by a compulsory bargain. See p. 573, in the notes.

purchase,

purchase, and partly by marriage<sup>1</sup>, to the Cromptons, and about 1716, by an heiress of the Cromptons, to the Morgans of Golden-Grove in the county of Flint. In 1800 it was purchased of Edward Morgan Esq. by Samuel Brodhurst Esq. the present proprietor: Bach, or Beach-Hall, is in the occupation of Hugh Hughes Esq. The Booths had a seat and lands in this township, which belonged afterwards to the family of Roberts, and have been lately purchased by Mr. Brodhurst.

*Great-Boughton* was given by Hugh Lupus to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, together with *Croughton* and *Huntington*<sup>2</sup>; the two former in the reign of Edward VI. were obtained of the dean and chapter, (to whom they had been granted in the preceding reign,) by Sir Richard Cotton<sup>3</sup>, who parcelled out *Great-Boughton* among several fee-farmers. The principal mansion with its demesne was, for several generations, in a younger branch of the Davenports, from whom it passed by female heirs<sup>4</sup> to the present possessor, William Currie M. D.

The township of *Croughton*, containing only three houses, lies in the hundred of Wirral, about three miles and a half nearly north from Chester. The manor having been conveyed with *Great-Boughton* to Sir Richard Cotton, was sold by him in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to Richard Hurlestone Esq.; a co-heiress of the Hurlestons brought it in marriage to John Leche Esq.<sup>5</sup> of Carden, father of William Leche Esq. the present proprietor.

The township of *Huntington* lies in the hundred of Broxton, about three miles S. S. E. from Chester. After the dissolution, this manor, which had belonged (as before-mentioned) to the abbey of St. Werburgh, was granted by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter: having been conveyed in the reign of

<sup>1</sup> William Crompton, alderman of Chester, married one of the co-heiresses of Whitby. — Harl. MSS. 2010.

<sup>2</sup> It does not appear that the convent long continued to enjoy the above manors under this grant; Sir Philip Burnell having married an heiress of William Patrick, whose ancestor had possessed the manors of *Great-Boughton* and *Huntington* in the reign of Richard I., had in the following century a suit with the abbot and convent, which was terminated by their giving Sir Philip 200*l.* for a conveyance of those manors. *Villare Cestriense*. <sup>3</sup> See p. 573 in the notes.

<sup>4</sup> Jane Davenport, the aunt and devisee of the last heir male of this branch, married Mr. Thomas Hand, whose son had two daughters, married to Thomas Sherwin Esq. (under-secretary of war in 1756,) and Hugh Foulkes Esq. Robert, son of Hugh Foulkes, purchased the other moiety of *Boughton-Hall*, and his only daughter and heir brought the whole in marriage to Dr. Currie.

<sup>5</sup> On the death of Charles Hurlestone Esq., the last heir male, it descended to the three daughters of his elder brother, and, on a partition of his estates, this manor became the property of Mary the second daughter, who married John Leche Esq.

Edward VI. to Sir Richard Cotton<sup>a</sup>, his son, or grandson, sold it to Sir George Beverley: after Sir George's death it was purchased of his representatives, by Henry Harpur Esq., whose daughter brought it in marriage to the family of Spencer. Mrs. Margaret Spencer, widow of the great-grandson of the purchaser, having been possessed of this estate in fee, conveyed it by marriage to her second husband, the Rev. Richard Williams, rector of Hawarden, whose son sold it in 1772, to Thomas Brock Esq., uncle to John Brock Wood Esq., the present proprietor. The manor of Cheveley (a hamlet of this township) which had also been parcel of the possessions of the abbey and convent of St. Werburgh, now belongs to Earl Grosvenor; Cheveley-Hall is a farm-house.

The township of *Idinshaw*, or *Iddinshall*, containing only two houses, is situated about nine miles from Chester, and a mile and a half S. W. from Tarporley, detached from any other part of the parish of St. Oswald. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh<sup>b</sup>, passed with Croughton to Richard Hurleston Esq., of whose family it was purchased, by Sir Peter Pindar: either this Sir Peter, or a son of the same name, was created a baronet in 1662; the title became extinct, by the death of Sir Paul Pindar about the year 1700, and this estate passed to Paul Williams Esq. of Pont-y-Groyddel in right of his mother, the representative of that family, and from the Williams's by female heirs to the Hydes and Giffords, successively of Nerquis in the county of Flint, being now the property of Miss Elizabeth Gifford, the elder of the two daughters of the late John Gifford Esq., who died in 1797. The site of the ancient hall is moated, occupying an area of four statute acres: the present hall is a farm-house.

The township of *Newton*, comprising the hamlet of *Flookerbrook*, is situated about two miles north from Chester. The manor which had been given to the abbey of St. Werburgh by William, constable of Chester, descended with Croughton, till after the death of Charles Hurleston Esq.<sup>c</sup>, when it passed in marriage with Anne, the elder co-heiress of that family, to Henry John Needham, afterwards viscount Kilmorey, and is now the property of his son the present viscount. Newton-Hall, the property of Lord Kilmorey, is occupied by George Parker Esq. Flookerbrook was sold in the reign of Henry VI. by John Massey of Kelfall to John Bruen, from whom it passed successively to the Barrows and Sneyds: of the latter family it was purchased by the Smiths of the Hough. Flookerbrook-Hall, then

<sup>a</sup> See p. 573 in the notes.

<sup>b</sup> One-third of this manor was given to the abbey by Hugh Lupus: the other parts are supposed to have been given by the family of Idinshall. Villare Cestriense.

<sup>c</sup> He was sheriff of Cheshire in 1727.

the

the feat of Sir Thomas Smith, was destroyed during the siege of Chester, in 1644 or 1645. This property has since passed through various hands in a divided state.

The township of *Wervin* lies in the hundred of Broxton about five miles nearly N. E. from Chester. The manor, which had belonged to the abbey of St. Werburgh, passed with Broughton and Newton, till after the death of Mr. Hurlestone the last heir male of that family, when Elizabeth the younger co-heiress brought it to Trafford Barnston Esq. : Mrs. Barnston bequeathed it to her niece, Mary Leche, now the wife of Mr. Thomas Roberts, (who is in her right the present lord of the manor,) with remainder in moieties to the present Lord Kilmorey and Mr. Leche of Carden.

There was an ancient chapel at Wervin, the profits of which were given, among other revenues, by Roger, abbot of St. Werburgh, for augmenting the kitchen-stores, in order that the number of monks might be increased to forty; there are still some small remains of this chapel, which, before the civil war, had a font, and is therefore described by the third Randal Holme as a parochial-chapel<sup>4</sup>.

At the extremity of the peninsula of Wirral, not far from the coast, is a small island, called Hilbree, or Hilbury, containing about ten statute acres<sup>5</sup>, which, although twenty miles distant from Chester, is in the parish of St. Oswald: this connection is to be attributed to the circumstance of its having belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, who established there a small cell of monks, dedicated to the Virgin Mary: "thither," says Holinshed, "went a sort of superstitious fools in pilgrimage to our lady of Hilbery, by whose offerings the monks there were cherished and maintained." Henry Bradshaw, in his life of St. Werburgh, relates a legendary story of the sands at Hilbree becoming miraculously dry by the interposition of that saint, for the purpose of affording a passage to the army of William Fitz-Nigel, constable of Chester, then on his march to the rescue of Earl Richard, who had been way-laid by the Welsh at Basingwerk, on his return from a pilgrimage to St. Winifred; the tale concludes thus;

" And where the host passed over betwixt bondes,  
To this day ben called the Constable Sondes."

The chapelry of *Bruera*, or *Church-on-beath*, contains the townships of *Church-on-beath*, *Lea-cum-Newbold*, and *Saighton*.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 204.

<sup>5</sup> Six acres of pasture-land, and four of rock.

The township of *Church-on-beath*, *Churchen-beath*, or *Churton-beath*, contains only one farm, on which there is a single dwelling-house, occupied by the owner, Mr. William Colley<sup>f</sup>. It has not been of late years esteemed a manor, but it appears that in ancient times there was a manor of Church-on-heath, which in the reign of Edward I. passed from the family of Del-Heath to the Bulkeleys<sup>g</sup>.

The parochial chapel, or, as it is called in some ancient records, the church of *Bruera*, commonly called *Church-on-beath*, belonged at a very early period to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh. It stands about four miles S. E. by S. from Chester, and is served by a stipendiary curate appointed by the vicar of St. Oswald, who is presented to that vicarage with the chapel of Bruera annexed. In this chapel are two handsome mural monuments of white marble, in memory of Sir Ellis Cunliffe of Saighton Bart., who died in 1767, and his brother Sir Robert Cunliffe Bart., who died in 1778.

The township of *Lea-cum-Newbold*, lies nearly six miles S. S. E. from Chester: the manor belonged in ancient times to the Barons de Montalt. Robert de Morley, heir of Robert de Montalt, who died in the year 1277, conveyed it to Queen Isabell, with remainder to John of Eltham and King Edward III. That monarch, upon becoming possessed of the manor, granted it in or about the year 1337 to William Earl of Salisbury. Sir John Wingfield, who appears to have purchased this manor of the Earl of Salisbury, settled it in the year 1354 on his daughter Maud, wife of Kenrick de Calveley, and her younger son, Sir Hugh Calveley, the celebrated Cheshire hero, with remainder, in case of his dying without issue, to David his brother, another younger son of the said Maud, in whose posterity it continued till the death of Sir Hugh Calveley, the last heir male of the family in 1648: after the death of Dame Mary Calveley, which happened in 1714, fifty-seven years after that of her husband, it passed on a partition of the Calveley estates to Sir Thomas Cotton Bart. (whose grandfather had married one of the co-heiresses). In 1800, Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton Bart. sold it to Mr. Joseph White, the present owner.

Lea-Hall, an old timber mansion surrounded by a moat, was for many generations the chief seat of the Calveleys. In 1617 it was honoured with a visit by King James I. then on his progress through Cheshire, when its owner George Calveley, received the honour of knighthood<sup>h</sup>: Lea-Hall is now inhabited by a farmer. The third Randal Holme speaks of the chapel at Lea-Hall as having

<sup>f</sup> Churchen-beath passed with Saighton in 1604 from Henry Mainwaring to George Calveley. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2090. f. 90.

<sup>g</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>h</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 53.

been

been sumptuously repaired by the relic of the last Sir Hugh Calveley<sup>1</sup>. *Newbold*, is a hamlet, and attached to the manor.

The township of *Saughton*, or *Saighton*, anciently called *Saltone*, *Salghton*, or *Salkton*, lies about five miles S. E. from Chester: the manor was given to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh by their founder Hugh Lupus. Since the dissolution it appears to have passed, for the most part<sup>k</sup>, through the same hands as that of *Huntington*<sup>l</sup>, and it is now the property of John Brock Wood Esq. *Saughton-Hall*, a castellated mansion, was the chief country-residence of the abbots of Chester; the large square tower now remaining<sup>m</sup> was built by abbot Ripley, about the year 1489. The hall and demesnes, which had belonged for some generations to the Calveleys, were sold by the sequestrators during the interregnum in the seventeenth century, to Charles Walley of Chester, inn-keeper, whose great-grandson, Robert Walley Esq. dying without issue, they were purchased of his widow and executrix about the year 1755, by Foster Cunliffe Esq. grandfather of the present proprietor, Sir Foster Cunliffe Bart, : the hall is inhabited by a farmer.

The parish of St. John the Baptist is the most populous in Chester, containing according to the returns made in 1801, eight hundred and forty-seven houses, and three thousand eight hundred and thirty-one inhabitants. The church, which stands without the walls, was formerly collegiate. The college of St. John is said by some writers<sup>n</sup>, to have been founded by King Ethelred in the seventh century, but bishop Tanner supposes rather that its founder was Ethelred Earl of Mercia, husband of the noble Ethelfleda, who repaired the city of Chester after it had been ruined by the Danes: with respect to its foundation by King Ethelred, there is a legendary tale that he was supernaturally directed to the site by the finding of a white hind; in memory of which, his statue with the hind by his side was placed on the side of the tower, where was formerly also the following inscription:

“ This churches antiquitie, the yeare of graee six hundred fouerscore and nyne, as sayth mine author, a Britaine, Giraldus; King Ethelred minding most the blisse of heaven, edified a colledge-church, notable and famous, in the suburbs of Chester, pleasant and beauteous; in the honour of God, and the Baptist St. John, with the help of Bushop Wulfrice° . . . . ”

The re-building of the church of St. John is ascribed to Leofric Earl of Mercia who died in 1057<sup>p</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N° 2071. f. 204.

Henry Mainwaring to George Calveley Esq. Harl. MSS. N° 2090. f. 90.

<sup>l</sup> See p. 617.

<sup>m</sup> See a view of it, p. 457.

<sup>n</sup> See Giraldus Cambrensis.

<sup>o</sup> Dugdale's Visitation of Cheshire in the Herald's Colledge. Serip. (1691). Vol. iii. p. 182.

<sup>p</sup> Ralph Higden, Hist. Angl.

In the year 1075, Peter, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, whose diocese included this city, removed his see to Chester, and made St. John's church his cathedral. He is said to have established in it a dean and certain canons<sup>a</sup>, and to have been buried within its walls. His immediate successor, Robert de Lindsey, in 1102 removed the see again to Coventry, but St. John's church remained collegiate till the Reformation, at which time it had a dean, eight canons or prebendaries<sup>b</sup>, and ten vicars choral<sup>c</sup>. The site of the bishop's palace is marked in a plan of St. John's church and its precincts, taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and now in the British museum; it stood on the south-west of the church-yard, and the deanery almost adjoining, to the north of it: the "petty canons" houses are described as being at the east end of the church, near St. Anne's chapel. The revenues of the college were estimated in the reign of Henry VIII. at 119*l.* 17*s.* clear yearly income<sup>d</sup>, consisting chiefly of the impropriate tithes of this and some other parishes in the county, and lands which now form the endowment of Macclesfield school. The style of architecture of what remains of this venerable building has been elsewhere spoken of<sup>e</sup>.

It appears by the corporation annals, that St. John's church was covered with lead in 1470<sup>f</sup>, and it was probably about this time that the greater part of the choir was demolished by the fall of the old steeple, which stood between the nave and the chancel, and the agreement, recorded on a brass plate without date<sup>g</sup> formerly fixed to the old steeple, and some time ago in the church-warden's possession, might have been made upon this occasion: by this agreement, the dean and canons, in consideration of the cost which the inhabitants had been at in building the steeple, allow them to have the use of the bells for all dirges and anniversaries, paying only a small fee to the clerk, and on condition that the bells should not be rung during divine service. It is evident that this must have been prior to the Reformation, and could not refer to the re-building of the present steeple after the fall of two of its sides in 1574, when it carried with it a great part of the west end of the church<sup>h</sup>. In the year 1581, the parishioners of St. John's having procured a grant of the old church from the Queen, "began to build up some part of it again, and to cut off all the chapels above the choir<sup>i</sup>."

<sup>a</sup> Ang. Sac. I. 445.      <sup>b</sup> In the reign of Richard II. the Brereton family had the advowson of a *prebend* in the church of St. John Baptist, called the Petit-Canonry.      <sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> See a note in Bishop Tanner's Not. Mon.      <sup>e</sup> See p. 437, 438.      <sup>f</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 74.      <sup>g</sup> The inscription was communicated by the present vicar.

<sup>h</sup> In King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 87., it is said, "this year, 1574, two quarters (the west and south sides) of St. John's steeple did fall down from the top to the bottom, and in the fall brake down a great part of the west end of the church."      <sup>i</sup> Ibid. p. 202.

The

The remains of the choir, as it was then fitted up, with the nave, have ever since been used as the parish church.

In the north aisle are an unknown monument of a crusader, the ancient grave-stone of John Le Serjaun<sup>k</sup>, and an altar-tomb without inscription, with the arms of Cotes and Sparkes<sup>l</sup>. At the east end of the south aisle is a burial-place of the Warburtons, with several monuments of that family. There are memorials also in this church for the families of Aldersey, Bellot, Bird, Borlase<sup>m</sup>, Bostock, Bunbury, Comberbach, Falconer, Fernyhough, Forbes, Gamul, Gower<sup>n</sup>, M. D., Hon. John Grey, Hay, M. D., Kenrick, Lee<sup>o</sup>, Maddock, Nicholls, Perryn, Werden, and Wilcock. Archdeacon Rogers speaks of a celebrated rood, or wooden, cross in this church, at which great miracles were reported to be wrought<sup>p</sup>. In St. John's church-yard, between the south side of the nave and the church-yard wall there stood formerly a church or chapel: in the old plan, taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, at which time it was used as a granary, this building is called St. James's chapel, or the old parish church. It was seventeen yards in length and ten yards in breadth; in 1662 St. James's chapel in St. John's church-yard is described as being then used as a stable, and much out of repair<sup>q</sup>: it has long been entirely destroyed; remains of the foundation and stones with inscriptions are occasionally discovered in digging graves. Adjoining to the side of the church is a building now the property and residence of Mrs. Coupland, which in an old plan of the church is called "the chambers of the church's priests," being most probably what was formerly the habitation of the vicars choral<sup>r</sup>. This probably is what was granted in 1562 to John Fortescue, under the name of the site of St. John's college<sup>s</sup>.

In or about the year 1585, Queen Elizabeth granted the impropriate rectory and advowson of St. John the Baptist in Chester, to Sir Christopher Hatton, who imme-

<sup>k</sup> See p. 445. <sup>l</sup> It was erected to the memory of Ursula, wife of Alexander Cotes, and had formerly their effigies, and those of Anne their daughter, and her husband John Sparkes.

<sup>m</sup> Edmund and William, sons of Sir John Borlase, one of the Lords Justices of Ireland. Edmund, who was a physician in Chester, and published a History of the Irish Rebellion, some other historical tracts relating to that kingdom, and a treatise on Latham Spa, died in 1682.

<sup>n</sup> Father of Dr. Gower, who collected materials for a history of Cheshire. <sup>o</sup> Sister to General Lee the American officer.

<sup>p</sup> The legend of this cross is, that having been originally erected at Hawarden, a man was accidentally killed by it, in consequence of which the men of Hawarden (who are said for this disrespect to the cross to have obtained the appellation of Harden Jews), threw it into the river; it wafted to Chester, and having been taken up at the Rood-eye was placed in St. John's church with great solemnity. After the Reformation this celebrated cross was converted into a block for the master of the grammar school to whip his scholars on, and after a time was committed to the flames. Archdeacon Rogers's MSS.

<sup>q</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 205.

<sup>r</sup> See the plan, p. 454.

<sup>s</sup> Bishop Tanner.

diately conveyed them to Alexander King; from the latter they passed two years afterwards to Alexander Cotes<sup>1</sup>. Urfula Cotes, the heiress of this family, who was one of the maids of honour to Queen Elizabeth, brought this estate in marriage to Mr. John Sparkes: it passed afterwards by successive female heirs to the families of Wood and Adams, in the latter of whom it is now vested. By a decree made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, now in the Exchequer-court at Chester, it was ordered, that the impropiator should have the patronage of the vicarage, subject to the approbation of the bishop, that he should repair the choir or new chancel and its aisles, and that the nave and its aisles should be kept in repair by the parishioners.

On the south wall of the church-yard, overhanging the cliff, was an ancient building called the "Anchorite's cell"; at this place, which is said by tradition to be the spot whither Earl Harold retired, two skeletons were found about the year 1770, in coffin-shaped cavities scooped out of the rock; the old building was converted into a hall for some of the city companies: it afterwards passed into private hands, and having undergone several alienations, is now the property of Edward Vernon Esq., who has fitted it up as a dwelling-house for a servant.

A few yards to the north-east of St. John's church, as appears by the plan before-mentioned, stood the hospital of St. Anne, in which there was a gild or fraternity under the patronage of that saint, endowed with lands and houses<sup>2</sup>, some of which now constitute the revenues of Northwich school; the chapel is in some deeds called the *monastery* of St. Anne; on the site of this chapel, as appears by the same plan, stood Cholmondeley-Hall, a seat of the Cholmondeley family, demolished during the siege of Chester in 1645.

The manor of Redclive, mentioned in the Domesday Survey, which was given by Hugh de Mara to the monks of St. Werburgh, is supposed to have been in the parish of St. John, and to have taken its name from the cliff on the south side of St. John's church-yard<sup>3</sup>.

In Little John-street are four alms-houses for decayed families, built by Mrs. Dighton Salmon in 1738; they have no endowment.

<sup>1</sup> The Cotes's then of Chester were of a younger branch of the family of Cotes of Woodcote, in the county of Salop, which had been for some time settled in Yorkshire.

<sup>2</sup> Some MSS. suppose, but we think erroneously, that this was the chapel of St. James; it is certain that the building which stood between the church of St. John and the church-yard wall was a chapel distinct from this, and dedicated to St. James. <sup>3</sup> It appears by a rental of the hospital of St. Anne, that there were no fewer than thirty-eight houses and cottages in Chester belonging to this hospital. The whole rental amounted in the 16th century to 17*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2159. f. 112.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities.

The extra-parochial township of Spital-Boughton, in the suburbs of Chester, containing fifteen houses, is locally situated within the parish of St. John; it took its name from an hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Giles, founded by Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. This hospital continued long after the Reformation; among the Harleian MSS. is a letter of King Charles I. in 1630, in favour of the brethren of this hospital, requiring that they should not be molested on account of murage. It is probable that it was destroyed during the civil war. King Charles II. in 1685 granted the site and the lands belonging to this hospital to the corporation, under whom they are now held by small rents. The site of the hospital is now a burying-ground; the adjacent lands, called the Spital-fields, belonged some time since to the Werdens, from whom they passed by inheritance to the family of Drummond, in which they are now vested.

The place of execution, which had been more anciently in Handbridge, was afterwards for a long series of years at Spital-Boughton. The gibbet was taken down in the year 1801, and the new mode of execution, by a drop attached to the city gaol, adopted. It was at the common place of execution at Spital-Boughton that George Marsh suffered martyrdom for his religion in the reign of Queen Mary.

The parish of Bridget or St. Bride, which in 1801 was returned as containing 153 houses, and 636 inhabitants, extends into Handbridge; the church, which contains nothing remarkable, stands in Bridge-street, at the south-west end of White-frier's-lane. The bishop of Chester is patron of the rectory. The alms-houses for freemen's widows in Common-hall-lane are situated in this parish, but there are no charitable institutions appropriated exclusively to its inhabitants.

The parish of St. Martin is in the south-west part of the city, and contained, according to the returns of 1801, one hundred and twenty-nine houses and five hundred and seventy-four inhabitants. The church stands at a place called Saint Martin's-Ash, between Nuns-lane and Nicholas-street. The benefice is a rectory in the gift of the bishop of Chester.

The parish of St. Mary extends into the country, and comprises the greater part of the suburb of Chester called Hand-bridge, the townships of *Claverton*, *Gig-verstone*, *Marlston-cum-Lache*, *Mollington-Parva*, *Moston*, and *Upton*.

That part of the parish which is situated within the liberties of the city, contained in 1801, according to the returns made to Parliament, 436 houses and 2129 inhabitants. The church was called in ancient times *St. Mary de Castello*, either from its situation near the castle, or some connection it might have had with it as being the parish church, before it was given by Randal the second Earl

of Chester to the monks of St. Werburgh; its modern appellation is St. Mary on the Hill. In the north aisle of this church are the monuments of the Randal Holmes, from whose labours the antiquities of this country have received so much elucidation<sup>7</sup>: Randal Holme the elder died in 1655; his son of the same name in 1659; his grandson Randal, author of "the Academie of Armoury," who was gentleman-usher to King Charles II., and deputy to Garter principal king of arms, died in 1699; and Randal Holme the younger, who was deputy to Norroy, king of arms, in 1707. In the same aisle is the monument of Philip Oldfield Esq. of Bradwall, who died in 1616; with the effigies of the deceased, repaired in 1788, by Dr. Jackson, prebendary of Chester, representative of the Oldfields in the female line<sup>8</sup>.

In the North or Troutbeck's chapel is the monument of Edward Gamul Esq. alderman of Chester, who died in 1616, and that of Thomas Gamul Esq. his son; the inscription on the latter, which has the recumbent effigies of the deceased and his lady is almost obliterated with dirt and dust, and in part concealed by a pew; it may be found in King's Vale-Royal, together with an account of the monuments of Sir Henry and Sir Adam Troutbeck and their ladies<sup>9</sup>, long ago destroyed.

Among

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Gower speaks of only three antiquaries of the name of Randal Holme, father, son, and grandson, but it appears that there were four in succession of that name, and there are collections of all four among the numerous volumes (above two hundred and fifty) among the Harleian MSS. which were purchased for the Earl of Oxford after the death of the last Randal Holme in 1707. The second and third Randal were the principal collectors, but there are some collections brought down by the last to the year 1704. The first of the name was sheriff of Chester in 1615, and mayor in 1633. It appears that he was fined 10*l.* for his contempt in not attending to receive the honour of knighthood at the coronation of King Charles I. according to the statute. (Harl. MSS. 2022. N<sup>o</sup> 36.) It seems therefore that he was in better circumstances than his immediate descendants, who were by no means rich, and after the third descent very much reduced. They were of a respectable family of gentry, being descended from John Holme, who died 4 Henry VI., which John was son of Robert Holme, who in right of his wife (a co-heiress of Richard de Tranmol) was lord of a moiety of Tranmol; this moiety continued in the family of Holme for several generations. William Tranmol, father of Richard, married a co-heiress of Lymme.

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Jackson's mother was daughter of William Oldfield Esq. the last heir male of that ancient family, which William was grandson of Philip above-mentioned.

<sup>9</sup> The Troutbeck aisle or chapel, which was built in the reign of Henry VI. by William Troutbeck and Joan his wife, fell down not many years after the publication of King's Vale-Royal, and destroyed the monuments of the Troutbecks and others: since the re-building of that aisle (which was given in 1690 by the Duke of Shrewsbury, as representative of the Troutbecks, to the parishioners), there has not been a trace of these monuments; yet all the modern printed accounts of Chester, relying on the authority of the Vale-Royal, speak of them as still existing. The third Randal Holme says, that for the fineness of the work the monuments of the Troutbecks were thought to exceed

Among other memorials now existing are those of the families of Birkenhead, Brock, Ellis<sup>b</sup>, Wilbraham<sup>c</sup>, and Worsley. Ashmole mentions the monument of Sir Robert Brerewood, one of the justices of Common Pleas, who died in 1654<sup>d</sup>.

The benefice of St. Mary is a rectory, the advowson of which belonged formerly to the monks of St. Werburgh, and was granted by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Chester, which they lost with the other donations enjoyed under their first charter<sup>e</sup>: Richard Hurleston purchased it of the Cottons about the year 1572<sup>f</sup>; it was afterwards for many years in the Breretons, who were succeeded by the Wilbrahams of Dorfold; the present patron is the Rev. Robert Hill, M. A. of the Hough, in right of his wife, the daughter of the Rev. John Wilbraham.

The following entry occurs in the register of burials of this parish.

“ 1656.—Three witches hanged at Michaelmas affizes, buried in the corner by the castle ditch, in the church-yard, October 8.”

The township of *Claverton* lies about a mile nearly south from Chester, it is considered as a vill within the manor of Handbridge, a populous suburb in this parish, which lies within the liberties of the city, but is not itself esteemed a township. The manor or reputed manor of Claverton, was part of the Dutton estate, and descended to the Gerards; the whole, or nearly the whole of the township is now the property of Earl Grosvenor. Handbridge was called by the Britons, *Treboeth*, or the Burnt Town, a fate it had often experienced during their hostile inroads, which were pursued to the very walls of the city. The manor of Handbridge belonged to the nuns of St. Mary in Chester: ever since the Reformation it has been vested in the crown<sup>g</sup>, and has passed through

exceed any thing of the kind in England. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2151. f. 16. b.) Webb in his description of Chester in the Vale-Royal calls the Troutbecks' monuments as above-mentioned, those of Sir Henry Troutbeck, and Sir Adam and their ladies, and says, that the lady of the latter appears from her coronet to have been a countess. There is no Sir Henry in the pedigrees of the family; probably the monuments were for Sir William Troutbeck who was slain at Blore-heath in 1459, and his son Sir Adam, who died in the reign of Henry VIII. Sir William Troutbeck married a daughter of Lord Stanley, who afterwards married Lord Grey of Codnor. Sir Adam Troutbeck married a Butler; his brother Sir William, who died without issue, a Molineux; Sir Adam's only daughter and heir married Sir John Talbot ancestor of the Earl of Shrewsbury.

<sup>b</sup> Matthew Ellis, one of the gentlemen of the body-guard to King Henry VIII., and grandfather of Julia Ellis, who brought Over-Legh to the Cowpers, ob. 1574.

<sup>c</sup> Roger Wilbraham

Esq. some time of Dorfold, patron of St. Mary's church, ob. 1768.

<sup>d</sup> Ashmole's MSS.

N<sup>o</sup> 854.

<sup>e</sup> See p. 573.

<sup>f</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>g</sup> During the temporary alienation of the crown lands in the time of Oliver Cromwell, it was sold to Robert Dukenfield and others.

the hands of several families as lessees: the lease was purchased of the family of Williams, by the late Earl Grosvenor, to whom it was renewed for twenty-one years in 1793; his son, the present Earl, is lessee for the remainder of that term. A court-leet, to which all Handbridge and Claverton pay suit and service, is regularly held for this manor. Saltney-Marsh, the whole of the uninclosed part of which lies within St. Mary's parish, is a common belonging to the manor of Handbridge. There was in ancient times a chapel in Handbridge dedicated to St. James; the site is not now known.

Within the liberties of the city, in this parish, but not attached to any township, stand the two ancient mansions of Brewer's-Hall and Over-Legh. Brewer's-Hall, in ancient records written Bruereshalgh and Bruardeshalgh, was, as early as the reign of Edward I. in the family of the Bradfords, who were succeeded by the Truffells; from the latter it passed by a female heir to the Veres, Earls of Oxford, who in virtue of the same alliance had the serjeanty of the east gate of the city. Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford, conveyed Brewer's-Hall in the year 1580 to Hugh Beefton; in 1597 it belonged to Sir Thomas Egerton; it was afterwards for several generations in the family of Wright<sup>b</sup>, of whom it was purchased about the middle of the last century by William Hanmer Esq. of Iscoyd, in the county of Flint. Brewer's-Hall, now a farm-house, is the property of Lord Viscount Curzon, whose first wife was daughter and sole heiress of Mr. Hanmer.

Over-Legh, or as it was sometimes called in old records Over-Lythe, was given by Robert, Baron de Montalt, in or about the reign of Henry III. to the abbot and convent of Basingwerk, who in 1460 leased it for 100 years to Ellis ap Dio ap Griffith, for four marks *per ann.* he keeping their chapel there in repair, and performing other conditions. After the Reformation a descendant of this lessee, Matthew Ellis, one of the King's body-guard, purchased the fee of Henry Andrews and John Howe, to whom it had been granted by the crown<sup>c</sup>. Mr. Ellis's granddaughter Juliana married Thomas Cowper Esq. of Chester, whose family became possessed of Over-Legh, partly in consequence of this alliance, and partly by purchase. The old mansion and the chapel were destroyed during the siege of Chester; the house was rebuilt in the reign of Charles II., and is now the seat of Mrs. Cowper, relict of the late Thomas Cowper Esq. barrister at law, and recorder of Chester, who devised it after the death of his widow to his nephew Charles Cholmondeley Esq. next brother of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal.

<sup>b</sup> In 1666 it is described as the property of William Wright, alderman of Chester, and lately belonging to the Earl of Bridgewater. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

**M. P. and his heirs.** At Over-Legh-Hall are some valuable portraits of Sir Oliver Cromwell, who died in 1655, and his family.

Nether-Lythe, or Legh, a tract of land near the river Dee, adjoining Over-Legh, was given among other estates by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Adam Dutton<sup>k</sup>. From the Duttons it passed by grant to the Orrebies, and from the latter by marriage to the Fittons<sup>l</sup>, who enjoyed it for many generations; it was afterwards in the Stanleys of Alderley, who sold it in the year 1735 to John Cotgreave, alderman of Chester: his son, by his will bearing date 1790, devised this estate to his brother John Cotgreave, with remainder, on default of issue, to the present proprietor John Johnson (son of a second cousin), who has assumed the name of Cotgreave. The family of Browne had for several generations a seat and estate at this place, which descended to the Reverend Dr. Symson<sup>m</sup>, and was sold by his daughters in 1774 to John Bennet Esq. alderman of Chester, the present proprietor. The ancient mansion, which is within a moated site, is occupied by a farmer. Nether-Legh was fortified by Sir William Brereton in the month of February 1645; in April that general fixed his head-quarters there<sup>n</sup>.

The township of Gloverstone within the walls of this city, but exempt from its jurisdiction, contained in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament, thirty houses, chiefly inhabited by tradesmen who are not freemen.

The township of *Marlston-cum-Leach, Leche* or *Lache*, lies about two miles S. by W. from Chester: the manor belonged in the reign of Edward III. to the family of Blunt<sup>o</sup>. At the time of the dissolution of monasteries the greater part of this township belonged to the nuns of St. Mary, and was granted to the Breretons, from whom it passed by sale to the Booths of Mottram-Andrew, and Colonel Roger Whitley. It was afterwards the property of Sir Thomas Mainwaring Bart. of Baddiley, whose widow and devisee, afterwards the wife of Edward Mainwaring Esq. of Whitmore in Staffordshire, bequeathed this and other estates to James Mainwaring Esq. of Chester, grandfather of James Mainwaring Esq. of Bromborough, the present proprietor.

Lache, or Leach-Hall, which was garrisoned by Sir William Brereton during the siege of Chester, was the seat of the late Peter Snow Esq.; his family pur-

<sup>k</sup> See note (<sup>h</sup>) p. 485.      <sup>l</sup> Villare Cestriense.      <sup>m</sup> Rector of Stepney in Middlesex, and nephew of Francis Browne, Esq. the last heir male of the Nether-Legh family.

<sup>n</sup> Randal Holme's narrative of the Siege of Chester. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

<sup>o</sup> Esch.

closed.

chased it of the Manleys, to whom it had belonged for several generations. Mr. Snow, who died in 1807, has bequeathed it to trustees for the benefit of his natural children. The manor of Marlston-cum-Lache is claimed by the Mainwarings and Snows.

The township of *Mollington-Parva*, which is situated about two miles N.W. from Chester, in the hundred of Wirral, contains only four houses. The manor was anciently called Mollington-Banester or Banaster, from a family of that name, who possessed it in the reign of Edward III.<sup>a</sup> In the reign of Henry VI. it was in the Houghtons, who acquired it by marriage with an heiress of the Lee family<sup>b</sup>; from this time we learn nothing of it till the early part of the last century, when it was purchased by Mr. Samuel Jarvis, alderman of Chester<sup>c</sup>; it is now the property of Miss Dob, grand-daughter of Hamnet Dob gentleman, Mr. Jarvis's heir at law.

The township of *Moston*, called in old records *Moreston*, in the hundred of Broxton, which lies two miles N. from Chester, contains only two houses. The manor was given by Richard Crue, about the year 1125, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, under whom an estate was held here at an early period, by a family who took their name from the township. After the Reformation the manor was granted by Queen Elizabeth in fee-farm, in moieties, to Rogerfon and Aston. Both these moieties became by purchase the property of John Morgell Esq., registrar of the diocese of Chester, in whose family it continued till the year 1718, when Elizabeth, sister and heiress of William Morgell Esq. sold it to Methusalem Jones gentleman. In 1722 it was purchased by Henry Bennet Esq. whose representatives sold it in 1790 to the late William Massey Esq.; it is now, under Mr. Massey's will, the property of his natural son, an officer in the army. Moston-Hall, built by Mr. Morgell, who purchased the estate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is now uninhabited.

The township of *Upton* lies about a mile and a half N. from Chester; the manor was given to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh by Hugh Lupus, and confirmed by Ranulph de Meschines, Earl of Chester. It was in the family of Brock as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of William Brock Esq. the last heir male of this family, who was sheriff of the county in 1732, brought it in marriage to John Egerton Esq. It is now held in jointure by the widow of the late Philip Egerton Esq. of Oulton. Upton-Hall, which was

<sup>a</sup> Esch.  
and mayor in 1742.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. 2155. Leigh's MSS.

<sup>c</sup> He was sheriff in 1724,

garrisoned by Sir William Brereton during the siege of Chester, is occupied as a farm-house. The abbot of Chester had in ancient times a park at Upton<sup>1</sup>.

The parish of St. Michael contained in 1801 one hundred and twenty-three houses and seven hundred and twenty-five inhabitants. The church is situated in Bridge-street, immediately opposite that of St. Bridget, and on the site as is supposed of the ancient monastery dedicated to St. Michael<sup>2</sup>. The only monuments of any note are those of Dame Mary Delves, (relict of Sir Henry, and daughter of Randal Leycester Esq.), who died in 1690, and Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Wilbraham Bart. and late wife of Sir Humphrey Briggs Bart. 1659. The benefice is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the bishop of Chester. In this parish are the alms-houses founded by William Jones Esq. in 1658, but as they are not particularly appropriated to the parish, they will be spoken of elsewhere. In the year 1695 Robert Oldfield, M. D. devised lands in Danham-on-the-Hill for the purpose of paying 20*l.* *per ann.* to the minister of St. Michael's, of binding every boy born in the parish apprentice, and bringing up and sending one or more poor boy or boys who shall be apt to learn, to the university. These lands, with the accumulating funds, (since proper objects do not offer every year,) produce at present an income of nearly 200*l.* *per ann.*

The parish of St. Olave, according to the returns then made, contained in 1801 one hundred and two houses and four hundred and thirty-eight inhabitants; the church, which is situated on the east side of Bridge-street, opposite Castle-street, contains nothing remarkable. This church was given to the monks of St. Werburgh by Robert Pincerna. The benefice is now considered as a curacy in the gift of the bishop<sup>3</sup>; it was augmented with Queen Anne's bounty in 1723. It appears by Bishop Gastrell's collections, that about the close of the 17th century this church had been for some time disused excepting for baptisms and burials, on which occasions the minister of St. Michael's officiated. In this parish are six alms-houses for poor people, founded about the latter end of the 17th century by Robert Harvey, alderman of Chester, and endowed with a fourth and an eighth part of the water-tower at the Bridge-gate. This property sold for 100*l.*, the interest of which is divided among the alms-people.

<sup>1</sup> See Henry Bradshaw's Life of St. Werburgh, where there is a legendary tale of the horses of some invaders, which had been turned loose into Upton-park, having been miraculously prevented by the interposition of that saint from destroying the corn which was then in sheaf.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 578. <sup>3</sup> In the Holme's MSS. the patronage of St. Olave is said to have been vested in Mr. Vawdrey, and to have been sold by him to Mr. Hugh Harvey in the early part of the 17th century. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 204. b.

The

The parish of St. Peter contained in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament, one hundred and seventy-one houses and eight hundred and ten inhabitants. The church adjoins the site of the Pentice, at the corner of Northgate and Water-gate streets. Henry Bradshaw says that the church of St. Peter, formerly St. Peter and St. Paul, was removed to this site by Ethelfleda, or rather that she built a new church on this spot, and dedicated it to those saints, because she had deprived them of the patronage of the cathedral church and transferred it to St. Oswald and St. Werburgh<sup>2</sup>. The annals of Chester record, that when the steeple of this church was pointed in 1479, the parson and other inhabitants ate a goose at the top of the spire, and threw the bones into the four streets; that a child was killed by the fall of a stone from this steeple in 1480; and that eighteen yards of the spire were rebuilt in 1580. About the year 1780 the spire having been injured by lightning, a great part of it was taken down and has never been rebuilt. In St. Peter's church are monuments of Thomas Cowper Esq. who died in 1642, and other ancestors of the late barrister of that name; those of the Dr. Tillstons, father and son, physicians, who died in 1746 and 1764, and memorials of the family of Bradshaw of Yorkshire. Ashmole describes a fair monument in this church, with alabaſter figures, put up in 1602, pursuant to the will of William Offley, citizen of London, in memory of his father William Offley of Chester, who by his two wives had twenty-six children<sup>3</sup>. It appears by the records of the corporation that the afternoon-preacher was formerly appointed by the mayor and aldermen, who resorted thither to hear the sermon<sup>4</sup>. This church was given in 1081, by Robert de Roelent one of the Earl of Chester's barons, to the abbot and convent of St. Ebrulf, at Utica, who not long afterwards quitted claim to the monks of St. Werburgh. The bishop of Chester is now patron of the benefice, which is a perpetual curacy.

In this parish, on the west side of the Northgate-street, has lately been erected, from the designs of Mr. Harrison, a handsome building of the Ionic order, containing a commercial coffee-room forty-five feet by twenty-six, a library, &c. with shops underneath.

The parish of the Holy Trinity, contained in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament, four hundred and fifty-two houses, and two thousand two hundred and sixty-four inhabitants. The church is situated on the north-side of the Water-gate-street, adjoining the custom-house; the upper part of its spire, which was damaged by storms in the years 1769 and 1770, was thrice re-

<sup>2</sup> See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 25 and 32.

<sup>3</sup> Ashmole's MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 854.

<sup>4</sup> This is spoken of as having been an ancient usage in 1643.

built

built within eight years<sup>b</sup>. In this church lie the remains of Parnell<sup>c</sup> the poet, archdeacon of Clogher, who was buried October the 24th, 1718, as appears by an entry in the parish register; and those of Matthew Henry, an eminent divine, who many years presided over a congregation of Presbyterian dissenters established in this parish ever since the toleration act. There is a tablet in memory of the latter, with the following inscription: "Mattheus Henry, pietatis et ministerii officiis strenuè perfunctus, per labores, S. S. literis scrutandis et explicandis impensos, confectum corpus huic dormitorio commisit 22<sup>o</sup> die Junii 1714, Anno ætat. 52."

In King's Vale-Royal is an account of an ancient tomb, with an effigies in mail, and surcoat, in memory of Jonas de Wytymor, who died in 1474; the tombs of Thomas Wooton, who was mayor of Chester in 1433, Henry Gee, mayor (1545); and other monumental inscriptions, which are not now to be found in the church: Dugdale mentions a tablet in memory of Sir Peter Warburton, one of the justices of the King's Bench, who died in 1621<sup>d</sup>. The Earl of Derby is patron of the rectory. In this parish is the Rood-eye already spoken of, the scene of the city sports; the name is frequently in old records written Roodee, but more properly Rood-eye: *eye* is a common ancient term for a meadow by the water-side, and this was called Rood-eye from an ancient cross, the base of which still remains. The Rood-eye was formerly let to the poorer inhabitants of the city as a cow-pasture, at a small rent, the city reserving the use of it for their games and races. This meadow, which contains one hundred and eighty-two statute acres, is still let as a common pasture, and is esteemed superior to any in the county: the ley is limited to forty horses, at 4*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* each, and sixty cows at 3*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* from the beginning of May till Michaelmas. The Rood-eye was determined to be tithe-free in 1401<sup>e</sup>.

In the year 1674 Robert Fletcher founded alms-houses for four poor widows of this parish, and endowed them with 4*l.* *per ann.*, charged on a house in Bridge-street, the proprietor of which, now Mrs. Hunt, claims the appointment of the pensioners. These alms-houses are locally situated in a district called St. Martin's-in-the-fields, in the parish of St. Oswald. An alms-house for three poor widows, with an allowance of 1*l.* *per ann.* to each, was founded by James Mainwaring Esq. of Chester; the appointment of the pensioners is now vested in his grandson, James Mainwaring Esq. of Bromborough.

The township of *Blacon-cum-Crab-Hall*, containing only four houses, lies within this parish, about a mile to the west of Chester in the hundred of Wirral.

<sup>b</sup> History of Cheshire, Svo. Vol. ii. p. 645.  
name many years settled at Congleton.

<sup>c</sup> He was descended from a family of that

<sup>d</sup> Visitation of Cheshire in the Heralds' College.

<sup>e</sup> See Kings Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 180.

The manor of Blacon, or Blacon-Hall, appears to have been in the Mainwaring family at the time of the Domesday survey, and to have passed by successive female heirs to the Truffells, and the Veres Earls of Oxford: John, Earl of Oxford, died seized of it in 1562; Edward his son and successor sold it to Sir Christopher Hatton, and it has since passed with Barthomley and other estates to the present proprietor, Lord Crewe. Blacon-Hall is now a farm-house. *Crab-Hall*, which is now also a farm-house, was formerly the seat of a younger branch of the Gamul family, and is now the property of Samuel Farmer Esq. of Nonsuch-park in Surrey, one of their representatives in the female line<sup>g</sup>.

The church of St. Thomas, which formerly stood on the site of the deanery, has been already mentioned. At the end of the *outer*, or farther North-gate-street was formerly a chapel, dedicated to the same saint: this chapel was converted into a dwelling-house, called Green-Hall, which belonged to alderman Dutton; it afterwards acquired the name of Jolly's-Hall from a subsequent proprietor, and was demolished during the siege of Chester in 1645. Mention is made in manuscript collections relating to this city, of St. Chad's church, which stood in the croft over against the Black-friers, on the north-side of Water-gate-street<sup>h</sup>; of St. Nicholas church, which stood near the Black-friers, at the end of St. Nicholas-street; and St. Mary's church, or chapel, which stood in a field beyond the bridge<sup>i</sup>.

In St. John's parish there are a Roman-catholic chapel, a Quakers' meeting-house, and one for the Independents: in Trinity-parish, a Presbyterian meeting-house, originally established under the direction of the celebrated Matthew Henry; in St. Bridget's parish an Anabaptist meeting-house, and in Trinity parish an Anabaptist and an Independents meeting-house: there are in Chester also five Methodist meeting-houses, besides one in the township of Great-Boughton: two of these, one in St. Peter's, and one in Trinity parish, are for the Welsh: the others are in the parishes of St. John, St. Oswald, and St. Peter.

Among the eminent natives of this city may be reckoned, according to common repute, Roger of Chester, and Ralph Higden, two ancient historians; and Henry Bradshaw, author of the "Life of St. Werburgh," and with more certainty, David Middleton, who settled the English trade at Bantam; his brother

<sup>g</sup> William Gamul Esq. of Crab-Hall, the last heir male of this family, who died in 1750, devised this estate to three of his sisters, who all died without issue; the two last survivors devised Crab-Hall, to William Gamul Farmer Esq. the grandson of another sister, who, dying without issue, bequeathed it to his elder brother, Samuel Farmer Esq. above-mentioned.

<sup>h</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2125. f. 267.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid.

Sir

Sir Henry, who made a voyage to the Red-Sea<sup>k</sup>, and discovered Middleton's Straights; John Downham, author of "the Christian Warfare," (son of Bishop Downham); Edward Brerewood the mathematician, and first professor of Gresham College; Dr. Whittingham, dean of Durham, translator of the Geneva Bible, and versifier of those psalms in the old version, which have the signature W. W.; and Samuel Molyneux, an eminent astronomer, son of William Molyneux the natural philosopher, author of a "Treatise on Dioptrics," who, during the disturbances in Ireland in the early part of King William's reign, resided at Chester, where his son was born in the year 1689<sup>l</sup>.

The Grammar-school at Chester was founded by King Henry VIII. in the year 1544, for 24 boys, who are appointed by the dean and chapter: they are not to be admitted under nine years of age, and to continue only four years, unless a year of grace be allowed by the dean. The master's salary is 22*l. per ann.* and the usher's 10*l.* charged by the founder upon the dean and chapter revenues, which are charged also with the maintenance of six alms-men. When the dean and chapter lands were seized by the Parliament, during the interregnum in the seventeenth century, they allowed the master a salary of 36*l.* the usher 9*l.* out of the dean and chapter lands, and ordered that the master, usher, and boys, should be appointed by the corporation; at the same time 470*l. per ann.* was charged by them upon the dean and chapter-lands, for the support of preaching ministers at St. Oswald's, St. Peter's, Trinity church, and St. John's.

The Blue-coat-school, which occupies part of the site of the ancient hospital, without the North-gate, was first established, principally at the instance of Bishop Stratford, in the year 1700: it was originally intended for the education of forty boys, who were in part clothed: in 1741 ten of the boys were boarded, and since that time a varying but increasing number have been boarded, clothed, and taught, for three years: the present number is twenty-five. In the year 1783, the income of the school having increased, so as to be capable of maintaining five more scholars, a very judicious, and as its effects have proved, a highly beneficial proposal was made by Dr. Haygarth, an eminent physician at Chester (since removed to Bath), "that, instead of five additional in-scholars, there should be one hundred and twenty out-scholars, who were to be taught to read, write, &c. in two vacant and convenient rooms of the hospital, by two masters; that when the out-scholars had received instruction for two years, fifteen, and generally more of them, who had been most diligent, and had made the best proficiency, should be

<sup>k</sup> An account of the voyages of these travellers is printed in Purchas's Pilgrims.

<sup>l</sup> Biograph. Brit.

electd in-scholars, which would entitle them to complete maintenance as well as instruction, for two more years, at a general meeting, and by an examination of the trustees, annually assembled for this purpose; that the in-scholars at the end of their term should be rewarded by an apprentice fee, when placed in the sea-service, husbandry, or some useful trade; the unsuccessful candidates were to remain two years longer as out-scholars; the subscribers to have the privilege of nominating the out-scholars in rotation as vacancies should occur<sup>a</sup>."

This institution, by the continued care and attention of the principal gentry and clergy of the city, has been attended with the most beneficial effects. There are now only seventy out-scholars, who, from their wearing green-caps, are called the green-cap boys; besides twenty-five others, who are placed for education only, under the care of the Blue-coat school-master, in addition to the twenty-five Blue-coat boys, who are boarded by him. The master of the Blue-coat-school has a salary of 57*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, and ten guineas *per ann.* for each boy's board: the salary of the Green-coat school-master is 45*l.* *per ann.* These schools are now supported by a permanent income of 250*l.* *per ann.* arising from the rent of land, and interest of money<sup>b</sup>, exclusively of annual subscriptions, parochial collections, &c. &c. The school-house was erected by subscription in 1717, on part of the ruins of St. John's hospital: in 1767 the corporation conveyed the school, and master's-house, &c. to trustees, to be for ever appropriated to its present use, under certain rules and regulations; the mayor, recorder, and the two senior aldermen, to have votes at all meetings respecting the charity, and the corporation to appoint five boys in rotation.

The Blue-girls-school was first established in the year 1750, when twenty girls were taught by subscription: there are now only twelve girls, who are taught, clothed, and maintained, for three years; the mistress's salary is 25*l.* 4*s.*: this school is supported by voluntary contributions and benefactions. Soon after the institution of Sunday-schools at Chester in the year 1787, a general school of industry for poor girls was established, under the auspices of Dr. Haygarth, and other benevolent persons: both these, and the Sunday schools, have for some time been on the decline, but an exertion is now making to restore them.

<sup>a</sup> Letter of Dr. Haygarth to the bishop of London (1808), in which he proposes that the benefits of this useful establishment should be extended all over the kingdom. Dr. Haygarth calculates that the education and maintenance of one in-scholar was equal to that of the education of twenty out-scholars.

<sup>b</sup> Twenty-five pound paid by the corporation, being a rent-charge, in consideration of 500*l.* paid to them by the trustees in 1706; and 32*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, by the trustees of the charity.

<sup>c</sup> Mr. Peter Cotton who died in 1716, gave 200*l.* to the Blue-coat-school.

On an extra-parochial spot encircled by the parish of St. Oswald, just without the North-gate, stood the hospital of St. John the Baptist, founded by Randal de Blundeville Earl of Chester, for a master, three chaplains, and thirteen citizens of Chester, being either "poor and fillie, or poor and feeble persons". The mastership of this hospital was given to the prior of Birkenhead and his successors, by a charter of King Edward II. By the founder's ordinance the pensioners were each to have daily one good loaf; one great dish of pottage; one piece of flesh, or fish; and half a gallon of competent ale. It appears that in the reign of Edward III., only one chaplain and six poor widows were maintained in this hospital. In the reign of Henry VIII. the corporation remonstrated with the prior of Birkenhead for not maintaining three chaplains and thirteen poor persons, according to the founder's intention, but he made answer that the revenues were not sufficient. The style of this hospital, in the reign of Henry VIII. was the master, brethren, and sisters; in some ancient charters they are styled "*Prior, confratres, & sorores*".

The hospital and chapel, which had been destroyed during the siege of Chester, were re-built by Colonel Roger Whitley, to whom King Charles II. granted the hospital estate for life. When the city charter was renewed in 1685, the reversion was granted to the corporation, who have the patronage of the chapel. The present chapel was built in 1717, and augmented by Queen Ann's bounty in 1801. In the old chapel yard are six alms-houses, occupied by poor widows, called "the sisters," being the only remains of the old establishment: they are appointed by the corporation; their original pensions were 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each, and some perquisites. Joseph Crewe Esq. alderman of Chester, who died in 1801, bequeathed the sum of 30*l.* *per ann.* to be divided among them in equal portions. Besides those which have been already mentioned there are some alms-houses, and other charitable institutions in Chester, which have no immediate connection with any particular parish.

On the south side of Common-hall-lane, in the parish of St. Bridget, is the hospital of St. Ursula, founded in the year 1532, by Sir Thomas Smith and others, executors of Roger Smith deceased, for six poor decayed persons, who had been aldermen, or common-councilmen, or their widows, and in default of any such, for

\* Harl. MSS. No. 1989. f. 436, &c.

† Ibid. No. 2057. f. 169.

\* The charter

bears date, February 4, 37 Cha. II.

† Col. Whitley died in 1697: the corporation obtained possession of the hospital in 1703.

\* Mr. Stones in his MSS. collections, speaks of it as having been then more magnificently re-built at the charge of the city, and says that "Sir Richard Grosvenor contributed to the ornaments thereof."

other

other poor persons. In 1540 the master and wardens of the gild of St. Urfula gave 30*d. per ann.* to this hospital: it is now occupied by freemen's widows; the endowment is small, consisting only of a pension of 1*l. 6s. 8d.* each, paid by the corporation.

In the year 1658 William Jones, citizen of London, founded an alms-house (situated in Pepper-street, in the parish of St. Michael) for ten poor single persons, four men and six women, old inhabitants of Chester: this alms-house is under the management of seven trustees, one of whom must be an ancient orthodox minister, and the others, knights, esquires, aldermen, or attornies of the Exchequer, and all resident in Chester. The alms-house people, according to the founder's direction, were to have 2*l. 12s.* each *per ann.* at the least. This alms-house is endowed with lands and houses in the parish of Holt in Denbighshire, in Chester, and Handbridge: the revenue is now about 80*l. per ann.* Mrs. Elizabeth Potter in 1782 bequeathed a legacy of 40*l.* to the poor of this house.

In the year 1658, Owen Jones of Chester, butcher, gave some lands at Minera in Denbighshire, then valued at only 17*l. per ann.* to the poor brethren of the several city companies, to be given to each company annually in rotation: the lands are now let for 31*l. 10s.* In 1756 a lead mine was discovered on this estate, which between that year and 1777 cleared 12,606*l.*, the greater part of which was put out to interest, and the whole annual income of the charity is now above 400*l. per ann.* The trustees, who are the mayor and sheriffs, having found some difficulty in the application of this increased income, according to the donor's direction, (for in the year 1803 there was no poor brother, or object of charity in the company, then in the regular rotation to receive it,) applied to the court of chancery, concerning the application of this revenue, the undistributed arrears of which, in 1808, amounted to 1500*l.*, in consequence of which the distribution of these arrears, and of the future income of the charity, has been recently regulated by a decree of that court.

In

\* They are to be above fifty-five years of age, "unmarried, decayed, and impotent persons, such as frequent the public worship of the church on the Lord's-day and holy-days, and are not guilty of any gross sin, as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, swearing, railing, or the like: the poor of St. Michael's parish to be preferred on any vacancy, unless there should be already two of that parish in the house."

† The regulations are as follow:

First, "That the income of the charity-funds, which became due in the year 1803, shall, as soon as the amount can be received from the bank of England on the certificate of the accomptant-general, be paid to the several persons in such order named, consisting of ten members of the company of

In the year 1615, Mr. John Vernon, merchant of the staple, and citizen of London, left the sum of 800*l.* to purchase lands, out of which the sum of 4*l.* *per ann.* each, was to be paid to ten decayed freemen of the city of Chester, being sixty years of age, and a gown every three years: there are now thirty five decayed freemen, called gownsmen, who receive pensions from the above-mentioned benefaction of Mr. Vernon, and similar subsequent bequests, by Mr. Richard Harrison, Mr. Richard Bird, Mr. Richard Sneyd, Mr. John Lancaster, and the late alderman Crewe: the nine eldest men now receive 1*l.* each in addition.

Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's college in Oxford, gave the sum of 100*l.* once in twenty-four years, to be lent without interest to industrious young trades-men of the city of Chester. Hugh Offley in 1594 gave 200*l.*, and Robert

of Inn-holders, Cooks and Victuallers; three members of the company of Felt-makers and Skianers; one member of the company of Saddlers, and one member of the company of Cloth-workers, Walkers and Masons, being considered the only poor brethren of those companies in the year 1803, who have not already been fully relieved.

The income of the charitable funds, which became due in the year 1804, having been properly distributed by the trustees of that year.

Secondly, " That the income of the said charity funds, which became due in the year 1805, shall (after distributing the income for 1803) be paid to the several persons in such order named, consisting of one member of the company of Dyers; three members of the company of Weavers; three members of the company of Tanners; one member of the company of Merchants, Drapers, and Hoifiers; and two members of the company of Barbers, Surgeons, and Tallow-chandlers: the members of the last company, being the two first poor, the others being the only poor brethren in their respective companies in the year 1805.

Thirdly, " That the future annual income of the said charity-funds, after allowing to the said trustees the legacies given by the will of the said Owen Jones, and their reasonable expences of management of the trusts, and also allowing such sum or sums of money, not exceeding in any one year 20*l.*, which the trustees may think proper to advance for and towards enabling poor brothers to bear and draw with their respective companies, shall be distributed among the poor brothers of the several companies in the rotation pointed out by the testator's will, and in such sums and proportions, as the trustees shall think proper, according to their several necessities; and having regard to the circumstances of each poor brother and his family, but that no poor brother shall receive more than 40*l.* in any one year: and when there is not in the company first in rotation any poor brother, or not a sufficient number of poor brothers to exhaust the said annual income, when distributed according to the regulations above specified, that then the poor brothers in the company succeeding next in rotation one after another, shall be relieved in the like manner, so as to exhaust the said income, and that the income of the following year shall begin where it ended in the year preceding, and when the distribution has gone through all the companies, it shall begin again with the first company, and go through them in the same rotation and manner from year to year; - - - and,

Fourthly, " That an account of the application and distribution of the said charity-funds shall be kept in a book at the town-office, where any member of any of the companies shall, for one month after notice in one of the Chester newspapers, have the inspection of the said book; and that within one month after the distribution of the charity, an advertisement shall be inserted, in one, or both of the Chester newspapers, that the charity had been distributed, and specifying the amount of the monies distributed, and number, but not the names or objects thereby relieved.

Offley in 1596, 600*l.* for the same purpose. Foulke Aldersey Esq. in 1608 gave 800*l.* to be lent at a small interest, which interest he directed should be paid to the poor of the parishes of St. Michael and St. Oswald<sup>a</sup>: these ample benefactions of Mr. Aldersey and the Offleys, have long been lost.

The general infirmary, situated in St. Martin's parish, originated from a bequest of 300*l.* given in 1756, by Dr. Stratford, commissary of Richmond, towards the establishment of a public hospital in the city of Chester. A sum sufficient for the purposes of the building having been soon raised by subscription, the infirmary was completed within five years, having been opened on the 17th of March 1761: the average number of in-patients, exclusively of casualties, fever-patients<sup>a</sup>, and venereal patients, is from seventy to ninety. The number of in-patients admitted in 1808, was seven hundred and seventy-nine, of out-patients, one thousand three hundred and forty-three: the total number of patients admitted since the institution has been 80,973. The funded property of this charity in 1808, was 15,500*l.* 3 *per cent.*; the subscriptions of that year amounted to 1154*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* This infirmary is attended by three physicians and four surgeons.

The house of industry for the poor of the several parishes in Chester, which stands near the Roode-eye in Trinity parish, was built in 1757: it is regulated under an act of Parliament, passed in the year 1763.

*Christleton*, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, lies about three miles E. by S. from Chester: it contains five townships, *Church-Christleton*, *Cotton-Abbots*, *Cotton-Edmonds*, *Littleton*, and *Rowton*. During the civil war Christleton was fortified by the Parliament, and was for a considerable time the head-quarters of Sir William Brereton's army during the siege of Chester<sup>b</sup>. After the temporary raising of the siege in February 1645, Christleton was burnt by the citizens of Chester<sup>c</sup>. The manor of Christleton appears to have been in

<sup>a</sup> Archdeacon Rogers's MSS.

<sup>b</sup> There are two fever-wards, one for male, the other for female patients, containing ten beds each: patients are admitted into these wards, which were constructed in the year 1783, without recommendation. For this admirable improvement in the establishment of hospitals, the Public are indebted to Dr. Haygarth, then one of the physicians to the infirmary, who after much investigation into the nature of infectious fevers, was enabled to refute some popular errors respecting the extent of infectious atmosphere. On the rational principle that the progress of infection might be arrested by separation, cleanliness, and ventilation, he suggested the plan of the fever-wards, which, under divine Providence, have been the means of saving many lives to the community, not only at Chester, where they were first established, but in London also and other large towns, where they have been adopted. It was at Dr. Haygarth's suggestion also, that a society for preventing the casual small-pox and promoting general inoculation in Chester, was established in 1773: this society continued six years. For further particulars relating to these establishments, see Dr. Haygarth's Inquiry how to prevent the small-pox; his letter to Dr. Percival; his letter to the late bishop of London, and the Reports of the Society for bettering the condition of the poor.

<sup>c</sup> Randle Holme's Narrative of the siege. Harl. MSS. 2175., and Burghall's Diary.—History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. Randle Holme.

family of Birmingham as early as the reign of King Edward I. it was afterwards the property of Sir Hugh Browe, who was originally an adherent of King Henry IV., and had in 1401 a grant of forfeited lands in Cheeshire, but joining not long afterwards in Hotspur's rebellion, was attainted, and the manor of Christleton was granted in 1403<sup>d</sup> to John Mainwaring Esq. In 1443 it was purchased of the Mainwaring family by Humphrey Stafford Earl of Buckingham; his descendant Henry Lord Stafford sold it in 1554 to Sir William Sneyd, from whose family it passed by purchase in 1617 to Sir John Harpur<sup>e</sup>. In 1771 Sir Henry Harpur Bart. sold this manor to Thomas Brock Esq. uncle of John Brock Wood Esq. the present proprietor.

Christleton-Hall, an ancient mansion now pulled down, belonged with its demesnes for several generations to the Bavands: from this family it passed by marriage to John Nichols M. D. whose heir devised it to William Richards Esq. the present proprietor.

An ancient mansion in this village, the property of Mrs. Mary Widdens, one of the daughters and co-heirs of the late William Widdens Esq. was lately in the occupation of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester. Another ancient mansion, formerly the seat of a younger branch of the Egertons, is now the property of Bell Ince Esq. and in the occupation of Robert Baxter Esq. A modern mansion, the property and seat of Townsend Ince Esq. was built by his maternal grandfather Robert Townsend Esq. late recorder of Chester, whose family had been long settled at Christleton.

The rectory of this parish, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, has been many years in the Mostyn family, and is now vested in Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart.

A school-house was built at Christleton in the year 1800, with the sum of 100*l.* bequeathed by John Hignet Esq., and other benefactions, on a piece of ground given in 1779 by Mr. John Sellers, who at the same time gave a croft of about three acres of land called Lower-Withway croft, for the education of poor children of this township and Littleton, the boys to be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the girls reading, sewing, knitting, &c. Thirteen boys and eleven girls are now educated by the trustees of this charity, &c.

The township of Church-Christleton has been inclosed pursuant to an act of Parliament passed in 1791; the lands were not exonerated from tithes.

<sup>d</sup> Villare Cestriense. In 1414 Robert son of Sir Hugh Browe conveyed the manor of Christleton to feoffees; probably for the purpose of confirming it to the Mainwarings.—Records in the Exchequer at Chester.      <sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

The township of *Cotton-Abbots*, which contains only two houses, lies about four miles E. by N. from Chester. The manor of this place, anciently called Cotes, and distinguished by the name of Ordrick's Cotes, was given by Robert Fitzhugh, Baron of Malpas, about the year 1093, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh. Some time after the dissolution it was the property of Sir Thomas Smith of the Hough, from whom, by successive sales, it is said to have passed to John Anderson, alderman of Chester, and Colonel Roger Whitley<sup>1</sup>. One of the co-heiresses of Colonel Whitley having brought this manor into the Mainwaring family, it was sold by the trustees under the will of Martha, Lady Mainwaring (bearing date 1740) to Ralph Leycester Esq. of Toft, whose son George Leycester Esq. conveyed it in 1780 to the late Thomas Brock Esq. It is now the property of the eldest son of the late Colonel Clutton, of Kinnerley-castle in Herefordshire, who married a niece of Mr. Brock. The ancient hall of this manor is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Cotton-Edmunds* took its name from Edmund de Cotton, whose ancestor had been possessed of the manor in the reign of Henry III.; this Edmund married the heiress of the Redwares of Hempsted-Redware in Staffordshire, and his posterity in the male line were from that time called Cottons of Redware. Eleanor daughter of Richard de Cotton, the last heir-male of the elder branch, brought Cotton-Edmunds in marriage, in the reign of Henry VII. to William Venables, Baron of Kinderton: this manor having descended with the barony of Kinderton, was purchased of Lord Vernon by the late Mr. Brock, and has since passed with Cotton-Abbots. The Cottons of Connington in Huntingdonshire, and of Connington in Cambridgeshire, both extinct, were descended from a younger branch of the above-mentioned family.

The townships of *Row-Christleton*, or *Rowton*, and *Littleton*, are both within the manor of Church-Christleton; Rowton lies about three miles and a half S. E. by E. from Chester; Littleton about two miles and a half due East. At Littleton-hill is the seat of Thomas Dixon Esq. and at Rowton that of John Hignet Esq. the latter belonged for several generations to the Broster family; it was sold in 1787 by the brother of the present alderman Broster to the late Mr. Hignet, and by his devise passed to his nephew John Litherland, who assumed the name of Hignet.

<sup>1</sup> *Villare Cestrïense*. Colonel Whitley granted a lease of this manor in 1695 for three lives to Joshua Horton, who in 1700 was attainted for high-treason, having been convicted of keeping a press and implements for coining. In consequence of the attainder, his interest in this estate became forfeited to the crown, and under a grant of Queen Anne the manor was for some time in the possession of Sir Salathiel Lovel, one of the barons of the Exchequer, and his son Henry Lovel Esq.

Rowton-heath is well known to have been the site of an important battle between the Parliamentary army and that of King Charles, which proved fatal to the brave earl of Lichfield, and most disastrous to his royal master. On the same spot was a great rendezvous of the Cheshire gentry, who declared for a free parliament at the time of Sir George Booth's premature attempt to restore King Charles II. in 1659<sup>z</sup>. The heath was inclosed in 1680<sup>h</sup>.

CODDINGTON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Malpas, lies about nine miles S. S. E. from Chester; it contains three townships, *Coddington-cum-Bechin*, *Aldersley*, and *Chowley*. It appears that there was anciently a market at this place on Monday, and an annual fair on the eve and day of the exaltation of the Holy Cross<sup>1</sup>. The manor of Coddington which had been parcel of the honour of Hawarden, was held under that honour at an early period by a family of the same name, which was succeeded by the Botilers before the year 1277. In or about the year 1440<sup>k</sup> it was purchased of the Botilers by William Maffie, ancestor of the Rev. Richard Maffie<sup>l</sup>, the present proprietor, who resides at the rectory. Coddington-Hall, except an ancient gate-way, which still remains, was pulled down about the year 1800. The Maffies of Coddington are descended from a younger branch of the Maffies of Puddington, who derive their descent from a younger branch of the Maffeyes, Barons of Dunham-Massey, being perhaps the only remnant, in the direct male line, of the posterity of any of the Cheshire barons. Edward Maffie the Parliamentary general, of whom there is a portrait at the house of Mrs. Massey at Dee-Bank near Chester, was third son of John Maffie Esq. of Coddington, who married a daughter of Richard Grosvenor Esq. of Eaton; his elder brother was a captain in the King's army.

The manor of Bechin, which had been in the Botilers and Maffies, was purchased of the latter in or about the year 1630, by Thomas Wilbraham, whose son sold it to Colonel Roger Whitley; having passed by marriage to the

<sup>1</sup> Heath's Chronicle.      <sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.      <sup>l</sup> The market and fair were claimed by Hawise, relict of Ralph Botiler, 31 E. w. III. See Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestrieuse.

<sup>k</sup> A<sup>o</sup> 18 Henry VI.—It was purchased subject to an annual rent of twenty-five marks, which continued to be paid till the year 1790, when it was bought by the late Thomas Maffie Esq. of Palmer Botiler Esq. representative of the grantee. The above date of Mr. Maffie's purchase is taken from some MS. collections relating to the parish of Coddington, made by the Rev. John Stoner, rector, and bequeathed by him to his successors, as appears by a note, which concludes thus, "If these collections shall chance to fall into any other hand, I charge the person to restore them to the right owner, the rector of Coddington for the time being, as he or she expects justice in this world, or hopes for mercy in another." J. S.      <sup>l</sup> So the Coddington family spell their name.

**Mainwarings** it was purchased in 1747 of James Mainwaring Esq. devisee of Martha Lady Mainwaring, by the Rev. Thomas Ince, grandfather of Townsend Ince Esq. of Christleton, the present proprietor: the manor house is inhabited by a farmer.

The church of Coddington was given in 1093 by Hugh Fitz-Norman and Ralph his brother to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester; the dean and chapter are now patrons of the rectory. The rector has all the tithes of Coddington and Bechin, one-third of the tithes of Aldersey, and half of those of Chowley<sup>m</sup>.

The township of *Aldersey*, which lies about eight miles S. E. by E. from Chester, is divided into three hamlets, Great-Aldersey, Little-Aldersey, and Crook-Aldersey. The manor was from a very early period divided into moieties, one of which, as early as the year 1308<sup>n</sup>, was in the ancestors of the present proprietor Samuel Aldersey Esq. who resides at Aldersey-Hall. The other moiety was successively in the Hattons, Vernons, and Duttons; the latter possessed it as late as the year 1582, it afterwards belonged to the Calveleys, from whom it descended to the late T. P. Legh Esq. of Lyme, but no manerial rights are exercised for this moiety.

The township of *Chowley* lies about nine miles S. E. by S. from Chester; the manor which is within the manor of Tattenhall was formerly divided into severalties, and an eighth part, which in the thirteenth century was in the Pulfords, passed to the Grosvenors of Hulme, but the greater part was successively in the Hattons, Vernons, and Duttons. About the year 1660, the manor of Chowley was sold by Peter Dutton Esq. to Thomas Nevitt; the latter conveyed it to Peter Calf of Tottenham High-cross, whose son of the same name devised it to his kinsman Mr. Edward Donne of Shrewsbury. Josina, daughter and heiress of Mr. Donne, brought it in marriage to Thomas Gardiner, whose grandson conveyed it in 1786 to John Crewe Esq. of Bolesworth-castle. In 1805 it was bought under a decree of the court of chancery by the present proprietor Thomas Tarlton Esq. of the trustees of Oswald Mosely Esq. who had purchased of Mr. Crewe. The greater part of the estate having been separated from the manor, is now (having been purchased under the decree above-mentioned) the property of Stephen Luke Esq. of Chester. A moiety of the tithes of the whole estate which had belonged to the Grosvenors, and had been purchased by Mr. Mosely in 1786, was included in Mr. Tarlton's and Mr. Luke's purchases according to their respective portions of the estate.

<sup>m</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>n</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

**COPPENHALL**, in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich, contains two townships, *Church-Coppenhall* and *Monks-Coppenhall*; the parish church, which gives name to the former, stands about five miles N. E. from Nantwich, and the same distance S. W. from Sandbach.

The manor of *Church-Coppenhall* belonged soon after the conquest to the family of Wafchett; about the end of the thirteenth century it is supposed to have passed by gift or purchase to Foulke de Orreby, whose family continued to possess it about a century; it passed afterwards by female descent to the Corbets and Hulfes. Sir Thomas Vernon died seised of it in 1616<sup>o</sup>; it was afterwards in the Ravenscrofts; and having passed in marriage with the only daughter of Hall Ravenscroft Esq. of Horsham in Suffex, to Sir Thomas Delves Bart. who died in 1713, is now, by inheritance, the property of the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.

In this township is the hall of Shaw, which was given at an early period by Sir Randal Mainwaring to Harry Hiccockson<sup>p</sup>, from whom it passed by purchase to Thomas of the Shaw. This hall was for many years a seat of the Shaws<sup>q</sup>, and afterwards of the Foulshurfts; it is now a farm-house within a moated site, the property of Miss Jackson of Nantwich, by whose family it was purchased of the Heathcotes of Derbyshire.

The bishop of Lichfield and Coventry is patron of the rectory: Coppenhall was given to that see in the reign of Henry III. by William de Wafchett; it was then a chapel to Wyhunbury<sup>r</sup>. Robert Stretton, bishop of Lichfield, endowed it in the reign of Edward III. with the glebe and all tithes, except those of corn and hay, which have been since appropriated to the rectory.

It appears that *Monks-Coppenhall* was so called from having belonged at an early period to the monks of Combermere. In the reign of Edward I. Thomas Crue, lord of Crue, conveyed this manor to Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells, and the abbot and convent of Combermere<sup>s</sup> quitted claim to him; from the bishop's collateral descendant it passed by marriage to the Lovels, in whom it continued till the attainder of Francis Lord Lovel in the reign of Henry VII. Sir Thomas Vernon died seised of it in 1616<sup>t</sup>; it was afterwards in the Cholmondeley family, and was purchased of George James Earl of Cholmondeley by Mrs. Elcock of Poole, the present proprietor.

**DAVENHAM**, so called from its situation on the river Daven or Dane, in the hundred of Northwich and deanery of Middlewich, is situated about two

<sup>o</sup> Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.  
p. 44.

<sup>r</sup> Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid.

<sup>t</sup> Smith's MS. Collections,  
Ibid.

miles

miles S. from Northwich and four miles N. by E. from Middlewich. It contains the townships of *Davenham*, *Bostock*, *Eaton*, *Leftwich*, *Moulton*, *Newhall*, *Shipbrooke*, *Spurlach*, *Stanthorne*, *Wharton*, *Whatcroft*, and the lordship of *Rudheath*.

The parish-church, which has a handsome spire, built in the year 1680, stands within the township of *Leftwich*; the chancel was rebuilt about the year 1795 by Dr. Cotton, dean of Chester, then rector; a small chapel on the north side of the chancel belonged to the ancient hall of *Leftwich*. The advowson of the rectory belonged formerly to the priory of *Birkenhead*; in or about the year 1285 the prior sold it to the baron of *Shipbrooke* for seventy marks<sup>2</sup>; after this it continued for several centuries attached to the manor of *Shipbrooke*, but was afterwards again separated and passed through several hands: the present patron is Henry Tomkinson Esq. of *Dorfold*. George Savage rector of *Davenham*, an illegitimate son of Sir John Savage who was slain at *Boulogne*, is recorded to have had seven illegitimate children by three different women. One of these by Elizabeth Frodsham was the celebrated Edmund Bonner bishop of *London*<sup>3</sup>.

