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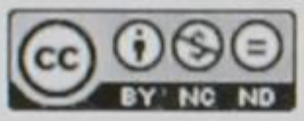
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The History of the Parish of Rochdale in the County of Lancaster

by Henry Fishwick

(Rochdale : James Clegg, 1889)



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HISTORY OF

THE PARISH OF ROCHDALE.



ROCHDALE PARISH CHURCH IN 1830.

FROM A DRAWING BY W. PHYSICK (IN THE AUTHOR'S POSSESSION).

The History of

The Parish of Rochdale

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

HENRY

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF GOODSHAW,"
"THE HISTORY OF GARSTANG,"
ETC., ETC.

ROCHDALE: PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES CLEGG, WHITE ABBEY.
LONDON: ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.
MDCCCLXXIII.

The History of

The Parish of Rochdale

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

BY

HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A.

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF GOOSNARGH," "THE HISTORY OF KIRKHAM,"
"THE HISTORY OF GARSTANG," "THE LANCASHIRE LIBRARY,"
ETC., ETC.

ROCHDALE:—PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES CLEGG, WET RAKE.

LONDON:—ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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Preface.

FOR many years the writing of a History of Rochdale has been with me a cherished idea; and with this object in view I have collected together every scrap of information bearing on the subject which chance or careful research has rendered available. It would be presumptuous on my part to say that the present volume contains all that is of historical interest relating to the parish; but I may say that, after considerable experience in the preparation of local histories, I believe that in its compilation every source of information known and available to the modern historian has been consulted. Whilst I have not been unmindful of what has been printed by Baines and Whitaker concerning the parish, I must state that, not having much faith in the accuracy of either of them, I have not accepted any statement of theirs without consulting the original authority for it, the result often being to confirm my unbelief.

The volumes of MSS. left by the late Canon Raines to the Chetham Library I have also carefully gone through, and have gleaned much valuable information therefrom, but in this case I have also invariably (where possible) consulted the original documents. The Record Office has yielded a very large amount of most valuable and interesting material which is now printed for the first time. The wills at Chester and York, the title deeds of the various estates, and the parish registers have enabled me to make family history a special

feature. The materials out of which this history has been compiled are so numerous and varied, that in making my selection, I have had to avoid on the one hand printing what may be of interest to no one, and on the other hand omitting what may be of interest to someone.

In conclusion, I have to thank all those (and they are many) who have given me valuable assistance during the progress of the work: amongst these are the Rev. Canon Maclure, vicar of Rochdale (to whom I am indebted for access to the church muniments and for the view of the Parish Church as it now is); Dr. Dean of Burnley; Dr. Salts, vicar of Littleborough; the Rev. E. Brierley, vicar of Whitworth; the Rev. F. P. Wright, vicar of Milnrow; the Rev. E. J. Russell, vicar of Todmorden; Dr. March of Rochdale; William Law, Esq., of Littleborough; Mr. W. Watts, F.G.S., of Piethorn; and C. E. H. Chadwyck Healey, Esq., of London. The collotype views of the Church and Grammar School were executed by Mr. A. Brothers, of St. Anne's Square, Manchester.

HENRY FISHWICK.

THE HEIGHTS, ROCHDALE,
October 31st, 1889.

Contents.

CHAPTER.		PAGES.
I.	General History	1 — 64
II.	Township History—Castleton	65 — 74
III.	,, Spotland	75 — 93
IV.	,, Hundersfield	94—112
V.	,, Butterworth	113—126
VI.	Ecclesiastical History—The Parish Church	127—163
VII.	,, Whitworth Church	164—176
VIII.	,, Todmorden Church	177—188
IX.	,, Littleborough Church	189—201
X.	,, Milnrow Church	202—215
XI.	,, 18th & 19th Centuries	216—222
XII.	The Vicars of Rochdale	223—249
XIII.	Nonconformity in Rochdale	250—269
XIV.	The Grammar School and Public Charities	270—285
XV.	Manor Court Records	286—303
XVI.	Old Houses and Old Families—Castleton	304—336
XVII.	,, ,, Butterworth	337—389
XVIII.	,, ,, Hundersfield	390—480
XIX.	,, ,, Spotland	481—528
XX.	Miscellany	529—540
	Appendix (The Protestation of 1642)	541—552
	Index of Surnames in the Protestation	553—554
	General Index	555—566
	Index of Names	567—588

Illustrations.

	PAGE.
Frontispiece, the Parish Church in 1830 *to face Title-page*	
Flint Implements found in Rochdale	4
Arrow Heads found at Troughedge and Hunger Hill	4
Torque found at Mowroad	5
Roman Road over Blackstone Edge	10
Silver Arm found at Tunshill	12
Stone Hammer found at Oakenrod	13
Arms of Rochdale (?) and Chadwick	16
Plan of the Glebe Estate *to face*	57
Rochdale "Stores," 1844 and 1867	62
Plan of Castle Hill in 1823 *to face*	65
Arms of the Borough of Rochdale	112
Capital of Pillar in Parish Church	136
Arms on Yeomanry Seats in Parish Church	145
The Parish Church in 1889 *to face*	152
Gartside Brass in Parish Church	156
Oak Boss in Roof of Trinity Chapel	163
Whitworth Chapel in 1849	164
Todmorden Chapel	177
Littleborough Chapel in 1770	189
Milnrow Chapel in 1772	202
Rochdale Parish Church	249
Grammar School in 1840 *to face*	272
Castleton Hall	306
Newbold in 1840	313
The Wood in 1860	336
Butterworth Hall in 1840	337
Belfield Hall	340
Plan of Belfield Hall	346
Clegg Hall in 1831	351
Turnough in 1831	356
Schofield in 1829	358
Birchinley in 1889	368
Wildhouse in 1840	371
The Holt in 1834	376
Ladyhouse in 1840	379
Buckley Hall in 1800	390
„ Chapel in 1829	395
Stubley Hall in 1889	424
Windy Bank in 1840	436
Town House (Lower) in 18th Century	443
Todmorden Hall	468
Chadwick Hall, South Front	486
„ „ North Front	490
Oakenrod in 1830	492
Arms of Royds	511
Spotland Gate in 1889	516
Great House (Amen Corner) in 1889	524
Wolstenholme Hall in 1830	528
Charm or Exorcism against Witchcraft *to face*	534

History of the Parish of Rochdale.

CHAPTER I.

General History.

THE original parish of Rochdale was one of the most extensive in the Hundred of Salford. It was bounded on the north and north-west by the portions of the Parish of Whalley comprised in the Forest of Rossendale and the Township of Cliviger; on its south-west was the Parish of Bury; in a southern direction it extended to Middleton and Oldham, and its eastern boundary was the division line between the Counties of York and Lancaster. Saddleworth, for ecclesiastical purposes, was also considered as forming a part of Rochdale; but, as it is entirely in the County of York, and its connection with the parish (except for church purposes) is very slight, its annals will not form a part of this history.

From a very early period Rochdale has consisted of four divisions, viz.:—Hundersfield, Spotland, Castleton, and Butterworth. These have been again divided and sub-divided. The following is the present arrangement, as shown by the Ordnance Survey.

	Statute Acres.		
CASTLETON.	*a.*	*r.*	*p.*	*a.*	*r.*	*p.*
Hamlet of Newbold - - - - - - - - - - -	309	3	35			
,, Lower Lane - - - - - - - - - - -	285	1	4			
,, Buersill - - - - - - - - - - - -	1141	1	17			
Hamlet of Marland, including Castleton Glebe -	2075	0	26			
				3811	3	2

HUNDERSFIELD.

		a. r. p.	*a. r. p.*
Township of WUERDLE AND WARDLE.			
Hamlet of Wardle		2536 0 31	
,, Wuerdle		986 3 11	
			3523 0 2
Township of BLATCHINWORTH AND CALDERBROOK.			
Hamlet of Blatchinworth		2221 0 30	
,, Calderbrook		2558 2 17	
			4780 3 7
Township of WARDLEWORTH			766 0 14
Township of TODMORDEN AND WALSDEN.			
Hamlet of Todmorden		2954 2 17	
,, Walsden		4052 2 13	
			7007 0 30

SPOTLAND.[1]

Hamlet of Brandwood (Higher end)	1573 3 16	
,, ,, (Lower end)	1293 3 27	
,, Whitworth (Higher end)	1247 0 37	
,, ,, (Lower end)	2894 1 32	
,, Catley Lane	2701 2 25	
,, Wolstenholme and Cheesden	2262 1 28	
,, Woodhouse Lane	262 1 11	
,, Healey	852 3 27	
,, Clay Lane	90 2 29	
,, Chadwick	716 3 10	
,, Falinge	277 3 16	
		14,174 0 18

BUTTERWORTH.

Hamlet of Clegg	1676 3 35	
,, Low House	1278 0 23	
,, Wild House	264 1 3	
,, Belfield	457 3 1	
,, Bleakedgate-cum-Roughbank	2751 0 17	
,, Butterworth Hall	738 1 11	
,, Haugh	599 0 13	
		7765 2 23
		41,828 2 16

[1] Spotland, for rating purposes, is divided into "Spotland Further Side," "Spotland Nearer Side," and "Whitworth and Brandwood."

The total area of the parish is 41,828 statute acres. From the north end of Todmorden to the southern boundary of Buersill is nearly ten miles, and from the west of Cheesden to the eastern extremity of the parish is something over that distance.

At what period in the world's history the tops of the hills which almost surround Rochdale became the abodes of men is a question more for the geologist than the historian, but that a race of neolithic men did dwell there is placed beyond doubt.

The following is a list of twenty-five places in the parish where, from time to time, numbers of flint implements and chippings have been found, which shows how wide spread was the area in which these early tool-makers dwelt.

Blackstone Edge.
Brandwood Moor.
Brown Wardle Hill.
Cow Heys, Crow Knoll, } Haugh.
Culvert Clough, Bleakedgate-cum-Roughbank.
Flower Scar Hill, Todmorden.
Foxton Edge, Bleakedgate-cum-Roughbank.
Hades Hill, Hundersfield.
Helpit Edge, Haugh.
Hunger Hill, Knoll Hill, } Catley Lane.
Longden End Moor, Lowhouse.
Lower Moor, Todmorden.
Middle Hill, Wardle.
Ramsden, Walsden.
Robin Hood's Bed.
Rough Hill, Rushy Hill, } Wardle.
Tooter Hill, Brandwood.
Trough Edge, Brandwood.
Turnshaw Hill, Catley Lane.
Wardle.
Wardle Moor.
Well i'th' Lane

These flints have generally been discovered on the neolithic floor which is found about 1300 feet above the sea level, and is covered with a layer of peat, varying from one to ten feet in depth. It is only reasonable to suppose that where the flint worker carried on his vocation he would make for himself some kind of a shelter; it might be a primitive earth dwelling, or simply a hole in the hill side.

The flints which have been found consist of knives, scrapers, arrow-heads, spear-tips, and very small implements, possibly used for boring eyes in bone needles. They are all unpolished.



FLINT IMPLEMENTS FOUND IN ROCHDALE.

BARBED ARROW-HEADS.

1.—Walsden Moor.
2.—Middle Hill.
3.—Hunger Hill.
4.—Knoll Hill.
5.—Do.
6.—Blackstone Edge.
7.—Foxstone Edge.

LEAF-SHAPED ARROW-HEADS.

8.—Tooter Hill.
9.—Culvert Clough.
10.—Tooter Hill.

THUMBSTONES.

11.—Trough Edge.
12.—Knoll Hill.
13.—Middle Hill.
14.—Do.
15.—Middle Hill.

KNIVES, OR CUTTING FLAKES.

16.—Knoll Hill,
17.—Do.
18.—Middle Hill.
19.—Do.
20.—Trough Edge.
21.—Knoll Hill.
23.—Do.
24.—Do.

POLISHED CELT.

22.—Wardle.

The celt (No. 22) measures exactly 4¾ inches; in the drawing it is 1¾. The others are in the like proportion, viz.:—1 to 2½.[1]

The polished celt (No. 22) must not be associated with the other implements, as it was found in river gravel during the excavation of a reservoir. Barbed arrow-heads in the district are of extreme rarity; the one found on Trough Edge a few months ago is therefore of special interest.[2]



ARROW-HEADS FOUND ON TROUGH EDGE AND HUNGER HILL (1888).

[1] These were found by Mr. Robert Law, Mr. Thomas Horsfall, the Rev. J. Ducker, and Dr. H. C. March; and to the latter I am indebted for the photograph from which the above is taken.

[2] Found by Dr. March. The above are the exact size of the originals.

Except perhaps in some of the place-names there is little evidence of the existence of a Celtic population in the parish. By some antiquaries it is maintained that to this race we owe the names of the Rivers Roch and Beal. The former was anciently spelt Ratche, or Rach. Other names —such as *dol*, a hill (Doldrum); *cronk*, a hill (Cronkeyshaw); *cwm*, a hollow in the hills (Cowm)—bear out the supposition that in some parts of the district the early Britons were settled. Names of places are of great value as corroborative of evidence, but must be received with great caution as affording positive proof.

In 1832 a very interesting relic was found at Mowroad in Calderbrook. Whilst a workman was stubbing up the root of an oak tree (which was felled thirty-five years before) he came upon a large flag-stone, and on breaking it he found below it a bronze torque. A writer to "Archæologia" at the time thus describes it:



TORQUE FOUND AT MOWROAD.

"One half consisted of a row of nine wreaths of bead-work, having five divisions, similarly indented, except on the inner side, and united together by means of bits of metal like small pulleys; and into each end of this half of the instrument is fixed an iron tooth, made to fit lightly into the socket of the other half, so as to embrace that part of the body which it was intended to ornament or distinguish. The second half is of a more simple form, having the metal squared, and the edges of the inner and outer circumference considerably raised, and the interspaces much tooled and ornamented. At each end of this half there is also one of the wreaths before mentioned raised upon a square or base."[1]

It weighs one pound five ounces, and the workmanship of it is exquisite. Mr. John Evans considers it to be a torque of the late Celtic period.[2]

That a Roman road passed through Rochdale there is no doubt, but the course which it took has never been satisfactorily settled. Whitaker, writing in 1771, asserts[3] that a Roman road went through Ancoats, and passed by Street Fold in Moston, Street Bridge in Chadderton, and Street

[1] "Archæologia," xxv. 595.
[2] "Bronze Implements," 1881. The torque is in possession of the Lord of the Manor.
[3] "History of Manchester," Book I., Chap. v., Sec. ii.

Gate in Royton, and "pointed evidently for Littleborough and Ilkley" in Yorkshire. He also adds that about a quarter of a mile from Rochdale, near the road from Oldham, "it was cut through in making a marle pit, and appeared several yards in breadth, and deeply gravelled."

Baines, in his "History of Lancashire,"[1] says that the Roman road "traversed Castleton from the south-west to the north-east in forming the communication between Rochdale and Ilkley." This, of course, does not agree with Whitaker's account. In the absence of more satisfactory evidence than that furnished by Whitaker and Baines, we must consider the course of the road towards Manchester, after leaving Littleborough, as undefined. From time to time various Roman antiquities have been discovered, but the *locale* of these finds only adds to the difficulty of definitely fixing the road's direction.

In 1626 we have undoubted evidence that the highway over Blackstone Edge passed the farm called "The Knoll," near Lydgate (see Lightowlers), and in all probability it then turned slightly to the north. The highway from Littleborough to Yorkshire is referred to by John Ogilby, the King's cosmographer, in 1675. He writes:—"At Battings Inn, at 47 miles 2 [furlongs], ascend Blackstone Edge, a great eminence, at the top whereof you enter Lancashire and descend again 14 furlongs, your way continuing hilly, you cross Windy Bank." On his map the county boundary is marked 48 miles 2 furlongs from York, and Windy Bank at 51 miles, a difference of 22 furlongs; hence the 14 furlongs measure the actual descent, which begins a little to the west of the White House. From the county boundary along the paved or Roman way the distance is 16 furlongs, but between the same points by the old turnpike road it is 22 furlongs, thus proving that the road on Ogilby's map was not what is now known as the Roman road. Sayer's map, printed in 1728, shows two roads; one turning to the north after passing Stormer Hill, and the other (the Roman road) going in a perfectly straight line to the county boundary. This road, he states, extended from Manchester to Aldborough, near Borough Bridge, and was eight yards wide,[2] and all paved with stone. Warburton, the Somerset Herald, in his map drawn in 1753, also shows the Roman road. [See p. 9.]

From Windy Bank, near Littleborough, to the division line between Lancashire and Yorkshire are more or less distinct traces of what is by the best authorities believed to be the Roman road. The portion which has

[1] First Edition (1836), Vol. ii., p. 639.