There is a school at *Davenham* which has been established more than a century; the master has a salary of about 20*l.* per ann. arising from a rent-charge on the *Shipbrooke-hill* farm, and the aggregate produce of sundry small benefactions.

The Vernons, barons of *Shipbrooke*, were capital lords of the township of *Davenham*, which has passed with *Shipbrooke* and other manors, parcel of that barony<sup>4</sup>, to the present proprietor William Harper Esq.

The manors of *Over* and *Nether-Davenham* were possessed for three centuries by the Bretts, who held under the Vernons and Savages; the co-heiresses of the Bretts carried these estates into the families of *Holford* and *De la Wyche*, which were settled at *Davenham* for several generations. Allen *Holford*, the last heir-male of this branch of the *Holfords*, sold his estate at *Davenham* to his brother-in-law Thomas Highlord *Ravencroft* Esq., after whose death in 1795 it was purchased of his trustees by William Harper Esq. of *Liverpool* and others: the widow of Mr. *Ravencroft* resides in the ancient mansion, in which she has a life interest. The family of the *Wyches* or *De la Wyches* removed to *Alderley*; we have not found what became of their estate at *Davenham*; it is probable that it was purchased by the *Holfords*.

The township of *Bostock*, which lies about three miles N. W. by W. from *Middlewich*, gave name to an ancient family descended from *Osmerus* lord of

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>2</sup> Smith's Collections, fol. 43.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 648, 649.

**Bostock**, in the reign of William the Conqueror, which possessed the manor for several generations<sup>a</sup>; the heiress of the elder branch of the Bostocks<sup>a</sup> brought this manor in the latter part of the 15th century to the Savages<sup>b</sup>. About the year 1755 it was sold by Sir Thomas Whitmore of Apley, in the county of Salop, to William Tomkinson gent. whose nephew and devisee Edward Tomkinson Esq. (now Wetenhall) sold it to Thomas France Esq. Bostock-Hall, the seat of Mr. France, was built by the late owner about the year 1775: the ancient hall, a building of timber, surrounded by a moat, was pulled down in the year 1803. On Bostock-Green is an ancient oak, which is said to mark the centre of the county.

The township of *Eaton*, or as it was anciently written *Ayton*, lies nearly three miles S. by W. from Northwich; the manor was at an early period in moieties between the family of Praers (succeeded by the Mainwarings<sup>c</sup>) and that of Bulkeley: in the reign of Henry VIII. Thomas Bulkeley sold his estate in Ayton to the Breretons<sup>d</sup>, who seem eventually to have been possessed of the whole manor, which before the year 1672 had passed by successive sales to the families of Lindsey and Cholmondeley<sup>e</sup>: it is now the property of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal, M. P. The Bulkeleys had a seat at Ayton: Bishop Gastrell mentions a monument (formerly in Davenham church) for William Bulkeley Esq. of Ayton, who died in the reign of Edward IV. Leland says, that the two Bulkeleys, that is, the Bulkeleys of Whatcroft and the Bulkeleys of Eaton, contended either to be the elder house of that name; he adds, "Bulke of Eitons Stok cam to a daughter, and Leftwich had her, but Sir Gul. of Breton<sup>f</sup> brought Eyton<sup>g</sup>."

The township of *Leftwich* is situated one mile from Northwich; the manor belonged in the reign of William the Conqueror to the Vernons, as parcel of the barony of Shipbrooke: in the 13th century Margaret sister and heir of Warin Vernon, brought it in marriage to Sir Richard Wilbraham, with whose daughter and co-heir Maud it passed to Robert de Winnington. Richard, son of this Robert, assumed the name of de Leftwich, and was ancestor of the Leftwiches, who continued to possess this manor for several generations: in the early part of

<sup>a</sup> See Esch. Henry V. and Edward IV.      <sup>e</sup> A younger branch of the Bostocks continued in this township, and is supposed to have been extinct about a century ago. The last Bostock of Bostock, who appears amongst the burials in the parish register, is Thomas Bostock, buried December 26, 1704.      <sup>f</sup> It appears to have continued in the Savages in 1701, being then the property of Richard Savage, Earl Rivers. Villare Cestriense.      <sup>g</sup> Esch. 17 Rich. II.

<sup>d</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.      <sup>e</sup> Harleian MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.      <sup>f</sup> Sir William Brereton.      <sup>g</sup> Leland's Itin. Vol. vii. p. 34.

the

the 17th century, Elizabeth daughter and heir of Ralph Leftwich, married William Oldfield<sup>h</sup>, whose descendant Mrs. Jane Oldfield, sister and co-heir<sup>i</sup> of Bowyer Oldfield Esq. the last heir-male of that family, sold Leftwich about the year 1736 to the father of Thomas Highlord Ravencroft Esq. of whom it was purchased about the year 1790 by the Hon. Booth Grey, father of Booth Grey Esq. the present proprietor. The old hall of this manor has been taken down, and a farm-house built on the site.

The hall and demesnes of *Moulton* belonged to a branch of the Bostocks; they have of late years passed with the manor of Bostock, and are now the property of Mr. France; the hall is occupied by a farmer.

The hall and demesnes of *Newhall* were held under the Savages in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by the family of Stockley; about a century afterwards they passed by purchase to the Whitakers; the hall, demesnes, and royalty of Newhall are now the property of Samuel Vernon Esq. of Chester, whose father married the heiress of the Whitakers: the hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Shipbrooke*, which was the seat of the Barons Vernon, lies about two miles S. E. from Northwich; Richard de Vernon, the first of the family who settled at Shipbrooke, was one of Hugh Lupus's barons; Warin Vernon, the fifth baron in succession, son of Warin, who had married one of the co-heiresses of the Baron of Wich-Malbank, left three daughters co-heiresses, married into the families of Wilbraham, Stafford, and Littlebury; Ralph Vernon, rector of Hanwell, younger brother of Warin, had a long suit with his nieces concerning the barony, and it was at last determined by award, that Ralph should have one half of the baronial estate, including Shipbrooke the seat of the barony, and the manor of Minshull-Vernon. This estate is said to have been settled by deed on his illegitimate son Sir Ralph<sup>k</sup>, who lived to the age of 150, as appears by various law-proceedings respecting the Vernon estates; he is called in the pedigrees of the family, Sir Ralph Vernon, "the old," and "the old liver." This Sir Ralph had issue male by his wife Mary, daughter of the Lord Dacre, and by Maud Grosvenor (widow of John Hatton), who on one side was represented as his second wife, and on the other as his concubine<sup>l</sup>. In the year 1325 he made a settlement upon the marriage of Sir Ralph his grandson, or as some pedigrees represent him his great-grandson, with Agnes, the daughter of Richard Damory, chief justice of Chester; by this deed, in the event of failure of male issue from Sir Ralph and Agnes, the Vernon estates

<sup>h</sup> Dr. Williamfon's Villare Cestrieuse.

and brought him part of this township, which was sold in parcels by his son.

<sup>k</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, p. 15, and 78.

<sup>i</sup> The other co-heiress married Bowyer Wynne Esq.,

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. p. 58, 59, 60, and 82.

were

were settled on Richard, eldest son of the above-mentioned Sir Ralph, "the old," by Maud Grosvenor, passing by Thomas a younger son, (by Lord Dacre's daughter,) whose descendant James Vernon, some years afterwards, contested the validity of the deed, and after considerable litigation there seems to have been a compromise, for James Vernon and his posterity recovered Haslington<sup>m</sup>; but Shipbrooke with its barony, or rather a moiety of the barony, passed to the descendants of Richard. On the death of Sir Ralph Vernon the younger<sup>n</sup>, who by his wife Agnes Damory left only a daughter, married to Hamo le Strange, Shipbrooke was inherited by Sir Ralph Vernon, son of Richard, on whom the estate had been entailed; this Sir Ralph leaving no male issue, Shipbrooke passed to his younger brother Sir Richard Vernon, who was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury, leaving two sons, Sir Richard, who died in France, and left an only daughter, married to Sir Robert Foulshurst, and Sir Ralph, who inherited Shipbrooke; Ralph Vernon, son of the last-mentioned Sir Ralph, left an only daughter and heir, Dorothy, married to Sir John Savage K. G.<sup>o</sup>, who was slain at the siege of Boulogne in 1492. In consequence of this marriage the Savages inherited a moiety of the barony, with the manor of Shipbrooke, and the royalties of Davenham, Leftwich, Moulton, Shurlach, and Wharton, which were sold in the early part of the last century, either by John Savage, the last Earl Rivers, or his immediate predecessor, to Mr. Richard Vernon of Middlewich, and devised by him to Henry Vernon Esq. of Hilton in Staffordshire, one of the lineal descendants of Sir William Vernon, a grandson of Warin, the third baron of Shipbrooke. Mr. Vernon having procured an act of Parliament for the sale of this estate in 1764, it was purchased by William Tomkinson of Manchester, merchant, and by him devised to Edward Tomkinson Esq. (now Wetenhall), who sold it to William Harper Esq. of Liverpool, the present proprietor: there are no remains of the ancient seat of the Vernons.

The royalty of the townships of *Sburlach* and *Wharton* is attached to the barony of Shipbrooke as above-mentioned: the landed property is divided amongst several free-holders. The township of *Sburlach* lies one mile and a half E. S. E. from Northwich; *Wharton*, two miles and a half N. N. W. from Middlewich.

The township of *Stantborne* lies nearly two miles W. N. W. from Middlewich; the manor, which in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries belonged to the Rahers<sup>p</sup>,

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. p. 82.

<sup>n</sup> This Sir Ralph and his father are described as of Mottram.

<sup>o</sup> Smith's pedigrees, p. 126.

<sup>p</sup> Woodnoth's Collections f. 180. The family of Dudfin appear to have been possessed at the same time of Little Stanthorne. Ibid.

and at a later period for many descents to the family of Whalley, or Walley<sup>1</sup>, having been purchased by Sir John Byrne Bart., descended to his grandson Sir J. Fleming Leicester Bart. Mr. Richard Jones of Manchester has lately purchased this manor and the house at Stanthorne-hill, now in the occupation of Charles Leicester Esq. There is a farm-house on the site of the old mansion, which is surrounded by a moat.

The township of *Whatcroft* lies three miles S. E. from Northwich; the manor was for many generations in that branch of the Bulkeley family, from which the present Lord Viscount Bulkeley is descended. This branch of the family had removed into North-Wales, before Leland's time<sup>2</sup>, but continued to possess Whatcroft till after the year 1756, when an act of Parliament having been obtained for the sale of this and other manors, which had belonged to James Lord Bulkeley, then deceased, Whatcroft was purchased by the family of Robinson: it is now the property and seat of James Topping Esq., Barrister at law, who married the daughter and sole heir of William Robinson Esq.

The lordship of *Rudheath* is a large district, principally in this parish, Middlewich and Sandbach, but extending also into that of Great-Budworth, and comprising several extensive freehold estates. The manors of Drakelow and Rudheath belonged anciently to the family of Drakelow, and having been forfeited by the attainder of John Drakelow<sup>3</sup>, were for a long period in the crown<sup>4</sup>; having been granted to the Portland family, they were purchased, together with some farms, of the present Duke of Portland by Thomas Marshall Esq. of Northwich, and are now the property of his sons, John Thomas, and James Marshall, Esquires, who appoint a game-keeper for Drakelow, as parcel of the lordship of Rudheath. A manor of Drakelow, distinct from this, was formerly in the Wilbrahams of Woodhey<sup>5</sup>, and afterwards successively in the families of Delves, Townsend, and Prescott<sup>6</sup>. It is now the property of Charles Watkin John Shakerley Esq., who purchased it in 1802 of Sir George William Prescott Bart. The hall, which is within a moated site, is occupied as a farm-house. An action took place on the 22d of February 1643, between King Charles's forces, and those of the Parliament, under the command of Sir William Brereton; it appears to have been a drawn battle<sup>7</sup>. Winsford-bridge is partly in this parish, and partly in Over<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Vale-Royal, ii. 83.

<sup>2</sup> Leland's Itin. Vol. vii. p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Woodnoth's Collections,

p. 192. The date is not mentioned.

<sup>4</sup> They were purchased during the sale of crown-lands in the seventeenth century by Thomas Mackworth and Richard Smith. — Records in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>5</sup> Anno 1622.—Webb's Itinerary in King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 84.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Thomas Delves appointed a game-keeper for this manor in 1722; Robert Townsend Esq. in 1742; it was purchased by Thomas Prescott Esq. in 1750.

<sup>7</sup> Burghall's Diary. — History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 907.

<sup>8</sup> See the account of Over

parish.

DODLESTON,

DODLESTON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, lies four miles S. W. from Chester: it contains the townships of *Dodleston*, *Higher-Kinnerton*, and *Lower-Kinnerton*. The manor of *Dodleston* was, at an early period, the property of the Boydells, who had a castle here<sup>a</sup>, of which no traces now remain: this family became extinct in the male line about the reign of Henry V., after which, Dodleston passed by female heirs to the families of Reddish and Merbury<sup>b</sup>: in or about the year 1627 it was purchased of Thomas Merbury by the Ravenscrofts of Bretton in Flintshire; and about the year 1756—Powis Esq. of Lilford, whose father had married a co-heiress of the Ravenscroft family, sold it to Sir Robert Grosvenor Bart., grandfather of Robert Earl Grosvenor, the present proprietor. The old hall at Dodleston, which belonged for several generations to the Manleys, was sold by them to Sir Robert Lawley Bart. of whom it was purchased in 1807 by Earl Grosvenor: this old mansion has been since taken down, and a farm-house built on the site.

A considerable estate in Dodleston, which had been purchased of William Merbury by Thomas Grosvenor Esq., was sold by Richard Grosvenor, in or about the year 1582, to Sir Thomas Egerton, her Majesty's solicitor-general, together with the capital messuage, then lately in the occupation of Anthony Grosvenor deceased. Sir Thomas Egerton, (who afterwards became lord keeper of the great-seal, Lord Ellesmere, and Viscount Brackley,) occasionally resided at Dodleston: he died in London in the year 1617, and was buried on the 10th of April in Dodleston-church, where, on a flat stone, is the following short epitaph:

“ Anchora animæ, fides et spes in Christo—Orimur,—  
Morimur. — Sequentur qui non præcesserint.”

The Lord keeper's first wife, Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Ravenscroft, was buried at Dodleston in 1588, and his son Sir Thomas Egerton, who died in Ireland in 1599<sup>c</sup>, having with his younger brother John, afterwards Earl of Bridgwater, accompanied the Earl of Essex in his expedition to that kingdom. The Earl of Bridgwater, Lord Brackley's son, sold his estate at Dodleston, to Richard Kelfall Esq. of Trafford; it is now the property of John Glegg Esq. of Withington, who married Bridget, daughter and heiress of the late John Kelfall Esq. The hall, which was an ancient edifice, built chiefly of timber, was pulled down about the year 1788, and a farm-house built on the site.

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>b</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>c</sup> His funeral was solemnized

at Chester, and the funeral dinner kept at the bishop's palace.—Harl MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2129. fol. 44.

One of the halls at Dodleston was fortified by Sir William Brereton in the month of February 1645, during the siege of Chester; that general fixed his headquarters at Dodleston on the 2d of December following<sup>d</sup>.

The church of Dodleston was given by Alan de Boydell to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh: the rectory is now in the patronage of the dean and chapter. The townships of Dodleston and Kinnerton have been inclosed under an act of Parliament passed in the year 1791.

The township of *Lower-Kinnerton* lies about four miles S. W. by W. from Chester: the manor has always passed with that of Dodleston; the hall of this estate stands in Cheshire, the offices in Flintshire. *Higher-Kinnerton* is wholly in Flintshire, although in the parish of Dodleston.

**EASTHAM**, in the hundred and deanery of Wirrall, is situated nine miles north from Chester, and five miles east from Neston: it contains the townships of *Eastham-cum-Plimyard* and *Carlett*, *Hooton-cum-Roveacre*, *Over-Poole*, *Nether-Poole*, *Great-Sutton*, *Little-Sutton*, and *Childer-Thornton*; besides part of the township of *Whitby*.

The manor of *Eastham* was given by Randal de Gernon Earl of Chester, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, as a compensation for the ills he had done that house, and by his charter he commanded all his subjects upon their allegiance, that this his donation, given for his health and absolution, should be as it ought, free and absolute; adding this imprecation, that if any of them or their heirs should diminish it in any thing, that God would lessen him; so lessened, destroy him; and so destroyed, condemn him with the devil<sup>e</sup>. After the dissolution of monasteries, King Henry VIII. gave this manor to the dean and chapter of Chester, from whom this and other manors belonging to that body were obtained for certain annual rents, by Sir Richard Cotton<sup>f</sup>, in or about the year 1553; Sir Richard's son, a few years afterwards, conveyed this manor to Sir Rowland Stanley, ancestor of Sir Thomas Stanley Maffey Stanley Bart., the present proprietor. The manor of Plimyard was purchased in or about the year 1590 by the Stanleys of William Huntington: there is an old farm-house on the site of the manor, belonging to Sir T. S. M. Stanley Bart.

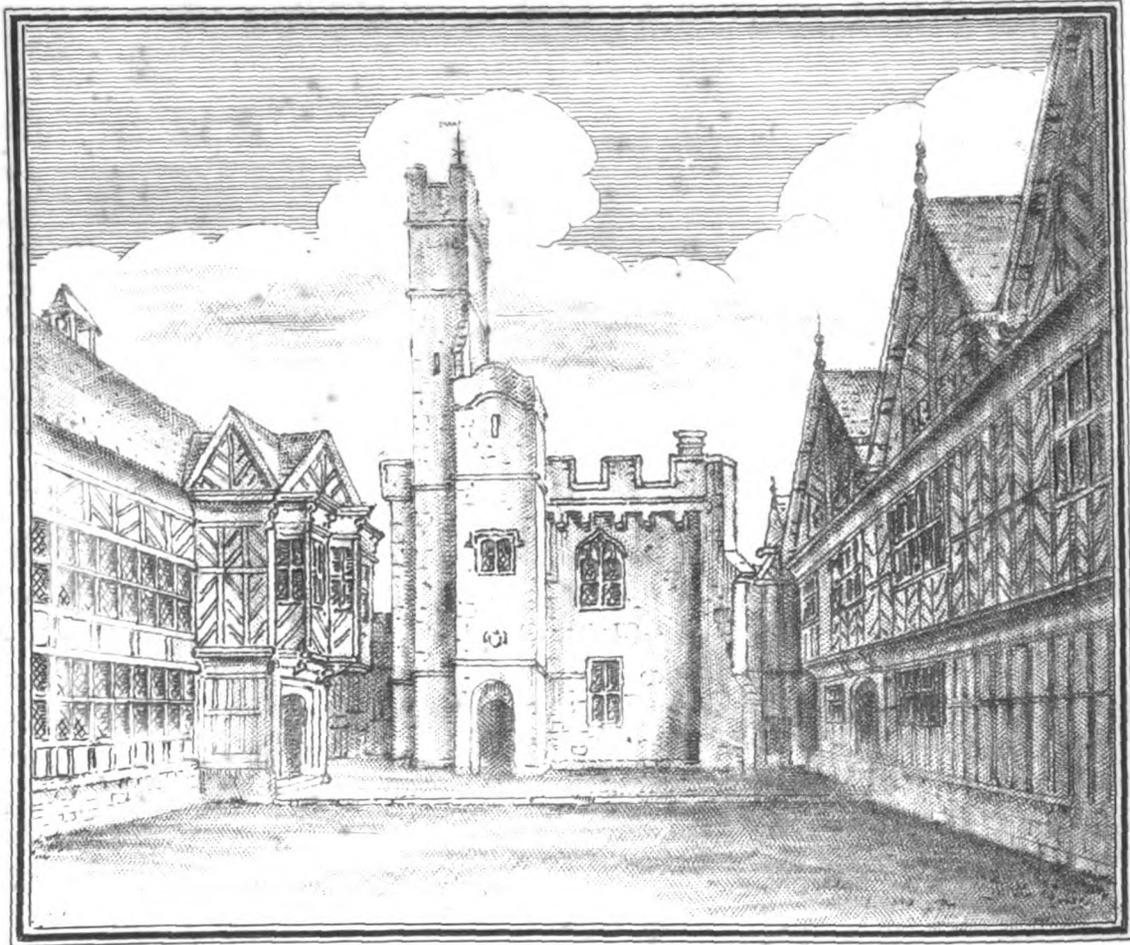
In the parish church of Eastham are some monuments of the Stanley family. This church was in ancient times a chapel to Bromborough: the tithes of Eastham were given by Hugh Lupus Earl of Chester to the abbot and con-

<sup>d</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative of the siege of Chester. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

<sup>e</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

<sup>f</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.





**THE COURT-YARD OF HOOTON HALL, CHESHIRE.**

*The ancient Seat of the Stanley Family, taken down in 1778.*

*From a Drawing in the Collection of the late W<sup>m</sup>. Nicholls, Esq. F.A.S.*



vent of St. Werburgh : they now belong to several persons : Sir T. S. M. Stanley Bart. is impropriator of the townships of Eastham, Hooton, and Childer-Thornton ; Mr. Joseph White of Sutton-Parva ; the Rev. Thomas Edwards of Sutton-Magna ; the Rev. Sir Henry Poole Bart. of Over, and Nether-Poole ; and John Hignet Esq. of Whitby. The dean and chapter of Chester are patrons of the vicarage.

The township of *Hooton* lies about nine miles N. by W. from Chester ; this place was the property and seat of the ancient family of Hooton, or Hoton, which became extinct in the male line in the reign of Henry II., when it passed by marriage to the family of Wallensis, or Welshman, generally called, after this alliance, by the name of Hooton. About the year 1400, Margaret, daughter and heir of William Wallensis, or Hooton, brought Hooton in marriage to William de Stanley, from which time it has been the principal seat of the elder branch of this ancient family, from a younger branch of which are descended the Earl of Derby, the Stanleys of Alderley-Park, and the Stanleys of Cumberland. William Stanley of Hooton was created a baronet in the year 1661 ; the present baronet and proprietor of Hooton is Sir Thomas Stanley Maffey-Stanley <sup>5</sup>.

The ancient hall at Hooton was a large building chiefly of timber in the style of Little-Moreton-Hall ; it was taken down in the year 1778, and the present mansion built from a design of Mr. Samuel Wyatt : the stone is from the Storeton quarry. At Hooton are whole length figures of the Earl of Chester, and of Edric Silvester, ancestor of the Storetons, painted on board.

*Rovcatre*, a hamlet of Hooton, belongs to Sir T. S. M. Stanley.

The townships of *Over* and *Nether-Poole*, lie at a short distance from each other, about eight miles N. by W. from Chester. The manor of Over-Poole has been held with Nether-Poole by the family of Poole, for more than three centuries ; but there appears to have been an estate distinct from this, called also the manor of Over-Poole, which was given by Catherine, wife of Hamelyn de Bardolph, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, and was granted by Queen Elizabeth in or about the year 1579 to William Glazier, or Glaseour, whose descendant continued to possess it in 1710 ; this also, we are informed, has been since united to Sir Henry Poole's estate. *Nether-Poole* belonged to the ancestors of the Rev. Sir Henry Poole Bart. as early as the year 1220, if not before ; it was then held under the family of Tyderington. Poole-Hall was for many generations the seat of the Pooles ; James Poole Esq. of Poole was created a baronet in 1677 : in consequence of a match with the Pelham family, his descendants have of late years resided in Sussex. The ancient hall, some parts of which exhibit traces of

<sup>5</sup> See p. 367.

having

having been fitted up in or about the reign of Henry VIII., is still standing and occupied by the farmer who rents the demesne,

The township of *Great-Sutton* lies seven miles, and *Little-Sutton* seven miles and a half N. N. W. from Chester; the manors of both, which had belonged to the abbey of St. Werburgh, were acquired and held in fee-farm in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Sir Hugh Cholmondeley<sup>1</sup>: in 1798 they were purchased of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. by Mr. Joseph White the present proprietor. The ancient mansion of Sutton-Hall has been taken down and a farm-house bearing the same name built on the site.

The township of *Childer-Thornton*, which lies eight miles N. N. W. from Chester, is divided between several freeholders who exercise manerial rights in rotation<sup>2</sup>. In this township is a school for fourteen children, established about the middle of the seventeenth century: the school-house was built and is repaired at the charge of the parish; it has a small endowment (between four and five pounds *per ann.*) arising from sundry benefactions.

The township of *Whitby*, partly in this parish and partly in Stoak, lies somewhat more than six miles N. from Chester: the manor which had belonged to the abbey of Chester, was acquired in fee-farm in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by the family of Glaseour<sup>1</sup>, from which it passed by purchase in 1706 to Thomas Bennet Esq. of Chester, whose representatives sold it, in 1805, to Robert Earl Grosvenor the present proprietor. Within this township, near the village of Whitby, the Ellesmere canal unites itself with the Mersey, at a place now called Ellesmere-Port, between which and Liverpool passage-boats and barges daily pass to and fro; there is another ferry at Eastham.

**ECCLESTON**, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, is situated nearly three miles S. from Chester; it contains two townships, *Eccleston-cum-Belgrave* and *Eaton*.

The manor of *Eccleston*, as parcel of the barony of Kinderton, was in the family of Venables from the time of the conquest till the death of Peter Venables, baron of Kinderton, the last heir-male, after which it passed by marriage to Montague Bertie, Lord Norris, and afterwards to the Vernons; it was purchased of the latter in 1758 by the father of Earl Grosvenor the present proprietor. The manor of *Belgrave*, a hamlet of Eccleston, which gives title of Viscount to Earl

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 162. b. See also p. 573.

<sup>2</sup> The manor was parcel of the possessions of the abbey of St. Werburgh, which were intended for the dean and chapter, and which they afterwards lost. See p. 573. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the manor was held in fee-farm by William Mayo, alias Baxter. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 162. b.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 573, and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 162. b.

Grosvenor,

Grosvenor, has for many years passed with the manor of Eccleston<sup>a</sup>; the advowson of the rectory has been attached also to that manor. Eccleston was occupied by Sir William Brereton's army in the year 1645, during the siege of Chester<sup>b</sup>.

The parish church was rebuilt in 1808, from a design of Mr. Porden, at the sole expence of Earl Grosvenor. In the old church was a memorial for Elizabeth, relict of archdeacon Rogers, who made collections for the History of Chester (ob. 1617); in the Grosvenor chancel was an ancient monument of that family, and one of more modern date put up in 1624, in memory of Richard Grosvenor Esq. father of the first baronet, and his two wives, as well as the two wives of Sir Richard Grosvenor Bart.

The township of *Eaton*, called sometimes *Eaton-Boat*, lies about four miles S. from Chester: the manor was given by Leofric, earl of Mercia, to the monks of Coventry in the reign of Edward the Confessor. In the reign of Henry III. Hamon de Pulford being immediate lord of this place, settled half of it on his son Richard; who assumed the name of Eaton; his descendants appear to have been possessed of the whole manor, which in the reign of Henry V. passed in marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of John Eaton, to Ralph second son of Sir Thomas Grosvenor, who continued the male line of that family, and was immediate ancestor of Robert, Earl Grosvenor, the present proprietor. Sir Richard Grosvenor was created a baronet in 1622. Sir Richard the second baronet, who was an eminent royalist, was turned out of his house at Eaton by the Parliamentary army, and resided in a cottage belonging to a neighbouring gentleman till the restoration: his descendant Sir Richard, the seventh baronet, was created a peer in 1761, by the title of Baron Grosvenor of Eaton, and in 1784 he was advanced to an earldom, taking his second title of Viscount Belgrave, as above-mentioned, from Belgrave a hamlet of Eccleston.

There is a view of Eaton-Hall, (which was built by Sir Thomas Grosvenor in the reign of King William,) by Kip, in the *Nouveau Theatre de la Grande-Bretagne*: it was a large plain brick mansion, which has been lately fronted with stone; large Gothic windows have been introduced; a portico and wings added to it, and other extensive additions made by the present Earl Grosvenor, in an enriched Gothic style, from designs of Mr. Porden.

<sup>a</sup> The Belgrave estate, which was esteemed a third part of Eccleston, was in the immediate possession of the Belgraves temp. Edward III., and having passed through other families was purchased by Sir Thomas Grosvenor long before the Grosvenor family was possessed of Eccleston. — Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative of the Siege of Chester. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

*Figden*, now called *Figdale*, is a hamlet of Eaton, the property of Earl Grosvenor.

A brief account of this parish was published in 1774 by the Rev. Thomas Crane, then second master of the grammar school, now minister of St. Olave and vicar of Over.

FARNDON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, is situated on a hill which overlooks the Dee, about nine miles S. from Chester; it contains the townships of *Farndon*, *Barton*, *Churton*, *Clutton*, and *Crewwe*. The manor of *Farne* or *Farndon* belonged from a very remote period to the see of Lichfield and Coventry, under which it has been held for many generations by the Grosvenor family. Earl Grosvenor is lord of the manor, patron of the curacy, and improPRIATOR of the great tithes, which had in ancient times been appropriated to the dean and canons of St. John's church in Chester°. *Farndon* church, which is described by Webb in his *Itinerary*, written in the year 1622, as a fair new building<sup>†</sup>, was made a garrison during the civil war<sup>‡</sup>, and is said to have been burnt during the siege of Holt-castle in 1645<sup>†</sup>; it certainly sustained great injury, which was repaired in 1658, when the south window was decorated with the portraits in stained glass of Sir Francis Gamul the loyal mayor of Chester, Sir William Mainwaring, Roger Grosvenor Esq., Captain Barnston, and other officers of King Charles's army, with their coats of arms. In this church are some memorials of the Barnstons of Churton: William Barnston, who died in 1664, "ventured his life and fortune with King Charles I.; he was sent prisoner from Oxford to London where he continued till he paid his composition for his estate;" his son John, who died before him, married the sole heiress of Trafford of Bridge-Trafford. A chapel in the north aisle belongs to the Massies of Coddington; the south chapel belongs to the Barnstons. In this church were formerly the tombs of Sir Patrick de Barton and two other knights, with their effigies in armour, with large shields, round the edge of which their names were inscribed in Lombardic capitals; but only that of Sir Patrick de Barton (without date) was perfect when Randal Holme took his notes; on one of the other shields was a lion rampant, and on the third a wolf passant regardant, (the coat of Daresbury,) and an imperfect inscription; "*Hic jacet Madoc . . . Daur . . . or . . . pro eo*"<sup>§</sup>.—Speed, the historian, was born at Farndon in the year 1552.

° Villare Cestriense.

† King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 54.

‡ Villare Cestriense.

§ See Gough's Camden. There is no mention of this circumstance in Burghall's Diary; an inscription in the church denotes, that having been much injured by fire in 1645, it was repaired, and the bells newly cast in 1658.

¶ Harl. MSS. N° 2151. f. 99.

A school

A school-house was built at Farndon about the year 1629, and endowed with the rent of the croft on which it stands, which, with some other trifling emoluments, forms a salary of about 14*l. per ann.*; the master is nominated by the families of Barnston, Leche, and Maffie.

Adjoining to Farndon, and bordering also upon some of the neighbouring townships, is an extra-parochial tract of land now called the township of *King's Marsh*. It was formerly called *Over-Marsh*, and was one of the spots set apart in ancient times for the reception of fugitive strangers of any county, who should come in time of war under the protection of the earls of Chester, and who were allowed to live there in booths for a year, none of the lords of the neighbouring manors being permitted to "approve, build, or make any commodity of any part of the said tract of land without the Earl's leave first obtained." King Richard III. granted *Over-Marsh* to Sir William Stanley: it is now the property of Thomas Spurstow Moulson Esq. in whose family it has been a considerable time.

The township of *Barton* lies about nine miles and a half S. S. E. from Chester; the manor was in ancient times held under the barony of Malpas by the family of Barton, some monuments of which family, with their effigies in armour, and their coats of arms on their shields, were formerly to be seen in Farndon-church; it was afterwards, for a considerable time, in the Earl of Cholmondeley's family, and was purchased in 1777 of George James Earl of Cholmondeley, by William Leche Esq. of Carden, who is the present proprietor.

The township of *Churton* lies about seven miles S. by E. from Chester; the manor, which belonged to the Barnstons as early as the reign of Richard II., is now vested in their lineal descendant Roger Barnston Esq. of Chester. Churton-Hall, for many generations the seat of the Barnstons, is now occupied by a farmer. The family of Hankey was seated in this township for several generations, the elder branch became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; a younger branch continued here in 1630<sup>a</sup>.

The township of *Clutton* lies about ten miles S. S. E. from Chester: the manor was anciently in the Cluttons, who continued to possess it from the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI.; it afterwards passed successively to the Maffies and Bromleys, and was purchased of the latter by Richard Williamson Esq.<sup>b</sup>, whose descendants sold it about the year 1725 to John Leche of Carden, ancestor of William Leche Esq. the present proprietor. Dr. Williamson the antiquary, whose manuscript History of the Cheshire manors we have had frequent occasion

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2151.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2176. f. 77. See p. 375.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

to quote, under the name of *Villare Cestriense*, was grandson of Richard William-son above-mentioned, and born in this township.

The township of *Crewe* lies about ten miles S. by E. from Chester; the family of Crew or Crue, who took their name from this township, had considerable estates in Crewe, which, on the extinction of the male line of this family, passed by co-heiresses to the families of Bird and Dod: the grand-daughter of Thomas Bird, who married one of the co-heiresses, brought a moiety of these estates to the Stringers in the reign of Henry VIII.<sup>7</sup> The royalty of the township of Crewe, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Chester, became vested after the dissolution in the Crewes, or Crues, of Holte, a younger branch of the Crewes of Crewe-Hall: in the latter part of the 17th century, Mr. Thomas Crue of Holte sold it to Sir John Crewe of Utkinton, of whose representative, now Lord Crewe of Crewe-Hall, it was purchased in the year 1802 by Mr. Ambrose Dutton the present proprietor.

FRODSHAM, which gives name to a deanery, is an ancient borough-town situated within the hundred of Edisbury, on the road from Chester to Manchester, at the distance of eleven miles from the former; the parish contains eleven townships, *Frodsham, Alvanley, Bradley, Helsby, Kingsley, Manley, Netherton, Newton, Norton, Overton, and Woodhouses*<sup>2</sup>. Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, granted the burgesses of Frodsham, being 110 in number, an exemption from all tolls except that of salt in the wiches, and that all pleas should be judged within the borough by the provost and vicinage, except those belonging to his sword<sup>3</sup>, reserving to himself also the resort of the burgesses to his mills and his oven<sup>b</sup>. Frodsham is a market town by prescription, but, in consequence of its vicinity to Warrington, the market, which is on Saturday, is very inconsiderable: there are two small fairs, May the 15th and August the 21st; the latter being on the festival of St. Lawrence, is an ancient fair, as appears by the plea to a *quo warranto* in the reign of Henry VII.<sup>c</sup> The Earl of Cholmondeley is entitled to the tolls at the market and fairs.

The manor of *Frodsham* belonged to the Earls of Chester, and afterwards to the kings of England. It was granted for life by King Edward I. (as Earl of Chester) to David brother of Llewellyn, king of Wales; by King Richard II. to Radegunda

<sup>7</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>2</sup> *Bradley, Netherton, Overton, and Woodhouses*, are by some considered only as hamlets within the lordship of Frodsham.

<sup>a</sup> It does not appear that any such pleadings have been held for a long series of years, or that there is any record of other proceedings than those which are usual in courts-leet and courts-baron.

<sup>b</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>c</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. f. 177.

Becket; by Henry VI. to Edmund Earl of Richmond<sup>d</sup>; and afterwards to King Edward IV., then Duke of York<sup>e</sup>. This manor was held for many generations under the earls of Chester and the crown by the ancient family of the Frodshams, who resided at Frodsham-castle, at the west end of the town, afterwards at Elton, and became extinct in the male line in the year 1766. The manor, which had been enfranchised and long ago alienated by the Frodshams, passed to the family of Savage, Earl Rivers, and by successive marriages to the Earl of Barrymore and general Cholmondeley<sup>f</sup>, uncle of George James Earl of Cholmondeley, the present proprietor. A mansion called Frodsham-castle, which had been built on or near the site of the ancient castle<sup>g</sup>, was burnt down October 10, 1654, on the day that the first Earl Rivers died there<sup>h</sup>. A house called Park-place, which stands on or near the same site, is the property and residence of Daniel Ashley Esq.

The townships or hamlets of *Bradley*, *Netherton*, *Overton*, and *Woodhouses*, are within the lordship of Frodsham. The manor of Nether-Bradley, in the township of Bradley, was as early as the year 1315<sup>i</sup>, and continued for several generations in the Gerards of Crewood, and is now the property of their representatives the Leycesters of Toft.

The parish church is situated within the township of Overton, on a hill which overlooks Frodsham, nearly a mile from the town; the only monument for any family of note is that of the Hydes of Cattenhall: in the south aisle is a tablet for Peter Banner, a carpenter, who died October 21, 1749, aged fifty, having in thirty-three months been tapped for the dropsy fifty-eight times, and had 1032 quarts of water taken from him.

The following instances of longevity occur in the register of burials for this parish.

159<sup>2</sup>/<sub>7</sub> Feb. 12.—Thomas Hough, cuj. ætas cxli.

———— 13.—Randle Wall, ciiii.

1695 Apr. 13.—Margaret Knowles de Helleby, aged 107.

1791 Nov. 21.—Thomas Blean<sup>k</sup> of Norley, aged 102.

The tithes of Frodsham were given by Hugh Lupus to the abbey of Chester<sup>l</sup>, but this grant appears to have been resumed, for we find that King Edward I. gave the church of Frodsham to the abbot and convent of Dernhall (afterwards

<sup>d</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>e</sup> Rot. Parl. Vol. v. p. 380.

<sup>f</sup> See p. 499.

<sup>g</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 100. In the first volume of Buck's Antiquities is a view of some small remains of Frodsham-castle.

<sup>h</sup> See Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities of Bucklow hundred,

p. 236.

<sup>i</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>k</sup> The name is spelt Blain on

his grave-stone.

<sup>l</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. i. p. 201.

Vale-Royal<sup>m</sup>) that the great tithes were appropriated to that convent to which they belonged at the dissolution of monasteries, when they were granted with the advowson of the vicarage to the dean and chapter of Christ's-church college in Oxford. The lease of the great tithes held under that college is vested in the trustees of the late William Maffey Esq. of Moston near Chester.

The vicarial tithes were estimated only at 90*l.* per ann. in bishop Gastrell's time, but have been much augmented in value of late years, in consequence of the increased culture of potatoes<sup>n</sup>. Certain commons in the townships of Frodsham and Helsby were inclosed by act of Parliament in the year 1793.

A free-school was established at Frodsham about the middle of the seventeenth century, when the house was built by subscription, and a sum of money raised, which was laid out in the purchase of lands. The revenues of the school have been augmented from the interest of money given by fundry benefactors, and some rent-charges; one of these 5*l.* per ann., left by Mr. Trafford, is subject to the condition of the master's being approved by the company of Apothecaries at Chester<sup>o</sup>; the master has now a salary of 100*l.* per ann. On the hill above Frodsham was formerly a beacon<sup>p</sup>.

The manor of *Alvanley*, or *Alvandley*, was held under the Fitz-Alans, Earls of Arundel<sup>q</sup>, at an early period by Richard de Pierpoint and Robert de Alvanley, who sold it to Sir Philip de Orreby, father of Philip, whose daughter and heir, Agnes, brought this manor and other possessions, in the reign of Henry III., to Walkelin de Arderne<sup>r</sup>, ancestor of John Arden<sup>s</sup> Esq., the present proprietor. When the Right Hon. Sir Richard Pepper Arden, late master of the Rolls, and younger brother of John Arden Esq., was created a peer in 1801, he took the title of Lord Alvanley, which is now enjoyed by his son. A farm-house, called Alvanley-Hall, occupies the site of an ancient mansion, belonging to the Arden family, called by Webb, in 1622, "a very fine house, belonging to Henry Arderne Esq."<sup>t</sup> In this township, which lies about three miles S. S. W. from Frodsham, is a chapel of ease, with a small endowment, in the patronage of the Arden family, but the income being not adequate to the maintenance of a minister, it has been disused since the year 1787: the chapel is in good repair, but the pews, pulpit, &c. have been removed; the inhabitants have the right of sepulture at Alvanley.

<sup>m</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. i. p. 936.

<sup>n</sup> See p. 411.

<sup>o</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

<sup>p</sup> Anno 1585, and 1622. Smith's and Webb's descriptions of Cheshire, in King's Vale-Royal.

<sup>q</sup> The paramount royalty passed by purchase to the Troutbecks, and was inherited from them by the earls of Shrewsbury—Villare Cestriense.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

<sup>s</sup> The name has been so spelt by the family of late years.

<sup>t</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 117.

The

The township of *Helsby* lies about three miles S. W. by W. from Frodsham; the manor was anciently in a family which took its name from the township; the heirs of the Helsbies, in the reign of Edward II., married Sir Peter Thornton, whose co-heiresses brought this manor in moieties into the families of Fitton and Beeston; Fitton's moiety passed by successive female heirs to Venables and Trafford; Beeston's moiety to Leighton and Savage. John Savage, the first Earl Rivers, having purchased the other moiety of Sir Henry Hobart<sup>2</sup>, who, it is probable, had acquired it in the same manner of the Traffords, the whole descended with Frodsham, to George James, Earl of Cholmondeley, the present proprietor.

The township of *Kingsley*, lies about three miles S. E. from Frodsham: the lordship, which includes the townships of *Newton*, and *Norley*<sup>2</sup>, was given by Randal Meschines Earl of Chester in the reign of Henry I. to Randal de Kingsley, whose grandson left four daughters, co-heiresses, Emma married to William Gerard, Agnes to William Lancelyn, Amicia to Randal Thornton, and Joan to Henry Done: the lordship was divided amongst these co-heiresses; Thornton's share soon passed (by purchase, probably, from the co-heiresses of Sir Peter Thornton, as there does not appear to have been any connection between the families) to the Rutters, who were for several generations of Kingsley; the Gerards having purchased Lancelyn's share about the year 1302<sup>1</sup>, a moiety of the manor continued in that family for more than three centuries. Done's share continued in his descendants till the middle of the seventeenth century, and passed by successive female heirs to the Crewes and Ardernes. Sir John Savage having purchased Gerard's moiety in the year 1561, and Thomas Earl Rivers having purchased Rutter's share in the latter part of the seventeenth century, the manor is now vested in the trustees of John Barry a minor, natural son of the late James Hugh Smith Barry Esq., whose grandfather, Richard Earl of Barrymore, married the heirs of Richard Savage, Earl Rivers. Kingsley-Hall is occupied by a farmer.

Within this township is the ancient manor of Cattenhall, in ancient times the property and residence of Ralph Venator, or the Hunter, who gave it to God, and St. Mary, and Sir Ivel the priest, and his successors; by which it seems that he established a kind of hermitage, afterwards vested in the abbot and convent of Chester, who conveyed it to William Gerard of Kingsley, and his heirs, subject to a payment of 30*s.* *per ann.*, and to the obligation of finding two chaplains in

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestriense.  
from Frodsham.

<sup>2</sup> *Newton* lies about two miles S. E. by S. *Norley* five miles S. E.  
<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense.

the

the chapel of Cattenhall, to pray for the souls of Sir Richard de Kingsley and his successors, Lords of Kingsley<sup>a</sup>. Cattenhall was purchased of the Gerards in the reign of Edward III. by the Griffins, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Nuttals. In the reign of Charles I., the last of the Nuttal family<sup>b</sup> sold it to certain persons, of whom, in the succeeding reign, it was purchased by Robert Hyde Esq.<sup>c</sup>: from the Hydes it passed by marriage to the Giffords of Chillington in Shropshire, and is now the property of Miss Elizabeth Gifford of Norquis in the county of Flint: the old hall has been taken down. Crewood, or Crew-wood, formerly the seat of the Gerards, is partly in this township<sup>d</sup>, in which also was Peele-Hall, a moated mansion, formerly a seat of the Ardernes, lately taken down for the purpose of building a farm-house on its site, now the property of George Whitley Esq.

In the reign of Edward III., Sir Laurence Dutton had a license from the Earl of Chester, to carry away the chapel of Kingsley within the forest of Delamere, formerly belonging to Sir Peter Thornton, whose daughter and co-heiress he had married.

Within the township of *Norley* was an ancient hall, belonging to the family of Hall, which was re-built in 1782, by the late William Hall Esq., and has passed by his will with the demesne to George Whitley Esq. his nephew, the present owner, who resides at Norley-Hall. It is probable that Norley-Hall was, at a remote period, the seat of the Norleys, whose heiress married Robert Legh, ancestor of the Leghs of Adlington. In this township also is Norley-bank, a modern mansion, the property of John Nuttal Esq.

The township of *Manley* lies about four miles S. S. W. from Frodsham; the manor was, as early as the reign of Henry III., in the Manleys, who held it under the fee of Kingsley. It was purchased of this family in 1574, by Richard Birkenhead, recorder of Chester, whose son, Adam, sold it to the Rev. Gregory Turner, rector of Sefton in the county of Lancaster; Henry Legh Esq. of East-Hall, having married the heiress of Mr. Turner, sold it, about the year 1652, to William Davies Esq. of Ashton: on the death of Thomas Davenport Davies Esq. without issue, it passed by marriage with his sister to Sir Matthew Deane of Dromore in the county of Cork Bart., whose nephew, Lord Muskerry, sold it to

<sup>a</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.— <sup>b</sup> So called by Dr. Williamson. John Nuttal Esq. of Norley-bank appears to be descended from another family.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Williamson's *Villare Cestriense*.— In a *Villare* of Cheshire (1656). Harl. MSS. No. 2010. Cattenhall is described as Robert Hyde's, late Sir Arthur Aston's.

<sup>d</sup> See the account of Weverham.

Thomas

Thomas Lowten Esq, the present proprietor: a farm-house has been built on the site of the old hall. In this township is a quarry of excellent free-stone, from which most of the stone for the new-buildings at the castle of Chester, and Earl Grosvenor's seat at Eaton-Hall, has been obtained.

GAWSWORTH, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies about three miles S. W. from Macclesfield. It consists only of one township, divided into five parts, called Tidnor-end, Shallow-end, Stubbs-end, Mill-end, and Woodhouse-end: a few houses in the township of Marton are in this parish. The manor of Gawsworth was given by Randal de Meschines Earl of Chester, in the twelfth century, to Hugh son of Bigod, who took the name of Gawsworth; his daughter Lucy brought it to the Orrebies, the heirs of which family, Isabel, married Thomas Fitton in the reign of Edward I. Sir Edward Fitton, their descendant, was created a baronet, in the year 1617; his grandson, who died in 1643, gave it by will to his nephew, Charles Gerard, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield<sup>e</sup>: the niece and presumptive heirs of Fitton Gerard the last Earl having married Charles Lord Mohun, that nobleman became possessed, under Lord Macclesfield's will<sup>f</sup>, of this manor and other estates in Cheshire, which he bequeathed to his second wife. Gawsworth is now the property of the Earl of Harrington, whose grandfather the Right Hon. William Stanhope, vice-chamberlain of the household, having married Anne Griffith, one of Lady Mohun's daughters by her first husband, purchased this manor and Bosley in 1727 of the trustees of his wife's marriage-settlement. This manor was held of the Aldfords and their successors the Ardernes, by the service of finding a foot-soldier with an haubergeon for the ward of Aldford-castle in time of war. Part of Gawsworth-Hall, the ancient seat of the Fittons, has been lately taken down; the remainder has been converted

<sup>e</sup> Immediately on the death of Sir Edward Fitton, his four sisters, Penelope, wife of Sir Charles Gerard Knt.; Mary, wife of Sir John Brereton Knt.; Jane, wife of Thomas Minshull Esq., and Frances, wife of Henry Mainwaring Esq., entered on his estates as co-heirs; but after a long litigation were ejected by Mr. William Fitton, son of Alexander, second surviving son of Sir Edward Fitton, treasurer of Ireland, who claimed under a deed of Sir Edward Fitton, the last baronet, in favour of his next male heir. After the restoration, Sir Edward Fitton's will in favour of his nephew, Charles Gerard, was brought forwards and established.

<sup>f</sup> In p. 483, Charles Mordaunt, should have been called *last*, instead of second husband of Lady Mohun: when that page was printed we had not discovered that Lady Mohun, who possessed Aldford and Gawsworth, was not Lord Macclesfield's niece. The fatal duel between Lord Mohun and the Duke of Hamilton, who married the two nieces of the last Earl of Macclesfield, is said to have originated from the circumstance of the Earl's bequest of his estates to the former. Tonkin's Cornish MSS., in the possession of Lord De Dunstanville (under the parish of Boconoc).

into

into two farm-houses. On the tower of the parish church, which is a handsome structure, ornamented with pinnacles, are the arms of Gawsworth, and those of Fitton, impaling Bechton, which match took place in the reign of Edward III., and corresponds with the appearance of the architecture of the tower.

In the church are some monuments of the Fittons; that of Sir Edward Fitton, the first baronet, who died in 1619, has some wretched verses, the last of which speaks of the deceased and his family as "Fitt-ons, to weare a heavenly diadem:" the monument of Sir Edward Fitton Bart., a very active officer in the army of King Charles <sup>2</sup>, "who was at the battles of Edge-hill, Banbury, Brentford, and Reading, and at the siege of Bristol; at which place, after the taking of that city by Prince Rupert, he was left in garrison, and died of a consumption in 1643," has the effigies in armour of himself and his lady. There are memorials also for Sir Edward Fitton, great grandfather of the first baronet, who married a co-heiress of Sir Richard Harbottle, and Francis Fitton Esq. who married Catharine, countess dowager of Northumberland <sup>b</sup>. In the east window was formerly a portrait of Sir Richard Sutton, founder of Brazen-nose college in Oxford, with the date 1505 <sup>i</sup>. The church of Gawsworth was anciently a chapel to Prestbury, but has been a distinct rectory for more than three centuries. The Earl of Harrington is patron. Adjoining to the church-yard is a school-house, built by Lord Mohun, but not otherwise endowed than with the interest of some small sums of money, left since by various persons.

GRAPPENHALL, GROPENHALL, or GROPPENHALL, in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, lies about two miles south from Warrington in Lancashire, and nine miles north from Knutsford; it comprises only two townships, *Grappenball* and *Lachford*.

The manor of *Grappenball* belonged in William the Conqueror's time to Osbern Fitz-Tezzon, ancestor of the Boydells of Doddleston: having been divided between the co-heiresses of Boydell, one moiety passed by a female heir, through the family of Daniel, about the year 1388, to the Leghs of Lyme, and is now vested in the executors of the late Thomas Peter Legh Esq. of that place. The other moiety passed with the co-heiresses of Boydell to the family of Reddish, whose heiress

<sup>a</sup> He raised a complete regiment of foot for the service of King Charles I. of which he was appointed colonel.

<sup>b</sup> She was one of the four daughters and co-heirs of John Nevil Lord Latimer; married first to Henry Earl of Northumberland, who died in 1583; and afterwards, in 1588, to Francis Fitton Esq. She died in 1596.—Inscription on a portrait of Francis Fitton at Gawsworth-Hall.

<sup>i</sup> Ashmole's MSS. No. 854.

in or about the year 1556 married into the Marbury family: this moiety having been purchased with the other Marbury estates by the last Earl Rivers, is now vested in the trustees of John Barry, a minor, under the will of J. H. S. Barry Esq. Reddish-Hall, now a farm-house, is part of the Barry property.

In the parish church are some memorials of the family of Middlehurst of Latchford: there was formerly the tomb of William Boydell junior, with his effigies cross-legged, in mail and sur-coat<sup>k</sup>. A school-house was built at the expence of the parish in 1712; Mr. Thomas Johnson endowed it with lands in Appleton, now let at 12*l.* 12*s.* per ann.

The township of *Lachford*, or *Latchford*, lies about a mile and a half S. E. from Warrington; the manor passed with one of the co-heiresses of William Boydell in the reign of Edward III., to Howell-ap-Owen Voil, whose son assumed the name of Boydell; Thomas Boydell, the grandson, had two daughters co-heirs, who carried this manor in moieties to the families of Reddish and Alburgham; the moiety, which belonged to the Reddishes, has passed in the same manner as their estate in Grappenhall: Alburgham's moiety was sub-divided between two co-heiresses, married to Byrom and Holt; Holt's share passed by successive sales to the families of Brooke and Ireland. Byrom's was sold in severalties<sup>l</sup>. The Byroms were for many years patrons of the advowson of Grappenhall, now the property of the Rev. John Burnett Stuart, who is patron and incumbent. Two weekly markets at Latchford<sup>m</sup>, to be held on Wednesday and Friday, and two fairs, one upon the fifth and sixth of May, and the other on the 17th and 18th of October, were granted in 1367 to Sir John Daniel, and his wife Joan<sup>n</sup>.

A chapel of ease was consecrated at Lachford in 1781: the rector of Grappenhall is patron. The commons of Grappenhall and Latchford have been inclosed under an act of Parliament passed in 1773.

HANDLEY, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, lies seven miles and a half south from Chester, and eight miles west from Tarporley; it comprises the townships of *Handley* and *Golborne-David*. The manor of *Handley* was from the time of the Conquest till the reign of Edward III. in the Boydells<sup>o</sup>, and having passed with the co-heiresses of that family to the Holfords, was sold by the latter in the year 1585 to Sir George Calveley. Dame Mary, relict of Sir

<sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2151. Church-notes by Randal Holme.

<sup>l</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>m</sup> Latchford was accidentally omitted among the places which had anciently charters for markets, in p. 328.

<sup>n</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 301.

<sup>o</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

Hugh Calveley, the last heir male of this family, died in 1707, having survived her husband fifty-seven years. This manor having been upon a partition allotted to Peter Legh Esq. of Lyme, as one of the co-heirs of the Calveleys, descended to the late Thomas Peter Legh Esq., and is now by his bequest the property of his natural son, Thomas, a minor. Calveley-Hall, on Milton-green, formerly a seat of the Calveleys, is now a farm-house: the chapel, which was built by Dame Mary Calveley in 1670<sup>p</sup>, has been taken down.

In the church is a memorial for Thomas Venables Esq., who died in 1572. The rectory of Handley, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Chester, is now in the patronage of the dean and chapter.

The manor of *Golborne-David* was given about the reign of King Stephen, by William Boydell to Thomas de Golborne<sup>q</sup>, the heirs of whose family brought it, about the year 1400, to that of Venables, in which it continued as late as the reign of Charles II. The lands of this township are now possessed by a few freeholders, and it is esteemed to be parcel of the manor of Handley.

**HARTHILL**, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, comprising only one township, lies about nine miles S. by W. from Tarporley, and about eleven miles S. E. from Chester. From the reign of King John, to that of Edward III., the manor of Harthill was in a family of that name, from which it passed by successive female heirs to the Tattenhalls and Calveleys<sup>r</sup>. The Cottons, who possessed this manor as co-heirs of the last-mentioned family, sold it to the late Oswald Mosley Esq. of whose devisees it was purchased in 1806 by Thomas Tarlton Esq., the present proprietor. In the parish church are some memorials of the Birds of Broxton. The advowson of the donative, or perpetual curacy, which is endowed with the great tithes, was anciently in the St. Pierres, from whom it passed by marriage to the Cokesys and Grevilles: it was afterwards in the Breretons, of whom it was purchased, in the reign of Charles II., by Sir William Drake, ancestor of T.D.T. Drake Esq. of Amer sham in Buckinghamshire, the present patron.

**HESWALL, OR HESSELWALL**, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, comprises two townships, *Heswall-cum-Oldfield*, and *Gayton*. The township of *Heswall* lies three miles N. W. by N. from Great-Neston; the manor was the ancient inheritance of a family of that name, which became extinct in the male line in the reign of Edward III. after which, one moiety of the manor passed successively

<sup>p</sup> Notitia Cestriensis.  
family of Malpas.

<sup>q</sup> The Golbornes are said by Camden to have been a branch of the  
<sup>r</sup> Villare Cestriense.

to the Calveleys and Davenports, and is now the property of Davies Davenport Esq. <sup>1</sup> M. P., the other passed in marriage with the co-heiress of Hefelwall to the Egertons <sup>2</sup>, and by successive sales to the families of Brown and Whitmore <sup>3</sup>, it has since been divided into severalties, of which Charles Goodwin Esq. possesses one by purchase, the others are vested in the representatives of the late Mr. Whitmore.

The manor of Oldfield was given in marriage by Patrick de Hefelwall, with Alice his sister, to Guy of Provence, whose posterity took the name of Oldfield, and were ancestors of the Oldfields of Bradwell, Somerford, and Leftwich. This estate is said to have passed in moieties with two co-heiresses of Oldfield, to the families of Whitmore and Croxton; Whitmore's moiety has passed in the same manner as the Hefelwall estate; the other is now the property of ————Hough, whose father is said to have purchased from the Croxtons. In the parish church are monuments of Sir William Glegg, who died in 1706, and others of the Gleggs of Gayton; on the north wall are the arms of Hefelwall, a figure of St. Michael and the dragon, and this inscription, "*Sigillum Willielmi de Hefelwall.*" The advowson of the rectory has always been attached to the manor, the presentation having been for several years alternate.

The manor of *Gayton* was given by King Edward I. to Reginald de Tibermont of Normandy, who having soon after surrendered it into the king's hands, it was granted in 1277 to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal, who in 1312, with the king's licence, gave it to Stephen de Merton, together with Lach-on-Rudheath, in exchange for his manor of Merton in the forest of Delamere <sup>4</sup>. About the year 1330, Gayton passed in marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of Stephen de Merton, to Gilbert Glegg Esq. William Glegg Esq., the last heir male of this ancient family, died in 1758. This manor is now the property of John Glegg Esq., whose father John Baskervyle, the lineal descendant of the ancient family of Baskervyle of Old-Withington, assumed the name of Glegg, in consequence of his marriage with Mary, only daughter of Robert Glegg Esq. (brother of William), who, on the death of her uncle, became sole heiress of the Gayton estate. Gayton-Hall, the ancient seat of the Gleggs, is at present occupied by John Stanislaus Townshend Esq. King William III. slept at Gayton-Hall, previously to his embarking for Ireland, in the month of June 1689, on which occasion his host William Glegg Esq., received the honour of knighthood.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 550.

<sup>2</sup> A partition of this estate was made between the Calveleys and Egertons as co-heirs, 12 Edw. III. Woodnoth's Collections, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> Sold by Sir Richard

Egerton to Thomas Brown, 4 Edw. Villare Cestriense.

<sup>4</sup> Villare Cestriense.

INCE (anciently called Ynes), in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Chester, comprising only one township, lies about five miles W. by S. from Chester. The manor, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Chester, was obtained soon after the dissolution by Sir Robert Cotton<sup>2</sup>, and by him sold to the Cholmondeleys. In 1722 it was purchased of Charles Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal, by Sir George Wynne Bart.; after the death of his son-in-law Richard Hill Waring Esq., it passed to Mr. Waring's great-nephew and heir at law, John Scott Esq. who took the name of Waring in addition to his own, and in 1805 sold this manor to Edmund Yates Esq. and Robert Peele Esq. The whole is now the property of Mr. Yates, who is also patron of the donative, and impropiator of the great tithes.

In the first volume of Buck's Antiquities is a view of the ruins of an ancient Gothic building at Ince, now fitted up as a farm-house; as its site is on the demesnes of the manor, there can be little doubt that it was, according to the generally received opinion, a grange belonging to the monks of Chester, and probably a place of occasional retirement during the summer; the barn bears the appearance of having been a chapel.

The parish of WEST-KIRKBY, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, contains eight townships, *West-Kirkby, Caldey, Frankby, Grange, Greasby, Great-Meoles, Little-Meoles, and Newton-cum-Lorton*<sup>2</sup>.

The township of *West Kirkby*, which lies eight miles N. W. from Great-Neston, and about eighteen from Chester, belongs to several freeholders, who are lords of the manor in rotation. The manor had formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Basingwerk<sup>b</sup>, and afterwards to the Earls of Derby<sup>c</sup>. In the parish-church are some memorials of the Gleggs of Grange and Tranmore, and a monument for John Vanzalen gent. who died in 1689. The church of West-Kirkby, with a chapel on Hilbree-island were given by Robert de Rothlent, one of Hugh Lupus's barons, to the monks of St. Ebrulf in Normandy, who in the year 1287 conveyed them to the abbot and convent of Chester for a palfrey and nine marks: West-Kirkby is now in the patronage of the dean and chapter. A free-school was founded in this parish in the year 1636, by William Glegg Esq. of Caldey-Grange, and endowed with lands now producing 40*l. per ann.* Thomas Bennet, who died in 1676, gave a rent-charge of 30*l. per ann.* to this school; by the first enfeoffment the nomination of the master was vested in the bishop of

<sup>2</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.

<sup>a</sup> The whole parish is divided into four quarters, 1. *Kirkby, Grange, and Newton*; 2. *Caldey*; 3. *Frankby and Greasby*; and 4. *Great-Meoles and Little-Meoles*.

<sup>b</sup> Esch. Edward I. and Edward III.

<sup>c</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

Chester and Mr. Glegg's heirs; the remainder of the estate, given by Mr. Bennet, which now produces 170*l.* *per ann.* is for the benefit of the poor of this parish, without any particular appropriation except 24*l.* for clothing twenty-four poor persons.

The township of *Caldey*, sometimes called *Great-Caldey*, lies nearly seven miles N. W. by N. from Great-Neston; the manor having passed with that of Hefelwall <sup>d</sup>, is now in severalties between the representatives of Whitmore and Mr. Goodwin.

The township of *Frankby* lies seven miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston; the manor having passed by marriage from the Orrebies to the Ardernes, was alienated by the latter in or about the year 1305, to John de Warwick, whose daughter and heir brought it to Bartholomew Bold: the descendant of the latter sold it in or about the year 1614 to Robert Davies <sup>e</sup>; it passed soon afterwards by sale to the Days, in whom it continued for more than a century; having passed through several hands since 1780, when it was alienated by a representative of the Days; it is now the property of Mr. Peter Phillips, who purchased it in the year 1805.

The township of *Grange*, sometimes called *Little-Caldey* <sup>f</sup>, lies about nine miles and a half N. W. by N. from Great-Neston; the manor of Grange-Hall was granted by King Edward VI. in 1552 to John Glegg Esq. of Gayton, together with a swannery on Newton-Carr, adjoining the said estate; John Glegg, son of the grantee, gave it to his second son, of his own name, and from him it descended to William Glegg Esq. who died in 1785: this estate was purchased some years ago under a decree in Chancery by John Leigh Esq. of Liverpool, the present owner. Grange-Hall, which was for several generations a seat of the Gleggs, is now occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Greasby* lies nearly eight miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston; the manor was given to the abbot and convent of Chester by Robert de Rullos <sup>g</sup>. Not long after the dissolution of monasteries it was obtained by Sir Richard Cotton, and by him or his son was alienated to John Harpur Esq. being made subject to a fee-farm rent payable to the dean and chapter <sup>h</sup>. John Glegg Esq. of Neston now claims the manor, but the freeholders contend that there is no manor, and it is so stated by Dr. Williamson in his *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>d</sup> See p. 667.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>f</sup> There was formerly a hundred of Little-

Caldey, the profits of which were given by King Edward I. as Earl of Chester, to Randal de Sutton; the daughter and heir of this Randal married the ancestor of John Glegg Esq. who is still proprietor of certain lands near Chester, called the Earl's-eye, granted with the hundred of Caldey to Randal de Sutton above-mentioned.

<sup>g</sup> Dugdale's Monast. Vol. i. p. 987.

<sup>h</sup> See p. 573,

in the notes.

The

The township of *Great-Meoles* lies nearly eleven miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston; the manor belonged to the family of Meoles from an early period till the latter part of the 17th century<sup>1</sup>, when it passed by a co-heiress to the Houghs; it is now the property of Mr. John Ramsbottom of Liverpool, who married the daughter of Mr. William Hough.

The township of *Little-Meoles* lies about ten miles N. W. by N. from Great-Neston; the manor has been a considerable time in the Stanley family, and is now the property of Sir John T. Stanley Bart. whose father the late Sir J. T. Stanley, about the year 1795, erected near the sea-coast, at a place called Hoyle-Lake or Hyle-Lake, in this township, a large and commodious hotel; other buildings have since been added, and it is become a fashionable bathing-place. In the year 1690 Duke Schomberg encamped with his army at a place called the *Mels*, near Hyle-Lake, previous to their embarkation for Ireland<sup>2</sup>.

The township of *Newton-cum-Larton* lies about eight miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston; the manor was for a considerable time divided between the families of Venables and Bold<sup>1</sup>; it is now the property of the Rev. Roger Jacson, rector of Bebington, by inheritance from his maternal grandfather Mr. Samuel Anton.

This parish is noted for the culture of early potatoes, which are sold for a great price at the Liverpool market.

The manor or reputed manor of *Hoofe*, by some asserted to be an extra-parochial township<sup>m</sup>, although locally situated within the parish of West-Kirkby, belongs to the Gleggs of Irby, and was devised by the late John Glegg Esq. of that place to his second son John Baskervyle Glegg Esq. the present owner.

KNUTSFORD, a considerable market-town in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, is situated on the great road from London to Liverpool, being one hundred and seventy-three miles from London, thirty from Liverpool, twenty-four from Chester, and fifteen from Manchester. It was formerly a chapelry within the parish of Rostherne, but was made a distinct parish by act of Parliament in the year 1741, and comprises the townships of *Over-Knutsford*, *Nether-Knutsford*, *Bexton*, *Ollerton*, and *Toft*.

William de Tabley, who was lord of both the Knutsfords, about the year 1292, granted a charter of privileges to his burgeses of Knutsford, which is printed in Sir Peter Leycester's History of Bucklow hundred: this William, about the same time procured a charter for a market on Saturday, which still continues, and a

<sup>1</sup> Bertram de Meoles died seized of it, 37 Henry III.  
Cheshire, B. i. p. 29.

<sup>2</sup> Esch. Rich. II.—Hen. VI.

<sup>m</sup> Perhaps therefore it ought to have been inserted separately in p. 326, instead of being included in West-Kirkby in p. 346.

fair for three days at the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul<sup>a</sup>; the charter was confirmed to William Tabley the younger in 1332: this fair also is still continued<sup>o</sup>; there is another on the 8th of November, and a third has been established within these few years on the 23d of April: none of them are noted as great marts for the sale of any particular commodities. A charter for a Wednesday's market at Over-Knutsford or Knutsford-Booths was granted in 1335 to Ellen Legh, with a fair on Tuesday and Wednesday in Whitfun-week: this market has been long discontinued, but the fair is still held.

Knutsford is not a corporate town, but it appears that its chief officer was called a mayor in the reign of Edward I.<sup>p</sup>: it has now no peculiar government. The quarter-sessions for the county are held in this town at Midsummer and Michaelmas. In the year 1777, an account having been taken of the population of Knutsford, it was found, that there were 375 families and 1674 inhabitants: the annual average of deaths for the ten years then preceding, had been only one in forty<sup>q</sup>, being about the same proportion as in the city of Chester, and very much below the usual average in towns<sup>r</sup>. According to the returns made to parliament under the population act in 1801, there were there then 543 families in Over and Nether-Knutsford, and 2372 inhabitants, of whom 782 were employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft. A manufacture of thread has been long established in this town; there is no cotton factory, but a great deal of cotton-spinning and weaving is done in private houses.

The manor of *Over-Knutsford*, alias *Knutsford-Booths*, together with *Norbury-Booths*, were purchased in the year 1300 of William de Tabley by John Legh Esq.; ancestor of Willoughby Legh Esq. the present proprietor. John Legh, founder of the family of the Leghs of Booths, was a younger son of William Venables Esq. of Bradwell, by Agnes his wife, daughter and heir of Richard Legh of West-hall in High-Legh; he assumed the name of his maternal grandfather, but retained the arms of Venables, which are still borne by his posterity. Booths, the seat of Willoughby Legh Esq. is situated about a mile S.E. from Knutsford.

The manor of *Nether-Knutsford* having been held by the Tableys under the Mafseys of Tatton, was divided by agreement between William Tabley and Sir John Mafsey in the reign of Henry III.: on the death of his descendant of the same name in 1352, Tabley's moiety became divided among co-heirs, of whom and of the Mafseys the whole was eventually acquired in the early part of the

<sup>a</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>o</sup> Now held on the 10th of July.

<sup>p</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 299.

<sup>q</sup> History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 490, 491.

<sup>r</sup> See p. 602, in the notes.

<sup>s</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

succeeding

succeeding century by Sir Hugh Hulfe<sup>1</sup>: in the year 1590, it was sold by Hugh Hulfe Esq. to Richard Brereton Esq. of Tatton, from whom it passed to the Egertons<sup>2</sup>, and is now the property of Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton.

Under the act of parliament above-mentioned, which passed in the year 1741, Knutsford was made a distinct parish and vicarage, and the ancient chapel in Nether-Knutsford taken down: the new parish-church then built in the Tentrycroft was consecrated in the year 1744, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist; the patronage is vested by the act in the lords of Over-Knutsford, Nether-Knutsford, and Ollerton<sup>3</sup>, Toft, and Bexton, who present in rotation.

There was a free-school at Nether-Knutsford before the Reformation, supported out of some chantry lands, which were granted, after the abolition of chantries to the Leghs of Booths, on condition of their paying the yearly sum of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to a schoolmaster: the school-house, which adjoined the ancient chapel in this town, was taken down under the act of Parliament above-mentioned, and a new building erected for that purpose, which is kept in repair by the inhabitants. Some land, then let at 3*l.* 4*s.* *per ann.* now at 25*l.* *per ann.* was given by the act to the school in lieu of 80*l.* stock which was used for the building. The master is appointed by Willoughby Legh Esq. of Booths.

The township of *Bexton* lies a mile S. S. E. from Nether-Knutsford; the manor was for many centuries in moieties, one of which passed from the Bextons to the Tableys, and from the latter, about the year 1361, to the Daniels<sup>4</sup>, who in 1699 purchased of Lord Cholmondeley the other moiety which had been long in fevalties, and having been united in the possession of John Croxton Esq. in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was sold by his family to the Cholmondeleys. Sir Samuel Daniel, the last heir-male of that family, who died in 1727, left his estates to his great-nephew Samuel Duckenfield Esq.<sup>5</sup> Bexton is now the property of Sir John F. Leicester Bart., by whose guardians it was purchased during his minority, about the year 1775, of John Astley Esq. who had married the widow of Sir William Duckenfield Daniel: the ancient hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Ollerton* or *Owlarton*, lies three miles S. E. from Nether-Knutsford; the manor was in the family of Massey of Tatton, as early as the reign of Edward I., and has passed with the Tatton estate to Wilbraham Egerton Esq. the present proprietor. A school-house was built by the inhabitants of this township above a century ago, the school is endowed with the interest of 100*l.* given by Mr. Samuel Legh.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>2</sup> See the account of Tatton in Rostherne.

<sup>3</sup> These two townships being vested in the same lord entitle him only to one presentation in four.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>5</sup> His father married Hewit Parker, Sir Samuel Daniel's niece.

The

The township of *Toft* lies about one mile and a half S. from Nether-Knutsford; the manor belonged from an early period to the family of that name, which became extinct about the end of Henry the VIth's reign; this manor was inherited by Ralph, a younger brother of John Leycester Esq. of Tabley, who, married Joan, daughter and heir of Robert Toft\*, and was the immediate ancestor of the late George Leycester Esq. of Toft, who dying in 1809, was succeeded in this estate by his next brother Ralph. Toft-Hall is about to be altered and enlarged for the residence of the present proprietor.

LAWTON, in the hundred of Northwich and deanery of Namptwich, consisting only of one township, lies on the borders of Shropshire, about six miles S.W. from Congleton, and the same distance S. E. from Sandbach. The manor, which had been given by Hugh Fitz-Norman to the abbot and convent of Chester, was purchased of King Henry VIII. by William Lawton Esq., whose ancestors had been tenants to the abbey at least as early as the reign of Henry III., probably for some time before. Lawton is now the property and residence of John Lawton Esq. their lineal descendant.

In the parish church is the monument of J. Cartwright Esq. of Lee-Hall in this parish, who died in 1718: Lee-Hall, now a farm-house, is the property of his descendant Mr. Cartwright of Sandbach. Whitelock mentions<sup>b</sup> a fatal accident which happened at Lawton-church, in the month of June 1652, when eleven persons were struck dead by lightning: Heath says<sup>c</sup>, that it was at Congleton, but it appears by the diary of Edward Burghall, then vicar of Acton, that it happened at Lawton on the 20th of June<sup>d</sup>. The advowson of the rectory of Lawton has always been annexed to the manor.

The parish of LYMM, or LIMME, which lies in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, seven miles N. W. from Knutsford, seven miles W. from Altrincham, and five miles E. from Warrington in Lancashire, consists only of one township, comprising the hamlets of *Brown-Edge*, *Heatley*, *Oughtrington*, *Reddish*, and *Statham*.

The manor of *Lymm* was held in moieties before the Norman conquest: one moiety, which at the time of the Domesday Survey was the property of Osbern, son of Tezzon, ancestor of the Boydells, was in the succeeding century vested in John Lacy, constable of Chester, who gave it to Adam de Dutton, ancestor

\* See Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, p. 378.

<sup>b</sup> See his *Memorials*, p. 512.

<sup>c</sup> See his *Chronicle*, p. 315.

<sup>d</sup> *History of Cheshire*, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 945.

of Sir Peter Warburton Bart. the present proprietor. The other moiety, which had belonged in the reign of William the Conqueror to Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton, was settled by his namesake and descendant, who had assumed the name of Lymme, (and was the last heir-male of one branch of that family,) on Robert Dumbill and his heirs: the descendants of this Robert, who spelt their name Domville, continued to possess a moiety of Lymm till the death of William Domville Esq. in 1719, when it was divided between his sisters and co-heirs, Ursula, who married — Halsted Esq. and Anne who married William Massie Esq. This moiety is now the joint property of Thomas Taylor Esq. grandson of Henry Taylor Esq. who married the daughter and heir of Mr. Massie, and James Wilde Esq. who in 1795 purchased of the executors of Domville Poole Esq. grandson of Mr. Halsted above-mentioned. Lymm-Hall, anciently the seat of the Domvilles, is now the property and residence of Thomas Taylor Esq.

*Oughtrington*, the property and residence of Trafford Trafford Esq.<sup>2</sup> eldest surviving son of the late John Leigh Esq., has been for nearly four centuries the seat of his ancestors, a younger branch of the Leighs of West-hall in High-Legh. There are two gentlemen's seats in this parish of more modern date, Dane-Beach, built by the late Domville Poole Esq. now the property and residence of James Wilde Esq. and one at Statham, the property of James Sedgwick Esq. and in the occupation of Edward Lloyd Esq.