[2] This must have included the ditches.

been best preserved is that which ascends the hill in a perfectly straight line, commencing at about 1600 yards from the summit. A considerable part of this is covered with an overgrowth of heath, but here and there short lengths of it have been cleared. The road is fifteen feet wide, exclusive of a curbstone, paved with squared blocks of stone, and slightly arched, so as to throw the water into a trench which runs on either side. At the top of the hill the road becomes wider for a short distance, after which it resumes its ordinary width, passing the spot marked on the ordnance map as "intrenchments," and so on to Yorkshire. It is scarcely necessary to say that the so-called intrenchments are certainly not of Roman origin; and if they are anything more than disused stone quarries they may have been constructed in the time of the great Civil War.

In the exact centre of the road, where it ascends the hill at a steep gradient (in some part of one in four and a third), is a course of hard millstone grit stones, which have been carefully tooled and set together so as to form a continuous line from the top to the bottom. These blocks of stone are three feet eight inches wide, and in them has been cut (or as some think worn) a trough, about seventeen inches wide at the top and a little over one foot at the bottom, and of a depth of some four inches. The bottom of this trough, wherever it has been uncovered, has always been found to be slightly curved. On either side of the trough are clear marks of wheel tracks, the one nearest the centre of the road being the broadest and deepest. This is not the place to enter into the vexed question of the origin and use of this stone trough. The following theories, *inter alia,* have been promulgated:

That the trough was made for drainage, or to serve as an aqueduct, by the Romans. This idea is untenable; the convexity of the bottom of the trough would alone be fatal to it.

That the stones were placed there in modern times, and were worn by the feet of packhorses. To this may be replied that, given a fairly paved road up the side of a hill, a narrow footway of smooth stone would be utterly useless, if not dangerous.

Dr. H. C. March,[1] who has made this bit of road a special study, maintains that the central stones were placed there by the Romans, the trough being chiselled out by the mason, and that its use was to enable the drivers of waggons and chariots to "skid" the wheels of their vehicles whilst they descended the hill.

[1] See "Transactions of Lanc. and Ches. Ant. Soc., p. 73 *et seq.*

The late Mr. W. Thompson Watkins, in his "Roman Lancashire,"[1] gives it as his opinion that "the groove was made for the purpose of receiving and steadying the central wheel of a three-wheeled vehicle."

There are many strong arguments adducible in favour of Dr. March's theory, if it is taken for granted that the trough is of Roman origin, but there is one fact against it, viz.:—that the construction of this trough must have been a work requiring much time and expense, and it is questionable if it would not have been quite as easy and effective to have used the "skid" on the pavement already constructed.

It has also been suggested that the trough stones may be of a much more recent date than the road itself; and as they have only been found (with the curved bottoms) where the gradient is very steep, and the line of the road perfectly straight, they may have been used to guide the wheels of small trollies laden with blocks of stone, and let down by a rope (or chain) and a "drum" from the quarries on the top of the hill. In 1824 the *then* old stone quarries on the top of Blackstone Edge were still worked, and large blocks of stone, 22 feet long, 3 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 6 inches in depth, were taken from them for the engine bed of a woollen mill at Townhouse; and when these were brought down the hill in a four-wheeled lurry, three or four large stones were put on the ground behind the lurry and fastened to it by a chain, to act as a brake.[2] These peculiar grooved stones are also found on portions of the Yorkshire side of Blackstone Edge, where the descent is rapid. Coming towards Littleborough the road is lost in the mossy land north of Lydgate, but pieces of it are again visible at Windy Bank. On the ordnance map this road is marked as "the old packhorse road;" but there are also indicated two other roads, the old and the new turnpike. The latter was constructed in accordance with an Act of Parliament passed in 1734, and entitled, "An Act to repair and widen the road from Rochdale leading over a certain craggy mountain called Blackstone Edge."

About the year 1695 Celia Fiennes, sister of the third Viscount Saye and Sele, crossed Blackstone Edge on horseback, and has left the following graphic description of the journey:—"I came to Blackstone Edge, noted all over England for a dismal high precipice and steep in the ascent and descent on either end; it's a very moorish ground all about, and even just at the top, tho' so high that you travel on a causeway, which is very trouble-

[1] P. 60. [2] Palatine Note Book, III., 173.

some, as it's a moist ground; so, as is usual on these high hills, they stagnate the aire, and hold mist and raines almost perpetually. . . . . As I entered Lancashire the mist began to lessen, and as I descended on this side ye fog more and more went off, and a little raine fell, tho' at a little distance in our view the sun shone on ye vale, wch indeed is of a large extent here, and ye advantage of soe high a hill, wch is at least two mile up, discovers the ground beneath as a fruitfull valley, full of inclosures and cut hedges and trees. That wch adds to the formitableness of Blackstone Edge is that on ye one hand you have a vast precipice almost the whole way, both as one ascends and descends, and in some places the precipice is on either hand."[1]

The road here referred to could not possibly be the Roman road, as by no stretch of imagination could the flat moorland on either side of it be described as precipitous.

In 1724 Daniel Defoe went over Blackstone Edge in the midst of a heavy snowstorm, which so terrified him that he had no time to notice the Roman road. It is, however, clear from the description which he gave that after leaving the Knoll he also travelled on what is now known as the old turnpike, and not on the paved Roman road. He writes:—"Here, tho' it was but the middle of August, and in some places the harvest hardly got in, we saw the mountain covered with snow; but we found the people had a way of mixing the warm with the cold together, for the store of good ale which flows plentifully in these mountainous parts of the country seems abundantly to make up for all the inclemencies of the weather." Over Blackstone Edge "we had to travel through trackless drifts of snow. When near the top we talked of returning, but one of the company called out that he could see over the top into Yorkshire," so they went on, but found the way "very frightful narrow and deep, with a hollow precipice on the right. After we had gone a little way this hollow appeared deeper and deeper," and though they led their horses they found it "very troublesome and dangerous."[2]

As in 1734 the old turnpike road required an Act of Parliament to repair it, it is evident that even at that time the Roman road had long ago fallen into disuse. On the next page is a view of a portion of the road which was uncovered in 1883. It is about half up the steep ascent.

[1] Through England on a Side Saddle in the Time of William and Mary" (1889), p. 186.
[2] "A Tour through the Island of Great Britain."



ROMAN ROAD ON BLACKSTONE EDGE.[1]

The Rev. J. Whitaker[2] appears to have been the originator of the idea that Littleborough was a Roman station, and that the site of the camp was at the place now known as Castle, which is situate about half a mile to the north of the bottom of the steepest part of the Roman road over Blackstone Edge. For this statement there is not the slightest authority, and yet it has been repeated so often that one might almost be tempted to believe it to be true. Whitaker, in his "History of Whalley,"[3] calls Castle a subordinate fort; but Baines[4] does not hesitate to say that "the site of the works rears its lofty front a little to the east of the village, and bears on its summit the ancient mansion of Windy Bank." Notwithstanding this, there is not the slightest trace of either camp or intrenchment, nor has there ever been found so much as a broken pot, or a mutilated coin, to point to either Castle or Windy Bank as the site of Roman occupation. Although the unsupported supposition of the historian of Manchester cannot be accepted as proof of the existence of a station here, we find traces of Roman occupation within a short distance of Littleborough. At Town-

[1] From a photograph taken by the Rev. E. H. Aldridge. This bit of the road was dug out in the presence of Dr. March and myself.—H. F.

[2] "Hist. of Manchester," I., 232.

[3] Vol. I., p. 43, new edition.

[4] "Hist. of Lanc., I., 507. Edit. 1868.

house (about half a mile to the west of Littleborough Church), early in this century, several Roman coins were dug up, together with some Roman tiles; but, except a solitary coin, all of them have since disappeared.[1]

Towards the end of the last century a quantity of Roman coins were found at Castlemere, near the town of Rochdale, some of which were of the time of Claudius. Dr. Whitaker, in his first edition of his "History of Whalley,"[2] mentions this find, and in this, as well as all of the succeeding editions, Castlemere is stated to be the place where the coins were dug up. Baines repeats this in his first edition of the "History of Lancashire," but in the revised edition of 1868 Castle is substituted for Castlemere.[3] The latter is no doubt the correct reading.

In 1804 a small iron box was exhumed at Underwood, in Rochdale, which contained a rouleau of Roman brass coins, folles of the Lower Empire. Some of these Dr. Whitaker saw, and those he described[4] as being of Constantius Cæsar, Maximian, Dioclesian, and the Emperor Tacitus. The obverse of "apparently a Dioclesian is nearly effaced; the reverse a figure of Moneta, with a balance and cornucopiæ, circumscribed *Moneta. S. avgg. et. Caes.* The legend on the reverse of all the rest is the same:—*Genio. popvli. Romani*, the figure a genius, with a patera and cornucopiæ.[5] The box and its contents were then in the possession of John Crossley, Esq., of Scaitcliffe.[6]

The most interesting *find* in the district was that which was unearthed in 1793 by some workmen in a stone quarry at Tunshill, in the Township of Butterworth. It is all the more interesting from the fact that if the *iter* went direct from Littleborough to Royton it must have passed very near to the place where the discovery was made, which consisted of the right arm and hand of a silver statue of Victory, of undoubted Roman origin. It is nine and a half inches long, and weighs six ounces, and is made of pure silver. The hand is solid, but the arm is hollow. An armlet surrounds the arm above the elbow, and from another on the wrist is suspended a silver plate, upon which is inscribed (by small holes drilled through it)

VICTORIÆ LEG. VI. VIC. VAL. RUFUS V.S.L.M.

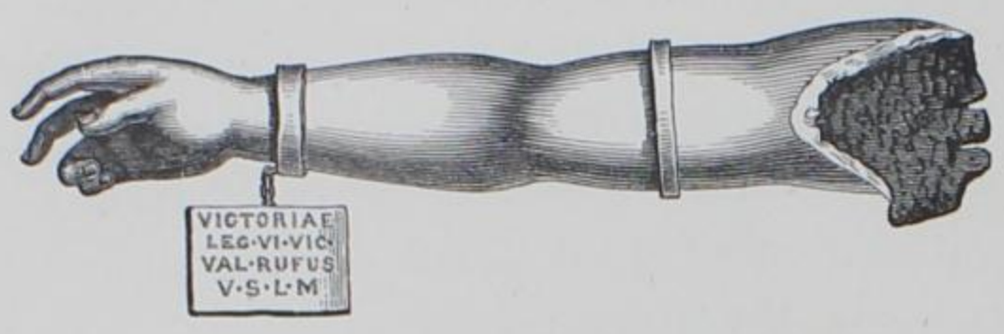
[1] The odd coin is in the possession of H. H. Howorth, Esq., M.P. [2] Pub. 1801.

[3] Vol. I., p. 507. [4] "Hist. of Whalley, 3rd edition, I., 545.

[5] Mr. W. Thompson Watkin ("Roman Lanc.," p. 234) says that the inscription should probably be *Moneta. S. avgg. et caess, N. N.* In the field, *S. F.* In the exergue, *Itr.* The coin, he adds, would be a second brass.

[6] Owing to the long absence abroad of the heir of Scaitcliffe, it has not been possible to ascertain if these coins are still there.

"To Victory of the Sixth Legion the victorious Valerius Rufus performs his vow willingly to a deserving object." The complete statue must have been about two feet high. This valuable relic was given to Dr. Whitaker, from whom it descended to his grand-daughter, Mrs. Guthrie, of Trewyn, in Monmouthshire, who is its present possessor.[1]



SILVER ARM FOUND AT TUNSHILL.

After the final departure of the Romans, about the year 420, for something like six centuries England was the scene of repeated wars. At one time it was an invasion from without, and at another disruption within. First came the Scots and Picts, against whom the Britons called in the Saxons; who, having driven many of their opponents into Lancashire and Yorkshire, themselves turned against the natives, and ultimately established the Saxon Heptarchy. Then followed repeated wars between the Anglo-Saxons and the Danes, and finally, in 1066, the Norman conquest.

That in the parish of Rochdale there were settled both Saxons and Danes there can be little doubt; for, as Dr. Johnson puts it, language is "the pedigree of nations," and the place-names of the district furnish many words of Danish, Scandinavian, Norse, and Anglo-Saxon origin. The following are some of the names of places mentioned in very early deeds, mostly of the Twelfth or Thirteenth Centuries, viz.:

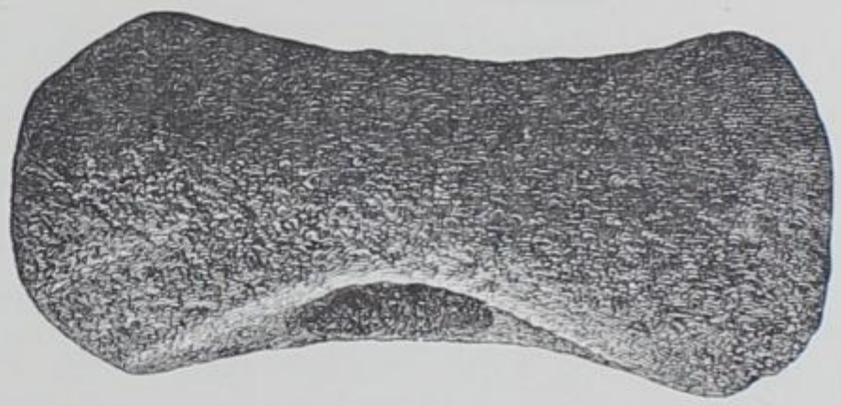
Ailwarderod.
Bagslate.
Barkelbothehurst.
Blacklache.
Bikeden.
Bradeschagh.
Blackestrindheued.
Cateshagh.
Coppedehurst.
Chadwicke.
Crey.
Dinge.
Donnisbothe.
Ealees.
Erridge.
Fagheside.
Feniscoles.
Falinge.
Gorsichelache.
Hallstude.
Hamelstonclogh.
Horewithres.
Irefford.
Kirshawe.
Kilwardescroft.
Kumbebrok.
Lefurihebruge.

[1] "Gent. Mag.," 1802, pp. 9, 17, 845. "Hist. of Whalley," 3rd edition, I., 45. "Roman Lanc.," p. 212.

Lightolres.
Lomylache.
Midelclogh.
Maxicrofteshore.
Mikelpughill.
Merclogh.
Nabbe.
Naden.
Okeden.
Prickshaw.
Redferne.
Risenhalgh.
Roughslakhull.
Schayueralghes.
Sellfullache.
Smythecumbesrode.
Thistilirode.
Twofaldhee.
Warmhold.
Wardle.
Warland.
Withers.
Ugshutt.

This list might be very much extended, and to it added many personal names. The early settlers in the district made clearings out of the forests, which they called "rods;" hence we have Brotherod,. Oakenrod, Coptrod. In the sheltered places they took up their abodes and called them "shaws," which gave us Smallshaw, Prickshaw. Reaches of the river they termed "wicks," as in Chadwick. And thus a host of witnesses might be called forth to testify to the character of the races who occupied much of the soil in the parish before the Conquest.

A stone hammer head[1] which probably belongs to this period was found some twenty years ago in the old bed of the Roch, near Oakenrod. It is four inches long, and the hole for the handle is unusually large, being nearly an inch in diameter. The clearly marked ridge which runs on two sides of the stone would seem to indicate that the implement was made in imitation of a cast metal one.



STONE HAMMER HEAD FOUND AT OAKENROD.

Christianity was introduced into these northern parts early in the Seventh Century, and soon afterwards many churches were built, and coeval with them were erected castles, which became the strongholds of Saxon chiefs. It is believed that at least twelve of these castles were in Lancashire, south of the Ribble, and one of them was probably at Rochdale. [See Castleton.]

[1] Now in the author's possession.

In the time of Edward the Confessor [A. D. 1041-1066] most of the land in Rochdale was held under the King by Gamel the Thane;[1] but, as William the Conqueror, at the Battle of Hastings, promised to reward his followers if victorious by gifts of English lands, it followed as a natural sequence that the Saxon would be displaced, and his possessions bestowed elsewhere.

About the year 1068 the Honor of Lancaster, and a large number of manors in Lancashire and elsewhere, were granted by the King to Roger de Poictou; and by some authorities it is held that one of these manors was that of Rochdale. Some colour is given to this supposition by the recorded fact that Gamel the Thane held some of his Rochdale land by the gift of this favourite of the Conqueror. All that the "Domesday Book" records of Rochdale is the following:

Gamel the Thane held under King Edward two hides[2] of land in Recedham [Rochdale], and had them free from all duties (or customs) but the following six, viz.:—theft, heinfare,[3] forestel,[4] breach of the peace, not keeping the term set by the reeve, and continuing a fight after an oath to the contrary, and not appearing at the day appointed by the proper officer. The fine for these offences was forty shillings. The rest of these lands were free from all customs except danegeld,[5] and they are partly free from danegeld. Gamel held two carucates of land by the gift of Roger de Poictou.

In Saxon times there were three classes of Thanes, distinguished by the manner in which they held their lands. Those of the highest importance had their manors direct from the King, as was the case with Gamel; to whom, moreover, many valuable privileges appear to have been granted. From the wording of the great Survey it seems clear that under the late King, Gamel had held the manor, and that at the time the survey was made he held two carucates of land under Roger de Poictou, who in all probability had become possessed of a portion of the deposed Saxon chief's estate.

Of the subsequent history of the Gamel family little is known. By deed without date,[6] John, the son of Gamel, *quit claimed* Thomas, the

[1] Domesday Book.

[2] A measure of land which is variable and uncertain.

[3] A heinfare was a fine for flight for murder, for killing the lord's servant or hind, or for inveigling him away.

[4] Forestel=assault or obstruction on the King's highway.

[5] Originally a fee paid to the Danes, but afterwards appropriated by the King.

[6] Deed in possession of the late J. P. Entwisle, Esq. [Raines, MS., xxxvii.B, 125.]

son of Henry de Botterworth, one acre of land between Stanibroc and Blacklache in Butterworth, subject to the customary annual rent; and doubtless it was the same John whose name appears as a witness to a deed of about the same date, whereby Richard de Garthside granted lands in Butterworth to "Dno. Joh. de Buron."[1]

It has been suggested that Gamel afterwards took the name of Rachdale,[2] and that he was the ancestor of Margaret, one of the daughters and co-heiress of ..... Ryshedall, or Rachdale, who married Sir John Saville. Of this there is not the slightest evidence, and it is quite clear that no family of the name of Rachdale ever held the manor.

Amongst the very large number of early charters which have been preserved, referring to the parish, in only one case is there any evidence of the existence of a family called Rachdale. In a deed of Twelfth or early Thirteenth Century, as a witness occurs "Mich. de Rach. and Clement his brother;[3] but this is almost certainly the same man who is frequently at this time found as an attesting witness, and described as Michael Clericus de Clegg. After a very careful and exhaustive search at the College of Arms and elsewhere, the conclusion is forced upon one that the statement so frequently repeated as to the marriage between Saville and Rachdale, and the acquisition of the manor thereby, is entirely untrue. Hunter, in his "South Hallamshire,"[4] says that before 1400 John Saville married Margaret, the heiress of Rishworth. Flower's "Visitation of Yorkshire" merely states that Saville's wife was one of the co-heiresses of Ryshedall, and gives the arms; whilst Philpot's "Ordinary"[5] (time of Charles I.), after describing the same coat, adds, "Rachdale, Rishdale." As will subsequently be seen, the Savilles were not Lords of the Manor at any time; and, although their descendants have quartered the arms usually assigned to the Rachdale or Rishdale family, the proof of any connection between that family and this parish is absolutely wanting. It is, however, somewhat curious that these arms and those borne by the Chadwicks of Chadwick should differ only in the tinctures.

At a much later period there was a family called Ratchedalle, one of whom in 1587, was a household servant of Lady Derby; and in the "Stanley Poems," said to have been written in 1562 by Thomas Stanley, Bishop of Sodor and Man, occur the following lines:[6]

[1] "Black Book of Clayton" (Townley MSS.), in possession of Dr. Dean.
[2] Baines' "Hist. of Lanc," Whitaker's "Whalley," &c.
[3] Couch. Book of Whalley, p. 778 (Chet. Soc.)
[4] Vol. II., p. 301.
[5] MS. in College of Arms, p. 26.
[6] Stanley Papers (Chet. Soc.), Part II., p. 38, 149 and 267.

"At Harden, at Knowsley, made a great reparation,
And one Robert Rachdall was his free mason." [1]



Arms said to have been borne by a family called Ratchdale [? Rishdale], but for which there is no authority. *Sable* an inescutcheon within an orle of martlets, *argent*. [2]



Arms of Chadwick of Chadwick. *Gules* an inescutcheon within an orle of martlets, *argent*.

Roger de Poictou, falling into royal disfavour, was, about the year 1080, deprived of his estates; and some of them, *inter alia* the lordship of Blackburnshire and the Honor of Pontefract, were conferred upon Sir Ilbert de Lacie, and it is more than probable that the bulk of his possessions in this parish passed into the same hands; other portions went to Henry de Saville and the Eland family [see Township History]. In 1178, John de Lascy, Constable of Chester, founded the monastery of Stanlawe, and he certainly at that time held the manor of Rochdale, and had for some time been accustomed to hold his courts there. The following translation of his grant to the freemen of the parish places this beyond all doubt:

"John de Lascy, Constable of Chester, &c. We will acquit the men of Rochdale and their heirs for ever of judgments in the County of Lancaster and in the Wapentake of Salford; moreover, we will grant to them that our pleas in Rochdale shall not be held unless from month to month, which formerly were held from fortnight to fortnight, and that the attorneys of the knights and free men of Rochdale shall receive in the same pleas or .... whatever shall be fitting for the lord, by the assent of our Steward and Court.

For this acquittance and grant the said knights and free tenants of Rochdale gave to me thirty marks of silver.

I, John de Lascy, and my heirs, will warrant the said acquittance and grant to the said knights and free men of Rochdale for ever." [3]

[1] In 1380 a William Rachdale was Rector of Hanley, in Cheshire, and another of the same name was High Sheriff of that County in 1404. In Liverpool, in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, there were several Ratchdales. They may have sprung from the Valley of the Roche in Yorkshire, in which stands Roche Abbey. The absence of the name in all records concerning Rochdale is significant.

[2] James Dearden, soon after he purchased the Manor, assumed these arms, with the field *argent*. The arms of the Borough of Rochdale, granted in 1857, are *Argent* a woolpack encircled by two branches of the cotton tree, flowered and conjoint, proper: a bordure *sable* charged with eight martlets of the field. Motto, "Crede signo."

[3] "Black Book of Clayton."

John de Lascy was succeeded by his son, Roger de Lascy, surnamed "Hell," on account of his military ferocity; who, towards the close of the century conferred upon Stanlawe the advowson of the church of Rochdale. [See Chapter VI.] Edmund de Lascy (grandson of Roger) had granted to him by royal charter, dated 25 Hen. III. [A. D. 1240-41], a right to hold a weekly market on Wednesdays, at Rachedale, and an annual fair on the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude (28th October).[1]

The Earl of Lincoln claimed such authority in Rochdale that, by his bailiff for the manor (Gilbert de Clifton), he resisted the High Sheriff's officers in their attempts to make distresses for debt,[2] and declared that he would continue to do so *vi et armis,* placing "posse against posse." An inquisition was instituted to enquire into this, on 18th March, 1276, before the sheriff and the keepers of the crown pleas, by Benedict Girnet, Thurstan de Holland, and others. The jury returned a verdict in the King's favour.[3]

A few years after this (20 Edw. I., A.D. 1291-2) the Earl was required to show by what right he held the market and fair, when he produced the charter already referred to, and admitted that for his lands in Rochdale he owed suit to the County Court of Lancaster and Wapentake of Salford. His claim was allowed to be good.[4]

At this time deer were found in abundance in the forest of Rossendale, and also in many parts of Rochdale, and the unlawful killing of them was a serious offence, as the following instance will illustrate:—Nicholas de Werdhyll having slain a fat buck in the "forest of Rachdale," Laurence de Knoll, Adam de Halshaye [? Balshaw], Andrew de Halgh, and Adam de Grymshawe, keepers of the Earl's forests, came by night, seized him and dragged him to Clitheroe Castle, where he was imprisoned until he paid a fine of four marks. Nicholas de Werdhyll afterwards indicted the keepers, but they were dismissed.[5]

By charter dated at "Ittenhill" [Ightenhill] on the — day of December, 1 Edw. I. [1272], Henry de Lascy granted and confirmed to Adam de Balshawe the "serjeancy of his frank-court of Rachdam," in exchange for land in Rossendale and "Holkenheved," and for an annual payment of two marks of silver on the Feast-day of St. Michael. This deed was witnessed by John de Biron, Adam de Bury, and others.[6]

[1] Rot. Chart., 35 Hen. III. Memb. 15.
[2] That is non-payment of rights or services.
[3] "County Placita," 4 Edw. I.—Minus Record, Rot. 4, and Major Record, Rot. 8.
[4] Do., 20 Edw. I., No. 5.
[5] "Plac. de Quo. War," Edw. I.—Record Office.
[6] "Black Book of Clayton."

Henry de Lascy, the second and last Earl of Lincoln, died in London in February 1311, and his *Inquis. Post Mort.* shows that he died seised of the Manor of Rochdale, which on the death of his daughter and heiress, Alice, the Countess of Lincoln (who had married in 1310 Thomas Plantagenet, the son of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster), passed through Henry, the Earl of Lancaster,[1] to the Crown. It has been frequently but erroneously stated that John de Eland and John de Lacy of Crumbewellebotham were, towards the end of the Thirteenth Century, joint coparceners as mesne tenants under the Earl of Lincoln. The only authority for this is a Townley MS. quoted by Canon Raines,[2] the circumstance that they were both parties to the dispute as to the patronage of the Rochdale Church [see Chapter VI.], and that in several old deeds without date it is specified that certain rents and services were to be paid to them both.[3]

From the two "Compoti"[4] of the Earl of Lincoln we get some interesting details concerning the Manor.

COMPOTUS, A.D. 1295-6.—RACHDALE.

	£	s.	d.
Rents on 11 Nov.—Burghers, 6s.; divers tenants, 52s. 2d.; Hugh de Elaunde, 159s. 9½d.	10	17	11½
One-eighth part of the Mill	0	5	0
Rent of the Abbot of Whalley, for 6 bovates, 6s.; of the tenency formerly John de Byrun's, 42s. 9½d.; of the same for a tenement in Butterworth, 2s.	2	10	9½
Tolls of Fairs and Markets there, and Stallage	2	13	8
Adam de Balgschae's heir, for the bedelry	1	16	8
Fines of lands, 43s. 2d.; Court fees, 84s. 4d.	6	7	6
Reliefs of Henry son of Richard, son of Henry, for his father's land	0	0	8
Revenue of the lands formerly Henry son of Patrick's, now in the Earl's hand by the felony of Ranulph son and heir of the same Henry	0	2	0
Total of Receipts[5]	£24	0	11

COMPOTI, A.D. 1305.—RACHEDALE.

	£	s.	d.
Eighth part of the Mill at Rachdale	0	5	0
Three acres one rood of land approved this year for the first time	0	1	1
Rent of the heir of Adam de Balschaghe for the Beadelry	1	6	8
Toll for the Fair and Market, and Stallage there	2	13	4
Fines on entering lands there	1	7	10
Fees of the Court there	4	12	0
Total of Receipts	£10	5	11

[1] "Abbrev. Rot. Orig. Lanc." Rot. 1, and "Inq. Post Mort., Henry, Duke of Lanc." (1262-3.)—Record Office.
[2] "Not. Cest., ii., 121.
[3] See Oakenrod [Chap. XIX.]
[4] Printed by Chet. Soc., cxii.
[5] Addition wrong in original.

EXPENSES, 1295-6.

	£	s.	d.
Wages to the Keeper of the Marches of the Forests of Rachedam and Bernoldswyk	1	6	0

1305.

Loss of the rent of one Burgage which William Galle held	0	1	0
Loss of the rent of Adam Marchaunt	0	0	6

The great De Lacy Inquisition, taken 16th February, 1311,[1] gives a slightly different account:

RACHDALE.

	£	s.	d.
The Earl held there the fourth part of a Watermill yearly worth, payable at the Feast of St. Martin [11th November]	0	4	0
A Weekly Market on Wednesday, which together with the Stallage and Tolls, is yearly worth	1	0	0
A Fair on the Feast of St. Simon and Jude [28th October] yearly is worth	0	10	0
There is a Three Weeks Court worth yearly by estimation	1	6	8
There are certain Free Tenants who hold of the said Earl divers Tenements by certain yearly rents, payable at the Feast of St. Martin in the winter [11th November].			
John de Balschagh for service of Rachdale, Fee per annum	1	6	8
John de Eland for one carucate in Hundresfield, the homage and service of	3	0	0
Henry de Lacy, of Crombywelbotham, for half a carucate in Spotland, the homage of	1	0	0
The Abbot of Whalley for one oxgang of land in Castleton	0	6	0
John de Byron for six acres of land in Butterworth, the homage and service of	0	2	0
In Castleton there are six messuages lying waste, each yearly worth	0	1	7

From the evidence afforded by the above it is evident that neither the Elands nor the Lacys of Cromebywelbotham held moieties of the Manor, although they held lands for which they paid homage and service to the Chief Lord.

The connection of the Elands with the parish goes back to a very early date. The names of Hugh de Eland and Henry de Eland appear as witnesses to a charter of Adam de Spotland [see Chap. III.] of the Eleventh Century, and on 28th October, 1202, a fine was made at Lancaster between Thomas, the son of Jordan, and Hugh de Eland, concerning two bovates of land in Hundersfield, which it was acknowledged were held from Hugh and his heirs by service and payment of a yearly rent of 2s. 8d., and for this recognition Thomas paid to Hugh one silver mark.[2]

A Henry de Eland is said to have married a daughter and heiress of . . . . . Whitworth,[3] but the proof is lacking; the above-named Hugh

[1] See Chet. Soc., lxxiv., p. 20.
[2] List of Fines, Lanc. Islm., No. 21.
[3] "Coucher Book of Whalley," p. 641.

may have been his son; the latter was living in the middle of the Thirteenth Century, when his name appears as a witness to several Rochdale charters.[1]

About the year 1238 John de Eland, of "Hallstedes" in Whitworth, gave all his lands in the "vil" of Whitworth to the Monastery of Stanlawe.[2] Hugh de Eland (son of Henry de Eland) had three children—Hugh, of whom presently; Nicholas, who had a son, Hugh; and a daughter, Wymarka, who married Jordan de Mitton, receiving as dower two bovates of land in Wardleworth and a like quantity in Heley.[3]

Hugh de Eland (the son of Hugh) was succeeded by his son, Hugh de Eland, who was living about the middle of the Thirteenth Century; he had issue Hugh de Eland, who had two children—John de Eland (of whom presently) and Margery, who married Gilbert de Notton,[4] receiving as her marriage portion certain lands in Naden, in Spotland.[5]

John de Eland (son of Hugh) was living in 1250, and was succeeded by Sir Hugh de Eland, who married Johanna, the daughter and heiress of Sir Richard de Tankersley. Sir Hugh died about 3 Edw. II. [1309-10]. He had issue (1) Sir John, of whom hereafter; (2) Richard, died S.P.; (3) Margery, who married for her first husband John Lacy de Cromwelbotham. Sir John de Eland (son of Sir Hugh) was one of those who joined the Earl of Lancaster against the King, 11th November, 1322;[6] he married (1) Alice, the daughter of Sir Robert Lathom; (2) Anne, daughter of ..... Regate; and (3) Olivia. By his first wife he had several children,[7] one of whom, Thomas de Eland, had issue a daughter and heiress, Isabell, who married Sir John Saville, who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire 3 Henry IV. [1401-2]. The arms of the Elands were Gules, two bars, argent between eight martlets of the last, three, two and one.

From the "Inquis. Post Mort." of Henry, the first Duke of Lancaster, taken in 36 Edw. III. [1362-3], we find that he died seised of vast Lancashire estates, and amongst them was the Manor of Rachedale.