The rectory of Lymm was in mediocrities before the time of the Norman conquest, and the patronage of each was attached to the respective moiety of the manor; one of them has so continued till the present time, being now vested in Sir Peter Warburton Bart., the other was separated from his moiety of the manor by Gilbert de Lymme, in the reign of Edward III., and settled on the Leighs of West-hall, in whom it has ever since continued; Egerton Leigh Esq. being the present patron. The duty is performed on alternate Sundays by the incumbents of the two mediocrities. A free grammar-school was founded at Lymm in the year 1697; the endowment is now about 80*l.* *per ann.* consisting of the interest of money given by fundry benefactors, and the rent of a parcel of land taken from the common, and given about the beginning of the last century by the Leighs of Oughtrington. There is a mill at Lymm which was formerly used for splitting of iron, but it has not been applied to that purpose for many years.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Lymme, uncle of this Gilbert, married the heiress of Leigh of West-hall, and was ancestor of Egerton Leigh Esq. now of that place.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 311.

<sup>3</sup> He took the name of Trafford in compliance with the will of his maternal uncle Richard Trafford Esq. the last male descendant of the Traffords of Swithenley in Staffordshire, who died in 1783.

· · · · · Adjoining

Adjoining to this parish, although not deemed part of it, nor a parish of itself, is the township of *Warburton*, which lies nine miles and a half N. N. W. from Knutsford, and six miles and a half E. by N. from Warrington. There is little doubt that this township took its name from a monastery of Præmonstratensian canons, dedicated to St. Werburgh, which existed in the twelfth century, when Adam de Dutton gave by deed a moiety of the manor to the canons of St. Werburgh at Warburton, as it was then spelt <sup>b</sup>. As we find nothing of this monastery in records of a later date, it is probable that it was not of long duration; the chapel seems to have been kept up for the use of the township: the above-mentioned deed of Adam de Dutton speaks of his son John being buried in the monastery of Warburton <sup>c</sup>. This Adam de Dutton possessed one moiety of the manor of Warburton by grant from John Lacy, constable of Chester in the twelfth century, and it appears by a deed printed in Sir Peter Leycester's history, that it was given on condition of his granting it to the prior and convent of St. John of Jerusalem, under whom it was held by him and his posterity; the other moiety he is said to have acquired in marriage with the co-heiress of Roger Fitz-Alured. This manor now belongs to Sir Peter Warburton of Arley Bart., the lineal descendant of the said Adam, and of Peter de Dutton, who in the reign of Edward II. settled at Warburton, and assumed that name from the place of his residence: they removed to Arley, the present seat of the family, in the reign of Henry VII. <sup>d</sup> A part of the old hall at Warburton remains and has been fitted up as a farm-house. The free-chapel of St. Werburgh at Warburton is annexed to the mediety of Lymm, which is in the patronage of Sir Peter Warburton.

MALPAS is described in the Survey of Domesday by its ancient British name *Depenbach*, both words having the same signification, alluding to the badness of the roads in its neighbourhood <sup>1</sup>; it is remarkable that even to this day there is

<sup>b</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 384.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. p. 226.

<sup>1</sup> It may be observed, nevertheless, that the *Mala-Platea* spoken of by Giraldus Cambrensis, was not, as has been erroneously supposed, a road leading immediately to Malpas, but the road between Oswestry and Wenlock, as may be seen by a reference to the story frequently quoted from that writer, and the preceding chapter. The archdeacon is made to say, that his archdeaconry extended from *Mala-Platea* to *Malus Passus*. Webb, in his translation of the story, speaks of the archdeacon of Malpas; Giraldus evidently means the archdeacon of Wenlock, but neither of the places ever gave name to an archdeaconry; the whole is a mere legendary tale. It may be found in Giraldus Cambrensis' *Itinerary of Wales*, and is quoted by Camden (Gough's edition, Vol. ii. p. 442.), and Webb (*Vale-Royal*, part ii. p. 57).

no turnpike road leading into the town in any direction<sup>m</sup>, although that which leads from Chester to Whitchurch passes through the parish. Malpas lies in the hundred of Broxton, and the deanery to which it gives name, sixteen miles S. S. E. from Chester, and about one hundred and sixty-five N. W. from London. In 1281, King Edward I. granted a market at Malpas, to Philip Burnel and Isabel his wife, together with a fair for three days, at the festival of St. Oswald. The market, which is inconsiderable, is now held on Wednesday<sup>n</sup>; there are three fairs, April 5, July 26, and December 8; these fairs were formerly distinguished for a great sale of home-made-linen. The township of Malpas contained in 1801, according to the returns then made to Parliament, one hundred and ninety-four houses, and nine hundred and six inhabitants.

It appears that there was in the reign of Edward III. a small monastery at Malpas, which was a cell to the alien priory of Montacute in Somersetshire; it was then inhabited only by two monks<sup>o</sup>.

The parish of Malpas comprises twenty-five townships, one of which, *Iscoyd*, is in Flintshire; the others are, *Malpas, Agden, Bickerton, Bickley, Bradley, Broxton, Bulkeley, Chidclough, Cholmondeley, Chorlton, Cuddington, Duckington, Edge, Egerton, Hampton, Larkton, or Larton, Macefen, Newton, Oldcastle, Overton, Stockton, Tushingham-cum-Grindley, Wichbough, or Wichalgh, and Wigland.*

Malpas was the property and seat of Robert Fitz-Hugh, one of Hugh Lupus's barons, who had a castle here, of which the keep remains, near the church. In the reign of Richard I. the barony of Malpas<sup>p</sup> was in moieties, between Robert Patrick, and David le Clerk, in right of the co-heiresses of Robert Fitz-hugh, who died without male issue. The daughter, and eventually sole heiress of the last of the Patricks, brought one moiety into the Sutton family: on the death of William de Malpas, son of David le Clerk, his illegitimate son David possessed himself of the other moiety, which was inherited by the posterity of his two daughters, to the exclusion of the lawful heirs. Beatrice, one of these daughters, brought a fourth part of the barony in marriage to the Suttons, in whom nearly

<sup>m</sup> It is said to have been in contemplation to make a turnpike road from Tarporley through Malpas to Wrexham.

<sup>n</sup> It was held on Monday under the original grant, and so continued in 1585. See King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 43.

<sup>o</sup> Dugdale's Monast. Vol. i. p. 671.

<sup>p</sup> The barony of Malpas comprises the townships of Malpas, Agden, Aldersey, Barton, Bradley, Burbury, Caldecote, Cholmondeley, Chorlton, Cuddington, Edge, Hampton, Horton, Larton, Overton, Shocklach, Tilton, Tushingham, and Wichalgh.

the whole appears to have been vested in the reign of Henry VII. †; Edward Sutton Lord Dudley, having purchased large estates in Malpas of the Hortons, whose maternal ancestor, Urian St. Pierre, married the other daughter of David de Malpas above-mentioned. It appears nevertheless, that the Breretons, who claimed a moiety of the barony by descent from one of the daughters and eventually sole heiress of David de Malpas, the last male heir of that family, who died in 1362, had law-suits with the representatives of David, the bastard, and recovered part of the barony †. In or about the year 1527, John Sutton Lord Dudley, conveyed the manor and castle of Malpas, and three-fourths of the barony, to George Robinson and others †: in 1536 he alienated another portion of the barony and large estates in Malpas and elsewhere, to Sir Rowland Hill †: in 1560, Sir Rowland settled a fourth part of the barony of Malpas, and large estates in this parish, on his niece, Alice Greetwood, who married Reginald Corbet, one of the justices of the common-pleas. Sir Richard Corbet his son sold this estate in 1587, to Sir Randal Brereton of Shocklach, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Richard Egerton: it now belongs to the Earl of Cholmondeley, whose ancestor purchased of the Egertons in 1636 †: the remainder of the barony and large estates in Malpas became vested, partly perhaps by purchase †, and partly by descent, in the Breretons of Brereton, of whom they were purchased in the reign of Charles II. by Sir William Drake, ancestor of Thomas Drake Tyrwhit Drake Esq., the present proprietor.

The barons of Malpas had the power of life and death at their courts, and it appears that criminals convicted of felony were punished by beheading, which,

† It seems that the Suttons were long before considered as barons of Malpas, probably as possessing the castle and site of the barony. John Sutton is called Baron of Malpas, in an inquisition of the estates of Thomas de Crewe, anno 7 Hen. V.

† The pleadings in these law-suits are preserved among the MSS. at the Heralds' college, from whence the above account of the descent has been chiefly taken. It appears by a book of evidences belonging to the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., that as early as 37 Edw. III. Sir John Delves, who married Isabella, one of the daughters of David de Malpas above-mentioned, was adjudged to be entitled in right of his wife to a portion of the barony of Malpas. It appears also by records in the Exchequer at Chester, that Sir William Brereton was possessed as early as the year 1484 (2 Ric. III.) of a portion of the barony of Malpas, viz. a fourth of one moiety of the manor of Malpas, a moiety of another fourth, and the fourth turn of the presentation to one mediety of the rectory.

† Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

† Ibid.

† Cholmondeley evidences.

† It is probable that the greater part of the barony was purchased in or about 1531 (22 Hen. VIII.) by Sir William Brereton, of George Robinson and others; for it appears that Bradley, which passed with the barony, and was parcel of it, was then purchased. — Villare Cestriense.

in a record of the reign of Edward II.<sup>7</sup>, is spoken of as the custom of Cheshire: it appears also, that it was customary to present the heads of all felons that had been so executed at the castle of Chester. This power was exercised by the several possessors of the moiety and fourth parts of the barony of Malpas: In the sixth year of the reign of Edward II. David Bulkeley, serjeant of the peace to Richard Sutton, presented the heads of two felons, executed for burglary, and Hugh Cholmondeley, serjeant of the peace to John de St. Pierre, presented the head of Thomas Barnes, executed for theft; and had his fee, called the rudyng (riding) fee<sup>8</sup>.

In the parish church of Malpas are monuments for the families of Brereton, Cholmondeley, and Dod. In a chapel at the east end of the south aisle, built by Sir Randal Brereton, is the tomb of one of the Breretons<sup>9</sup> and his lady, with their effigies in alabaster, and a mutilated inscription, with the date 1522. In the Cholmondeley chapel, which is at the end of the north aisle, are the monuments of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley senior, who died in 1596 at the age of eighty-three, Sir Hugh, his son, who died in 1601, and that of Mary, Viscountess Malpas, (daughter of Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford,) who died at Aix-la-chapelle in 1731.

In the parish register is the following instance of longevity. "Burials—1797—May 26, Catherine Richardson, widow, of Malpas, aged 107 according to her friends' account."

The rectory of Malpas has been from time immemorial divided into mediety; to one of these, called the Higher Mediety, Lord Cholmondeley and Mr. Drake present alternately; Mr. Drake has the entire patronage of the other, called the Lower Mediety; there is an excellent parsonage-house and a glebe belonging to each.

A grammar-school was founded at Malpas about the latter end of the 17th century by subscription: Hugh, the first Lord Cholmondeley, who had given the sum of 200*l.* on condition that he and his heirs should nominate the master, in lieu of the money then raised, charged an estate in Malpas, called the Old-Hall, with the yearly payment of 25*l.* as a salary to the master, for whose use he gave also a house and school-room. This school is free only to children of the representatives of the original subscribers. The Blue-school for twelve boys was founded about the year 1680, by Richard Alport Esq., who devised a small farm in

<sup>7</sup> See Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2079. f. 133.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 124. & 131.

<sup>9</sup> Most probably Sir Randal Brereton of Malpas, whose younger son Sir William Brereton was beheaded in 1535 for supposed familiarity with Queen Anne Bullen.

Overton, for the purpose of providing a salary for the master (now about 17*l.* per ann.), and clothing the children.

In 1721 Lord Cholmondeley rebuilt an alms-house of a more ancient foundation, for six poor women, five of whom receive 10*d.* a week, charged on an estate in Newton, now the property of T. D. T. Drake Esq.

The township of *Agden* lies about three miles N. W. from Whitchurch in Shropshire; the manor is the property of T. D. T. Drake Esq., whose ancestor, Sir William, purchased it as parcel of the barony of Malpas, in the reign of Charles II.

The manor of *Bickerton* was held in ancient times by the family of Bickerton, under the barony of Malpas; from the Bickertons it passed by marriage to the family of Malpas; David de Malpas, who died seised of it in 1432, left two sisters, co-heirs, one of whom is supposed to have brought this estate in marriage<sup>b</sup> to the Egertons; John Egerton died seised of it in 1624; it is now the property of his descendant, John Egerton Esq. of Oulton, M. P.

The township of *Bickley* lies about five miles and a half N. by W. from Whitchurch in Shropshire; the manor, which was parcel of the barony of Malpas, passed by successive female heirs from David de Malpas<sup>c</sup> to the St. Pierres, Cokeseys, and Grevilles; after the death of Sir Thomas Greville, *alias* Cokesey, in 1498, it devolved to his next heir, Roger Horton, and appears to have passed successively by sale, to the families of Sutton Lord Dudley<sup>d</sup>, Hill, Robinson, and Cholmondeley. It is now the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley, whose ancestor Sir Hugh Cholmondeley died seised of it in 1596.

The township of *Bradley* lies about three miles and a half N. N. W. from Whitchurch in Shropshire; the manor was part of that portion of the barony of Malpas which belonged to the Suttons; it was sold by Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, in 1527, to Rowland Hill, and having passed by sale to George Robinson in 1528, and in 1531, to Sir William Brereton<sup>e</sup>, was purchased of the descendants of the latter in the reign of Charles II. by Sir William Drake ancestor of T. D. T. Drake Esq., the present proprietor.

The township of *Broxton*, which township gives name to the hundred, lies about eleven miles S. E. by S. from Chester; the manor was formerly in the Duttons of Hatton, and having passed by marriage to the Massies of Coddington, was sold by the late Thomas Massie Esq., (with the reserve of all minerals) to Philip Egerton Esq. of Oulton, and is now the property of John Egerton Esq. M. P. At a much

<sup>b</sup> The other sister died unmarried. — Dr. Cowper's Collections.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 677.

<sup>d</sup> Edward Sutton Lord Dudley purchased of Roger Horton, 23 Hen. VII.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

earlier

earlier period a younger branch of the Massies of Coddington had for several generations a seat, and an estate in this township, which were sold about the year 1700, by Hugh Massie Esq. to John Dod Esq. of the Lower-house in Broxton<sup>f</sup>, descended from a younger branch of the Dods of Edge: on the death of John Herbert Dod Esq. without issue in 1719, this estate devolved to his sister, whose representatives sold it to Mr. Egerton's father. The Egertons more than a century before became possessed of Broxton-Hall, or the Higher-house in Broxton, with an estate, which in the reign of Edward III. had passed in marriage with the heiress of Bird to the Dods; Anne, the heiress of this branch of the Dods, brought Broxton-Hall in marriage to Edward Tannatt Esq. of whose grandson it was purchased about the middle of the seventeenth century by Sir Philip Egerton<sup>g</sup>. This hall, sometime a seat of the Dods, afterwards successively of the Tannatts and Egertons, is now occupied by a farmer, as is the Lower-house, formerly the seat of the other branch of the Dods. From the terrace of Broxton-Hall there is a very rich and extensive prospect.

The manor, or reputed manor of *Bolesworth*, a hamlet of this township, belonged also to the Duttons, in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, King James, and King Charles I.; it was afterwards in the family of Browne<sup>h</sup>. About the middle of the last century a considerable part of this estate was purchased by James Tilson Esq. (sometime consul at Cadiz), who built thereon a mansion in the Gothic style, called Bolesworth-castle, situated on an eminence, and commanding a most beautiful prospect; he afterwards sold it to John Crewe Esq., father of the late Viscountess Falmouth, of whom it was purchased by Oswald Mosley Esq.; it is now the property and residence of Thomas Tarlton Esq., who purchased it in 1805 of the representatives of Mr. Mosley. Bolesworth-Hall and its demesne have been for several descents in the family of John Hampton Gent., the present proprietor.

The Oaks in this township gave name to a family, who possessed this estate in the reign of Henry III.: it passed afterwards to a branch of the Dods, and by female heirs successively to the families of Clayton, Stockton, and Thicknesse; Ralph Thicknesse Esq., having (by his will bearing date 1739) devised it to trustees for the purpose of sale, it was purchased a few years afterwards by Mr. Samuel Jervis, alderman of Chester; and having passed by inheritance to the family of Dobb, was sold in 1785 to Mr. Thomas Cotgreave, father of Miss Sarah Cotgreave, the present proprietor. In this township is Barn-hill, an eminence commanding a rich and

<sup>f</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Anno 1662.—Mr. Thomas Browne's, late Peter Dutton's. — Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2020.

extensive

extensive prospect, which is the half-way stage between Chester and Whitchurch, being ten miles distant from each.

The township of *Bulkeley*, or *Buckley*, lies about nine miles N. N. W. from Nantwich; the manor was the inheritance of an ancient family of that name, the elder branch of which became extinct in the fourteenth century; after this period we find two estates in this township, each called the manor of Bulkeley; one of these passed by marriage to Thomas Holford, esquire of the body to King Richard II. and is now the property of George James Earl of Cholmondeley, whose ancestor, Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, married the daughter and heir of Christopher Holford Esq.: The other passed by marriage, from the family of Bulkeley to that of Calveley, and was purchased by Lord Cholmondeley in 1659 of Lord and Lady Byron, having been conveyed by Sir Hugh Calveley to Lady Byron, then Mrs. Elizabeth Booth, in 1646. Robert Lord Cholmondeley, Thomas Bulkeley, and Edward Bressley, (or Brassley,) are described as joint lords of Bulkeley, in a MS. of 1662<sup>i</sup>; the Brassleys possessed their estate in Bulkeley, by marriage with the heiress of Hadleigh, about the beginning of the 15th century. Webb in his Itinerary, written in the year 1622<sup>k</sup>, speaks of a fair new house in this township, then belonging to Thomas Brassley Gent.; this mansion and its demesne still belong to the Brassley family. Thomas Bulkeley, the last heir male of that ancient family, resided in the township of Bulkeley in a house now called Bulkeley-Hall (which had been built by his father) till his death, which happened in 1802, at the advanced age of ninety-eight; this mansion passed by his bequest to Mr. Thomas Orton, the present proprietor. Old Bulkeley-Hall, the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley, is occupied by a farmer.

The manor of *Chidlow* was held by the family of Chidlow, and afterwards by the Egertons, under the Warrens of Stretton and their heirs, the Mainwarings of Ightfield<sup>l</sup>: it was purchased in 1799 of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton by Charles Goodwin Esq., the present proprietor.

The township of *Cholmondeley*, which lies about eight miles west from Nantwich, gave name to the noble family of Cholmondeley, descended from Robert, a younger brother of David de Malpas, who settled at Cholmondeley about the reign of King John, on becoming possessed of that estate by gift of his father: his son, Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, had a grant of manerial rights and privileges in Cholmondeley, from Randal de Blundeville Earl of Chester<sup>m</sup>, and was immediate ancestor of George James Earl of Cholmondeley<sup>n</sup>, the present proprietor of this manor, who is chamberlain and vice-admiral of the county-palatine.

<sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>k</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 58.

<sup>l</sup> Vallare Cestriense.

<sup>m</sup> Harl. MSS. 2115, f. 187.

<sup>n</sup> See the account of the titles of the Cholmondeley family, p. 35.

Cholmondeley-house was a garrison during a great part of the civil war; it was first in possession of the royalists, and we read of an action between the parliamentary forces quartered at Nantwich, and the garrison from Cholmondeley, in the month of April 1643, in which the latter are said to have been driven back with loss<sup>a</sup>. We do not find how, or when it changed its masters, but it appears to have been held by the parliament in November 1643<sup>b</sup>, and to have been a royal garrison again before the 30th of June 1644, when we are told that "the Earl of Denbigh went before break of day with three or four pieces of ordnance and four cafes of drakes, summoned the garrison, and shot through the house several times; the besiegers at last beat the garrison out of the house into their works, where they defended themselves some time, but at length, about one in the afternoon, called for quarter, which was allowed; when the draw-bridge was let down, and the Earl of Denbigh and his forces entered and took the commander, and about sixty-six prisoners, with all their arms and provisions<sup>c</sup>." Cholmondeley-Hall, which is described in Macky's Tour through England, (1724,) as a noble old seat with gardens, not inferior to any in England, was taken down in 1801, except one wing, which has been fitted up for the residence of Mr. James Stephens the Earl of Cholmondeley's steward. Cholmondeley-castle, the present seat of the Earl of Cholmondeley, situated about half a mile from the old hall, was begun in the year 1801, and finished in 1804, from a design of the Earl's. Near the old hall is a domestic chapel, which is said to have been most sumptuously repaired by Robert Lord Cholmondeley and Earl of Leinster in 1652<sup>d</sup>. Divine service is performed in it twice in a month, by a chaplain appointed by the Earl of Cholmondeley. We find mention in Collins's Peerage of an ancient hospital at Cholmondeley, released by Robert Fitz-Nigel Baron of Halton to Robert de Cholmondeley, the first of the name; but it seems to rest on no authority, and to be wholly erroneous<sup>e</sup>.

The township of *Chorlton* lies about eight miles N. W. from Whitchurch in Shropshire; the manor was held by the Birds, and afterwards by the Claytons or Cluttons, under the St. Pierres and their successors, in a portion of the Barony of Malpas;

<sup>a</sup> Burghali's Diary. History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. 911.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 923.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 935, 936.

<sup>d</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 204.

<sup>e</sup> There was no Robert Fitz-Nigel, Baron of Halton, unless, as some suppose, the first baron, who lived in the reign of William the Conqueror bore that name. His grandson, who assumed the name of Lacy, continued by his posterity, died about the middle of the twelfth century; Robert de Cholmondeley must have lived in or about the reign of King John.

<sup>f</sup> John Bird, or Bryde, died seised of the manor of Chorlton in 1434, leaving four daughters, co-heirs, one of whom it is probable brought it in marriage to the Cluttons; David Clutton died seised of it in 1559. Villare Cestriense.

it is now the property of Thomas Chorlton Clutton Esq. The hall is in a state of dilapidation.

The manors of *Cuddington*, sometimes spelt *Kiddington*, *Duckington*, and *Edge*\*, now the property of T. D. T. Drake Esq., were purchased of the Brerctons by his ancestor Sir William ; Webb in his Itinerary says, that a branch of the Brerctons had a fine seat at Kiddington". The family of Edge held the hall of Edge and its demesne at a very early period, under the St. Pierres and their successors, in a portion of the barony of Malpas ; this estate passed by a female heir in the reign of Henry III. to the Dods, whose descendant, Thomas Crewe Dod Esq., is the present proprietor, and resides in the ancient hall ; his ancestor Edward Dod Esq. was baron of the Exchequer at Chester in the reign of James I.

*Egerton*, which lies about eight miles S. by W. from Tarporley, was the original seat and inheritance of the ancestors of a numerous and widely extended family, ennobled in more than one of its branches\*, which took the name of Egerton in consequence of Philip, a younger son of David Baron of Malpas, fixing his residence in this township in the early part of the thirteenth century. Sir Rowland Egerton, who was created a baronet in 1617, devised this and other estates to his second son, Sir Philip Egerton Knt., ancestor of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton, M. P., the present proprietor. The old hall was taken down about the year 1760, and a farm-house built on the site : the ancient domestic chapel still remains, and is used as a barn.

The manor of *Hampton* was held under the barony of Malpas by the family of Malpas, in the reign of Henry VI. Hampton-Hall, and an estate parcel of the manor, passed by a co-heir of that family to the Bromleys†, and from them to the Dods, but the manor itself had been for several centuries in the Egertons, who continued to possess it till the year 1801, when it was sold to Ambrose Brook Esq., the present proprietor. William Dod, the last of that branch of the family, which possessed Hampton-Hall, devised his estate to his sister's son, Randle Hopley, who, in 1744, took the name of Dod. It is now the property of Lord Curzon, and occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Larkton*, or *Larton*, lies about eight miles and a half N. by W. from Whitchurch ; the manor is part of the ancient inheritance of the Cholmondeley family.

\* *Cuddington* lies seven miles N. W. by W. from Whitchurch ; *Duckington* about eight miles N. N. W., and *Edge* nearly the same distance, and in the same direction.

† *Vale-Royal*, part ii. p. 55.

\* See a farther account of this family, p. 364, 365.

† In the reign of James I., it was the seat of Hugh Bromley Esq., "learned in the law." *King's Vale-Royal*, part ii. p. 57.

The manors of *Macefen*<sup>a</sup> and *Stockton*, which had been a considerable time in the Grosvenor family, were purchased about the year 1782, by the late Lord Kenyon, and are now the property of his son, the present Lord.

The manor of *Newton*, which township consists only of one farm, belongs to T. D. T. Drake Esq., having been purchased by his ancestor Sir William as parcel of the barony of Malpas.

The township of *Old castle*, which took its name from an ancient castle, built probably by the Barons of Malpas<sup>b</sup>, lies about five miles N. W. by W. from Whitchurch. The manor was parcel of the barony of Malpas, belonged to the St. Pierres, and having passed with their portion of the barony to the Breretons, was sold to Sir William Drake; but an estate described as the manor of Old-castle was some time in the Allports, and is now the property of —— Dod of Cleveley in the county of Salop, a minor. The castle, which gave name to this township, was wholly destroyed before the year 1585<sup>c</sup>. A battle was fought at Old-castle-heath, on or about the 26th of August 1644, between the parliamentary forces from Nantwich, and some of the King's cavalry, in which the latter were defeated, and Colonel Vane and Colonel Conyers killed<sup>d</sup>.

The manor of *Overton* passed for several centuries as parcel of the barony of Malpas; about the middle of the sixteenth century it was in the Golbornes<sup>e</sup>, and afterwards in the Allports<sup>f</sup>, who resided at the hall for two or three generations; it was sold by the last of the family, or his representatives, about the year 1725, to Herbert Lawrence Esq.; by a subsequent sale, it passed to William Cheshyre Esq. and by marriage to the Rawdons, by whom it was conveyed in 1749 to Thomas Prescot Esq. It is now the property of Matthew Gregson Esq. who purchased of Sir George Prescot Bart. in 1802<sup>g</sup>.

The township of *Tustingham* lies two miles N. W. by N. from Whitchurch in Shropshire; the manor belonged formerly to the Grosvenors; in 1631 it was purchased

<sup>a</sup> Philip de Cawarden conveyed Macefen to Roderic Griffin, 33 Edward I. Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>b</sup> Webb in his Itinerary (*Vale-Royal*, part ii. p. 55.) supposes this castle to have belonged to the Orebies and Ardernes, but he has mistaken it for Aldford-castle, which certainly belonged to those families.

<sup>c</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 27.

<sup>d</sup> Burghall's Diary. — History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 937.

<sup>e</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester. Temp. Ph. & Mar. & Eliz.

<sup>f</sup> The Allports had both manors in 1671. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.) Richard Allport was of Overton in 1644.—Monumental inscriptions at Malpas.

<sup>g</sup> From information obligingly communicated by Mr. Gregson.

of

of Sir Richard Grosvenor, by Sir Richard Brooke of Norton<sup>b</sup>: in 1662 it belonged to the family of Nevett<sup>c</sup>; it is now the property of Josiah Boydell Esq. whose father acquired it by purchase. John Egerton Esq. of Oulton has the paramount lordship, and the freeholders pay suit and service to his court only. Within this township, which has been inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1794, is a chapel of ease, dedicated to St. Chad, called in Webb's Itinerary Chad-wick chapel, probably of very ancient date, for the chapel-field and the chapel-meadow at Tushingham, are mentioned in a deed of 1349<sup>k</sup>: the present structure was built in the year 1689, principally with a benefaction given by the will of Mr. John Dod mercer and citizen of London: it is served by a stipendiary curate, appointed by the rectors of Malpas.—*Grindley* is a hamlet of Tushingham.

The township of *Wichalgh* lies about five miles and a half N. W. from Whitchurch: the manor, which had been part of the ancient possessions of the Egertons of Oulton, was sold in 1799 to Samuel Brodhurst of Bach, the present proprietor.

The township of *Wigland* lies four miles N. W. by N. from Whitchurch; the manor in the reign of Edward IV. belonged to the Bostocks<sup>l</sup>, and in that of Queen Elizabeth, to the Breretons<sup>m</sup>; it has been for a considerable time in the family of Wicksted, and is now the property of Thomas Wicksted Esq. of Nantwich. The manors of Higher and Lower Fulwich, *alias* Dirtwich, which have long passed with the barony of Malpas, and are now the property of T. D. T. Drake Esq., are in this township: the brine-pits at Dirtwich have been already spoken of<sup>n</sup>.

MARBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich, lies eight miles from Nantwich, and three from Whitchurch in Shropshire: it is deemed a separate parish, but its chapel is dependent on Whitchurch: it comprises two townships, *Marbury-cum-Quoisley*, and *Norbury*.

The manor of *Marbury*, described as *Marbury-cum-Quoisley*, belonged in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries to the Earls of Shrewsbury<sup>o</sup>: it is now the property of the Earl of Bridgewater, in whose family it has been considerably more than a century. A separate manor of Coysey, *alias* Quoisley, belonged formerly to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and is said now to owe suit and service

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2002. f. 32.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>k</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, p. 22.

<sup>l</sup> Esch.

<sup>m</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester, 39 Eliz.

<sup>n</sup> See p. 416.

<sup>o</sup> Esch. Edw. IV. and other records in the Exchequer at Chester.

to the court which still bears their name<sup>o</sup>: in 1655 it was sold by Thomas Nevett, to Peter Calfe Esq. of Tottenham in Middlesex, after the death of whose grandson, about the year 1714, it passed (by devise) to his kinsman, Edward Donne Gent.: it is now the property of John Knight Esq., whose father purchased it in 1758 of Mr. Donne's representatives.

Marley-Hall in Marbury, now a farm-house, was for two centuries the seat of a branch of the Poole family<sup>p</sup>, which became extinct by the death of Charles Poole Gent.; his daughter and heir (married to Thomas Tatton of Marley Green<sup>q</sup>) died in 1731: Marley-Hall was sold by the Tattons, to Robert Heath Esq. of Hanley in Norbury, who devised it to his cousin, the Rev. Cudworth Poole, of Great-Woolden in the county of Lancaster: it passed by Mr. Poole's bequest to Domville Halsted Esq. who took the name of Poole, and was father of Domville Halsted Poole Esq. the present owner. Hadley-Hall, in the hamlet of Quoifley, was about the year 1600, and for several generations afterwards, a seat of the Breretons; it is now occupied as a farm-house, the property of the Rev. Charles Ethelston, by inheritance from his grandfather Simon Ethelston Esq.

The Wicksted family had an estate and a seat at Marbury during a great part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A branch of the Bickertons resided at *Townley* and *Horfall* in Marbury: and a branch of the Bulkeleys at *Hollyburst*<sup>r</sup>. A school-house was built at the expence of the inhabitants of this parish in 1688, but the school has no endowment, except the interest of a small sum given by Mrs. Margaret Bickerton<sup>s</sup>.

The manors of *Norbury* and *Althurst* were granted by King Henry VIII. in 1543 to Sir Richard Gresham<sup>t</sup>: they appear to have been almost immediately conveyed to Hugh Cholmondeley, who was knighted at Leith in 1544: Sir Hugh resided at Althurst, now called Altridge-Hall, in that year, and it continued for many years to be one of the seats of the Cholmondeley family<sup>u</sup>; but has been long ago taken down, and a farm-house built on the site: the manors of Norbury and Althurst have de-

\* This manor does not appear in the long list of donations to the Templars, (granted afterwards to the knights of St. John,) in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, but it is probable that it was included in the donations (not specified) to the preceptory of that order at Ivey in Derbyshire, to which several estates in Cheshire belonged. The courts of St. John of Jerusalem for suits and services formerly due to this preceptory, are now held by the Duke of Leeds.

<sup>p</sup> A seat of the Pooles in Marbury is spoken of in Webb's *Itinerary* (*Vale-Royal*, part ii. p. 61.), and it appears by the parish register that they were settled at Marley before the middle of the preceding century.

<sup>q</sup> Marley-green, or Lodge, belonged to the family of Edgley, and afterwards to the Tattons.

<sup>r</sup> Parish register. <sup>t</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia*. <sup>u</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>s</sup> Parish register.

scended to the present Earl of Cholmondeley. A younger branch of the Bromley family, now extinct, were settled for a considerable time at a mansion called the Lower-house in Norbury, and are said to have been possessed of a third part of the manor in 1662\*. Roger, a younger son of William Bulkeley, having settled at Norbury, upon an estate given him by his father, about the latter end of the thirteenth century, took the name of Norbury. Sir John Norbury, lord treasurer of England, whose posterity removed into Surrey, was the son of a younger brother of David Norbury; the daughter and heir of this David brought the Norbury estate to Sir William Hulfe, whose descendants continued to reside in this township for several generations; they afterwards settled at Aftley in Quoistley. Thomas Hulfe Esq., who is described in the pedigree of the family as of Norbury and Aftley, had a numerous issue by two wives; he was buried at Marbury in 1588; a daughter of Hugh his elder son was baptized at Marbury in 1591, after which there is no trace of the family in the register: it is probable therefore that they removed from the parish about that time. Sir Hugh Hulfe, justice of the King's-bench, one of the five judges made by King Richard II., when he took upon himself the administration of government in 1389, was son of a younger brother of Sir William above-mentioned: the grand-daughter and heir of Sir Hugh Hulfe, who had large possessions in Cheshire, married Sir William Troutbeck.

Hanley-Park in Norbury belonged for more than a century to the family of Heath†, and since the death of Robert Heath Esq. in 1766, has passed with the Marley-Hall estate. *Swanwick* in this township was for several generations the seat of a family of that name, who had a residence also in the neighbouring township of Wirfwall, and became extinct about the year 1600.

The township of *Wirfball*, or *Wirfwall*, in the parish of Whitchurch, and in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, is within the county of Chester; the manor belongs to Sir R. S. Cotton Bart.

MIDDLEWICH, in the hundred of Northwich, is a considerable market town, which gives name to a deanery: it is situated on the conflux of the Croco and the Dane, about a hundred and sixty-seven miles from London, about five from Sandbach, and about six from Northwich. We have found no record of the grant of either the markets or fairs at Middlewich‡; the markets are now held twice

\* Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

† Parish register.

‡ Smith in his brief description of Cheshire, written about the year 1585, (King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 46.) says, "Middlewich is no market town, yet it hath a small market of flesh and other things every Saturday, and yearly two fairs, on Ascension-day and St. Luke's-day." A marginal note, written as the work went through the press (1656), adds, "now of late made a market-town, and hath a market every Tuesday."

a-week,

a-week, on Tuesdays and Fridays; that on Tuesday is merely for butchers' meat and provisions; the fairs are now held on Holy Thursday, and the 25th of July. There have been salt-works in this town from a very early period: there are valuable brine-springs in the townships of Middlewich and Newton.

Vicars, in his Parliamentary Chronicle, gives an account of a battle fought at Middlewich, between some of the King's forces under Sir Thomas Aston, and a detached party of the Parliamentary army under Sir William Brereton, in which the former were defeated; he tells us that Sir Thomas Aston made his escape by way of Kinderton, the only retreat which was not blocked up; some of Sir Thomas Aston's party took refuge in the church, where Sir Edward Mosley, Captain Hurlston, Captain Massie of Codrington, Captain Starkey of Stretton, and others, were taken prisoners<sup>a</sup>. Burghall in his Diary says, that Sir Thomas Aston entered the town on the tenth of March; and that his soldiers committed great plunder, that Sir William Brereton appeared before the town, and discharged some shots at it on Sunday the 12th, and that the battle was fought the next day<sup>b</sup>. There was an action at Booth-Lane, near Middlewich, on the 26th of Dec. 1643, between Lord Byron's forces and the Parliamentary army, in which the latter were defeated<sup>c</sup>.

The parish of Middlewich comprises fifteen townships, viz. *Middlewich, Byleycum-Yatehouse, Clive, Croxton, Kinderton-cum-Hulme, Minshul-Vernon, Morebarrow-cum-Parme, Newton, Occleston, Ravenscroft, Sproston, Stublach, Sutton, Weever, and Wimboldsley-cum-Lea-Hall.*

The town of Middlewich, (about half of which is within the township of Kinderton,) was held for many years with the office of chamberlain, the markets, &c. on lease under the crown, by the Venables family: in 1756 a lease was granted to George Venables Vernon, afterwards Lord Vernon<sup>d</sup>: the present lessee is Thomas Wright Gent.

In the parish church are two chapels, which belonged to the Barons of Kinderton, one fitted up in 1615, the other in 1632, ornamented with the arms and quarterings of that family: in the north-east chapel, which was purchased of Sir Richard Bulkeley in 1589<sup>e</sup>, are several memorials of the families of Venables<sup>f</sup>, and Leveson; Peter Venables, the last heir male, and the last baron of Kinderton of that family, was buried here in 1679. In Middlewich church

<sup>a</sup> Vicars, p. 291.

<sup>b</sup> History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 907, 908.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. p. 926.

<sup>d</sup> The lease which was granted August 10, 1792, is for fifty years, to commence from October 10, 1791.

<sup>e</sup> Bishop Galtrell's Notitia.

<sup>f</sup> Among others is a monument with kneeling figures, for Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton, and daughter of Sir William Brereton, who died in 1591.

is a monument for the Rev. John Hulse of Elworth-Hall in Sandbach, founder of the Hulsean prize and the office of Christian-advocate in the university of Cambridge, who died in the year 1790: in the church-yard was an ancient chapel belonging to the Weevers of Weever, of which there are no remains.

The church of Middlewich was appropriated in 1504 to the monastery of Leuton in Nottinghamshire; after the dissolution the impropriate rectory was in the Breretons, by whom the tithes were sold to several persons, but the patronage of the vicarage reserved; the advowson is now vested in Mrs. Jane Wood of Newton, widow, by devise from her uncle the Rev. Robert Moreton<sup>a</sup>.

“ Thomas Wood, of Middlewich parish, had a child born on St. Martin's-day in the morninge, and christened about noone, called Anne, which had on either hande one thumbe and five fingers, and upon the right foote five toes and on the left foote six toes; and it had a greate eye and a small, and lived eight hours after it was christened, and buried at Middlewich the same day, 7<sup>o</sup> Edward VI. 1553.”

A grammar-school was founded at Middlewich about the latter end of the 17th century; Mr. Ralph Lowndes gave the school-house; it has only an endowment of 11*l.* 10*s.* *per ann.* for the master, who is nominated by Sir J. F. Leicester Bart. This school is free for eleven boys of the parish of Middlewich.

The township of *Byley-cum-Tatehouse* lies somewhat more than a mile N. E. by N. from Middlewich; the manor of Bively or Byley was given by Richard de Aldford to the abbey of Pulton, afterwards removed to Dieulacres in Staffordshire, the abbot of which monastery had a grange at Byley: after the dissolution of religious houses this manor was purchased of the crown by Geoffrey Shakerley<sup>1</sup> Esq. ancestor of C. W. J. Shakerley Esq. the present proprietor; Byley-Hall is now a farm-house.

The township of *Clive* lies two miles W. by S. from Northwich; the manor was the ancient inheritance and seat of the family of Clive or Cliffe, of this place, and afterwards of Huxley: Rachel, daughter and heir of John Clive of Huxley, brought this manor, or a part of it, to Roger Wilbraham Esq. of the Towns-end near Nantwich, whose descendant, George Wilbraham Esq. of Delamere-Lodge, is the present proprietor. An estate, parcel of this manor, passed by marriage at an early period from the Clives to the family of Congleton, and was conveyed to the Weevers. Sir Thomas Stanley, as representative of the Weevers, was seized of a moiety of the manor in 1607; it is probable that this was purchased by the Wilbrahams. The Hulses, who had an estate in Clive through an alliance with the

<sup>a</sup> It passed from Lady Brereton to Robert Lowe Esq. and from him by devise to the Moretons.

<sup>b</sup> Extract from an ancient register of the parish (not now extant) taken by Sir Peter Leycester, and annexed to Wharton's *Calendarium Ecclesiasticum*, 1657.

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

Clives<sup>c</sup>, resided at Clive-Hall, and afterwards removed to Elworth. Clive-Hall, now a farm-house, belongs, under the will of the Rev. John Hulfe, to the university of Cambridge<sup>d</sup>. Webb speaks of a fair old house called the Nun's-house, near Clive, with a demesne which had belonged to Sir Thomas Holcroft, and afterwards to Thomas Marbury<sup>e</sup>. This house, which stands near Winsford-bridge, belonged probably to the nuns of Chester; it is now a farm-house, the property of Messrs. Salmon.

The township of *Croxton* lies one mile N. by W. from Middlewich; the manor having been the ancient inheritance of the Croxton family, who possessed it for eleven descents, passed by female heirs to an illegitimate branch of the Mainwarings, who settled in this township in or about the reign of King Henry VI., and from them in like manner to the Oldfields in the reign of Charles I. Mainwaring Oldfield Esq.<sup>f</sup> sold this manor to Roger Wilbraham Esq. of Dorfold, of whose descendant it was purchased about the year 1760, by James Tomkinson Esq. father of Henry Tomkinson Esq. the present proprietor. The ancient hall is now occupied as a farm-house; this estate is esteemed some of the best dairy land in the county.

The village of *Kinderton* lies about one mile and a half from Middlewich, a considerable part of which town is within that township. *Kinderton* was the ancient seat of the barony<sup>g</sup>, which was given by Hugh Lupus to Gilbert de Venables his kinsman. The Venables family produced a race of warriors: Sir Roger Venables fought on the side of King Henry III. during the barons' wars; his son Sir William distinguished himself in the wars of King Edward I.; Sir Hugh, grandson of Sir William; was a commander under the Black Prince; Sir Hugh's grandson and namesake was constable of Cheshire, and acquired great renown in the wars against the Scots; his son Sir Richard was slain at Shrewsbury, on the side of Mortimer; Sir Hugh Venables, great grandson of Sir Richard, was slain at Blore-heath in 1459; dying without issue male, the manor and barony of Kinderton passed to his aunts and co-heirs, who married into the families of Bostock and Cotton: Sir Thomas Venables, the heir male of this ancient family, became

<sup>c</sup> In the reign of Edward IV. Joan, daughter and heir of John Clive, married into the family of Hulfe.—Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> See the account of Elworth in Sandbach.

<sup>e</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 7.

<sup>f</sup> Son of Michael Oldfield, who married the heiress of Mainwaring.

<sup>g</sup> The following townships are stated to be within the barony of Kinderton, Alraham, Arclid, Astbury, Blakenhall, half Bollington, Bradwell, Brereton, Bridgemere, Castle-Northwich, Checkley, Davenport, Doddington, Eccleston, Hartford-cum-Horton, Hunterton, Kinderton, High-Legh, Lea, half Lymm, Marston, Mere, Morebarrow-cum-Parne, Moreton-Alcumlowe, Newbold, Peover, Picmere, Radnor, Rosherne, Somersford, Sproston, Stanthorne, Tarporley, Utkinton, Wetenhall, Wincham, and Witton.—Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1967. f. 104.

re-possessed of the barony, partly by the marriage of his father with a co-heiress of the Cottons, and partly by agreement, after a long litigation with Sir John Savage's representatives the Bostocks. The manor and barony continued in his descendants who were called Barons of Kinderton, though the honour had become merely nominal after the ancient privileges of the county palatine had ceased, till the death of Peter Venables the last baron of Kinderton in 1679, when the Kinderton estate passed in marriage with his only daughter to Montague Earl of Abingdon; the Earl dying without issue, it devolved to Henry Vernon Esq. whose mother was sister of Peter Venables above mentioned. It is now the property of George Venables, Lord Vernon, whose father was in 1762 created Baron Vernon of Kinderton. The ancient hall of Kinderton was taken down before the year 1760; the Lodge, which was the seat of the last baron of Kinderton, is now occupied by Samuel Hill Esq. The power of life and death, enjoyed by the Cheshire barons, is said to have been exercised by the barons of Kinderton as lately as the year 1597, when Hugh Stringer was executed for murder<sup>b</sup>.

The township of *Minshull-Vernon* lies nearly four miles S. S. W. from Middlewich; the manor belonged anciently to the Vernons, from whom it passed to the family of Aldeton, sometimes called Oldington and Oulton; having passed by female heirs it was afterwards divided between the Starkies, Newtons, and Minshulls; in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the whole was purchased of Thomas Aston Esq. of Aston<sup>c</sup>, whose descendant Sir Willoughby Aston Bart. was possessed of it in 1701; after this it became the property of Henry Newport Earl of Bradford, who by his will made in 1736, in the event of the decease of John Harrison, then an infant, without issue, bequeathed his estates to Mrs. Ann Smith of Berkeley-square; by her devise they passed to William Pulteney Earl of Bath, whose brother and heir, Lieutenant-general Pulteney, died in 1767, having devised the Bradford estates to William Pulteney Esq. (afterwards Sir William Pulteney Bart.) and on his death without issue male in 1806, the manor of Minshull-Vernon passed under the general's will to the Earl of Darlington, who is the present proprietor.

The manors of *Erdswick* and *Hulgrave*, hamlets of this township, are said to have been brought in marriage with the heiress of Reginald Baillot, about the reign of William Rufus, to Hugh de Vernon the second baron of Shipbrooke<sup>d</sup>, whose younger son Matthew settling at Hulgrave, took the name of Hulgrave; Richard, a younger son of the grandson of this Matthew being possessed of Erdswick by the gift of his father, took his name from that place, and was ancestor of the Erdswicks.

<sup>b</sup> See Pennant's Wales, Vol. i. p. 131.  
Peerage and Pedigrees of the family.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> Colline's

wicks of Cheshire and Staffordshire<sup>1</sup>. In the year 1328 Thomas de Erdswick gave Erdswick to the Oultons in exchange for Leighton, and it became divided between the Starkies and Minshulls. Erdswick-Hall, with its demesne, was purchased of the latter by Mr. Richard Vernon of Middlewich, and by him bequeathed to a namesake, not related to him, who was mercer to Queen Anne: this gentleman, from political attachment, devised his estate at Erdswick to William Murray Esq. afterwards Earl of Mansfield, and it is now the property of his great nephew the present earl: the ancient hall, a venerable mansion partly in ruins, is occupied as a farm-house. Hulgrave-Hall and demesne belonged to the Aston family as early as the reign of Henry VIII. and are now vested in H. C. H. Aston, a minor.

The manor of *Moresbarrow*, or *Moosbarrow-cum-Parme*, which had been given by King Edward I. to the abbey of Vale-Royal, was granted by King Edward VI. to Thomas Browne; it passed afterwards by successive sales to the Brookes of Norton<sup>2</sup>, and the Venables family. Lord Vernon, who inherited the Venables estates, sold the manor of Moresbarrow, with the whole of the hamlet of Parme, in or about 1792, to — Perrin of Warrington, under whose will it is now the property of his nephew Joseph Perrin Esq. his daughter Sarah having been dis-inherited by her father if she married a native of Scotland, or one born of Scottish parents, an event which afterwards took place: the will was contested in 1807 by the son-in-law, but its validity was established. Moresbarrow-Hall and demesne belonged formerly to the Whittinghams, who in a *Villare* of 1662<sup>3</sup>, are described as lords of the place; this estate passed by sale from the Whittinghams to John Symkin, whose daughter Mrs. Darell devised it to the father of Daniel Vawdrey Esq. the present proprietor. The site of the old hall is surrounded by a moat.

The township of *Newton* lies a little to the W. of Middlewich; the manor was for a considerable time in the family of Crewe, and has been lately sold to John Roylance Esq. the present owner, who has built a mansion on the estate for his own residence, called the Manor-hall.

The township of *Occleston* lies about three miles and a half S. S. W. from Middlewich; the manor belonged anciently to a family of the same name, who in or about the year 1370 sold it to Sir Hugh Calveley; Sir Hugh gave it in exchange to David de Bunbury for the advowson of Bunbury church<sup>4</sup>, and it continued in the Bunbury family till the year 1614; it then passed by purchase to William Moreton Esq. who not long afterwards sold it to John Davenport Esq. of Daven-

<sup>1</sup> Pedigrees.<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriensc.<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.<sup>4</sup> Villare Cestriensc.

port;

port<sup>r</sup>; after this it was for a considerable time in the Whitmores of Apley in the county of Salop, of whom it was purchased in 1758 by Mr. Ralph Vernon, grandfather of Edward Vernon Esq. of Chester, the present proprietor.

The township of *Ravenscroft*, which contains only one house, lies a little more than a mile N. from Middlewich; the manor was given in exchange for Byley, by the abbot of Dieulacres to Warren de Byley, who removing his residence to this township assumed the name of Ravenscroft, and was ancestor of the Ravenscrofts of Cheshire, Flintshire, and Denbighshire; the elder branch, which was settled at Ravenscroft, became extinct in the male line in the fourteenth century, when the manor of Ravenscroft passed by a female heir to the Croxtons, who continued there for several descents; in the year 1704 it was sold by the sisters and co-heirs of Thomas Croxton Esq. the last heir-male to Peter Yate; in 1761 it was purchased of Thomas Yate M. D. by Mr. John Leaman of Middlewich, whose son sold it in 1808 to Daniel Vawdrey Esq. the present proprietor; the ancient hall at Ravenscroft is, or was lately, occupied by Peter Wetenhall Esq.

The township of *Sproston* lies a little more than two miles E. from Middlewich; the manor, as parcel of the barony of Kinderton, has passed through the same hands as Kinderton, and is now the property of Lord Vernon; Sproston-Hall, the property of Mrs. Wood, is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Stublach* lies three miles N. from Middlewich; the manor which had been in the family of Delves was sold by Lady Delves to Thomas Farrington Esq. and by the latter in 1756 to Thomas Prescott Esq. of whose nephew Sir George Prescott Bart. it was purchased in 1802 by William Harper Esq. of Everton near Liverpool; the present proprietor.

The township of *Sutton* lies about a mile and a half S. from Middlewich; the manor belonged for many generations to the family of Venables, as parcel of the barony of Kinderton, afterwards to the Vernons of Middlewich, from whom it passed by devise to Thomas Yate, M. D. Daniel Carbonel Esq. purchased it of Dr. Yate in 1760, and in 1805 sold it to John Roylance Esq. the present proprietor. The hall is occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Weever* lies somewhat more than three miles W. S. W. from Middlewich; the manor was held at an early period by the Weever family under the lords of Aldford, by the service of finding two men to guard Aldford-castle for forty days in time of war: in the reign of Henry VI. it passed in marriage with Elizabeth the daughter, and eventually sole heir of Thomas Weever, to John

† Villare Cestricense.

Stanley,

Stanley, ancestor of the Stanleys of Alderley-park, by whom it was sold about a century ago to the ancestor of George Wilbraham Esq. of Delamere-Lodge, the present proprietor: the old hall has been taken down and a farm-house built on its site.

The manor of *Wimberley*, or *Wimbaldeley*, with the Hall of *Lee*, *Ley* or *Lea*, belonged anciently to the family of Wimbaldeley; it was afterwards for several generations in the family of Holt, and appears to have passed about the year 1495 to the Cottons, who in 1545 sold it to the Breretons of Ashley; it was afterwards for several descents in the family of Lowndes; in 1758 it was purchased of the devisees of Robert Lowndes Esq. by the trustees of Sir Peter Leicester Bart. father of Sir J. F. Leicester Bart. the present proprietor. The hall of *Lea*, which is the principal mansion on this estate, was for some time the residence of Dr. Fothergill, the celebrated physician: it is now occupied by a farmer.

MINSHULL, in the hundred and deanery of Namptwich, lies about six miles N. by E. from the town of that name, and five miles S. from Middlewich. It is a small parish consisting only of one township called *Church-Minshull*, to distinguish it from Minshull-Vernon in Middlewich. The manor of Church-Minshull belonged at an early period to the family of Minshull, the elder branch of which terminated in an heiress, who in the reign of Edward III. brought Church-Minshull to the Duttons; after the death of Lawrence Dutton Esq. without male issue in 1526, this was one of the manors allotted by award to the heirs female. In consequence of this award Minshull became the inheritance of the Cholmondeley family; a younger branch of the Minshulls continued the male line, and resided at Minshull till the death of John Minshull Esq. in 1654; his estate also passed to the Cholmondeley family, by the marriage of his only daughter and heir with Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal, whose descendant sold the manor of Church-Minshull, with the impropriate rectory and advowson of the donative, to the late Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton, Bart.; it is now the property of his son the present baronet. The hall is occupied by a farmer.

*Lea-Green-hall* in this township belonged to Mr. Richard Vernon, of Middlewich, who devised it to Dr. Randal Crewe, rector of Warmincham; it was purchased of Dr. Crewe by Mr. Prescot of Chester, whose nephew Sir George Prescot Bart. sold it to Mr. John Done of Tarporley, the present owner; the hall is now a farm-house.

Villare Cestriense.

Minshull

Minshull was in ancient times part of the parish of Acton, of which it was a chapelry, but is now a distinct parish and benefice: the rectory of Minshull, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Combermere, was granted some time after the dissolution in fee-farm to John Daniel<sup>1</sup>, and afterwards became attached to the manor.

The following remarkable instance of longevity occurs in the register of this parish. "Thomas Damme of Leighton, buried the 20th of Februarie, 1649, being of the age of seven score and fourteene." Leighton is a township of Nantwich, in which there are some crofts still called Damme's crofts.

The Rev. Christopher Minshull in the year 1614<sup>2</sup> gave by will the interest of 200*l.* for the support of a school; Mr. Wilbraham of Dorfold gave the interest of 100*l.* for the same purpose<sup>3</sup>: a school-house was built by subscription in the year 1785, before which time the children were taught in the church.

MOBBERLEY, in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Macclesfield, lies about three miles E. by N. from Knutsford: the parish contains only one township. About the year 1206, in the beginning of King John's reign, Patrick de Mobberley founded a priory of Augustine canons at this place, and endowed it with half the rectory, and, as it is supposed, half the manor; but it is probable, that this monastery, of which we have no mention in records of later date, did not long continue, for it was proved, that Patrick de Mobberley the founder, had only a life-interest (under his brother's grant) in the Mobberley estate, which consisted of a moiety of the manor and the advowson, and continued in the descendants of his elder brother till the reign of Edward III., when Sir Ralph Mobberley settled this estate on his nephew John Leycester Esq. of Tabley; by a subsequent agreement between John Leycester and the Domvilles, this moiety was settled on John Domville and Cecily his wife (sister of Sir Ralph Mobberley), on condition that after their death one-third of the moiety should descend to Ralph Leycester, younger brother of John and his heirs; this Ralph was ancestor of Ralph Leycester Esq. of Toft, the present possessor of this portion of the manor. The other two-thirds of the moiety above-mentioned, passed with the advowson of the rectory by successive female heirs from the Domvilles to the Hulses, Troutbecks, and Talbots<sup>4</sup>. This estate is now the property of the Rev. John Holdsworth Mallory, who is patron of the rectory; it was purchased by his ancestor the Rev. Thomas Mallory, dean of Chester, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fee-farm roll in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2103. f. 66. b.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities of the hundred of Bucklow.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

The

The other moiety of Mobberley was granted by Sir John Arderne of Aldford, who was lord paramount of the whole, in the year 1303, to John Legh of Booths, on condition that his daughter Maud should marry the son of the said John<sup>a</sup>; from the Leghs it passed by a female heir to the Radcliffes, who in the year 1606 sold it to the Robinsons; about the latter end of the same century the Wrights became possessed of this moiety, now the property of Lawrence Wright Esq. of Mottram-Andrew.

The tower of the parish-church was built in the year 1533, at the expence of Sir John Talbot and Margaret his wife, the heirefs of Troutbeck, as appears by an inscription still to be seen, wherein it is said that the master-mafon, was Richard Plat. In this church was formerly a grave-stone with the brafs figure, in armour, of William Harrison Esq. who died in 1490; he is said to have been drowned in crossing the Mersey<sup>b</sup>. A free grammar-school was founded at Mobberley in the year 1659 by the Rev. William Griffith, and endowed by him with the interest of 200*l.*

MOTTRAM, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies on the borders of Yorkshire, about seven miles N. E. by E. from Stockport; the parish contains eight townships, *Mottram, Godley, Hatterfley, Hollinworth, or Hollingworth, Longden, or Tingetwiffel, Matley, Newton, and Staley.*

The great lordship of *Longden-dale, Tingetwiffel, or Tintwiffle*, which gives name to the district in which *Mottram* is situated, comprises that township as well as *Longden* and *Hollingworth*; it was formerly esteemed the paramount lordship of the whole parish. The manor of *Longden-dale*, with its appendages, belonged at an early period to the family of de Burgo or Burroughs. In the year 1311 Sir Thomas Burroughs gave it to the Earl of Lancaster<sup>c</sup>, on whose attainder it was granted to Sir Robert Holland; it continued in the Hollands and their representatives the Lovells, till the attainder of Francis Lord Lovell in 1486. It was afterwards for many generations in the Wilbrahams of Woodhey, and is now the property of their representative Wilbraham, earl of Dyfart. The manors of *Micklehurst* and *Arnfield* are appendages of this estate.

The parish-church of *Mottram*, which is a handsome Gothic structure, was built about the year 1487<sup>d</sup>. In the chancel is the monument of Reginald Bretland, serjeant at law, 1703, with a recumbent figure of the deceased in a gown holding a roll of papers. In the south aisle of the chancel, which belongs to the Earl of Stamford

<sup>a</sup> Collections of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart., from deeds in the possession of L. Wright Esq.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N. 2151.—Church notes taken in 1595.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> Sir Edmund Shaa by his will bearing that date, bequeathed a sum of money towards the structure.

as representative of the Staleys, is the monument of a knight and his lady<sup>d</sup>, without arms or inscription, most probably one of the family of Staveley or Staley, which became extinct in the reign of Edward IV<sup>e</sup>. In the church-yard are some tombs of the Bulkeleys.

The rectory of Mottram, the advowson of which had been annexed to the manor of Longendale, came to the crown on the attainder of Lord Lovell, and was granted by King Henry VIII. to the bishop of Chester, and appropriated to the see; the present lessee under the bishop is Dame Frances, relict of the Rev. Sir Ulithorn Wray Bart.: the bishop of Chester is patron of the vicarage. Woodhead an ancient chapel of ease in the township of Longden, six miles from the parish-church, on the borders of Yorkshire, was founded by Sir Edmund Shaa, lord-mayor of London at the time of Richard's usurpation, and endowed by him with *4l. 6s. 8d. per ann.*<sup>f</sup>: this chapel was in a state of decay in 1662<sup>g</sup>; in the last century it was augmented with Queen Anne's bounty. In the township of Longden is a meeting-house of the Independents, which has been many years established.

The free-school at Mottram was founded in 1612 by Mr. Robert Garfide of Northwich, who gave the sum of 100*l.* towards its endowment; Sir Richard Wilbraham also gave 100*l.* for the same purpose, with which two sums lands at Houghton in the parish of Bunbury were purchased, now let at *25l. per ann.* Some houses in Manchester, now let at *14l. 10s.* were purchased with the produce of timber cut down on the Houghton estate in 1751<sup>h</sup>: Robert Hyde Esq. gave a rent-charge of *5l. per ann.* to this school.

The ancient family of Hollingworth held a manor in *Hollingworth* for many generations under the Lovells<sup>i</sup>, and afterwards under the Wilbrahams. This estate having been afterwards divided, became two reputed manors; Hollingworth-Hall, which has been many years in the family of the present owner and occupier Daniel Whittle Esq. whose ancestor purchased of the Hollingworths; and the old hall, which continued in the Hollingworth family till the year 1800,

<sup>d</sup> See p. 448.      <sup>e</sup> The current tradition of the place for nearly two centuries has been, that it is the monument of the Roes of Staley, but it does not appear that the family of Roe had any connection with Staley, which passed from the Staleys by female heirs to the Abbtons and Booths.

<sup>f</sup> Extract from Sir Edmund Shaa's will, bearing date 1487:—"I woll have two honest preestes, non of them to syng his mass and saye his other divine service in a chapel that I have made in Longden-Dale, (in another part of the will this is called Woodhead-chapel,) in the countie of Chester, and pray especially for my soule and for the soules, &c.—and I woll that he have for his salarie yerely, for evermore, the some of *4l. 6s. 8d.*"      <sup>g</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 199.

<sup>h</sup> About the year 1720 the Houghton estate was valued at *14l. per ann.* and the timber on it at 235*l.*—Bishop Gasrell's Notitia.      <sup>i</sup> As early as 19 Edw. II.

when it was sold to Mr. George Hadfield the present proprietor, who resides at the hall. The earl of Dyfart, representative of the Wilbrahams, deputed a game-keeper for the manor of Hollingworth as lord paramount. Thorncliffe, another reputed manor in this township, belonged for many years<sup>1</sup> to the Bretlands, and is now the property of Thomas William Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw, having been purchased by his ancestor, together with some considerable estates in Stockport, after the death of George Bretland Esq. in the early part of the last century. Thorncliffe-Hall, the ancient seat of the Bretlands, is occupied by a farmer.

The manor of *Godley* was held formerly under the manor of Longden, by the family of Godelegh, or Godley<sup>2</sup>; and afterwards successively by the Baguleys, who purchased of the Godleys in 1319, the Masseys of Sale<sup>3</sup>, and the Newtons; no manerial rights are claimed except by the Earl of Dyfart as lord paramount: the demesne has passed with Newton in the same manner as the Dukensfield estate.

The township of *Hattersley* lies six miles N. E. by E. from Stockport; the manor belonged before the reign of Henry III. to a family of the name of Hattersley, by one of whom it was conveyed to Sir Roger de Stockport; after continuing in the Stockports about a century, it became the property of the Carringtons<sup>4</sup>, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Booths, and having descended with Dunham-Massey, belongs now to the Earl of Stamford. Bothom-Hall, or Bottom-Hall, the capital mansion of this manor, is occupied by a farmer.

The manor of *Matley* having passed with Hattersley is the property of the Earl of Stamford.

The manor of *Newton* was acquired in the year 1302 by Thomas de Newton, in marriage with the daughter and heir of Thomas de Davenport<sup>5</sup>; it was purchased of the representatives of Alexander Newton, the last heir-male of that ancient family, who died about the year 1690, by Sir Charles Dukensfield Bart. and has since passed with the Dukensfield estate.

The manor of *Staley*, or *Staveley*, held under the manor of Longden, was conveyed to Robert de Staveley by Robert de Hough in 1318<sup>6</sup>; from the Staveleys it passed by a female heir about the year 1471 to the Ashtons, whose co-heiress having conveyed it to the Booths<sup>7</sup>, it has since passed with Matley and other estates in this parish to the Earl of Stamford. Staley-Hall is spoken of by Webb in his Itinerary of 1622, as "a fine old manor belonging to Sir George Booth;" it is now a farm-house<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> As early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense.  
at Chester.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>5</sup> As early as 2 Edward II.

<sup>6</sup> Pedigrees.

<sup>7</sup> Records in the Exchequer.

<sup>8</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 91.

NANTWICH, or NAMPTWICH, in the deanery and hundred of that name, is a considerable market-town lying on the high road from London to Chester, about one hundred and seventy miles from the former and twenty from the latter.

The Saxon word *Vic*, which we write *Wich*, is usually translated *Vicus*, and is common to numerous places in England as well as to Nantwich, Northwich, and Middlewich; we cannot learn that the word *Wich* has ever been defined as having any meaning connected with the circumstance of brine being found at these places, and at others with the same termination, yet on account, it should seem, of the termination being common to several places where brine is found, they are sometimes called, in an abbreviated way, the *Wiches*, and the term has been sometimes applied to the salt-pits<sup>1</sup>. *Nant* is the British word for a brook, but the most usual distinction of this town in history and record, for some centuries after the conquest, was *Wich-Malbank*, from the ancient family of *Malbank*, whose ancestor was one of *Hugh Lupus's* barons.

The earliest mention that we find of this town is in the reign of William the Conqueror, when a battle between the English and Welsh is said to have taken place in its vicinity<sup>2</sup>; in 1133 the town was laid waste by the Welsh<sup>3</sup>: in 1146 having committed great devastations in Cheshire, they were cut off at Nantwich on their return<sup>4</sup>. King Edward I. being at Nantwich in 1282, granted protections to several persons that their corn and other provisions should not be seized on account of the approach of the Welsh army<sup>5</sup>. From this time we hear nothing further of it in history till the period of the unhappy civil war in the seventeenth century. It was first occupied by the Parliament and esteemed an important garrison. In the month of October 1642, Lord Grandison took possession of it by a *coup de main*, but soon afterwards evacuated the garrison and joined the King at Edgehill<sup>6</sup>. Sir William Brereton having received intimation that Sir Thomas Aston and Sir Vincent Corbet purposed to take possession of Nantwich for the King, marched into the town and garrisoned it again for the Parliament, fortifying it with mud-walls and ditches. Sir Thomas made several unsuccessful attempts after this to gain the town; at length having been defeated in an action with Sir William Brereton's forces, he fled with his troops to Whitchurch<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> They are so called in the Survey of Domesday.  
Vol. vii. p. 504.

N<sup>o</sup> 2155. f. 59.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. ii. p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Wall. 10 Edward I.

<sup>4</sup> See Collins's Peerage, edit. 1768.

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MSS.

<sup>6</sup> Partridge's History of Nantwich.

<sup>7</sup> *Vicar's Parliamentary Chronicle*, and "*Cheshire Successes*," (1642). It is said in the latter pamphlet, that Sir Vincent Corbet fled on foot and bare-headed to Over, and that Capt. Cholmondeley, Capt. Bridgman, and 120 men were taken prisoners. This action is said to have happened on the 28th of January, 1642.

On the 3d of August 1643, Lord Capel encamped with an army of 3000 men at Ravenmore near Nantwich, and made an attack on the town the next day, but was repulsed<sup>a</sup>. From this time Nantwich continued in the possession of the Parliament till the end of the war, but sustained a severe siege in the month of January 1644 from Lord Byron. The town had been strongly fortified, for it appears that the labour of the earthworks cost the sum of 335*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*<sup>b</sup>: the siege commenced the first week in January<sup>c</sup>, and was carried on with much vigour; it is said that on the 17th of that month a hundred shots were fired into the town from one mount only. On the 18th there was a general assault from five different quarters, but the besiegers were every where repulsed with loss<sup>d</sup>. Within a few days after this, Sir Thomas Fairfax's army having joined Sir William Brereton's scattered forces, engaged with and defeated Lord Byron beneath the walls of Nantwich. Lord Byron retired to Chester, and the siege of Nantwich was raised on the 25th of January, which day was for many years distinguished by the name of the holly Holy-day, the townsmen celebrating it annually with much festivity, and appearing with sprigs of holly in their hats<sup>e</sup>. Nantwich church having been made a prison during the siege, the thanksgiving which took place a few days after it was raised, on the 30th of January, was held in some houses fitted up for that purpose, because the church had not then been cleansed: on the 13th of February there was a solemn thanksgiving in the church<sup>f</sup>. Nantwich

<sup>a</sup> Burghall's Diary. Hist. of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 921.      <sup>b</sup> Partridge's History of Nantwich.

<sup>c</sup> Burghall says, "on the 13th of December, and that from that time the town was wholly without a supply of provisions, for that no markets could be kept."

<sup>d</sup> History of Nantwich. Burghall in his Diary says, "Thursday morning at break of day they strongly attacked the town on every side, and the soldiers and townsmen as stoutly defended themselves for an hour or more; very great valour was shewn on both sides, but at last the enemy fled away as fast as they could, leaving the scaling-ladders and wooden kids they had brought with them, some arms, and a hundred dead bodies behind, whereof Captain Sandford was one." History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 928. This captain Sandford, who appears to have done much execution in Ireland with his musqueteers, or, as he called them, his firelocks, addressed letters to the garrisons at Hawarden and Nantwich, in which he attempted to intimidate them with the terror of his name. In the letter addressed to the garrison at Nantwich, he says, "You now see my battery is fixed, from whence fire shall eternally visit you day and night, to the terror of your old and females, and the consumption of your thatched houses; believe me gentlemen, I have laid by my former delays, and am now resolved to batter, burn, and storm you; my firelocks you know have done great feats, both by day and night; and hourly we will not fail of our private visits to you; you have not as yet received any alarms, wherefore expect suddenly to hear from my battery and approaches, before the Welsh-Row." History of Nantwich, p. 69. Captain Sandford's letter to the governor of Hawarden-castle is printed in Mr. Pennant's Tour to Wales, Vol. i. p. 101.

<sup>e</sup> Partridge.      <sup>f</sup> Burghall's Diary. History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 945.

was disgarrifoned by the Parliament on the 15th of January 1646<sup>z</sup>. After the defeat of the Scottish army under the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke fled with 3050 horse to Nantwich<sup>h</sup>. Colonel Harrison, a celebrated officer in the Parliament army, and one of the regicides, was the son of a butcher in this town.

Nantwich has been more than once the victim of fire and pestilence. In 1438 we are told that this town was lamentably consumed by fire<sup>i</sup>: a similar calamity befel it in 1583, in which year, on the 10th of December, "chaunced," as it is expressed in the parish register, "a most terrible and vehement fyre, beginninge at the water-lode, about six of the clock at nighte in a kitchen by brewinge. The wynde beinge very boysterouse, encreased the said fire, whiche verie vehementlie burned and consumed in the space of fifteen houres six hundred bayes of buyldinges, and coulede not be stayed neither by laboure nor pollice, which I thoughte good to comende unto the posteritie as a favoureable punishment of the Almightye in destroyinge the buyldinges and goodes onelie, but sparinge the lyves of manye people, which, consideringe the tyme, space, and perill, were in great jopardie, yet by God's mercie but onelie two persones that perished by fyre."

"By Allen Wrighte, whoe sawe the said fire and wrote this." The damage was computed at 30,000/<sup>k</sup>. In 1585, we find the following entry: "This yeare passed, oure moste noble Queen Elizabeth, (whome God longe preserve,) of her royalle and princilie bountie graunted a commission, under her owne hande, to make a general collection throughoute all her realme of Englande, for the redifyinge agayne off this towne of Namptwich, whiche liberalitie was collected in the yeare above-saide, and in this yeare followinge." On the 23d. of December 1586, was buried John Masterfon Gent. "one of the four commissioners for collection:" the epitaph of this gentleman, who was of a very ancient and respectable family in Nantwich<sup>l</sup>, attributes the success of the collection; and the speedy building of the town, almost wholly to his exertions<sup>m</sup>. Many of the edifices

<sup>i</sup> Burghall's Diary, Vol. ii. p. 932.  
Nantwich.

<sup>h</sup> Heath's Chronicle

<sup>z</sup> Partridge's History of

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> See p. 710.

<sup>m</sup> The following lines are extracted from the epitaph.

" This dismal day canicular one this teenth of December,  
Your towne was burnde, your frende did die, that was your chieftest membre,  
Your extreame losse he did repaire, he wyp't your teares away,  
But now youre glorie and your gaine shall be no more your stay,  
When this pure towne to ashes felle, devour'd with fire flame,  
By pittie moved, he found the way howe to repaire the same;

Whoe

edifices then erected remain to this day, and give the town a singular and rather gloomy appearance; the timber, which is intermixed with lath and plaster in various patterns, being painted black.

In 1587, as appears by an entry in the parish register, the town of Nantwich was visited "with a kynde of frenzie, or madde ague, of which disease there dyed the yeare aforefaide about seaveufcore and odde perfoncs." In 1596 was a great mortality, "introduced by George Fallowes, late come from Cales in Spain, with the Earl of Essex; he was the first who died in the town." In 1604 the plague carried off between four and five hundred of the inhabitants; this town, nevertheless, was free from infection sooner than Chester, on which account the assizes were adjourned hither.

The only royal visit with which Nantwich is known to have been honoured, was from King James I., who was entertained by Mr. Wilbraham of the Towns- end in 1617. He arrived on the 25th of August, on which day he visited the brine-pits, and saw the process of making salt; next day being Sunday, he heard a sermon from Mr. Dod, archdeacon of Richmond, whom he appointed one of his chaplains in ordinary, and an oration from one of the scholars of the school<sup>a</sup>.

The market at Nantwich has been held from time immemorial; the market-day is Saturday; it has of late years been disused as a corn-market, but is abundantly supplied with provisions<sup>o</sup>; and from Candlemas to July, has a good show of cows and pigs. The Earl of Cholmondeley is entitled to the toll of cattle, roots, and fruit; and Lord Crewe to the toll of corn and fish, as attached to their respective rights in the manor. In the year 1282, Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells,

Whoe by the grace of our good Queene, and nobles of the land,  
 This poore towne was builte up againe in state as it dothe stande;  
 The timber had els growing in woods, which nowe sweet dwellings are,  
 Soe had the featts and plotts of ground, remained to this day bare:  
 Had he not bin, this towne had bin, no towne, as now it is,  
 That which he had he did procure, the travaille all was his:  
 The livinge and the unborne tow, and all that shall succede,  
 The roofs, and walls, shall blase his fame, for this his worthy deede:  
 His endles labour in this case deserves an endlesse crowne,  
 With goulden garlands of great thanks, and wreaths of high renown."

<sup>a</sup> Webb's Itinerary in King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 70.

<sup>o</sup> It appears that the market at Nantwich was in a very declining state in the reign of Henry VIII. Leland, after enumerating Nantwich among the market towns of Cheshire, adds, "it is *no* market." Itin. VII. p. 30.

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had a grant of a fair for three days, in his manor of Nantwich<sup>p</sup>, on the festival of St. Bartholomew, which is still held; and there are two other fairs, March 26th, and December 15th.

The town of Nantwich is governed by constables and other officers, as leave-lookers, whose office it is to inspect the markets; ale-tasters, fire-lookers, and channel-lookers: the wallers, whose office it was to regulate the salt-works, have been disused since that manufacture has been on the decline.

The brine-pits at this place are of great antiquity, and for many centuries were a source of very extensive commerce<sup>q</sup>. King Henry III., to distress the Welsh, who carried on a great traffic in this article, ordered the brine-pits to be filled up, which proved a temporary check to the trade of the town: on the return of peace they were again opened, and continued for many years to be the increasing source of wealth and employment to the inhabitants<sup>r</sup>. In the reign of Henry VIII. there were, according to Leland<sup>s</sup>, three hundred salt-works; in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign they were reduced to two hundred and sixteen; some of these belonged to the crown, some to the Earl of Derby, some to the Wilbrahams, Egertons, Masterfons, and other principal families of the town and county. In 1624 they appear to have been farther reduced in number, nearly one-half: in consequence of pits of a stronger quality having been discovered in other parts of the county, where the advantage of water-carriage has been superior, the salt-manufacture has from time to time been declining, and there is now only one salt-work in the place.

In 1734 an act of Parliament was obtained for making the river Weaver navigable to Nantwich, but it was never carried into execution. The Chester canal, which was completed in 1778, comes within a quarter of a mile of the town.

<sup>p</sup> Harl. MSS. 2038. f. 149. b. See p. 706.

<sup>q</sup> Hugh de Malbank in his charter to the monks of Combermere grants them the tithe of his salt, of his own salt-pits, and those which belonged to others; and the salt of Blessed Mary the Virgin; and salt on Friday, and salt for the abbot's table, as freely as he had it at his own board. See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 64.

<sup>r</sup> Mr. Partridge in his History of Nantwich says, "Enriched by the profits, and gratefully sensible of the benefits accruing from the saline springs, which so copiously flow around Nantwich, every Ascension-day our pious ancestors sung a hymn of thanksgiving for the *blessing of the brine*. That ancient salt-pit, called the Old *Biat*, (ever held in great veneration by the towns-people,) was on that day bedecked and adorned with green boughs, flowers and ribbands, and the young people had music and danced round it; which custom of dancing, and adorning the pit, continued till a very few years ago." History of Nantwich, 1774, p. 59, 60.