John de Balschagh, probably the son or grandson of the John de Balshawe to whom the serjeancy was conveyed in 1272 [see p. 17], by charter dated at Whalley 18th November, 15 Edw. III. [1341], sold to John de Radcliffe, of Ordshall, his interest in the bailiwick of the serjeancy of Rochdale, with all its rights to be held of the Chief Lord of the fee,

[1] "Coucher Book of Whalley," pp. 126, 728, &c. [2] Do., p. 641. [3] Do., p. 682.
[4] He afterwards took the name of Barton. [5] "Coucher Book of Whalley," p. 646.
[6] Close Roll, 16 Edw. II. [7] By his third wife he had a son, Thomas, who left male issue.

by accustomed service; this was witnessed by Richard Radcliffe, Robert Radcliffe, John de Clitherhowe, and Richard de ffyshwycke,[1] clerk. Richard Radcliffe, the son of the above, died 19th July, 1380, seised of the bailiwick, which he held of the Duke of Lancaster by military service and the payment of 26s. 8d. a year. His son and heir was John Radcliffe, then aged 27 years[2] (afterwards Sir John), who died 10th June, 1422, when it was found that his Rochdale bailiwick was worth nothing, as the outgoings exceeded the receipts. He was succeeded by his son and heir, John de Radcliffe, then aged 40,[3] and to whom the Escheator was directed to give *livery* of the lands in Ordsall and the "bailiwick of Rachedale."[4] This John de Radcliffe sold his interest in the "bailiwick and serjeancy of Rachdam alias Rachdale" to Sir John Byron, 1st March, 1430.[5]

In 1446 Richard Earl of Sarum was Steward of the manor for the Duke of Lancaster.[6] The Byrons, who for something like a hundred years had held a considerable part of the Township of Butterworth from the Duke, now turned their attention to the manor, and to Sir Nicholas Byron, Knt., a lease of the manor was granted for his life, dated 23rd April, 2 Edw. IV. [1462], at a rental of £18 6s. 8d;[7] and in 1498 his son was called upon to show his right of free service of the Rachdale manor, and he produced a charter whereby the Earl of Lincoln had conferred this privilege upon his ancestor John Byron.[8] In 1477 the office of Steward [under Byron] was held by Sir John Pilkington, Knt.[9]

From the evidence now adduced it is clear that from the death of the Earl of Lincoln, in 1311, to the end of the fifteenth century, the manor was held by the Dukes of Lancaster and by the Crown, although from time to time leased for a term. Baines and Whitaker[10] are therefore both wrong in asserting that the manor passed from the Ellands to the Saviles, and from the latter in 1538 to the Crown. By letters patent, dated 2nd July, 1519,[11] Henry VIII. granted to Sir John Byron of Collywyke in Nottinghamshire, Knt., the office of Stewardship of the Lordship of Rochdale, with all its members, together with the "conducton of all the King's men and tenants," and to hold the same office from the

[1] Black Book of Clayton. [2] Inq. Post Mort., 4 Ric. II.—See Chet. Soc., xcv., 8.
[3] Inq. Post Mort., 10 Hen. V.—Chet. Soc., xcv., 148.
[4] Duchy Records, Chap. xxv., A.S.—Record Office. [5] Black Book of Clayton.
[6] Case of William Lord Byron touching the Manor, &c., 26th Oct., 1680.—Raines' Lanc. MSS., ii., 63.
[7] Duchy Records, xxv., x., 1A, No. 1. [8] Harl. MS., 2063, f. 88B. [9] Case of William Byron.
[10] Baines' Hist. of Lanc, I., 483 (2nd Ed.) Hist. of Whalley, II., 440 (4th Ed.)
[11] Pleading Duchy Records, xi., 34 Hen. VIII., B. 4 (1505)

"Feast of St. Michael the Archangel [8th May] last past for his life;" this was confirmed by other letters patent in 1543-4, when it is distinctly stated that Byron was to govern the tenants not only of Rochdale but "all its hamlets."

At the Hilary Term 34 Henry VIII. [A.D. 1543] Sir John Byron appeared in the Duchy Court against Thomas Holt, Esq., and others, when he complained that one of the conditions of his stewardship was that he was to furnish and put in readiness to serve the King all the men he could; and in order to do this effectually he went personally to Rochdale, where he was met by Robert Holt of Stubley, Esq., who declared that none of his freeholders or tenants, or any of the King's freeholders, should serve under him. Afterwards, Robert Holt and Thomas Holt took with them towards Scotland divers freeholders and tenants from the stewardship of Rochdale; Edward Radcliffe, Esq., a freeholder, also refused to go to the wars under Byron. Sir John Byron further alleged that the King had been accustomed to hold a "Court of lete" at Rochdale, where all the farmers, &c., ought to do suit, yet Thomas Holt of late had taken upon himself to keep a "Court of lete" without authority, and had taken five or six stray sheep and kept them for his own use, and had much impaired the King's Court. Thomas Holt replied to the complaint of Sir John Byron that he held the manor of Spotland from the King [see Chap. III.], and that he had a right to take the sheep, two of which were claimed, one died, and two he still had; as to the military service, he had commanded one John Wolstynholme and Edmund Entwisill, who were servants of his household, to be ready to go to the wars. He denies that he had held a Court Leet. Sir John Byron answers the defendant by denying that Wolstenholme and Entwisill were of the household or servants of Thomas Holt, who had not given them "linen or wages," and prays that he (defendant) may have "condign punishment for refusing to serve the King in his wars." Edward Radclyff, Esq., said that at the last "viage" to Scotland he was unable to go, but that he put in readiness Charles Radclyff his son, Richard Exley, Edward Felden, John Speke, and Henry Bayliff, his tenants, who then and there served the King under the Rt. Hon. Sir William Fitz-Wylliams, Knt., then Earl of Southampton and Chancellor of the Duchy.

There is conflicting evidence as to the interest in the manor which the Saviles had in the early part of the sixteenth century. On the one hand it appears clear that it was held by Byron from the Crown; yet three

defendants in the Duchy Court [1]—viz., Nicholas Kirshawe, Oliver Kirshawe, and Edmund Kirshawe—assert that, "as they have heard," Sir Robert Savile, Knt., was seised of the manor of Rochdale, and being so seised died, and the manor descended to John Savile, Esq., his son and heir, who entered upon the same and about the year 1584-5 conveyed it to Sir John Byron, Knt. The fact is that although Sir Robert Savile had at the time large possessions in the parish, he was not actually owner or lessee of the manor itself [see p. 21]. In 3 Elizabeth [1560-61] Sir John Byron held the "Bailiwick or Serjeantcy of Rachdale," which descended to him from his ancestor, who, he alleged, had from time immemorial collected Her Majesty's rents.[2] On 24th February, 1586, he had another grant from Queen Elizabeth. [See Chap. XV.] In 37 Elizabeth [1594-5] Sir John Byron, Knt., "Queen's Farmor of the Manor," appears as Complainant *versus* David Holt and others, the matter in dispute being "wastes and commons called Trough, Monstonedge, Cronkayshawe, and rescue of cattle distrained,"[3] and he showed the Court that the Queen had by letters patent bearing date 20th February, 26 Elizabeth [1584], let the manor to farm to John Davet,[4] with all its perquisites of Courts (marriage and wardships excepted), from the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary then next following, for twenty-one years. Whereupon the charterers and freeholders of Rochdale requested Sir John Byron to compound with the said John Davit for his interest, and to take a new lease in his own name; and at the same time they promised to pay the costs of the transaction, provided that he (Sir John Byron) would not "deale to make any improvement of the wastes and commons during his term." Sir John Byron carried out his part of this bargain, and by letters patent dated 17th May, 1585, he obtained a lease from the Crown to himself for thirty-one years; the costs amounted to £200, which the charterers and freeholders refused to pay, alleging that their undertenants, who had the greatest interest in the wastes, would not contribute their share, whereupon he applied to the Chancellor of the Duchy for permission to improve so much of the wastes and commons as "conveniently might be improved." The freeholders requested that inasmuch as a large portion of the land was "craggy and stony, and moss ground," there should be allowed to every acre eight

[1] Record Office, Vol. 108, 30 Eliz., T. 12. [2] Record Office, Duchy Pleadings, iv., 3 Eliz., B. 2.

[3] Record Office, clxix., B. 56. In the printed calendar ("Duc. Lanc.") Sir *Richard* Byron is wrongly named as the plaintiff.

[4] John Davet, "gent," appears as witness for the Attorney General in Duchy Court, 29th Jan., 1584-5. See Chap. XVIII. (Bottomley.)

yards to the rood or pole. Upon this appeal the Chancellor declared that he was informed that great advantage would accrue to the Queen, and also to the county, by bringing into tillage these waste places, and he at once granted a Commission to empower the Lord of the manor and the tenants to divide the wastes into two equal parts, according to the custom of the manor; the former to have the right to grant to whom he pleased portions of the wastes and commons, only reserving to Her Majesty a yearly rental of 4d. per acre; all the coal mines already opened were to be demised to Sir John Byron. This Commission was dated 17th February, 1588. Some of the freeholders were not satisfied with the terms of the Commission, and in order to hinder its execution they requested John Savile, Esq. (who had some forty charterers in the parish) to set up a claim to be chief lord of the greater portion of the wastes and commons; and to this he assented, and so far established his claim that Sir John Byron was forced to purchase from him all his rights at a cost of £1000, and having done so he set about improving the wastes. In the year following, however, he was again disturbed by one William Hallowes, a cutler, who sent to the Duchy Court with a petition for enquiry as to whether Shore Moor, in Spotland, was equally divided, but his application did not succeed. Shortly afterwards, however, Abraham Hallowes (who changed his name to Abraham Hollie) assembled some of Francis Holt's tenants in Whitworth and Rossendale, and told them that if they would give him £40 he would prevent any improvements being made. It does not appear that the £40 was forthcoming, but about the season of Lent in 1595 Abraham Hallowes confederated with Richard Okes (the constable of Rochdale), Otewell Smith, and Laurence Booth, and broke down divers inclosures and pulled up the fences, whereupon Hallowes was arrested, but Okes allowed him to escape; subsequently (on 30th May, 1595) Gabriell Gartsyde, servant of Sir John Byron, went with Alexander Butterworth, Edward Hamer, Richard Entwistle, gentlemen, Thomas Shore, Edmund Butterworth, and others, freeholders and undertenants, to the wastes, to drive therefrom strangers' cattle, and finding there a great number of sheep they distrained the same and proceeded to drive them to the Queen's fold, when David Holte, Thomas Holte, James Brereley, Raph Holte, and others, being assembled in the market place of Rochdale, violently assaulted them with swords, rapiers, and daggers, whereupon Gabriell Gartsyde and his companions were obliged to give up the sheep, being "further persuaded thereto by the Steward of the town for the

preservation of the peace."[1] Another Duchy case which was heard 26 Elizabeth [1583-4] furnishes a few details of interest. Thomas Warburton was the plaintiff and John Clough, deputy to Sir John Byron, was the defendant. In the answer of John Clough he states that he thinks the bill of complaint was lodged against him for speaking of the bad behaviour of the plaintiff before Sir John Byron in the January preceding, when Warburton was charged by Charles Lord with "sundry heinous crimes, viz.:—taking up waifs and strays, keeping them secretly, selling them or converting them to his own use without making proclamation, concealing felons, taking their goods and allowing the felons to go, extortion and bribery, clipping sheep and putting his mark on them before they were estrays." With this long list of charges it is not to be wondered at that Sir John Byron discharged him from his office of bailiff of Rochdale. The defendant further states that Sir John Byron and his ancestors had long held, by themselves or their deputies, the bailiwick of Rochdale, and to them belonged all "waifs, strays, and felons' goods" in the parish, and that Sir John had granted to him the office of bailiff, and that he was to enjoy such "profits and comodities" as Nicholas Grymshawe, the late bailiff, had enjoyed."[2] The bailiwick of Rochdale could only have been held by Grymshawe for a very short time; in 1558 he owned "The Holt," in Butterworth. [See Chap. XVII.] Certain portions of the possessions of the Duchy were not leased with the Manor; for example, certain lands, houses, mines of coal, &c., in Todmorden, Cheesden, Hundersfield, and Heyley, which had been "collected for Hèr Majesty," were granted by letters patent [12th February, 1580] for twenty-one years to John Blackway, at a rental of £9 19s. About these lands, &c., in 29 Elizabeth [1586-7] it was reported to the Duchy Court that between the freeholders and free tenants and William Barcrofte of "The Lodge," in the County of Lancaster, gentleman (the assignee of Blackway), a controversy had arisen; upon which Charles Holt of Stubley, Esq., and William Asheton of Rochdale, gent., two of the freeholders having compounded with Barcrofte in the name of the remainder of the freeholders, and it was agreed that the case should be decided by a suit at law, the point at issue being—did the wastes and commons belong to the Queen or to the freeholders? The suit, however, had not been prosecuted, and Barcrofte prayed the Court to compel the freeholders to pay the accustomed rents.[3]

[1] Record Office.—Duchy Pleading, clxix., 37 Eliz., B. 56.
[2] Do., xci., 26 Eliz., W. 13.
[3] Duchy Pleadings, ci., 29 Eliz., B. 18.

Sir John Byron held a Court in 1586 and in 1591, and in the records of the latter he is described as "farmour of Her Majesty's royal Manour of Rachdale for a terme of years." His Steward was Henry Radcliffe; in 1597 his Steward was William Assheton, gentleman. [See Chap. XV.]

There were three Sir John Byrons in succession, who had assigned to them the respective *sobriquets* of "Sir John with the great beard," "Sir John with the peaked beard," and "Swearing Sir John." The Byrons at the close of the sixteenth century lived chiefly at Newstead, but at the same time retaining, and occasionally occupying, Royton Hall near Oldham, which had been for a long period the family residence.

The Sir John Byron above referred to was knighted in 1579, and was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1572 and 1581. On 19th November, 1588, he addressed a letter to the Justices of Salford as to the payment of money for the furnishing of soldiers, which he dated from "Rytoun,"[1] and from "Ryton" he sent in his "declaration of accompts," as one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the County, in 1589.[2] He died in 1603, and the Earl of Shrewsbury, writing to his son, Sir John Byron [1st May, 1603], having referred to the "grievous loss of so vertuous kynd and deare friend, who truely honoured and feared God all his lyffe," he advises him to reduce his establishment at Newstead and for a time live in Lancashire, for, he adds, "withall I take it you are in great debtts, and have many children to provide for, so as unless you take some present and speedy course to free yourself of debtts wch will eate into your state lyke a mothe in your garment."[3] This Sir John Byron died in 1625, and the lease granted in 1585 for thirty-one years having expired, the manor reverted to the Crown. In 1625 Sir Richard Mollineux, Knt., was the Steward of the Courts of the manor, and John Nuttall was his deputy. [See Chap. XV.]

Charles I. in the first year of his reign [1625] conveyed the manor to Edward and Robert Ramsay, Esquires, in trust for the Earl of Holderness, who shortly afterwards sold it to Sir Robert Heath, then Attorney General, who in the following year had a very elaborate survey taken of the manor.[4] Sir Robert Heath having first mortgaged the manor to

[1] Lanc. Lieut., Chet. Soc., l., 215.

[2] Local Gleanings, x. of Lanc. and Chesh., i., 144.

[3] Lodge's Illust. Personages, p. 156.

[4] In this Survey he describes the Manor of Rachdale as "part of the possessions of the right worsh[l] Sir Robert Heath, Knt., Her Majesty's Attorney General." This Survey will be frequently referred to in the following pages as "Manor Survey, 1626." The original MS. is in the possession of W. Law, Esq., a copy is in the Raines "Lanc. MSS.," and I have also a copy of it.—H. F.

Sir John Byron, he finally, on 28th June, 1638, sold it to him in fee for £2,500. This John Byron was the eldest son of Sir John Byron, K.B., by Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Mollineux of Sefton in Lancashire. He sat in the last Parliament of James I., and in the first of Charles I., as Member for the Borough, and in 1627-8 for the County of Nottingham, having in the meantime been knighted. In 1634 he was High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, amongst his other offices he was Lieutenant of the Tower, but it was as a soldier in the Civil War that he was most distinguished. On the breaking out of the Civil War Byron joined the King's forces at York; he took a prominent part in the siege of Worcester and the battle of Edgehill, at the first battle of Newbury he commanded the horse of the right wing. As a reward for his services the King, by letters patent dated at Oxford, 24th October, 1643, created him a Baron of England by the title of Baron Byron of Rochdale, the title to be limited to his issue, or to that of his six brothers. Byron continued to take a leading part in the war until May, 1646, when by the King's orders he surrendered Carnarvon Castle. Subsequently he joined the Queen's Court at Paris, where he was appointed superintendent-general of the house and family of the Duke of York in 1651. At this time he was one of the seven "rebels" who, Parliament declared, were to expect no pardon; he died in exile in 1652, leaving no issue. He was twice married:—first to Cecilia, daughter of the Earl of Delaware and widow of Sir Francis Bindloss, Knt.; and second to Eleanor,[1] daughter of Robert Needham, Viscount Kilmurrey, Ireland, and widow of Peter Warburton of Arley, Cheshire.[2] The possessions of Byron became confiscated to the Commonwealth, probably in 1649, certainly before 10th October, 1650, when Edward Butterworth, Esq., was farmer of the manor for a term of years, Andrew Holden being his Steward.[3]

On 9th November, 1652, Sir Thomas Alcock, Knt., of St. Martin's in the Fields, Middlesex, held a Court of "his Manor of Rochdale;" and on 5th August, 1653, he appointed Simon Keble of Chancery Lane, London, gentleman, or his attorney, to collect all payments and rents of his "Lordship or Manor," and to act as Steward for keeping "three weeks Cortes, the Corte Leete and Corte Baron," and in the January following

[1] Pepys in his Diary (26th April, 1670) says that Byron's second wife was "the King's seventeenth mistress abroad."

[2] Dictionary of National Biography. Harleian MSS., 2135., Clarendon's Rebellion.

[3] Court Roll.

Keble appointed Gabriel Gartside, gentleman, to act as his deputy.[1] In 1654 and 1656 William Wilkinson was steward.[2] By indenture dated 4th July, 1658, the manor was conveyed by Rowland Alcocke of London, merchant, to Christopher Cratford of Covent Garden, London, gent., and who the same day leased it for eleven years to Richard Byron of Newstead, who was to pay for the first seven years of the term £80 annually in "the common dining hall in the Middle Temple, London," and afterwards one peppercorn on 6th July, if demanded.[3] In 1658 Gabriel Gartside was again acting as steward, and held the office for several years.

Before the expiration of the eleven years' lease the Restoration took place, and we find from the Court Roll of 9th October, 1661, that Richard, Lord Byron, held the manor; he was brother of the first Lord Byron and succeeded to the title, and like his predecessor had distinguished himself as a Royalist in the Civil War. In 1643 he was Governor of Newark;[4] he was twice married:—first to Elizabeth, daughter of George Rossel; and second to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Booth; and died 4th October, 1679, aged 79. He was succeeded by his son William, the third Lord Byron, who died in 1695, and the title passed to his son, William, the fourth Lord Byron, who died 8th August, 1736, and his son William succeeded. William, the fifth Lord Byron, was the hero of the well-known Chaworth duel; he was tried and found guilty of manslaughter, but obtained his discharge under the statute of Edward VI.; he died 19th May, 1798, without surviving issue. The fifth Lord Byron was succeeded by George Gordon Byron the poet, who was the only son of the Hon. Captain John Byron, son of Vice-Admiral John Byron, brother to the late lord.

There were thus six Lord Byrons held the manor of Rochdale, but the connexion between the parish and the illustrious family which had existed for so many centuries was soon to be severed. A Bill was filed in the Court of Chancery, 4th May, 1791,[5] William, Lord Byron, *versus* Simon Dearden of Rochdale, gentleman, and John Lomax of Tunnicliffe, coal miner, lessees of William, Lord Byron, and Henry Barlow of Rochdale, yeoman, John Lord of Cowme in Spotland, yeoman, and John Lord of High Yate in Spotland, chapman, lessees and assignees of the said Dearden and Lomax. The Bill recites that Lord Byron, as lord of the

[1] Raines' Lanc. MS., viii., 38 (Manor Deeds).
[2] Do. ,, 43 ,,
[3] Court Records. [4] See Memoirs of Colonel Hutchinson.
[5] Amended 31st May, 1791, and again 30th Oct., 1792.—Raines' Lanc. MSS., V. 129.

manor, is entitled to all the coal mines under the copyhold and demesne lands in the several hamlets named; and that by indenture dated 24th August, 1784, he had leased to Simon Dearden and John Lomax, all the coal under the waste land at Middle Hill, Hendon Yate in Spotland, and Hades Hill, Middle Hill, Whitehill, Shore Moor, Trough Edge, Little Deyne, and Tooter Hill in Hundersfield, for twenty-one years, at an annual rental of £60. Dearden and Lomax, by indenture 18th December, 1787, sub-let the said mines for eighteen years to the said Henry Barton and John Lord, except those under Middle Hill, Hendon Yate, and copyhold lands in Whitworth, at a yearly rent of £42, and one half the clear profits which arose from the sale of the coals. The defendant, on 31st March, 1790, opened mines in divers places and got coal for sale to the value of £250, and out of Barlow and Lord's mines another £250. Other people had got coal, pretending that they were freeholders and entitled to get such coal; this the plaintiff admits, so far as relates to coal got out of waste lands adjoining their respective freeholds, and to be used for their families. The plaintiff asks that the defendant be by injunction stopped from getting the coals.

Thirty years pass away and plaintiff and defendant are both dead, but their descendants are still at law about the coals and manorial rights. The following letter from Lord Byron shows that he at all events was tired of the law's interminable delays; and, moreover, he was often in want of money, whilst the defendant went on quietly getting the coals and out of the profits paying his costs.

Sir,

Genoa, 9bre 18, 1822.

You and I have now been eighteen years at law with various success. I succeeded in two decisions and you in one. The appeal is now before the House of Lords. Of the original occasion of this suit I have no great knowledge, since I inherited it and was a child when it began, and for ought I know may arrive at second childhood before it terminates. But I write to you to enquire whether an accommodation might not be at least attempted, and I have not consulted with my lawyers, because they of course would advise the contrary—as your own very probably—but I despatch my letter through the medium of the Honourable Douglas Kinnaird, my personal friend—as well as trustee—a man of honour and business—who will either meet yourself or any friend to discuss the subject. I have no particular proposition to make, but am willing to adjust the business on what may be deemed an equitable basis, either by arbitration or a mutual agreement. My motives for this are simply that I think it would spare anxiety to both sides, and I am neither instigated by avidity nor necessity. My expenses for the suit are paid up to the present period—so that if I loose I should be but where I was, whereas if you loose the loss will be considerable, since the litigated property has been and still is in your present occupation. I should be

willing to part also with the undisputed part of the Rochdale manor, because I wish to invest the produce of that as well as other monies, and have thought of permanently settling either in Italy or elsewhere.

Perhaps, therefore, a mode might be found of combining the two, viz., the adjustment of our lawsuit and the sale of the remainder of the manor, which might not be to your disadvantage. I repeat (as a little enquiry will inform you) that I am not actuated by avidity or necessity, but by the natural wish to terminate a long lawsuit with its uncertainties. My debts have long been liquidated by the sale of Newstead, and the purchase money settled and invested, and early in the winter of 1822 I acquired a considerable concession of income by the demise of the mother of Lady Byron.

If you accept this propossal [*sic*] for the conference, either in person or by proxy, with the Honourable Mr. Kinnaird or Mr. Crabtree (agent of Sir Francis Burdett and of me at Kirkby Mallory), acting for him and me, you can write to Mr. Kinnaird in answer to this, as I am too remote for immediate correspondence, or if not things are but where they were. In either case I bear you no enmity whatever on account of your long litigation, which you can hardly regret more than I do.

I have the honour to be yr obed. servt,

NOEL BYRON.[1]

To J. Dearden, Esq.

P.S.—I give you my honour that I have not consulted with my lawyer on this point, nor made anyone acquainted with the propossition [*sic*]. I have, however, no objection to your advising with your own on the subject.[2]

In a second letter, dated 22nd January, 1823, Byron repeats his former offer, and adds that if the matter is not settled before the spring he would come to England and meet Mr. Dearden. In this year [1823] Lord Byron sold the manor of Rochdale to James Dearden, Esq., whose grandson, James Griffith Dearden, Esq., is the present owner. [Manor Records, see Chap. XV.]

The manor of Rochdale had by this time become a possession of much less importance than formerly, a great portion of the land having become alienated or disfranchised. The formation of the Court of Request in 1839, and the County Court in 1847, deprived the Manor Court of what was left of its ancient power. Manor Courts are still held periodically.

Lord Byron, probably when treating with the Deardens about the manor, stayed some days at Hopwood Hall. Mr. Hopwood was from home, but it is said that the poet "made himself very acceptable to the ladies, who took care to let him know that they regarded him as a lion. He was, however, reserved and silent on the last day of his visit, being

[1] In a letter to Mr. Moore, 8th June, 1822, Lord Byron writes, "You see the great advantage of my new signature—it may stand for 'Nota bene' or 'Noel Byron.'"

[2] This letter is or was preserved amongst the papers of the late James Dearden, Esq. See Raines' Lanc. MSS. xxi., 85.

the day on which Mr. Hopwood arrived at home, Lord Byron abstained from all animal food, and showed a remarkable predilection for pickles and vegetables. At this time his hands were so attenuated and fair as to be almost transparent."[1]

Having traced the history of the manor to the present time, we must turn back to the records affecting the parish in general. Before the close of the eleventh century the De Lacy family settled at Clitheroe castle, which became the seat of local authority, and it was not until then that Lancashire began to fully realise the effects of the Norman conquest. Lands which had been held under Saxon chiefs would now pass into other hands, and be held on different terms. The existing charters of the twelfth century show how gradually the lands in Rochdale were becoming, even at that earlier period, granted for various terms, and with divers reservations, rents and services, to the individuals who were then living on the soil. The history of the church will be found in Chapter VI.; it will be sufficient to say here that it certainly existed at this time. The old Saxon castle [see Chap. II.] was in ruins, and doubtless the statement made by the Abbot of Stanlawe in 1296 was correct, viz., that "Rachedal" was neither a borough nor a town, and that the church was called the church of Castleton in Rochdale, and not the church of Rochdale.[2] A brief description of the parish about this time has been preserved:—"Rachedale, of old called Rachedam, is a certain district more than twelve miles long and more than ten miles broad, and worth £400 a year, and contains four villages and several hamlets, with many large wastes and pastures in the same villages and hamlets, viz., Hondresfeld, Spoddenland, Buckworth [Butterworth], and Castleton."[3]

The monastery of Stanlawe was founded in 1178, and not only did its founder endow it with Rochdale land, but many who were landowners here followed his example, so that this religious house, and afterwards that of Whalley, acquired large portions of the parish.

During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the population of Rochdale must have been small, and scattered about in various parts of its four divisions, but it would naturally follow that near the church and the site where the fairs and markets were held would be formed the nucleus of the future town.

In the year 1332 (6 Edward III.) the laity of the county were

[1] Raines' Lanc. MSS.
[2] Ass. Lanc. 20, Edw. I., m. 31, *in dorso*.
[3] Harl. MSS., 1830, fo. 18B.

taxed to the fifteenths and tenths granted to the King by Parliament for the Scotch wars. This Subsidy Roll gives us the names of the people who were worth taxing. In the entire parish there were thirty-three rate-payers, and the total rate raised was £4 15s. The following is the complete list; it will be noticed that Rochdale is not named.

SUBSIDY 6 EDWARD III. [1332.]—WAPENTAKE OF SALFORDSHIRE.

BUTTERWORTH.—De Ricardo de Byronn		v. s.	viij. d.	ob.
De Adam de Belfeld		v. s.	vij. d.	ob.
De Adam de Turnagh		ij. s.		
De Willelmo le Wilde			xiij. d.	
De Henrico de Belfeld			ix. d.	
De Henrico de Butterworth		ij. s.		
Summa		xviij. s.	ii. d.	
SPOTLAND.—De Ricardo de Baumford		iij. s.		
De Galfrido le Hayward			xvj. d.	
De Roberto de Heghlegh		iij. s.		
De Johanne de Wolstonholm		iiij. s.		
De Willelmo le Wolfe		ix. s.	iiij. d.	
De Roberto le Haiward		ij. s.	j. d.	
De Galfrido de Heghlegh		v. s.		
De Adam de Bradelegh		iij. s.	iij. d.	
De Willelmo de Craweshagh		iij. s.		
Summa		xxxiiij. s.		
HUNRESFELD.—De Henrico de Wordhull		iiij. s.	v. d.	qa
De Adam de Birdeshull		iij. s.	vj. d.	qa
De Willelmo del Shore		iiij. s.	viij. d.	
De Matheo de Kirkeshagh		iiij. s.	ij. d.	qa
De Cristiano de Bukkelegh		iiij. s.	ij. d.	qa
De Henrico Tyrry		iiij. s.	vj. d.	
De Henrico de Slaveden			xij. d.	
De Adam de Heghlegh			xviij. d.	
De Rogero de [D']Ernelegh			xij. d.	
De Willelmo Omy			xij. d.	
Summa		xxx. s.		
CASTLETON.—De Nicholas del Slak		ij. s.	j. d.	ob.
De Rogero de Birdeshull			xx. d.	qa
De Henrico del Slak			xx. d.	qa
De Johanne de Kirkdale		iiij. s.		

De Johanne de Birdeshull - - - - -	x. d. ob
De Johanne de Holden - - - - -	x. d. ob
De Nicholas de Castleton - - - - -	x. d. ob
De Willelmo le Mercer - - - - -	x. d. ob
Summa - - -	xij. s.[1]

A very early Court Roll, 9 and 10 Edward III. [1335-6], has been preserved, which furnishes some interesting particulars of that period; the items refer to the Court fees. About a score of cases appear to have been dealt with at each Court, and include the sale of bad beer, the selling of flesh without license, bread against the assize, false claims, and breaking the peace; we find mention of the miller, the tunwright, the dyer, the smith, and other tradesmen. [See Chap. XV.]

It has been frequently asserted that in the time of Edward III. a great influx of Flemish emigrants settled in Rochdale; this is utterly without foundation, and that such was not the case is borne out by the names found in the records of the period, and by the fact that even as late as the beginning of the seventeenth century the parish registers show an almost entire absence of foreign names.[2] A competent authority on this subject gives it as his opinion that in the register for 1582 to 1616 there is scarcely a single Dutch or Flemish name.

In February, 1340, King Edward, returning from France, asked his Parliament for means to enable him to carry on the war; to this appeal the House of Commons made a grant of the ninth fleece of wool and the ninth sheaf of corn for the next two years, as well as the ninth of all the goods and chattels of boroughs and cities. The return for Rochdale was, "Ancient tax xxxv. marks, the ninths of sheaves, wool and lambs, with Saddleworth, which is in Yorkshire, are worth £10, of which Hundersfield is worth lxxiij. s. iiij. d., and Spotland, Bottreworth and Castleton lordships xxvi. s. viii. d."[3] Comparing this with Poulton-le-Fylde, a parish of about one-half the acreage of Rochdale, it will be seen that the quantity of corn, wool and sheep was much less in the latter than in the former. The tax for Poulton amounted to twenty marks, *i. e.*, £13 7s. 8d. At this time and for long afterwards large portions of the parish were entirely uncultivated, and in some part

[1] Record Office, 6 Edw. III., No. 130—6.

[2] Mardyke and Dunkirk, in the town of Rochdale, have been thought to mark a Flemish settlement, but these names are comparatively modern, and are said to have been given by the Smiths (who had in the last century their dye-works there) in honour of two places with which they did a good trade.

[3] Nonarum Inquis., Record Office.

abounded in deer and game of various kinds; so much so that Henry, the Duke of Lancaster, had certain justices assigned to try malefactors for trespass in his "free chaces" of Bowland, Pendle, Trowden, Rossendale, Romsgreave, and Rochdale; this order was dated 4th March, 1361.[1]

In the last year of Edward III. [1377] Parliament granted a subsidy of a groat a head for every man or woman of fourteen years and upwards, "except real beggars," but in 1379 the older form was again taken up, *i. e.*, the ratepayers were charged according to their rank and possessions, and it was the abandonment of this system and the re-introduction of the poll tax which led to the well-known Wat Tyler's rebellion. One of these lay subsidies, or poll taxes, levied in 4 Richard II. [1380-81], furnishes most interesting details concerning this parish, for on this occasion every male (except the clergy) and female, married or single, over the age of fifteen years was to pay three groats. Doubtless some of the poorest of the people escaped taxation, but nevertheless the roll gives an almost complete local directory. There were 146 paid the shilling, so the total collected was £7 6s. In towns and cities the aggregate amount was to be divided amongst the inhabitants as they were able, no one to pay less than one groat nor more than sixty; Rochdale was, however, not dealt with in this way.

LAY SUBSIDY 4 RICHARD II. [1380-81.]

SPOTLAND.

Ada^{9} schewynd	xij. d.
Thom. fauside	xij. d.
Mergret de Clegge	xij. d.
Rob^{9} de byrkyl	xij. d.
Rob^{9} fil^{9} Ade	xij. d.
Galfri fil^{9} Cecilie	xij. d.
Maria de Derden	xij. d.
Wiłłms de Crauschagh	xij. d.
Galfri le Haywart	xij. d.
Nicol le Coke vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Roƀ le Coup vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Ric^{9} le Haywart vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Henr^{9} le Haywart vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Ad^{9} Hanson vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Will^{9} fil^{9} Henr^{9} vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Ad^{9} Mansele vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Alex^{9} de Roclyffe vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Joħes fil^{9} Mergetson vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Wiłłms de byrkyl vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Henr^{9} fil^{9} Galfri vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Wiłł del Greue vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Wiłł de Chadwyck vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Henr^{9} de Wolstanh^{9} vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Henr^{9} de Chadwyck vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Summa personarum	xxxix.
Summa denar^{9}	xxxix. s.

CASTULTON.

Henr^{9} de Holden vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Galfri Newbolt vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Thomas le Haywart vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Thomas de Crompton vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Ad^{9} Nichou^{9} vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Joħes Gepsou^{9} vx^{9} eius	ij. s.
Rob^{9} le Haywart vx^{9} eius	ij. s.

[1] Record Office, Class xxv., A. 3.

Henr^{9} le fisher v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.
Joñes Haysou^{9} vx eius - - ij. s.
Ad^{9} Wordol - - - - - - - xij. d.
Alic^{9} S^{9} le weker [*sic*] - - xij. d.

Summa personarum - xx.
Summa denar^{9} - - - xx. s.

HUNRESFELT.