<sup>s</sup> Itin. V. p. 92.

According

According to the returns made to Parliament, under the population act in 1801, there were then eight hundred and twenty-four houses in the town of Nantwich, of which sixty-six were uninhabited<sup>1</sup>; the number of inhabitants was three thousand four hundred and sixty-three, of whom one thousand four hundred and thirty-four are stated to have been employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft. There are now not more than six persons employed in the salt works: there is an extensive cotton-manufacture belonging to Mr. Bott, which employs a great number of hands; exclusively of these, the principal mechanic employment of the labouring class is the making gloves and shoes for exportation. The inhabitants of Nantwich are exempt from serving on juries out of the town, or in the town, if associated with strangers: this privilege was proved in the reign of Edward the Third to have been possessed from time immemorial<sup>2</sup>.

The quarter-sessions for the county were formerly held once a-year at Nantwich: in 1720 a town-hall, with a sessions-room over was built; towards the expence of which King George II., being then prince of Wales, contributed 600*l.*, but it was so badly constructed that a great part of it fell down in 1737 on a market-day, "by which accident nine or ten persons lost their lives, and many others were terribly bruised and hurt." Some years afterwards, whilst the justices were holding their sessions, the court was alarmed with a sudden crash, and the fabric being expected every moment to fall, many persons were much hurt amid the hurry and confusion in which they quitted the hall. These accidents and alarms are said to have been the occasion of the removal of the sessions from Nantwich to Knutsford, which took place about the year 1760<sup>3</sup>.

The parish of Nantwich is divided into five townships, *Nantwich, Alvafton, Leighton, Willafton,* and *Wolftanwood.*

The manor of Nantwich was given by Hugh Lupus, with several others, to his relation William de Maldebeng, or Malbank, whom he made one of his barons. Having fixed his chief seat in this town, where he built a castle, his barony was called that of Wich-Malbank: Hugh de Malbank, the second baron, gave a fourth part of the whole barony (comprehending a fourth part of the manor of Nantwich, and several other manors) to the abbey of Combermere, of which he was founder. William de Malbank, the third baron, died in the reign of Edward I., without issue male, leaving three daughters, Philippa, Auda, and Eleanor, between whom

<sup>1</sup> There are now scarcely any unoccupied.

<sup>2</sup> Partridge's History of Nantwich.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.  
the

the barony was divided<sup>7</sup>. Philippa the elder married Thomas Lord Basset of Hedington, by whom she had three daughters, Philippa, Joan, and Alice; Philippa married Henry Newburgh Earl of Warwick, and died without issue; her portion of the barony, called to this day the Countess of Warwick's fee, or the serjeancy of the Countess of Warwick, to which the castle was attached<sup>2</sup>, came to the crown, and was granted by King Edward I. in 1277, to Randal de Merton, who having the same year conveyed it to the family of Praers<sup>3</sup>, it passed with other estates by female heirs to the Foulshurfts. Joan, second daughter of Thomas Lord Basset, married Reginald Valletort, and afterwards William de Courtney, but died without issue; she gave her portion of the barony to the family of Samford, or Sandford<sup>4</sup>. Alice, third daughter of Thomas Lord Basset, married John Lord Bisset<sup>5</sup>; her portion of the barony, partly by gift, and partly by pur-

<sup>7</sup> The portion of the barony allotted to Philippa, consisted of one-third of the manor of Wich-Malbank, or Nantwich, with the castle; one-third of Newhall, Aston-juxta-Hurleston, Aston, Haslington, Coole, and Wolstanwood; besides rents and services in Barthomley, Crewe, Leighton, Aston-Mondrem, Cholmondeston, Stoke, Landecan; two parts of Tranmoll, Buerton, Alvafton, Church-Minshull, Wistaston, Rope, Willaston, White-Poole, Norbury, Wirswall, Rowe-Shotwick, and Thingwall. This portion of the barony became sub-divided among the daughters and co-heiresses of the said Philippa; the elder daughter, Philippa, who married Henry Earl of Warwick, had the castle.

The portion of Auda, the second daughter of William de Malbank, consisted of one-third of Nantwich, Coole, and Wolstanwood, Hurleston, and Aston, and two parts of Haslington; besides rents and services in Audlem, Hankelow, Tittenley, Marbury, Baddiley, Fadiley, Brindley, Burland, Edlafton, Barrets-Poole, Stapeley, Weston, Wybunbury, Hough, Shavington, Walgherton, Church-Coppenhall, Henhull, Alfager, Wigfterson, Pensby, and one-third of Chorlton: this portion also was subdivided between co-heiresses.

Eleanor, the younger daughter of William de Malbank, had for her portion of the barony, one-third of Coole and Wolstanwood; two parts of Newhall, Aston juxta-Hurleston, Aston, and Hurleston; besides rents and services in Bechton, Hassall, Worleston, Wrenbury, Chorley, Barksford, Monk's-Coppenhall, Over-Bebington, two parts of Barnston, Badington, Bromhall, Sound, Allantton, Bartherton, Chorlton, Teverton, and one-half of Wardhull.

<sup>2</sup> It seems that the castle was at a later period purchased by the Lovells, and attached to their share of the barony, since it appears that it was alienated by Lord Paget to William Fletcher, with that part of the barony which had belonged to the Lovells; See p. 707.

<sup>3</sup> This was proved in the plea to a *quo warranto*, Temp. Hen. VII. See Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. f. 186. It appears that in the sixteenth year of Edw. I., Thomas de Crewe had a third part of the serjeancy which had belonged to the countess of Warwick, consisting of one knight's fee. Woodnoth's Collections, p. 28. & f. 265. b. This afterwards passed to the Praers family by marriage.

<sup>4</sup> Dodsworth's Collections, Bodl. Lib. xxxix. f. 151. Some MSS. make Alice Basset marry Sir John Sandford, but this appears to be erroneous; others suppose the Sandfords to have possessed their share of the barony by gift from Philippa, Countess of Warwick. (See Woodnoth's Collections, f. 262. b.); but this is directly contrary to the best evidences, and is partly corrected in the same collections, f. 265, 266.

<sup>5</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, I. 632.

chafe from her representatives <sup>d</sup>, became the property of Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells, and was inherited by the Lovells <sup>e</sup>, who purchased another portion of the barony <sup>f</sup>, which had passed by marriage from the Sandfords to the family of Browning <sup>g</sup>. On the attainder of Francis Viscount Lovell, his share of this barony was granted to Sir William Stanley, and having been again forfeited to the crown by his attainder, was granted in tail male to Sir Anthony Browne, and afterwards to William Lord Paget <sup>h</sup>.

Auda, the second daughter of William de Malbank, married Warin de Vernon, Baron of Shipbrooke; their son, Warin, left a son of the same name, who died without issue, and three daughters, between whom this portion of the barony was subdivided: Margaret, the elder daughter, left two co-heiresses, one of these brought a small share of the barony to the Leftwich family, who possessed it many years; the other daughter's share passed again into the Vernon family, and from them by marriage to the Savages; Auda, second daughter of Warin Vernon above-mentioned, married William Stafford, whose son sold his portion of the barony to the St. Pierres <sup>i</sup>; this portion was afterwards in the Mainwarings of Carincham: Rose, younger daughter of Warin Vernon, married John Littlebury, whose son sold his share of the barony of Nantwich to John de Wetenhall <sup>k</sup>; this share became again sub-divided between two co-heiresses of Wetenhall, one of whom brought her share to the Ardernes <sup>l</sup>, the other, successively to the Bromhalls and Davenports <sup>m</sup>.

Eleanor, the younger daughter of William de Malbank, who died unmarried, conveyed her share of the barony of Nantwich to Henry de Audley, Hugh de Pafcy, and others <sup>n</sup>, in trust as it appears for Audley and his heirs. This share became sub-divided between the co-heirs of the Audley family, and passed to the families of Touchet, (afterwards Barons Audley,) and Fitz-Warren; the portion which

<sup>d</sup> Alice Basset is said to have had three daughters, Ela, who married John Wotton, and had her portion in Worcestershire, but no share of the Cheshire estates; Margaret married to John de Riparii, and Isabel married to Hugh de Plesitis. (Woodnoth's Collections, f. 262. b.) John de Riparii, and Philip de Plesitis conveyed estates, parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, to Robert Burcell, bishop of Bath and Wells. (Ibid. f. 263, 264.)

<sup>e</sup> Matilda, daughter and eventually sole heiress of Sir Philip Burnell, who inherited the bishop's estates, married John Lovell.

<sup>f</sup> It was conveyed by William Browning of Melbury in Dorsetshire to the Lovells, in exchange for a rent-charge on a manor in Wiltshire. Dodsworth's Collections, Bodl. Lib. xxxix. f. 157.

<sup>g</sup> Sir Lawrence Sandford, who died without male issue, seized of a portion of the barony of Wich-Malbank, left an only daughter, married, first to John Maltravers and afterwards to Alexander de Venables; by her first husband she had two daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom married Sir Alan Cheney, and died without issue; the other married William Browning. Dodsworth's Collections, and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2038.

<sup>h</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1967., and Records in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2038. f. 140. b. <sup>k</sup> Ibid. <sup>l</sup> Ibid. <sup>m</sup> Ibid. <sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2038.

belonged.

belonged to the latter; passed in marriage to the Bouchiers, Lords Fitz-Warren, and Earls of Bath.

In the year 1597, Sir Hugh Cholmondeley died seised of the greater part of the barony of Nantwich<sup>o</sup>; he had purchased the castle and site of the barony in 1556 of Robert Fletcher, to whom it had been conveyed by Lord Paget<sup>p</sup>; he had purchased Audley fee, and the Countess of Warwick's fee, of Robert Foulhurst in 1574; a part of what had belonged to the Vernons, the same year of Thomas Stanley, to whom it had been conveyed just before by Sir John Savage; and a small portion the following year of Ralph Leftwich<sup>q</sup>: in 1619, Sir Robert Cholmondeley purchased that part of the barony, which had been inherited by the Fitz-Warrens and Bouchiers, of William Bouchier, Earl of Bath, and in 1624 a part of what had formerly been in the Vernons, of Sir William Davenport of Bramhall<sup>r</sup>. All these estates, except Audley fee, and the Countess of Warwick's fee, which have been long in the Crewe family, and are now the property of Lord Crewe, have continued in the Cholmondeley family, and are now the property of George James Earl of Cholmondeley, whose collateral ancestors, Sir Robert Cholmondeley and Hugh Cholmondeley Esq. were severally created barons of Wich-Malbank in 1645 and 1689; the last creation was with remainder to the patentee's brother, George, great grand-father of the present Earl of Cholmondeley, and Baron of Wich-Malbank<sup>s</sup>.

There are now no remains of the castle at Nantwich, which stood near the Welsh-bridge; it had been in ruins before the reign of Henry VII. when the stones were removed, and made use of for the purpose of enlarging the south transept of the parish church, called Kingsley's aisle, to which Lord Audley, then one of the lords of the manor, is said to have been a benefactor<sup>t</sup>. The site of the castle is the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley.

The fourth part of the barony of Wich-Malbank, which had been given by the barons of Wich-Malbank, to the abbot and convent of Combermere<sup>u</sup>, remained annexed to that monastery, till its dissolution, and not long afterwards passed, either by grant or purchase, to the Wilbrahams of Woodhey: it is called the abbot's fee, and is now, by inheritance from the Wilbrahams, the property of the Earl of Dysart.

<sup>o</sup> It is stated in the inquisition, that he died seised of Lovell's share of the barony, Audley's, Savage's, Foulhurst's, Leftwich's, and Mainwaring's of Carincham: this last mentioned portion, being one-eighteenth of the barony, had belonged to Thomas Stafford and Isabella his wife, daughter of Sir William Bago<sup>v</sup>, to whom it appears to have been conveyed by the Lovells. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2077. f. 40). Sir Hugh Cholmondeley had thirty parts out of thirty-six of the barony; the other six parts, (which were afterwards purchased as stated above, by Sir Robert Cholmondeley), belonged then to the Earl of Bath, and Mr. Davenport of Bramhall.

<sup>p</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1967. of the titles of the Cholmondeley family, p. 351.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

<sup>s</sup> Partridge.

<sup>t</sup> See a farther account

<sup>u</sup> See p. 704.

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An estate within this barony, called St. John of Jerusalem's fee, having belonged to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, was for some time in the family of Wilbraham<sup>a</sup>, afterwards in the Leghs of Booths, and belongs now to Sir John Chetwode Bart.

The Barony of Wich-Malbank appears to have had a very wide jurisdiction, extending not only into many neighbouring townships, but also into several of those in the parish of Bunbury, and some in the hundred of Wirral<sup>x</sup>.

The church, which is a spacious and beautiful Gothic structure<sup>y</sup>, is built in the form of a cross, and has a handsome octagonal tower, with battlements, and pinnacles. In the chancel is the tomb of John Masterfon (before-mentioned), with the effigies of himself and his lady, cut on stone; in the nave, a wooden tablet of Thomas Church Gent., who died in 1634, with portraits of himself and his wife, painted on board; in the south transept, memorials of the Wilbrahams, and a mutilated effigy, in mail armour, said to have been that of Sir David Cradock<sup>z</sup>. In the north transept is the burial-place of the Wicksted family, and a neat tablet in memory of Samuel Stanton, manager of a company of comedians, who died in 1797. There are memorials also in the two transepts and in the nave, for the families of Davenport, Minshull, Wetenhall, and Wright. There was formerly a grave-stone with a brass figure of Sir John Griffin, who died in 1490<sup>a</sup>. Mr. Partridge mentions the monument of John Crewe of Nantwich Gent.<sup>b</sup>, father of Sir Randle Crewe, which was taken down when the south gallery was erected: over the porch is a parochial library, consisting chiefly of books of divinity, and ecclesiastical history.

It has been matter of doubt how long Nantwich has been esteemed a separate parish, independent of Acton; Sir Peter Leycester calls it a parochial chapel, but Mr. Partridge contends that it was from a very early period esteemed a parish church: he says that in a deed prior to the reign of Richard II. it is called,

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.      <sup>x</sup> Ibid. N<sup>o</sup> 1967. — The barony of Wich-Malbank is stated to have comprised the townships of Acton, Alfager, Altanton, Alvaston, Aston, Aston-in-Mondrem, Audlem, Baddiley, Badington, Bartherton, Barthomley, Basford, Over-Bebington, Beeston, Brindley, Bromhall, Buerton, Bunbury, Burland, two-thirds of Chettleton, Cholmondeston, Chorley, Church-Coppenhall, Monk's-Coppenhall, Coole, Crewe, Edlaffon, Fadiley, Hankelow, Haslington, Hassall, Hatherton, Henhull, Hough, Hurleston, Leighton, Wich-Malbank, Marbury, Church-Minshull, Newhall, Norbury, Barret's-Poole, White-Poole, Rowe-Shotwick, Shavington, Soond, Stapeley, Stoke, two-thirds of Teverton, Thingwall, Tittenley, two-thirds of Tranmol, Weston, Wirrwall, Wistaston, Woodstanwood, Worleston, Wrenbury, and half of Wardle.

<sup>y</sup> See farther mention of it, p. 440.

<sup>z</sup> Partridge's History of Nantwich.

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2151.

<sup>b</sup> The inscription is preserved in Dugdale's Visitation; he is described to be descended from the ancient family of Crewe of Crewe, and to have married Alice Mainwaring.

*Ecclesia de Vico Malbanco*, and that the words *totius parochia* occur in the same deed, and that another deed (of 1461) mentions the church of our blessed Lady of Wich-Malbank <sup>c</sup>. It is certain that in the endowment of Acton-church <sup>d</sup>, bearing date 1285, it is expressly described as a chapel dependent upon Acton, the vicar of which parish was obliged to support the chaplain at his own expence; and we have no evidence of any change having taken place in its constitution; on the contrary, it is certain that Nantwich was never presented to as a parish-church, until the year 1677, which was after the publication of Sir Peter Leycester's work; Gabriel Stringer was then instituted to the parish-church of Nantwich, and admitted perpetual curate of the same, on the donation of John Crewe Esq. of Crewe, then patron. Some years before this, in 1639, Mrs. Margaret Woodnoth and Mrs. Elizabeth Davenport gave by deed several small tithes <sup>e</sup> for the use of a preaching minister at Nantwich. In the year 1719 the sum of 400*l.* having been obtained by subscription and Queen Anne's bounty, the corn tithes of Alvaſton and Nantwich-Willaston were purchased as an augmentation of the benefice <sup>f</sup>. These tithes produced in 1778 only 40*l. per ann.* but have been somewhat improved by the inclosure of Beam-heath.

There was formerly a chapel in Welsh-row near the bridge, dedicated to St. Anne, of which there are now no remains <sup>g</sup>. The Quakers, Methodists, and Presbyterians have meeting-houses at Nantwich; a large chapel was built by the Methodists in the late Mr. Wesley's connection in 1808.

Mr. Webb in his Itinerary of Cheshire (written in the year 1622, and printed in King's Vale-Royal) remarks that at each of the five entrances of Nantwich there was a gentleman's seat; in Welsh-row that of the Wilbraham family; in Beam-street one that had belonged to the Mainwarings <sup>h</sup>, and was then the seat of Sir Dudley Norton; in Hospital-street that of Mr. Randal Church; in Pillory-street that of the Masterſon family; and in Barker or Mill-street that of the Wrights <sup>i</sup>. Town's-end, the seat of the Wilbrahams, still belongs to George Wilbraham Esq. of Delamere, who is the representative of that branch of the

<sup>c</sup> There is a deed of this date of the stewards of the gild in St. Mary's church at Nantwich, among the Harleian MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2074. f. 166.

<sup>d</sup> In the registry at Lichfield.

<sup>e</sup> By a return of Mr. George Smith, then rector of Nantwich, to Bishop Gastrell in 1717, these tithes appear to have been of very small value; the whole benefice was then but about 27*l. per ann.*

<sup>f</sup> In 1690 Peter Lancaster was instituted to this benefice as a rectory, which style has been continued in succeeding institutions, and the incumbents have been ever since called rectors of Nantwich.

<sup>g</sup> Partridge's History of Nantwich, p. 11. and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2074. f. 166.

<sup>h</sup> The Mainwarings of Nantwich were an illegitimate branch of the Mainwarings of Peover.

<sup>i</sup> Part ii. p. 71.

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family; it is now in a state of dilapidation. The mansion which had been Sir Dudley Norton's, was afterwards a house of correction<sup>d</sup>; it was purchased some years ago by John Crewe Esq. (now Lord Crewe), who pulled it down and built almshouses on the site. Mr. Church's mansion belongs to his representative, Church Norcop Esq. of Tunstall in Shropshire, and is in the occupation of Mr. John Berks. Mr. Masterfon's house has been taken down by Mr. Capper the present proprietor of the site, and rebuilt.

The ancient family of Masterfon, or Maisterfon, may be traced by their pedigree to have been resident at Nantwich as early as the reign of Edward I. Thomas Masterfon distinguished himself by his military prowess in the reign of Edward III.; he accompanied the Black Prince in his expedition into Spain; at the battle of Shrewsbury he fought on the King's side, and so far distinguished himself, that his house at Nantwich was in revenge plundered by the Percys, and after a long suit he at length obtained from King Henry V. a pension of 10*l.* *per ann.* for his losses and services: he attained a great age, and died in the reign of Henry VI.<sup>e</sup>; his son Richard was steward to the Duke of Exeter. Thomas Masterfon, great grandson of Richard, was slain at Flodden-field, and his eldest son at the same time taken prisoner. Mrs. Frances Masterfon, a maiden lady, was buried at Nantwich in 1799, at the age of ninety-six: the present male representative of the family resides in London. A younger branch of the Crewes of Soond; a branch of the Wetenhalls; the Hassalls; the Walthalls<sup>f</sup>; the Wrights, most of which are now extinct, were settled at Nantwich for several generations. Henry Mainwaring Wetenhall, Esq. a lineal descendant of the family of that name, lately resident at Nantwich, took the name of Mainwaring on succeeding to the estate of the Mainwarings of Peover, and has been recently created a baronet<sup>g</sup>.

There was an ancient hospital in Nantwich, with a free chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas<sup>h</sup>, founded by the Lovell family, in whom the advowson was vested<sup>i</sup>: it is probable that this was the chapel, for which, in 1404, a licence was obtained. Mr. Partridge speaks of a hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Lawrence<sup>k</sup>, and a priory, which was a cell to the abbey of Combermere, both in the Welsh-row;

<sup>d</sup> After Lady Norton's death it belonged to the Dods of Edge, of whom it was purchased by Robert Wright, the latter was the possessor of it in 1666.—Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2119. f. 84. *b.*

<sup>f</sup> New-hall, the seat of the Walthalls, was destroyed during the siege of Nantwich.—Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>g</sup> See p. 354, and p. 368.

<sup>h</sup> There is an institution to the hospital or free chapel of St. Nicholas at Nantwich, in the bishop of Lichfield's registry, bearing date 1506.

<sup>i</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2074. f. 166. and N<sup>o</sup> 2038. f. 137.

<sup>k</sup> See also Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2074. and N<sup>o</sup> 2038. f. 137. where we find from the inquisition taken after the death of Fr. Lord Lovell, that his family had one-third of the advowson of this hospital.

but

but he says that some suppose them to be the same<sup>1</sup>, and he acknowledges that the arms of Nantwich-Priory, as given in King's Vale-Royal, (two crutches in saltier,) seem to allude to an hospital.

Sir Roger Wilbraham in 1613 founded an alms-house in Welsh-row for six poor men, four of Nantwich and two of Acton, and endowed it with a rent-charge of 20*l.* *per ann.* to which 4*l.* was afterwards added, issuing out of certain leads-walling, or salt works, which being not long afterwards dissolved, his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Thomas Wilbraham Bart., gave a meadow in the township of Henhull, containing about nine acres of land, for its better support. The alms-men receive 2*l.* *per ann.* each, have shoes every year, and gowns and caps once in two years.

Sir Edmund Wright, alderman of London<sup>m</sup>, founded in the year 1637 an alms-house or hospital, for six poor men, not to be admitted under fifty-six years of age, to receive 4*l.* *per ann.* each, and a warm grey gown faced with red, every other year, to be members of the church of England; and preference to be given to the name of Wright, if natives of Nantwich; this hospital was endowed by the founder with 32*l.* *per ann.* payable out of a farm in the parish of Hillingdon in Middlesex. Mrs. Chorlton, one of the daughters of Sir Edmund Wright, gave in the year 1703 the sum of 100*l.*, and in 1704 a farther sum of 100*l.* for the purpose of increasing the number of pensioners in this alms-house. With this money and 30*l.* added by the town, a field<sup>n</sup> was purchased, now let at 38*l.* *per ann.* In consequence of this benefaction four widows were added to this establishment in 1713, and a fifth in 1784. It is remarkable, that in the year 1661 the six alms-men contributed two shillings each to Margaret Salmon, the founder's niece, to relieve her necessities, and agreed to give her a further allowance of five shillings a quarter.

An alms-house for seven poor persons, situated in Beam-street, was built in the year 1767, pursuant to the intentions of Sir Thomas Crewe, Serjeant at law, who died in 1633, and Sir John Crewe of Utkinton, who died in 1711, the former having given certain rent-charges for the purpose of such a foundation,

<sup>1</sup> One of Mr. Partridge's reasons for supposing them to have been distinct; namely, that a priory and a lazaret are different things (See History of Nantwich, p. 13.), is by no means conclusive: the superior of a hospital for lepers is frequently styled in ancient charters the prior, and the existence of such hospital has in many instances caused traditions of monasteries where there was never any foundation of the kind.

<sup>m</sup> He was made lord-mayor of London by the Parliament in 1641, after they had displaced Sir William Acton; Sir Edmund's son-in-law, Sir James Harrington, was one of the judges of King Charles I.

<sup>n</sup> Containing about eight statute acres.

and the latter having augmented the endowment with the bequest of lands in Wardle, called the Park-ridings, which in 1710 were of the yearly value of 10*l.* or upwards: the pensioners in this alms-house receive 6*l. per ann.* each.

An alms-house in Welsh-row for six widows was founded in 1676 by Roger Wilbraham Esq. and endowed with 24*l. per ann.* The same Roger Wilbraham in the year 1705 founded another alms-house, situated also in the Welsh-row, for two old maids, and endowed it with lands and money producing in 1786, 6*l. per ann.*\* Randle Wilbraham Esq. in 1721 gave an augmentation of 3*l. per ann.* to the widows' alms-house, and 13*s. 4d.* to that of the old maids. The pensioners in both the last mentioned alms-houses now receive the same allowance, 17*s.* a quarter each, gowns, and a certain proportion of fuel.

Mrs. Ermine Delves, by deed bearing date September 5, 1722, gave some houses in Barker-street, and two houses and a barn in Love-lane, for the purpose of erecting and endowing an hospital for four poor men, natives of Nantwich, and their wives, who are respectively to be of the age of fifty years or upwards, of honest life and conversation, and members of the church of England, to be governed by the same rules and orders as Sir Edmund Wright's hospital, except what related to the name and kindred of Wright. The same lady by her will bearing date 1728, gave a rent-charge of 3*l. per ann.* to a poor single woman, being a native of Nantwich, of the age of forty years at the least, and otherwise qualified as the pensioners of her hospital. Mr. Matthew Meakin, by his will bearing date April 19, 1738, gave the sum of 200*l.* to the trustees of Sir Edmund Wright's hospital, for the purpose of maintaining a poor man and his wife. Some fields were purchased with this money, now let at 27*l. 5s. per ann.* In consequence of some former arrears of this charity, and that of Mrs. Delves, which have been consolidated, the trustees have been enabled to purchase six dwelling-houses in Love-lane for the residence of poor men and their wives, and to allow to the pensioners of each house the annual sum of 5*l.* In the year 1794, Miss Walker gave the sum of 850*l.* to this parish, out of the interest of which 5*l. per ann.* each is to be paid to six old maids.

John and Thomas Thrush of London, wool-packers, founded a school at Nantwich in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the school-house, which is said to have been the hall of St. Mary's gild, was purchased of the queen<sup>p</sup>. There is an en-

\* Returns of charitable donations in that year to the house of commons.

<sup>p</sup> The sum of 50*l.* out of the estates of Mr. Ralph Wilbraham, given for charitable purposes in 1661, was appropriated to the grammar-school. Stephen Wilbraham Esq. gave 50*l.* to the grammar school: William Fithian 20*l.* Mary Maisterfon 20*l.* Thomas Burfcoe 5*l.* Thomas Wetenhall Esq. gave 2*l. per ann.* to this school.

dowment

ment of 9*l.* 14*s.* for which six boys are taught *gratis*. There is also a charity-school for forty boys, called the Blue-cap school, principally endowed by the benefactions of the Wilbraham family<sup>9</sup>. Mrs. Crewe gave 5*l.* *per ann.* to this school, and it has been augmented with some other small donations<sup>1</sup>.

The township of *Alvaſton* contains only three houſes; the manor was anciently in the Bromley family<sup>2</sup>, but no manor has been known to exiſt in this township for many years; the principal eſtate conſiſting of an old manſion and demefne, formerly the property of Richard Vernon gent. was ſold in 1788 by Charles Clowes Eſq. to the preſent poſſeſſors and occupiers, Mr. Wiliam and Mr. Thomas Foſter, and their deceaſed brother. In this township is the common called the *Croach*, or Beam-heath, which in the year 1285 was given by Richard Alvaſton, clerk, and others, “to the men of the whole community of the town of Wich-Malpank, to be for ever free common and paſture for all and all manner of cattle, the donors declaring that neither they, their heirs, or aſſigns, ſhould incloſe it, but that it ſhould for ever lie in common.” It being deemed, nevertheleſs, that it would be more for the benefit of the perſons intereſted in this donation that it ſhould be incloſed, an act of Parliament was, with their conſent, obtained for its incloſure in the year 1803. By this act a certain portion of the heath, not exceeding 200 acres, is to be in tillage; thirty acres are to be cropped with potatoes for the benefit of poor houſeholders; a certain part of the common is ſet apart annually as “an outlet, or boozy paſture;” the inhabitant houſeholders of Nantwich to have a certain number of leys in the common, and the profit of the land in tillage (after defraying the neceſſary expences), to be divided among the houſeholders entitled to leys. The land in tillage remains ſubject to tithes to the rector of Nantwich.

The township of *Leighton* lies about five miles N. E. by N. from Nantwich: the manor belonged anciently to a family which took its name from the township. At an early period William de Leighton, by a deed without date, conveyed it to Randle de Aldington or Oulton<sup>3</sup>. In or about the year 1328 Thomas Erdſwick acquired this eſtate by an exchange with the Oultons; his poſterity continued in poſſeſſion, and appear to have had an occaſional reſidence at Leighton, when Webb wrote his Itinerary of Cheſhire in the year 1622. In 1625, Richard

<sup>9</sup> Randle Wilbraham about the year 1721 gave the ſum of 163*l.* to the charity-school; Stephen Wilbraham Eſq. gave 500*l.*—Return of Charitable Donations. <sup>1</sup> Catherine Mauwaring gave 27*l.*; Jane Edgley 10*l.*; James Broomhall Eſq. in 1733 gave 64*l.* The ſum of 5*l.* *per ann.* is given to the maſter of this ſchool out of lands now producing about 62*l.* *per ann.* given in 1689 by Mr. William Hodgkins for the purpoſe of apprenticing children. <sup>2</sup> Eſch. Hen.V. and VI.

<sup>3</sup> Villare Ceftrienſe.

Erdswick appears to have sold it to Lawrence Eyton<sup>1</sup>. Henry Stych Esq. was lord of the manor in 1662<sup>2</sup>. It is now, by inheritance from the Werdens, the property of George Harley Drummond Esq.; the great tithes were purchased of the Wilbraham family by the late Mr. Drummond. Leighton-Hall is occupied as a farm-house.

The ancient family of Brooke or Del Brooke, from a younger branch of which the Brookes of Norton are descended, had a seat and demesne at Leighton as early as the reign of Edward I. On the failure of male issue in this branch about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, this estate was purchased by the Cholmondeleys<sup>3</sup>.

William Sneyd Esq. is the principal landholder in the township of *Nantwich-Willaston*; the corn-tithes of this township now belong (as before-mentioned) to the rector of Nantwich; the tithes of hay are the property of Miss Windfor of Shrewsbury, as heiress of the Wilbrahams of Rees-heath.

The manor of *Wolstan-Wood*, which was parcel of the barony of Wich-Malbank, passed by a female heir in the reign of Henry VI. from the Bulkeleyes of Wolstan-wood to the Brindleys<sup>4</sup>; it was purchased a few years ago of the Earl of Cholmondeley by Mrs. Ann Elcock of Poole. A considerable estate in this township, which formerly belonged to the Griffins, was lately purchased of the Rev. Sir Thomas Boughton Bart. by Thomas Wicksted Esq. of Nantwich. The tithes of this township belong to George Drummond Esq. having been alienated by the Wilbrahams with those of Leighton.

NESTON, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, is a small market town, nearly eleven miles N. W. from Chester. The market, which is merely for butchers' meat and other provisions, is held on Friday; there are three fairs, February 2, May 1, and September 29.<sup>5</sup>

The parish of Neston contains seven townships<sup>6</sup>, *Great-Neston*, *Little-Neston*, *Ledsham*, *Leighton*, *Nesse*, *Thornton-Hough*, and *Willaston*.

The manor of *Great-Neston* was at an earlier period in the family of Montalt; in the reign of Edward III. Robert de Montalt having no issue gave it to Queen

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestrieuse. part ii. p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>3</sup> King's Vale-Royal,

<sup>4</sup> Esch. 5 H. VI. <sup>5</sup> We do not find any charter for the market and fairs; they are probably of no great antiquity. Neston is not enumerated among the market-towns either by Leland or in Smith's Description of Cheshire in King's Vale-Royal. Among the records of the corporation of Chester is a petition to the king (without date) against the holding of a market or fairs at Neston.

<sup>6</sup> The parish is divided into four quarters, one of which comprises Great-Neston only; another, Leighton, Thornton, and Raby; a third Ledsham and Willaston; and the fourth, Little-Neston and Nesse.

Isabel,

Isabel, with remainder to John of Eltham, and to the king, who in the year 1337 granted it to William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury<sup>c</sup>. Having reverted to the crown by attainder, King Henry IV. gave it to Sir John Stanley<sup>d</sup>, whose descendant (one of the Earls of Derby) conveyed it to William Whitmore of Leighton; from the Whitmores it passed by female heirs to the Savages and Mostyns, and is now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart. The manor of Ashfield in Neston, which belongs to Sir Henry Poole Bart. was purchased by his ancestor Roger de Pull of the Duttons in 1317.

In the church-yard at Neston is the tomb of John Hancock, a farmer, who died December 4, 1775, at the age of 112<sup>e</sup>. The church of Neston was given to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh by Ralph de Montalt; the vicarage is now in the gift of the dean and chapter, who, under their first charter, were for a while possessed of the impropriation<sup>f</sup>. The great tithes of the townships of Leighton, Raby, and Thornton, now constitute part of the endowment of the vicarage; those of Ledsham, Nefse, and Willaston, belong to Sir Thomas S. M. Stanley Bart. and those of Great and Little-Neston to Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart.

The greater part of Park-gate, on the estuary of the Dee, from whence the packets sail to Ireland, is within this township<sup>g</sup>; it contains above 130 houses, and is frequented in the summer as a bathing place.

The township of *Little-Neston* lies a mile S. E. from Great-Neston: John Blount died seised of the manor in 1367, leaving several co-heirs<sup>h</sup>. The manor eventually became divided into five parts; in 1467 Roger Booth died seised of two parts in right of his wife Katherine, daughter and heir of Richard Hatton, and heiress also of John de Eulowe, which John married the heiress of Robert de Strangeways, one of the co-heirs of John Blount above-mentioned<sup>i</sup>; one of the parts probably had passed by purchase or inheritance from another of the co-heirs. The two parts above-mentioned have been for 200 years in the family of the present proprietor Thomas Cottingham Esq. of Little-Neston, whose ancestor purchased of Sir John Mordaunt of Oakley in Bedfordshire: the other three parts of the manor became vested at an early period, partly perhaps by inheritance from one of Blount's co-heirs, and partly by purchase, in the Troutbecks, from whom they have passed with other estates to the Earl of Shrewsbury.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.      <sup>d</sup> Pat. 1 Hen. IV. part. 8.      <sup>e</sup> We are informed that at the age of 104 he was in the habit of walking half a mile to a public house; his wife survived him twenty-four years, being at the time of her death in 1799 only seventy-three years of age, so that there must have been sixty-three years difference between their ages.      <sup>f</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.

<sup>g</sup> The remainder is in the township of Leighton.      <sup>h</sup> Esch. 41 Edw. III. in the exchequer at Chester.      <sup>i</sup> See Collins's Peerage, edit. 1768, Vol. vii. p. 70. Esch. 7 Edward IV. Esch. 6 Hen. V., and Esch. 8 Hen. V. in the Exchequer at Chester.

The hamlet of *Hargrave* in this township has passed with the manor of Little-Neston.

The township of *Ledsham* lies about six miles N. W. by N. from Chester: that of *Nesse*, a little more than a mile S. S. E. from Great-Neston: the manor of Ledsham was formerly in the Gerards<sup>b</sup>, that of *Nesse* for several generations in the Duttons<sup>c</sup>; about the middle of the 17th century they were both in the Masseys of Puddington<sup>k</sup>, from whom they have descended to the present proprietor Sir Thomas Massey Stanley Massey Bart. Ledsham-Hall is now a farm-house.

The manors of *Leighton*<sup>l</sup>, and *Thornton-Mayewe*<sup>m</sup>, or *Mayes*, now generally called *Thornton-Hough*, passed by successive female heirs from the Leightons to the Thorntons and Houghs<sup>n</sup>, who had a park at Thornton<sup>o</sup>. Alice daughter and heir of William Hough, brought these manors in marriage about the year 1579 to a younger branch of the Whitmores of Thurstafton, from whom they passed by female heirs, with Great-Neston, to the Savages and Mostyns; they are now the property of Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart. Leighton-hall has been taken down and a small farm-house built on the site; Thornton-Grange belongs to the Earl of Shrewsbury.

The township of *Raby* lies about two miles and a half N. E. from Great-Neston; the manor formerly belonged to the Troutbecks, and it is probable that they inherited it by the same title as the serjeancy of the Bridge-gate from the family of Raby; it now belongs to the Earl of Shrewsbury as representative of the Troutbecks.

The township of *Willaston* or *Wollaston* lies three miles E. from Great-Neston; the manor was at an early period in the Mainwarings, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Truffells and Veres. John Vere, Earl of Oxford, was seized of it in 1562; not long afterwards it was sold to the freeholders, whose successors are lords of the manor by turns: it is divided into twenty-one severalties, of which John Bennet Esq. of Willaston-Hall has four<sup>p</sup>; the Bennets have possessed an estate at Willaston considerably more than two centuries; the hall, now occupied by a farmer, was built by one of their ancestors in 1558, and was for several generations the residence of their family. This township in ancient times gave name to the hundred now called the hundred of Wirral.

<sup>b</sup> Esch. Hen. VI.

<sup>c</sup> Esch. Rich. II.—Hen. VI.

<sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>l</sup> *Leighton* lies a little to the N. N. E. of Park-gate.

<sup>m</sup> This township is two miles and

a half N. N. E. from Great-Neston.

<sup>n</sup> Richard Hough, temp. Edw. III. married Elen daughter and heir of Thornton, of Thornton-in-the-Hough, by whom he had Leighton and Thornton.

Villare Cestriense.

<sup>o</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

<sup>p</sup> The other principal land-owners

are Joseph Lyon Esq. of Neston; Arthur Heywood Esq. of Liverpool, and Mr. Thomas Ashbrook.

NORTHERN,

**NORTHEN, or NORTHENDEN**, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies about four miles west from Stockport; it comprises the township of *Northenden*, part of *Baguley*, and part of *Etbells*. The manor of Northenden, which had been in the Mainwarings from the time of the Conquest, passed by marriage to the Truffells<sup>1</sup>, about the reign of Edward II. It is now the property of Thomas William Tatton Esq., whose family has possessed it for several generations.

Withenshaw, in this parish, now the seat of Mr. Tatton, was acquired at an early period by his ancestor Robert Tatton, in marriage with Alice, daughter and heir of William de Withenshaw. The present possessor is younger brother of Wilbraham Egerton Esq.; he inherits under the will of his father, the late William Egerton Esq., who had assumed that name on succeeding to the estates of Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton. Withenshaw-Hall was garrisoned for the King in the civil war, and was taken for the Parliament after a long siege, on the 25th of February 1644, by Colonel Dukenfield, "there being then in the house only Mr. Tatton, some few gentlemen, and but a few soldiers, who had quarter for life."<sup>2</sup> "Captayn Adams, slayne at Withenshaw, on Sunday the 25th, was buried (at Stockport) the 27th day of February 1643-4."<sup>3</sup> Six skeletons were found not long ago in the garden at Withenshaw, lying by the side of each other.

There are several monuments and other memorials of the Tatton family in the Withenshaw chapel, adjoining the chancel of Northenden church: William Tatton Esq., who died in 1776, married the sister and sole heiress of Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton: after her husband's death she re-assumed the name of Egerton, in compliance with her brother's will; her son, the late William Egerton Esq. of Tatton, who assumed his mother's maiden name, died in 1806.

Kenworthy, in this township, now called Kennedy, became in the reign of Edward I. the property of Robert, a younger son of Sir Alan de Tatton, Lord of Tatton, by marriage with the heiress of Kenworthy<sup>4</sup>, the posterity of this Robert removed afterwards to Withenshaw, as before-mentioned. T. W. Tatton Esq. has still an estate in this hamlet, and there are two other estates which pay chief rents to him; one of these has been held for at least a hundred and fifty years by the family of Shelmerdine<sup>5</sup>. The church of Northenden was given by Hamo de

<sup>1</sup> Maud Mainwaring, who married Sir William Truffell, was daughter and heir of Sir Warren Mainwaring, who was living in the reign of Edw. II. and was grandson of Sir Ralph Mainwaring, justice of Chester. Smith's Collection of Pedigrees.

<sup>2</sup> Burghall's Diary printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 933.

<sup>3</sup> Stockport parish register.

<sup>4</sup> Documents in the possession of the Tatton family.

<sup>5</sup> See Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

Massey, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester; the dean and chapter are now patrons.

The manor of *EtcHELLS*<sup>c</sup>, partly in this parish, and partly in Stockport<sup>f</sup>, now the property of Wilbraham Egerton Esq., was purchased by his ancestor Robert Tatton Esq. about the middle of the sixteenth century; it was anciently in the Stockports, from whom it passed by female heirs to the Ardernes and Stanleys: on the attainder of Sir William Stanley it became vested in the crown, and after some temporary grants was sold by King Philip and Queen Mary<sup>g</sup>. The tenants of this manor are exempt from attendance at the hundred courts by a grant from King Henry VII. The history of *Baguley* has been given under Bowden.

OVER, in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Middlewich, is a small decayed market town, lying about five miles from Middlewich, and one hundred and sixty-eight miles from London. The market, which was held on Wednesday, has been disused nearly a century: it was granted by King Edward I. in the year 1280 to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal<sup>h</sup>, which, before the parish of Whitegate was taken out of it by act of Parliament, was within the limits of this parish. The same charter granted a fair to be held for three days, at the festival of the exaltation of the holy-crofs, commonly called Holy-rood-day; there are now two fairs, May 15, and Sept. 25.

The town, or as it is called in ancient records, the borough of Over, has been from time immemorial under the jurisdiction of a mayor, who is chosen annually in the following manner, at the court of the lord of the manor of Over, held in October; two juries are impannelled, one for the borough, called the grand jury, the other for the subordinate townships, called the county-jury; the grand jury return six persons inhabitants of the lordship of Over to the lord of the manor, one of whom at an adjourned court, held fourteen days afterwards, he nominates as mayor for the year ensuing. During his year of office, the mayor has the power and exercises all the functions of a justice of peace within the borough and lordship, including the parishes of Over and Whitegate, and he has a sworn serjeant, who executes all processes within his jurisdiction: when out of office he assumes the title of alderman, but is no longer vested with any powers.

<sup>c</sup> *EtcHELLS* lies four miles W. S. W. from Stockport.

<sup>f</sup> Separate overseers are appointed for that part which is in the parish of Northenden, and that which is in the parish of Stockport, and separate assessments are made for the relief of the poor.

<sup>g</sup> The purchase of this and other estates was made jointly by Sir Edward Fitton and Robert Tatton Esq.; on a division, *EtcHELLS* became the property of the latter. The temporary grants were the same with those of Nether-Alderley. See p. 480.

<sup>h</sup> Cart. 9 Edw. 1.

The fairs above-mentioned are proclaimed in the name, and in the presence of the mayor by the steward of the lord of the manor.

The parish of Over comprises the townships of *Oulton-Lowe*, *Swanlow*, and *Wetenhall*, and part of the township of *Over*<sup>1</sup>: the manor of Over, which had been parcel of the possessions the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal, was granted by King Henry VIII. in the year 1546 to Sir Thomas Holcroft<sup>k</sup>, it is now the property of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal M. P., whose ancestor of the same name purchased it of the Perhall, or Peshall family, about the middle of the 17th century<sup>l</sup>. Woodford-Hall and demesne, in the township of Over, which had been before in the Starkeys<sup>m</sup>, was purchased of the Maistersons of Nantwich, by Sir John Booth, youngest son of Sir George Booth<sup>n</sup>, the first baronet of Dunham-Massey; his son, George Booth Esq., the translator of Diodorus Siculus, left Woodford-Hall to his daughter Catherine, who married James Howard, grandson of the Earl of Berkshire: the Woodford-Hall estate is now the property of Mr. Richard Dutton of Waverton, by purchase from the Prescots, who bought it of one of Mr. Howard's co-heiresses. Woodford-Hall has been taken down and a farm-house built on the site.

In the parish church, which stands about half a mile east of the town, is the monument of Hugh Starkey gentleman-usher to King Henry VIII., who re-built the church of Over, in the year 1543, and died in 1555<sup>o</sup>; his portrait, painted on glass, with his arms and initials, is to be seen in good preservation, in a window of the south aisle; in the same aisle is the tomb of his brother James, who married a daughter of Sir Randle Brereton of Malpas. The church of Over belonged to the nunnery of St. Mary at Chester<sup>p</sup>. The bishop is now impropiator and patron of the vicarage: Lord Harwood is lessee of the great tithes, under the bishop. In the year 1689, Mrs. Elizabeth Venables, and her son Thomas Lee Esq., founded a free grammar-school at Darnhall, in the adjoining parish of Whitegate, for children of the parishes of Over and Whitegate, and the township of Weever, and endowed it with lands, in the parish of Tattenhall, now let at 53*l.* per ann. The school was removed into this parish near the church in the year 1803.

In the township of Over is Winsford-bridge, over the Weever, between the parishes of Over and Davenham. In consequence of the extension of the salt trade,

<sup>1</sup> The remainder is in the parish of Whitegate.

<sup>k</sup> Records in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>l</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>m</sup> 38 Eliz. Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>n</sup> Harl.

MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>o</sup> The date which was left a blank on the monument has never been supplied.

<sup>p</sup> See Tanner's Notitia. We cannot account for the expression in the *Magna Britannia* of 1720, that Over is remarkable for a church that is *lawless*; we do not find that it was ever exempt from the bishop's jurisdiction, that it had the privilege of sanctuary, or any other remarkable privileges or immunities.

several houses have been built on each side of the bridge, principally in Over parish: an annual fair is held on the Davenham side of the bridge on the 8th of May, and of late years there has also been, on the Davenham side, a market for provisions on Saturday: there are brine-pits in this neighbourhood on both sides of the Weever.

The manor of *Oulton-Lowe* belonged at an early period to the family of Aldington or Oulton, from whom it passed by a female heir to the Starkeys<sup>†</sup>, about the reign of Richard II. The Egertons purchased it about a century ago, and it is now the property of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton in Little-Budworth. Darley-Hall in this township, the ancient seat of the Starkeys, was taken down by the late Mr. Egerton: a farm-house has been built on the outside of the moat.

The township of *Swanlow* is within the jurisdiction of the mayor of Over: The principal landed property belongs to Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal.

The township of *Wetenhall*, or *Wettenhall*, lies nearly seven miles N. N. W. from Nantwich: the manor was from a very early period the inheritance of the Wetenhalls<sup>‡</sup>, whose co-heiresses brought it in moieties about the beginning of the fifteenth century to the Manleys and Bostocks<sup>§</sup>. Randle Brereton of Eccleston, who died in the year 1537, was seized of one moiety of Wetenhall, which he had purchased of the Manleys; the Breretons afterwards became possessed of the whole, and had a seat at Wetenhall, which estate, about the middle of the seventeenth century, was sold by John Brereton Esq. to Roger Wilbraham of Dorford-Hall near Acton<sup>¶</sup>: it is now the property of Henry Tomkinson Esq. of the same place, by purchase from the Wilbrahams. Wetenhall-Hall is now a farm-house, near which is a chapel of ease, situated about two miles from the parish church. It has a small endowment, and has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: the minister is appointed by the vicar of Over.

<sup>†</sup> Of this family were Sir Humphry Starkey lord-chief-baron of the exchequer in the reign of Richard III., and Ralph Starkey of London, merchant, who made Heraldic Collections for Cheshire, in the reign of James I. Dr. Gower in his Sketch of the materials for a history of Cheshire, mentions one of the Stretton family, as a contemporary and name-fake, a great collector of the antiquities of Cheshire, whose papers were seized by order of King James I., on suspicion of his being concerned in some practices inimical to the state, and he gives a quotation from an historical poem, signed *Infortunio*, which he supposes to be written by him, but has by some been conjectured to be Spenser's. A copy of it, Dr. Gower says, is extant in Starkey's hand-writing, with a variety of alterations and additions. We can find no Ralph Starkey in the pedigrees of the Stretton family about this time, and cannot but suppose that the whole applies to the same person, Ralph Starkey, merchant of London, second son of John Starkey Esq. of Darley-Hall in Oulton, who died in 1611.

<sup>‡</sup> Adam de Wetenhall of this family was made keeper of Carnarvon-castle in 1289. Rot. Wall. in Turr. Lond. 18 Edw. I.

<sup>§</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>¶</sup> Ibid.

OVER-CHURCH, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies seven miles north from Neston, and seventeen north-west from Chester: it contains only one township, called *Upton*, which had formerly a weekly market, not discontinued in 1662<sup>1</sup>; and two fairs. The manor of Upton was held in the reign of Edw. I. by the Ardernes, under the family of Praers<sup>2</sup>: in or about the year 1310, Sir John Arderne gave it in marriage with his daughter Maud, to John de Warwick, whose daughter and heir brought it to the Bolds<sup>3</sup>. Upton continued in this family till about the early part of the seventeenth century, when it was sold to Robert Davies, and of him purchased by the Stanleys Earls of Derby<sup>4</sup>: it was afterwards in the Cunliffes, from whom it passed by sale to the Clarkes, and from the latter to John Webster Esq. of Poulton in Wallasey, the present proprietor. The ancient hall, which was the seat of the Bolds, has long ago been taken down.

The parish-church, called Over-church, stands alone, about half a mile from the town of Upton; the rectory belonged formerly to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, and was granted to the dean and chapter, but they soon afterwards lost it, with their other estates<sup>5</sup>. The Rev. Simson Jackson is now impropiator of the tithes, and patron of the curacy.

The parish of PLEMONDSTALL, or PLEMSTALL, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, comprises four townships; *Hoole*, *Picton*, *Bridge-Trafford*, and *Mickle-Trafford*; the last-mentioned township, in which the church is situated, lies on the Frodsham road, about three miles N. E. from Chester: the manor appears to have been formerly in the Fitz-Alans Earls of Arundel<sup>6</sup>; it now belongs to the Earl of Shrewsbury, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. Trafford-Hall in this township, of which there are no remains, belonged to the Trafford family, and afterwards to the Savages<sup>7</sup>.

In the parish church of Plemstall<sup>8</sup>, are some monuments of the Hurlestone family, and that of Alice, sole heiress of Thomas Trafford Esq.<sup>9</sup>, who married first John Barnston Esq. of Churton, and afterwards the Hon. John Savage,

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010. Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>3</sup> Pedigrees and records in the

<sup>4</sup> Villare Cestriense. The manor is said to have been purchased by William Earl of Derby, and the hall by Charles Earl of Derby, his grandson.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 573 in the notes.

<sup>6</sup> The Fitz-Alans appear to have been possessed of it before 23 Henry III. See Dugdale's Baronage, I. 315. The Earl of Arundel died seized of it 3 Henry V. Esch.

<sup>7</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>8</sup> The church stands at a considerable distance from the village of *Mickle-Trafford*, and is about four miles and a half N. E. from Chester.

<sup>9</sup> She died in 1666.

by whom she was mother of John Earl Rivers. The church of Plemstall belonged to the abbot and convent of Chester; the impropriation and advowson of the vicarage having passed through several hands after the dissolution, were purchased in the seventeenth century by bishop Bridgman, in whose descendant the right honourable Lord Bradford they are now vested. There is a school-house in this township erected by contribution, rather more than a century ago: a considerable part of the endowment, which was given in money, having been lost, there remains now only *3l. per ann.*

The township of *Bridge-Trafford* lies four miles and a half from Chester, on the Frodsham road; the manor belongs to the dean and chapter of Chester. *Mardley-Hall*, (now called *Morley-Hall*;) in this township, was a seat of the Traffords, and afterwards of the Savages; it is now a farm-house, which, with its demesne, is held on lease under the Earl of Cholmondeley, by Mrs. Fairclough of Knutsford. At one of the Traffords a garrison was placed by Sir William Brereton, during the siege of Chester.

The township of *Hoole* lies two miles N. E. from Chester; the manor was at an early period in a family of that name, afterwards in the Troutbecks, from whom it descended with several other Cheshire manors, to the present Earl of Shrewsbury. *Hoole-Lodge*, the manor-house, is occupied by Charles Hamilton Esq. *Hoole-old-hall*, now a farm-house, is said to have been the abbot of Chester's grange: it is certain that the abbot had an estate here, which he purchased of John de Hoole, Lord of Hoole, in the reign of Edward II.; but it may be observed that *Hoole-old-hall*, now the property of Dr. Peplow Ward, was bought of Sir William Bunbury, whose ancestor David de Bunbury purchased of the Calveleys certain lands, which had been the property of John de Hoole above-mentioned<sup>f</sup>. Webb in his Itinerary, written in the year 1662, speaks of the pleasant and sweet seat of Sir Henry Bunbury at Hoole<sup>g</sup>. There are also in this township two modern mansions, called *Hoole-Hall*, and *Hoole-house*, the former is the property and residence of Mr. John Oliver, the latter is the property of Mr. Hamilton, and in the occupation of Brigadier-General Broughton.

*Hoole-heath* in this township was one of the waste places appointed in ancient times as sanctuaries for such fugitive strangers as sought protection from the Earls of Chester<sup>h</sup> in the time of war. An inquisition bearing date 13 Edw. III. states that during the time of war with Wales, all persons being in the peace of the King of England and the Earl of Chester were wont to have refuge and

<sup>d</sup> Randal Holme's Narrative of the Siege. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>f</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 59, 60.

<sup>g</sup> See p. 299, 300.

receipt on Hoole-heath, with their goods, necessaries, and beasts, for a year and a day<sup>1</sup>.

The township of *Picton* lies nearly five miles N. N. E. from Chester; the manor was held at the time of the Domesday survey by Richard de Vernon, whose descendants appear to have possessed a moiety of it for several generations<sup>k</sup>. At the time of the dissolution the whole was vested in the abbot and convent of Chester, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth became the property of the Hurlestons<sup>l</sup>, from whom it has descended in the same manner as Croughton<sup>m</sup>, to William Leche Esq. of Carden, the present proprietor.

PRESTBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, is the most extensive parish in the county, containing in the whole thirty-two townships, nine of which are in the chapelry of Macclesfield: the others are *Prestbury*, *Adlington*, *Birtles*, *Bollington*, *Bosley*, *Butley*, *Capesthorpe*, *Chelford*, *Falibroom*, *Henbury*, *Lyme-Handley*, *Marton*, *Mottram-Andrew*, *Newton*, *Poynton*, *North-Rode*, *Siddington*, *Tytherington*, *Upton*, *Old-Withington*, *Lower-Withington*, *Woodford*, and *Worth*.

*Prestbury* lies nearly three miles N. N. W. from Macclesfield: the manor, rectory, and advowson of the vicarage formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester: they were held in fee-farm of the dean and chapter by the Leghs of Adlington, as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth<sup>n</sup>, and are now the property of Richard Cross Legh Esq. of that place. *Prestbury-Hall* is in the occupation of Thomas Hope Esq.

In the parish church are memorials for the families of Warren of Poynton<sup>o</sup>; Booth of Mottram-Andrew, Worth of Tytherington<sup>p</sup>, Swettenham of Swettenham, and Legh of Adlington: there is a chapel for the burial of the Leghs in the north-aisle; a monument of an older date, with a cross flory for one of that family, (Reginald Legh Esq., who died in 1482) is in the chancel: Bishop Gastrell mentions the monument of Robert Downes Esq., who died in

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2057. f. 123.

<sup>k</sup> Esch. Hen. IV. & V. at Chester.

<sup>l</sup> Most probably it was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester, and acquired with the rest of their estates by Sir Richard Cotton, as described in p. 573 in the notes.

<sup>m</sup> See p. 617.

<sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2071. f. 162. See also p. 573 of this volume.

<sup>o</sup> On the north wall of the chancel is a figure (engraved on the stone) of Sir Edward Warren, who died in 1558.

<sup>p</sup> There is a flat-stone with figures engraved on it, now placed against the wall of the south-aisle, in memory of Jasper Worth Esq., who died in 1572, and his lady.

1495<sup>b</sup>. In the church-yard was formerly the following inscription upon a grave-stone:

“ Those goods I had whilst I did live,  
Unto four monkes I freely give  
To eate, and drinke, and make good cheere,  
And keep my *obite* oncè a yeare.”<sup>c</sup>

In the church-yard, at some distance from the church, is an ancient chapel of Saxon architecture<sup>d</sup>, which being in a very ruinous state, was in 1747 repaired, by Sir William Meredith Bart. of Henbury, and made a burial-place for his family; there is a memorial in it for his son, Amos Meredith Esq., who died in 1745.

A school-house was built at Prestbury in 1720, chiefly at the expence of John Legh Esq. of Adlington, whose heirs have had the nomination of the master. Mrs. Anne Whitaker endowed it with the interest of 100*l.* for teaching ten poor children of this township, “ from the primer to the Bible<sup>e</sup>.”

The township of *Adlington* lies five miles N. by W. from Macclesfield: the manor belonged at an early period to the family of De Coronâ, the heiress of which brought it in the early part of the fourteenth century, through the Baguleys to the Leghs<sup>f</sup>. Robert Legh, the first of that family who settled at Adlington, was a younger son of John Legh, the first of the name who possessed Booths; which John was son of William Venables, by Agnes, heiress of Richard Legh of West-Hall in High-Legh, and younger brother (of the half-blood) of Thomas Legh, immediate ancestor of the present Egerton Leigh<sup>g</sup> Esq. of West-Hall. On the death of the late Charles Legh Esq. of Adlington in 1781, this ancient branch of the Legh family became extinct in the male line: after the death of his widow in 1806<sup>h</sup>, Adlington devolved, pursuant to the late Mr. Legh's will to his cousin, Richard Cross Esq., who has taken the name of Legh in addition to his own, and resides at Adlington-Hall. This hall having been garrisoned for the King during the civil war, was surrendered on the 14th of February 1645, after a fortnight's siege: “ a younger son of Mr. Legh's, and one hundred and fifty soldiers had all fair quarter and leave to depart, leaving seven

<sup>a</sup> Notit. Cest.

<sup>b</sup> Dugdale's Visitation of Cheshire.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 438, 439.

<sup>d</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notit. Cest.

<sup>e</sup> It was entailed on Edw. III. on John Legh and his wife Ellen, after the death of Thomas de Corona: this Ellen was daughter of William de Baguley, and grand-daughter of Thomas de Corona.

<sup>f</sup> So the West-Hall family spell their name.

<sup>g</sup> Then the wife of ——— Rowlls Esq.

hundred

Hundred arms, and fifteen barrels of powder<sup>a</sup>.” Near Adlington-Hall is a domestic chapel, the minister of which is appointed by the family of Legh.

The township of *Birtles* lies two miles and a half W. by N. from Macclesfield; *Bollington* two miles and a half N. by E. The land-owners in both these townships are copy-holders under the crown. *Birtles-Hall* and demesne belonged for many generations to the ancient family of *Birtles* or *Birchels*, descended from *John*, a younger son of *Adam de Astul* or *Astle*, who took the name of *Birchels* upon settling on an estate in this township, granted to him about the year 1324 by *Randal de Rodyerth*, then lord paramount of the manor<sup>x</sup>. A co-heiress<sup>y</sup> of the elder branch of the *Birtles* family<sup>z</sup>, brought *Birtles-Hall* about the middle of the seventeenth century to the *Swettenhams* of *Swettenham*, of whom it was purchased by the *Hibbert* family. *Birtles-Hall*, a modern mansion, is the residence of *Robert Hibbert Esq.*, the present proprietor. In the township of *Bollington* are some cotton-works, collieries, and a water-mill for grinding bark.

The township of *Boseley*, formerly called *Besley*, and *Lea*, or *Lec-Bosley*, lies nearly five miles E. N. E. from Congleton; the manor was antiently in the family of *Montalt*, the last of which sold the reversion of all his lands to King *Edward III.* The King, by his charter bearing date 1337, gave it to *William*, Earl of *Salisbury*. Having reverted to the crown by forfeiture, it was granted to the *Stanleys*, in which family it continued till about the year 1597, when the Earl of *Derby* sold it to *Sir Edward Fitton*<sup>2</sup>: it has since passed with *Gawsworth*, and is now the property of the Earl of *Harrington*. *Boseley*, which is situated on the borders of *Staffordshire*, six miles from the parish-church, has a chapel of ease, with a small endowment: the minister is appointed by the vicar of *Prestbury*. In this township are three mills, formerly used as brass-battery mills, and another formerly used for rolling and hammering copper: these mills have been lately advertised for sale.

The township of *Butley* or *Butleigh* lies three miles N. by W. from Macclesfield; the manor in the reign of *Henry III.*, and probably at an earlier period, belonged to the *Pigots*<sup>b</sup>: it is now the property of *Richard Cross Legh Esq.* of *Adlington*, having been bought at several times in portions, by his ancestors the

<sup>a</sup> *Burghall's Diary—History of Cheshire*, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 932.

<sup>x</sup> From the information of *David Browne Esq.* of *Macclesfield*.  
 married into the family of *Kinsey*.

<sup>y</sup> The other co-heiress remained in the neighbourhood, and became extinct by the death of *Thomas Birtles Esq.*, who left an only daughter about the middle of the last century.

<sup>z</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>b</sup> *Ibid.*

Leghs,

Leghs, of persons who had purchased of the Pigots, or the representatives of that family <sup>c</sup>. Butley-Hall, which formerly belonged to the Davenports, and afterwards to the family of Hobson <sup>d</sup>, is now the property of the Rev. John Rowlls Browne vicar of Prestbury. Foxwist-Hall in this township, for several generations the seat of the ancient family of Duncalfe, has been for nearly two centuries in the Leghs of Adlington <sup>e</sup>: it is at present occupied by a cottager: the lands now form part of Adlington-park. Willet-Hall in this township belonged to the Willets, from whom it passed by successive female heirs to the Mottersheds and Malbons <sup>f</sup>: it is now the property of Lawrence Wright Esq. having been purchased by his father of Peter Brooke Esq. of Mere. Thomas Newton, a learned writer of the sixteenth century, author of a history of the Saracens, eminent as a Latin poet, editor and joint translator of Seneca's Tragedies, was a native of Butley; in the early part of his life he practised physic, and kept a school at Macclesfield; he was afterwards rector of Little-Ilford in Essex, where he died in 1607 <sup>g</sup>.

The township of *Capesthorne*, which lies five miles W. by S. from Macclesfield, gave name to a family which possessed the manor for several generations: Sarah, sole heiress of Randal de Capesthorne, brought it in marriage in or about the reign of Edward III. to John Le Ward <sup>h</sup>: it is now the property of Davies Davenport Esq. one of the knights of the shire, his grandfather having married the daughter and only child of John Ward Esq. the last heir male of that family, who died in the year 1748 <sup>i</sup>. Capesthorne chapel was built by John Ward Esq. above-mentioned, and endowed by him with the tithes of the township; it has since been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty: Mr. Davenport appoints the minister.

The township of *Chelford* lies nearly seven miles W. from Macclesfield: the manor was given in 1264 by Robert Pigot to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, on condition of their finding a chaplain to say mass in Chelford chapel three days in the week, and the other four days at St. Michael's altar in Prestbury church: not many years after the dissolution it became the property of Henry Mainwaring Esq. <sup>k</sup> of Carincham, and now belongs to Sir Henry Mainwaring Mainwaring Bart. Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle has an estate in Chelford, purchased by his father of the representatives of the family of Smallwood, which was for several generations settled in that township. *Astle*, a

<sup>c</sup> A part of the manor is stated to have remained in the male line of the Pigots as late as 1662. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Sir Urian Legh died seized of it 3 Car. I.

<sup>f</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>g</sup> Biograph. Dramat. & Ant. Wood.

<sup>h</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>i</sup> See the account of Monk's-heath in Alderley, p. 482.

<sup>k</sup> See p. 573 in the notes.

hamlet

hamlet of Chelford, the property and feat of Thomas Parker Esq. above-mentioned, was acquired by his ancestor in 1650, in marriage with the heiress of Snelfon. It appears by the grant of the manor to the abbey of St. Werburgh, that there was a chapel in Chelford as early as the year 1267; in the present chapel, which was built on a new site, and consecrated in 1776, are some memorials for the family of Robert Salusbury Cotton Brooke Esq.<sup>1</sup>, who resides in this township. Chelford-chapel, which has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, is in the patronage of Thomas Parker Esq. A school-house was built by the late Mr. Parker, and a school endowed with nearly 20*l.* per ann. for the poor children of this township.

The manor of *Fallingbroome* or *Fallibroom* was given by Hugh Kevelioc Earl of Chester in 1232, to Sir Richard Fitton, from whose family it passed by successive female heirs to those of Venables and Booth: it was sold in parcels by the Booths<sup>m</sup>, and no manerial rights are now exercised.

The township of *Henbury* lies two miles W. S. W. from Macclesfield; the manor of *Henbury-cum-Pexall* belonged anciently to the Mainwarings, from whom it passed by marriage to the Truffells: about the latter end of the fourteenth century<sup>n</sup> it became the property of the Davenports. Sir Foulke Lucy, who married the heiress of this branch of that ancient family, was lord of the manor of Henbury in 1662<sup>o</sup>; he afterwards sold it to Sir William Meredith Bart. whose descendant, of the same name, conveyed it by sale in or about the year 1779 to John Bower Jodrell Esq. father of Francis Jodrell Esq. the present proprietor, who resides at Henbury-Hall.

The township of *Lyme* or *Lyme-Handley*, lies seven miles N. E. by N. from Macclesfield; the manor was given by King Richard II. to Margaret wife of Piers Legh<sup>p</sup>, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Daniers of Bradley, Knight. This brave knight had taken the chamberlain Tankerville prisoner at the battle of Cressy, and relieved the banner of the Black Prince, for which service the prince granted him an annuity of 40 marks out of the manor of Frodsham, to him and

<sup>1</sup> A branch of the family of Brooke has resided for many years in this township: Samuel Brooke Esq. who died without issue in 1772, devised his estates, in default of issue from his sister Catherine, to the eldest son of Thomas Brooke, dean of Chester, with remainder to the dean's second son, R. S. C. Brooke Esq. the present possessor. <sup>m</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>n</sup> Hugh Davenport Esq. held the manor of Henbury under the Truffell family, temp. Henry IV. Villare Cestriense. This Hugh was son of Thomas Davenport, the first of the family who settled at Henbury. See p. 357. <sup>o</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010. <sup>p</sup> Her first husband was Sir John Savage.

his

his heirs till lands of 20*l.* *per ann.* should be settled on them<sup>f</sup>. This heroic action of Sir Thomas Daniers has been erroneously ascribed to Piers Legh, his son-in-law, who was beheaded at Chester in 1399 for his attachment to King Richard II. and lies buried in a chapel belonging to the Leghs at Macclesfield, where the following lines are inscribed on a tablet to his memory, and that of his son Sir Piers, who was slain at the battle of Agincourt:

“ Here lyeth the bodie of Perkin a Legh,  
That for King Richard the dethe did die,  
Betrayed for righteoufnesse;  
And the bones of S<sup>r</sup> Peers his sonne,  
That with King Henry the Fifth did wonne  
In Paris.”

This epitaph was restored in the year 1620, by Sir Peter Legh, who rebuilt the chapel as appears by another inscription<sup>g</sup>, in which the circumstance of Lyme being given to Piers Legh for *his own* service at the battle of Cressy<sup>h</sup>, is related from an erroneous family tradition. Piers Legh who became possessed of Lyme in consequence of the grant made to his wife, was a younger son of Robert Legh, the first of that family who settled at Adlington<sup>i</sup>. The Leghs continued at Lyme in uninterrupted male succession till the death of the late Thomas Peter Legh Esq. in 1797, when this and other estates passed by his bequest to his natural son Thomas Legh the present proprietor, as yet a minor.

Lyme-Hall, the seat of the Leghs, is a magnificent quadrangular mansion, of a white grit-stone; the south and west fronts of which are built in the Palladian style, from designs of Leoni. It is probable that the more ancient part of the

<sup>f</sup> A descendant of Piers Legh having been disturbed in the possession of this manor by the crown in the reign of Henry VI. presented a petition to Edward Prince of Wales, stating the circumstances of the grant. A copy of the petition is in Woodnoth's Collections, p. 67. In this petition Thomas Daniers is called Esquire, but in numerous other records, Sir Thomas Daniers Knt.

<sup>g</sup> “This Perkin served King Edward III. and the Black Prince his sonne in all their warres in France, and was at the battle of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service, and after their deaths served King Richard the Second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him and beheaded at Chester by King Henrie the Fourth, and the said Sir Peers his son served King Henrie the Fifth, and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In their memory Sir Peter Legh of Lyme Knt. descended from them, finding the saide elde verses written upon a stone in this chappell, did re-edifie this place A. D. 1620.”

<sup>h</sup> Had there been no evidence to the contrary the circumstance would have been highly improbable, from the length of time which elapsed between the battle of Cressy (1346) and the execution of Piers Legh in 1399.

<sup>i</sup> See p. 359.

building

building was erected by Sir Peter Legh about the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the drawing-room remains in its ancient state, except that the transom-windows which appear in the old views of the house have been removed: the wainscot is enriched with niches, pannels, &c. the ceiling is much ornamented; the chimney-piece, which is of the Ionic order, has the arms of England with the lion and dragon: in this room are portraits of James Earl of Derby, who was beheaded at Bolton, and his lady; Admiral Piers Legh, by Kneller; and others of the Legh family. A gallery in the upper part of the house, on the east side, is part also of the old mansion, and retains its original form; in this gallery, which is one hundred and twenty-four feet in length, are portraits of Dr. John Hewitt, who was beheaded in 1658; Sir Peter Legh, knight, and others. The capitals of the Corinthian pillars, which support the grand stair-case, those of the pilasters in the best dining-room, and some ornaments of flowers in the same room, are by Gibbons. On the north side is a chapel of the Ionic order. In the great hall, over the fire-place, is the portrait of a venerable old man, who was seventy years keeper of the park; in the year 1705, being then in his hundred and second year, he is said to have hunted a buck during a chace of nearly six hours.

In Lyme-park, which contains about 1000 Cheshire acres, is a herd of upwards of twenty wild cattle, of the same sort as those in the Earl of Tankerville's park at Chillingham in Northumberland, chiefly white, with red ears<sup>1</sup>. They have been in the park beyond the memory of any one now living; and as there is no account of when they were originally placed there, the tradition is, that they are indigenous. In hot weather these cattle usually herd on the hills and high-grounds, and in winter in the woody parts of the park; in severe weather they are fed with hay, for which, before the hollies, with which the park abounded, were cut down, holly-branches were substituted. Two of the cows are generally shot yearly for beef. A very remarkable custom of driving the red-deer, which has not been practised in any other park, either in England or abroad, was established about a century ago at Lyme-park, by the old park-keeper above-mentioned; it was his custom in the months of May and June, when their horns were tender, to go on horse-back with a rod in his hand, round the hills of this extensive park, and having collected the deer, to drive them before him like a herd of common horned cattle, sometimes even opening a gate for them to pass through. When they came to a place before the hall, called the *Deer-clod*, they would stand in a collected body as long as the spectators thought fit; the young ones following their dams, and the old stags rising one against another and

<sup>1</sup> There are some cows of this description at Vale-Royal, most probably of the same breed, in a domesticated state.

combating with their fore-feet, not daring at that season of the year to make use of their horns. At the command of the keeper they would then move forwards to a large piece of water, called the Horfe-pool, and swim through the whole length of it, after which they were allowed to disperse. There is a print of this custom of driving the deer in Lyme-park by Vivares, from a painting by Smith (1745). The driving of the deer is now seldom practised, when it is, it takes place in the month of July or August<sup>1</sup>.

The township of *Marion* lies nearly four miles N. by W. from Congleton, on the road to Knutsford: a moiety of the manor was acquired by Richard Davenport, ancestor of Davies Davenport Esq. M. P., the present proprietor, by marriage with Amabel daughter of Gilbert Venables, Baron of Kinderton<sup>2</sup>, and great granddaughter of Gilbert, to whom that barony was given by Hugh Lupus. At a subsequent period, the Davenport family became possessed of the other moiety<sup>3</sup>, which in the reign of Henry III. had belonged to the Stockports. Marion-Hall, an ancient timber-mansion, which was formerly a seat of the Davenports, is occupied by a farmer. In this township is a chapel of ease, situated by the side of the great road from London to Manchester, six miles from Prestbury church. In the adjoining cemetery are two monuments, with the effigies of knights in armour, being intended to represent Sir John Davenport, who built Marion chapel about the year 1343<sup>m</sup>, and his son Sir Urian<sup>n</sup>. This chapel, which is parochial, has an endowment of little more than 30*l.* *per ann.*; Mr. Davenport is patron: part of Lower-Withington is in the chapelry of Marion.

The township of *Mottram-Andrew* lies five miles N. N. W. from Macclesfield: the manor, which had been at an early period in the family of Mottram, passed in marriage with Agnes, daughter and heir of Adam de Mottram, to David Calveley, whose son Sir Hugh Calveley the younger, died seized of it in 1393<sup>o</sup>; Agnes Mottram appears to have married to her second husband, Roger de Trumpington<sup>p</sup>. A younger branch of the Mottrams continued the male line, and resided in this township as late as the year 1662<sup>q</sup>. The manor of Mottram-Andrew was vested in the representatives of Sir George Calveley, when Webb wrote his Itinerary of Cheshire in 1622<sup>r</sup>; not long afterwards it appears to have

<sup>1</sup> For the particulars of this curious custom we are indebted to Holland Watson Esq. of Congleton.

<sup>2</sup> Gilbert de Venables became possessed of it by marriage with Margaret, daughter of Walter Fitz-Wulfrid.—Woodnoth's Collections, f. 16.

<sup>3</sup> They were possessed of the whole before the year 1623. — Villare Cestriense.

<sup>m</sup> Bishop Gaftrell's Notitia Cestriensis. <sup>n</sup> Sometimes written Vivian: this name occurs also frequently in the families of St. Pierre and Brereton; in the more ancient pedigrees it is generally written Urian. <sup>o</sup> Esch. 17 Rich. II. at Chester. <sup>p</sup> Records at Chester 39 Edw. III.

<sup>q</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>r</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 90.

belonged to a younger branch of the Booths<sup>1</sup>, ancestors of the late Rev. Sir George Booth Bart. After an intermediate alienation to Richard Crook Esq. it passed by purchase to the father of Lawrence Wright Esq. the present proprietor, who resides at the hall. The Higher-house and the Lower-house in this township belonged about the middle of the 17th century to two branches of the family of Mottershead<sup>2</sup>; both of which are supposed to have been long extinct: the houses are now the property of Lawrence Wright Esq. Lea-Hall, which belonged at the same period to a branch of the Masseys<sup>3</sup>, is now the property of Thomas Mather Esq. who married one of the daughters and co-heirs of the Rev. William Brocklehurst: the lands which formerly pertained to it are still in the Massey family; Mr. Edmund Massey of Mottram-Andrew being the present proprietor.

The manor of *Newton*, which seems to be an appendage of Butley, is the property of R. C. Legh Esq. of Adlington: in this township was formerly a chapel of ease<sup>4</sup>.