Ric^{9} del Milnehous v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Nicol de . . . . . v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Rob^{9} le Coup v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem - ij. s.
Mabol le Clerk - - - - - ij. s.
Alic^{9} le lister - - - - - - xij. d.
Alic^{9} fil eius - - - - - - - xij. d.
Rob^{9} le lister - - - - - - xij. d.
Joñes [B ?]uckley v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Henr^{9} de Haworth v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Joñ del Stok v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.
Rog^{9} de Clegg vx eiusdem - ij. s.
Rob^{9} de Hamer vx eius - ij. s.
. . . . . .

[Here a piece of the roll has been torn off.]

Thomas . . . . v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius . . .
Ric^{9} de Haworth - - - - - xij. d.
Joñes de Haworth - - - - xij. d.
Wiłł de Genur [?] v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Wiłł de Haworth v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Thomas de Haw v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - - ij. s.
Rob^{9} de Haworth v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Joñes Badde v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - - ij. s.
Ad^{9} del Hull[1] v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.
Joñes de trual v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.
Joñes Milictmon v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Wiłł de Stanringges v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius ij. s.
Galfri del Hull[1] - - - - - ij. s.
. . . . . .
. . . . . v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - ij. s.
Joñes de Sale v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.

Summa personarum - liiij.
Summa denar^{9} - - - liiij. s.

BOTRWORTH.

Joñes del Schofelt v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Wiłłs de Hull[1] v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Ric^{9} de belfilt v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem - ij. s.
Ad^{9} de Quake [?] v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Ric^{9} de belfelt sen^{9} v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Ad^{9} le Taleor v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eius - - ij. s.
Ad^{9} de Clegg - - - - - - xij. d.
Wiłłs del Milne - - - - - xij. d.
Alex^{9} de Botrworth v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Roƀ de Crompton v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Rog^{9} de Boƚworth - - - - xii. d.
Galfri de bucley vx eiusdem ij. s.
Ric^{9} de Boƚworth v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem ij. s.
Joñes . . . . . v$\bar{x}^{9}$ eiusdem - ij. s.
Thomas Scholfelt - - - - - xij. d.
Joñes de Scholfelt - - - - xij. d.
Thom^{9} de bucley - - - - xij. d.
Joñes de Schor - - - - - - xij. d.
Magot del Sikes - - - - xij. d.
Agn^{9} relicta Rogeri - - - xij. d.
Joñes del sikes - - - - - - xij. d.
John^{a} de Boƚworth - - - xij. d.

Summa personarum - xxxiij.
Summa denar^{9} - - - xxxiii. s.

During the greater part of the fifteenth century raged the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, and as a natural consequence the public records are extremely scarce—especially those of a purely local character. During this period we find, however, occasional charters showing that houses and barns were being built and lands enclosed from the commons

[1] In the original this is clearly written Hull. Occasionally in early records Hull is written for Hill. No family of the former name is known to have lived here, but there was a family called Hill.

and wastes, and we may infer that the population was slowly increasing. The chapels of Butterworth (afterwards called Milnrow), Littleborough and Todmorden were now founded. The occupation of the people was purely an agricultural one, the staple trade (if it may be so called) being the growth of wool. Sheep were kept in considerable quantities, and here and there, as in Brandwood, herds of cattle found pasture. Although in some parts of England a kind of coarse woollen cloth was made at a very early period, for the most part the wool growers sold their wool and the cloth was manufactured abroad. In the fifteenth century almost all our articles of domestic use were imported, we received cloth from Flanders, lace from Mechlin, damask from Damascus, glass from Venice, cordovan leather from Cordova; but, as a writer quaintly puts it, "the ribs of all people throughout the world were kept warm with English wool."[1] In the early part of the sixteenth century the demand for wool for exportation was so great that large quantities of arable land in England were converted into pasture, and no doubt to some extent this was done in this parish. Sheep, which a few years before could be bought for three shillings, now sold for at least six shillings.[2]

From a subsidy levied to meet the expenses of the war with France in 1523 it appears that only fifty-three people in the entire parish were rateable, and although the tax was a shilling in the pound on land and sixpence in the pound on goods, the amount paid was but a little over £12.

LAY SUBSIDY, 1523.[3]

PAROCHIA DE RACHDALE.	VALUE.	TAX.
Robt Holte in lands - - - - -	xx. li.	xx. s.
Charles Radcliff in lands - - -	xx. li.	xx. s.
John Thomson in lands - - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
John Crosseley in lands - - - -	iij. li. vj. s. viij. d.	iij. s. iiij. d.
John Laurte in lands - - - - -	iij. li. vj. s. viiij. d.	iij. s. iiij. d.
Jamys Grenewodde in lands - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Edward Scolfelde in lands - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Roger Lightollers in lands - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Laurence Nevall in lands - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Gefferey Kyrshawe in lands - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Edmunde Whitehede in lands - -	iij. li.	iij. s.
Jamys ffletchar in lands - - - -	iij. li.	iij. s.

[1] Matthew Paris.

[2] Act of Parl., 25 Hen. VIII., C. 13.

[3] Record Office Exchequer, No. $\frac{130}{79}$ 1523.

Edmunde Haworthe in lands - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Gilbt Holte in lands - - - - -	iij. li.	vj. s.	viij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Berten Hamor in lands - - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Rauffe Schowre in lands - - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Edmund Entwissell in lands - -	iij. li.	vj. s.	viij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Jamys Bulkey in lands - - - -	iiij. li.			iiij. s.		
Henr. Holte de fyldehouse in lands	iij. li.	vj. s.	viij. d.	iij. s.	viij. d.	
Thom. Butterworthe in lands - -	xxxiij. s.	iiij. d.		xx. d.		
Ric. Mylne in lands - - - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Adam Belfeld in lands [£6 13s. 4d.]	x markes			vj. s.	viij. d.	
Thom. Hyll in lands - - - - -	xxxiij. s.	iiij. d.		xx. d.		
John Scolfeld in lands - - - -	xl. s.			ij. s.		
Rauffe Clegge in lands - - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Thomas Warberton in lands - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
John Tailor in lands - - - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Robt Butterworthe in lands - - -	iiij. li.			iiij. s.		
John Wolstaneholme in lands - -	iiij. li.			iiij. s.		
Thom. Chadwike in lands - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Robt Hoppewodde in lands - - -	xxxiij. s.	iiij. d.		xx. d.		
Olyver Chadwik in lands - - -	iiij. li.			iiij. s.		
Roger Garteside in lands - - -	iij. li.			iij. s.		
Adam Holte in lands - - - -	xl. s.			ij. s.		
Richard Schepperd in goods - -	xxij. li.			xjs. s.		
Peter Butterworthe in goods - -	vj. li.	xiij. s.	iiij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Jamys Clegge in goods - - - -	vj. li.			iij. s.		
Ric. Grenerawde in goods - - -	xv. li.			xx. s.		
Alex. Kyrshawe in goods - - -	vj. li.	xiii. s.	iiij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Wiłłm. Mylne in goods - - - -	vj. li.	xiij. s.	iiij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Jamys ffylden in goods - - - -	vj. li.	xiij. s.	iiij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Randill Smyth in goods - - - -	xiij. li.	vj. s.	viij. d.	vj. s.	viij. d.	
Thom. Nelson in goods - - - -	xiij. li.	vj. s.	viij. d.	vj. s.	viij. d.	
Alan Hill in goods - - - - -	viij. li.			iiij. s.		
Edmunde Haworth in goods - -	viij. li.	xiij. s.	iiij. d.	iiij. s.	iiij. d.	
Jamys Walsden in goods - - -	viij. li.			iiij. s.		
Randill Haworthe in goods - - -	vj. li.	xiij. s.	iiij. d.	iij. s.	iiij. d.	
Laurence Chadwik in goods - -	vj. li.			iij. s.		
Ellys Chadwik in goods - - - -	vj. li.			iij. s.		
Jamys Breerley sen. in goods - -	x. li.			v. s.		
Wiłłm Asshetan in goods - - -	x. li.			v. s.		
Jamys Breerly jun. in goods - -	x. li.			v. s.		
Hugh Wolstoneholme in goods -	vj. li.			iij. s.		
Summa totalis paroch̄ de Rachedale predict̄ -	xij. li.	viij. d.				

In a little short of twenty years after this another subsidy was made, when the rate from Rochdale yielded £15 11s. 6d., which was paid by

twenty-five ratepayers. This tax, like the one in 1523, was one shilling in the pound on land and sixpence on goods. It is difficult to account for the absence of several names in the later roll which appear in the former. In some cases the value of the land held is considerably increased, Robert Holt's being exactly double.

LAY SUBSIDY, 1541.[1]

HONERSFELD.

Robart Holte Squyer one of the Comyssyoners for xl. li. in lands	-	xl. s.
Edward Radcliffe for xx. li. in lands	-	xx. s.
Rychard Sheparde for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
John Kershawe of Henshawe for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Rychard Greneroude for xx. li. in goods	-	x s.
John Hallywell for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s-
James Stott for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Roger Gartsyde for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Arthur Assheton for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Rychard Hyll for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.

SPOTLAND.

James Gartside for xxij. li. in goods	-	x. s.	
Thomas Chadwycke for xlij. li. in goods	-	xl. s.	
Robart Houarth for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.	
James Assheworth for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.	
James Clegge the Elder for xxi. li. in goods	-	x. s.	vi. d.
Rondull Howarth for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.	
Ellys Chadwyck the Elder for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.	
James Butterworth for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.	

BUTTERWORTH.

Robart Butterworth for xx. li. in lands	-	xx. s.
Laurance Hopwood for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s
Alexander Clegg for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Robart Brereley of Bynnes for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.

CASTYLTON.

Adam Holte for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.
Robert Chadwyck of Warmhole for xl. li. in goods	-	xx. s.
James Buckley for xx. li. in goods	-	x. s.

[1] Record Office, No. $\frac{130}{114}$ 38 Hen. VIII. See also Record Soc. of Lanc. and Ches., xii. There is a slight difference between the two copies; the above is the official record.

The growing importance of Rochdale market may be inferred from the fact that the rector of Bury (Richard Johnes) by his will dated 15th June, 1568, bequeathed to one hundred of the poorest housekeepers of Bury, "to every one of them half a hope of ote mele or money to bye yt withall as the pryce is in Rachedale marketh."[1]

The manor Court Rolls for 1466 [see Chap. XV.] furnish some interesting details of the events of the day, such as the playing of unlawful games, allowing gambling in the public houses, the harbouring of "vagabonds and valient bedgers," "sleting"[2] men's cattle, opening unlawful ways, obstructing old ones, and, of course, selling ale without a license, In 1584-5 James Belfeld was the bear-ward of the parish, and two church-reves, Thomas Buckley and James Hallywell, charged him and Robert Butterworth the younger with keeping "twoe typlynge innes," to which resorted "dyvers wylful and unrulye" people, not only to "typle" but to do other unlawful acts, on the Sunday and other festival days. Nor was this all the indictment; it was further alleged that they refused "to heare sarmones or sarvice," and that they did not attend the "chatechysinges or godly exercises" in the parish church, and to add to their offences they "spake evill and contemptus wordes agaynst Master Mydgelaye," the vicar.[3]

Some idea of the relative position of Rochdale as compared with the other parishes in the immediate neighbourhood may be formed from the assessment made in 1574 for military equipment. Rochdale was rated for £9 5s., Oldham (*i. e.*, Prestwich and Oldham) £5, Middleton £5, and Ashton £4 10s.[4] In 1562 the Rochdale Grammar School was founded. [See Chap. XIV.]

The woollen trade had now become of considerable importance in Lancashire. Very early in the century Manchester was doing a good business in the making of linen and woollen cloths; amongst the latter were a coarse kind of woollens known as "coatings," or "cottons." Leland reported in 1538 that Bolton "market stondith most by cottons, and divers villages in the moores about Bolton do make cottons." We have no evidence that woollen manufacture was yet established in Rochdale. Camden, writing in 1582, says that Manchester "excels the towns immediately around it in woollen manufacture," but of Rochdale he merely records that there was here a "market of no small resort," but we have abundant proof that the inhabitants of the parish were alive to the

[1] Chet. Soc., li., 224.
[2] To slete or slate = to set a dog at, to bait.
[3] Chest Reg. Chet., Misc., v., 46.
[4] Lanc. Lieut,, Chet. Soc., xlix., 65.

importance of the rapidly developing industry, and that if they did not themselves manufacture they were giving their attention to the buying and selling of the goods fabricated. In 8 Elizabeth [1565-6] Thomas Leigh, who was the Queen's Alnager,[1] commenced proceedings in the Duchy Court against his deputies for counterfeiting his seal and delivering pieces of wax impressed with the same to certain persons in Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Bolton and Bury, to affix to "cottons, frizes and ruggs," contrary to the statute.[2] In 1568 Arthur Heyley [Healey] of Rochdale complained that one Edmund Heyward of the same place, about St. George's day, 10 Elizabeth [23rd April, 1568], desired him (he being accustomed to buy and sell cottons and other cloths) to obtain in his own name, but for their joint use, eight pieces of cloth commonly called cotton from James Heyward, brother of the said Edmund, at such a price and on such terms of payment as could be agreed upon. The two were to be "partners in the said cottons, as well in the loss as in the commodity which might grow by such bargains." The eight pieces were purchased for £10 8s., payable on certain days, and the plaintiff became bound by deed for the due payment thereof, and subsequently he purchased six more pieces of cottons of one Rauf Smith, for £7 16s., upon the same conditions. Having done this he caused the fourteen pieces to be done up into two "packs," and together with a letter to Roger Heyley (living in London), authorising him to sell the goods, he dispatched the same by John Fletcher, a carrier, to the metropolis; the cost of the carriage amounted to 11s. 4d. The goods were sold in London for £20, to be paid for in two months; before the expiration of this time the purchaser became bankrupt, whereupon Edmund Heyward, seeing there was no chance of a profit being made, denied the partnership and refused to pay his share of the loss.[3]

Paying by bill appears to have been at this time customary. John Wilkinson of Elland, in the parish of Halifax, clothier, lodged a complaint in the Duchy Court against Alexander Chadwick of Rochdale, the substance of which was that about the year 1574 he delivered to Alexander Chadwick certain woollen cloths and "other woollen wares and merchandises," of the value of twenty marks [£13 6s. 8d.], for the payment of which Chadwick became bound "by his bill obligatory at certain daies and

[1] An officer appointed to inspect and measure woollen cloths. In 1566 he was allowed a deputy in Rochdale (8 Eliz., Cap. 12). [2] Record Office Pleadings, xxvii., L. 3.

[3] Record Office Pleadings, xxxii., 9 Eliz., H. 25. This document is almost obliterated.

times" then past. The plaintiff was a "bachelor and a yonge man unmaryed, and dwelling in the house of Robert Wilkinson, his father, in Elland," and it appears that he left Chadwick's "bill obligatory" at home and went "abrode in the south contrye about his affairs," and that during his absence Robert Wilkinson, by his "synister practyse and lewde dealynges," got possession of the bill and refused to pay, although the plaintiff had at sundry times in the "most gentle manner and friendly order" requested him to do so.[1] The defendant's reply has not been preserved. We have here an instance of a Rochdale man buying his goods from Halifax, where they had probably been manufactured.

The sale of cottons in the parish must now have become considerable. In 29 Elizabeth [1586-7], Ralph Sorowcolde of Manchester, merchant, appeared as plaintiff, and John Warberton and Henry Brereley mercers of Rochdale, as defendants, the matter in dispute being a debt or bond for Lancashire cottons. The plaintiff alleged that the defendants, at Chester on 5th July, 1584, acknowledged that they owed him £800 for cotton cloths, &c., which was to be paid the Michaelmas following, and to secure such payment they became bound in "all the goods and chattels, lands, &c., which they had within the realm of England." As no part of the money had been paid he had obtained from the High Court on 15th November, 1586, a process to be directed to the Sheriff of Lancashire, to enquire what were the possessions of Warberton and Brereley. Accordingly a jury had been impanelled at Manchester, 4th June, 1587, and found that John Warberton and Henry Brereley possessed goods and chattels in Rochdale worth £150, and were seised of a messuage called a clothehouse, a dwelling-house, divers shops, with certain lands and tenements which they held for their lives, and the life of Jane Warberton, wife of John Warberton, and Jane Brereley, wife of Henry Brereley. These premises had been extended to satisfy the debt of £800, and possession had been given to the plaintiff, who had allowed the goods and chattels to remain in the shops and houses, and had afterwards brought there some of his own wares, and had put Roger Persevell, one of his apprentices, in charge of the same. For some time the defendants absented themselves for fear of arrest, and remained "in a place unknown" until 26th September, 1588, when they returned, and with Ellis Ainsworth of Bolton, gentleman, and divers other persons they forcibly entered the house and shop where the plaintiff's servant was, and by force carried away not only

[1] Record Office Pleadings, lxviii., 20 Eliz., W. 5.

the goods which were extended but also those belonging to the plaintiff, to the value of £400, and refused to deliver up the same. The reply of the defendants was to the effect that about July, 1584, they had become bound to the plaintiff in the sum of £800, in consideration of Lancashire cottons worth £500, which should have been delivered before the Feast of St. Bartholomew, but at that time only £230 worth had been received. It was further agreed that the £500 was to be paid by weekly instalments; they also say that the non-delivery of the cottons had greatly inconvenienced them, as they had in consequence had to forfeit certain bonds and became indebted to their creditors for £2075 10s. 9d., and were obliged to compound with them for eight shillings in the pound, to be paid in seven years. The defendant retained the bond of £800 (which should have been cancelled) and promised never to use it, nevertheless he "most unconscionably" obtained execution upon it. Ellis Ainsworth replied that John Warberton's goods were of far less value than had been stated, and that he was outlawed in London "by virtue of a process" out of the Court of Common Pleas, whereby his goods had become the property of Christopher Anderton, Esq., the Queen's farmer of the goods of outlaws in Lancashire, who long ago had sold them to Thomas Warberton and Henry Brearley, who caused them to be removed to his (Ainsworth's) house in Bolton.[1] Ralph Sorowcolde died, and the dispute was taken up by Katherine, his widow and executrix, who alleged that Francis Holt of Gristlehurst and Thomas his son, or one of them, was seised in fee of a house, gardens, barns, a shop, and other buildings called Underwood, Tentercrofte, Barnecrofte and Marled Earth, in the townships of Hundersfield and Spotland, then or late in occupation of John Warberton; and being so seised, about the 8th January, 25 Elizabeth [1583], he had granted the same to John Warberton for his life and the life of Jane, his wife, and of Henry Brereley, all of whom were then alive; John Warberton had assigned these premises as security for £800 due to her late husband; the debt was still unpaid, but after the death of Ralph Sorowcolde, Warberton had re-entered into the premises, and Thomas Holt, having got hold of the original lease, had become "confederate with one Edmund Leigh," to the "utter undoing of her poor children, being two in number and otherwise totally unprovided for," and she prays the Court to give her remedy.[2]

Another evidence of the growth of the parish is the development

[1] Record Office, Duchy Pleadings, C. 29 Eliz., S. 28.
[2] Duchy Court, Record Office, Pleadings, 36 Eliz., cxxvi., S. 20.

of the mines of coal and minerals, some of which were near to the surface and thus easily got. In 19 Elizabeth [1576-7] an action was commenced between Ralph Holt and Richard Lynney, and Arthur Smith and Ralph Hallowes, respecting a coal mine in Falinge;[1] and in 22 Elizabeth [1580] the Attorney General of the Duchy informed the Court that whereas the Queen in the right of the Duchy was seised of, *inter alia,* several parcels of land in Todmorden, a parcel of land in Cheesden, "certeyne mynes of slate" in the wastes of Hundersfeild, called "Browne Wardle Hill and Myddle Hill," then in the occupation of Edward Wofenden [Wolfenden], "one myne of coales in the waste called Shore More," then in the holding of Laurence Etonfield and John Crossley, and also "divers mynes of mylstones, gryndlestones, and ridginge stone in a place called Blackstone Edge," then in the occupation of Geoffry and Robert Butterworth. Being so seised, the Queen, by letters patent dated 10th February, 1580, leased the same for several years to John Blackwaye, who had, however, been "expulsed therefrom by John Kyppas of Marsden and others.[2] In the same year Laurence Etinfield appears (on behalf of the inhabitants) as defendant, as to rights of turbary on Shore More, otherwise "Feathersteane."[3] Coal pits, no doubt, such as are now known as "breast-highs" (*i. e.,* worked by a passage cut into the side of the hill) were now at work in various parts of the parish; for example, in 1581 John Wiese of Eckringe, co. Notts., sold to Ottywell Wolfenden of Spotland, husbandman, ten acres of land at Stoneyheys in Hundersfield, "lying between Cronkayshaw and the coles pittes upon the east and the land of Thomas Heley, gent., on the west."[4] These coal pits would be somewhere not far from the site of the present Hamer Pasture reservoir; the forty yard mine and the foot mine are both in that district near the surface.

Previous to 1563 practically all the knives and other articles of domestic cutlery in England were of Flemish make, but in that year an Act was passed forbidding the importation of knives from Flanders, and Sheffield then became the great market for these articles. In 1588 William Hallowes, a cutler, was settled in Rochdale and carried on his business. [See p. 24.] More than twenty years before this [in 1561] John Ashworth of Greens had a house in the northern end of Brandwood,

[1] Record Office Pleadings, lxiv., H. 8, 19 Eliz.
[2] Do. ,, lxxix., A. 11, 22 Eliz.
[3] Do. ,, lxix., A. 30, 22 Eliz.
[4] Wolfenden Deeds.—Raines' MSS., ix., 206.

and was described as a cutler, as was also his son. Near to Greens is a place still known as Cutler's Green, and tradition says that these Ashworths came from Sheffield in the fifteenth century. [See Fair-well, Chap. XIX.] One of this family some fifteen years ago (he being then nearly eighty years of age) related that he well remembered the large amount of "scoriæ" to be found in the neighbourhood where the ancient "bloomery" was supposed to have been at work.[1] There were several of these furnaces in Rossendale, and traces of an ancient "bloomery" have also been found in Ramsden Wood near Todmorden. The iron ore was found in the district and smelted as early as the fourteenth century. [See Chap. III.]

The making of hats was one of the early trades of Rochdale, and probably "one David a hatter dwelling at Facyde" [Facit], whose two children were buried 7th March, 1586-7,[2] may have been one of its pioneers.

The roads at this date were of a very primitive character, and any undue interference with them was a matter of much importance; hence the numerous cases of this kind which claimed the attention of the manor Courts. In 1598 the vicar of Rochdale and others appeared against Thomas Healey of Healey, and charged him with obstructing various roads, viz.—from Lower Gap to the common on Monston Edge, from Lower Gap to Stoney Heys, and from Lower Gap to the mill of Buckley. Charles Stott was at the same time charged with obstructing a road at Slidslacke (near Slid Fold in Wardle), which road it was alleged was intended "for corpse, weddinge, and all things needful to the church and village of Rachedale." James Redferne of Wolstenholme, in 1597, reported that John Wolstenholme senior and John Wolstenholme junior had stopped up a cart and carriage way at Knowl Moor. Richard Crossley of Scaitcliffe was cited, 30th September, 1592, for stopping a "bridle way between Sketecliff and Truckley-hebble, to the damage of Sir Henry Radcliffe."

Concerning the sports and pastimes in the parish during the sixteenth century there is very scant information obtainable, but one popular amusement was foot-racing. The following details are from a bill of complaint lodged at the Duchy Court in 1576. Henry Orrell, about the 10th August in that year, arranged with Robert Clegg, John Brigges, and Francis Holt, gentlemen, Ralph Holt, Thomas Cleyton *alias* Chetham,

[1] Lanc. and Chesh. Hist. Soc., xxiv., 64.

[2] Church Registers.

Raffe Shepard, John Chadwicke and John Buckley, that he and John Brigges should run a match, "running at twelve score," at St. Bartholomew's Day [24th August][1] next, for twenty nobles [£6 13s. 4d.] a side. The money was deposited, the twenty nobles by Brigges' backers being paid to John Buckley, and the like on Orrell's behalf to Ralphe Holte and others. The race was run, and Orrell was the winner "by the judgment of all present," nevertheless the holders of the stakes denied this and would not give him the money; he therefore pleads that as the parties are dwelling in Lancashire and are of "great kinred," and he is only "a poor young man living in Cheshire," they may be commanded to appear at Westminster to show cause why the money should not be given to him.[2]

The register of the parish church commences in October, 1582. Taking the first four years we get the following result, which will give some idea as to the then population:

	Christenings.	Burials.	Weddings.
1583	152	96	45
1584	149	146	35
1585	168	153	45
1586	156	159	39
Totals	625	554	164

The population of the parish (exclusive of Saddleworth) would now be between 7000 and 8000. In 1561 the vicar of Rochdale stated, in giving evidence in a trial about the stipends of the ministers of Milnrow and Saddleworth, that in the entire parish, including Saddleworth, there were 2000 "howseling" (*i. e.*, communicants), this would make the population (including Saddleworth) about 10,000 souls.

In the 39th year of Queen Elizabeth's reign there were several subsidies levied, of which the following is one. It appears to have been a very heavy tax, and it was apparently paid by the richer portion of the inhabitants only.

[1] Whitworth church was dedicated to St. Bartholomew, so probably this race was run at the Whitworth Wakes or Rushbearing.

[2] Record Office, Duchy Pleadings, lxi., O. 4, 18 Eliz.

LAY SUBSIDY 39 ELIZABETH [1596].[1]

HUNDERSFIELD.

John Hoult and Marie his mother in landes - - - - -	x. li.	x. s.
Henry Radcliffe in landes - - - - - - - - - - - -	vj. li.	xxiiij. s.
Wiłłm Ashton in landes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	v. li.	xx. s.
Robte Buckley and Ellen Bannester his grandmother and Grace wyef of Josephe Midgeley his mother in landes	iiij.	xvj. s.
Robte Haworthe in landes - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	xij. s.
Robte Butterworthe in goodes - - - - - - - - - - -	vj. li.	xvj. s.
Thoms. Shore in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - -	vj. li.	xvj. s.
Edmund Kyrshawe in goodes - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	viij. s.
Raphe Hamore in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	viij. s.
Summa - - -	viij. li.	

BUTTERWORTH.

Wiłłm Ashton esqr. in landes - - - - - - - - - - -	iiij. li.	xvj. s.
Alexander Butterworth in landes - - - - - - - - - -	v. li.	xx. s.
Cudbert Scofeild in landes - - - - - - - - - - - -	xl. s.	viij. s.
Robte Butterworth in goodes - - - - - - - - - - -	iiij. li.	x. s. viij. d.
Raphe Butterworth in goodes - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	viij. s.
Mathew Butterworth in goodes - - - - - - - - - - -	iiij. li.	xs. s. viij. d.
George Milne in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	viij. s.
Summa - - -	iiij. li.	xvj. d.

SPOTLAND.

John Chadwicke in landes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	xl. s.		viij. s.	
John Wolstenholme in landes - - - - - - - - - - -	xx. s.		iiij. s.	
Roger Chadwicke in landes - - - - - - - - - - - -	xx. s.		iiij. s.	
Thoms. Redfearne in landes - - - - - - - - - - -	xx. s.		iiij. s.	
Robte Whittacar in landes - - - - - - - - - - - -	xx. s.		iiij. s.	
Thoms. Healey in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	x. s.	ix. s.	iiij. d.
James Clegge in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	x. s.	ix. s.	iiij. d.
Thoms. Hamerre in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	x. s.	ix. s.	iiij. d.
James Hardman in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - - -	iij. li.	x. s.	ix. s.	iiij. d.
Summa - - -	iij. li.		xvj. d.	

CASTLETON.

Adam Hoult in landes - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	xl. s.		viij. s.	
Henry Hardman in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - -	v. li.		xiiij. s.	iiij. d.
James Tailier in goodes - - - - - - - - - - - -	iiij. li.		x. s.	viij. d.
Summa - - -	xxxij. s.			

[1] Record Office, 39 Eliz., No. $\frac{131}{263}$

The boundaries of the parish at this time were almost exactly the same as they are now, as appears from an Inquisition taken at Rochdale 13th November, 1610[1] (the authenticity of which there is no reason to doubt), which thus defines the parish:—"Begins at Cold Greave, in the township of Butterworth; from thence eastward to a hill called Dobbin, and from Dobbin to Little Clough, called Littlemere Clough Head; from thence to Redmires; and from thence northward to the Middle Greave in Linygreave, and from thence to Black Gate Foot northward from Bow or Rowkin Stone, from thence to Slacks on the Moss standing upon Walsden Edge; from thence to Cowlaghton; from Cowlaghton northward to Dovelaw; from Dovelaw to Stoney Edge, from Stoney Edge northward to Salter Rake; and from thence following between greater and lesser Swineshead to a brook called Todmorden water, and so descending the said water to a close called Steaners, and so following the south-east part of the Steaners to a close called Mytholm[2] in Todmorden, and from thence to a river called Calder; and so descending the river Calder to a place called Roodilee,[3] to Hollingrake Holme,[4] and following the south part of Hollingrake Holme to Calder aforesaid; and ascending the river Calder to Beaten Clough Foot;[5] from thence to Beaten Clough Head; and from thence to Sherneyford, and from there to a hedge or fence sometimes on one side of the water and sometimes on the other to Greave Clough; and from thence to Baycop; and from Baycop to Roekcliffe Lumme; and from thence following the river to Brandwood; from thence to Carrgate; and from Carrgate to Cowap [Cowpe] brook, ascending the same to its head, and from thence to the Moss; and from thence to Archinbutt, from Archinbutt to Jump Holes; from thence to the west ground of Cheesden; and from thence following Cheesden brook to Cheesden Lumn; from thence to White Ditch in Coldshaw [Codshaw], and so following the water of Naden to the Wolf Stone in Naden Water; from the Wolf Stone following the Naden Water to a ditch in Bagslate shore; and from thence to Jowkin's Well; and from thence following the old ditch to Calf Hey in Bagslate; and from thence descending the parish to the east side of Naigh Maigh; from thence to Pinfold in Bagslate aforesaid; and thence following Dowlas Brook to the river Roch; and

[1] Tim Bobbin, MSS. as quoted by Baines.
[2] The site of the Board School was called Mythomes.
[3] Reddy Lees is where the National School stands.
[4] The Holme is near the Hare and Hounds Inn, on road to Portsmouth.
[5] Beaten Clough, near Portsmouth.

so descending the river Roch to Heywood, and so ascending Heywood to Heeden Brook; from Heeden Brook to the Hamlet of Hopwood; thence following the Irke brook to the hamlet of Thornham to Heathershaw Deane; and from thence following the top of Brunedge to Knot Booth Yate; and from thence following the township of Crompton, crossing the water of Beyle to Helpet Edge; and from Helpet Edge following Ogden Edge to the Cold Greave, being the first boundary or mere.

From this description Baines[1] concluded that since 1610 the parish has been extended, and as he puts it, "instead of the Naden serving as the western limit, the boundary of Spotland Further Side now extends over the summit of Cheesden and abuts upon Walmersley." This is entirely a mistake. Cheesden Brook is now, as it was in 1610, the north-western boundary, whilst Naden Brook is the south-western limit.

It will he convenient here, at the commencement of the seventeenth century, to look at the town as it then stood. In most English villages the church forms the central figure, from which radiate the streets; this was not, however, tbe case in Rochdale, where the houses presented the appearance of running away from the church. The vicarage stood very near its present site, and just outside the churchyard (which was surrounded with a thorn fence) was the Grammar School, from which began the steep street then, as now, called Church Lane.[2] This was all glebe land. The houses would be small and of rude construction, with thatched roofs. From the school another lane (now School Lane) led to the Vicar's Moss and on to the highroad to Milnrow; and from the church stile (which gave its name to the road) a lane led to Milkstone, past Deeplish and on to Lowerplace, from whence across Buersill Moor to Oldham. From the church stile a road to the west passed Goose Lane, and so on to the "High Street to Manchester." From the bottom of Church Lane the road ran along the river side to the end of the "Packer" (now Packer Street), in which were a few houses and shops, and adjoining it was "Packer Meadows," where the drivers of pack horses were accustomed to turn in their "galloways" and horses. At the top of the street was a narrow passage called then, as now, "The Gank," which led to Church Lane. There is reason to believe that the "church steps" were in some form now existent, as in the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1660 appears

[1] Hist. of Lanc. (1868), I., 489 (this is repeated in the other editions).