The township of *Poynton*, lies about four miles and a half S. S. E. from Stockport; the manor belonged in ancient times to the family of Stockport, from which it passed by successive female heirs to the Etons and Warrens. On the death of Isabel Eton in the year 1369, John Warren son of Edward, who had married Cecilia, daughter of Sir Nicholas Eton, came into possession of Poynton, which continued to be the property and seat of his descendants till the death of the late Sir George Warren K. B. Poynton is now the property and occasional residence of Lord Viscount Bulkeley, who married Sir George's only daughter and heir. The hall, which had been built by Sir Edward Warren in the reign of Edward VI., was taken down and the present mansion erected by the late Sir George Warren.

There has been a chapel of ease in this township ever since the year 1312, but it has no endowment; the lord of the manor appoints the minister; the present chapel was built on a new site and consecrated in 1789: the chapelry of Poynton comprises the townships of Poynton and Worth. A school-house was built at Poynton by subscription in 1703, but the school has not been endowed. In this township are some valuable collieries.

The township of *North-Rode* lies about three miles and a half N. E. from Congleton; the manor was anciently in the Mainwarings, from whom it passed by successive female heirs to the Truffells and the Veres, Earls of Oxford: it was

<sup>1</sup> It appears by the parish register that the Booths resided at Mottram-Andrew from 1636 to 1738.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

It had a chapel-warden in 1672, but was in ruins before 1722.

purchased of the latter by Sir Christopher Hatton, and having since passed by the same title as Barthomley, is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Crewe.

The township of *Siddington* lies somewhat more than five miles N. by W. from Congleton. Estates in this township appear to have belonged in the 14th century to the families of Loges and Siddington; from the latter certain lands passed by heirs female in the reigns of Henry IV. and Edward IV. to the Cottons and Fittons<sup>2</sup>; this estate having passed with Gawsworth to Lady Mohun as before described<sup>3</sup>, and having been purchased of her by the Wards of Capelthorne, is now by inheritance from that family the property of Davies Davenport Esq. M. P. In this township, which is situated five miles from the parish-church, is a chapel of ease, in the patronage of Mr. Davenport: a licence to baptize and bury at Siddington was granted in 1721. There is a school at Siddington endowed by Mr. Fowden in 1712, with 8*l.* *per ann.*; the bishop has the nomination of the master<sup>4</sup>. In this township is Thornycroft-hall, which has belonged for many generations to the ancient family of Thornycroft, and is now the seat of Edward Thornycroft Esq, a younger branch of this family settled in Oxfordshire; John Thornycroft Esq. of Milcomb in that county was created a baronet in 1701; the title and that branch of the family became extinct by the death of his son without issue. Henshaw-hall in the township of Siddington, the ancient seat of the Henshaws, and some time since the residence of their representative, Henshaw Thornycroft Esq. is now a farm-house.

The township of *Tyderington* or *Tytherington*, lies about one mile and a half N. from Macclesfield: the manor belonged anciently to a family which took its name from the township: the Worths, who possessed this estate by marriage with the heiress of the Tytheringtons, resided at Tytherington-Hall more than three centuries. John Worth Esq. having died without issue in 1695, the manor was sold by his cousin and heir at law Samuel Heath Esq. to William Abnett; it afterwards passed by sale to the family of Pery, and by settlement and devise to those of Robins and Hickin; the representatives of the latter sold it in 1678 to John Acton Esq. of Beach in this township, by whom it was conveyed the next year to William Brooksbank Esq. Mr. Brooksbank's elder son having been lost on board the *Foulis East-Indiaman*, and the second son having died unmarried, this estate is now vested in the only daughter as heir at law to her brothers<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 663.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

<sup>5</sup> From the communications of David Browne Esq. of Macclesfield, to whom we have been indebted for several particulars relating to this parish.

Tytherington-

Tytherington-Hall is now a farm-house; the Brooksbanks resided at a modern mansion in this township, called Higher-Beach-house.

The township of *Upton* lies about one mile and a half N. W. from Macclesfield: Upton-Hall and demesne belonged for many generations to the Stapletons, a younger branch of the Yorkshire family of that name, and afterwards to the Booths; this estate was purchased of the latter by the Wards of Capesthorpe, and is now by inheritance from that family the property of Davies Davenport Esq. M. P.

The township of *Old-Withington* lies about seven miles and a half N. N. W. from Congleton; the manor belonged at an early period to the Caunvilles or Camvilles, who held under the Ardernes. In the reign of Henry III. Walkelin de Arderne granted to Robert de Camville a release of all homages or rents due to him in Old-Withington, in recompence for the great services he had rendered him in the wars of Gascony. This Robert granted a moiety of the manor of Old-Withington to Oliver Fitton; and the other moiety about the year 1266 to John de Baskervyle<sup>b</sup>; the whole became eventually vested in the posterity of the latter, and is now the property of his lineal descendant, John Glegg Esq. of Withington-Hall, whose father assumed that name on succeeding to the estates of the Gleggs of Gayton, in the hundred of Wirral.

The township of *Lower-Withington*, a part of which is within the chapelry of Marton, lies about seven miles N. N. W. from Congleton: the manor was formerly in moieties between the Davenports<sup>c</sup> and the Bromhalls<sup>d</sup>; the latter moiety, which passed by marriage to another branch of the Davenports, was by them sold to the Mainwarings, who were afterwards possessed of the whole, and continued in possession towards the latter end of the seventeenth century: it is now the property of Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle. In this township is Weltrough or Weltrough, anciently called Tunsted, which for many generations was the seat of a branch of the Davenports; from this branch descended the Davenports of Bromhall, those of Henbury, and those of Woodford. The Weltrough family appear to have quitted Cheshire about the latter end of the seventeenth century, and we have not been able to ascertain whether they are extinct. Weltrough afterwards became the property of the Holinsheds, and having passed by marriage to the Brookes of Mere, was sold by them in 1792 to the Rev. John Parker, father of Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle, the present proprietor.

<sup>b</sup> Communicated by Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. from ancient deeds in the possession of John Glegg Esq.

<sup>c</sup> Roger Davenport acquired it in marriage with Mary daughter of Robert Salmon.—Villare Cœtrienſe.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

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The township of *Woodford* lies about five miles N. by W. from Stockport; the manor anciently called Wydford belonged to the Ardernes in the early part of Edward the Third's reign: in 1370 it was purchased of the Warrens of Poynton by John Davenport Esq. of Weltrough\*: the first of the family who settled at Woodford was Nicholas, a younger son of Sir John Davenport of Henbury, Justice of Lancashire, from whom it has descended in an uninterrupted male line to the present possessor Davies Davenport Esq. M. P. Woodford-Hall, many years a seat of the Davenports, is now a farm-house.

The township of *Worth* lies somewhat more than five miles S. E. by S. from Stockport; the manor was purchased by the late Sir George Warren about the year 1792, of Edward Downes Esq. in whose family it had been for many generations†: it is now, in right of his wife, the property of Lord Viscount Bulkeley.

The chapelry of *Macclesfield*, frequently called in ancient records *Maxfield*, contains the townships of *Macclesfield*, *Macclesfield-Forest*, *Hardsfield*, *Kettlebulme*, *Pott-Shrigley*, *Rainow*, *Sutton*, *Wildboar-Clough*, and *Wincle*.

Macclesfield is a populous corporate town which lies on the road from London (by way of Leek) to Manchester, at the distance of about 166 miles from the former, and 18 from the latter. It was made by Randal, one of the Earls of Chester, a borough of 120 burgages. In or about the year 1261, King Edward I. (being then Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester) made it a free borough, granting the burgesses a mercatorial gild, and other privileges, which were confirmed by King Richard II. and King Edward IV. By the conditions of the Prince's charter the burgesses were obliged to grind only at the Earl's mill, and to bake at his oven‡. Queen Elizabeth granted a charter of incorporation to the burgesses of Macclesfield, under which their body corporate consists of twenty-four capital burgesses; out of these a mayor and two aldermen are annually elected; but it appears that the town had been governed by a mayor

\* Conveyed by John Warren as son and heir of Cecily, who was wife of Sir Edward Warren (Record in the Exchequer at Chester): this Cecily was the heiress of Eton, who brought Poynton to the Warrens, and it is probable that she inherited Woodford from her brother Nicholas, who married a daughter of Sir John Arderne, and died without issue.

† It was acquired by marriage with the heiress of William de Hulme about the year 1384 (from the information of Edward Downes Esq.). It is probable that the family of Hulme inherited by female descent from an elder branch of the Worths of Worth: Mr. Downes quarters the arms of Worth.

‡ This oven, or common bakehouse, is now vested in the crown as parcel of the earldom of Chester; a lease of it was granted to Dorothy Ward for twenty-four years and a half, to commence from 1791.

and

and burgesſes before this charter, for among the records of the corporation is an account of Sir Edmund Savage, mayor of Macclesfield, and ſome of the burgesſes, falling at Flodden-field; this circumſtance may have given riſe to the tradition of a petition having been preſented to King Henry VII. in conſequence of a ſimilar circumſtance having happened at Boſworth; we could not find any trace of this among the corporation papers<sup>b</sup>: the fact, however, would not have been improbable, as Sir John Savage of Macclesfield had the command of the left wing of the Earl of Richmond's army. The laſt charter of the corporation is that of King Charles II., under which they now act; their officers are a town-clerk, a coroner, two ſerjeants at mace, &c. Among other articles delivered into the cuſtody of the ſerjeant at mace in the year 1620, was "a bridle for a curſt queane<sup>c</sup>."

The market at Macclesfield, which is on Monday, is held by preſcription; it was formerly a conſiderable corn-market, but has declined. There are five fairs, May 6, June 22, July 11<sup>d</sup>, October 4, and November 11; they are principally for cloth, cutlery, toys, and pedlar's wares; the moſt conſiderable is that in June, called St. Barnabas' fair.

The ſilk and cotton trade is carried on to a conſiderable extent at Macclesfield, there are nearly thirty ſilk mills, ſome of them upon a large ſcale; and in Macclesfield and its ſuburbs about ten cotton factories: a great quantity of goods of both ſorts is alſo manufactured in private houſes; there are ſeveral muſlin, ſilk-weaving, and twiſt factories. The weaving of ſilk-handkerchiefs and the making of ferret and calico are increaſing manufactures; the manufacture of twiſt-buttons, for which Macclesfield was formerly celebrated, has much declined; the ſmelting and refining of copper, and the making of braſs, have for ſome time been dropped; the buildings formerly occupied for theſe works have been lately advertiſed for ſale, and ſome of them have been converted into cottages: there are five or ſix dye-houſes in Macclesfield, principally for ſilk, and in the ſuburbs a tape-manufactory, and a bleaching-ground. According

<sup>b</sup> It is ſaid in Dr. Aikin's deſcription of the country round Manchester (p. 436), that a copy of the petition to Henry VII. was in the town-cheſt, and that it prayed that although they were unable to fill up the number of aldermen required by their charter, it might not be conſidered as broken, ſince their townſmen had fallen in his ſervice; we cannot find that any ſuch copy of a petition is now in exiſtence, or that any charter of the tenor alluded to ever was granted to the burgesſes.

<sup>c</sup> Plott in his Natural Hiſtory of Staffordſhire, p. 389., gives a particular account of a bridle for the correction of ſcolds, as uſed in his time at Newcastle-under-Lyne and at Walfall, with a figure of it at p. 390. The ſame inſtrument, which was commonly known by the name of the Branks, appears to have been alſo uſed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. See Brand's Newcastle, Vol. ii. p. 142., in the notes.

<sup>d</sup> This fair was granted by the charter of Queen Elizabeth.

to the returns made to Parliament under the population act in 1801, the number of houses in Macclesfield was then one thousand five hundred and twenty-seven, of which one hundred and one were then uninhabited; the number of inhabitants was then stated to be 8743<sup>l</sup>, of whom 8509 were said to be chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft<sup>k</sup>.

The manor of Macclesfield has been from time immemorial in the crown, as pertaining to the earldom of Chester: in or about the year 1270 it was settled on Eleanor the consort of Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward I.<sup>l</sup> The manor and borough of Macclesfield were sold after the death of King Charles to Peter Brereton and James Winstanley; the manor and hundred, then on lease to the Mainwarings, to Samuel Rowe. In the year 1762 William Earl of Harrington had a lease from the crown of all cottages erected on the waste and other encroachments within the manor of Macclesfield: all coal-pits, all profits of court for the manor, all mines, except royal mines, and all stone-quarries; in 1765 he had also a lease of the manor and borough of Macclesfield; the royalty of digging coal, peat, and turf; the profits of two fairs, yearly, and all courts belonging to the manor, and all commons and wastes, with the encroachments thereon. When the act of Parliament for inclosing the commons and waste grounds within the manor and borough of Macclesfield passed in 1791, it appeared that no courts had ever been held under the authority of the leases granted to the Earl of Harrington; that the only court held for "the manor and borough," was a three weeks court by the mayor for the trial of actions; that there were no copyhold estates held of the said manor and borough, nor any profits or perquisites of court arising within the same, that the profits of all the fairs had been received by the corporation, and that no benefit had ever been derived by the lessee from any mines, except coal-mines. By this act all encroachments within the manor (except such as had occurred within sixty years, and had no buildings erected on them,) were secured on certain terms, to their respective possessors: the manerial rights of the crown, with respect to the soil, mines, and minerals, of the several waste-grounds within the manor and borough, were extinguished, with the reserve of coal mines; as a compensation for which concessions an allotment of 118 a. 2 r. 34 p. was made to his Majesty, which allotment and the right of digging coal, (of which there were four seams,

<sup>l</sup> The greater part of the houses in the townships of Hurdsheld and Sutton, which are stated to have contained (both together) 2321 inhabitants, adjoin the town of Macclesfield, which would make the whole population of the town and its suburbs to consist of about 11,000 persons; but the returns were supposed to be very short of the real state of the population, which has since been considerably increased.

<sup>k</sup> There is evidently some great mistake in the number of persons not employed either in manufactures or agriculture, which is put down only at fourteen.

<sup>l</sup> Pat. 54 Hen. III.

differing

differing in depth, extent and value), were sold in 1803, under the powers of the land-tax redemption act to Charles Cooke Esq. of Macclesfield <sup>m</sup>. In the year 1776, the crown granted a lease of all fines and alienations upon surrenders within the manor of Macclesfield <sup>n</sup>, and all heriots, reliefs, and perquisites of court, and other profits therewith demised, to Thomas Duke of Leeds, whose grandson, the present duke, is in treaty with the crown for a renewal of the lease, it having expired in July 1807. The corporation are entitled to all springs and water-courses for supplying the town with water, from which sources, with the tolls of the market and fairs, a considerable emolument is derived.

A court of record is held at Macclesfield once a month, for the liberty of the hundred <sup>o</sup>, and another for the manor and forest of Macclesfield; a court-leet also is held for these jurisdictions. It appears that in former times the justices of Chester sat as Justices in Eyre at Macclesfield, and that prisoners for felony and other crimes were tried there, and underwent the sentence of the law. After this practice was discontinued, courts were held by the king's steward or his deputy. There are now, besides the monthly courts above-mentioned, two sessions held half-yearly, at times appointed by the recorder John Roe Esq., generally in May and November; two half-yearly courts also are held for the trial of civil causes by John Gamaliel Lloyd Esq., barrister at law <sup>p</sup>, as deputy steward to the Earl of Derby. King Edw. IV. granted the offices of master-forester of the forest of Macclesfield, and hereditary steward of the courts of the liberty of the hundred of Macclesfield, and of the manor and forest of Macclesfield, to Thomas Lord Stanley, in whose family, (except during Cromwell's protectorate, when they were for some time held by Sir William Brereton,) they have ever since continued. The office of hereditary keeper of the gaol at Macclesfield for the hundred and forest, passed in marriage at an early period with the daughter of John the Gaoler, to the family of

<sup>m</sup> From the information of James Pillar Esq., deputy-surveyor-general of the crown-lands.

<sup>n</sup> That is, of "the manor and forest" of Macclesfield, being distinct from "the manor and borough."

<sup>o</sup> The following townships and districts are within the liberty of the hundred; *Over-Alderley*, *Nether-Alderley*, *Birtles*, *Bollin-fee*, *Bosley*, *Bramhall*, *Bredbury*, *Brinnington*, *Capesthorne*, *Cheadle*, *Chelford*, *Chorley*, *Dukenfield*, *Eaton*, *EtcHELLS*, *Falibroom*, *Handford*, *Henbury*, *Hyde*, *Marton*, *Mottram-Andrew*, *Mottram in Longendale*, *Newton in Prestbury*, *Northenden*, *Pownall-fee*, *Romiley*, *Siddington*, *Snelson*, *Somerford-Booths*, *Stockport*, *Great-Warford*, *Werneth*, *Lower-Withington*, *Old Withington*, *Woodford*, and *Worth*. The townships within the forest have been already enumerated (see p. 407, in the notes): it appears that Bosley was formerly considered within the purlieu of the forest. The following townships lie in both jurisdictions; *Adlington*, *Butley*, *Gawsworth*, *Macclesfield*, *Norbury*, *Poynton*, *Prestbury*, *North-Rode*, and *Torkington*. The constables of those townships, which are printed in Italics, are still sworn at the annual court-leet.

<sup>p</sup> Mr. John Clulow, attorney at Macclesfield, is also deputy-steward, under the Earl of Derby; and Mr. David Browne, attorney, of the same place, clerk of the court. Mr. Browne is keeper of the records of these courts, which are in good preservation from the time of King Edward III.

Mottram, who possessed it for a few descents, after which it passed to the Savages, and from them by inheritance to the Earl of Cholmondeley; the gaol and the adjoining tenement having been sold by Lord Cholmondeley, now belong to the corporation.

Macclesfield-park, which belonged to the Savages, extended to a place called Park-lane, nearly a mile to the S. and S. W. of the town; the land was long ago disparked, and has been sold by Lord Cholmondeley in small lots; a field near the town adjoining the Congleton-road, called the Castle-field, in which are traces of buildings, was the site, probably, of an ancient castellated mansion of the Savages.

In a street called Back-wall-gate, a little to the south of the church, are some small remains of a mansion of the Dukes of Buckingham. Smith in his description of Cheshire (1585) speaks of it as "a huge place all of stone, in manner of a castle, which belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, but now gone to decay". Webb, writing in 1622, says, "in this towne are yet seen some ruines of the ancient manor-house of the renowned Duke of Buckingham, who (as yet report goeth) kept there his princely residence, about the time of King Edward IV., of whose great hospitality there, much by tradition is reported". From the positive manner in which Smith speaks of this mansion as having been the Duke of Buckingham's, only a century after the time of his death, there can be little doubt of the fact; but we have not met with the duke's name in any record as connected with Macclesfield. Stapleton-Hall in this town was the residence of the Stapleton family after they left Upton; Beate-Hall in Macclesfield, described in some of the modern peerages as a seat of the Earl of Courtown, was inherited by that nobleman from his ancestors, but is a decayed mansion, occupied as a public-house. Worth-Hall, another dilapidated mansion, was the town-residence of the Worths, and is said by tradition to have been the birth-place of Archbishop Savage, but it is more probable that he was born at Macclesfield-park.

The parochial chapel of Macclesfield was originally built by King Edw. I. in the year 1278; it was consecrated by the bishop of St. Asaph, by virtue of a commission from Roger de Longespée bishop of Lichfield<sup>a</sup>. Smith describes this chapel as having a very high spire in 1585; it has now a handsome tower, but the spire has been long removed: the chapel was enlarged and in great part rebuilt in 1740. Thomas Savage, archbishop of York, who was a native of Macclesfield, and died in the year 1508, either founded or projected the foundation of a college of secular priests or canons<sup>b</sup>; as we cannot find any reference to the charter of foundation, or any other records connected with the college, it is probable that his intentions were

<sup>a</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part i. p. 45.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. part ii. p. 86.

<sup>b</sup> Pat. 7 Edw. I. m. 44. dorf.

<sup>d</sup> Sir Peter Leycester speaks positively of the foundation being only intended.—Antiquities of Bucklow hundred, p. 232.

never

never fulfilled. Smith, writing in 1585, speaks of the college as built, and adjoining the church on the south side, but adds that the steeple thereof was not fully finished<sup>r</sup>. The chapel, which remains, is connected with the parochial chapel to which it forms a south aisle, and has been the burial-place of the Savage family; the most remarkable monuments in it are those of Sir John Savage (father of the archbishop), who died in 1495; Sir John Savage, who married the Earl of Somerset's daughter, and died in 1528; Sir John Savage K. G., who built the mansion at Rock-Savage, was seven times sheriff of Cheshire, three times mayor of Chester, and died in 1597; and Thomas Savage Earl Rivers, who died in 1694; the latter has the effigies of the earl in white marble by Staunton<sup>s</sup>. On the east wall of this chapel is a brass-plate, with the effigies of Roger Legh, who died in 1506; and his six sons; above which is the figure of a mitred ecclesiastic kneeling at an altar, with the following inscription: "The pardon for saying of *V. pater-nost*' & *V. aves* and a *cred*, is XXVI. thousand yeres and XXVI. dayes of pardon." Over the door of the chapel are the arms of Savage quartered with those of the sees of Rochester, London, and York, over which Archbishop Savage successively presided: on the outside of the chapel is an ancient monument, much worn, in which that prelate's heart is said to be deposited. Archbishop Savage's chapel is now the property of the Earl of Cholmondeley<sup>t</sup>. In the Legh chapel are some memorials of the family of Legh of Lyme; the epitaph of Perkin or Piers Legh has been already given: on the north side of the church is the monument of a knight, upon which was formerly to be seen the arms of Downes<sup>u</sup>; in the chancel was a monument of alabaster for one of the Leverfage family against the south wall, with the effigies of the deceased, and the arms of Leverfage and Ramsey impaled<sup>v</sup>. The mayor is patron of Macclesfield chapel, subject to the approbation of the bishop; it was endowed by King Edward VI. with *5l. 6s. 8d.* and by King James I, with *50l. per ann.* payable out of the Exchequer, but liable to large deductions; the grant was only during pleasure, but has been renewed by succeeding monarchs.

A new chapel was built at Macclesfield in the year 1775, by Charles Roe Esq.; in 1779 an act of Parliament passed by which it was called Christ's-church or chapel, and made a perpetual cure and benefice, to be subject to the bishop of Chester; in consideration of his having endowed it with *100l. per ann.* the nomi-

<sup>r</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part i. family, p. 449, 450, 451. (the wife), has been removed. with the Savages, p. 755.

<sup>s</sup> See further mention of the other monuments of the Savage

<sup>t</sup> The brass-plate on which was the effigies of Eliz. Legh

<sup>u</sup> See the connection of the Earl of Cholmondeley's family

<sup>v</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2119. f. 155.—Church notes taken in 1580.

<sup>w</sup> There was a family of this name at Macclesfield in the reign of Henry VI.

nation of the minister was vested in Mr. Roe and his heirs. In the chancel of this chapel is a monument by Bacon in memory of Charles Roe Esq. the founder, who died in 1781; the inscription describes him as particularly conversant with the mineral *strata* of the county, adding that he discovered the valuable mines in Anglesea, and first established the silk and copper manufactures at Macclesfield: at his first entrance into business he had conducted the button and twist manufactures, which had then long been the staple commodities of the place.

The Presbyterians, Quakers, and Independents, have meeting-houses in Macclesfield, and there are two Methodists meeting-houses.

Sir John Percival Knt. some time lord-mayor of London, founded a free grammar-school at Macclesfield<sup>2</sup>, which was his native place, and by his will, bearing date 1502, directed that lands of the yearly value of 10*l.* should be purchased for its endowment. The foundation of this school has generally been attributed to King Edward VI., who in the year 1552 further endowed the school with sixteen acres of land near Chester, and several crofts, closes, meadows, and houses, in and near that city, parcel of the possessions of the college of St. John, called the prebend's lands, together with all the lands and houses which had belonged to the chantry called the Petit-canonry, then, or late in the occupation of Richard Brereton Esq.<sup>3</sup> As there are no lands now belonging to the school in those townships, it is probable that the estates purchased under Sir John Percival's will in Tytherington, Rainow, Hurdsfield, and Sutton<sup>4</sup>, were seized by the crown on account of some informality, and that the messuages, lands, &c. in Macclesfield, Broken-crofts, Mottram, and Prestbury, spoken of in King Edward's charter, as "his Majesty's messuages, &c. heretofore granted, assigned, and appointed, for the maintenance of a grammar-school at Macclesfield," were given in lieu of them. All the estates granted by King Edward's charter, (which makes no mention of the original founder or of his endowment,) were to be held of the manor of East-Greenwich, by the yearly rent of 1*l.* 5*s.* The King's charter appoints that there shall be fourteen governors, inhabitants of the *vill* of Macclesfield and the parish of Prestbury, and makes them a body corporate

<sup>2</sup> For all children that should be sent thither, without exception.

<sup>3</sup> Among the Harl. MSS. (N<sup>o</sup> 2095. f. 27. *b.*) is a rental of lands in Chester (temp. Edw. VI.) late parcel of the prebend's lands at St. John's, and the chantry called the Petit-canonry, then valued at only 8*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* per ann.

<sup>4</sup> Lands, messuages, &c. &c. in Macclesfield, Tytherington, Rainow, Hurdsfield, and Sutton, were conveyed to the trustees under Sir John Percival's will by Robert Dukensfield, William Parson and John Parson, A<sup>o</sup> 19 Hen. VII.; and certain lands, messuages, &c. in Mottram-Andrew, by archbishop Savage the same year.

by the name of the governors<sup>c</sup> of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the free-grammar-school of King Edward VI. in Macclesfield, with power to nominate a master and usher, to whom all the rents, revenues, &c. were to be appropriated, and not otherwise, or to any other uses and intentions.

In the year 1750 the governors sold the old school-house and some lands, purchased a capital messuage for the school, which was repaired and altered for that purpose, and made some other purchases and exchanges. As a sanction to these proceedings, and for the purpose of procuring further powers, which the expected increase of the revenues rendered desirable, it was deemed requisite to apply for an act of Parliament, which was obtained in the year 1768; this act, besides confirming the above purchases and exchanges, and a rent-charge on the Chester canal, which had been given in lieu of some land taken by the proprietors, empowered the governors to sell certain houses and lay out the money arising from the sale in lands; to grant building or repairing leases; to make statutes for the school with the advice of the bishop of Chester; to appoint more masters, for the purpose of teaching the modern languages, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, &c. there being always a head master, whose salary must not be less than 100*l.*; and an usher, whose salary must not be less than 40*l.*; the salaries to be increased at discretion; to dismiss masters for immorality, incapacity, wilful neglect of their duty, or any other just and reasonable cause, with the approbation of the bishop; and in case of incapacity by the visitation of God in the head master, to allow him a pension. At the time of passing this act the revenues of the school, which were then 170*l. per ann.*, were expected, by the falling in of certain leases, to be raised ere long to 600*l. per ann.*; they are now near 700*l.* The head master, the Rev. David Davies D. D. has a salary of 150*l. per ann.* and a house; the second master, or usher, 80*l.*; a French master, 50*l.* The governors support also an English school out of the funds of this institution, allowing the master 40*l. per ann.* and a house. They are empowered by the act to appoint an agent to manage and receive the rents of the school estates, and to assign him a salary. John Brownswerd, a celebrated grammarian and Latin poet, was master of Macclesfield school in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; he lies buried in the chancel of the parochial chapel, where there is a tablet to his memory, with the following inscription: written by his scholar Thomas

\* The present governors are Edward Thornycroft Esq. of Thornycroft, Davies Davenport Esq. of Capethorne, John Glegg Esq. of Old-Withington, R. S. C. Brooke Esq. of Chelford, Rev. John Watson of Bonihall, Edward Downes Esq. of Shrigley, Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle, Robert Hibbert Esq. of Birtles, Francis Jodrell Esq. of Henbury, Lawrence Wright Esq. of Mottram-Andrew, Lord Viscount Bulkeley, Michael Daintry of Sutton Esq., and the Rev. John Rowlls Browne, vicar of Prestbury; there is one vacancy occasioned by the death of John Ryle Esq.

Newton,

Newton <sup>f</sup>, “Johanni Brownswerdo, Macclesfeldensi, Ludimagistro, viro pio pariter ac docto, hic sepulto et repullulascenti; Thomas Newton Butlensis, pietatis, gratitudinis et officii ergo p.

“Alpha poctarum, Coryphæus grammaticorum,  
Flos Pædagogon hæc sepelitur humo.

Obiit 15 Apr. 1589.”

An alms-house for three poor widows was founded at Macclesfield in 1703, by Mrs. Stanley, and endowed with 6*l.* per ann.

The township of *Macclesfield-Forest* is four miles S. S. E. from Macclesfield; that of *Wildboar-Clough* adjoins it; the township of *Hurdsfield* is nearly two miles E. N. E. from Macclesfield; *Kettlebulme* seven miles N. E.; *Rainow* three miles N. E. by E.; and *Wincle* six miles S. E. by S. These townships are all within that district which is called “the manor and forest of Macclesfield,” of which the Earl of Derby is hereditary steward and master-forester <sup>g</sup>; they do not comprise any subordinate manors, the land-owners being copy-holders. In the township of Macclesfield-Forest is a chapel of ease called Forest-chapel, of which Lord Derby is patron; it has been augmented by Queen Anne’s bounty. In the township of Rainow are two chapels of ease, Rainow-chapel and Jenkin or Saltersford-chapel; the last mentioned being situated near Jenkin-cross in the hamlet of *Saltersford*, was built by the inhabitants in 1739, but was not consecrated till 1794; in the township of Wincle is a chapel of ease which was built in the reign of King Charles I.; the three chapels last mentioned are in the patronage of the vicar of Prestbury; they have all been augmented by Queen Anne’s bounty. At Rainow is a school for nine children endowed with rent-charges amounting to 3*l.* per ann. <sup>h</sup>, and at Saltersford a school without any endowment. Swansco-park, in the township of Hurdsfield, belonged anciently to the Earls of Derby, afterwards to the Breretons of Hondford <sup>i</sup>; it is now the property of Messrs. Thomas and Gervas Ward. Wincle-Grange, in the township of Wincle, belonged to Combermere-abbey, and was granted to the Cottons with other estates of that monastery <sup>k</sup>; it is now by purchase the property of Michael Daintry Esq.

In a letter from the Rev. Francis Brokesby to Mr. Thomas Hearne, printed at the end of the sixth volume of Leland’s Itinerary, and dated 1711, is an ac-

<sup>f</sup> See p. 726.

<sup>g</sup> See a further account of Macclesfield-Forest and the grant of the office of Master-forester, p. 407: the Duke of Leeds has a lease of all fines and alienations upon surrenders, in this manor. See p. 737.

<sup>h</sup> We are so informed in answer to our local inquiries; but in the returns of charitable donations to the house of commons in 1786, it is stated that Mr. Daniel Nixon gave land then let at 2*l.* per ann. for teaching six children; Mr. Porter land, then let at 1*l.* per ann., for teaching three children; and that there was a benefaction in money by a person unknown, then producing 10*s.* per ann. for teaching one child. <sup>i</sup> A° 1662.—Harl. MSS. N° 2010. <sup>k</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

count communicated to him by a friend, from the relation of a gentleman who was a native of that place, of Margaret Broadhurst of Hedgerow in the township of Rainow, who is said to have lived to the great age of 140 years; this narrative states that she was born at Over in Delamere-forest, that she was some years a servant at Shrigley-Hall in the family of Downes; that she afterwards married Humphrey Broadhurst, a labourer in husbandry; that they brought up nine children; that she always lived on the most simple food; that in her old age she was much visited by all ranks of people from curiosity, and that some years before her death she was sent for to Dunham-Massey by Sir George Booth, who offered to take care of her as long as she lived, but that after a month's stay, she told Sir George that she must return to her old fare or die shortly. She is said to have been buried at Prestbury about the year 1650, but the entry of her burial is not to be found in the register; it was in vain to expect any satisfactory evidence as to her birth from that at Over, as her maiden name was not known. One passage in the letter of Mr. Brokesby's correspondent borders a little on the marvellous, speaking of the age of this old woman, who went by the name of "the cricket of the hedge," he says, "that the computation is very moderate," is evident from the testimony of one Mrs. Brideoak, sent me by Mr. L.; she out of curiosity visited the old cricket, and demanding her age, she answered, "I was fourscore years old when I bare that snicket (meaning her daughter, then present), and she is now threescore years old:" he could not be informed how long she survived that visit."

The township of *Pott-Shrigley* lies about four miles and a half N. N. E. from Macclesfield. Shrigley has been for many generations the property and seat of the ancient family of Downes; Shrigley-Hall is now the seat of Edward Downes Esq. whose ancestor became possessed of it early in the fourteenth century, most probably by marriage with the heiress of Shrigley of Shrigley<sup>1</sup>. In this township is Pott-chapel<sup>m</sup>, originally called Downes-chapel, from its founder Geoffrey Downes Esq. who in the reign of Henry VII. endowed it by will with lands (afterwards taken away by the crown), which would now have been of considerable value<sup>n</sup>; it has since had a small augmentation from Queen Anne's bounty: Mr. Downes is patron. In this township is a school, founded in 1684 by John Barlow, and endowed with a rent charge of 6*l.* per ann<sup>o</sup>. for a master,

<sup>1</sup> See p. 365.

<sup>m</sup> The hamlet of *Pott* gave name to a family of gentry who had an estate here for many generations, now represented by Charles Potts Esq. of Chester. Pott-Hall, which had belonged to the family of Pott, passed successively to Edward Swan, and the Beeches; it is now, by purchase from the latter, the property of Edward Downes Esq.

<sup>n</sup> Probably 500*l.* per ann. at the least: in Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* it is said, that they would have been worth 200*l.* then (nearly a century ago).

<sup>o</sup> We have been so informed in answer to our local inquiries, but the returns mentioned in note (") state the donation to be lands let in 1786 at 6*l.* per ann.

and 20s. to buy books; Mr. William Lunt in 1688 gave a rent-charge of 2*l.* per ann. to this school. Beristall or Beristow-Hall in Shrigley was for many generations the seat of a younger branch of the Shrigley family, which was not extinct in 1662<sup>a</sup>, when the hall was sold to alderman Lunt of Macclesfield; it was afterwards the property of Legh Watson Esq., by whose granddaughters (married to the Rev. Gilbert Wakefield, and the Rev. William Bowness) it was sold to Mr. John Beech of Shaw, near Cheadle in Staffordshire; it is now by purchase from that family the property of Edward Downes Esq. Mr. Downes also is the present owner of Ridacre-Hall in this township, which had belonged to Legh Watson Esq.

The township of *Sutton*, or *Sutton-Downes*, lies somewhat more than two miles S. S. E. from Macclesfield; this township gave name to a family, the ancestor of which possessed the manor by grant from Hugh Kevelioc Earl of Chester<sup>o</sup>. Of this family was Sir Richard Sutton Knt. one of the founders of Brazen-nose-college in Oxford: on the death of Richard Sutton, the last heir-male, in 1611, this estate passed to his two sisters and co-heirs, one of whom married Sir Humphrey Davenport, of the Bramhall family, the other Sir Philip Monkton, ancestor of Lord Viscount Galway. Sir Humphrey Davenport, who was made baron of the exchequer in 1630, purchased Sir Philip's share; his great grand-daughter brought the manor of Sutton in marriage to Sir Rowland Bellafys, ancestor of the late Earl of Fauconberg; it now belongs to the Earl of Lucan, who married one of his daughters and co-heirs. A part of the ancient hall has been fitted up for the Countess of Lucan's residence, the remainder is occupied by a farmer. The manor of Sutton being within the purlieu of the forest of Macclesfield, was held formerly by the service of free-forestry, by which its owner was bound to follow the king's standard in war with the same arms (bows and arrows) with which he guarded his bailiwick of the forest, and whilst attending in the wars he was exonerated from the custody of his bailiwick: the manors of Disley, Marple, Taxall, and others, were held by the same service<sup>p</sup>. The foresters were entitled to timber and firewood within their own districts, with other perquisites, and they had the liberty of fishing within the forest, and of taking foxes, hares, squirrels, *barwsons* (badgers), otters, *musketts*, and eagles<sup>q</sup>.

Hollyns, or Holinshed, in the township of Sutton was the original residence of the ancient family of that name; they afterwards settled at Cophurst<sup>r</sup> in this town-

<sup>a</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>o</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>p</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, p. 122, 123, from inquiries at Chester, 6 Edw. I.

<sup>q</sup> MS. in the possession of David Browne Esq.

<sup>r</sup> Cophurst belonged afterwards to the Leghs of Ridge, and is now the property of Mr. James Bullock a farmer, and in his own occupation.

ship,

ship, Heywood in Alderley, and elsewhere; Holinshed the historian was of the Cophurst branch, and most probably a native of that place; Hollyns is now a farm-house, the property of William Stonhewer Esq. Ridge in this township was for many generations the seat of a branch of the Leghs, descended from Jenkin, or John Legh, (a younger son of the first Sir Piers Legh of Lyme,) who married the heiress of Alcock of Ridge. Ridge-Hall, which is now a farm-house, was sold by Thomas Legh (mayor of Macclesfield in 1761), the lineal descendant of Jenkin above-mentioned, to William Norton M. D.; it is now under the will of his last surviving sister, the property of William Smyth Esq., professor of modern history in the university of Cambridge. Mr. John Upton gave the sum of 100*l.* 4 *per cent.* for the purpose of instructing poor children of this township.

PULFORD, in the hundred of Broxton, and deanery of Chester, lies five miles S. by W. from Chester: it contains two townships, *Pulford*, and *Pulton*, or *Poulton*.

The manor of *Pulford* is said to have been held at an early period by a family of the same name under the Ormbies<sup>1</sup> until the year 1239, when Ralph de Ormebie granted his castle at Pulford and all his lands to Robert de Pulford; from the Pulfords this manor passed by a female heir to the Grosvenors. On the death of Robert Grosvenor of Hulme in 1464, Pulford passed with Catherine, one of his daughters and co-heirs, to the family of Winnington, and with the heiress of that family to the Warburtons<sup>2</sup>. Sir Peter Warburton sold it to the late Robert Townsend Esq. of Christleton, who by his will devised it to trustees for the purpose of sale, after a certain period not yet elapsed. The patronage of the rectory has always been annexed to the manor.

At *Poulton*<sup>3</sup> was an abbey, founded in 1153, as a cell to that of Combermere by Robert, the Earl of Chester's baker, when his lord was a prisoner to King Stephen. The founder placed in it some monks of the Cistercian order, who were to pray for the earl's safety and welfare: after his release from prison the earl confirmed the foundation of this abbey, and granted the monks a fishery

<sup>1</sup> This family has removed from Cheshire, but is not extinct. See p. 359.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense.—The name seems to have been written erroneously for Orrebies; for it is said in the same place that Robert Pulford held under Sir Peter Arderne, temp. Edward I., and it is well known that the heiress of Orreby married Arderne. The Orrebies had a castle at Aldford, but it is possible they might have had another at Pulford, as both places were so near the borders of what was in ancient times an enemy's country. Pulford-castle is said to have been built for the purpose of checking the inroads of the Welsh. (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.) There are now no remains of a castle at Pulford, nor any traces of earth-works to denote its site.

<sup>3</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>4</sup> The township of *Poulton* or *Pulton*, lies about five miles and a half S. by W. from Chester.

in the Dee, and exemption from paying toll for grinding their corn at his mills in Chester. In 1214, this abbey, chiefly on account of the frequent incursions of the Welsh, was removed to Dieulacres in Staffordshire<sup>1</sup>. After the dissolution the manor of Pulton with the Grange-hall chapel, and certain tithes in Pulford and Pulton, were granted (anno 1544) to Sir George Cotton<sup>2</sup>. This estate was not long afterwards in the Manleys, who sold it to the ancestor of Earl Grosvenor, the present proprietor: there are no remains of the chapel, which was in a state of decay in 1672.

ROSTHERNE, or ROSTHORNE, in the hundred of Bucklow, and deanery of Frodsham, lies about three miles and a half nearly north of Knutsford, and about the same distance S. W. from Altrincham. The parish of Knutsford was taken out of Rostherne, by Act of Parliament, as before-mentioned; it now contains, exclusively of the chapelry of *Over-Peover*, the townships of *Rostherne*, *High-Legh*, *Mere*, *Millington*, *Over-Tabley-cum-Sudlowe*, and *Tatton*; besides one half of the townships of *Agden* and *Bollington*, which have been already described, under Bowden.

The manor of *Rostherne*, which belonged, when the survey of Domesday was taken, to Gilbert Venables, baron of Kinderton, was held under that barony at a very early period by the family of Rostherne, which ended in two female heirs in the reign of Henry II.<sup>a</sup>, a moiety of it passed to a younger branch of the Venables family, who had a feat at Rostherne; this moiety was conveyed by William Venables about the year 1320, to the ancestor of Willoughby Legh Esq. of Booths<sup>b</sup>, the present proprietor: the other moiety passed with one of the co-heiresses of Humphrey de Rostherne to the Maffey of Tatton, and has since passed with the Tatton estate<sup>c</sup> to the present proprietor, Wilbraham Egerton Esq.

In the parish church is an ancient tomb of one of the Venables family<sup>d</sup>, and monuments or other memorials for the families of Legh of High-Legh, Egerton of Tatton, Daniel of Tabley, Maffey of Rostherne<sup>e</sup>, and Brooke of Mere. The Leghs have a chapel at the end of the south-aisle; the Egertons at the end of the north-aisle; in the latter is a sumptuous monument by Bacon, in memory of the late Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton-Park, twenty-six years one of the representatives in Parliament for the county of Chester, who died in 1780.

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's Monast. I. 890.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>a</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> See the account of that township, p. 748.

<sup>d</sup> See p. 445.

<sup>e</sup> The Maffey of Denfield in Rostherne were a younger branch of the Maffey of Tatton: the last of the Maffey of Rostherne, most probably the same family as those of Denfield, died in 1795.

The church of Rostherne, which belonged to the abbey of Laund in Leicestershire, was given after the dissolution to the dean and canons of Christchurch college in Oxford; the patronage of the vicarage continued in the Barons of Kinderton, and belongs now to Lord Vernon as representative of the Venables family. There is a school at Rostherne, but it has no other endowment than the interest of 10*l.*, given by W. Hough. Bucklow-Hill, in this township, gives name to the hundred.

The township of *High-Legb* lies five miles N. W. by N. from Nether-Knutford; the manor belonged, at the time of the Domesday survey, to Gilbert Venables Baron of Kinderton; as early as the reign of Edward I. it was in moieties between the two families of Legh. One moiety belonged to the Leghs of East-Hall in High-Legh. This ancient family had then been for many generations<sup>f</sup> in possession, and the estate has descended in uninterrupted male succession to the present proprietor, George John Legh Esq. of East-Hall, lineally descended from the Leghs of Northwood in High-Legh, whose ancestor Thomas Legh was, after a long suit at law, declared the next male heir to Ralph Legh of East-Hall, in whom the elder branch of the family became extinct in the reign of Edward IV.<sup>g</sup> East-Hall was re-built with stone in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Thomas Legh Esq.

The other moiety of High-Legh belonged, in the reign of Edward the Third, to Thomas de Legh, who gave one half of this moiety to his half-brother, Ralph de Hawarden. This portion, being one-fourth of the manor of High-Legh, passed afterwards to the Masseys, from whom it has descended with Tatton to the present proprietor, Wilbraham Egerton Esq. Thomas de Legh above-mentioned was son of Richard de Lymme, who married Agnes, daughter and heiress of Richard de Legh, lord of a moiety of High-Legh, and great-grandson of Hamo, who is said to have been a younger son of one of the Barons of Kinderton<sup>h</sup>, and to have taken the name of Legh from the place of his residence, as his descendant, Thomas, son of Richard de Lymme, did, on succeeding to the estates of his mother at High-Legh. West-Hall is the occasional residence of his immediate descendant Egerton Leigh Esq., who possesses by inheritance from his ancestor, the above-mentioned fourth part of the manor of High-Legh.

Swineyard in High-Legh was the seat of a younger branch of the Leghs of East-Hall; it now belongs to George John Legh Esq. and is occupied as a farm-house. Northwood-Hall, which was the property and seat of the Leghs of East-Hall, before they succeeded to the estates of the elder branch,

<sup>f</sup> See p. 358.

<sup>g</sup> Smith's Heraldic Collections, f. 25. b.

<sup>h</sup> Villare Cestriense.

is now the property of Trafford Trafford Esq., late Trafford Leigh Esq. of Oughtrington, and is occupied as a farm-house. A freehold estate in this township, which had been in the Gleyve family from the reign of Henry III. till the death of John Gleyve Esq., the last heir-male in 1673, belongs to T. L. Brooke Esq. of Mere, in whose family it has been for a considerable time. A chapel of ease was built at High-Legh in the year 1581, by Thomas Legh Esq., probably on the site of the ancient church which is spoken of in the Survey of Domesday. There was another chapel near West-Hall, built about the reign of Henry IV., which had been converted to other uses before the year 1666<sup>1</sup>: it was for this chapel probably that a licence to celebrate Divine Service was procured in 1408<sup>2</sup>. A school-house was built for this township by the inhabitants in 1717, but the school had no endowment, till, upon a late inclosure of the common-lands, one Cheshire acre of land was allotted to the master.

The township of *Mere* lies about two miles and a half N. W. from Nether-Knutsford; the manor was held at an early period under the barons of Kinderton, who had possessed it at the time of the Domesday Survey, by the family of Mere<sup>1</sup>, the descendants of which in 1652 sold it to Thomas Brooke Esq. ancestor of Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, the present proprietor. Strethill-farm in this township, for several generations the seat of the Cocker family, was purchased of Hugh Cocker before the year 1666, by Henry Legh of East-Hall<sup>2</sup>. William Grantham left 3*l.* per ann. for teaching fifteen poor children of this township.

The township of *Millington* lies about four miles and a half N. N. W. from Knutsford; the manor belonged to the family of Millington from a very early period till the death of William Millington Esq. in 1666: it was not long afterwards in the Heyfords, from whom it passed by marriage to Sir John Thorold Bart., the present proprietor: the hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Over-Tabley* lies two miles W. by N. from Knutsford; in the time of William the Conqueror the manor belonged to William Fitz-Nigel Baron of Halton; it was not long afterwards divided into three parts. One-third was conveyed by John Lacy, constable of Chester in 1187, to Adam Dutton<sup>3</sup>, whose son Geoffrey gave it to the Tableys; Sir Thomas Daniers, whose posterity usually

<sup>1</sup> In some MSS. collections for Cheshire by John Legh Esq. of Ridge, written in or about the reign of Charles I. it is said that the chapel at West-Hall was become somewhat ruined by reason of its proximity to the chapel at East-Hall, the two houses being within a stone's-throw of each other. Harl. MSS. 2155. f. 72. .

<sup>2</sup> Bishop Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis.

<sup>3</sup> See more particulars of the family of Mere, p. 387.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 485, in the notes.

wrote their name Daniel, married the heiress of Adam de Tabley about the year 1417, and settled at Tabley; his descendant in the reign of Queen Elizabeth became possessed of a second portion of the manor, which had belonged to another branch of the Tableys<sup>o</sup>, and being afterwards in the Stanley family, was forfeited to the crown by the attainder of Sir William Stanley. On the death of Sir Samuel Daniel, the last male heir in 1726, this estate passed by bequest to his nephew Sir William Dukenfield Bart., who took the name of Daniel in addition to his own. A moiety of this estate was purchased about the year 1780 of John Astley Esq., who married Lady Daniel, by Peter Brooke Esq. in trust for his son Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. of Mere, the present proprietor; the other moiety, by the guardians of Sir J. F. Leicester, during his minority. Over-Tabley-Hall the seat of the Daniels is now occupied by Mrs. Brooke, mother of T. L. Brooke Esq. The remaining third part of Over-Tabley was given to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh by Roger de Mainwaring, and was held under that convent by William Tabley, who gave it to Sir John Grey, and from him it passed to Roger Leycester, Lord of Nether-Tabley<sup>p</sup>, ancestor of Sir J. F. Leicester the present proprietor. At Over-Tabley by the road side was a chapel of ease, built according to Sir Peter Leycester, (who says it was generally known by the name of the Chapel in the Street) in the reign of Henry VI. *Sudlow*, a hamlet of this township, belonged for many generations to the family of the Leghs of Booths; it is now the property of Sir J. F. Leicester Bart.

The township of *Tatton* lies two miles north from Knutsford; the manor belonged at an early period to a family which took its name from the township; it was held partly under the barony of Halton, and partly under the priory of St. John of Jerusalem; from the Tattons it passed with the heiress of the elder branch of that family to Sir Richard Mafsey, about the year 1286. Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Geoffrey Mafsey, brought this manor to William Stanley Esq., son and heir of Sir William Stanley of Holt; this William Stanley left an only child, Joan, who died in 1570, being then the widow of Sir Richard Brereton, her second husband, whose son succeeded to the Tatton estate. Richard Brereton the grandson, having no issue, settled it on his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Egerton, lord chancellor of England, and ancestor of the earls and dukes of Bridgewater; John, the second Earl of Bridgewater, gave Tatton to his third son the Hon. Thomas Egerton: this branch of the Egerton family became extinct in 1780, by the

<sup>o</sup> See the particulars of the manner in which the Daniels obtained possession of this estate in Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, p. 363.

<sup>p</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

death

death of Samuel Egerton Esq. one of the knights of the shire. Mr. Egerton devised Tatton, and his other estates, to his sister, the wife of William Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw, whose grandson Wilbraham Egerton Esq. is the present proprietor; his father took the name of Egerton, pursuant to his uncle's will. Tatton-park is of large extent<sup>a</sup>, and pleasantly situated; the present hall, a large stone mansion, has been some years in building, and is now nearly completed from the designs of Mr. Samuel Wyatt.

*Norshagh*, a hamlet of Tatton, has passed with the manor of that township.

The chapelry of *Over-Peover* comprises the townships of *Over-Peover*, *Marshall*, and *Snelson*; the manor of *Over-Peover* had been the residence of the Mainwarings for thirty generations, when that ancient family became extinct by the death of the late Sir Henry Mainwaring in 1797. The first of the family who occurs with the name of Mefnilwaren, or Mainwaring<sup>b</sup>, was Richard de Mefnilwaren, who granted certain tithes to Chester abbey in 1093. It is supposed, with much probability, that he was the son of Ranulphus who held *Peover* at the time of the Domesday Survey, and father of Ranulphus de Mefnilwaren judge of Chester in the reign of Henry II. The elder branch of the Mainwarings was settled at Warmicham, and became extinct in the reign of Richard II. William Mainwaring of Peover married a co-heiress of Praers in the reign of Edward III.; by this match he acquired the Baddiley estate. Sir Ralph Mainwaring in the reign of Queen Elizabeth re-built Peover-Hall (which before had been of timber) with brick. Sir Thomas Mainwaring, who was created a baronet in 1660, was engaged in a long controversy with Sir Peter Leycester concerning the legitimacy of Amicia daughter of Hugh Kevelioc Earl of Chester, which had been impeached by Sir Peter in his *Historical Antiquities*; several pamphlets were published by each of the contending parties, and the controversy was not terminated, but by the death of Sir Peter Leycester, at which time Sir Thomas Mainwaring had a reply to his last pamphlet ready for the press: in 1711 Sir John Mainwaring Bart. sold this manor to his brother Henry, who settled at Peover; his son succeeded to his uncle's title and estates; the title became extinct in 1797 by the death of Sir Henry Mainwaring, who having bequeathed his estates to his half-brother, Thomas Wetenhall Esq. of Nantwich, he took the name of Mainwaring: his son,

<sup>a</sup> It contains about two thousand acres of land, but a part of it is every year in tillage.

<sup>b</sup> In a MS. volume drawn up by Sir William Dugdale, now in the possession of Sir H. M. Mainwaring, 131 different modes of spelling the name of Mainwaring are enumerated, all of which have occurred in old records, or in more modern writings.

<sup>c</sup> Gough's *British Topography*, Vol. i. p. 258.

who

who succeeded to this estate, was created a baronet in 1804, being now Sir Henry Mainwaring Mainwaring, Bart.

Near Over-Peover-Hall, the seat of Sir Henry M. Mainwaring, is a parochial chapel, supposed by Sir Peter Leycester to have been originally erected in or about the reign of Edward III. In the south transept of this chapel are the arms of Mainwaring, with numerous impalements, and the monuments of Randal Mainwaring Esq. who died in 1456, and his wife Margaret Bulkeley<sup>1</sup>. In the north aisle of the chancel is the tomb of Sir John Mainwaring<sup>2</sup>, who died in the ninth year of the reign of Henry VI. and Joan his wife<sup>3</sup>, daughter of "the baron of Stockport"; that of Sir John Mainwaring who died in 1515, with figures engraved on stone of himself, his lady, and fifteen children, and that of Philip Mainwaring Esq., who died in 1573<sup>4</sup>. The last-mentioned Sir John bequeathed to one of his daughters three hundred marks, and to the other two hundred marks for their marriage, if they should continue of honest conversation and disposition, and marry with consent of their mother and brother; the money arising from the sale of his son's marriage, he bequeathed to the uses of his will; to the marriage of his

<sup>1</sup> See p. 449.

<sup>2</sup> This Sir John Mainwaring was a retainer to the Earl of Buckingham: the following extract from the indenture by which he engaged himself in the Earl's service, will tend to explain the nature of the connection subsisting between the ancient nobility and the gentry who composed those splendid retinues by which they were accompanied on all public occasions. By this indenture the earl gave to Sir John Mainwaring "an annuall fee of tenne poundes to bee comyng out of his lordshippe of Rothwell in the county of Northampton at the termes of Easter and St. Michael, by equal porcions, for the whiche the feyd erle hath withholde to him the said Sir John for terme of lyf, to doe him service before all other in pees and werre; that is to witte, in pees to come, when he is commaunded, to the said Erle's presence, to all places on this syde the see; to sojorne and ryde with him, with as mony men and horses, moo or fewer, as the said erle liste to assigne resnably, after the degree and power of the said Sir John, for the which the same Sir John shall have suche bouche of court and lyve for hym, his feyde men and horses, duryng his tyme of demure in the presence of the feyde erle, with resnable allowance of his costes for his comyng and returneing home ageyne; and in case the feyde erle be ordeyned in any vyage of werre on this syde the see or beyonde, the said Sir John shall be redy upon resnable warnyng, to goe with the feyde erle in the feyd vyage, with such noubre of men of armes and of archers as the feyde erle shall liste to assigne or appoynte according to his degree; for the which the feyd Sir John shall have for hym, hys feyde men of armes and archers, such wages and rewardes as the feyde erle shall take of our soverayne lorde, or any other hys capytayne duryng the feyde vyage, with shyppen and reshyppefen resnable for hym and them." MS. History of the Mainwaring family, by Sir Thomas Mainwaring Bart., now at Peover-Hall.

<sup>3</sup> This was his second wife; his first wife was Margaret Delves.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 449.

<sup>5</sup> See p. 450.

relation

relation Catherine Mainwaring, he gave 6*s.* 8*d.*: all his heir-looms he bequeathed to his son, according to the custom of the country. In an aisle on the north-side of the chapel, built by Helen Mainwaring about the year 1647, is a monument with figures in white marble of Philip Mainwaring, (son and heir of Sir Randle Mainwaring,) who died in 1647, and the said Helen his wife: at the east end of this aisle is the monument of Sir John Mainwaring, who died in 1702. In Over-Peover chapel is a singular memorial for Mr. William Littleboys, with the following inscription, on a wooden tablet, underneath the representation of death standing on a corpse, wrapped in a shroud.

“ Stand and heare a dead man speake, let not life too much enamour;  
 I myself have found her weake, thou shalt have like cause of clamour.  
 Great breadth of land, with rich built cages,  
 Goulden earth which men do swallow,  
 Youth befooling of the wife,  
 Beauty in her daintiest formes,  
 Age will teach thee to despyse;  
 Death shall make a meale for wormes.  
 If vanitie doe thinke this strange,  
 Take me an instance of the change.

“ This is the emblem and epitaph of Mr. William Littleboys, who lived and died religiously, whereof he hath made a large manifestation by his charitable bounty to remain for ever to the poor of Wickham in Buckinghamshire, the place of his birth, and Over-Peover in Cheshire where now his body lies interred till his joyful resurrection; Obiit 1624.”

There is a small stipend belonging to Over-Peover chapel, payable by the vicar of Rostherne, and it has been augmented by private benefactions to the amount of 600*l.* which has been laid out in lands; Sir H. M. Mainwaring appoints the curate. A school-house was built by subscription at Over-Peover, about the year 1730; it has an endowment of about 10*l.* a year, with which four boys and four girls are taught and clothed.

The township of *Marthall* lies three miles E. S. E. from Knutsford: the manor was held at an early period by the Winningtons under the Mainwarings; the late Sir Peter Warburton, who was representative of the Winningtons, sold it to Samuel Egerton Esq. of Tatton; having passed with the Tatton estate\*, it is now the

\* See p. 748.

property

property of Wilbraham Egerton Esq. The hamlet of *Little-Warford*<sup>b</sup>, which is included in one township with Marthall, was part of the ancient inheritance of the Mainwarings; in the reign of Henry III. it was given by Roger Mainwaring to Sir Robert de Vernon. Gilbert Lee Esq. being possessed of this estate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to John Millington and William Hough; Millington's moiety belonged in 1666 to Millington Coulthurst<sup>c</sup>; three-fourths of this estate are now by inheritance from the Coulthursts the property of Mr. Samuel Holland: the other moiety, having passed through the families of Antrobus, Coulthurst, and Smith, was sold to Sir Randle Mainwaring in 1619: Sir J. T. Stanley has now a fourth part of this hamlet, which was purchased of the representatives of Dr. Norbury: the whole hamlet is within the manor of Great-Warford.

The township of *Snelleston*, or *Snelson*, lies five miles S. E. from Knutsford: the manor passed from the family of Snelleston to that of Sulyard, in or about the year 1530: there is now no manor; the principal land-owner in the township is Thomas Parker Esq. of Astle.

RUNCORN, in the hundred of Bucklow and deanery of Frodsham, lies about six miles N. N. W. from Frodsham, and four miles from Warrington. It contains nineteen townships, three of which are in the chapelry of *Aston*, ten in the chapelry of *Daresbury*, and three in the chapelry of *Halton*; the others are *Runcorn*, formerly divided into two townships, *Runcorn-Superior* and *Runcorn-Inferior*; *Clifton*, and *Weston*.

The royalty of Runcorn belongs to the Earl of Cholmondeley, as annexed to the honour of Halton; the land-owners, who were formerly copy-holders under Halton, now hold their estates in fee-farm, in consequence of purchases made of the crown in the reign of King Charles I. Lord Cholmondeley has also an estate, called in ancient records the third-part of *Over-Runcorn*, which was for many generations in the Duttons, and was sold by their representatives the Gerards, to the Savages of Rock-Savage<sup>d</sup>.

In the year 915, Ethelfleda, sister of King Edward the Elder, and widow of Ethelred Earl of Mercia, is said to have built a town and castle near the river Mersey, at a place then called Romicofan, now Runcorn<sup>e</sup>: some traces of ancient buildings, supposed to have been the site of this castle, are to be seen at a place

<sup>b</sup> *Little Warford* lies four miles E. S. E. from Knutsford.

<sup>c</sup> Sir Peter Leycester.

<sup>d</sup> Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, p. 351.

<sup>e</sup> Ralph Higden.

called the Castle-Rock, about three hundred yards from the parish church, down the river; this part of the Mersey is called Runcorn-Gap, and is about four hundred yards wide at high-water; it was an important situation for a garrison, as it commanded the passage from the kingdom of Mercia to that of Northumberland. In the year 1133 William Fitz-Nigel founded a monastery of canons regular at Runcorn, which in or about the reign of King Stephen was removed to Norton<sup>r</sup>.

In the parish church, which is situated at *Lower-Runcorn*, are monuments of Sir John Cheslyre, prime-serjeant to Queen Anne and King George I., who died in 1738<sup>r</sup>, and three baronets of the Brooke family; those of Sir Richard Brooke, who died in 1781, and the late Sir Richard, who died in 1795, are by Bacon, the latter has a medallion of the deceased. The church of Runcorn belonged to the prior and convent of Norton, to whom the great tithes were appropriated; after the dissolution the impropriation and advowson of the vicarage were given by King Henry VIII. to Christ's-church college in Oxford, under which the tithes are held on lease by Sir Richard Brooke Bart.

The canal projected and carried into execution by the last Duke of Bridgewater passes through a great part of this parish; at Runcorn it is sixty feet above the level of the river Mersey, with which it communicates by means of ten locks, very ingeniously contrived, by the celebrated engineer Mr. Brindley. The Duke of Bridgewater built a house at Runcorn for his occasional residence; it is now occupied by Mr. Bradshaw, agent to the Marquis of Stafford, to whom the Duke bequeathed all his valuable property in canals. Runcorn, which Sir Peter Leycester speaks of, as being in his time a very poor village, has, in consequence of the trade on the canal, and its having become a place of considerable resort for change of air and salt-water bathing, grown very populous<sup>r</sup>, and been improved by many handsome buildings. This township abounds in fine stone quarries, from which considerable quantities of hewn stone are sent by water to Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, &c.

The township of *Clifton* lies nearly two miles N. N. E. from Frodsham; the manor was given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Geoffrey de Dutton<sup>r</sup>, whose posterity from their residence in that village took the name of Chedle;

<sup>r</sup> Ralph Higden.

<sup>r</sup> On the tablet is a quotation of the well-known distich of Pope, "A wit's a feather, &c.": there are some other memorials of the Cheslyres of Hallwood.

<sup>r</sup> It contained in 1801, according to the returns made to Parliament under the population act, 228 houses and 1379 inhabitants.

<sup>r</sup> See p. 485. in the notes.

from

from the Chedles it passed by female heirs to the families of Baguley, Daniers or Daniel, and Savage. John Savage, who married Margaret daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Daniel, was descended from the Savages of Steinesbie in Derbyshire; he settled at Clifton, and died in the year 1386; his son John was knighted at the battle of Agincourt<sup>2</sup>; his grandson of the same name, who died in 1495, was father of Sir John Savage K. G., who distinguished himself on the Earl of Richmond's side at the battle of Bosworth-field, in which he had the command of the left wing of the army; he was slain in his father's life-time, anno 1497, at the siege of Boulogne; a younger son was Thomas Savage, archbishop of York, and founder of the chapel at Macclesfield, which is the burial-place of his family. Sir John Savage, great-grandson of the last-mentioned Sir John, built a magnificent mansion, of which there are now scarcely any remains, near the site of the old hall at Clifton<sup>3</sup>, and gave it the name of Rock-Savage. This Sir John, who died in 1597, was three times mayor of Chester, and seven times sheriff for the county; John, his son and heir, the ninth of that name in succession, was created a baronet in 1611. Sir John Savage, younger son of the first baronet, was murdered in 1609 by Ralph Bathurst, who, on being arraigned for the fact, and refusing to plead, was pressed to death on the 13th of July that year<sup>4</sup>; Sir Thomas Savage the second baronet, entertained King James I. and his whole court, at Rock-Savage in 1617, after his Majesty had been taking the diversion of hunting in Halton-Park<sup>5</sup>; he was created viscount Savage of Rock-Savage in 1626; his son was in 1619 created Earl Rivers, his mother having been daughter and heir of Thomas Darcy, who had enjoyed that title. On the death of John Savage, the last Earl Rivers without issue in 1728, the manor of Clifton, or Rock-Savage, passed to James Earl of Barrymore, who had married his sister: it now belongs to the Earl of Cholmondeley, whose uncle, General Cholmondeley, married Lady Penelope Barry. A farm-house has been fitted up out of the offices belonging to the mansion which were built about a century ago.

The township of *Weston* lies two miles N. N. W. from Frodsham: the manor was parcel of the ancient inheritance of the Duttons, from whom it passed by marriage to the Gerards; having since been sold in severalties, those severalties are

<sup>2</sup> Pedigree of the family.      <sup>3</sup> Clifton-Hall is described by Webb as a feat of great antiquity, "the remains whereof," says he, "stand a little distance from this (Rock-Savage) in the park, like an aged matron, well contented to go to her grave, having seen in her life-time her daughter advanced to such an height of honourable dignity." King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 93.

<sup>4</sup> Smith's Cheshire Collections; Pedigree of Savage.

<sup>5</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 93.

now the property of John Orred Esq., the coheireffes of the late Robert Chesfryre and others.

The chapelry of *Aston* comprises the townships of *Aston*, *Aston-Grange*, and *Sutton*. The manor of *Aston* belonged as early as the reign of Henry II. to the ancient family of *Aston*; on the failure of the elder branch about the year 1368, *Aston* passed to Sir Richard *Aston* of *Ringey*, whose immediate descendant, Sir Thomas *Aston*, was created a baronet by King Charles I. in 1628; he was an officer in the King's service during the civil war, and actively engaged in his own county, but with ill success, particularly at the battle of *Middlewich*, where he was defeated by Sir William *Brereton*; he died in 1645 of the consequences of a blow which he received from a foldier whilst endeavouring to make his escape, after having been taken prisoner in a skirmish in *Staffordshire*. His descendant, Sir Thomas *Aston*, who died in 1744 without issue, bequeathed this estate to his eldest sister *Catherine*, wife of the Hon. and Rev. Henry *Hervey*\*, who by act of Parliament took the name of *Aston*. The manor of *Aston* is now the property of their great-grandson, Henry Charles *Hervey Aston*, a minor. The title descended to *Willoughby*, uncle of Sir Thomas above-mentioned, whose grandson, Sir *Willoughby*, is the present baronet. *Aston-Hall*, now inhabited by the Hon. *Harriot Aston*, daughter of Charles Viscount *Irvine*, and mother of H. C. H. *Aston*, was built not far from the site of the old hall, by Sir *Willoughby Aston*, who died in 1702. The lords of *Aston* had in ancient times a right to their diet at *Norton-Priory*, under a deed of the 27th of Edward III. Among the *Harleian MSS.* in the *British Museum*† is a remonstrance of Richard *Aston* in the reign of Henry VI., complaining "that he had not his allowance of livelyhood at *Norton* which his ancestors had."

The chapel at *Aston* was built in or before the reign of Henry VIII. in lieu of an ancient chapel at *Middleton-Grange* in this township, in which the prior and convent of *Norton* were obliged to find a priest to officiate: *Middleton chapel*, of which there are no remains, was in a decayed state in the reign of Henry VI. *Aston-chapel* was made parochial by bishop *Bridgman* in 1635: in this chapel, which was enlarged and nearly re-built in 1737, are some monuments and other memorials of the *Aston* family, particularly those of Sir Thomas *Aston Bart.* who died in 1645; John, his brother, "who with great prudence and fidelity preserved the estate and evidences of his family from being ruined by sequestration during his life, which ended in 1650," and Sir *Willoughby Aston Bart.*, who had eight sons, and thirteen daughters, and died in 1702: on the

\* Fourth son of John, late Earl of Bristol.

† N° 2038. f. 274.

north-wall is a pedigree of the Aston family, carved in wood, with numerous coats of arms, emblazoned. Aston chapel, which is three miles from Runcorn church, was endowed by King Henry VIII. with *5l. per ann.*, payable by the King's auditor at Chester: it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, but the income is very small: The Aston family are patrons. Middleton-Grange, or Middle-Aston-Grange, belonged to the monks of St. Werburgh; and having been purchased of the crown by Thomas Aston Esq. in 1545, has descended with the Aston estate.

The manor of *Aston-Grange* was given to the monks of Stanlow, afterwards removed to Whalley, by John Lacy, constable of Chester<sup>b</sup>: it was then called Maurice-Aston; this manor was purchased of the crown in 1545, by Richard Brooke Esq.<sup>c</sup>, ancestor of Sir Richard Brooke Bart., the present proprietor.

The township of *Sutton* lies two miles N. E. by E. from Frodsham; the manor belonged in the reign of Richard I. to Adam de Dutton, immediate ancestor of Sir Peter Warburton Bart. of whom it was purchased in 1807, by Mr. Aston's guardians.

The chapelry of *Daresbury* comprises the townships of *Daresbury, Aston-Grange, Hatton, Keckwick, Moore, Newton, Preston-on-the-hill, Thelwall, Over-Walton, and Nether-Walton.*

The manor of *Daresbury*, which was held under the barony of Halton, passed by successive female heirs, from the family of Daresbury to those of Norreys<sup>d</sup> and Daniel<sup>e</sup>. John Daniel Esq. of Daresbury, in the year 1756 sold this manor<sup>f</sup> to George Heron Esq., a descendant of the Herons of Chip-Chase in Northumberland, who nearly re-built the hall, now the seat of his son, the Rev. George Heron, the present lord of the manor.

Daresbury chapel stands near the side of the road from Frodsham to Warrington, five miles from each, and about three miles from the parish-church of Runcorn. The dean and chapter of Christ-church college in Oxford appoint the curate: the chapel has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. There was a chapel at Daresbury as early as the reign of Henry II., when it was granted by Aubert Grelly to Norton-Priory. There is a grammar-school in

<sup>b</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. i. p. 897. Sir Peter Leycester is in an error in supposing that Aston-Grange belonged to the Priory of Norton. Antiquities of Bucklow hundred, p. 214.

<sup>c</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>d</sup> About 1291. Sir Peter Leycester's Antiquities of Bucklow hundred, p. 234.

<sup>e</sup> About 1344. Ibid.

<sup>f</sup> The Daniel family then removed into Staffordshire.

this

this township endowed with the interest of 185*l.* given by sundry benefactors<sup>2</sup>; it was founded by subscription in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The township of *Acton-Grange* lies about eight miles N. E. by N. from Frodsham, and nearly three S. W. by S. from Warrington in Lancashire; the manor was parcel of the possessions of the prior and convent of Norton, and has passed with the other estates of that monastery to the present proprietor, Sir Richard Brooke Bart.

The township of *Hatton* lies seven miles N. E. by N. from Frodsham, and about four S. by W. from Warrington: the manor was given by John de Lacy, to Adam de Dutton<sup>1</sup>; Geoffrey de Dutton gave it in marriage with his daughter to William Fitzhugh: it is probable that some of his immediate descendants assumed the name of Hatton, for we find that about the year 1290 this manor was divided into severalties among the co-heirs of Adam de Hatton; some of those, it is probable, continued the name of Hatton, for we find that in 1661 Peter Hatton of Quisty, or Coisty-Birches, which had long been the seat of his ancestors, joined with his sons in the sale of the capital mansion so called, and part of the manor of Hatton (the remainder being divided among sundry freeholders) to Robert Pickering Esq.<sup>1</sup>. Henry Pickering Esq. his descendant, sold Quisty-Birches in 1760 to Mr. Hordern of Macclesfield, of whose son it was purchased by Mr. Watt, the present proprietor: the hall has been pulled down and a farmhouse built on the site. The principal estate in this township belonged to the Rutters, and is now the property of Major-General Heron of Moore<sup>2</sup>. This township has been inclosed by an act of Parliament passed in 1803.

The township of *Keckwath* lies nearly six miles N. E. by N. from Frodsham; the manor, which had been part of the ancient inheritance of the Duttons, was awarded in the reign of Henry VIII. to Margaret, one of the co-heiresses of Sir Thomas Dutton, who brought it in marriage to Thomas Aston Esq.: it has since passed with the Aston estate.

The township of *Moore*, which lies four miles S. W. from Warrington, is parcel of the barony of Halton: in the reign of Charles I. the copy-holders enfranchised their lands, which since that time have been held of the crown in fee-farm, as of the manor of Enfield. An estate in this township was purchased of the Brookes, before the year 1666 by Richard Rutter Esq., supposed to have been of a younger branch of the ancient family of Rutter of Kingsley; on the death of his descendant

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 295.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 485, in the notes.

<sup>2</sup> See the next page.

of the same name, without male issue in 1758, this estate passed in marriage with his only daughter and heir to Peter Kyffin Heron, second son of George Heron Esq. of Daresbury, and father of Peter Heron Esq., now a major-general in his majesty's service, and M. P. for Newton in Lancashire, who has a seat at Moore.

The township of *Newton-juxta-Daresbury* lies about four miles and a half N. E. by E. from Frodsham; the manor was given in the year 1187 by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Adam de Dutton<sup>1</sup>, from whom it passed to his lineal descendants the Warburtons. Sir George Warburton, who died in 1743, devised it to his natural son, Thomas Stoughton Esq., from whom it passed by purchase to the Littons; John Litton sold it in 1804 to Peter Heron Esq. of Moore, of whom it was purchased by Thomas Claughton Esq., the present proprietor. In this township is the manor of Hallum, given by John Lacy with Newton, to Adam de Dutton, whose son Geoffrey gave it in moieties to Grimsditch and Hallum, two of his gentlemen<sup>2</sup>; the Hallums afterwards possessed the whole, which was purchased in 1471, of the heirs of Robert Hallum by Sir John Needham, ancestor of Lord Viscount Kilmorey, the present proprietor: the hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Preston-on-the-hill* lies four miles N. E. by E. from Frodsham: the manor was purchased, about the reign of King John, of Henry de Nuers, and Julian his wife, by Hugh de Dutton<sup>3</sup>; having passed with the Dutton estates to the Gerards of Brandon, Charles Lord Gerard in 1705 conveyed this manor to trustees to be sold for the payment of debts; his nephew Charles Fleetwood, in whom it afterwards became vested, sold it to Fulke Greville Esq., of whom it was purchased in 1769 by Thomas Brock of Chester; it is now the property of his nephew and devisee, Thomas Brock Yates Esq., who resides on the estate in a small modern mansion.

The township of *Thelwall* lies about three miles and a half E. S. E. from Warrington: Thelwall was an ancient town, built, or as some writers say, restored and garrisoned by Edward the Elder in 920. William Lacy, constable of Chester, gave a third of the manor of Thelwall to the abbot and convent of Shrewsbury<sup>4</sup>, the other two-thirds were given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Adam de Dutton<sup>5</sup>, from whom they descended to his grandson Thomas. This estate was in the Claytons in the reign of Edward III. Richard Brooke Esq. of Norton, who

<sup>1</sup> See p. 485. in the notes.  
p. 346.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 372.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1535.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1535.

<sup>5</sup> Sir Peter Leycester,

purchased

purchased it of the Claytons about the year 1561, became possessed of the whole manor, which, after an intermediate sale in 1621, to the Mores<sup>p</sup>, was bought in 1662 by Robert Pickering Esq., ancestor of Henry Pickering Esq., the present proprietor. The late Mr. Pickering erected a mansion at Thelwall, now in the occupation of the Rev. Thomas Blackburn, D. D.

Thelwall chapel, which was built by the Brooke family, was originally domestic; having been disused for nearly a century, and the interior having gone to decay, it was repaired and refitted in 1782, since which time it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. Mr. Pickering appoints the minister.

The township of *Over*, or *Higher-Walton*, lies seven miles and a half N. E. by N. from Frodsham, and two and a half S. S. W. from Warrington; the manor belonged to the family of Walton, from which it passed by a female heir to Simon de Merbury in the reign of Edward III. About the middle of the seventeenth century, Sir Peter Brooke of Mere purchased it of Thomas Merbury of Walton<sup>q</sup>: it is now the property of his descendant, Thomas Langford Brooke Esq. The remains of the old hall are occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Nether*, or *Lower-Walton*, lies eight miles N. E. from Frodsham, and two miles S. from Warrington: the manor was given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Adam de Dutton<sup>r</sup>, whose son Geoffrey, gave one moiety of it to his gentleman, Richard Massey, and the other to the ancestor of the Waltons<sup>s</sup>, the former was sold by the Masseys of Sale about the year 1660 to the free-holders<sup>t</sup>, the other was inherited by the Merburys, and has passed with Over-Walton, to Thomas Langford Brooke Esq.

The chapelry of *Halton*<sup>u</sup> comprises the townships of *Halton*, *Norton*, and *Stockham*. The barony of Halton was given by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, to his cousin Nigel, with the constabulary of Chester; the Earl at the same time made him his marshal, it being his duty to lead the vanguard of the army whenever he should march into Wales: these great offices, of constable of Chester and the Earl's marshal, were attached to the barony, and enjoyed by his successors, the

<sup>p</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 373. One of the Leghs of Ridge in some MSS. Collections relating to Cheshire, now in the British Museum, (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2155.) speaking of this township says, "Thelwall by the gift of Dr. More, Dr. in physick, now belongs to his nephew, whose coin hath created him a baronet of Nova-Scotia, by the name of Sir Edward More."

<sup>q</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 382.

<sup>r</sup> See p. 485. in the notes.

<sup>s</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 1535.

<sup>t</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 383.

<sup>u</sup> The decayed town of *Halton* lies three miles N. N. E. from Frodsham.

barons

barons of Halton. On the death of William Fitz-Nigel junior, the third baron of Halton, without issue, the barony devolved to Eustace Fitz-John, who married his sister Agnes; Richard, son of Eustace, married Albreda de Lizours, daughter and heir of Robert de Lizours, and half sister and heir of Robert Lacy; their son John, who was the sixth baron of Halton, is sometimes called John Lacy, but Sir Peter Leycester says that the name of Lacy was first assumed by his son Roger<sup>2</sup>. John, his grandson, who inherited the barony of Halton and was constable of Chester, became, in right of his wife, Earl of Lincoln. Alice, daughter and sole heir of Henry Lacy Earl of Lincoln, who died in 1310, married Thomas Plantagenet Earl of Lancaster, who became in her right constable of Chester, and was the eleventh baron of Halton: from him the barony descended to Henry of Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster<sup>3</sup>, (son of John of Gaunt,) who on the deposition of King Richard II. became king of England, by the name of Henry IV. since which time the barony, or as it is called in some old records, the honor of Halton, has been annexed to the crown, being esteemed parcel of the duchy of Lancaster. During the protectorate of Cromwell, "the honor, fee, manor, and castle of Halton," were put up to sale and purchased by Henry Brooke Esq. of Norton<sup>4</sup>, but reverted to the crown at the restoration. Halton-park, having been granted in fee-farm to Sir John Savage, has descended with Rock-Savage and other estates to the Earl of Cholmondeley, who holds the honor of Halton by lease under the crown. The barons of Halton possessed very extensive privileges by grant from the Earls of Chester; besides the office of constable of Chester and marshal, they had the ward of the streets of Chester, during the fair-time: they were authorized to have a castle and a prison at Halton; to hold their town of Halton as a free borough, and have free-burgesses there; to hold a weekly market on Saturday at Halton<sup>5</sup>; and two fairs, one for seven days at the festival of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, the other for two days at the festival of St. Catherine; to hold a court for the cognizance of various offences, and for all pleas and actions within the barony, except such as belonged to the Earl's sword; to have

<sup>2</sup> Antiquities of Bucklow hundred, p. 267.

<sup>3</sup> His father, John of Gaunt, fourth son of King Edward III., married Blanch, daughter and co-heir of Henry Duke of Lancaster, who died in 1360, and had the barony of Halton assigned him, as part of her portion. Halton castle is said to have been one of his favourite residences.

<sup>4</sup> Record in the Augmentation-office.

<sup>5</sup> The market and fairs have been long discontinued; they had become of so little consequence at the time of the Survey made in Cromwell's time, that the profits of the four years preceding are stated to have been only 9*d.*—Survey in the Augmentation-office.

a master-serjeant and eight under-serjeants within the fee of Halton; to have the advowries of all such as should put themselves under his protection<sup>b</sup>; to hold the town of Congleton as a free borough, with various other privileges, such as exemption from toll for their burgeses at Halton, Congleton, &c. &c. which are enumerated in a plea to a *quo warranto* brought against Henry Duke of Lancaster, printed in Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities of Bucklow hundred*<sup>c</sup>. Halton-castle was built soon after the Norman Conquest<sup>d</sup>, its site is on the brow of a hill, commanding a very extensive and rich prospect over a great part of Cheshire, and across the Mersey into Lancashire. The survey of Halton-castle made in Cromwell's time, describes it as then very ruinous, having been first a garrison for the king and afterwards for the Parliament<sup>e</sup>, but we have not found any account of its having sustained a siege. The survey describes a gate-house, with five rooms over; one great hall with two ranges of buildings over it, consisting of nine rooms unfinished, and a prison for the honor of Halton<sup>f</sup>. Colonel Henry Brooke, who afterwards purchased the castle and honor, was then steward, which office had been held before the war by Lord Savage; Richard Brooke Esq. was constable of the castle, and Thomas Cheshire gent. was bailiff of the lordship of Halton and Whitley, under a grant of King James I. The honor of Halton is stated to have jurisdiction over thirty-seven townships in Cheshire, which are enumerated, and some in Lancashire<sup>g</sup>; three *halmote* courts were held yearly at the castle, in December, April, and August, being in the nature of courts-leet, besides which there were two annual courts-leet, and a court-baron every fortnight<sup>h</sup>. There are few remains of the ancient buildings of Halton-castle, the habitable part of it, which appears to have been chiefly re-built since the civil war, has been fitted up as an inn; there is a room where the courts for the honor are held.

Sir Peter Leycester speaks of a chapel of ease near the castle at Halton, which he remembered to have been in use in the year 1625; in 1666, at the date of his

<sup>b</sup> See p. 299, 300.

<sup>c</sup> P. 280—284.

<sup>d</sup> Sir Peter Leycester, p. 262.

<sup>e</sup> It was a garrison for the King in the early part of 1643, and for the Parliament in 1644. See "Cheshire's Successes" 1643, and Burghall's Diary in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 936.

<sup>f</sup> Prisoners for debt were formerly confined here; but not within the memory of any one now living.

<sup>g</sup> A list of the townships within the fee of Halton may be seen also in Sir Peter Leycester's *Antiquities*, p. 288.—291. The constables of most of these townships still attend and are sworn in at Halton-court.

<sup>h</sup> Survey in the Augmentation office. These *halmote* courts are still held, but there is now only one court-leet and court-baron, held annually in October.

writing, it was totally in decay<sup>1</sup>. It was afterwards re-built, and in the year 1718 augmented by Sir John Chesshyre, serjeant at law, with the sum of 600*l.* towards the maintenance of a curate; the appointment of whom was vested in him and his heirs: John Chesshyre Esq. of Bennington-place in Hertfordshire is the present patron. Sir John Chesshyre in the year 1733, built a library<sup>\*</sup> at Halton, and furnished it with about four hundred volumes of valuable books, of which there is a catalogue printed on vellum with an extract from the donor's will, and the rules which he ordained for the management of the library: by these rules it is directed that it shall be open for the use of divines, and the neighbouring gentry, particularly his own descendants, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at convenient hours, when the curate, who is always to be librarian, shall attend: a small room with a fire-place is provided, to be used by the curate as a study, whither he may retire from the interruptions of a family. A fund of about 10*l.* *per ann.* (now in land) was given by the founder for the purpose of providing fuel; the residue, if any, to be laid out in the purchase of books. Hallwood in this township, the seat of the Chesshyres, was built by Thomas Chesshyre Esq., father of the serjeant: it was sold in 1774 by Mrs. Arabella Rawdon, sole surviving child of William Chesshyre Esq., and widow of the Earl of Moira's uncle, to Robert Newton Esq., of whom it was purchased in 1799 by the father of Sir Richard Brooke Bart. the present proprietor.

There has long been a charity-school at Halton, but when or by whom founded, is unknown<sup>1</sup>: the master has a salary of about 20*l.* *per ann.*, arising principally<sup>m</sup> from the interest of money given by various benefactors. An alms-house "for six poor decayed and honest old servants," was founded in 1767 by Pusey Brooke Esq., and endowed with the sum of 54*l.* 12*s.* *per ann.* The pensioners are appointed by Sir Richard Brooke Bart.

The township of *Norton* lies four miles N. E. from Frodsham; the manor was given by William Fitz-Nigel, constable of Chester, about the year 1135, to the canons of Runcorn, who were removed to the Priory of Norton, then founded by the said William: the revenues of this Priory were estimated in the reign of

<sup>1</sup> Antiquities of the hundred of Bucklow, p. 263.

<sup>\*</sup> The following inscription is placed over the door of the building, "Hanc Bibliothecam pro communi literatorum usu sub curâ curati capellæ de Halton proventibus ter feliciter augmentatæ Joannes Chesshyre Miles, serviens Dñi R. gis ad Legem, D.D.D. Anno 1733."

<sup>1</sup> Not known in Bishop Gastrell's time: the endowment was then only 11*l.* *per ann.*

<sup>m</sup> There are rent-charges on lands of about 3*l.* *per ann.*

Henry VIII., at 180*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*, clear yearly value. The priory and manor of Norton were purchased of the King in 1545, by Richard Brooke, a younger son of Thomas Brooke of Leighton<sup>a</sup> in Nantwich, whose family had been settled in that township, as early as the reign of Henry III. Henry Brooke Esq., who had been four times appointed sheriff of the county, by the Parliament during the civil war, and in the protectorate of Cromwell, and had been the purchaser of Halton, was in 1662 created a baronet by King Charles II. The title and estate are now enjoyed by Sir Richard Brooke Bart.

Norton-priory, then the seat of Henry Brooke Esq., was besieged by the royalists, in the early part of the year 1643<sup>o</sup>; a pamphlet of that date says, "they brought canon with many horse and foot and fell to batter it on a sabbath-day; Mr. Brooke had eighty men in the house; we were careful he should lack no powder; with all other things Master Brooke furnished them fully. A man upon his tower with a flag in his hand cryde them ayme, while they discharged their canon, saying "wide my lord on the right hand; now wide two yards on the left; two yards over my lord, &c. He made them swell for anger when they could not endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, having lost forty-six of their own, and their canoneer."<sup>p</sup> Norton-priory, the present mansion, now the seat of Sir Richard Brooke Bart., is a modern building, but part of the substructure of the monastery, in which is a door-way of Saxon architecture, still remains, being fitted up as a cellar. In the first volume of Buck's Antiquities is a view of the old mansion, which appears to have been built soon after the dissolution of the monastery.

The township of *Stockham* lies three miles N. E. from Frodsham; the manor was parcel of the possessions of the prior and convent of Norton, and has passed with the rest of the priory estates to Sir Richard Brooke Bart.

SANDBACH, in the hundred of Nantwich and deanery of Middlewich, is a market-town twenty-five miles from Chester, and about a hundred and sixty-two from London. It has two weekly markets, Thursday and Saturday; the first is a good corn-market, the other chiefly for butchers' meat; there are two fairs, Easter-Tuesday, and the Thursday before the tenth of September. The Thursday's market and the two fairs were granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1578 to Sir John Radcliffe: At the September fair a remarkable occurrence happened in the year 1651; a

<sup>a</sup> The Brookes of Leighton became extinct about the year 1652. Sir Peter Leycester, p. 326.

<sup>o</sup> It was before the battle of Middlewich, which happened March 13.

<sup>p</sup> "Cheshire's Successor," 1643.

party (Whitlocke says a thousand) of the King's horse, on their retreat from the battle of Worcester, were attacked by the country people, and many of them taken prisoners<sup>a</sup>. Sandbach was formerly celebrated for its ale<sup>c</sup>.

The parish of Sandbach comprises the townships of *Sandbach, Arcliffe, Bechton, Bradwell, Hassfall, and Wheelock*, exclusively of those which are in the chapelries of *Goostrey and Church Hulme, or Holmes-Chapel*.

The manor of Sandbach was held by a family of that name, under the Earls of Chester in 1224; from the Sanbaches it passed by successive female heirs to the Leghs of Booths and the Radcliffes<sup>b</sup>. It is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Crewe, whose ancestor Sir Randle Crewe, is supposed to have purchased it of Sir John Radcliffe, in or about the reign of Queen Elizabeth<sup>c</sup>. In this township is Abbey-field, formerly called the Field-House, now the property and residence of John Ford Esq.: it is said to have belonged to the abbey of Dieulacres.

Elworth, in the township of Sandbach, was for many descents the seat of the ancient family of Raven, which removed from Bromborough to this place in the reign of Edward III., in consequence of a match with the heirs of Elworth. Sir John Raven, (or, as he is called in Holinshed's Chronicle, Rayne,) an ancestor of this family, lost his life by shipwreck, on his return from France in 1343; the heirs of Raven brought Elworth to the Hulses of Clive in the seventeenth century. The Rev. John Hulse of Elworth, who died in 1790, bequeathed his Cheshire estates, after a certain period mentioned in his will, and the fulfilment of certain specific trusts, to the university of Cambridge for ever. In the mean time he directed that the sum of 70*l. per ann.* should be given by his trustees out of the profits of his estates, to a master of arts in the University, to be elected by the vice-chancellor and the masters of Trinity and St. John's colleges: to be called the Christian Advocate, to hold that office for six years, and to write and publish yearly answers against notorious infidels, whether atheists or deists, particularly noticing such new and popular cavils and objections as shall have been recently written against the Christian or revealed religion; the sum of 60*l. per ann.* to be given to a master of arts to be chosen yearly, by the same persons as a lecturer, who should preach twenty sermons at Great St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, on the evidences of revealed religion, and on the truth and excellence of Christianity, which sermons should be printed;

<sup>a</sup> Mercurius Politicus, Sept. 25, 1651.  
part ii. p. 78.

<sup>b</sup> See Webb's Itinerary in King's Vale-Royal,

<sup>c</sup> See p. 359.

<sup>d</sup> Villare Cestriense. — It certainly was between 1585 and 1622, as appears by Smith's and Webb's Descriptions of Sandbach in King's Vale-Royal.

the

the sum of 50*l.* to the writer, (being of the University of Cambridge, and under the degree of M. A.) of the best dissertation on the evidences of the Christian religion, to be determined by the persons before-mentioned; and 30*l. per ann.* each, to three scholars (to be called Hulse's scholars) at St. John's college, to be chosen by the master and senior fellows of that college; preference to be given to natives of Cheshire, and particularly to sons of the curate of Sandbach, the vicar or curate of Middlewich, the curate of Witton, or to the sons of clergymen born in Sandbach, Middlewich, or Witton. The bishop of Ely is visitor of this trust. Elworth was bequeathed by Mr. Hulse to Thomas Plant and his wife Elizabeth, for life; it is still in the possession of Mr. Plant, who occupies the hall.

In the parish church of Sandbach are memorials of the families of Jackson of Bechton, Leigh, Moulson, and Powis. The Leverfage chapel, or oratory, was confirmed to the family of Leverfage in 1589. There was formerly a monument in this church for Richard Wheelock Esq., Eleanor (Vernon) his wife, and Thomas their son; Eleanor died in 1400, and the son in 1439<sup>1</sup>.

Ranulph de Blundeville Earl of Chester, who had succeeded in proving his right to the patronage of the church, against the claim of Richard de Sandbach, gave it to the abbot and convent of Dieulacres in Staffordshire, to whom the great tithes were appropriated. The impropriation is now in severalties; the advowson of the vicarage was formerly in the Leverfages, who augmented it with a rent-charge of 26*l. per ann.*, it has of late years passed through several hands, principally by purchase, and is now the property of the Rev. John Armitstead of Bawtry in the county of York.

A free-school was founded at Sandbach in 1718, chiefly by the benefaction of Francis Wells Esq. : it is endowed with lands, now producing about 20*l. per ann.* and the interest of fundry small donations; Mr. Wells directed that twenty boys should be taught reading, writing, and accounts, in this school; and that three should be fitted for the University.

The township of *Arcliff* or *Arclid*, lies nearly two miles E.N.E. from Sandbach; the manor was for many generations in the Venables family as parcel of the barony of Kinderton; it was sold by Lord Vernon to the late Mr. Ralph Leeke of Middlewich; having passed by descent to his cousin, Ralph Leeke of Longford in the county of Salop, it is now vested in Stephen Leeke Esq. of Chester, (brother of the last-mentioned Ralph) as trustee for sale. The principal estate in this township was held under the Barons of Kinderton, by the Arclids, and was divided among the co-heirs of that family in the reign of Richard II.

<sup>1</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, p. 63.

This estate, or a part of it, came by descent from the Clottons and Beresfords to the Mainwarings<sup>a</sup>; it is now the property of the Rev. William Moreton Moreton of Moreton-Hall.

The township of *Beebton*, or *Betchton*, lies somewhat more than two miles S. E. by S. from Sandbach; the manor was held by the Bechttons, under the family of Audley in the reign of Edward II.<sup>a</sup>: it was afterwards in moieties between the Davenport and Fittons; the moiety which belonged to the former was acquired in marriage with the heiress of Peter Legh, to whom it had been conveyed by the Bechttons<sup>b</sup>, by Sir John Davenport of Davenport, and was afterwards settled in the Henbury branch, in which it continued till the marriage of the heiress of that branch with Sir Foulke Lucy in the seventeenth century. It is probable that this moiety passed to the Wilbrahams, who purchased of the Beestons the paramount royalty which had belonged to the Lords Audley. George Wilbraham Esq. of Delamere-lodge, is now lord of a moiety of the township comprising the southerly part, which may be considered as a distinct manor: the other moiety was in the Fittons as early as the reign of Richard II.<sup>c</sup>, and so continued till the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it was then sold to the Egertons of Wrinehill, of whom it was purchased in trust for the freeholders: four of these are lords of this moiety of the township in rotation; the lords in rotation in 1808, were John Wilson Esq. of Sandbach, John Levett Esq. of Melford in the county of Stafford, Joseph Hilditch Gent., and Thomas Sumerfield Gent. Bechton-Hall, now a farm-house, built on the site of an ancient mansion, was, with its demesne, the property of Dr. Richard Jackson, prebendary of Chester, who died in 1796; his nieces and devisees, who have changed their name from Day to Jackson, by the King's licence, are the present proprietors.

The township of *Bradwall* or *Bradwell*, lies two miles and a half N. by W. from Sandbach: the manor passed with the barony of Kinderton till 1807, when it was sold by Lord Vernon to John Latham<sup>a</sup>, M. D. who was before possessed of Bradwell-Hall and demesne; this estate also anciently belonged to the Venables family, from a younger branch of which it passed, by successive co-heiresses, to the Beringtons<sup>b</sup> and Oldfields<sup>c</sup>; it passed afterwards by sale to the Wards, and by marriage to the Jervises of Darleston in the county of Stafford: it was purchased of the latter in 1800 by Dr. Latham, who has much improved the ancient man-

<sup>a</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> The ancestors of Dr. Latham of Rumfey had formerly an estate in this township and Wheelock, now the property of the Rev. W. Bayley. See p. 769.

<sup>f</sup> Temp. Hen. VI.

<sup>g</sup> Temp. Eliza

tion.

sion and fitted it up for his occasional residence. *Hollins* is a hamlet of this township.

The township of *Haffall* lies about two miles and a half S. E. from Sandbach; the manor was in moieties in the reign of Edward II. between the families of Haffall and Wood; it was afterwards wholly in the Haffalls till it was sold by Ralph Haffall Esq. to William Leverfage Esq. of Wheelock; from the Leverfages it passed by successive sales to Thomas Stephens<sup>d</sup> Esq., the families of Powis and Lowndes, and Walter Daniels Esq. who is the present proprietor<sup>e</sup>, and resides at Haffall Hall. This hall which had belonged for several years to the Wilds<sup>f</sup>, was purchased by the Lowndes family about the year 1730. An estate in this township belonged successively to the families of Bostock and Lowndes; this estate has been divided between the co-heiresses of the latter; an ancient mansion called Bostock-house, occupied by a farmer, is now, by descent from one of the co-heiresses, the property of John Penlington Esq. of Rode-heath.

The township of *Wheelock*, which lies nearly two miles S. S. W. from Sandbach, gave name to an ancient family, who possessed the manor as early as the reign of Henry II. Upon the death of Richard de Wheelock, without issue, in 1439, this manor passed to Thomas Worth, who married the heiress of that family; the only daughter and heir of Worth brought it to Richard Leverfage Esq. During the civil war, William Leverfage of Bechton sold this manor to the wrongful dis-inheritance, as it is said, of his nephew, then in his minority<sup>g</sup>, to Thomas Stephens Esq. of Lypiatt in Gloucestershire, who continued in possession in 1662. The immediate descendant of the Leverfages, who are called by Webb in his Itinerary, "esquires of special account," was lately a respectable tradesman at Nantwich, now retired from business. The manor of Wheelock was sold by Mr. Stephens to Richard Vernon Esq. of Middlewich, of whose trustees it was purchased by Edward Powis Esq. of Moreton. It is now the property of George Ackers Esq. whose father purchased it of the Powis family about the year 1786. Wheelock-Hall, an ancient mansion formerly the seat of the Leverfages, is now occupied by a farmer: a modern edifice called the White-hall, is inhabited by the Rev. Richard Lowndes Salmon. The village of Wheelock has of late years become very populous, in consequence of the extension of the salt trade, and the wharfs and warehouses established on the banks of the Trent and Mersey canal,

<sup>d</sup> Villare Cestriense.      <sup>e</sup> Mr. Daniels is proprietor of the estate for the remainder of a lease of 500 years, of which the father of the Rev. R. L. Salmon was devisee; about 60 years of this lease are expired.      <sup>f</sup> They had it in 1662. See Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>g</sup> Dr. Williamson's Villare Cestriense.

which passes through it: a considerable part of the village on the north side of the river Wheelock is in the township of Sandbach; the greater part of the village which lies within the last-mentioned township, was the property of the late William Whitehead Esq. who established extensive salt-works, built an inn, and several other houses, besides a mansion for his own residence, which is now the property and residence of his heir at law, the Rev. Weston Bayley. Very considerable salt-works, a large cotton factory, a brewery, and several dwelling-houses and warehouses have lately been erected on the south side of the river, and the village is on both sides rapidly increasing. The brine-springs in this township are at the depth of sixty yards; the brine is rich but varies in strength.

The chapelry of *Goostrey* comprises the townships of *Goostrey-cum-Barnshaw*, *Blackden*, *Lees* or *Leighs*, and *Twenlow*.

The township of *Goostrey* lies nearly six miles N. E. by E. from Middlewich; the manors of *Goostree* or *Goostrey*, and *Barnshaw*, anciently written *Bernulphshaw* and *Bernilshawe*, were given by Hugh Fitz-Norman to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester<sup>b</sup>; the monks had a chapel at *Barnshaw*, for which they had the permission of the abbot and convent of *Dieulacres*, as patrons of *Sandbach*, provided that it should not be prejudicial to the church of *Sandbach*, or its chapels<sup>c</sup>. After the dissolution these manors were granted by King Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of *Chester*: Sir Richard Cotton having obtained possession of them with other manors belonging to that church, as before stated<sup>d</sup>, they were purchased of him or his representatives by the Mainwarings of *Carincham*: having been purchased in the last century by the Mainwarings of *Over-Peover*, they have since passed with the *Peover* estate, and are now the property of Sir H. Mainwaring Mainwaring Bart.<sup>e</sup>: the ancient hall is occupied as a farm-house. An estate in this township, formerly parcel of the manor, passed by coheireses from the family of *Goosetree* to the Eatons of this township, and Kinseys of *Blackden*, who possessed it in moieties for many generations<sup>f</sup>.

*Goostrey*-chapel, situated nine miles from *Sandbach*, was made parochial in 1350: it has been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and is in the patronage of the vicar of *Sandbach*: the endowment is now 82*l.* per ann. Mrs. Elizabeth Staplehurst in 1684 bequeathed the interest of 200*l.* to the minister for teaching the poor children of the chapelry.

<sup>a</sup> There was a grant to the abbot and convent by Robert de Montalt, lord of Mould, and steward of *Chester* in the reign of Henry II.—See the charter of Hugh Fitz-Norman, by which he grants the manor of *Goostrey* to the convent, in Woodnoth's Collections, p. 41.

<sup>b</sup> Villare Cestricense.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.

<sup>d</sup> See the manner of the Mainwaring

estates passing to the present baronet, p. 750.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestricense.

It is probable that the manor of *Blackden* belonged at an early period to the *Goofetrees*, the co-heiresses of which family married, as before-mentioned, into the families of *Kinsey* and *Eaton*: *Thomas Kinsey Esq.* now of *Knutsford*, possesses a third part of this manor by descent; the two other portions are the property of *John Glegg Esq.* of *Withington*, whose ancestors the *Baskervyles* acquired one-third in marriage with the co-heiresses of a branch of the *Kinsey* family in the 16th century; the other third was purchased by *Mr. Glegg* in 1804, of *William Fallows Esq.* of *Heywood* in *Alderley*, who, it is probable, acquired it either by purchase or marriage, of the *Eatons*: *Blackden-Hall* is spoken of by *Webb* in his *Itinerary*<sup>o</sup>, as the ancient seat of the *Eatons* in 1622, and it appears that they continued to possess it many years afterwards<sup>o</sup>. It is now the property of *Mr. Kinsey*, and occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Leighs* or *Lees* lies nearly three miles N. N. E. from *Middlewich*: the manor has been a considerable time in the *Shakerley* family, and is now the property of *C. W. J. Shakerley Esq.* of *Somerford-Hall*.

The township of *Twemlow* lies about five miles and a half E. N. E. from *Middlewich*; the manor belonged as early as the reign of *Richard I.* to a family which took its name from the township. *King Edward I.* gave *Twemlow* in the year 1280 to the abbot and convent of *Vale-Royal*, under whom it was held by the *Hardings*<sup>p</sup> (descendants of the *Twemlows*<sup>q</sup>); from them it passed by female heirs to the *Knutsfords*, and from the latter, by co-heiresses, to the *Booths* and *Jodrells*. *Edward Booth*, who became possessed of the manor-house and a moiety of this estate in the reign of *Henry VIII.* by marrying *Mary*, the co-heiress of *Roger Knutsford*, was a younger son of *Sir William Booth* of *Dunham-Massey*. *John Booth Esq.* of *Twemlow*, made considerable MS. collections, both heraldic and historical, relating to this county. This branch of the *Booth* family became extinct in the male line by the death of *Thomas Booth Esq.* in 1786, when the *Twemlow* estate passed by his devise to his nephew, *Charles Everett*, who dying without issue, it devolved, pursuant to the provisions in *Mr. Booth's* will, to another nephew. *Walter Griffith Esq.* a captain in the navy, who has taken the name of *Booth*, is the present proprietor, and resides at *Twemlow manor-house*. *Ellen*, the other daughter and co-heir of *Roger Knutsford* above-mentioned, brought a moiety of the *Twemlow* estate in marriage to the *Jodrells* of *Yardsley*; *Elizabeth*, one of the daughters and co-heirs of *Francis Jodrell Esq.* who died in 1756, married *Egerton Leigh Esq.* of *West-Hall* in *High-Legh*, who has erected

<sup>p</sup> *King's Val-Royal*, part ii. p. 84.

<sup>o</sup> In 1662.—*Harl. MSS.* N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>q</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

<sup>r</sup> *Pedigrees*.

near

near the site of the ancient hall at Twemlow a handsome mansion, now his principal residence.

The chapelry of *Church-Hulme*, commonly called *Holmes-Chapel*, comprises the townships of *Church-Hulme*, *Cotton*, and *Cranage*.

The township of *Church-Hulme*, or *Holmes-Chapel*, lies somewhat more than four miles E. by N. from Middlewich; the manor, which has always been held with that of *Cranage*, belongs to Thomas Bayley Hall Esq. A considerable estate in this township which belonged anciently to the family of Holme, passed successively to the families of Bulkeley and Cotton\*. The manor of *Erdshaw*, or *Eardshaw*† in this township was, in the year 1457, the property of Hugo Le Page, whose ancestor was bailiff of Drakelow in the reign of Edward III. John Page, a descendant of this family‡, sold *Erdshaw* to Sir Henry Delves Bart. of *Doddington*: having passed by subsequent sales to the Townsends and Prescots, it has passed with *Drakelow* to William Harper Esq., the present proprietor. *Erdshaw-Hall*, formerly a seat of the Pages, is now a farm-house.

In *Holmes-Chapel*, which is three miles from *Sandbach*, were some ancient memorials of the *Needhams* of *Cranage*§. Richard Vernon of Middlewich gave the interest of 200*l.* to this chapel in 1723, and the Halls of the *Hermitage* have been considerable benefactors to it, but the endowment is now only 57*l. per ann.* The vicar of *Sandbach* is patron. Thomas Hall Esq. in 1707 founded a school for ten boys and ten girls, and endowed it with 4*l.* each, out of the *Hermitage* estate; the nomination of the master and mistress to be vested in his heirs. The endowment of this school has been increased by the interest of some small benefactions.

The township of *Cotton* lies three miles E. by N. from Middlewich: the manor was anciently in the *Frasers*: in 1204 Adam Frazer pawned it, as the deed expresses it, to John Lacy, constable of *Chester*, for eighty marks to pay his debts: John Lacy granted it to Judas Kelly, whose son Gilbert took the name of *Cotton*, and was ancestor of the *Cottons* of this place¶, (called the *Cottons* of *Cotton-wood*, or of *Cotton* near *Church-Hulme*), who continued to possess *Cotton* till about the year 1653, when it was sold by Thomas Cotton Esq., to Sir Thomas Cotton Bart. of *Connington* in *Huntingdonshire*. William, a younger son of Sir Thomas Cotton, was of *Connington* in *Cambridgeshire*, and of *Cotton-Hall* in *Cheshire*; his son Thomas left an only daughter, married to

\* Villare Cestriense.  
family of Page, p. 373.

† Called also *Yearnshaw*.  
‡ Robert Needham (1431), another Robert (1448), and Sir John  
Needham, chief-justice of *Chester* (1490). Bishop Gastreil's Notitia.

§ See a farther account of the  
¶ Villare Cestriense.

Dingley Askham Esq., of whom this manor was purchased in 1738; by Mrs. Jane Bayley of Nantwich, grandmother of Thomas Bayley Hall Esq., the present proprietor. Part of the old hall of Cotton has been taken down; it has long been occupied as a farm-house. We have not been able to ascertain whether the Cottons of Cotton-wood are extinct<sup>1</sup>.

The township of *Cranage* or *Cranach* lies nearly four miles E. N. E. from Middlewich; the manor belonged for many generations to the ancestors of Lord Viscount Kilmorey; one moiety was acquired about the latter end of King Edward the Third's reign, by marriage with a co-heiress of the Cranach family, the other was purchased in the reign of Henry VI. of the Hattons of Shroggs, who acquired it by marriage with the family of Shaw of Shaw<sup>2</sup>. The manor of Cranage is now the property of Thomas Bayley Hall Esq., for whom it was purchased in trust of Lord Viscount Kilmorey in the year 1760. Cranage-Hall with the demesne-lands was sold by the feoffees of Lord Viscount Kilmorey in 1660, to William Swettenham Esq.: the present hall, which is a modern structure, belongs to the widow of the late Strethill Harrison Esq., and is in the occupation of John Proctor Esq.

*Hermitage*, in this township, was given by Roger Runchamp, to the priory of St. John of Jerusalem, and was held under that monastery, by a branch of the Cranage family<sup>3</sup>, it passed in marriage with the heiress of Cranage about the year 1334, to Richard Harlington, and with the heiress of Harlington, in the reign of Henry VI. to Hugh Winnington; on the death of Thomas Winnington, the last heir male of this branch about the year 1590, it passed to another branch, and was sold by Lawrence Winnington Esq., about the year 1657 to John Leadbeter. It is now the property of Thomas Bayley Hall Esq., whose ancestor purchased it of the Leadbeter family, somewhat more than a century ago: Mr. Hall resides in the ancient mansion. The township of Cranage was inclosed by act of Parliament in 1779.

SHOCKLACH, in the hundred of Broxton, and deanery of Malpas, lies about five miles from Malpas, and about thirteen S. by E. from Chester: it comprises the townships of *Church-Shocklach*, *Shocklach-Oviat*, and *Caldecote*.

The Suttons were possessed of Shocklach-castle, and the manors of *Church-Shocklach* and *Shocklach-Oviat*, as part of the barony of Malpas: in the reign of Edward I. Shocklach-castle was leased for life by John de Sutton, to Oliver

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Peter Cotton, who died in 1716, and bequeathed a legacy to the Blue-coat-school at Chester, is supposed to have been the last heir-male of this family.

<sup>2</sup> Boswell's Collections in the British Museum. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 139, p. 90.

<sup>3</sup> Villare Castellense.

Ingham, afterwards justice of Chester. The Shocklach estate passed with other parts of the barony of Malpas, from Lord Dudley, through the Hills and Breretons to the Egertons; in or about the reign of Charles I. it was purchased by the Pulestons of Emerall in the county of Flint, whose ancestor, Richard de Puleston, had purchased a small estate in this parish, of Thomas de Shocklach in the reign of Richard II. Upon the death of John Puleston Esq., the last heir male in 1775, the manors of Church-Shocklach and Shocklach-Oviat<sup>2</sup>, passed by his bequest to his nephew, Richard Price Esq., son of Richard Parry Price Esq. of Bryn-y-pys in Flintshire, by his sister and sole heir: Mr. Price has taken the name of Puleston, and is the present proprietor.

The moated site of Shocklach-castle, of which there are no remains<sup>3</sup>, is near Castle-town bridge, on the bank of a small deep rivulet, near the road to Farndon. Shocklach-Hall, an ancient mansion with a moated site, was for some time a seat of the Breretons: Sir Randle Brereton died there in 1611, and was buried at Malpas: it was afterwards one of the seats of Sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, who married his daughter and heir<sup>4</sup>. The old hall has been taken down many years ago, and a farm-house built on the site.

The rectory of Shocklach, with the chapel of St. Edith and certain lands, sometime parcel of the college of St. John the Baptist in Chester, were granted in fee-farm to Sir Henry Fanshawe<sup>5</sup>, who sold them to Sir Thomas Shirley of Suffex; this estate was afterwards in the Egertons, who were patrons of the curacy: the Pulestons have been impropiators and patrons for more than a century.

The township of *Caldecote* lies eleven miles S. by E. from Chester: the manor passed with the daughter and heir of David de Caldecote, in or about the reign of Edward II. to Urian, son of Philip de Egerton, whose posterity were for many generations of Caldecote and Wrinehill; this manor had passed from the Egertons to the Breretons before the year 1611, when Sir Randle Brereton died seized of Caldecote, and both the Shocklaches. In the reign of Charles II. the manor of Caldecote was purchased of the Breretons by Sir William Drake, ancestor of T. D. Drake Esq., the present proprietor.

Caldecote-Hall and demesne, continued in a younger branch of the Caldecotes till it was sold, somewhat more than a century ago, by the last heir-male of that ancient family, to Mr. John Larden, ancestor of John Larden Esq. of Chester, the present owner.

<sup>2</sup> The township of *Shocklach-Oviat* lies about nine miles and a half N. W. by W. from Whitchurch.

<sup>3</sup> It appears by the plea to a *quo warranto*, temp. Hen. VII., that Shocklach-castle was then standing, and in a state of defence: (*muratum, fossatum, & kernellatum*) Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. f. 173.

<sup>4</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 55.

<sup>5</sup> Records in the Augmentation-office.

SHOTWICK, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies on the banks of the Dee, seven miles N. W. of Chester; it contains five townships, *Shotwick, Capenburgh, Great-Saugball, Little-Saugball, and Woodbank.*

The manor of *Shotwick* belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh at Chester, under whom it was held by the Shotwicks. Alice, heiress of this family brought it to the Hockenhulls<sup>c</sup>, who continued in possession till about the year 1750, when they sold it to Samuel Bennet Esq. Mr. Bennet by his will, bearing date 1763, devised the reversion, after his wife's death, to his great nephew, John Nevett, who has taken the name of Bennet, and is the present owner.

The church of Shotwick, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of Chelter, was given, after the dissolution, to the dean and chapter, who are impropiators and patrons of the curacy. Dr. Peploe Ward is the present lessee, as trustee for some of the prebendaries of Chester, and the families of deceased prebendaries.

Adjoining to the township of Shotwick is an extra-parochial district, called Shotwick-park, long ago dis-parked and converted into farms: within this district, on the banks of the river, is the site of Shotwick-castle, which formerly belonged to the crown. Henry II. is said to have lodged in this castle, on his way to and from Ireland; King Edward I. was there in 1278<sup>d</sup>. The castle was standing in Leland's time, and its ruins were remaining in 1622<sup>e</sup>, but there are now no remains of it<sup>f</sup>; part of the walls have been carried away to repair roads within the memory of man. It must have been the park estate, which by the name of the manor of Shotwyke, was granted for life by King Edward III. to Roger de Swinnerton<sup>g</sup>, and afterwards by the same monarch, and Richard II. to the celebrated Sir Hugh Calveley, and his younger brother Sir John<sup>h</sup>. A part of Shotwick-Hall, and Shotwick-Lodge, two ancient seats in this district, remain, and are occupied by farmers. Sir Richard Wilbraham appears to have been keeper of Shotwick-park for King Charles I., then Prince of Wales, in 1622<sup>i</sup>; it is probable that it was granted in fee soon after the restoration, to the Wilbrahams, of whom it was purchased about the year 1700, by Thomas Brereton Esq.<sup>k</sup>. The late Owen Salusbury Brereton Esq. F. R. & A. S., who died in 1798, bequeathed it to his cousin (by the mother's side), Charles

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense. Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 125.

<sup>h</sup> Pedigrees of the family.

<sup>k</sup> In Simpson's English Traveller (1746) Thomas Brereton Esq. is said to have a seat at Great-Saughall in Shotwick, which manor passed with this estate. See the next page.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Wall. 6 Edw. I.

<sup>f</sup> See p. 456.

<sup>g</sup> Webb's Itinerary.

<sup>e</sup> Webb's Itinerary in King's

<sup>h</sup> Pat. 6 Edw. III.

Trelawney Esq., who has taken the name of Brereton, and is the present proprietor.

The township of *Capenhurst* lies nearly six miles N.N.E. from Chester: the manor belonged, in the reign of Edw. I. to the family of Capenhurst. In the year 1701 Lord Cholmondeley had two-thirds of this manor, which his ancestors had enjoyed as early as the reign of Henry VII.<sup>1</sup>, and Sir James Poole the other third, with the ancient hall, by inheritance from his ancestor Robert de Pulle, who married a co-heiress of the Capenhurst family in the reign of Richard II.<sup>m</sup>. The manor of Capenhurst was purchased of Lord Cholmondeley in 1790, by Richard Richardson Esq. the present proprietor, who resides at Capenhurst in a modern house, built since his purchase of the estate: Capenhurst-Hall, an old timber mansion, has been taken down by Mr. Richardson, and a farm-house erected on the site.

The township of *Great-Saughall* lies four miles N. W. by W. from Chester: the manor belonged to the Wilbrahams of Woodhey, and has passed by the same title as Shotwick-park, to Charles Trelawney Brereton Esq., the present proprietor, also of *Little-Saughall*, having purchased it of Charles Potts Esq., who bought it of the family of Stoughton. The hall and demesne of Little-Saughall, which were granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1562 to Robert Tatton, were sold by him to the Gamuls, who continued to possess them in 1698; this estate is now the property of Mr. Robert Ellison, by purchase from Mr. Potts. The Chamberlaine family, supposed to be descended from John Chamberlaine, who was mayor of Chester in 1334, had, for many descents, an estate in this township. Thomas Chamberlaine Esq. of Great-Saughall died in 1757 at the age of ninety-eight; his son left an only daughter<sup>n</sup>, married to George Reeve, merchant, whose son sold this estate in 1805, to Mr. John Hancock.

Great-Saughall was the residence of Mrs. Mary Davis, of whom there is an account and portrait in Leigh's Natural History of this county: she was remarkable for having an excrescence on her head, which when she was sixty years of age grew into horns; these, after four years growth, were cast and renewed, which happened two or three times before her death: there is a portrait of her in the Ashmolean museum at Oxford, where one of the horns is preserved. A few similar instances have occurred; in the university library at Edinburgh is preserved a horn cut from the head of Elizabeth Love, in the fiftieth year of her

<sup>1</sup> Escheats.

<sup>m</sup> Kimber's Baronetage.

<sup>n</sup> The Rev. George Chamberlaine of Enham-house in Hampshire, is the representative of this family in the male line.

age.

age°. Mrs. Allen, a woman who had a horn growing on her head, was exhibited in London in the year 1790.

The township of *Woodbank*, sometimes called *Rough-Shotwick*, or *Rouce-Shotwick*, lies six miles and a half N. W. from Chester; in 1300, it was the property of Hugh de Wodebank, who, in 1313, alienated his estate here to William de Hooton, from whose descendants it passed by marriage to the Stanleys of Hooton. In 1637, William Stanley Esq. sold the manor of Woodbank to Thomas Hiccock: after the death of John Hiccock without issue, about the year 1740, this estate passed successively by female heirs to Stubbs and Boulton. It is now vested in the devisees of Edward Platt Esq., who purchased it of Mr. Thomas Boulton.

STOAK, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies about five miles N. from Chester: it contains the townships of *Stoak*, *Great-Stanney*, *Little-Stanney*; and part of *Whiby*, which has been described under Eastham. A moiety of the manor of Stoak, and the manors of Great and Little Stanney, have been for many generations in the family of Bunbury, whose ancestor, David de Bunbury in the reign of Edward II., married the sole heiress of David de Stanney<sup>o</sup>; the other moiety of Stoak having been purchased in the last century of the representatives of the Duttons, who had possessed it from a very early period, the three manors are now the property of Sir Charles Bunbury Bart. Stanney-Hall, an ancient timber mansion within a moated site, formerly a feat of the Bunburys, is now inhabited by a farmer.

In Stoak church are several memorials of the Bunbury family, and the monument of Edward Morgan Esq. of Golden-Grove, who married a daughter of Henry Bunbury Esq. of Stanney, and died in 1682: "he was son and heir of the noble captain Edward Morgan, who was slain at Winnington-bridge, Aug. 1659." The impropriation and patronage of the curacy, which had been vested in the Duttons, were purchased with the moiety of the manor which belonged to that family, and are now the property of Sir Charles Bunbury. Sir Thomas Bunbury, the first baronet of the family, founded a school in this township, and endowed it with the interest of 200*l.*

<sup>o</sup> See Granger's Biographical History, Vol. iv. p. 216, 217.

<sup>p</sup> The reversion of the whole, after the death of his daughter Dorothy, (the wife of George French Esq.) who enjoys two-thirds for life; and that of Charles Price, who has a life-interest in the remainder, is vested in the children of George and Dorothy French. The whole of the descent of this manor was procured for us by William Nicholls Esq.

<sup>q</sup> Kimber's Baronetage.

Adjoin-

Adjoining to Stoak is *Stanlow*, an extra-parochial place, where John Lacy, constable of Chester, founded an abbey of Cistercian monks, in the year 1178; it was removed to Whalley in Lancashire, on account of the inundations of the Mersey in 1296, by permission of Pope Nicholas IV.<sup>1</sup>; a cell nevertheless remained at Stanlow, where it appears that the abbot of Whalley was obliged to find twelve chaplains<sup>2</sup>. After the dissolution, Stanlow-Grange was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester, but Sir Richard Cotton having obtained possession of this and other estates as before mentioned<sup>3</sup>, his son George sold it to John Poole Esq. of Poole, ancestor of the Rev. Sir Henry Poole Bart., the present proprietor. Several of the founder's family were buried at Stanlow, and removed afterwards to Whalley<sup>4</sup>. There is a farm-house on the site of Stanlow-Abbey, in which some small remains of the conventual buildings are visible.

STOCKPORT, anciently written Stokeporte and Stocport, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, is a large market town on the Mersey, which divides it from Lancashire<sup>5</sup>, and is 175 miles from London.

Stockport was made a free borough by Robert de Stokeporte, with the permission of Edward I. as Earl of Chester; the same Robert had a grant of a market at Stockport in the year 1260, and an annual fair to be held for seven days at the festival of St. Wilfred<sup>6</sup>. Friday is the market day, but the market continues open till Saturday night for butchers' meat, and other provisions. Friday is a great market for corn, cheese<sup>7</sup>, and oatmeal; there are now four fairs, March 4, March 25, May 1, and October 23; that which is held on May-day is a considerable cattle-fair. The police of the town is regulated by the resident magistrate, or magistrates, and two constables. Stockport is said to have been formerly incorporated, but there is no charter extant. A mayor is still annually elected, or rather nominated by the lord of the manor at his court; but his office is merely nominal, and he has no jurisdiction or authority. The population of the town, as returned to Parliament in 1801, consisted of 14,830

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's Monasticon, Vol. i. p. 901.

<sup>2</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.

<sup>4</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, i. p. 101.

<sup>5</sup> The town appears to extend into that county; the township of Heaton-Norris in Lancashire, which is connected with it by the bridge, contained in 1801, 3768 inhabitants: the town extends on the Cheshire side into the hamlet of Portwood in the township of Brinnington.

<sup>6</sup> Watson's History of the Warren family.

<sup>7</sup> It is esteemed the greatest cheese-market in the county.

persons<sup>a</sup>, of whom 14,580 were reported to be chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft : the chief manufacture of the town is that of cotton-spinning, of which there are twenty-five factories<sup>b</sup>; there are several factories also for making muslin : some years ago the principal manufacture of the place was that of winding and throwing filk; the first filk-mills introduced into this country are said to have been set up in this town<sup>c</sup>; there is now only one filk mill; the making of hats is carried on to a considerable extent. A large circular building on the site of the castle, built by the late Sir George Warren, the lord of the manor, for a market-house, was for a short time used as a muslin-hall, but is now unoccupied.

Stockport was garrisoned for the Parliament during the civil war, and was considered an important post. In the month of May 1644, Prince Rupert appeared before it with his army; the garrison to the number of 3000 horse, and foot, drew out to oppose him, but were repulsed and the town taken<sup>d</sup>. Stockport-bridge was blown up in 1745 to prevent the retreat of the rebels, after their advance to Derby<sup>e</sup>.

The parish of Stockport comprises fourteen townships, viz. *Stockport, Bramhall, or Bromhall, Bredbury, Brinnington, Disley, Dukensfield, Etbells<sup>f</sup>, or Stockport-Etbells, Hyde, Marple, Norbury, Offerton, Romiley, Torkington, and Wernith.*

<sup>a</sup> Including the populous hamlets of Heaton-Norris, and Portwood, which appear to form part of the town, being only separated from it by the river Mersey; it contained in 1801 about 20,000 inhabitants.

<sup>b</sup> Exclusively of nine in the hamlet of Portwood, and eight in Heaton-Norris.

<sup>c</sup> Thomas Eyre of Stockport Esq., John Gurnell of London, merchant, Talbot Warren Esq., Thomas Hadfield, and George Nicholson of Heaton-Norris, Lancashire, Chapmen, and Alexander Elcock of Stockport, Gent., appear to have been the first proprietors of the filk-mills at Stockport. Nathaniel Gartrivalli, (or Gardivaglio,) an Italian, is supposed to have been employed as manager. There are persons of the name of Gardivaglio still living in Stockport. From the information of Holland Watson Esq., many years a resident magistrate of this town (now of Congleton,) to whom we are indebted for several communications relating to Stockport.

<sup>d</sup> Sanderson's *Life of King Charles I.* p. 704. The garrison seems to have made but little opposition, and the capture of the town to have been attended with but little bloodshed; the burial of one soldier only, "slain at the taking of Stockport, the 27th of May," is entered in the parish-register.

<sup>e</sup> Defoe's *Tour through Great-Britain*, 8vo. 1743. Vol. ii. p. 386.

<sup>f</sup> The constabulary is Etbells generally, but with respect to the poor it is considered as two distinct places, by the names of Stockport-Etbells, and Northen-Etbells; the former district being in the parish of Stockport, and the latter in the parish of Northen: the appointments of overseers of the poor are made separately, and they do not account with each other.

The manor of Stockport belonged soon after the Conquest to the De la Spencers, under whom, in the reign of Henry III. it was held by Sir Robert de Stockport. It has been supposed by some that the ancestor of this Robert was one of Hugh Lupus's barons, but this is the first of the family of whom we find any mention<sup>a</sup>, and it has been much doubted whether there was a barony of Stockport. Joan, daughter and heir of Richard Stockport, brought the manor of Stockport to Sir Nicholas de Eton, whose daughter Cecily, having married Sir Edward Warren, ancestor of the Warrens of Poynton, their son John, on failure of the male issue of the Etons, succeeded to the manors of Poynton, Stockport, and other large estates, now the property of Lord Viscount Bulkeley in right of his wife, only daughter and heir of the late Sir George Warren, K. B.

There was anciently a castle at Stockport, which, in the year 1173, was held by Geoffrey de Costentine, against King Henry II. <sup>b</sup>. This castle appears to have belonged afterwards to the Stockports: a plan of the walls is given in Watson's History of the House of Warren. The site is now occupied by the large circular building before-mentioned.

On the north wall of the chancel of the parish church, which is an ancient structure, is the monument of Sir John Warren, who married Jane Arderne about the latter end of the fifteenth century: and a monument (by Westmacott) lately erected in memory of the late Sir George Warren; a female figure in white marble, said to be a portrait of Lady Bulkeley, is represented as mourning over an urn: the inscription is as follows: "To the memory of Sir George Warren, late of Poynton in this county, knight of the most honourable order of the Bath, lineally descended from the noble and ancient race of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, many years representative in Parliament for the town of Lancaster, lord of the barony and manor of Stockport, &c., whose remains lie interred in a family vault near this place; in whom the tender affections of the parent, the

<sup>a</sup> The Warrens, as descended from the Etons and Stockports, are styled in some monumental inscriptions and other ancient evidences, Barons of Stockport: but as the Stockport family were mesne-lords in the reign of Henry III., it is more probable, if Stockport was, as some suppose, one of Hugh Lupus's baronies, that the Stockports became possessed of it by purchase, and not by inheritance. It may be observed that there are documents extant, which show the extent of the jurisdiction of the baronies of Nantwich, Halton, Kinderton, and Malpas, but we find nothing of this kind relating to the barony of Stockport; and in records of the reign of Henry III. and Edward I., it is spoken of, not as a barony, but only as a manor. It appears also that the proprietor of the *lordship* or manor of Stockport, in the plea to a *quo warranto*, (Temp. Hen. VII.) claimed only the privilege of punishing minor offenders by the pillory, tumbrel, and cucking-stool, (Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. f. 194.) whereas the barons, both spiritual and temporal, had the power of life and death.

<sup>b</sup> Benedictus Abbas de Vita Hen. II. (Hearne.) Vol. i. p. 55.

polished manners of the gentleman, the amiable qualities of the friend, and the social endearing attractions of the neighbour were conspicuously united. Ob. Aug. 31, 1801, æt. 67." The monument was put up by Elizabeth Harriot Warren, Viscountess Bulkeley, his only daughter and heir by his first wife Jane, daughter and heir of Thomas Revell Esq. of Fetcham in Surrey. In the chancel and south aisle are memorials of the Wrights of Mottram-Andrew and Offerton. In the south aisle, which belonged to the families of Arden and Davenport, is the monument of John Arden<sup>b</sup> Esq. of Harden, who died in 1703. In a chapel belonging to the Leghs of Lyme is the monument of George Clarke Esq. representative of the Hydes of Hyde, who died in 1777. In a small brick building, attached to the south side of the chancel, is the tomb of Richard Vernon, sometime rector of Stockport<sup>i</sup>.

It appears that there was formerly a manor attached to the rectory, called Church-gate, for which courts were held<sup>k</sup>. The affairs of this parish are managed by four hereditary church-wardens called Præpositi, or Pofts, being the owners of four neighbouring manors, Bredbury, Brinnington, Bramhall, and Norbury, who execute their office by deputy. Sir Edmund Shaa<sup>l</sup>, or Shaw, goldsmith and alderman of London, founded a free-school<sup>m</sup> at Stockport in the year 1487, and endowed it with 10*l.* *per ann.* The nomination of the master is in the Goldsmiths'

<sup>a</sup> From the time of the Conquest till of late years this family spelt their name Ardern or Arderne.

<sup>b</sup> The inscription is in old French; it is probable that this was Richard Vernon, described in some pedigrees as *capellanus*, who was living in the reign of Edward III. He was grandson of Hugh de Vernon, a younger brother of Nicholas Vernon Baron of Stockport.

<sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.—In a terrier, bearing date 1700, mention is made of lands held by the service of being foreman of the jury, when the rector should hold his court.

<sup>l</sup> Dr. Shaa, who preached the celebrated sermon at Paul's-cross in favour of the claims of Richard Duke of Gloucester, was his brother.

<sup>m</sup> The following is a correct copy of the clause in Sir Edmund Shaa's will relating to this school. "And I woll that the other honest preest, (the first-mentioned was to officiate at Woodhead-chapel,) be a discrete man, and conning in gramer, and be able of connyng to teche gramer; and I woll that he fing his masse, and say his other divyne service in the parishe of Stopforde in the saide countye of Chester, at fouch an aulter there, as can be thought convenient for hym, and to pray specially for my soule, and the soules, &c. And I woll that the same connyng preest kepe a gramer-school continually in the said town of Stopforde, as long as he shall contynewe there in the said service. And that he frely, without any wages or salarye, asking or taking of any parson, except only my salarye hereunder specified, shall teche al maner person's children, and other that woll come to him to lerne, as well of the said towne of Stopforde, as of other townes thereabout, the science of gramer as ferre as lieth in hym for to do, unto the time that they be be convenably instruct in gramer by him, after their capaciteys that God woll geve them. And I woll that the same connyng preest, with

Goldsmiths' company : the school is farther endowed with 10*l.* *per ann.*, payable out of the inclosed town-lands, and the interest of benefactions, making altogether about 46*l.* *per ann.*

Sunday schools were originally instituted at Stockport in the year 1784, when six schools were established, most of which, after a while declined ; but one of these, conducted chiefly by the Methodists, had in 1794 six hundred and ninety-five scholars : since this time the institution has been gradually increasing, and is now supported on a scale uncommonly extensive, above three thousand children being now educated in it wholly by gratuitous teachers, of whom there are upwards of two hundred. A large school-house, one hundred and thirty-two feet in length, fifty-seven in width, and four stories high, was erected by subscription in 1805<sup>n</sup>.

There is an alms-house at Stockport founded in 1683, for six old men, by Edward Warren Esq., who endowed it with 20*s.* *per ann.* for each ; they are also entitled to 5*s.* *per ann.* each, from another benefactor, and coals.

A dispensary was established at Stockport upon an extensive scale, about the year 1792 ; Lord Bulkeley is president ; the Rev. Charles Prescott, the rector, vice-president ; eight hundred and forty-eight patients were admitted into the dispensary and fever-house, from March 25, 1807, to March 25, 1808 ; the dispensary-house was built in 1797 ; fever-wards were added in 1803.

with all his scholers with hym that he shall have for the time, shall, two dayes in every weke, as long as he shall abyde in that service ther, that is to wite, Wedynsday and Fryday, come into the said church of Stopforde, unto the grave ther, where the bodies of my fader, and my moder lyen buryed, and ther say togidres the psalm of *De Profundis*, with the versicles and colletts therto accustomyd, after Salisbury use ; and pray specially for my soule, and the soules of my fader, and my moder, and for all Christen soules. And I woll that the same preest teachinge grammer ther, shall have for his salarye yerely, as long as he abide in that service there, 10*l.* of the said 14*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* : residue of the said annuell and quyterent of 17*l.* And for to corage my said feliship of the said craft of goldsmythes, or else that other feliship, the which woll agree to ber the charge of the said annuell and quiterent of 17*l.*, to be the better willen to the supportacion of the same charge for evermore : I woll that the same feliship shall have for evermore, the presentement, nominacion, and admyssion of the said two preestes of the said two services, and the removing and puttyng out of them, and admytting of other into the same services, for causes resonable, as often as the case so shall require."

In another clause of his will he directs his executors "to buy as mooch Walshe fryse, half white and half black, as may and thereof do mak at my coste 200 party-gownes for the poor of Stopforde, Chedle, Mottram," and some neighbouring parishes in Lancashire, there specified. To Stopforde church he gives "as good a sute of vestments of blue velvet as may be bought with the summe of 40 markes." He directs "16 rings of fyne gold, to be graven with the well of pitie, the well of mercie, and the well of everlasting life," and to be given to his friends.

‡ Printed report, 1808.

St. Peter's

St. Peter's chapel at Stockport was founded in 1768 by William Wright Esq., who procured an act of Parliament for that purpose, and endowed it with a rent-charge of 120*l.* *per ann.* issuing out of the demefne-lands of Handford or Handforth, which was settled on the minister, together with the rent of pews: it has been since augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. The patronage is vested in Lawrence Wright Esq., of Mottram-Andrew, as representative of the founder, whose monument is in the chapel. There are in Stockport, a Presbyterians-meeting-house, another for Quakers, and several Methodists' meeting-houses. Near the town is a chapel for the use of Roman Catholics, many persons of which religion, now resident at Stockport, have emigrated from Ireland.

The township of *Bramhall*, or *Bromball*, formerly written *Bromhale*, lies three miles S. by W. from Stockport; the manor was parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey. Hamo de Massey gave Bromhale to Mathew de Bromhale<sup>o</sup>, whose descendant about the reign of Henry V. had an only daughter and heiress, married to John Davenport, ancestor of William Davenport Esq. of Bramhall, the present proprietor. In the chapel of this venerable mansion<sup>p</sup>, are the arms of Davenport, Bromhall, and several of the Cheshire gentry. The ceiling of the drawing-room, which was fitted up in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is enriched with pendant ornaments: there is another large room with a wooden roof, enriched with quatrefoils, and the wainscot painted with flowers, grotesque animals, and figures.

Sir Humphrey Davenport, a younger son of the Bramhall family, was appointed one of the justices of the King's Bench in 1629, and in 1630 chief baron of the Exchequer; he was one of the judges against whom a charge was brought in during the Parliament of 1640, for their unconstitutional advice to King Charles I., on the business of ship-money<sup>q</sup>. Sir Humphrey Davenport married one of the co-heiresses of Sir Richard Sutton of Sutton, by whom he left issue.

The manor of *Bredbury* was held under the Stockports, by the family of Bredbury, and the Stockports held it under the Barony of Dunham-Massey, by the service of finding a man with a sack and a pike for the wars<sup>r</sup>. The heiress of the Bredburys brought a moiety of this manor to the Arderns: the other moiety was for several generations in the Davenports of Henbury, from whom it passed by a female heir to Sir Fulke Lucy. John Arden Esq. and Sir Fulke Lucy were joint proprietors in 1662; the other moiety having been since purchased by the Arderns, the whole now belongs to John Arden Esq. Bredbury-Hall is occupied as a farm-

<sup>o</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>p</sup> See p. 456.

<sup>q</sup> Whitlocke's Memorials, p. 45.

<sup>r</sup> Villare Cestriense.

house.

house. In this township is Hawarden, or Harden, the ancient seat of the Arderns, which appears to have been acquired by a match with the heiress of Bredbury above-mentioned : Stephen de Bredbury purchased it of Matthew de Hawarden in or about the reign of Henry III. John Arden Esq. the present owner of this estate, resides occasionally at an ancient house in Stockport, which has long been in the family. In the old hall of Harden, which is now occupied as a farm-house, are several portraits, most of which had belonged to the Crewes, and were brought from Utkinton-Hall : among the most remarkable is that of Mrs. Jane Lane, who assisted the escape of King Charles II., represented as concealing the crown under her cloak ; and a half-length of judge Clinch in his robes.

The manor of *Brinnington* having been parcel of the barony of Dunham-Massey, was with other estates given by Hamon de Massey to Robert, son of Walthesh, for which the said Robert was retained to serve him in his chambers, and to carry his arms and clothes when the Earl of Chester in his own person should go to Wales ; Hamon was to find him a sumpture, a man, and a sack, whilst in his service in the army : and the said Robert was to swear that if Hamon were in captivity, he should help to set him free, and also help to make his son a knight, and to marry his eldest daughter ; in token of which Robert gave Hamon a gold ring†. This manor was soon afterwards in the Stockports, who were succeeded by the Dukenfields as early as the year 1327<sup>u</sup> : it continued in the Dukenfield family till about the year 1770, when it passed with Dukenfield-Hall and other estates to John Astley Esq., of whom it was purchased by the father of James Harrison Esq., the present proprietor. In this township is the populous hamlet of Portwood, in which stands Portwood-Hall, the manor-house of Brinnington, now let to a farmer.

The township of *Disley*, or *Disley-Stanley*, lies about six miles S. E. from Stockport : the manor was for many generations in the Leghs of Lyme, and is now under the will of the late Thomas Peter Legh Esq., the property of his natural son, Thomas Legh, a minor. A family which took its name from the township held lands at an early period by the service of being foresters of Macclesfield ; these lands seem to have passed by inheritance to the Suttons and Sherds<sup>\*</sup>, or Sherts. The last-mentioned family, which was settled at Disley as early as the reign of Henry VI., continued to reside at Shert-Hall in this township in 1662<sup>v</sup>.

The chapel was re-built, consecrated, and made parochial in the year 1553. The curate is appointed by the Leghs of Lyme. There is a school at Disley

<sup>\*</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

endowed

endowed with 10*l.* 5*s.* *per ann.*, given by the Leghs of Lyme and other persons; the Leghs nominate the master.

The township of *Dokenfield*, now spelt *Dukenfield*, lies about six miles and a half N. E. by N. from Stockport; the manor was given by Hamon, Baron of Dunham-Massey, to Matthew de Bromhall: in 1327 it was purchased of William de Stockport by Robert de Dokenfield, whose ancestors, according to the pedigree of the family, had resided in this township from the time of the conquest. Sir Robert Dukenfield was created a baronet in 1665. Penelope, the widow of Sir William Dukenfield Daniel Bart., who had assumed the latter name in addition to his own, upon becoming possessed of the estates of the Daniels of Tabley, brought this manor and other estates in marriage to John Astley Esq. an eminent artist, of a good family in Shropshire, and they are now the property of his son, Francis Dukenfield Astley Esq. Sir Nathaniel Dukenfield Bart., the immediate descendant of this ancient family, who resides at Warfield in Berkshire, inherits no part of the family estate. Dukenfield-Hall, formerly the seat of the Dukenfields, is divided into two tenements; the chapel, which was originally built in 1398, forms one of the wings: in the chancel is still to be seen a memorial for Sir Robert Dukenfield Bart., who died in 1729. Dukenfield-Lodge, which was built by the late Mr. Astley, and stands on a wooded bank of the River Tame, is now the seat of F. D. Astley Esq. Near the lodge is an ancient Dissenters' meeting-house, with a burying-ground, in which are some monuments of the Dukenfields.

Some years ago the Moravians established a settlement in this township, and erected some spacious buildings with a chapel, &c. but not agreeing with the late Mr. Astley about the renewal of their estate, which was held for lives, most of them removed in 1785 to Fairfield, on the road between Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester, where they still have a settlement: some of the brethren remained at Dukenfield; in or about the year 1805, they renewed their lease of the chapel, the minister's house, and a girls' boarding school; but they have not resumed their mode of living in community under the same roof, as they formerly did at Dukenfield and at Chelsea, and as they now do at Fairfield, and their other regular settlements. In this township are very extensive collieries, and some cotton-factories.

The manor of *Etchells*, or *Stockport-Etchells*, has passed with Etchells in Northenden, and is now the property of Thomas William Tatton Esq. of Withenshaw.

The township of *Hyde*, which lies four miles N. E. by E. from Stockport, gave name to a family which possessed a moiety of the manor, or some portion of it,

as early as the reign of Henry III. : the other moiety was acquired in the reign of Edw. III. of the Baguleys<sup>a</sup> ; it is now the property of George Hyde Clarke Esq., whose grandfather, George Clarke Esq., lieutenant-governor of New-York, married Anne, one of the daughters, and eventually sole heiress of Edward Hyde<sup>a</sup> Esq. Hyde-Mill, the seat of Mr. Clarke, is an ancient building, with a modern front : it is pleasantly situated on the bank of the Tame : Hyde-Hall passed many years ago by purchase from the family of Hyde, to that of Hulton of Hulton in Lancashire, and is now the property of William Hulton Esq. : it is occupied as a farm-house. There is a Dissenters' meeting-house in this township called Hyde-chapel.

The township of *Marple* lies nearly five miles E. S. E. from Stockport ; the manor was anciently in the Stockports<sup>b</sup>, afterwards for several generations in the Vernons<sup>c</sup>. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it appears to have been in the Stanley family ; Sir Edward Stanley sold it in parcels to Mr. Hebbert, chaplain to Lord Keeper Bridgman, and others ; Mr. Hebbert had the manor in 1662<sup>d</sup>. Marple-Hall is now the seat of John Isherwood Esq., descended in the female line from the Bradshaw family, who formerly resided there, having been acquired about the year 1656 by the marriage of Henry, elder brother of president Bradshaw, with Mary, daughter of Barnard Welles of Hope in Derbyshire. The Bradshaws before this time resided at Wybersley-Hall in this township ; the manor of which, from time immemorial, appears to have been an appendage to that of Marple. At this hall president Bradshaw was born : his baptism is thus entered in the register at Stockport, " 1602—John, the sonne of Henry Bradshaw of Marple, was baptized the 10th of December : " in the margin, in another hand, is added the word traitor.

At Marple is a chapel of ease in the gift of the rector of Stockport : it has been augmented with Queen Anne's bounty, but the endowment is still small : the chapel, which stands detached from the village, is now re-building upon an enlarged scale : it is five miles from Stockport.

President Bradshaw by his will, bearing date 1653, gave the sum of 700*l.* to purchase an annuity, for " maintaining a free-school at Marple, the same to be laid out as his trustees and his brother Henry should think fittest for effecting his purpose : " the township was never benefitted by this bequest ; as Bradshaw's

<sup>a</sup> Villare Celtrense.

<sup>a</sup> See more of the Hyde family, p. 385.

<sup>b</sup> Watson's History of the Warren family, Vol. ii. 224.

<sup>c</sup> Esch. Edw. I., Edw. III.,

Henry IV., Henry VI., and Edw. IV. It was held by free feoffery. See p. 744.

<sup>d</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

property consisting chiefly of estates which had belonged to the royalists, was confiscated at the Restoration, it is probable that his trustees never had the power of putting his intentions into execution. His brother Henry, who survived him, founded a school in this township upon a smaller scale, endowing it with the interest of 100*l.*, which having been augmented by some other small benefactions, the income is now 8*l.* 17*s.* *per ann.*

The township of *Norbury* lies nearly four miles S. E. by S. from Stockport; the manor was from a very early period in the Hydes of Hyde: it is now vested in Thomas Legh, the natural son of the late Mr. Legh of Lyme, having been purchased by the Leghs of Edward Hyde Esq., the last male heir of that ancient family. The hall is in a ruinous state. There is a chapel of ease at Norbury in the patronage of the Leghs of Lyme, which has been for many years held with that of Poynton; the endowment is small. About the year 1760, Peter Legh Esq. of Lyme built a school-house at Norbury, but the school has not been endowed.

The township of *Offerton* lies about two miles and a half S. E. by E. from Stockport; the manor was anciently in the Stockports, from whom it passed to the Warrens: it is now the property of Lawrence Wright Esq. of Mottram-Andrew, whose ancestor acquired it almost two centuries ago, by marriage with an heiress of the Winnington family. Mr. Robert Dodge, about the year 1765, gave a rent-charge of 1*l.* *per ann.*<sup>d</sup> for the purpose of paying the school-wages of one or more poor boys of this township.

The manor of *Romiley* was anciently in the Stockports, from whom it descended to the Etons and Warrens: in the early part of the seventeenth century it was held under the Warrens, by the Davenports; Reginald Bretland Esq., serjeant at law, died seised of it in 1703: it is now the joint property of John Arden Esq. and Thomas William Tatton Esq.

Chad-kirk chapel, in this township, had been thirty or forty years in ruins in 1718: Serjeant Bretland left by will 5*l.* *per ann.* to an orthodox preacher at this chapel, and requested that the rector of Stockport would add as much more; this had never been paid in 1718: the chapel lay in ruins till about the year 1746, when it was re-built by subscription: the rector of Stockport is patron. The above-mentioned annuity of 5*l.* *per ann.* is now paid by Thomas William Tatton Esq., upon whose estates (formerly belonging to the Bretlands) it is charged.

The township of *Torkington* lies about three miles S.E. from Stockport; the manor which formerly belonged to the Torkingtons<sup>e</sup>, is now the property of Willoughby Legh Esq. of Booths, whose ancestor purchased it of the family of Ryle. The hall is occupied as a farm-house. The late Mr. Legh built a neat lodge in Torkington, for his occasional residence.

<sup>d</sup> On two houses now the property of Mr. Orme.

<sup>e</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 91.

The manor of *Werneth* or *Wernith* passed for several centuries with Romiley; it was Sir Fulk Lucy's in 1562<sup>f</sup>, afterwards serjeant Bretland's, and is now the property of Thomas William Tatton Esq.

GULDEN-SUTTON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, lies about three miles N. by E. from Chester: it contains only one township, and about nine hundred statute acres of land. The manor of Guilden, Golden, or Gilders-Sutton, was given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, to Adam de Dutton<sup>g</sup>, whose son Geoffrey granted it to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh at Chester. This estate, some time after the reformation, was in a younger branch of the Booths of Dunham-Massey<sup>h</sup>, who exercised manerial rights here more than a century ago. In the year 1699, Elizabeth, daughter of George Booth of Woodford-Hall, near Over, having married George Tyndale Esq. of Bath-Ford in Somersethire, this estate passed to the Tyndales, of whose descendant it was purchased by James Croxton Esq. in 1773: Mr. Croxton's daughter and heiress, Emma, brought this and other estates in Guilden-Sutton in marriage to the Rev. Rowland Egerton, (seventh son of the late John Egerton Esq. of Oulton,) the present proprietor and lord of the manor. The grandfather of the late Mr. Croxton had purchased in 1725, a house and lands in this parish, which had belonged to the Breretons, and afterwards to the Wrights; in 1747 he purchased a mansion, with its demesne, of Lancelot Machell Esq. of Crakenthorp-Hall in Westmorland; this house, which was for several descents a seat of the Machells, has been taken down; that which belonged to the Wrights is now a farmhouse.

The chancel of the parish church received so much injury from a storm on the 21st of January 1802, that there was a necessity for its being taken down and rebuilt. The church of Guilden-Sutton belonged to the college of St. John the Baptist in Chester; Sir Peter Warburton bought the impropriation in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it has now been more than a century in the Stanleys of Alderley; Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. being the present patron and impropriator.

SWETTENHAM, in the hundred of Northwich and deanery of Middlewich, lies about four miles N. W. from Congleton, and about seven miles east from Middlewich; it contains two townships, *Swettenham*, and *Carincham*, or

<sup>f</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>g</sup> See p. 485, in the notes.

<sup>h</sup> It is most probable that it was granted to the dean and chapter, obtained by Sir Richard Cotton, with their other estates, (see p. 373, in the notes,) and sold by his family to the Booths.

*Kermicham.* The manor of *Swettenham* was the ancient inheritance of a family of that name: Joan, daughter and heir of Thomas de Swettenham brought it to the Davenports of Davenport in the sixteenth century; but before the year 1620 the male heir of the Swettenhams had, by purchase, become repossessed of it<sup>1</sup>. In the year 1780, on the death of Thomas Swettenham Esq., the last heir male of this family, who had assumed the name of Willis, this manor passed under his devise to his widow for life, with remainder to Mrs. Heys, a distant relation, for her life, and after both their deaths, in fee, to John Eaton Esq. another distant relation, who assumed the name of Swettenham, and was father of Millington Eaton Swettenham Esq. of Didbury in Lancashire, the present proprietor: Swettenham-Hall is in the occupation of Edward Smythe Esq. The advowson of the rectory, after the next presentation, is vested in Mr. Swettenham.

The township of *Carincham*, *Karincham*, *Kermincham*, or *Kermicham*, anciently written, *Cerdingham*, lies about five miles and a half N. W. from Congleton; in the reign of Edward I. the manor was held under the barony of Hawarden by the Swettenhams<sup>k</sup>: Randal Mainwaring, of a younger branch of the Mainwarings of Peover, became possessed of it about the year 1431<sup>l</sup>; it is now the property of John Mainwaring Uniacke Esq., who, on the death of John Mainwaring Esq., the last heir-male of this branch of the family in 1784, succeeded to his estates under a settlement made by Roger Mainwaring Esq., his maternal grandfather: the hall is now occupied as a farm-house. In this township is *Rowley*, the ancient property and seat of the Rowley family<sup>m</sup>, from the reign of Edward I. to that of Henry VIII., when Robert Rowley Esq. sold it to the Mainwarings<sup>n</sup>.

TARPORLEY, in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Chester, is a small market town on the great road from London to Chester, ten miles and a half from Chester, and one hundred and seventy-one from London. The parish contains the townships of *Tarporley*, *Eaton*, *Rushton*, and *Utkinton*<sup>o</sup>. Tarporley is called in ancient records a borough, and the houses are called burgages: it had in former times a mayor, as appears by deeds of the years 1348 and 1396<sup>p</sup>: it is now governed by a constable. The market, which was originally on Tuesday, was granted in 1281, to Hugh de Tarporley, then lord of the manor, together with a fair for three days at the festival of the Holy-Rood<sup>q</sup>; the market, which is inconsiderable, is now held on Thursday; it had been many years disused,

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid.

<sup>m</sup> See p. 397.

<sup>n</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>o</sup> The township of *Eaton* lies about two miles E. N. E. from Tarporley; *Rushton*, nearly three miles in the same direction; *Utkinton*, about a mile and a half N. W. by W.

<sup>p</sup> Cole's MSS. British Museum.

<sup>q</sup> Cart. 10 Edw. I.

when

when it was restored, somewhat more than a century ago, by Sir John Crewe, who in 1705 procured a grant of three fairs<sup>1</sup>, now held on the first of May, the Monday after the festival of St. Bartholomew, and Dec. 11; they are chiefly for cows and pigs: Sir John Crewe built the market-house. There is an annual fox-hunt of great celebrity, held at Tarporley on the first week in November, during which week there are horse-races<sup>2</sup>, at a place called Crab-tree-green on Delamere-forest.

A pamphlet "called *Cheshire Successe*," published by the Parliamentary party, gives an account of a pitched battle at Tarporley on the 21st of February 1642-3, between Sir William Brereton's forces, and the royalists from Chester; but although the parliamentarians were more successful in the other actions spoken of in this pamphlet, they appear, notwithstanding the King's forces are said to have suffered greater loss, to have retreated in this instance, for which the disadvantage of the ground, and the approach of night, are assigned as reasons.

The manor of *Tarporley* was anciently in a family which took its name from the town: a moiety of it belonged, as early as the year 1307, to the Greys of Ruthin: this moiety, to which the advowson of the church was annexed, continued in the family of Grey till the reign of Henry VII., when it was sold by the Earl of Kent to Hugh Dennis, and having passed by a subsequent sale to the Hintons, was purchased of them about the year 1590 by the Dones, who had then for several generations been possessed of the other moiety, having resided at Utkinton-Hall in this parish, before the year 1200. A younger branch of this family was of Flaxyards, in the township of Eaton: on the extinction of the elder branch in the male line about the year 1400, the Utkinton estates passed in marriage with its heiress to the Dones of Flaxyards, who removed to Utkinton. Sir John Done, who was knighted by King James at his house at Utkinton in 1617, on occasion of the King's hunting in the forest of Delamere<sup>3</sup>, of which he was hereditary bow-bearer, died in 1629: his only son, John Done Esq., dying either before or soon after him without issue, the estates were divided among three sisters, Jane, who died unmarried, Mary, wife of John Crewe Esq., and Eleanor, wife of Ralph Arderne Esq.<sup>4</sup>. Upon a partition, the manor and advowson of *Tarporley*, and the manor of Utkinton, were allotted to Jane, the elder sister, who, by a deed of the 12th of February 1662, settled these estates to the use of herself for

<sup>1</sup> Cole's MSS.      <sup>2</sup> Horse-races on Delamere-forest are mentioned in Webb's Itinerary, 1622. King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 118.      <sup>3</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 106.

<sup>4</sup> A fourth sister, Frances, the wife of Thomas Maister Esq. of Nantwich, died before her brother, without issue.

life, with remainder to her sister Mary for life, with divers remainders over; upon the determination of which, the premises so settled, were to be divided into six parts; two sixths were limited to Sir John Arderne (then son and heir-apparent to his sister Eleanor), and his heirs; and the other four-sixths to Henry, Ralph, James, and Philip, younger brothers of the said Sir John, to each of them and his heirs, one-sixth. These estates became afterwards the subject of litigation in the court of Chancery, and so continued till the year 1725, when a partition was decreed between the children of Eleanor, the youngest sister of Mrs. Jane Done, (who married Ralph Arderne Esq.) in the following proportions: two-sixths of the manors, with Utkinton-Hall, which had then lately been the seat of Sir John Crewe<sup>x</sup>, were allotted to Sir John Arderne Knight, great-grandfather of John Arden Esq., the present proprietor; one-sixth to Henry Arderne, the ancestor of Mrs. Glegg, in whom it is now vested; one-sixth<sup>y</sup> to Ralph Arderne, whose eldest daughter brought it in marriage to Jonathan Hulley; another sixth-part was allotted to the dean and chapter of Chester, as devisees of dean Arderne, who died in 1691, having bequeathed the chief part of his estates to that body; the remaining sixth share was allotted to Philip Arderne, and having been devised by him to the Dukenfield family, was purchased in 1773 of Sir Nathaniel Dukenfield Bart., by Philip Egerton Esq. of Oulton, father of John Egerton Esq., who is the present proprietor.

It appears by the plea to a *quo warranto*, in the reign of Henry VII. that the Earl of Kent, as lord of the manor of Tarporley, claimed by ancient usage the right of punishing bakers offending against the law, by the pillory; maltsters by the tumbrell<sup>z</sup>; and scolds by the *thew*, which is defined in the record to be the punishment of being placed on a certain stool called a cucking-stool: several other manors in the county claimed the like privileges, as appears by pleas to *quo warranto*'s of the same date<sup>z</sup>.

The manors of Rushton and Eaton, which had been granted by John Scott, Earl of Chester, to Hugh Fitton<sup>b</sup>, and which were afterwards successively in the Greys Earls of Kent, and in the Hintons, appear to have been afterwards in the Dones, and to have passed with Tarporley and Utkinton; but Rushton-Hall with its demesne, which continued in the Hintons and their representatives, the Mad-

<sup>x</sup> Son of Mary Arderne, the second sister, who married John Crewe Esq.

<sup>y</sup> This share is now the property of Mr. John Shaw of Idenshaw, who purchased it in 1804 of Jasper, son of Jonathan Hulley above-mentioned.

<sup>z</sup> The tumbrell is by most authors defined as synonymous to the cucking-stool, but is here clearly spoken of as a distinct punishment.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

docks; was sold by the marchioness of Landsdown, (daughter and heir of the Rev. Hinton Maddock,) to Richard Maddock Esq., the present proprietor.

Utkinton-Hall was the ancient seat of the Dones, and afterwards of Sir John Crewe, who had a valuable library there: when Mr. Cole visited Cheshire in 1755, many years after Sir John's death, the books remained at Utkinton; the greater part of the hall has been taken down, what remains is fitted up as a farm-house; the chapel which was consecrated in 1635, has long ago been turned into rooms for the use of the farm. Flaxyards-Hall anciently the seat of a younger branch of the Dones of Utkinton, who eventually became representatives of the elder branch, has long been a farm-house.

The well mentioned in p. 416, was within the township of Utkinton, at a place called the Hollins, and went by the name of the New-found-well for more than a century; the bath on the waste was resorted to by great numbers of persons from all parts of the country, who had free access to the water, and wonderful cures were reported to be wrought by it in cases of lameness, till a neighbouring farmer inclosed the bath, and demanded a small payment for the use of it; and from that time it is said that no more crutches were hung, as before they had been, on the surrounding hollies. Some years afterwards the waste where the well had been discovered was inclosed, and the tenant of the estate, who had built a house within a quarter of a mile of the spot, demolished the bath, about fourscore years ago, covered up the well, and conveyed the water in leaden pipes into his kitchen for the use of the house<sup>c</sup>. John Greenway, a name-sake, and most probably a descendant of the person who is spoken of in the pamphlet, as the first discoverer of this once celebrated well, lives about half a mile from the Hollins.

In Tarporley church are several monuments and other memorials of the families of Done, Crewe, Wagstaff<sup>d</sup>, &c. The monument of Sir John Done, who died in 1629, has a half-length effigy of the deceased in armour, with his badge of office, as hereditary chief bailiff, forester, or bow-bearer of the forest of Delamere: this office, or at least a moiety<sup>e</sup> of it, was acquired by his ancestor, Henry Done, who married the  
the

<sup>c</sup> From the information of the Rev. Thomas Williamson, minister of Little-Budworth.

<sup>d</sup> In the chancel is a cenotaph in memory of Thomas Wagstaff, buried at Tachbrook in Warwickshire in 1686; he married the daughter and co-heir of Comb of Warwick, by whom he had Sir Comb Wagstaff Knt., and Mary wife of Sir John Crewe; the inscription on this monument makes mention also of the families of Boughton and Rouse, who were connected with the Wagstaffs.

<sup>e</sup> An inquest was taken at Chester, 35 Edw. III., to determine a claim between Richard Done, and Richard Grosvenor; the former contended that the whole of the *bailiffy*, or *magistracy* of the forest

the eldest daughter and co-heir of Richard de Kingsley, by which match he also acquired large estates in the parish of Frodsham. The badge of this office, an ancient bugle-horn<sup>2</sup>, was formerly at Utkinton-Hall, but was taken into Yorkshire by Mr. Arderne, to whom, on the death of Sir John Crewe, the office of chief-forester devolved: it is now in the possession of John Arden Esq. of Harden, in whom the said office is now vested.

The monument of John Crewe<sup>b</sup> Esq. (son of Sir Randle Crewe, chief-justice of the King's Bench,) who married Mary Done, and died in 1670, has a medallion of the deceased; that of his son, Sir John Crewe of Utkinton, who died in 1711, has a recumbent effigies in white marble; that of Mrs. Jane Done, who died in 1662, and her sister Mrs. Mary Crewe, who died in 1690, is in the north-aisle, and has recumbent figures of the deceased in white-marble: in the south aisle is a painting in chiaro-scuro of the monument of Jane, the lady of Sir Clippesby Crewe (who died in 1639) in Westminster-abbey. Sir Clippesby was father of John Crewe of Crewe, the last of that branch of the family, who died in 1684: his lady was daughter of Sir John Pulteney of Misterton in Leicestershire. On the ceiling of this aisle are the arms of Done, Arderne, and Crewe; and of their alliances.

The advowson of the valuable rectory of Tarpорley<sup>c</sup> was divided into the same portions as the manor, but Richard Arderne having purchased his brothers Ralph and Henry Arderne's shares, they have descended to John Arden Esq., who is now possessed of four-sixths of the advowson: one sixth belongs to the dean and chapter, who presented for the first time in 1808, Mr. Hugh Chol-

forest of Delamere, descended to him from his ancestor, Henry, by virtue of his marriage with Jane Kingsley, who, in lieu of lands, had, as her share of her father's estates, the bailiffcy of the said forest. Richard Grosvenor maintained on the contrary, that a moiety of the bailiffcy had been vested in his ancestors from time immemorial: it was decided in favour of Grosvenor. We find that John Done of Utkinton, in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VIII., purchased of Sir John Talbot, and Margaret his wife, this moiety of the magistracy and custody of the forest. — Woodnoth's Collections, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 462.

<sup>b</sup> This John Crewe was one of the commissioners on the side of the parliament at the treaty of Usbridge. — Whitlocke's Memorials, p. 120.

<sup>c</sup> Sir John Crewe by his will, bearing date 1710, ordered and appointed, that his cousin Richard Arderne, and whoever should succeed him as patron of Tarpорley, should require a bond of every new incumbent presented by them, to resign the rectory in the event of his accepting any other benefice, or in the event of his absenting himself for three weeks at any one time, unless in case of long journies upon special and extraordinary occasions, of which he should first acquaint the owners of Utkinton-Hall, and in such case, not to be absent more than two months at any one time,

mondley,

mondeley, the dean, being then instituted on their nomination: the next turn belongs to John Egerton Esq. of Oulton.

A chapel, called the Hermits, or le Hermitage, near Tarporley, is mentioned as annexed to the church of Tarporley, in a record of the reign of Richard II., and the chapel of Rode or Rood, in records of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries: the advowson of the church, with these chapels, was then in the family of Grey <sup>k</sup>.

Mrs. Jane Done, who died in 1662, gave 20*l.* *per ann.* to the school at Tarporley, and the interest of 200*l.* to bind children apprentice: Sir John Crewe settled 12*l.* *per ann.* in lieu of this in 1688; and in 1703, a further sum of 13*l.* *per ann.*, in lieu of money given for that purpose by his mother <sup>l</sup>. The school-house was built by Dorothy Lady Done, mother of Mrs. Jane Done, by whom it was endowed; the nomination of the master was settled to be in Mrs. Jane Done's heirs, who, in the year 1724, transferred their right to Richard Arderne Esq. and his heirs. The Rev. Thomas Garner gave the sum of 100*l.* in the 4 *per cents.*, for the purpose of instructing poor children of this town.

Sir John Crewe in 1704, at the request of his lady, built some alms-houses at Tarporley, for four poor women, which are endowed with a rent-charge <sup>m</sup>.

On an old house at Tarporley, are the two following curious distichs, accompanied with the crest and initials of Ralph Done; some other crests, and the coat of Arderne.

“ Ralphe Done Esquyer, the Lorde of thys place  
Was an eade to thys buldyng in every cace”

Jhon Winter 1586.

“ Fenys quoth Jhon Newfon hath kept hys promes just,  
In buldyng of thys house in Awgust.”

Anno 1585.

TARVIN, in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Chester, lies five miles N. by E. from Chester on the London road. It had for some time a weekly market procured by Sir John Savage in the reign of Queen Elizabeth <sup>n</sup>, which has been discontinued beyond the memory of man; a fair formerly held on the

<sup>k</sup> Cole's MSS. British Museum. <sup>l</sup> It was appropriated to the eldest sons and daughters of poor cottagers. Sir John Crewe by his will, bearing date 1710, orders and appoints that the school-master shall not be in holy orders, and that every new school-master, on his appointment, shall give a bond to resign his situation in the event of his entering into holy orders.

<sup>m</sup> In the return of charitable donations to the House of Commons in 1786, Dame Mary Crewe is said to have settled a rent charge of 6*l.* *per ann.* on these alms-houses.

<sup>n</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 47.

9th of December, has been discontinued about twenty years. The parish of Tarvin comprises the townships of *Tarvin-cum-Oscroft*, *Ashton*, *Burton*, *Clotton*, *Duddon*, *Hockenhull*, *Horton-cum-Peele*, *Kelfall*, *Great-Mouldsworth*, *Bruen-Stapleford*, and *Fulke-Stapleford*.

Tarvin was for a considerable time one of the parliamentary garrisons, during the civil war: a skirmish between some of the King's forces from Chester and the garrison at Tarvin took place on the 12th of November 1643<sup>o</sup>, and another in the month of January following<sup>p</sup>: in the month of August, Tarvin appears to have been in the possession of the royalists, and to have sustained an attack from some of the Parliamentary forces<sup>q</sup>. On the 5th of September 1644, this town was again taken possession of for the Parliament, fortified with strong works, and garrisoned<sup>r</sup>. Tarvin appears to have been the only garrison in Cheshire, except Nantwich, which was not abandoned on the reported approach of the King, in May 1645<sup>s</sup>, and it continued in possession of the Parliament till the end of the war.

The manor of Tarvin was long annexed to the fee of Lichfield and Coventry, under which it was held on lease for lives: in the year 1550 it was alienated in fee to Sir John Savage, subject to a certain chief-rent to the bishop; from the Savages it passed with Frodsham and other estates to the Cholmondeleys; it is now the property of Mr. William Cotgreave, having been purchased by his father of William Thomas, to whom it was sold by the Earl of Cholmondeley in 1786. Holme-Street, or Home-Street-Hall, in this township, formerly called Holme-Street Manor-house, was included in Sir John Savage's purchase above-mentioned, and was afterwards successively in the families of Starkey, Sproston, Barker, and Symkin<sup>t</sup>; Mrs. Darell, heiress of the latter, devised it to Mr. Daniel Vawdrey, of whose son Thomas it was purchased in 1767 by Thomas Brock Esq., and it has since passed with Hockenhull to the Cluttons. In 1629 it was described as then lately in the occupation of Sir Thomas Fisher. Prior's-Heys in *Oscroft*, (a hamlet of Tarvin,) belonged to the Bruen family, and has passed with other estates, by purchase, to the Wilbrahams of Rode: it is esteemed extra-parochial.

The rectory of Tarvin was annexed to a prebend (since called the prebend of Tarvin) in the church of Lichfield by Alexander Savensby, bishop of Lichfield

<sup>o</sup> Burghall's Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 923.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. ii. 931.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid. p. 936.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. p. 937.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 942.

<sup>t</sup> It was sold by Sir John Savage in 1550, to James Starkey Gent. ; in 1629, by Henry Starkey, to Robert Sproston; by the devises in trust of the latter to Richard Barker, who in 1683 devised it to his kinsman John Symkin; Gilbert Symkin son, of the latter, bequeathed it in 1740 to his sister Sarah, then the relict of ——— Darell.

and Coventry in the year 1226; it is now vested in the dean and chapter, as part of a fund for the repair of Lichfield cathedral<sup>a</sup>: the patronage of the vicarage, which before belonged to the prebendary, is now vested in the bishop. Ralph Nield, who was buried at Tarvin in or about the year 1760, was said to be 107 years of age; his last wife, who survived him, was his sixth. The township of Tarvin has been inclosed, pursuant to an act of Parliament passed in 1791, when lands were allotted in lieu of tithes to the impropiator and to the vicar.

The grammar-school at Tarvin was founded in the year 1600 by ——— Pickering, and endowed with 200*l.*, laid out in the purchase of lands at Tattenhall, now let for 15*l. per ann.*, which, with some small additions<sup>x</sup> to the endowment, is now made up 18*l. per ann.*: the number of children is limited to twenty: there is a house for the master. Mr. John Thomafen, a celebrated penman, was master of this school: on the outside of the church, is the following epitaph to his memory. “ John Thomafen, thirty-six years master of the grammar-school, highly excelling in all the varieties of writing, and wonderfully so in the Greek character. Specimens of his ingenuity are treasured up in the cabinets of the curious, and in the public libraries throughout the kingdom: he had the honor to transcribe the Icon Basilike of her royal grandfather, for Queen Anne; invaluable copies also of Pindar, Anacreon, Epictetus, Hippocrates’s aphorisms, and that finished piece, the shield of Achilles (as described by Homer), are among the productions of his valuable pen. Ob. Jan. 25, 1740. æt. 54.” There is a portrait of Mr. Thomafen at Vale-Royal, the seat of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq.

The township of *Ashton* lies eight miles E. N. E. from Chester; the manor was held under the barony of Shipbrooke in the reign of Edward I. by the Mainwarings, from whom it descended by female heirs to the Truffells and Veres. In or about the year 1580, Edward Vere Earl of Oxford, sold it to Sir Christopher Hatton, from whom it passed by successive sales to the families of Crewe, Davies, and Whitley<sup>y</sup>. In 1718 it was purchased of the executors of Roger Whitley Esq. by Mr. Leonard Grantham, who in 1728 sold it to Cornelius Hignett Gent.: it is now the property of Samuel Alderfey Esq., whose grandfather married Mary, one of the daughters and eventually sole heiress of Mr. Hignett above-mentioned. Ashton-Hall, an ancient stone mansion, now occupied by a farmer, is the property of Mr. Georgê Speakman, whose family inherited the hall with its demesne by

<sup>a</sup> See Harwood’s History of Lichfield, p. 251.

<sup>x</sup> The interest of 40*l.* secured on a turnpike-road, and a rent-charge of 1*l. per ann.* on lands in the township of Tarvin.

<sup>y</sup> Villare Celtrense.—Roger Whitley Esq. purchased of Henry Davies Esq. before the year 1695.

devise from its former owners, the Robinsons. Ashton-Heys, in this township, belonged in the reign of Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Smith; the representatives of his descendant Sir Thomas Smith Bart., who died without issue in 1675, sold it to Roger Whitley Esq.: after having passed some time with the manor of Ashton, it was purchased of Mr. Grantham in 1722, by Bruen Worthington Esq. of the city of Dublin, whose grandson, the Rev. Richard Worthington, M. D., has, within the present year, (1809,) sold it to Booth Grey Esq. Ashton-Heys-house, now the seat of Mr. Grey, stands on an elevated situation, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect; it was built by Dr. Worthington's father, the late Burdett Worthington Esq. for his own residence.

The township of *Burton* lies three miles N. N. W. from Tarporley; the manor belonged to the family of Bruyn or Bruen, as early as the reign of Edward I.<sup>7</sup>, it has since descended with Bruen-Stapleford, to Randle Wilbraham Esq., the present proprietor. Burton-Hall, formerly a seat of the Werdens<sup>8</sup>, is now a farmhouse.

The township of *Clotton* lies two miles N. W. by W. from Tarporley, on the road to Chester; the manor belonged at an early period to Robert de Rullos, who gave the tithes of this township to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester; his daughter and heir brought it to the Waverton family, the co-heiresses of which married into the families of Clotton, Messington, and Huxley. The manor was afterward divided into three portions<sup>a</sup> among the descendants of these families; Clotton's share is supposed to have passed by successive female heirs to the Overtons, Swettenhams, and Wilbrahams<sup>b</sup>; and is now the property of the Earl of Dysart, as representative of the last-mentioned family: Messington's share came to the Dones, and passed with the Utkinton estates to John Arden Esq. Huxley's share was alienated to the Praers family, passed by a female-heir to the Bruens, and is now the property of Mr. James Haffall, having been purchased of Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Rode, whose grandfather bought it of the Bruens. *Hoofield* or *Hulfield* is a hamlet of Clotton: there was formerly a family of de Hulfield<sup>c</sup>;

<sup>7</sup> Villare Cestriense. — Dr. Williamson has in one instance mistaken it for the manor of Buerton in Aldford, which was held under the Orrebies.

<sup>a</sup> It belonged to the Werdens (as lessees probably) in 1622, and in 1662. Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 102. and Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010. We find that the estate was purchased of Nathaniel Wall Esq. (in whom the fee was then vested) in 1722, and that it has descended in the same manner as Cholmondeston, and some other estates.

<sup>b</sup> Or perhaps three, exclusively of Hoofield, or Hulfield, which might have been the fourth part of the manor, which the Hulfield family held.

<sup>c</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>d</sup> John de Hulfield was seised of one-fourth of the vill of Clotton, 23 Edw. III. Roger de Hulfield was seised of one-fourth of the manor, 22 Rich. II.

in the fourteenth century they held a fourth-part of the manor of Clotton, of which we find no subsequent mention.

The township of *Duddon* lies rather more than three miles N. W. by W. from Tarporley, on the road to Chester; the manor, which had passed through the same hands as Clotton, was for many generations in moieties between the families of Bruen and Done; the first of these moieties has passed with Bruen-Stapleford to Mr. Wilbraham, the other with the Utkinton estate to Mr. Arden. Duddon-Hall, which continued to be the seat of a younger branch of the Dones, long after the extinction of the elder branch<sup>d</sup>, is now a farm-house the property of Mr. Arden.

The township of *Hockenhull* gave name to a family which possessed the manor from a very early period<sup>e</sup>, till the year 1713, when it was sold to Mr. Hugh Whithaw. In 1761 it was purchased of his son, ——— Whithaw, by John Walsh Esq. M. P.: it now belongs to the eldest son of the late Colonel Clutton of Kinerley-castle in Herefordshire. Colonel Clutton married a niece of Thomas Brock Esq., who purchased this manor of Mr. Walsh in 1771. Hockenhull-Hall, the ancient seat of the Hockenhulls<sup>f</sup>, has been taken down; its site is occupied by a farm-house.

The manor of *Horton-cum-Peele*, or *Little-Mouldsworth*, was formerly in the Duttons<sup>g</sup>. Sir John Savage was seized of it in the reign of Henry VIII.: in 1622 it belonged to the family of Travers or Travis<sup>h</sup>, and having undergone some intermediate alienations<sup>i</sup>, was purchased of the present marchioness of Landfdown by Richard Maddock Esq., the present proprietor. Horton-Hall is now a farm-house. *Peele*, a hamlet of Little-Mouldsworth, or Horton, belonged in 1680 to Colonel Roger Whitley, before that period successively to the Hardwares, Brookes, and Wilbrahams<sup>k</sup>; it is now the property of the Earl of Plymouth, whose great grandfather, married the daughter and heir of Thomas Whitley Esq. *Peele-Hall*, a respectable old mansion, was the seat of Colonel Whitley, who entertained King William III. there on his way to Ireland; it is now a farm-house.

The township of *Kelfall* lies three miles N. E. from Tarvin, and eight miles from Chester; the manor belonged formerly to the Kelfalls<sup>l</sup>, who took their name from this township; it is now in moieties between the Earl of Plymouth, by in-

<sup>d</sup> Edward Done Esq., described as his cousin, is one of the legatees in Sir John Crewe's will, bearing date 1710; he died in 1717: the last Done of Duddon, who occurs in the Tarvin register, is Robert Done, buried in 1774. <sup>e</sup> Villare Cestrieuse. <sup>f</sup> See an account of this family, p. 383, 384.

<sup>g</sup> Esch. Hen. VI. and Hen. VII. at Chester.

<sup>h</sup> King's Vale-Royal. part ii. p. 101.

<sup>i</sup> The Travis family sold it to Jacob Jones about 1719. Thomas Maddock Esq., alderman of Chester, purchased of Jones in 1749; his granddaughter the marchioness of Landfdown sold it to Richard Maddock Esq. in 1787.

<sup>k</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>l</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

heritance

heritance from the Whitleys of Peele, and John Arden Esq., by inheritance from the Dones: it was held in ancient times under the barons of Dunham-Massey, who appear to have held the fee under the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Kelfall-Hall is a farm-house.

The township of *Great-Mouldsworth* lies nine miles N. E. by E. from Chester; the manor was at an early period in the Mouldsworth family; in the reign of Hen. VIII. it was in the Sneyds<sup>m</sup>; in 1662 it belonged to Samuel Hardware Esq.<sup>n</sup>: it is now the property of John Haygarth of Bath M. D., who in 1806, purchased it of the trustees of Mrs. Mary Lightbody, devisee of Mrs. Mary Tilston, who died in 1795. Mrs. M. Tilston was the heiress of Dr. Tilston, the last heir-male of the ancient family of Tilston, (formerly of Tilston,) who had possessed this manor for rather more than a century. Mouldsworth-Hall is occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Bruen-Stapleford* lies rather more than seven miles E. by S. from Chester; the manor was the ancient inheritance of the Bruyns, or Bruens, which family became extinct in the male line by the death of Jonathan Bruen Esq.<sup>o</sup> in 1715. This manor was sold in 1752, under a decree of the court of chancery, to Randle Wilbraham Esq., grandfather of Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Rode, the present proprietor. A farm-house has lately been built on the site of Stapleford-Hall, the ancient seat of the Bruens. A moiety of the manor of *Fulke-Stapleford*<sup>p</sup> belonged also to the Bruens, and has passed with *Bruen-Stapleford* to Mr. Wilbraham; the other moiety belonged at an early period to the Orrebies, from whom it passed by successive female heirs to the Corbets and Breretons<sup>q</sup>; in 1702 it was purchased of Nathaniel Wall Esq.<sup>r</sup> by Sir John Werden, and has since passed with Leighton in Nantwich, Burton-Hall in this parish, and other estates, to George Harley Drummond Esq.

In this township is *Hargrave-Stubbs*, where is a chapel founded in 1627<sup>s</sup> by Sir Thomas Moulson Bart., alderman, and some time lord mayor of London, and endowed with 40*l.* per ann. for a minister. Sir Thomas Moulson at the same time endowed a school adjoining to the chapel with 20*l.* per ann. "for the government, education, and instruction of youth in grammar and virtue," and directed the overplus of rents arising from certain lands, then by him

<sup>m</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>o</sup> John White Esq. married Margaret, his only daughter and heir; they had one daughter married to John Foot, *alias* Dineley, who died previously to the year 1752, when the estate was sold, as mentioned above.

<sup>p</sup> The township of *Fulke-Stapleford* lies six miles E. from Chester.

<sup>q</sup> Esch. Hen. IV. VI. & VII.

<sup>r</sup> John Wall Esq. was seized of this estate in 1672; it does not appear by Mr. Drummond's papers, who were the immediate predecessors of the Walls.

given,

given, to be applied to the relief of such poor persons as the majority of the feoffees shall think fit; the bishop and the dean of Chester, Earl Grosvenor, the Rev. John Oldershaw, vicar of Tarvin, Randle Wilbraham of Rode-Hall Esq., and the Rev. Richard Massie of Coddington, are the present feoffees of this charity, and have the appointment of the minister, and school-master: the lands are now let for 155*l.* per ann.

The extra-parochial township of *Willington*, which lies three miles N. N. W. from Tarporley, adjoins the townships of Clotton and Duddon in this parish; and part of it pays corn-tithes to the impropiator of Tarvin. The manor was formerly parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Stanlow, afterwards removed to Whalley in Lancashire; soon after the dissolution of monasteries it became vested in the Dones<sup>1</sup>, and has since passed with the Tarporley estate, being now divided between John Arden Esq. John Egerton Esq., and the dean and chapter of Chester<sup>2</sup>.

The extensive tract of land, called Delamere-forest, which is also deemed extra-parochial<sup>3</sup>, adjoins this parish on its western side; the Old Pale, or as it was formerly called, the Chamber of the Forest, lies not far from Kelfall. It is an inclosure, made nearly two centuries ago, and the high-ground within this inclosure is said to have been the site of Ethelfleda's city, called Edisbury; but there are now no traces of it. The Old Pale belongs to the chief forester, or bow-bearer; James Arderne Esq., ancestor of John Arden Esq., who now holds that hereditary office, is said to have built a brick house here, about the middle of the seventeenth century<sup>4</sup>. The New Pale is an inclosure, belonging to the Earl of Cholmondeley, made by the Rivers family within the last century, in that part of the forest which adjoins the parish of Frodsham.

TATTENHALL, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Malpas, lies about eight miles S. E. from Chester: it contains three townships, *Tattenball*, *Golbourn-Bellew*, and *Newton*. The manor of Tattenhall was given by Randal Gernon Earl of Chester, to Henry Touchet, from whom it descended to the Lords Audley<sup>5</sup>, and became forfeited to the crown by attainder; about the year 1600 it was purchased of the Cottons<sup>6</sup>, by the Egertons, from whom it passed by sale

<sup>1</sup> As early as the year 1560.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 790.

<sup>3</sup> A great part of it including the Old and the New Pale, was, in former times, deemed to be in the parish of St. Oswald in Chester; but has not for many years been esteemed part of that parish.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>6</sup> It seems probable that after Lord Audley's attainder, it was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester, and that it came into the possession of the Cottons in the same manner as Great-Boughton, and other estates of the dean and chapter. See p. 573, in the notes.

to Sir John Crewe of Utkinton : it is now the property of Thomas Tarlton Esq. of Boleiworth-castle, who purchased it in 1804 of John Crewe Esq., now Lord Crewe. Tattenhall-Hall<sup>a</sup> belonged to the Bostocks, of whom it was purchased by the Bradthaws : in 1666 it belonged to Sir J. Bradshaw of Chester : it is now a farm-house, and united to the manor.

The church of Tattenhall was given by William de Malbank, Baron of Wich-Malbank, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester. The bishop of Chester is now patron of the rectory. In the parish church are some memorials of the Birds of Broxton. Mr. Thomas Larden gave the interest of 100*l.* for clothing and teaching poor children of this township. Dr. Peploe, rector of Tattenhall, who died in 1781, gave the sum of 200*l.*, laid out in the purchase of 334*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* 3 *per cents.*, now vested in John Larden Esq., and Samuel Bromfield Gent., for the education of twelve children of this parish.

The township of *Golborne*, or *Golbourn-Bellew*, lies about six miles and a half S. E. by E. from Chester ; the manor was held under the barony of Wich-Malbank, by the family of Bella-Aqua, Belleau, or Bellew, from which it passed by successive female heirs to the Hattons, Vernons, and Duttons, and was afterwards by purchase the property of Sir Peter Pindar ; it has long been annexed to the manor of Tattenhall, and was purchased with it, by Mr. Tarlton. This manor renders suit and service to the manor of Handley, and its officers are sworn in at Handley-court. In the township of *Golborne-Bellew*, is *Rushill-Hall*, *Rufhee*, or *Rushall*, described by Webb in his Itinerary, (written in 1622,) as a fair house and demesne of the Duttons of Hatton<sup>b</sup>, afterwards the seat of Sir Peter Pindar : it is now a farm-house, the property of Mrs. Gifford of Nerquis. Webb speaks of "the Cleys" near this place, a seat of a younger branch of the *Golbornes*<sup>c</sup>.

The township of *Newton-juxta-Tattenhall*, lies rather more than four miles W. S. W. from Tarporley ; the manor seems to have passed with Tattenhall, and is now the property of Thomas Tarlton Esq.

**TAXALL**, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies on the borders of Derbyshire, about eleven miles S. E. from Stockport, and about eight S. W. from Macclesfield : it comprises two townships, *Taxall* and *Whaley*. In or about the year 1344, the manor of Taxall was given by Edward Downes Esq. of

<sup>a</sup> This was the fair house, built all of brick, made by Richard Bostock Esq. in the reign of James I., spoken of by Webb in his Itinerary, A<sup>o</sup> 1622. See King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 58.

<sup>b</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 58.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

Shrigley,

Shrigley, to his younger son Edmund<sup>d</sup>, in whose posterity it continued till the year 1691, when it was sold by Reginald Downes Esq. and Edmund his son, to John Shallcrofs Esq. of Shallcrofs in Derbyshire. In 1733 it was sold by Mr. Shallcrofs, to John Dickenfon of Manchester, merchant, of whose fon it was purchased in 1793 by the late Foster Bower Esq., barrister at law: it is now the property of Francis Jodrell Esq. of Henbury, to whose father, John Bower Jodrell Esq., it passed by the will of his brother Foster Bower above-mentioned. It appears by the depositions of some old persons taken in the year 1720, that the manor of Taxall was anciently held by the service of blowing a horn on Midsummer-day, at a high rock near Taxall, called Wind-gather; and that there was a tradition that the lord of this manor was to hold the King's stirrup, and rouse the stag when he should come to hunt in Macclesfield-forest: we find mention of its being held (16 Edw. I.) by free-forestry; and other subsequent records speak of the office of a forester being annexed or appendant to this manor; but there is no mention in any of the ancient records relating to this manor, of the services above-mentioned; those attached to a forestership, or a manor held by free-forestry, have been already described<sup>c</sup>. Overton-Hall, formerly a seat of the family of Downes, has been taken down, and a farm-house built on the site. The late Mr. Foster Bower built a stone house at Taxall, called Taxall-lodge, intended for his own residence; it is now in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Gratrix, an eminent calico-printer. Mr. Bower expended large sums in planting the grounds contiguous to his house, and several of the neighbouring moors: the plantations are in a very thriving state.

In the parish church is the monument of Michael Heathcote, gentleman of the pantry, and yeoman of the mouth to King George II., who died in 1768. The Rev. John Swain is patron and incumbent of the rectory, the advowson of which was long attached to the manor.

The township of *Whaley* lies rather more than nine miles S. E. from Stockport; the King is lord of this township, the estates in which are the customary freeholds of various persons. Mr. Jodrell is the principal proprietor. Yeardsley-Hall in Whaley was for many generations a seat of the Jodrells; the greater part of the old mansion was taken down about the year 1776 for the purpose of re-building it, but the design was laid aside on the purchase of Henbury, by the late John Bower Jodrell Esq., and the remains of the hall were converted into a farm-house. Bottoms-Hall in Whaley, now also a farm-house, belongs to the Leghs of Ly:ne.

<sup>d</sup> From the information of Edward Downes Esq.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 744.

THORNTON, in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Chester, lies about four miles N.E. from Chester : it contains five townships, *Thornton, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Elton, Hapsford, and Wimbolds-Trafford.*

The manor of Thornton, called to distinguish it from other townships of the same name, Thornton-in-the-Moors, was given by Richard, lord of Aldford, to Peter, the Earl of Chester's clerk, whose posterity took the name of Thornton<sup>f</sup>. Sir Peter de Thornton's daughter and heir brought it in marriage to Hamon Fitton, after which it passed by female heirs, with other large estates, to the families of Venables, Booth, and Trafford<sup>g</sup>; this manor was for some time in moieties between the two last-mentioned families, as co-heirs of Venables; in or about the year 1597, Trafford's moiety was sold to Sir Peter Warburton<sup>h</sup>: this moiety passed by marriage to the Stanleys of Alderley, and was afterwards purchased by the Booths; the Hon. Langham Booth, a younger brother of George, the last Earl of Warrington, died seized of it in 1724, when it passed by his bequest to George Legh Esq., grandfather of George John Legh Esq. of High-Legh, the present proprietor. Earl Grosvenor exercises a paramount jurisdiction over this manor, in right of his manor of Aldford; he appoints a game-keeper, and the tenants have, from time immemorial, attended the Earl's courts at Aldford; Mr. Legh holds a court at Thornton.

In the parish church are some memorials of the families of Bunbury and Cottingham; Peter Cottingham, who died in 1743, was secretary to lord chancellor Macclesfield. The advowson of the rectory belongs to Lord Berwick, whose grandfather purchased it of the Earl of Warrington in 1700 for 500*l.*<sup>i</sup>

There is a school at Thornton, built by subscription, more than a century ago, and endowed with about 7*l.* 10*s.* *per ann.*, arising from the interest of sundry benefactions; the school-house was re-built about the year 1790.

The township of *Dunham-on-the-Hill, or Stony-Dunham*, lies five miles S. W. from Frodsham, on the road to Chester; the manor belonged anciently to the Fitz-Alans; on the attainder of Edmund Earl of Arundel, in the reign of Edw. II. it was given to John Hotham, bishop of Ely, with remainder to his cousin, Peter de Hotham, but was afterwards restored to the Earls of Arundel. In the reign of Henry VI. it was purchased of the co-heirs of Thomas, Earl of Arundel, by William Troutbeck Esq.<sup>k</sup>, from whom it has descended, with other estates, to the Earl of Shrewsbury. Dunham-Hall is a farm-house.

<sup>f</sup> Villare Cestriense.  
Wilmslow.

Bishop Gastrell's Notitia on the authority of the purchase deed.

<sup>g</sup> See the account of the estates of the Booth family in Bowden and  
<sup>h</sup> Record in the Exchequer at Chester, 40 Eliz.

<sup>i</sup> Villare Cestriense.

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The township of *Elton* lies about four miles and a half W.S.W. from Frodsham; the manor was given by Sir John Arderne lord of Aldford, in marriage with his sister Cecily, to William Wastneys, to be held of him by the annual render of a rose; the manor continued some time in the family of Wastneys, and was afterwards successively in those of Holes, Bradbourne, Troutbeck, and Talbot<sup>1</sup>. Margaret Talbot, heiress of the Troutbecks, died seised of it in 1531<sup>m</sup>; in 1597 half the manor was conveyed by the Talbots, to Sir Edward Brabazon: we do not find what became of it afterwards; probably it was sold in parcels. The *Villare* of 1662<sup>n</sup> mentions no lord of the manor, but says that the free-holders appeared at Aldford. Earl Grosvenor now claims the royalty, and appoints a game-keeper in right of his manor of Aldford. A large estate in this township came to the Frodshams of Frodsham, in the reign of Edward III. by marriage with the co-heiress of Elton<sup>o</sup>: this estate is now the property of Charles Goodwin Esq. of Farndon, who purchased it of the co-heiresses of the late Peter Frodsham of Elton Esq., the last heir-male of that ancient family, who died intestate in the year 1766. Elton-Hall, the seat of the Frodshams, is a large old mansion, now occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Hapsford* lies nearly five miles S. W. by W. from Frodsham; the manor was formerly in the Eltons; the Duttons became possessed of it as early as the reign of Richard II.<sup>p</sup>. Lord Gerard, the heir of the Duttons, about the latter end of the seventeenth century, enfranchised the lands of this township, but reserved the manor, which passed to the Fleetwoods, and having been afterwards in the possession of the Hoares, was sold by that family before the year 1778, to Charles Goodwin Esq. of Farndon, the present proprietor. Roger Barnston Esq. is the principal land-owner; his grandfather acquired his estate in this township by marriage with the heiress of Greig, whose ancestors had also a very considerable estate in Elton<sup>q</sup>.

The township of *Wimbolds*, or *Wimbalds-Trafford*, lies six miles N.E. by N. from Chester; the manor was anciently in the Fitz-Alans, afterwards in the Troutbecks; the Earl of Bridgewater is described as capital lord in 1662<sup>r</sup>. The Bruen family had an estate in this township as early as the reign of Edward III., which, in an inquisition of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is called the manor of

<sup>1</sup> It was settled in the Holes family, 19 Rich. II. William Bradbourne died seised of it, 3 Hen. V. (Esch.); William Troutbeck died seised of it, 4 Edw. IV. (Esch.): it was settled in the Talbot family who were heirs of the Troutbecks, 4 Hen. VIII. Records, at Chester.

<sup>m</sup> 39 Eliz. Records at Chester.

<sup>n</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>o</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid.

<sup>q</sup> See Villare Cestriense, where the name is spelt Gregg.

<sup>r</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

Wimbolds-Trafford; this estate was sold in 1752 by the representatives of Jonathan Bruen Esq. of Stapleford, (under a decree of chancery,) to Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Rode, who conveyed it the next year to George Edward Gerard Esq. It is now the property of the Rev. Richard Perryn, rector of Standish in Lancashire, in right of his wife, who was Mr. Gerard's eldest daughter. Mr. Perryn has an estate also in this township, which had been much longer in the Gerard family, having been purchased in 1658 of the Williamsons, to whom it was conveyed by the Bruens in 1621. The hall, which was rebuilt by G. E. Gerard Esq., is now in the occupation of William Gates Esq.

THURSTANTON or THURSTASTON, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies about five miles N. W. by N. from Neston, and about fifteen from Chester: it contains only one township, besides part of the townships of *Irbye* and *Greasby*. The manor of Thurstaston belonged in the twelfth century to Matthew de Rolent, who gave the church to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh at Chester. William, son of Matthew de Rolent, took the name of Thurstaston, and from him this manor appears to have passed by successive female heirs to the families of Heselwall, Brickhull, and Whitmore. The Whitmores continued to possess it from the reign of Edward III. till the death of John Whitmore Esq., the last heir male in 1751; it is now the joint property of Mrs. Lucy Browne, widow, Baptist Smart Esq., Charles Goodwin Esq., and Willian Dix Esq., all of whom are representatives of the Whitmores, except Mr. Goodwin, who acquired a portion of it<sup>a</sup> by purchase. Thurstaston-Hall, formerly the seat of the Whitmores, is now a farm-house. In the parish church, which has a Saxon door with zig-zag mouldings and a circular chancel, is a monument of Lucy, daughter of John Whitmore Esq., who married Baptist Smart, M. D. of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, and died in 1744. The dean and chapter of Chester are patrons of the rectory.

The township of *Irbye*, which lies partly in this parish and partly in Woodchurch, is situated rather more than five miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston; the manor, which formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester, was one of those which having been granted to the dean and chapter, were obtained by Sir Richard Cotton as before stated<sup>b</sup>; this manor passed by successive alienations to the Harpurs and Leighs: it is supposed to have been purchased of the co-heiresses of the latter by Edward Glegg Esq., a younger son of the family

<sup>a</sup> See p. 798.

<sup>b</sup> Villare Cestriense, and pedigrees.

<sup>c</sup> Five parts out of twenty-four.

<sup>d</sup> See p. 573, in the notes.

of Glegg of Grange, and ancestor of Birkenhed Glegg Esq., the present proprietor. Irbey-Hall, which was for several descents a feat of this branch of the Gleggs, is now occupied as a farm-house: it stands partly in the parish of Thurstafton, and partly in Woodchurch. *Greasby* has been described under West-Kirkby.

TILSTON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Malpas, lies about three miles W. from Malpas, and twelve miles S. from Chester; it contains five townships, *Tilston*, *Carwarden*, or *Carden*, *Grafton*, *Horton*, and *Stretton*. A moiety of the manor of *Tilstan*, or *Tilston*, being parcel of the barony of Malpas, belonged about the year 1600 to the Breretons, who possessed it partly by inheritance from the family of Malpas, and partly by purchase from Sir Rowland Hill: in the reign of Charles II. it was purchased of the Breretons, by Sir William Drake, ancestor of T. D. Tyrwhitt Drake Esq., the present proprietor: the other moiety<sup>a</sup>, which was purchased about 1788 of the Earl of Cholmondeley by J. Leche Esq., has passed by the same title as the Earl's estate at Malpas. *Tilston-Heath Hall* belonged to the family of Gardner in 1662<sup>b</sup>. In the parish church is the tomb of John Leche Esq. of Stretton, who died in 1785; in the north-transept is a chapel; sometime belonging to the Wrights of Stretton, built by Edward Wright Esq. in 1659. The Earl of Cholmondeley and Mr. Drake are alternate patrons of the rectory<sup>c</sup>.

The township of *Carwarden*, *Carwarden*, or *Carden*, lies about eleven miles S. S. E. from Chester; the manor was the ancient inheritance of a family which took its name from the township: one of the co-heiresses of William de Carwarthyn, or Carden, brought the manor and Over-Carden Hall, to a younger branch of the Fittons of Bollin; Owen Fitton Esq. was of Over-Carden Hall, and lord of that manor in 1662<sup>c</sup>; it was afterwards in the Bradshaws, who sold it to Mr. Joseph Worrall; the manor now belongs to William Leche Esq. of Lower-Carden-Hall, descended from John Leche, one of King Edward the Third's chirurgeons. Mr. Leche's ancestor, Henry Leche of Chatworth in Derbyshire, acquired Lower-Carden Hall, about the year 1475, by marriage with the other co-heiress of William Carden above-mentioned. On the 12th of June 1643, a

<sup>a</sup> See p. 677.

<sup>b</sup> This moiety was held under the Malpas family by the Tiltons, who before the reign of Edw. II. conveyed their lands to the Codingtons and others. Villare Celtrense. See farther of the Tilton family, p. 397.

<sup>c</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>d</sup> Lord Brereton and the Corbets of Stoke (from whom Lord Cholmondeley claims) were alternate patrons in 1677, as then settled by award. Sir Reginald Corbet was seized of the alternate patronage, 9 Eliz. (Esch.)

<sup>e</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

party of dragoons from the Parliamentary garrison at Nantwich, attacked and plundered Carden-Hall, then the seat of John Leche Esq., and took its owner away with them as a prisoner<sup>d</sup>; the old hall, or Over-Carden Hall, is now a farm-house.

The township of *Grafton*, which lies ten miles N. W. by N. from Whitchurch in Shropshire, gave name to a family, from which the manor passed by successive female heirs to the Milnetons and Mafseys<sup>e</sup>. Richard Massey Esq. sold it to Sir Peter Warburton, one of the justices of the King's Bench<sup>f</sup>, whose daughter and co-heir Elizabeth, brought it to the Stanleys of Alderley. It is now the property of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart. The hall, which was built by Sir Peter Warburton about the year 1613, was sometime a seat of the Stanleys; it is now occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Horton*, which lies eight miles N. W. from Whitchurch in Shropshire, gave name to a family: the Hortons had a large estate here, which descended by co-heiresses, about the reign of Edward I. to the Alderseys and Catheralls<sup>g</sup>. The Catheralls continued at Horton for many generations; Dutton Catherall sold the manor of Horton about the year 1700 to Mr. Dod, a linen-draper in London; it is now the property of Richard Puleston Esq. of Emralin the county of Flint. Webb in his Itinerary speaks of Horton as having been anciently a seat of the Golbornes<sup>h</sup>.

The township of *Stretton* lies about ten miles and a half S. S. E. from Chester; the manor passed with a co-heiress of the Graftons, to David Crewe of Soonde, in the reign of Henry V.: it was afterwards in an illegitimate branch of the Warrens, from whom it passed by a co-heiress, to the Mainwarings of Ightfield in Shropshire; the Mainwarings sold the manor about the beginning of the seventeenth century to John Leche Esq. of Carden, ancestor of William Leche Esq., the present proprietor; and the hall and its demesne to the Wrights of Bickley. Stretton-Hall, after being a seat of the Wrights for five descents, passed on the death of Edward Wright Esq., the last heir-male in 1752, to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Thomas Leche: it is now the property and seat of Major John Leche: the present hall was built about the year 1778. Edward Wright of Stretton-Hall, who died in 1750, (father of the above-mentioned Edward,) published "Observations made in his Travels through France, Italy, &c. in the years 1720, 1721, and 1722, in 2 vols. 4to."

<sup>d</sup> Burghall's Diary, printed in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 915.

<sup>e</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 54.

WALLEZEY, OR WALLAZEY, anciently called KIRKBY-IN-WALLEY, lies in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, at the extremity of the peninsula opposite Liverpool, about twenty miles N. E. from Chester: it contains three townships, *Wallazey*, *Liskard*, and *Poolton-cum-Seacome*. A manor in Wallazey belonged to the Stanleys, as early as the reign of Edward III.<sup>1</sup> William Earl of Derby, in or about the year 1597, conveyed it to Thomas Fox<sup>2</sup>, as trustee, probably for Sir John Egerton, who died seised of it in 1615; it is now the property of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton. A large mansion, some time a seat of the Egertons, called the New-Hall, (but of late years, from the circumstance of its having been long uninhabited,) usually Mock-Beggar Hall, has been lately sold to Mr. Robert Harrison, and is now in the occupation of Mrs. Boodée. Francis Henry Price Esq., who possesses Wallazey-Hall and demesne under the same title as Birkenhead, and Robert Vyner Esq., severally claim manerial rights in this township. Wallazey-Hall, an ancient stone mansion, is now occupied as a farmhouse.

In the year 1718 the rector of Wallazey reported to bishop Gastrell, that there were formerly, as appeared by writings in their parish-chest, two churches in this parish; one of which called Walley's-Kirk, was situated where the present church stands; the other, called Lee's-Kirk, near a narrow strip of land, still called Kirkway. William de Walley gave to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh a mediety of the rectory of Wallazey, which after the dissolution was annexed to the see of Chester; the bishop has this mediety, which is held on lease by the heirs of Hugh Speed Esq.; the dean and chapter are patrons of the other. Major Henry Meoles, in the year 1659, gave 100*l.* towards the building and founding of a grammar-school at Wallazey, and Captain William Meoles his elder brother, gave 125*l.*, since laid out in land, towards its endowment; Henry Young of Poolton-cum-Seacome gave a field to this school, called the Winter-hey: the present value of the lands belonging to this school, being about ten Cheshire acres, is about 35*l. per ann.*; the site of the school was removed in 1799.

There were for many years horse-races on Wallazey Sands, or as it is sometimes called, Wallazey-Lezer. Webb in his Itinerary, written in 1622, speaks of "these fair sands, or plains upon the shore of the sea at Walsley, which for the fitnessse of 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<sup>3</sup>:" the races on the Lezer were discontinued about the year 1750.

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestrienfe.

<sup>2</sup> Record in the Exchequer at Chester, 40 Eliz.

<sup>3</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 124.

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The township of *Lifcard* or *Liskard* lies nearly eleven miles N. by E. from Great-Neston; the manor belonged to the ancient family of Meoles.: Mrs. Anne Meoles who possessed this manor, after the extinction of the male line, bequeathed it in 1739 to her cousin, Charles Hough, whose representatives sold it in 1804 to John Penketh Esq., the present proprietor.

The township of *Poolton* or *Poultton* lies ten miles N. by E. from Great-Neston; in the reign of Henry VI. a moiety of the manor belonged to the family of Bold<sup>m</sup>: in the seventeenth century the whole appears to have been vested in the Talbots, one of whom left six daughters, co-heiresses: five-sixths of the manor were purchased about the year 1700 by Captain James Gordon, whose son devised this estate to Richard Smith Esq. the present proprietor, now admiral Richard Smith: the other sixth-part belongs to James Mainwaring Esq. of Bromborough. *Seacome* or *Seacomb*, is a hamlet of Poolton.

WARMINGHAM, or WARMICHAM, in the hundred of Nantwich and deanery of Middlewich, lies about three miles S. from Middlewich, and the same distance W. from Sandbach; it contains the townships of *Warmicham*, *Elton*, *Moston* and *Tetton*. The manors of Warmingham, or Warmicham, Elton<sup>n</sup>, and Tetton<sup>o</sup>, belonged to the elder branch of the Mainwarings, which became extinct in the fourteenth century; after which, these manors passed by successive female heirs to the Truffells and Veres: they were sold by Edward Vere Earl of Oxford, to Sir Christopher Hatton, and have since passed with Barthomley and other estates, to the Right Hon. Lord Crewe<sup>r</sup>, who is now lord of these manors, and patron of the rectory. A moated site near the church is supposed to have been the successive residence of the Mainwarings and Truffells. Old-Haugh in Warmicham was for many generations the residence of the Smiths, who possessed it by marriage with the heiresses of Old-Haugh, in the fifteenth century; of this family was William Smith, rouge-dragon pursuivant, who made collections, principally heraldic, relating to this county, some of which are published in *King's Vale-Royal*<sup>q</sup>.

In Warmicham-church is the tomb of Maud, heiress of the Mainwarings, who married Sir William Truffell, and afterwards Sir Oliver Bourdeaux, servant

<sup>m</sup> Esch. 38 Hen. VI.

<sup>n</sup> The township of *Elton* lies three miles W. by S. from Sandbach.

<sup>o</sup> The township of *Tetton*, anciently written Tadtune, or Tedtune, lies three miles W. N. W. from Sandbach.

<sup>r</sup> They were purchased by Sir Randal Crewe about the year 1610.

<sup>q</sup> For an account of a volume of these collections from which the account of Old-Haugh was taken, see p. 355. & p. 468.

of

of King Edward II. Sir William Dugdale has copied the following imperfect inscription, now wholly destroyed, into the MS. volume of Collections relating to the Mainwaring family: "Icy git Dame Maud Manwaryn, jadis compagne Oliver de Burdax, de qui Dieu . . . . sa alme . . . . uraye merci, et qui pour l'almé de elle pricra, trois cents jours de pardon avera:" She died about the year 1336. Sir William Dugdale mentions also several portraits of the Mainwaring family, as being in the windows of this church. A free-school was founded at Warmicham by Mr. Thomas Minshull, and endowed by him with the rent of two closes, now let at about 15*l.* per ann.: it had some further endowment in money from the donations of sundry benefactors, but this has been lost, except the interest of 20*l.*

The township of *Moston* lies about two miles and a half W. by N. from Sandbach; the manor was parcel of the barony of Kinderton, and descended with that estate till the year 1801, when it was sold by Lord Vernon, to the Rev. John Armitstead of Middlewich, the present proprietor. A subordinate manor in this township was in the family of Moston in the reign of Edward II. †

WAVERTON, commonly called WARTON, in the hundred of Broxton and deanery of Chester, lies about four miles and a half S. E. by E. from Chester: it contains three townships, *Waverton*, *Hatton*, and *Huxley*.

The manor of *Waverton* belonged anciently to the family of de Rullos; Gilbert Pigot and Margaret his wife, the heiress of Rullos, conveyed it to Hugh de Hatton; from the Hattons it passed by successive female heirs, to the Vernons and Duttons; Dorothy, sister and eventually sole heir of Peter Dutton Esq., who died in 1686, brought it in marriage to the ancestor of the Rev. Richard Massie of Coddington, who is the present proprietor. A considerable estate in this township was held under the family of Rullos by the Wavertons, and afterwards by the Pulfords; this estate has long been in the Grosvenor family.

In the parish church are some memorials of the Duttons of Hatton and Waverton. The rectory of Waverton, which was given by Richard de Rullos, to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, now belongs to the see of Chester, having been annexed to it by act of Parliament in 1755, in lieu of mortuaries payable to the bishop as archdeacon of Chester †.

† In the possession of Sir H. M. Mainwaring Bart.

† Records at Chester, 12 Edw. II.

‡ Villare Cestriense.

§ See p. 323, 324.

The township of *Hatton* lies six miles S. E. from Chester; the manor passed with Waverton, till the year 1699, when it was sold by John Massie Esq., to Brigadier General Cholmondeley, ancestor of George James Earl of Cholmondeley, who is the present proprietor. Hatton-Hall, formerly the seat of the Duttons, is now a farm-house.

The township of *Huxley* lies about seven miles and a half S. E. by E. from Chester; the manor which had been given to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh in Chester by Hugh Lupus, was alienated by that body to the family of Hockenhull, and it became divided at an early period between two brothers. Simon de Hockenhull settling at Huxley, assumed the name of that township, and by certain family conveyances this manor became vested, in moieties, in two branches of the Huxleys<sup>a</sup>: a co-heiress of one branch brought a moiety of this manor in the reign of Edward III. to the family of Clive, and the heiress of Clive, to an ancestor of Randle Wilbraham Esq., of Rode, the present proprietor. The other moiety continued for several generations in the Huxleys; it afterwards passed by sale to the Tilstons, and the whole, or a part of it, in marriage with a co-heiress of Tilston, to the Bruens of Stapleford<sup>b</sup>; this estate was purchased in 1752, of the representatives of Bruen, by the grandfather of Randle Wilbraham Esq. Lord Crewe had an estate in this township, (probably the same which had been inherited by the other co-heiress of Tilston;) the principal part of this was purchased by Daniel Aldersey of Chester Gent., the remainder by Mr. Wilbraham. Lower-Huxley-Hall, (an ancient mansion, within a moated site,) which Webb speaks of as a seat of the Clives in 1622<sup>c</sup>, was garrisoned by the Parliament in September, 1644<sup>d</sup>: it is now a farm-house: the Tilstons also had a seat at Huxley<sup>e</sup>. A branch of the Hockenhulls which retained that name, continued to possess a hall, called Upper-Huxley Hall, with its demesne<sup>f</sup> in this township, till the reign of Queen Elizabeth: in or about the year 1593 they sold it to the Savages<sup>g</sup>: this hall in 1622 was tenanted by the Birkenheads, it has passed with Frodsham and other estates, to the Earl of Cholmondeley; the hall is occupied as a farm-house.

<sup>a</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> King's Vale-Royal.

<sup>d</sup> Burghall's Diary in the History of Cheshire, 8vo. Vol. ii. p. 937.

<sup>e</sup> A chapel in Waverton church was built and appropriated to the Tilstons of Huxley in 1640. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2103. f. 58.

<sup>f</sup> Or perhaps it might have been brought again to the Hockenhulls by marriage, for a co-heiress of Huxley married Hockenhull.

<sup>g</sup> Chester Records, 36 Eliz.

WEVERHAM,

WEVERHAM, or WEEVERHAM<sup>e</sup>, in the hundred of Edisbury and deanery of Frodsham, lies about four miles N. W. from Northwich : it contains the townships of *Weverham*, (with its hamlets of *Milton*, *Gorstage*, and *Sandyway*,) *Acton*, *Crowton*, *Cuddington-cum-Bryn*, *Onston*, and *Wallerfcote*.

The manor of *Weverham* belonged, in the thirteenth century, to the baronial family of Clifford, and was settled by Roger Lord Clifford in 1272, on his wife Lauretania<sup>f</sup>; soon after this it came to the crown, and was given by King Edward I., to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal : King Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Thomas Holcroft ; from the Holcrofts it passed to the Marburys : in the year 1708 it was sold, pursuant to a decree in Chancery, by the heirs of the Marbury family, to Richard Earl Rivers, and having passed in the same manner as others of the Marbury estates, is now under the will of James Hugh Smith Barry Esq., (son of the Hon. Richard Barry,) the property of his natural son, James Barry, a minor. Earnslow-Grange, the property of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq., is in this township.

In the parish church of Weverham is the monument of Colonel Mompesson, governor of the Isle of Wight, who died in 1768. The rectory having been formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal, is now annexed to the see of Chester, under which it is held on lease, by Thomas Starkie Esq. of Frenwood in Lancashire, and the Rev. Thomas Foxley, rector of Radcliff in the same county : the bishop is patron of the vicarage.

There has been a free-school at Weverham for nearly two centuries, said to have been founded at the expence of the parish : the principal benefactor towards its endowment was Mr. William Barker, who, in 1678, gave 100*l.* in money and lands, in Great-Budworth and Weverham, now producing a rent of 40*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ann.

The township of *Acton*, called *Acton* in *Delamere*, lies about four miles W. N. W. from Northwich : the manor was part of the ancient inheritance of the Duttons, from whom it passed by marriage to the Gerards and Fleetwoods ; it was sold by the latter to Mr. Scrafe of Brighthelmstone, of whom it was purchased by Nicholas Ashton Esq., the present proprietor.

The township of *Crowton* lies about five miles W. by N. from Northwich ; the manor, as part of the fee of Kingsley, was divided among the co-heirs of that ancient family. Lord Brereton, in the reign of King Charles II., claimed a

<sup>e</sup> Spelt also Waverham, and Weaverham.

<sup>f</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. i. p. 338.

moiety of this manor; one-fourth by descent from the Egertons, Thorntons, and Kingsleys; and another fourth as having been purchased by his ancestors in 1302, of the grandson of William Launcelyn, who married another of the co-heiresses of Kingsley<sup>a</sup>: this estate passed afterwards from the Breretons to the Crewes. Another fourth-part of the manor passed with a third co-heiress to the Dones, and by successive female heirs to the Birkenheads and Irelands; Sir Gilbert Ireland sold it to Thomas Hatton Esq., from whom it passed by sale to the Crewes<sup>b</sup>: in 1802 the estates of John Crewe Esq. now Lord Crewe, in this township, were purchased by the present proprietor, George Wilbraham Esq. The remaining fourth-part passed with Emma, another co-heiress of Richard de Kingsley, in the reign of Henry III. to William Gerard Esq.<sup>c</sup>, whose family seated themselves at Crewood-Hall, where they continued for many generations. It is now the property of Ralph Leycester Esq. of Toft, whose grandmother, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses<sup>d</sup> of ——— Norris of Speke, was heiress of the Gerards. Crewood-Hall, the seat of the Gerards, and now the property of Mr. Leycester, and Crowton-Hall, formerly a seat of the Dones, now belonging to Mr. Wilbraham, are two ancient mansions, occupied as farm-houses; the former stands partly in the township of Kingsley, and in the parish of Frodsham. Ruloe-House in this township is now the property of Mr. Barry, and in the occupation of Mr. Clare.

The manors of *Cuddington-cum-Bryn*<sup>e</sup>, and *Onston*, were part of the fee of Kingsley, and are divided between John Arden Esq., as heir of the Dones; Mr. James Barry a minor, devisee of Mr. Smith Barry, whose grandfather, the Earl of Barrymore, purchased of the heirs of Marbury; and Mr. Thomas Edwards of Sandy-way-head, whose share belonged in 1766, (when Cuddington common, containing four hundred and sixty acres, was inclosed by act of Parliament,) to Mr. Francis Wells of Sandbach. The greater part of the landed property in Cuddington belongs to George Wilbraham Esq., representative of that branch of the family which was settled at Nantwich. Mr. Wilbraham resides at a handsome modern house in that township, called Delamere-Lodge, surrounded with extensive plantations.

<sup>a</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Mr. Leycester purchased a moiety of the Crewood estate of General Warburton, who married the other co-heiress.

<sup>e</sup> The township of *Cuddington* lies nearly five miles W. by S. from Northwich.

The

The township of *Wallerfcote* contains only one house: the manor was given by Sir Adam de Wringle, to the nuns of Chester; it was held under them for many generations by the family of the Littleovers, or Litlers, who continued to have a feat there in 1622<sup>m</sup>: Hugh Cholmondeley Esq. purchased it of this family in the year 1636<sup>n</sup>; it was soon afterwards in the family of Wade, the heiress of which married Peter Legh Esq. of Booths, father of Willoughby Legh Esq., the present proprietor. The ancient hall is occupied as a farm-house.

Part of the township of *Norley* extends into this parish.

WHITEGATE, in the hundred of Northwich and deanery of Middlewich, lies about four miles S. W. from Northwich: this parish which was taken out of Over in the reign of Henry VIII., contains the townships of *Dernhall*, or *Darnhall*, *Marton*, or *Merton*, and part of *Over*.

King Edward I., when Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, having been in danger of shipwreck on his return from the Holy Land, made a vow to found a convent of Cistercian monks: some time afterwards having been taken prisoner during the barons' wars, and confined at Hereford, the monks of the neighbouring monastery of Dore visited and consoled him in his captivity; out of gratitude for which he determined to fulfil his vow, by taking them under his protection. In the year 1273, or 1274, he removed them from Dore to Dernhall in Cheshire, where they staid only a few years; their patron having determined, after he became King, to build a new abbey for them on a neighbouring spot, then called *Quetenne-Hall*, or *Wetene-Hall-wez*<sup>o</sup>, and *Munchene-wro*<sup>p</sup>, to which their founder gave the name of Vale-Royal. The first stone of the new monastery was laid on the 6th of the ides of August 1277 by King Edward I. in the presence of Queen Eleanor and several of the nobles; the Queen laid the first stone in her own name, and another for her son Alphonso. In the mean time a small temporary building was prepared near Vale-Royal, into which the monks removed from Dernhall in 1281, and continued in it during the time of the four first abbots. King Henry III. in the fifty-fifth year of his reign addressed a letter to all abbots and priors throughout the kingdom, recommending them to furnish the monks of the Cistercian abbey (newly founded by his son Edward) with books of divinity<sup>q</sup>.

<sup>m</sup> Webb's Itinerary in King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 116.

<sup>n</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>o</sup> In the register of the abbey translated *Fruentum Sanctorum*, or *Sanctorum*.

<sup>p</sup> Translated *Monachorum silva*.  
it in King's Vale-Royal, Vol. ii. p. 109.

<sup>q</sup> Pat. 55 Henry III. m. 24. There is a translation of

It

It was in 1330 that the monks of Vale-Royal removed to their new and splendid mansion, for the building of which there had been issued from the royal treasury the sum of 32,000*l.*—The solemnity of the removal was kept with much magnificence, and attended by a great concourse of prelates, nobility and gentry. The royal founder endowed the monastery with the manor of Dernhall, and several other surrounding manors and lands. The abbots enjoyed under their founder's grant many great privileges; among which was an extensive right of the advowry, or protection of criminals: and the power of life and death, within their manors of Dernhall, Over, and Weverham'. In the reign of Henry VIII. the estates of this monastery were valued at 518*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* clear yearly income. Upon the dissolution, the abbey of Vale-Royal was granted to Thomas Holcroft Esq., of whose family it was purchased in or about the year 1615<sup>a</sup>, by Dame Mary Cholmondeley, relict of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, the younger, who died in 1610, and her son Thomas the immediate ancestor of the present proprietor.

Vale-Royal, now the seat of Thomas Cholmondeley Esq., one of the knights of the shire, is said to have been plundered, and partly destroyed during the civil war; the south wing, which, from the appearance of the building, is supposed to have been the refectory of the convent, remained in ruins till the present wings were built in the year 1796 by the present Mr. Cholmondeley: a considerable part of the mansion, which was built by the Holcrofts on the site of the abbey, still remains, but has been newly fronted; the great hall, which is hung round with various sorts of antique muskets and other armour, is seventy-three feet in length. Among the portraits at Vale-Royal are a half-length of Queen Elizabeth on board; a half-length of King Charles I. on board, represented as putting on his cap before his execution, by Deniers; King Charles II., and King James II., by Sir Peter Lely; Charles Duke of Somerset; John Thomafen, the celebrated writing-master; Sir Hugh Cholmondeley the younger, who died in 1601 (a whole length on board, in a suit of green silk); Dame Mary his wife, who purchased Vale-Royal, (called by King James I. "the bold Ladie of Cheshire,") and others of the Cholmondeley family.

Here are deposited certain MSS., which are said to be the original prophecies of the celebrated Nixon. The popular story of this supposed prophet, which has been printed in various forms, and is current in every part of the kingdom, was

<sup>a</sup> See Dugdale's *Monast.* Vol. ii. p. 929, and for the History of the Foundation, p. 923, 924.

<sup>b</sup> See p. 299, 300.

<sup>c</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. p. 160.

<sup>d</sup> 13 Jac. 1.

first published in the early part of the last century<sup>a</sup>. The account given of him is, that he was an illiterate plough-boy, his capacity scarcely exceeding that of an idiot; and that he seldom spoke unless when he uttered his prophecies, which were taken down from his mouth, by some of the bye-standers: many traditions relating to him are still current in the neighbourhood of Vale-Royal, where his story is implicitly believed; but there are many circumstances which combine to render it suspicious. An anonymous author of "the Life of Robert<sup>y</sup> Nixon, the Cheshire Prophet," places his birth in the reign of Edward IV., but Oldmixon, in his life of him, says that he lived in the reign of James I., and it is asserted in a letter annexed to the last-mentioned pamphlet, which has the signature of William Ewers, and the date of 1714, that there was an old man<sup>z</sup>, one Woodman, then living at Coppenhall, who remembered Nixon, could describe his person, and had communicated many particulars of his life. The tradition at Vale-Royal-house, where the above-mentioned MSS. have been long preserved, with great care and secrecy<sup>a</sup>, favours the former account; and were it not so much connected with Vale-Royal and the Cholmondeley family, who are known not to have settled at that place before the year 1615, the story would have more the air of probability, if placed at a period so remote. If, according to Oldmixon's account, so extraordinary a person had lived at Vale-Royal in the reign of James I., we might expect to find some mention of him in the parish-register, either at Over<sup>b</sup>, or Whitegate, both of which have been searched in vain; and it is almost incredible that he should not have been noticed by his contemporaries; yet no mention is made of him, either by Webb, who in his Itinerary of 1622 speaks much of the Cholmondeley family, and relates a visit of King James I. to Vale-Royal for four days<sup>c</sup>, or by the industrious Randal Holme, who has recorded all the remarkable events and circumstances of his time. Indeed, whatever be the age assigned to Nixon, if his story and his prophecies had

<sup>a</sup> We cannot find that there is any earlier printed account of Nixon or his prophecies than the first edition of Oldmixon's pamphlet, printed by Curll in 1714.

<sup>y</sup> Most of the printed accounts call him Robert, but in a periodical paper, entitled "the Industrious Bee," printed in 1731, he is called *William*, which we understand is the name by which he is spoken of in the MS. at Vale-Royal.

<sup>z</sup> This man must have been considerably more than a hundred years of age, to give consistency to the story, and his memory uncommonly tenacious.

<sup>a</sup> We understand that they have been in the exclusive custody of the possessor of Vale-Royal for the time being, who on account of the prophecies which they contain relating to the Cholmondeleys, and other Cheshire families, does not shew them to any one.

<sup>b</sup> He is said to have been born at Bridge-end-house, in the parish of Over.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 563, note (x).

been

been known in the seventeenth century, it seems very extraordinary, that neither of the Holmes should have inserted a single note concerning him, in their voluminous and multifarious collections relating to this county<sup>7</sup>, and that Fuller, who published his "Worthies" immediately after the restoration, when many of Nixon's prophecies are said to have been fulfilled, should also have omitted to notice him. The story of Nixon's death is, that having been sent for by the King, he was accidentally starved, as he himself had foretold; this is said to have happened at Hampton-court, where two places are pointed out by the person who shews the palace, each of which has been said to have been the scene of his famishment. This part of the story will not bear the test of inquiry better than the others; there is no entry in the parish-register of the burial of such a person, in the reign of James I.; one of the closets pointed out as that in which Nixon was by accident locked up, was evidently built in the reign of William III., and it is needless to observe, that the whole palace was built subsequently to the reign of Henry VII., which is by some said to have been the time of Nixon's death. When in addition to these circumstances, we observe that the particulars relating to the Cholmondeleys in the printed accounts of Nixon, are at variance with the real and known history of that family<sup>8</sup>, we cannot help regarding his story as very suspicious, if not wholly legendary.

The ancient parish church of Whitegate stood at the abbey-gate of the monastery, having been built and made parochial at an early period, for the convenience of the tenants and inhabitants of the demesne of the abbey, but as this had been done by the authority of the pope's bull, the vicar of Over, after the reformation,

<sup>7</sup> There is a very minute detail of every particular in these collections, in the printed catalogue of the Harleian MSS.

<sup>8</sup> Mr. Oldmixon says, that when Nixon prophesied, the Cholmondeley family was near being extinct, the heir, Thomas Cholmondeley Esq., having married Sir Walter St. John's daughter, a lady not esteemed very young; that Nixon prophesied, that "When an eagle should sit on the top of the house, then an heir should be born to the Cholmondeley family;" and that the prophecy was fulfilled, by the birth of a son and heir by this lady. In a letter addressed to Mr. Oldmixon, by William Ewers of Nantwich, we are told that this birth of a son and heir to the Cholmondeley family, by the daughter of Sir Walter St. John, happened about the year 1689, more than three-score years after Nixon is supposed (even by those who place him in the seventeenth century) to have lived; and Oldmixon says, on the authority of a sister of Mrs. Cholmondeley, that the son then born, was the heir, who in *his* time possessed the Vale-Royal estates. It may be observed, that the above-mentioned Thomas Cholmondeley had a son by his first wife, who married and had issue, and it was not till after the death of this son without male issue, that the estate devolved to his son by Sir Walter St. John's daughter.

disputed its claim to parochial rights, upon which the said tenants and inhabitants having petitioned parliament, and stated the grievances and inconveniences to which they should be subject, if it should then be deemed part of the parish of Over, an act passed in the year 1541, by which Whitegate was made a parish church for the tenants and inhabitants of the demesne of the late monastery of Vale-Royal, and it was enacted that they should be discharged of further resort or repair to the church of Over, and that the vicar of Over should be discharged of the cure of the said tenants and inhabitants. Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal is impropriator of the great tithes and patron of the vicarage. The school, founded by Mrs. Elizabeth Venables, and her son Thomas Lee Esq. at Dernhall, and since removed to Over, has been already spoken of<sup>a</sup>.

The township of *Dernhall*, or *Darnhall*, lies nearly six miles W. S. W. from Middlewich; the manor in ancient times belonged to the Earls of Chester, who had a seat here. John Scot Earl of Chester, who was poisoned by his wife, died at Dernhall in 1244; King Edw. I. being possessed of the estates belonging to the earldom of Chester, removed the monks of Dore to Dernhall, as above-mentioned, and gave them the manor: these monks, who afterwards removed to Vale-Royal, continued to possess Dernhall till the dissolution, soon after which, it became the property of Sir Reginald Corbet, one of the justices of the Common-pleas, who died seised of it in 1568: it was sold by the Corbets in the reign of James I., to Richard Lee Esq., of whose descendant, Thomas Lee Esq., father of the American general of that name, it was purchased by the father of the late Thomas Corbet Esq., who died in 1808. Dernhall is now the property of his son, William Corbet Esq.

The township of *Marton*, or *Merton*, lies about four miles and a half S. W. by S. from Nantwich: the manor was given by Randal Blundeville Earl of Chester, to Randal de Merton, son of Randal his faithful forester, and either he, or his son of the same name, gave it in the year 1305, to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal, in exchange for Gayton in Wirral, and Lach on Rud-heath<sup>b</sup>. After the reformation, it was granted to Sir Thomas Holcroft, who sold it to ——— Edmunds of Lincoln's-Inn, and ——— Peshall<sup>c</sup>; it was afterwards purchased by the Cholmondeley family, and has descended with the Vale-Royal estate. Merton-Grange, or Merton-Sands in this township, which was granted also to Sir Thomas Holcroft, was sold by him to the Mainwarings; Robert

<sup>a</sup> See p. 719.

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2060. f. 173.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

Mainwaring of Merton, who was pensioner to King Henry VIII., King Edw. VI., and Queen Mary, had been lessee under the convent<sup>d</sup>: this estate was purchased of the Mainwarings, about the year 1690, by the Fleetwoods of Calwiche in Staffordshire: under the will of Sir Thomas Fleetwood, the last baronet of that family, who died in 1802, this estate is the property of his widow, now the Countess Front. The ancient mansion at Merton-Sands, which stands within a moated site, is now occupied by the tenant, who farms the estate.

*Foxwist*, and *Bellaview*, or *Villaview*, are hamlets in this township, belonging to Thomas Cholmondeley Esq. of Vale-Royal.

*Hefferton*, or *Hefferson-Grange*, in a detached part of the parish of Whitegate, encompassed by the township of Weverham, belonged to the abbot and convent of Vale-Royal; it was granted after the dissolution to the Holcrofts, from whom it seems to have passed to the Warburtons. It was the property and seat of Mr. Peter Warburton, who was appointed justice of Chester by the Parliament in 1647; from him it descended to Peter Warburton Esq., who dying without issue about the year 1734, devised it to his sister, the wife of Dr. Matthew Henry, a celebrated Presbyterian divine. Dr. Henry's son, who took the name of Warburton, died also without issue; his niece and devisee, Mary Philpot, brought this estate in marriage to the present proprietor, Nicholas Ashton Esq. The mansion on this estate, called "the Grange," is now in the occupation of Dr. Henry Majendie, lately translated from the see of Chester, to that of Bangor.

The site of the manor of Bradford, which had belonged to an ancient family of that name; the site of the ancient manor of Conewardestley, now called Connersley-meadow, Knights-grange, and Gale-green, which all belonged to the abbey of Vale-Royal, are in that part of the township of *Over*, which is in the parish of Whitegate. Bradford and Conewardestley were both given to the abbot and convent by their founder, King Edward I.<sup>e</sup>; the King had previously given lands near Chester, and the custody of the East-gate of that city, to Henry Bradford, for the former<sup>f</sup>; Conewardestley passed with the demesne of the abbey, from the Holcrofts to the Cholmondeleys; Bradford was purchased with the manor of Over and other estates, of Edward Randolph and Edward Peshall, about the middle of the seventeenth century. *Salterfwall*, comprised in this purchase, is partly in the township of Over, and partly in Marton.

<sup>d</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2060. f. 173.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. N<sup>o</sup> 2115. f. 160.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid. N<sup>o</sup> 2057. f. 147.

WILMSLOW, in the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield, lies on the road from Macclesfield to Manchester, seven miles from the former<sup>2</sup>, and twelve from the latter. The parish contains six townships, *Chorley*, *Dean-Row*, *Fulshaw*<sup>h</sup>, *Hough*, *Morley*, and *Styall*: the village of Wilmslow is principally in the township of Hough; some part in Dean-Row, and some in Morley. An extensive trade in the manufacture of cotton is carried on at Wilmslow, where there are no less than eight large factories, the principal one is that of Mr. Gregg at Styall.

The greater part of the parish is divided into two districts, called *Bollin-fee*, and *Pownall-fee*; the former contains *Dean-Row*, *Fulshaw*, and *Hough*; the latter, *Morley*, and *Styall*; *Chorley* is a separate district. The Fittons of Bollin were possessed nearly of the whole of this parish; Richard de Fitton gave Fulshaw to the knights-hospitallers<sup>i</sup>: the other townships passed by a sole heiress to the Venables family, and by the co-heiresses of William Venables of Bollin in the reign of Henry V., to the Booths and Traffords<sup>k</sup>; in consequence of a division of the property, Dean-Row and Styall have descended to the Earl of Stamford, as heir of the Booths; and Chorley, Hough, and Morley, to John Trafford Esq., who is also patron of the rectory.

Bollin-Hall, an ancient mansion belonging to the Earl of Stamford, some time a seat of the Booths, is now a farm-house. Pownall-Hall and demesne belonged to a younger branch of the Fittons, the co-heiresses of which married into the families of Newton and Minshull; the Pownall-Hall estate passed to the former: the Newtons of Pownall-Hall became extinct in the male line in the early part of the seventeenth century, when the co-heiresses married into the families of Benison, Ward, and Mainwaring; the former became possessed of two-thirds of this estate, which were purchased by Sir George Booth in 1652; the Mainwarings had the other third with the hall, now by purchase, the property of John Worrall Esq., and occupied as a ladies' school.

Chorley-Hall was a seat of the Davenports from about the year 1400, (when Thomas, a younger son of Sir Ralph Davenport of Davenport, married the heiress of Hanford of Chorley<sup>l</sup>;) till the year 1612, when this estate was sold by

<sup>2</sup> It is seven miles also from each of the market towns of Altrincham, Knutsford and Stockport.

<sup>h</sup> *Chorley* is about six miles N. W. by W. from Macclesfield; *Dean-Row*, about the same distance N. N. W.; *Fulshaw*, about six miles and a half N. W.

<sup>i</sup> *Villare Celtrienfe.*

<sup>k</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>l</sup> Another branch of the Davenport family had lands in Chorley at an earlier period by a grant from Edmund Fitton to Richard Davenport, son of John, a younger son of Sir Roger Davenport of Davenport, who was living in 1291; these lands were held by the payment of two shillings yearly, and a sitch of bacon during the pannage in Fulshaw-wood. (From the information of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart.)

William Davenport to Francis Downes Esq., after an intermediate alienation to John Hobson, it was purchased in 1640, by Sir Thomas Stanley of Alderley, ancestor of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart., the present proprietor: the hall, an ancient timber mansion within a moated site, is now occupied as a farm house. The Davenports, after the sale of Chorley, resided for some generations at Parfonage-green in this parish, where Thomas Davenport, the last heir-male, died in 1757: his sister, the widow of William Stonehewer Hall Esq., is still living at Parfonage-green, and is the representative of the Davenports of Chorley. Hawthorne-Hall with its demesne, in the township of Morley, was the property and seat of a younger branch of the Booths, from whom it passed successively to the Lathoms<sup>m</sup>, Leighs, and Pages: it was lately purchased of the latter<sup>n</sup>, by Ralph Bower Esq. of Wilmslow, and is now occupied as a school.

*Norcliffe*, a hamlet of Styall, is an appendage of the manor of Bollin.

The manor of *Fulshaw*, which had passed from the family of Fulshaw, to that of Fitton, was given, as before-mentioned, to the prior and convent of St. John of Jerusalem; early in Queen Elizabeth's reign it belonged to Edmund Verdon Esq., whose son conveyed it to William Newton<sup>o</sup>: this manor is claimed, by inheritance probably from the Newtons<sup>p</sup>, by the trustees for the infant son of Peter Davenport Finney, who died in 1800: the Duke of Leeds holds courts here for Fulshaw, as appendant to the preceptory of Iveley in Derbyshire, formerly belonging to the knights-hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem: the courts were formerly held at Fulshaw, now at Rostherne. The manor of St. John of Jerusalem, as it is called, consists of free-rents and royalties; the tenants of the manor are free from all tolls of bridges, markets, and fairs, and from attendance at assizes, sessions, &c. &c. The lords of the fee had in ancient times the probate of wills within their jurisdiction, which were kept and registered by the steward of their court. This manor was demised by King Charles I. to Robert Wirrall Gent. Nathaniel Booth Esq., afterwards Lord Delamere, became lessee in or about the year 1731: the lease has been in the Duke of Leeds's family, nearly fifty years. Fulshaw-Hall is now occupied by ——— Tipping Esq.

<sup>m</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>n</sup> Leigh Page Esq., who possessed it by devise from ——— Leigh Esq. was sheriff of the county in 1733; his great nephew Thomas Leigh Page Esq., who sold Hawthorne-Hall to Mr. Bower, is representative of the ancient family of Page of Eardshaw: he is now of Pancras in the county of Middlesex.

<sup>o</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>p</sup> In 1662, one moiety belonged to the Newtons: the other to the Lathoms of Fulshaw. Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

In the parish church of Wilmslow are some grave-stones of the Booths<sup>1</sup>, with mutilated brass-plates; some memorials of the Davenports of Chorley; monuments with the effigies of Humphry Newton, and his wife Eleanor<sup>2</sup>, heirs of a younger branch of the Fittons, and that of Henry Trafford<sup>3</sup> S. T. D., rector of this parish, (called in the inscription, Bollin,) who died in 1538.

A school was founded at Wilmslow for ten children, by the Rev. Henry Hough: it has but a small endowment (about 5*l.* *per ann.*), being the interest of money given by fundry benefactors. A workhouse was built in this parish, about the year 1780, upon Lindow-common: the freeholders of the parish gave lands for its support, which are now let for upwards of 200*l.* *per ann.* Mr. Wright rector of Wilmslow, who was dispossessed of his living during the civil war, sustained a formal siege at the rectory-house from Colonel Dukenfield, a parliamentary officer: one of his maid servants, or as some accounts say, two, were killed; he was at that time fourscore years old, but notwithstanding his great age, is said to have lived to see the restoration of King Charles II., and to be reinstated in his living<sup>4</sup>. We could not procure the date of his death, or any further particulars; we are informed that there is no parochial register extant, of so early a date. Peter Ledsham was instituted in 1661 to the rectory of Wilmslow, then void by the death of the last incumbent, but the name of the deceased does not appear in the bishop's register.

The parish of WISTASTON, in the hundred and deanery of Nantwich; which lies about three miles N. E. by E. from Nantwich, contains only one township.

The manor of *Wistaston* or *Wistanfon*, was held in the reign of Henry III. under the Sandfords, in whom a portion of the barony of Nantwich was then vested, by the Wistastons<sup>5</sup>: one moiety of this manor passed by successive alienations to the families of Egerton and Alexander, and from the latter by a female heir in the sixteenth century, to Richard Walthall Esq.<sup>6</sup>, ancestor of Peter Walthall Esq. of Wistaston-Hall, the present proprietor: the other moiety passed with a co-heiress of the Wistastons, to Adam Praers: it was afterwards in the family

<sup>1</sup> It appears by church-notes taken in 1572, that these are the figures of Sir Robert Booth, who died in 1460, and his wife Dulcia (Venables). Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2151.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 451.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy.

<sup>5</sup> It appears that it was held by the service of finding certain horses when required, for the use of the Earl of Chester, and providing a man and horse to keep the fairs at Chester twice in the year, according to the custom of the said fairs. — Woodnoth's Collections, f. 237. b.

<sup>6</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

of Delves of Doddington, whose representative, the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., conveyed it in exchange for an estate in the township of Hunsterson, to Peter Walthall Esq. above-mentioned.

The ancient family of Bressef had, at an early period, lands in this parish: the first of the family of whom we find mention is Robert Bressef, whom William de Malbank, Baron of Wich-Malbank, calls in a deed his black nephew<sup>†</sup>; the Bressefs had a feat at a place called in ancient deeds Wilcots, Wilcocks, and Wilde-cats-heath, and described to be in Wistaston: we cannot find that there is any place of this name now known in the parish; in the adjoining township of Willaston is an ancient mansion, called Bressef-Hall, now the property of W. Sneyd Esq. Wilcott's-heath is spoken of in 1662, as a house then belonging to the Bressefs of Bressef-green<sup>‡</sup>; it appears nevertheless by pedigrees of the family, that the Brindleys settled at Wistaston before the reign of Richard II., in consequence of a match with the heiress of an elder branch of the Bressefs. There is an ancient mansion in Wistaston, called the Red-Hall, now a farm-house, belonging to J. Bayley Esq.

WOODCHURCH, in the hundred and deanery of Wirral, lies about seventeen miles N. N. W. from Chester, and about six from Neston; it contains the townships of *Woodchurch, Arrow, Barnston, Landecan, Noctorum, Pensby, Prenton, Oxton, and Thingwall*, besides part of the township of *Irbye*, and a small portion of *Claughton and Upton*.

The manor of *Woodchurch*, or Cromborough-court in Woodchurch, which had belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Werburgh, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, among other concealed lands, to Peter and Edward Grey<sup>‡</sup>; it passed afterwards by successive sales to the families of Hitchcock, or Hiccocks, and Leenes. The late Dr. Thomas Wilson, prebendary of Westminster, son of the venerable bishop of Sodor and Man, purchased this manor of the Rev. John Crookhall, and devised it in 1784 to Thomas Macklin Esq. of Derby, with remainder, in case of his death without issue, to Thomas Patten Esq., who has assumed the name of Wilson, and is the present proprietor.

In the parish church is a tablet for George Hockenhull Esq. of Prenton, who died in 1698. The patronage of the rectory is vested in the Rev. Bryan King, the present incumbent: William Gleave Esq., alderman of London, by his will, bearing date 1665, left the sum of 500*l.* toward the building and endowing of

<sup>†</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>‡</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>‡</sup> See p. 573, in the notes  
a free-

a free-school at Woodchurch : 100*l.* was expended in building, and the remainder laid out in lands for its endowment, which are now let at about 80*l. per ann.* Richard Adam A. M., in 1676, gave three hundred and forty-four books for the use of the school ; and in 1681, fifty-four more, with a scrutoire.

James Goodacre, or Goodier of Barnston, who died in 1525, gave twenty marks, for the purpose of buying twenty yoke of bullocks for the poor ; these, by order of the commissioners for charitable uses, were afterwards exchanged for cows, and it was settled that every parishioner who should have one of the cows, should pay 2*s.* 8*d.* yearly, for the purpose of increasing the parish stock, and augmenting the number, which in the year 1741 was ninety-two ; there are now about fifty only. The donor of this charity entrusted the management of it to the lord of the manor of Prenton, (then Mr. Gleave,) the rector of Woodchurch, and others : in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, John Hockenhull Esq., the lord of the manor of Prenton claimed the sole management, but it was determined on appeal to the bishop, that in future it should be managed by the lord of Prenton, the rector of Woodchurch, and one person out of every township, to be chosen by the inhabitants<sup>b</sup>. Dr. Richard Sherlock, rector of Winwick, author of several theological and devotional works, who died in 1689, gave, in his life-time, (A<sup>o</sup> 1670,) the sum of 50*l.*, to purchase a stock of fifteen cows for the poor of the township of Oxton ; of which he was a native<sup>c</sup> ; the stock to be kept up in like manner as those given by Goodier : in 1718 there were nineteen or twenty cows belonging to this charity, but now about eight or ten only. The trustees of both charities have money in hand, to advance on the application of proper claimants.

The township of *Arrow* lies nearly seven miles N. by W. from Great-Neston : a moiety of the manor was in the Thornton family, in the reign of Edward II., and passed by successive female heirs to the Duttons and Gerards ; the other moiety was in the family of Tildesley in the reign of Henry VII.<sup>d</sup> The manor has of late years been frequently alienated ; it is now the property of John Shaw Esq. of Liverpool.

A moiety of the manor of *Barnston*<sup>e</sup>, and the whole of *Oxton*<sup>f</sup>, belongs to the Earl of Shrewsbury, having passed by successive heirs from the Domvilles to the Hulfes, Troutbecks, and Talbots ; the other moiety of the manor of Barnston belonged to the Barnston family, afterwards to a younger branch of the Bennets

<sup>b</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2009. f. 338.

<sup>c</sup> Ant. Wood.

<sup>d</sup> Esch. 12 & 24 Hen. VII.

<sup>e</sup> The township of *Barnston* is four miles N. by W. from Great-Neston.

<sup>f</sup> The township of *Oxton* is about seven miles N. by E. from Great-Neston.

of

of Willaston, and having been sold by them to the Macklins, is now the property of Wilson Macklin Esq. The old hall has been taken down : it was in ruins in 1718<sup>e</sup>.

The township of *Landican* lies nearly six miles N. from Great-Neston : the manor was conveyed by the Duttons in the year 1326 to the family of Praers, from which it passed by a female heir to Fulleshurst, and was afterwards in the Wilbrahams of Woodhey : it was purchased by Dr. Wilson, and has passed with Woodchurch to Thomas Patten Wilson Esq., the present proprietor.

The township of *Noctorum*, or *Knoctorum*, lies about seven miles N. from Great-Neston ; the manor, which was given by Richard de Praers to the abbot and convent of Chester<sup>h</sup>, has been held almost from the time of the reformation by a chief-rent, under the dean and chapter<sup>i</sup>. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it passed from the family of Harpur to the Crosses<sup>k</sup>, who possessed it for a century ; it was afterwards in the Chauntrells, of whom it was purchased by Dr. Wilson, and has since passed with Woodchurch and Landican.

The township of *Pensby* lies four miles N. N. W. from Great-Neston ; the manor belonged to the hospital of St. John in Chester<sup>l</sup> : it is now the property of John Glegg Esq. by inheritance from the Gleggs of Gayton, who possessed it nearly two centuries.

The township of *Prenton* lies about six miles N. by E. from Great-Neston : the manor belonged at an early period to the family of Prenton, from which it passed by successive female heirs to the Gleyves and Hockenhulls : it was purchased of the representatives of John Hockenhull Esq. the last heir male of that family, who died in 1782, by Joseph Lyon Esq., father of J. H. Lyon Esq. the present proprietor : an ancient stone mansion, which was the seat of the Hockenhulls, is now occupied by a farmer.

The township of *Thingwall* lies about five miles N. by W. from Great-Neston : the manor was claimed in 1662 by Sir William Stanley, Lord Kington, and the Earl of Shrewsbury : it was soon afterwards in the Steeles, from whom it passed to Sir Robert Vyner Bart., lord mayor of London, and it is now the property of Robert Vyner Esq. of Gautby in Lincolnshire.

<sup>h</sup> Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis*.

<sup>k</sup> Dugdale's *Monasticon*, Vol. i. p. 485, 486.

It was most probably obtained by Sir Richard Coiton with other estates, which had belonged to the dean and chapter, and by him alienated to Harpur. See p. 573, in the notes.

<sup>l</sup> Records in the exchequer at Chester, 35 Eliz.

<sup>i</sup> *Villare Cestriense*.

WYBUNBURY,

WYBUNBURY, in the hundred and deanery of Namptwich, lies on the borders of Staffordshire, about three miles east from Namptwich: the parish contains eighteen townships, *Wybunbury, Bartherton, Basford, Blackenball, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Doddington, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, or Lee, Rope, Shavington-cum-Gresty, Stapeley, Walgherton, Weston, and Wigstanston, or Willaston.*

The manor and advowson of *Wybunbury* belonged in ancient times to the family of Praers: in the year 1277 Robert de Praers quitted claim to the bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, ever since which time the manor and great tithes have been held on lease under that see; the present lessee of the manor is the Rev. Robert Hill. The bishop of Lichfield and Coventry is patron of the vicarage; John Mellor Esq., by purchase from Sir Charles Talbot Bart., who inherited from the late Mrs. Cornwall, is lessee of the corn and hay tithes of the townships of Blackenball, Bridgemere, Checkley, Chorlton, Doddington, Hatherton, Hunsterson, and Walgherton; and Richard Congreve Esq. of Burton in the county of Flint, and his sister Miss Marianne Congreve, are lessees of the tithes of the other townships<sup>m</sup>.

In the parish church are some monuments of the families of Delves, Woodnoth, Smith, and Wilbraham of Hough. Many ancient monuments, particularly some of the family of Delves, were destroyed when the body of the church was rebuilt in 1595<sup>n</sup>, and others upon a similar occasion in 1790; among the latter was the monument of Sir John Delves, who was slain in the battle of Tewksbury in 1471, and his eldest son, who was beheaded after the battle: this monument is described by Mr. Pennant in his *Journey from Chester to London*: there is a sketch of the upper stone, with figures of Sir John Delves, his lady, and his son, in a volume of church notes taken by Ashmole, and preserved among his MSS. at Oxford; in his time the sides of this monument, ornamented with figures, were in the bailiff's chamber at Doddington; the upper stone remained in Wybunbury church: there is a sketch in the same volume of portraits of one of the Delves family, and his lady, taken from a window in Wybunbury church. Among the monuments which now remain may be particularly noticed that of Sir Thomas Smith of Hough, who died in 1614, (with the effigies of himself in armour, and of his lady,) that of John Woodnoth, of the ancient family of Woodnoth of Shavington, who died in 1615, and that of Sir Thomas Delves Bart., who died in 1648; the latter commemorates also his son, Sir Henry Delves

<sup>m</sup> Except those of two-thirds of Willaston, which belong to the dean and chapter of Chester.

<sup>n</sup> Bishop Galtrell.

Bart., who died in 1663. We find mention of a hermitage at Wybunbury, in a lease of William Heyworth, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, by which two gardens are demised to Nicholas Baker the hermit, for ninety-nine years, on condition that they shall be held by fit priests, or honest hermits<sup>o</sup>: the lease bears date 1424.

There was a school-house at Wybunbury, built by subscription, nearly two centuries ago: Thomas Heath in 1707 gave by will a cottage for the residence of the school-master, and a part of his personal estate, for the instruction of poor children: with this money, which amounted to 100*l.*, and other sums which had been given for charitable uses by sundry benefactors, lands were purchased in the years 1735 and 1748, out of the rent of which (now 30*l. per ann.*) 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is appropriated for the use of the school; this is the whole endowment, except the interest of some very small donations, and the rent of certain pews, amounting together this year (1809) to 2*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* It is a school for boys, some of whom are taught reading only, and others reading, writing, and accounts.

The township of *Barksford*, or *Basford*, lies nearly five miles E. from Nantwich; the manor was anciently in moieties between the Woodnoths and Harcourts<sup>p</sup>; what became of Woodnoth's moiety is not known; the other passed by a female heir to Hugh Cholmondeley, whose daughter and heir Lettice brought it, in the fourteenth century, to the Bromleys; a branch of this family was for many generations seated at Basford: about the year 1563 John Bromley sold the reversion of the manor of Basford to Thomas Clutton. Sir Hugh Cholmondeley died seized of it in 1597, Isabel Bromley, who had a life-interest in it, being then still living<sup>q</sup>. Sir Hugh Cholmondeley the younger gave this manor to his son, Thomas Cholmondeley of Vale-Royal; it was sold by the devisees of Seymour Cholmondeley Esq., to Dr. Joseph Crewe, of whose son, John Crewe Esq. of Bolesworth-castle, it was purchased in 1785, by the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., the present proprietor. Basford-Hall, some time a seat of the Bromleys, and afterwards of Sir Robert Cholmondeley Knt., was burnt down about the year 1700; the site is occupied by a modern farm-house.

The township of *Bartherton*, or *Bertherton*, lies about two miles S. S. E. from Nantwich: the manor belonged to the ancient family of Griffin, as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century<sup>r</sup>. About the middle of the 17th century it was purchased of Richard Griffin Esq. and Jane his wife, by Sir Thomas Delves

<sup>o</sup> Woodnoth's Collections, f. 242. b.

<sup>p</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid.

<sup>r</sup> Bertram Griffin purchased it for one hundred marks, in or about the reign of King John, of one William Rufus; and Adam de Betherton soon afterwards quitted claim to it. Villare Cestrieuse.

Bart.,

Bart., from whom it descended to the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., the present proprietor. Bartherton-Hall, the ancient seat of the Griffins, is now a farm-house.

The township of *Blackenball* lies about five miles and a half S. E. by E. from Nantwich; the manor belongs to Sir Thomas Broughton, having been purchased about the year 1387 by his ancestor John Delves Esq., of the Blackenhalls, who had possessed it more than two centuries †.

The manor of *Bridesmere*, or *Bridgemere*, now Sir Thomas Broughton's, was purchased in 1762, by his brother, Sir Bryan Broughton Delves Bart., of Lord Vernon, having been the ancient inheritance of his lordship's ancestors, the barons of Kinderton. A manor in Bridesmere was held under the barony of Kinderton, by the family of Bridesmere, which became extinct in the male line in the reign of Henry VI.; it is probable that this is the estate spoken of by Webb in his Itinerary, written in the year 1622, as then lately purchased by the Wilbrahams †.

The township of *Checkley*, anciently called *Chacklegb*, or *Chackley*, lies about seven miles S. E. by E. from Nantwich; the manor was at an early period in the Praers family, and passed by a female heir to the Blackenhalls; a third part of this was, in the reign of Edward III., the property of John Bressley, who sold it to Sir John Delves †; the remainder, which passed by successive female heirs to the families of Malpas and Perfall, or Peshall, was purchased of Sir John Perfall Bart. about the year 1662, by Thomas Delves Esq., afterwards Sir Thomas Delves Bart.; the whole thus became united in the Delves family, and has descended with their other estates to Sir Thomas Broughton. Checkley-Hall †, some time a seat of the Perfalls, is now a farm-house. *Wrinehill*, a hamlet of this township, is just within the confines of Staffordshire: the hall became a seat of the Egerton family about the year 1400, in consequence of the marriage of William Egerton of Betley and Caldecote (descended from Urian, second son of Philip de Egerton, who was sheriff of Cheshire in 1295), with the heiress of Sir John Hawkstone of Wrinehill; this branch of the Egerton family became extinct in the male line in the year 1687; but previously to this, pursuant to a settlement made by Edward Egerton Esq., who died without issue in the early part of the seventeenth century, Wrinehill had passed to the Egertons of Egerton, and it was, for some time, one of their seats. Sir John Egerton Bart. died at Wrinehill in 1674, and his namesake Sir John Egerton Bart. in 1729.

† Villare Cestriense.

† King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 66.

Villare Cestriense.

† Called by Webb a beautiful timber-house.—Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 66.

Wrinehill-Hall is now a farm-house, which, having passed by purchase to the Broughtons, is now the property of Sir Thomas Broughton Bart. Heywood-Barnes, a manor in the township of Checkley, which had long been in the Egerton family, was purchased in 1805 of John Egerton Esq. of Oulton by Sir Thomas Broughton.

The township of *Chorleton* or *Chorlton* lies about five miles and a half E. by S. from Nantwich: the manor is the property of Sir Thomas Broughton, being part of the ancient inheritance of the family of Delves.

The township of *Doddington* lies about five miles and a half S. E. by E. from Nantwich; the manor was anciently in a family to which it gave name<sup>7</sup>; Robert Praers was seised of it as early as the year 1342; about two years after it was sold, by John de Bressy, and Margaret his wife, who appears to have been the heiress of Praers, to John Delves Esq.<sup>2</sup>, descended from the ancient family of Delves of Delves-Hall in Staffordshire. This John Delves was eminent both in a military and civil capacity; he distinguished himself at the battle of Poitiers as one of the four esquires of the brave Lord Audley, who were rewarded for their services with a handsome annuity and an honourable augmentation to their coats of arms. In 1362 he was knighted, and in 1364 made one of the justices of the King's Bench; the same year he had the royal licence to make a castellated mansion at Doddington. Sir John Delves died in 1369 without issue; his collateral descendant of the same name, being grandson of his brother Henry, was an active partizan of the house of Lancaster; in 1460 he was intrusted by Queen Margaret with the care of Sir John and Sir Thomas Neville, (sons of the Earl of Salisbury,) and other prisoners, then in Chester castle<sup>3</sup>. This Sir John Delves was slain at the battle of Tewksbury in 1471; his son John, who accompanied him in that fatal action, was immediately afterwards beheaded<sup>b</sup>; his younger brother Henry continued the line of the Delves's of Doddington; their immediate descendant Sir Thomas Delves was created a baronet in 1621: the title and the male line of this ancient family became extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Delves the fourth baronet in 1727, when Doddington and other estates passed under his will to his grandson (by his only daughter Elizabeth,) Sir Bryan Broughton Bart.<sup>c</sup>,

<sup>7</sup> Villare Cestrieuse.      <sup>2</sup> Evidences of the Delves Family, compiled by Sir William Dugdale, in the possession of Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.

<sup>a</sup> Evidences of the Delves Family.

<sup>b</sup> Some say they were both beheaded after the action; according to Holinshed's account, Sir John Delves fell in the field of battle.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 356.

whose

whose brother, the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., is the present proprietor.

Doddington-Hall, the seat of the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart., a handsome and spacious stone edifice, was begun to be built in the year 1777, from the designs of Mr. Samuel Wyatt; at a short distance are some small remains of Doddington-castle, built by Sir John Delves as before-mentioned, about the year 1364<sup>d</sup>: this castle was one of the parliamentary garrisons during the civil war; it was taken by Lord Byron without any resistance, on the 4th of January 1644, although garrisoned by one hundred and sixty men<sup>e</sup>: it fell into the hands of the Parliament again, on the 7th of February following<sup>f</sup>. Adjoining to the castle was old Doddington-Hall, a quadrangular brick building, apparently of the age of Queen Elizabeth<sup>g</sup>, with transom windows.

Sir Thomas Delves, who died in 1727, gave by deed the sum of 1535*l.*, laid out in the purchase of lands, which, in the year 1786, produced the sum of 94*l.* 4*s.* *per ann.* for the purpose of clothing and educating twenty boys and ten girls of the parish of Wybunbury<sup>h</sup>: the schools are now placed at Doddington and Weston, pursuant to the direction of Sir Thomas Broughton, who has the management of the charity, and the nomination of the scholars; the Rev. Robert Hill of Hough is joint trustee.

The township of *Hatherton* lies about four miles S. E. by S. from Nantwich; the manor having been for several generations in the Orrebies, passed by a female heir to the Corbets<sup>i</sup>, who continued in possession till about the year 1576, when it was conveyed to Randle Brooke<sup>k</sup>; not long afterwards it passed to the Smiths of Hough. Sir Thomas Smith, who was of Hatherton when Webb wrote his *Itinerary of Cheshire* n 1625, served at that time the offices of sheriff of the county, and mayor of the city of Chester<sup>k</sup>; Thomas Smith Esq. of Hatherton was created a baronet in 1660, with remainder to his two brothers successively, but the male issue failing within a few years, the title became extinct<sup>l</sup>: the manor

<sup>d</sup> Evidences of the Delves Family.  
8vo. Vol. ii. p. 927.

<sup>e</sup> *Ibid* p. 932.

<sup>f</sup> Burghall's Diary — History of Cheshire,

<sup>g</sup> The statues of Lord Audley and his four esquires, spoken of in p. 456; appear (from a drawing made by Mr. J. Calveley, for Dr. Gower's intended work, after the house had been partly taken down) to have been part of the decorations of the portico.

<sup>h</sup> Returns of charitable donations to the House of Commons in 1786.

<sup>i</sup> Records in the Exchequer of Chester, 19 Eliz.

<sup>k</sup> Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 66.

<sup>l</sup> On the death of the first baronet, Sir Thomas, (in 1675,) the title went to a nephew of the same name: Sir Thomas Smith, who died in 1675, left an only daughter, married to Richard Lister Esq.

of Hatherton was sold by the representatives of Sir Thomas Smith, the first baronet, about the year 1700, to Mr. Salmon, of whose grandson, the Rev. Matthew Salmon, it was purchased in 1784 by Charles Bate Esq. of Nantwich, the present proprietor. Hatherton-Hall, the ancient seat of the Smiths, has been taken down, and a farm-house built on the site, which belongs to Mrs. Sparrow.

The township of *Hough* lies rather more than three miles E. by S. from Nantwich; the manor was at an early period held under the family of Praers, by the Houghs, whose heirefs brought it in marriage about the year 1374, to Richard Massey; it was sold by their descendants in or about the year 1517, to Thomas Smith Esq.<sup>1</sup>, alderman of Chester, ancestor of the Smiths of Hough and Hatherton. After the death of Sir Thomas Smith Bart. above-mentioned, this manor seems to have passed by purchase to the Walthalls: in 1763 it was given, with some lands in Hunsterfon, by Peter Walthall Esq., to Sir Bryan Broughton Delves Bart., in exchange for a moiety of Wistaston. The manor of Hough now belongs to Sir Thomas Broughton: the hall, which was abandoned by the Smiths when they removed to Hatherton, is described by Webb as decayed in 1622<sup>m</sup>. A house in Hough, which had belonged to the family of Bromhall, is now the property and seat of the Rev. Robert Hill, who acquired it with an estate in this township, in marriage with the daughter and heirefs of the Rev. John Wilbraham. Another estate in Hough, called the Cliffe, with a house late the property and residence of Robert Clarke Esq., was purchased in 1806, by Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.

The township of *Hunsterfon*, or *Hunsterton*, lies about five miles and a half S. E. from Nantwich; the manor which had been parcel of the barony of Kinderton, is now Sir Thomas Broughton's, having been purchased by his brother Sir Bryan Broughton Delves in 1762. The Hunsterfons were mesne-lords of this manor in the 14th century: their estate was afterwards divided into severalties; about the year 1600, the Delves family possessed one-fourth by inheritance, and another by purchase; the Mores of Hall-o'-heath had a third share, and the remainder was sub-divided; the greater part of this estate now belongs to Sir Thomas Broughton.

*Lea*, or *Lee*<sup>n</sup>, was the property and residence of an ancient family which took its name from the township. From a younger branch of this family, which settled at Quarendon in Buckinghamshire, were descended the Lees Earls of Lichfield; the elder branch continued to possess the manor of Lea, and to reside

<sup>1</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>m</sup> King's Vale-Royal, part ii. p. 67.

<sup>n</sup> The family name has been uniformly spelt Lee.

at the hall till the reign of King Charles the First, when Henry Lee Esq. (whose son Thomas settled at Dernhall) sold it to Henry Delves Esq. of Doddington; it has since passed with the Doddington estate to the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.: the hall is now occupied as a farm-house.

The township of *Rope* lies about two miles and a half E. N. E. from Nantwich; the manor belongs to Sir Thomas Broughton by inheritance, it having been bequeathed to Henry Delves Esq. about the year 1600, by Laurence Rope Esq. °, the last male heir of the ancient family of that name, whose ancestors had possessed it as early as the reign of Edward III.

The township of *Shavington* lies about four miles and a half East from Nantwich: this place was at an early period the property and seat of the family of Woodnoth; the first in the pedigree who is called lord of Shavington, is William Woodnoth, in the reign of Henry the Third; his father was of Basford, his grandfather and great-grandfather of Swanley; this ancient family became extinct in the male line in the year 1637. When the manor became alienated from the family does not appear: there are now, as we are informed, two manors in the township, called Shavington-cum-Gresty<sup>p</sup>, and Gresty-cum-Shavington; the former was purchased about the year 1515 of Francis Braddock and Joan his wife, by Thomas Smith Esq., alderman of Chester<sup>q</sup>, and ancestor of the Smiths of Hough, from whom it passed by the same title as Hatherton, to Charles Bate Esq. of Nantwich; the other, which was in the Cholmondeleys of Holford, has passed by the same title as Basford, to Sir Thomas Broughton Bart. Shavington-Hall with its demesne, the ancient seat of the Woodnoths, was purchased in 1661, by the ancestor of Mr. John Turner, the present proprietor, who resides in a modern house built on the site of the old mansion<sup>r</sup>.

The township of *Stapeley* lies about two miles and a half from Nantwich: the manor passed by marriage from the family of Stapeley to that of Rope, about the year 1350, and from the Ropes about the year 1600, to the Greens of Congleton. The Earl of Ardglass in Ireland, Mr. Milton, and Richard Green, are described as joint lords in 1662<sup>s</sup>: this manor was afterwards successively in the families of Milton<sup>t</sup>, and Stubbs; it was purchased of the latter in 1765, by the late Mr. William Salmon of Nantwich, and is now the joint property of

° Sir William Dugdale's MS. book of the Delves Family.

<sup>p</sup> The manor of Gresty was anciently in the family of de Gresty, and afterwards (temp. Edw. III. and as late as Hen. V.) in the Griffins.—Records at Chester.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid.      <sup>r</sup> It was taken down in 1733.

<sup>s</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>t</sup> Milton purchased of Green. Ibid.

his

his sons, Charles Salmon Esq., and Prussia Salmon Esq.: the hall, which was the ancient seat of the Ropes, is in ruins; it is the property of James Bayley Esq.

The township of *Walgherton* lies nearly four miles S. E. by E. from Nantwich; the manor was conveyed about the year 1270 by Henry de Wafchet, to Fulke de Orreby, from whom it passed with Hatherton to the Corbets and Smiths; Sir Thomas Smith was possessed of it as late as the year 1662<sup>1</sup>: in 1668 it was conveyed by George Vernon and others, to Hall Ravencroft Esq.<sup>2</sup>; it is probable that it was afterwards purchased by Sir Thomas Delves: it is now the property of Sir Thomas Broughton Bart.: the hall and demesne were purchased by Sir Henry Delves in or about the year 1539 of Richard Kardiff<sup>3</sup>.

The township of *Weston* lies about six miles E. by N. from Nantwich: the manor, which belongs to Sir Thomas Broughton, was purchased about the year 1352, by his ancestor Sir John Delves, of John de Bressley, who had married an heiress of Praers; it had been before in the Griffins. Weston-Hall, now a farm-house, was for many years one of the seats of the Delves family. The Smiths of Hough had a manor in this township, purchased by Sir Thomas Smith of the Braddocks in 1535.

The manor of *Wigstanton*, *Wisterfon*, or *Willaston*, belonged in the reign of Edward I., if not before, to the family of Chanu, Chanie, or Cheney<sup>4</sup>; in or about the year 1533, it was conveyed by John Cheney Esq., to Richard Sneyd<sup>5</sup> Esq., recorder of Chester, ancestor of Walter Sneyd Esq., the present proprietor. In this township is an old mansion (now a farm-house, the property of Mr. Sneyd) called Bressley-Hall, which was formerly a seat of the Bressley family<sup>6</sup>. A good house in this township, built by Mr. John Bayley of Nantwich, is now the property and residence of Charles Salmon Esq., who married his daughter.

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2010.

<sup>2</sup> From the information of Sir Thomas Broughton.

<sup>3</sup> Records in the Exchequer at Chester.

<sup>4</sup> Villare Cestriense.

<sup>5</sup> A descendant of the Sneyds, or Sneyds, of Bradwell in Sandbach, who were settled in that township as early as the reign of Henry VI.—Woodnoth's Collections.

<sup>6</sup> See p. 822.

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

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### C H E S H I R E.

SINCE the foregoing account of Cheshire has been printed off, we have had to lament the loss of our worthy friend William Nicholls Esq. F. A. S., whose valuable assistance, particularly in tracing the history of families, and the descent of property during the last century, which his official situation gave him ample means of elucidating, and in collecting abundant information from the clergy and others, relative to local matters for the parochial topography, has been noticed in p. 355, and p. 468. Although we have been deprived of the advantage of submitting this part of our work to his revision, after it had gone through the press, yet, being well acquainted with his zeal in investigating facts, and his care in revising his communications, which we have endeavoured to incorporate into our work, with equal care and accuracy, we flatter ourselves that many errors will not occur. For the correction of those which are noticed in the following pages, we are principally indebted to the Rev. Hugh Cholmondeley B. D. F. A. S., Dean of Chester; the Rev. Joseph Eaton M. A., præcentor of that cathedral, and Holland Watson Esq. of Congleton.

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P 306. It might have been observed, as indeed it is noticed, in p. 561, that King Richard II. towards the close of his reign, shewed great partiality to the men of Cheshire, having selected his body guard from this county, when he scarcely knew whom to trust about his person. When that monarch, in 1399, raised an army which rendezvoused at Milford-Haven, and sailed from thence to Waterford, it was composed chiefly of the natives of this county: from these circumstances therefore, it may be presumed that the greater part of Cheshire continued steady to the interests of Richard, notwithstanding the deputation which

waited on Henry of Lancaster at Shrewsbury, on behalf of the city and county: this will account for the active part which was taken by the men of Cheshire in the rebellion of the Percys, (see p. 307). The family of Legh appear to have been remarkably divided on this occasion; Sir Robert and Sir John Legh tendered their services to the Duke of Lancaster; Piers Legh of Lyme was executed for his adherence to Richard; John Legh of Booths is one of seven Cheshire men enumerated by Dr. Cowper, as having commands in Richard's army; the others were Thomas Cholmondeley, Ralph Davenport, Adam Bostock, John Done, Thomas Beeston and Thomas Holford, "all gentle and doughty Esquires." Among the Cheshire men, who were excepted in the general act of pardon by Henry IV. in the first year of his reign, on account of their adherence to the fallen monarch, were two sons of Robert Aldersey; Thomas Beeston, David Brayne, David Bostock, Nicholas Bulkeley, Thomas de Cholmondeley, Hugh de Cholmondeley, John Cholmondeley of the hundred of Broxton, William Clayton, Willam Coke, chaplain of the parish church of Wich-Malbank, Thomas Cottingham, Robert, son of John Davenport of Bromhall, David Dod of Edge, John Done of Utkinton, Thomas Holford, Thomas de Kelfall, John Legh of Booths, Gilbert Legh, William Mafcey of Altrincham, William Mafcey of Knutsford, Robert Overton, William Roter, Roger de Salghall, vicar of Acton, Richard de Werberton, and Sir Richard Wynnyngton, knight<sup>b</sup>.

P. 307, *note* ('). Sir Thomas Dutton is here mentioned as one of Lord Audley's Esquires, on Dr. Gower's authority, but Sir Peter Leycester, in speaking of this Sir Thomas Dutton, (who was Sheriff of Cheshire the year that the battle of Poitiers was fought), makes no mention of this circumstance. Wotton, in his Baronetage says, that an ancestor of the Mackworth family, was one of Lord Audley's Esquires. Their names are not given by Froiffart, or by any of our own ancient historians.

P. 317—322. Over the columns in these pages, it should have been printed thus:

<u>Ancient Name.</u>	<u>Modern Name.</u>	<u>Ancient Hundred.</u>	<u>Modern Hundred.</u>
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P. 329. In consequence of our having been misinformed, as to the townships of Wrenbury, (which information was corrected before the account of that chapelry in 476—479, was printed); the hamlet of Chorley is omitted in the statement of the population of 1801, p. 319: the township of Wirfwall is in Cheshire, although it belongs to the parish of Whitchurch in Shropshire. The population

<sup>a</sup> Dr. Cowper's MSS.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. Parl. 1 Hen. IV. p. 7. m. 28.

of Wrenbury should be thus stated, exclusively of part of the townships of Soond, Dodcot-cum-Wilksly, and Newhall, and the township of Smeaton-Wood, of which there appears to have been no returns.

	Inhabited Houses.	Uninhabited. Houses.	Families.	Persons.
Wrenbury-cum-Frith	60	2	79	404
Bromhall	18	-	22	140
Chorley	23	-	28	126
Woodcot	4	-	5	29

The total of the population of Acton at the same period, including the chapelry of Wrenbury, as far as can be collected from the returns will be,

542	-	12	-	625	-	3255
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P. 336. Irbie should have been inserted in p. 345, as belonging to Thurston.

P. 351. The titles granted to Hugh Lord Cholmondeley, by the patent of 1706, were Viscount Malpas, and Earl of Cholmondeley. We have been informed since this volume was printed, that the late Earl always styled himself Earl Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley, and that the present Earl has followed his example.

*Ancient Families:*

P. 359. To the Leighs mentioned in line 15—22, of this page, may be added those of Whitby in Lancashire. Sir Egerton Leigh Bart. of Rugby-Hall in Warwickshire is of the Westhall family; Mr. Leigh, the bookseller in the Strand, is of the same family.

P. 360. Edward Mainwaring Esq. of Chester, should have been mentioned as one of the male descendants of the ancient family of Mainwaring; his father was prebendary of Chester, and second son of Charles Mainwaring Esq. of Bromborough.

P. 361. We have been informed that the Rev. Edward Dutton, curate of Harthill, who died in 1773, was of a younger branch of the Duttons of Hatton, and that he supposed himself to be the last heir-male of that family.

Ibid. note (P). The Maffey, or Massies of Rostherne, who it is probable were of the same family as those of Denfield in Rostherne, are to be traced much later in the parish register; the last of this family died in 1796, (see p. 746.)

P. 363. The Brookes of Leighton were not extinct, till about the year 1652.

: Sir Peter Leycester, p. 326.

P. 364. The Cholmeleys of Whitby became again extinct, by the death of Nathaniel Cholmeley Esq. in 1791; his son-in-law, Henry Hopkins Fane Esq. took the name, and has issue; Sir Montague Cholmeley of Easton in Lincolnshire, created a baronet in 1806, is descended from a younger branch of the Cholmondeleys of Cheshire; these branches have abbreviated the name.

P. 368. Edward Tomkinson is inaccurately stated to be the representative of Wetenhalls of Hankelow; Nathaniel Wetenhall Esq. of Hankelow, who died in 1778, left no issue; Mr. Tomkinson took the name of Wetenhall, in consequence of Mr. Wetenhall leaving him the Hankelow estate; his mother was a Wetenhall, but not heiress of any branch; she was daughter of Thomas Wetenhall Esq. of Nantwich.

P. 369. The elder branch of the Wilbrahams of Rees-heath is extinct, the heiress married into the family of Windsor<sup>d</sup>.

*Ibid.* We find that the posterity of Roger Wright settled at Stretton in Tilston, and did not become extinct till 1752, (see p. 806. correct also p. 395.)

P. 371. We are informed that Mr. Dod spells his name Thomas *Crewe* Dod.

P. 372. To the names of Bostock, Daniel, &c. should be added those of Partington, Domville, and Winnington. The Partingtons are not extinct, as erroneously mentioned in p. 389. Thomas Partington Esq., son of the late Mr. Partington of Lower Brooke street, is a barrister at law: he resides at Offham, near Lewes in Sussex, and has a large family. William Domville Esq. alderman of London is descended from a younger son of William Domville Esq. of Lymm, who lived about the year 1600. The male line of the elder son became extinct in 1718, as mentioned in p. 380. The Domvilles, baronets of Ireland, were of the Lymm family. Sir T. E. Winnington Bart., of Worcestershire, is descended from a younger branch of the Cheshire family of that name.

P. 375. A younger branch of the Bostocks continued at Bostock, and appears to have become extinct about the beginning of the last century, (see p. 647, note, (\*).)

P. 376. There were freeholders of the name of Hatton at Hatton, and Kekwick in 1666. (Sir Peter Leycester).

— *Ibid.* The direct line of the Holfords became extinct in 1581.

P. 377. John Boydell Esq., alderman of London, who died in 1804, and his brother, — Boydell Esq. of Trevallyn in Denbighshire, uncle of Josiah Boydell Esq., late alderman of London, were descendants of a younger branch

<sup>d</sup> See p. 476.

of the Boydells of Dodleston, who settled at Pulcroft, in consequence of an alliance with the heiress of Crewe. This branch continued at Pulcroft and Worleston, till the middle of the seventeenth century, when they removed into Derbyshire. The late alderman's grandfather was vicar of Ashbourne, and rector of Mapleton.

P. 377. A younger branch of the Birtles family continued the male line, and was not extinct till about the middle of the last century, when Thomas Birtles, the last heir-male, left an only daughter.

P. 378. It is probable that there may be younger branches extant of the family of Calveley, for we find that the funeral of Sir George Calveley, (the last heir-male in the direct line,) in 1648, was attended, among other mourners, by Mr. Hugh Calveley, and Mr. George Calveley.

P. 379. Mr. Peter Cotton, who died in 1716, is supposed to have been the last heir-male of the Cottons of Cotton-Wood, (see p. 772.)

P. 380. The Dones of Duddon are to be traced in the Tarvin register, as late as the year 1774, when the last of the family appears to have been buried.

383. The Hallums became extinct about the year 1471. (Sir Peter Leycester, p. 325.)

P. 385. The Huxleys were descended from a younger son of the Hockenhull family, who settled at Huxley, and took that name.

P. 387. It is not certain that the family of Meols is extinct; Henry Meols Esq. of Sluys in Flanders, was nephew, and executor of William Meols, who died about the latter end of the seventeenth century, leaving a daughter, who inherited the estate: it is supposed that he was son of major Henry Meols, who endowed Wallazey school in 1656. The elder branch of the Minshulls became extinct about the middle of the fourteenth century, (see p. 471.); it was the next branch which became extinct in 1654.

P. 388. A younger branch of the Mottrams was not extinct in 1662. Harl. MSS. N° 2010.

P. 392. It appears more probable that the Swanwicks were not extinct till about the middle of the sixteenth century; Arthur Swanwick, the last heir-male, was forty-eight years of age at his father's death in 1632.

*Ibid.* We are informed that Mr. Thomas Toft of Knutsford is of a younger branch of the Tofts of Toft.

P. 393. Robert Venables, a younger brother of George Venables, (whose daughter and sole heiress married Sir Philip Chetwode,) survived his brother, and died in 1759; he was the last male of the Agden branch, and supposed to be  
the

the last Venables of the male line in Cheshire. A younger branch of the Agden family removed into Staffordshire in the sixteenth century, and is supposed to be still existing<sup>e</sup>. There are some families of the name of Venables in London and elsewhere, whose ancestors were of Great-Budworth, but their connection with any of the branches of the Venables family, (known to be descended from the Barons of Kinderton,) has not been ascertained. General Venables, who commanded the land-forces at the capture of Jamaica in the seventeenth century, was of the Chester branch<sup>f</sup>.

P. 395. Roger Comberbach, recorder of Chester, died in 1720.

P. 396. Foxhurst, more generally called Foxwift, was sold by William Duncalfe in 1609. There is a gentleman of this name in the adjoining township of Adlington, where his ancestors have resided for many generations, who, probably, is the male representative of the Duncalfes of Foxwift.

P. 397. Dr. Tilston, who died in the year 1764, is supposed to have been the last heir-male of the Cheshire Tilstons.

P. 398. The elder branch of the family of Worth became extinct in 1695; the heiress married Heath. William Worth Esq., Baron of the exchequer in Ireland, who died in 1684, was of a younger branch.

P. 399. The Malbons, or as the name was spelt at an early period, Malbans, were a very ancient family, and should have been introduced in p. 386: they were a younger branch of the baronial family of Malbank, as appears by a deed of Joan, one of the co-heiresses of William de Malbank, the last baron of that family, by which she grants land in Bradley, (which continued to be the residence of his posterity for several centuries) to her relation, William Malban<sup>g</sup>. Mr. Malbon, some time since an apothecary at Oxford, is supposed to have been the last of this ancient family.

P. 377—400. To the extinct families of Cheshire, or such as are supposed to be extinct, may be added those of Bickerton of Bickerton, extinct in the principal line about the middle of the fourteenth century<sup>h</sup>. Bradford of Bradford near Vale-Royal, which had been for several generations continuance, in the reign of Edward III. Bridesmere of Bridesmere extinct in the reign of Edward IV.; Brock of Upton, extinct by the death of William Brock Esq., who was sheriff of the county in 1732<sup>i</sup>; Hondford of Hondford; Motterhead of

<sup>e</sup> From the information of Robert Hinde Venables Esq., whose mother was sister of George and Robert Venables above-mentioned. <sup>f</sup> Ibid. <sup>g</sup> Harl. MSS. N<sup>o</sup> 2022. f. 16.

<sup>h</sup> A younger branch was of Marbury in the seventeenth century, and is said by Dr. Williams, not to have been extinct in 1700 <sup>i</sup> His heiress married John Egerton Esq.

Mottram-Andrew; Shocklach of Shocklach; Shotwick of Shotwick; and Snelfon of Snelfon. The Hondfords became extinct in the reign of Queen Elizabeth when the heiress married Brereton; the Shotwicks in the reign of Henry VIII.; the heiress married into the Hockenhull family; the Snelfons, about 1650, when the heiress married the ancestor of Thomas Parker Esq. of Aftle.

P. 401. The Leches were of London, when they sold Great-Mollington, in 1700.

In this page the Wicksted family should have been mentioned, who were settled about two centuries ago at Marbury, see p. 686.

P. 401, and p. 617. Bach-Hall and other estates<sup>k</sup>, on the death of the late Samuel Brodhurst Esq. in 1809, became the property of Oliver Nichols Esq., a lieutenant-general in the East India Company's service, who has taken the name of Brodhurst; the tenant is Hugh Robert Hughes Esq.

P. 402. Dernhall now belongs to William Corbet Esq.

P. 404. Toft-Hall now belongs to Ralph Leycester Esq., next brother of the late George Leycester Esq.

P. 422. It has been suggested that the Biddle, which is described by Smith among the Cheshire rivers, is the stream which rises at Biddulph, commonly called Biddle, in Staffordshire, and is now called Dane-in-Shaw.—The Birken runs through Tatton-Park. Among the Meres should be mentioned Oakmere in Delamere-forest, or as it is called, in the Vale-Royal charter, Ocmere; and Marbury-Mere.

P. 441, note, on the name of Abbot Ripley, in l. 10. It is said in King's Vale-Royal, part II. p. 36., that the initials of this abbot appear on the pillars of the great aisle; the only letters we could discover on any of these pillars, are on the third from the west-end, on the north-side, and seem to be nothing more than the common monogram, of *Maria*; and the style of the capital is that of the fourteenth century. See it figured in the plate, at p. 448.

P. 443. The burial-place of the Egertons at Bunbury belonged to Ridley-hall.

P. 448. Under a staircase, between the second and third pillar of the choir in the fourth-aisle, is the grave-stone of Abbot Merstton, whose name is still legible, in the remaining part of an imperfect inscription, without date.

*Ibid.* — In addition to the note at the bottom of this page, it may be observed, that if the sculptured stone was found with the stone-coffin, it might lead to a conjecture that the Chapter-house was newly floored in the time of Abbot Seynesbury; and this stone deposited by him as a memorial of the founder's place of sepulture, which no doubt was then well known.

<sup>k</sup> See p. 685.

P. 452. In the plan annexed to this page, the inscription of " St. Oswald's church, and the reference to the chapel of St. Nicholas are evidently erroneous, see p. 582. and 615.

P. 457. The first inscription here noticed is not immediately over the great window of the hall of Little-Moreton-Hall, but two windows of chambers over the hall and large parlour: the second inscription is over the window of the large parlour.

P. 479. Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton Bart. died August 24, 1809, and was succeeded in his title and estate by his son, now Sir Stapleton Cotton Bart., a major-general in the army, and M. P. for Newark.

P. 483. Lady Mohun who sold, Aldford, was not niece of the Earl of Macclesfield, (see p. 663.)

P. 485. It would perhaps be more accurate to leave out the addition of Radnor to the township of Somerford, last-mentioned in this page, and in p. 494; the addition, nevertheless, is in frequent use, and has arisen from Somerford having been joined in the mize-book, with the small township of Radnor.

P. 486. We are assured by Holland Watson Esq. of Congleton, that our information with respect to the *præpositi*, or posts in the parish of Astbury, was erroneous: he informs us, that two of them act annually in rotation, and that they appoint the church-wardens, who transact the business attached to the office.

P. 489. There is a court of pleas at Congleton, now little used, which has cognizance of civil actions to any amount. The steward of this court is Randle Wilbraham Esq. of Odd-Rode. The freeholders of Congleton are exempt from serving on juries, either at the assizes or county-sessions.

P. 495. Mr. Taylor purchased the portion of the manor of Audlem, which had belonged to the Wetenhalls, of Mr. Tomkinson of Dorfold.

P. 512. The portion of the manor of Bollington, which belonged to the Leghs, was not purchased by the Earl of Stamford, but by the Brookes of Mere, who still possess it. The Earl of Stamford has most of the landed property in the township.

P. 513. There appears to have been a castle at Dunham-Massey, which was held against King Henry II., by Hamo de Massey in 1173<sup>1</sup>.

P. 537. Dame Mary Cholmondeley resided chiefly at Vale-Royal, after her purchase of that seat in 1615.

P. 540. John Egerton Esq. of Oulton is M. P. for the city of Chester.

P. 547. Note (\*). After this note was printed we were positively assured, that the lease was for five hundred years. Queen Elizabeth's licence to Thomas

<sup>1</sup> Benedictus Abbas de Vita Hen. II. Vol. i. p. 55.

Aldersey for the foundation of his grammar-school, bearing date January 2, in the thirty-sixth year of her reign, states that the school-house, and the houses for the preacher, master, and usher, had been then built; and that he had for some years appointed these persons and maintained them. According to the tenor of this licence, the school was to be called the free-grammar school of Thomas Aldersey in Bunbury: Mr. Aldersey was to appoint the master and usher during his lifetime, and to make statutes; the master and four wardens of the Haberdashers' Company, the preacher and the master were constituted governors, to be a body corporate, with a common seal, &c.; and after Mr. Aldersey's death to have the appointment of the master, &c. The licence empowers Thomas Aldersey to give to the *Governors of the school*, the whole rectory of Bunbury with the chantry-house, and certain lands then lately bought of Thomas Wilbraham, and it empowers the governors to receive the said rectory, houses, and lands: no mention is made of the lease to the Aldersey family, which seems to have been granted afterwards. It appears by this record that the master and wardens of the Haberdashers' Company are no otherwise entitled to the reversion of this estate, than as governors of the grammar-school at Bunbury. In the present state of the charity, the salary is so small, that a person properly qualified according to the founder's intentions, cannot be procured to undertake the office, and the governors have not been able to keep it up as a grammar school.

P. 562. In a MS. volume of notes by one of the Holmes, now in the collection of the Marquis of Buckingham at Stowe, it is said that Queen Margaret was at Chester with her son in 1457.

P. 564. Some notes in the same volume state that Lord Wentworth, (afterwards Earl of Strafford) on his coming to Chester in 1632, was met by the mayor and corporation; that he was banquetted at the Pentice, and lay at the bishop's palace; that he arrived at Chester on his return from Ireland, June 4, 1635, and that he lay certain days sick at the bishop's palace; that he came to Chester again, November 17, 1636, was banquetted at the Pentice, and went on, in his last journey towards Ireland, November 19th.

The King and Prince being then in Chester, attended Divine Service in the choir of the cathedral, Sunday, September 25, 1642. On the Tuesday following they went to Wrexham, to the house of Mr. Richard Lloyd, whom the King knighted.

P. 568. In the same volume is the following particular account of the deplorable state of the city of Chester immediately after the siege.

“ Thus of the moſte anchante and famous cittie of Cheſter, in times paſt, but now behold and marke the ruines of it in theſe preſent times, within theſe few yeares, *viz.* within theſe three yeares, 1643, 1644, and 1645; the particular demolitions of it, now moſt grievous to the ſpectators, and more woefull to the inhabitants thereof:

1. “ *Imprimis*, without the barrs, the chappell of Spittle, with all the houſes, gardens, and edifices there.
2. “ *Item*, all the houſes, barnes, and buildings, near to the barrs, with Great-Boughton and Chriſtleton.
3. “ *Item*, in the Fore-gate-ſtreet, Cow-lane, St. John’s-lane, with ſome other houſes in the ſame ſtreet, all burned to the ground.
4. “ *Item*, without the Nor-gate, from the ſaid gate to the laſt houſe, Mr. Jollye’s-Hall, all burned and conſumed to the ground, with all lanes in the ſame, with the chapell of Little-St. John’s, now not to be found.
5. “ *Item*, from Dee-bridge, over the water, all that long ſtreet, called Hand-bridge, with all the lanes, barnes, and buildings all about it, ruinated to the ground.
6. “ *Item*, all the glovers houſes under the walles of the cittie, all pulled downe to the ground.
7. “ *Item*, all the buildings and houſes att the Water-gate, upon the Roodee, pulled downe to the ground.
8. “ Beſides the famous houſes of gentlemen in the ſame cittie, and neer unto adjoyning the Bach-Hall, Mr. Whitbies.
9. “ Mr. William Jollye’s Hall, at the Norgate-ſtreet end.
10. “ Blacon-Hall, Sir Randall Crue’s, with cottages belonging.
11. “ The Nunnes-Hall, Sir William Brereton’s.
12. “ Mr. Ellis’s Hall, on the Hough-greene.
13. “ Flookersbrooke-Hall, Sir Thomas Smith.
14. “ The Walkers, or Shermen’s mills.
15. “ The Hall of Hole, Mr. Bunberies.
16. “ The water-tower, at Dee-bridge.
17. “ Bretton-Hall, Mr. Ravenscroftes.
18. “ The Lord Cholmondeleyes Hall in St. John’s church-yard, with the ruine of the ſaid church.
19. “ Mr. William Gamull’s houſe att Newgate, with Mr. John Werden’s houſe neere to it.

20. “ The

20. " The destruction of divers other houses in the cittie, with grana<sup>does</sup>, too tedious to recite.

21. " The ruines of stalls, pentices, doores, trees, and barnes, in divers lanes and places in the cittie.

22. " The destroying of the bishop's palace, with stables in the barne yard, and the ruines of the great church.

23. " The charge of mudd-walles, sodding, carrying, and building them, with centrye-houfes, both without the walles, and within the walles.

24. " The drawing dry of the cittie stockes, plate, rentes, and collections, not knowne, all which losses, charge, and demolishments, in opinion of most, will amount to two hundred thousand pounds, att the least ; soe farre hath the God of heaven humbled this famous cittie ; and note, here, that if Jerufalem, the particular beloved cittie of God, of which it is said in Sacred writt, marke well her bulwarkes, and count her towers, in man's judgment invincible ; yet her sinne provoked God soe, that he leaved not a stone upon another ; this may be an advertisement to us, that God's mercy is yett to be found since he hath left us so many streets, lanes, and churches, yet undemolished. God grant us faith, patience, and true repentance, and amendment, that a worse danger befall us not. Amen."

P. 570. A large provost for deserters has been built, near the new barracks.

P. 599. The races at Chester are erroneously said in this page, to have originated in 1512 ; a reference is given to the account of their origin, in p. 586. The error arose from a clerical mistake in the note of p. 585, where in the copy of an extract from the " Orders and acts of assembly," procured for us by the late Mr. Nicholls, 3 Hen. VIII. is written instead of 31 Hen. VIII.

P. 605. The Union hall is now completed <sup>n</sup>.

P. 608. In the rental of the Prince of Wales, in the 48th year of Edward III. the revenues of the earldom of Chester are set down at 1082*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* per ann. The Dee mills then produced a rent of 240*l.* per ann <sup>n</sup>.

P. 610. Mr. Cuit, an ingenious artist of Chester, by whom we were favoured with the drawing for the plate at p. 448, has lately published a set of etchings of the rows and other ancient buildings in the city : an inside view of the rows will also be found in the *Britannia Depicta*, which accompanies this work ; an idea could hardly be formed of them from mere description.

P. 623. In St. John's church is the following epitaph for the late Thomas Falconer Esq. a much esteemed inhabitant of this city, who has left proofs of his classical

<sup>n</sup> See p. 844.

<sup>n</sup> Record in the Tower.

erudition in his notes on Strabo, lately brought forwards to public notice, by the Oxford edition of that author, published by his nephew, the Rev. Thomas Falconer of Corpus-Christi college. “ M. S. Thomæ Falconer, armigeri, filii natu maximi Gulielmi Falconer Arm. qui per plures annos officium proprætoris hujus urbis gerebat, et Elizæ filiæ Ranulphi Wilbraham de Townsend in comitatu Cestriæ Armigeri, conjugis ejus. Vir fuit literarum elegantiss et morum comitate egregie ornatus, memoriâ præditus vix credibili, et industriâ quæ nec labori nec ægritudini diuturnæ succubuit. Maxima autem laus est quod benevolentia vitæ, integritate, et erga Deum pietate, nemini fuit impar. Obiit 4to die Septembris, A. D. 1792, ætatis suæ 56. Vale vir, summe pietatis pariter ac literarum exemplar, Vale. Frater \* tui amantissimus, hocce exiguum quamvis cœnotaphium † virtutibus tuis sacrum posuit.”

P. 626, 627. Among some notes taken by Francis Bassano, (who is said to have been a son-in-law of the last Randal Holme) in the Marquis of Buckingham's collection at Stowe, there is mention of several memorials of the Brownes of Nether-Legh and Upton, in Saint Mary's church, and that of Peter Cotton, descended from the Cottons of Cotton-Wood, 1716. It is stated in these notes, that the last Randal Holme, (who died in 1707) had a son of the same name, and four daughters, who died before him.

P. 632. Thomas Cowper Esq., ancestor of the late recorder of Chester, died in 1671; the year 1642 erroneously here inserted, was the date of his mayoralty.

P. 635, 636. The term for which ten of the boys are boarded is two years; the number of green-cap boys was increased to ninety in 1808; twelve guineas a year is now given for each boy's board. The permanent income of the schools in 1808, was 311*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* per ann. †; the annual subscriptions for 1808, were 365*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; the parochial collections 112*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*, making altogether the income of that year 739*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* Dr. Bell's method of instruction has been adopted both in these and in the Sunday schools, which have been lately revived to a considerable extent, and with great prospect of success; and in addition to the Sunday school for girls, in which there are about one hundred and ten children, six schools of industry, in each of which are forty children, have been established this year (1809); the vacancies in the schools of industry being filled up from time to time from the Sunday school. The new building, called the Union-Hall,

\* William Falconer, M. D. of Bath.

† He was buried in St. Michael's church.

‡ The account in p. 636, was given us in 1805, or 1806.

belonging to the Yorkshire merchants (used by them only at fair times) has been engaged as a Sunday school-room for the boys, and is capable of containing five or six hundred children. It is the intention of the benevolent promoters of this plan to make the Sunday-school a step to the green-coat and blue-coat schools. The annual subscription to this charity amounts to about 200*l. per ann.*

P. 641. The ancient mansion belonging to Mr. Ince, is now in the occupation of the Hon. Mrs. J. Grey.

P. 646. Mrs. Ravenscroft has lately sold her interest in the house at Davenham, to Mr. Harper.

P. 649. Part of Winsford-bridge is in the township of Wharton, in the parish of Davenham.

P. 650. l. 22. Read "the late Duke of Portland."

P. 655. We are informed that very little of the original building of Eaton-Hall has been retained, though the principal part of the house occupies the same site. A plan and elevation of the old house may be seen in Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*, Vol. ii. p. 35, 36.

P. 678. Since the account of Malpas has been printed we have been favoured with the communication of the following very remarkable entries in the parish register at that place, relating to the ravages of that dreadful disorder the plague, which swept away a whole family in the township of Bradley. The circumstance of a man being induced to dig his own grave, from the conviction that the slender and sickly remnant of his household were unable to provide him with the rites of sepulture, presents that dreadful calamity to our imagination, in a more awful and horrific view than any of the many distressing particulars we remember to have met with concerning it.

" 1625."

" Thomas Jefferie, servant to Thomas Dawson of Bradley, buried the xth daye of August, in the night, he dyed of the plague; — before this was buried a daughter of the sayd Thomas Dawson's, but not of the sicknes, as it is thought.

" Richarde, the sonne of Thomas Dawson of Bradley, (that died of the plague,) buried the xiiiiith daye of August, in the night, 1625, *nihil*.

" Raffe Dawson, sonne of the afforesayd Thomas, came from London about xxvth of July last past, and being sicke of the plague, died in his father's howse,

? See an account of the market and fair held there, p. 720.

and.

and soe infected the sayd howse and was buried, as it is reported, neare unto his father's howse.

“ Thomas Dawson of Bradley, died of the plague, and was buried the xvith daye of August, 1625, about III<sup>th</sup> of clocke, after midnight, *nihil*.

“ Elyzabeth, the daughter of the afforesayde Thomas Dawson, died of the plague of pestelence, and was bured the xx of August, 1625, *nihil*.

Anne, the wyffe of John Dawson, sonne of the afforred Thomas Dawson, died of the plague of pestelence, and was buried the xxth of August.

“ Richarde Dawson, (brother to the above named Thomas Dawson of Bradley) being sicke of the plague, and p'ceyveing he must die at y<sup>e</sup> tyme, arose out of his bed, and made his grave, and caused his nefew, John Dawson, to cast strawe into the grave, wch was not farre from the howse, and went and layd him down in the sayd grave, and caused clothes to be layd uppon, and soe dep'ted out of this world ; this he did, because he was a stronge man, and heavier than his sayd nefew, and an other wench were able to burye ; — he died about the xxiiijth of August ; thus much I was credibly tould he did, 1625.

“ John Dawson, sonne of the above-named Thomas, came unto his father, when his father sent for him, being sicke, and haveing layd him downe in a dich, died in it the xxixth daye of August 1625, in the night.

“ Rose Smyth servant of the above named Tho : Dawson, and the last of y<sup>e</sup> howsehold, died of plague, and was buried by W<sup>m</sup> Cooke, the vth daye of September, 1625, near unto the sayd howse.”

P. 644. Sir Richard Brooke has given the Minshull estate to his brother, Thomas Brooke Esq.

P. 712. The lands in Wardle, given by Sir John Crewe, consist of about twenty statute acres.

P. 716, *note*, ('). Joseph Lyon Esq. is dead, and has been succeeded in his estates by his son J. H. Lyon Esq.

P. 717. l. 29. The family name is written Kenworth in several ancient pedigrees.

P. 725. Birtles was purchased by Mr. Hibbert's father.

P. 726. Foxwist was sold by William Duncalfe, to Sir Urian Legh in 1609.

P. 727. Mr. Parker's seat at Aftle was formerly called the Milne-house, and was in Webb's time (1622) the seat of a branch of the Henshaws<sup>s</sup>, supposed to be extinct.

† Vale-Royal.

P. 745.

P. 745. By the conditions of the act of Parliament for the foundation of Christ church, or chapel in Macclesfield, Mr. Roe the founder was to give the sum of 200*l.* for augmenting the endowment of Rainow and Saltersford chapels.

P. 764. Sandbach crosses should have been mentioned in this page, with a reference to p. 459—461.

P. 781. In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1803, Part i. p. 497. is a figure and description of a gold ring, of the kind mentioned in Dr. Shaa's will, found near Coventry, on which were represented the five wounds of Christ, enamelled, with a motto for each, viz. "*The well of pity—the well of merci—the well of comfort—the well of gracy—and the well of everlastingh lyffe.*"

P. 786. Hyde married the heiress of Norbury about the reign of Edward II. See p. 388.

P. 787. The Rev. Rowland Egerton has lately, (in 1809) purchased the great tythes of Guilden-Sutton of Sir J. T. Stanley Bart., who has reserved the patronage of the living.

P. 797. l. 21. Now *Dowager* Marchioness of Lansdown.

P. 810. The present proprietor of a moiety of Huxley is *George Wilbraham* Esq. of *Delamere-Lodge*, by inheritance from the Wilbrahams of Nantwich, an ancestor of whom married the heiress of Joshua Clive. Mr. Aldersey purchased the *whole* of Lord Crewe's estate, except a few cottages.

P. 815. There is not any copy of Nixon's prophecies now at Oulton. Such a copy is spoken of in one of the printed accounts of his life.

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P. 384. We have recently learnt that the representative of the family of Hollingworth of Hollingworth in Mottram, is Benjamin Hollingworth Esq. of Dalston near London, whose uncle bequeathed the old hall at Hollingworth to his wife, by whom, or by her executors, it was sold to Mr. Samuel Hadfield of Manchester, uncle of Mr. George Hadfield, the present proprietor.



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\* Erroneously spelt Leman.

† Erroneously spelt Stoughton.

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- Wytymor, Jonas de*, his tomb in Trinity church, Chester, 633.

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*Zouch, William le*, justice of Chester, defends that city against the Barons, in the reign of Henry III., 559, 560.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.



## E R R A T A.

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Page 302 line 7, *before if read that.*

330. 372. 485. & 494. *for Somerford-Booths, read Somerford-Booth.*  
 338 — — *for Wighough read Wichough, and for Moseborow, read Mosebarrow.*  
 340. 369. l. 15. & 388. l. 2, *after Mottram dele St.*  
 344 — — *for Horton-cum-Poole read Horton-cum-Peele.*  
 361 — 8, *dele now rector of Coddington, and*  
 364 — — *note ('), for as were his descendants, read as his descendants have been.*  
 367 — 29, *for Storeton, read Hooton.*  
 372 — 12, *after a distant relation of, read Thomas Swettenham, above-mentioned, and*  
           *father of*  
 387 — 18, *after Nantwich, add and Stoke.*  
 396 — 10, *after Foxhurst read or Foxwilt.*  
 402 — 39, *for Daniel, read Daniels.*  
*Ibid* — ult. *for Hyde-Hall, read Hyde-Mill.*  
 403 — 2, *for John, read William.*  
 407 — 6, *of the notes, for Sutton, Downes, read Sutton-Downes.*  
 444 — 13, *for West-Kirkley, read West-Kirkby.*  
*ibid* — 26, *for near, read close to.*  
 445 — 21, *for Lombadic, read Lombardic.*  
 476 — 2, *after Chetwodes, read and Wetenhalla.*  
 484 — 21, *for 1770 read 1750.*  
 485 — in note (<sup>t</sup>) *dele Hulmewalfield.*  
 505 — 4, *for Jackson, read Jacson.*  
*ibid* — 24, *for in the early part, read about the middle.*  
 519 — 27, *for Mr. Barry, read the executors of the late Mr. Barry.*  
 540 — 20, *after John Egerton Esq. add M. P. for the city of Chester.*  
 545 — ult. *for emeritus read enutritus.*  
 551 — 12, *for Lord keeper of the great seal, read Baronet.*  
 552 — 3, *for Robert, read Samuel.*  
 567 — 25, *for partners, read parters.*  
 570 — 16, *after an exchequer-court, read is building.*  
 574 — 10, *for 1688, read 1691.*  
 578 — 2, *for map, read plan.*  
 633 — 21, and 22, *dele "one hundred and."*  
 635 — 27, *for three, read two.*  
 643 — 15, *dele who resides at the rectory.*  
 644 — 30, *for Mofely, read Mosley.*  
 — — 32, and penult. *for Luke, read Leeke.*  
 653 — 21, *for Earl, read Earls.*  
 668 — 2, *after five miles W. by S., read from Frodsham, eight miles N. by E.*  
 673 — 15, *for John, read William.*  
 685 — 3, *for whose father, read who.*

## ERRATA.

- Page 691 line 7, for only daughter, read daughter, and eventually sole heiress.  
693 — 13, for Leaman, read Seaman.  
721 — 16, for Simson read Roger.  
746 — ult. of the notes, for 1795, read 1796.  
759 — 10, for Stoughton, read Sloughter.  
772 — 20, for Harlington, read Haslington, bis.  
808 — 14, for Nantwich, read Northwich.  
814 — 14, for 1610, read 1601.
- 

In consequence of Some Additions made to the Appendix, after the Index of Names was printed, the following references should be added, and corrections made.

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### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES.

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Hadfield, 847.	Kenworth, 846.
Hollingworth, 847.	Laufdown, 847.
Hondford, 838, 839.	Wilbraham, 847.

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### CORRECTIONS.

In the references to Cholmondeley, for 841, read 840.  
- - - - - Egerton, for 846, read 847.  
- - - - - Malley, for 841, read 840.  
- - - - - Motterhead, for 839, read 838.  
- - - - - Scynsbury, for 840, read 839.

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## E R R A T A.

- Page 6 line 1, for *British* read *English*. l. 14, 15, *dele* on all sides.
- 24 — 4, & 24, for *Britany* read *Britanny*.
- 28 — note, (2), for 1749. read 1764.
- 30 — & p. 200, l. 30, for *John (Wilkiefon)*, read *William*.
- 32 — 18, for *county* read *country*.
- 49 — 26, for *began* read *begun*.
- 53 In the title of the *plate*, *dele* old part of.
- 54 In the title of the *plate*, for *presbytery* read *present choir*.
- 60 — 32, for *Basingbourn* read *Bassingbourn*.
- 68 — 1, for *marmor* read *marmore*.
- — 23, & l. 25, for *Sir Thomas Peyton Knight* read *Thomas Peyton Esq.*
- 70 — 4, for *Trumpington* read *Impington*.
- — 20, for *Hacomblyn* read *Hacombleyn*.
- 71 — 20, and p. 72, l. uit. for *abbey* read *priory*.
- 100 — 4, for 44 read 51.
- 101 — 23, for *at the schools* read *in the arts school*.
- 102 — 1, for the lecturer in mineralogy read the Woodwardian professor.
- — 6, for *North*, read *South*.
- 103 — 22, for *jesuits*, read *friers de Penitentiâ Jesu Christi*.
- — 26, for *new* read *two*.
- 105 — 12, for *seventeen* read *sixteen*.
- — 14, for *three* read *two*.
- 106 — 8, for *Parker* read *Parkin*.
- 109 — 10, for *ten* read *nine*.
- — 11, for *four* read *three*.
- 112 — 9, for *supientix* read *sapientix*.
- 114 — 27, for *church* read *chapel*.
- 117 — 33, 34, 35, for *master* read *president*.
- 121 — 1, *dele* *Dr. before Joseph Mede*.
- 123 — 27, for *buitt* read *founded*.
- 124 — 1, for *reverted* read *became forfeited to*.
- 127 — 4, *after north wall* read *of the ante-chapel*.
- 131 — 6, for *Garratt* read *Garrard*.
- 135 — 10, *dele* *again*.
- — 22, for 1101 read 1191.
- 146 — 19, for *at* read *near*.
- 147 — 10, for *half* read *near*.
- — 11, for *supposed to have been built out of the ruins* read *being part of the remains*.
- 150 — 2, *after Masters of Arts* read *Bachelors of Laws and Physic*.
- 185 — 14, for 15 read 16.
- 187 — 29, for *the keep* read *the hill of the keep, and earth-works*.
- 201 — — in the note for 1806 read 1680.
- 210 — 1, for *West* read *South-West*.
- 217 — 24, *after portraits* *add* *and other pictures*.
- 240 — 2, for *Whitfun-Tuesday* read *Whit-Tuesday*.
- 259 — 26, for *perfecit* read *perficit*.
- 267 — 4, for *central* read *western*.
- 269 — 14, for *Crabtree* read *Clamtre*.
- 280 — 14, for *Beltborough* read *Befsborough*.
- 287 — 15, for *Richard* read *Robert Rich*.
- 292 — 22, for *three* read *five*.











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