[2] In 1625 there were only six dwelling houses in "Church Street" [Lane] on the glebe estate.

an item of £1 4s., paid for eight loads of "great stones from Blackstone Edge ffor the stepps." Between the church and the river there were no buildings except the "Wood," and the Roch was crossed by a bridge at about the same place as it is now crossed, and standing on this bridge the river on the right and left would be seen wending its way between green fields and meadows, with here and there a farm building. North of the river began the High Street (subsequently called the Broad Street and now Yorkshire Street), on the one side of which was "The Butts," and on the other the "Great House" (now Amen Corner) with its gardens sloping down to the river. On the west of the Broad Street there were a few houses and shops, and the Bell Inn (or Blue Bell), opposite to which was the Eagle Inn.[1] A few yards further and there was the market place with its cross; near the market was also the Bull Inn and the King's Arms; the latter, with sundry houses near it, in 1626 was claimed by Robert Holt, Esq., but the manorial survey of that date contains a memorandum to the effect that "he hath noe deeds for anie of these houses, and it is vulgarly reported that all are built within these fourscore years upon a waste peice of ground being open to the street and formerly called the new market place, and where the market was kept." Another Inn, called the White Hart, was kept by James Pares; no doubt there was also an Inn near the church, which would be the Royal Oak. The remainder of the Broad Street between the market and the Cheetham Street of to-day was made up of small shops and houses, many of them being half-timbered and thatched with straw. The other streets were the steep ascents of Blackwater and Toad Lane. From the place now known as Mount Pleasant to the river ran a small stream called the Lortburne; this has long been arched over. From the memorandum just referred to, it appears that the site of the market had at that time been more than once altered. Probably the markets in very early times were held in Church Stile (where the cattle fairs were held until quite recently), near to where the two stone pillars of the stocks now stand. One of the tenements near the King's Arms was occupied by Bonaventure Walkden, and in 1639 the owner of the property was accused of making an encroachment on to the street by building a porch and a "pent-house," under which stalls were

[1] The Eagle Inn stood on the site now occupied by Mr. Best's shop. It was a lofty building, in part lath and plaster style, with high pointed gables, and having a public stair in front as an approach to the upper rooms.

erected for the use of strangers on market days; at the same time it was reported that several other houses had galleries reached by stairs, which were not encroachments.[1] Many of these galleries were still standing at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Near to the market on the south-west side was a house occupied by Thomas Holme, which was reputed to have been the ancient "Milne House"[2] where the lord of the manor ground the corn for his tenants. Possibly it was to replace this mill that a license was granted in 16 James [1618-19] to erect a mill in the town of "Ratchdale for the King's tenants to grind at the same."[3]

Of the position of the landlords of the Rochdale inns at this time something may be gleaned from the will of one of their number. James Whitehead, innkeeper of Rochdale, died in March, 1636, and his will was proved at Chester. He left everything to his wife Ann, except certain legacies: amongst others, £40 to his daughter Elizabeth, to be paid to her by Edward Whitehead of Birchanlee and Edward Butterworth of Windibanke, yeomen; to his godson, Alexander Scolefield, xx. d.; to his goddaughter, Ann Whitehead, 2s.; to the sons of his brother-in-law, William Leigh, vi. d. each. The inventory of his effects furnishes the following details:

INVENTORY.	£	s.	d.
9 Swyne	5	0	0
1 Cowe	2	10	0
In the chamber over the parlour one bed and cloathes thereunto belonging	1	10	0
Two boards and 4 chests	2	0	0
In the little parlor one bed with cloathes, one board one chest and one cupboard	5	10	0
In the chamber over the Buttery two beds with furniture to the same	1	6	0
One table in the house and one little board in the little parlor	0	12	0
One bed and bed cloathes in the buttery	1	13	4
Pewter and Brass	8	0	0
One table in the out parlor	0	13	4
Chair & cushions	1	10	0
Wooden vessels	4	10	0
Beef & bacon	1	10	0
One spade, shovell, one saw & other things	1	0	0
Linen	3	0	0
Trenchers, potts & glasses	0	10	0
His apparell	4	0	0
Debts due to the deceased	92	12	0

[1] Inquis. *re* manor right, Raines' Lanc. MSS., xiii., 74,

[2] Manor Survey, 1626.

[3] Duchy Records.—Decrees and Orders, Lib. ii., 16 Jac., fol. 934.

Amongst the shopkeepers at this time were several well-to-do woollen drapers, one of whom was Abel Brereley, the parish clerk. He died in March or April, 1637, and from his will[1] it appears that he had an interest in a farm at Oldham, which he bequeathed to his nephews Thomas and Abraham, sons of his brother Thomas. He left the lease of his shop to his sister Mary, the wife of Gabriel Gartside, the son and heir of Gilbert Gartside of Oakenrod. To the Vicar of Rochdale he gave 10s., and a like sum to the curate, Mr. Johnson. Our parish clerk must have done a good trade, as at the time of his decease the "woollen cloaths" in his shops were valued at £160 13s., and he had in "redie money" £147 4s. His house was well furnished—he had a bed with curtains and vallance worth £2; he also possessed three "throne chairs," and silver plate to the value of £7 6s. 8d. It is also noticeable that in one of the rooms he had a carpet, which at that time was certainly a luxury.

Another of this class was John Street, who was father-in-law of Abel Brereley. His will was proved 6th July, 1632. He held leases of a messuage and tenement in Oldham and of his house and shop in Rochdale. The following items from the inventory are of interest:

	£	s.	d.
Woollen cloath	132	4	0
one pair of vallances	0	14	0
one pack saddle	0	4	0
21 ounces of plate, at 5s. per oz.	7	15	0
192 lbs. of fether bed and boulsters	4	16	0
7 blankets	0	11	0
1 white cadoe[2]	0	5	0
a woven cadoe	0	13	0
a coverlet	0	8	0
60 lbs. of pewter, at 10d. per li.	2	11	8
1 posnet	0	1	3

The total valuation, together with debts due to the testator, amounted to the large sum of £458 12s.

The clothier in the seventeeth century often employed a large number of persons, who received from him the wool and returned it to him as cloth, the manufacturing being done at their own homes. Early in this century this form of woollen manufacture became extensively carried on

[1] Proved at Chester, 1637.

[2] Cadoe = mackadows, a kind of woollen stuff.

in this parish; princely fortunes were made by many of the clothiers, and the demand for labour rapidly increased the population and position of the town; old families died out or became impoverished, their places being taken by industrious and enterprising men who began life in the lowest ranks. Many of the wealthy clothiers commenced as woollen weavers, and having acquired experience they employed others to weave whilst they sold the cloth. Not only in the town itself arose this race of clothiers, but also in the outlying districts, particularly in Todmorden. In the Court Rolls, Wills, and other contemporaneous records we now find frequent mention made of "loomhouses," "bleechouses," "woolmen," and "clothmakers."

The history of the wool trade in this century by no means shows a uniform rate of progress. In 1613 there was a serious decline in it, to remedy which a Royal Commission was appointed, and subsequently Acts of Parliament were passed removing certain imposts on cloth which had been put on by "The Merchant Adventurars' Company," who were at the same time deprived of their monopoly to dye cloth. Before 1622 wool was 33s. a tod (28 lbs.), or 1s. 2d. a lb.; in 1622 it fell to 18s. a tod, or 8d. a lb.; in 1641 it had again risen to 24s. a tod. In Shakespere's time eleven wethers produced a tod of wool, [See "A Winter's Tale," iv., 2.] The establishment of a free trade in dyeing brought several dyers to Rochdale, one of whom was Thomas Howse, whose "Inventory," preserved at Chester, is dated 7th October, 1634, from which it appears that at the time of his death he was possessed of

	£	s.	d.
2 Loades, ... 1 fatt of leade, 1 Load of wood with tubbs and implements for Dye house	20	0	0
Allome, Logwoode	2	17	8
3 standing beds and 1 Truckle bed	1	7	0
1 feather bed with furniture	4	16	8
1 „ „	2	14	0
1 chaff bed with other cloathes	0	8	0
Pewter	2	2	7
Linen	4	11	0
1 Muskett with Implement	0	10	0
1 Byble	0	8	0
Cushions	0	8	8
Chares & buffet stooles	0	8	0
1 pair of scales	0	8	0
Apparel	6	2	5

In 1626 there were several fulling mills, or walk-mills as they were then called; Robert Heyward had one of them in Falinge, Robert Holt another called the Hill House, adjoining the river in Chadwick; and a third, on the "river of Spotland," was owned by John Chadwick; this was probably a corn mill, as was also the mill called Oakenrod mill.[1]

With the increasing prosperity of the parish, coals, stone and flags all got an increased value, and we find the Court Leet jury constantly presenting tenants for getting and selling these without license.

As in these times everyone who travelled far rode on horseback, a saddler or two would be required in the town. One of these was Abraham Leigh, whose will was proved in 1623. The inventory gives a very large stock of saddle-trees, saddles, bridles, bits, spurs, pillions, collars, and the like; and the list of debts owing to the deceased shows that his was by no means a ready-money business. Some of the native tradesmen were dignified by the name of "merchants," as was one Philip Watson, who in 1619 gave evidence in London in the cause of "Lady Lake and her daughters."[2]

That archery was in the early part of this century still popular in Rochdale is shown by the will of one John Dewhurst (proved at Chester in 1636), who is described as of Half-acre in Spotland, Fletcher.[3] He left one half of his goods to his wife Sisley, and the rest, except certain legacies, to his brothers Thomas and Robert. From the inventory of his effects (in which the testator is described as of "Chadwick in Rachdale") it appears that *inter alia* he died possessed of

	£	s.	d.
2 Kyne	6	13	4
Bedding	11	14	8
Bedstead	4	0	0
Bedstocks	1	0	0
Lynnen	2	15	0
Cupboard	0	15	0
Wool	8	10	0
Table and buffets	0	17	0
one forme	0	1	0
Wooden vessels	1	7	0
Earthen pots	0	4	0
two payre of loomes	1	3	0
Combs, wheeles, cards, one payre of Stack cards	0	7	0

[1] Manor Survey, 1621. [2] State Papers, Dom. 1619.
[3] Fletcher = an arrow maker; hence the surname Fletcher.

Chairs and stools	0	4	0
Cushions	0	13	0
Arrow wood and bowes	0	12	0
Arrow heads	0	5	0
Work loomes	0	3	0
Meale and groates	4	0	0
beefe and suit	0	13	4
yarne and wool	0	13	4
Butter and cheese	0	16	0
Cheese press	0	2	0
in huslem't[1] and other things	0	3	0
Apparel	3	0	0

From this list it would appear that arrow making was on the decline, and the "fletcher" added to his trade a little farming and weaving. The place where the archers practised still goes by the name of "The Butts."

As the town of Rochdale progressed, gradually the villages of Todmorden, Milnrow, Littleborough, Whitworth and Facit developed, and we find at the close of the century woollen weaving was carried on in all these places.

The parish registers for 1620 to 1622 give the following details:

	Christenings.	Burials.	Weddings.
1620	243	188	46
1621	277	208	54
1622	215	201	35

The population of the entire parish (exclusive of Saddleworth) would at this time be about 10,000. In 1623 a great plague visited the parish; it was no doubt what was known as the sweating sickness. During the year no less than 587 people were buried at the parish church, of whom close upon 500 died between 1st July and the end of February. Early in 1624 the sickness left the district; the burials in that year were only 150.

William Lord Byron in 1680 described "Ratchdale" as an "auncient market town of great resort, and haveing markatts there weekly kept and ffayres att usual times, and tolls are and have been paid by fforreigners and straungers only, tyme out of mynd.[2]

As early and probably much earlier than 1634 Rochdale had its

[1] Hustlement = odds and ends.

[2] Case of Lord Byron *re* Tolls.—Raines' Lanc. MSS., xi., 63.

petty sessions, and the justices regularly forwarded returns respecting vagrant offences, binding of apprentices, and the like.[1]

In the civil war Rochdale did not take a very prominent part. In July 1642 the Earl of Newcastle, advancing from Yorkshire towards Lancashire, was met by Colonel Rosworm's troops, sent from Manchester, when the latter were defeated at Wisket Hall in Yorkshire and driven back into Lancashire. Colonel Rosworm[2] reported that when he received this intelligence and informed himself of "the nature of the passes by which the enemy most easily could come in upon us, and finding them capable of sudden fortification" he decided "to help nature with art," and to strengthen Blackstone Edge and Blackegate by "manning them with soldiers," to prevent the Earl of Newcastle's approach; the result of which was that, "being diverted like an angry storm, with a gust he went to the siege of Hull." The parliamentary version is that there was a "strong guard kepte by the Lancashire forces at a passage into both counties at a place called Blakston Edge," and that this guard was kept there all winter.[3] From another source we learn that the guard on Blackstone Edge consisted of 800 men and two pieces of ordnance, and was supported by a garrison of 1200 men in Rochdale.[4] Richard Holland the governor of Manchester, Thomas Stanley and Robert Hyde wrote to Richard Shuttleworth, Esq., on 8th November, 1642, to the effect that "they have sent Captain Birche and his companye to marche to Rochdale" that night, and that they "will he readie to march towards Padiham, with the assistance of some forces from about Rochdale." The inhabitants of the parish were not, however, all on the King's side, as Colonel Ralph Ashton of Middleton, a well-known parliamentary commander, being in want of the sinews of war, "called upon the country about him to Rachdale, made known unto them his condition how he wanted money to supply his soldiers withall, which the country people furnished him with all speed.[5] At the Lancaster assizes in March, 1650, it was reported that there had been "very foul riots and disturbances" in Manchester, Rochdale and other places, where great nnmbers of people had resisted the sheriff and his officers, whilst proclaiming the Act of Parliament; whereupon Colonel Birch was instructed to apprehend and commit to

[1] Cal. State Papers, Dom., Vol. 253, No. 24, &c., &c.
[2] An Hist. Relation of Eight Years' services for King and Parliament done in and about Manchester.
[3] Discourse of the Warr in Lanc.—Chet. Soc., lxii., 43. [4] Civil War Tracts.—Chet. Soc., ii., 146.
[5] Do. ,, ,, ,, lxvi., 31.

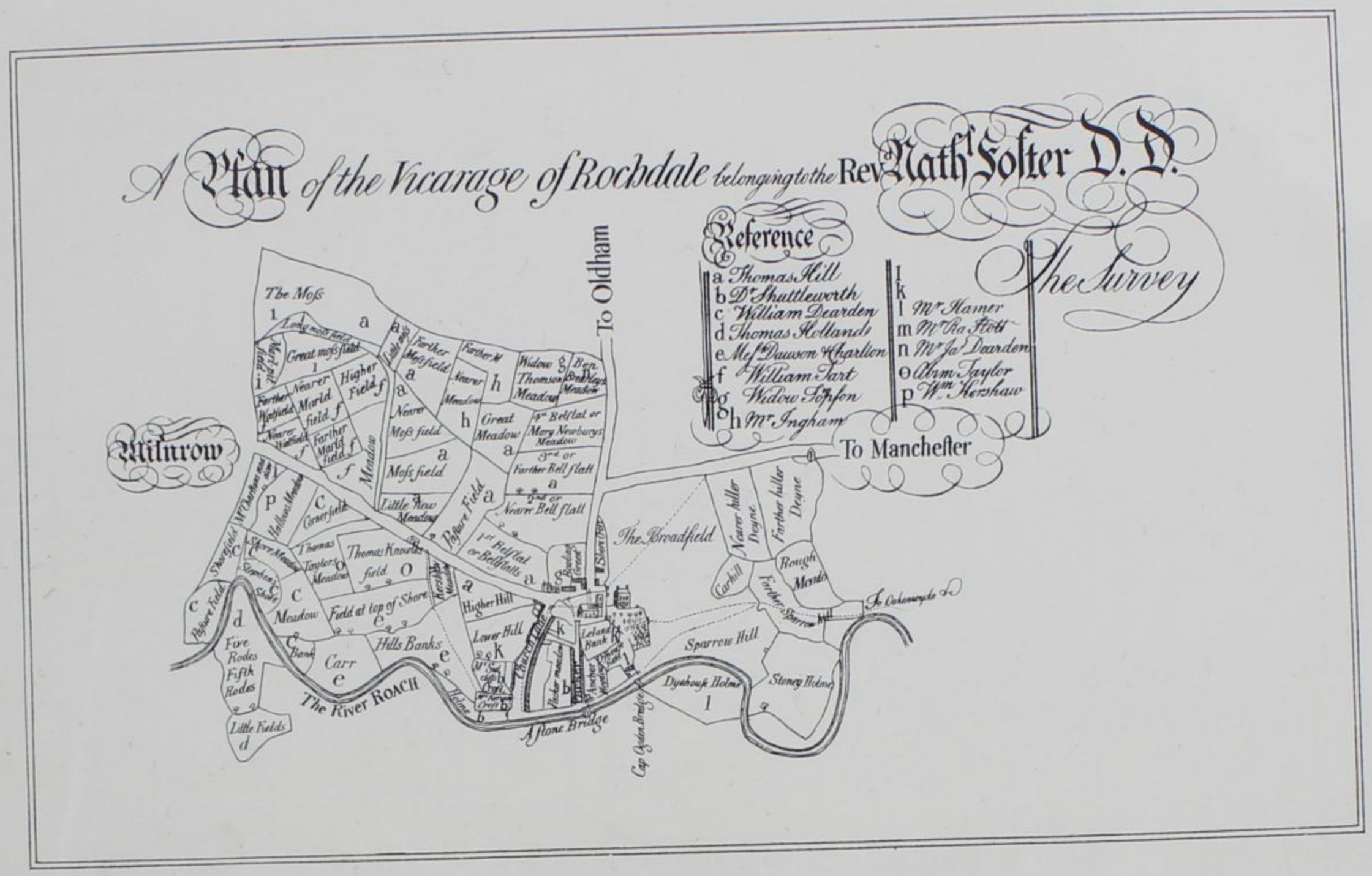
prison the offenders.[1] The Liverpool town records furnish the names of William Haighton, captain of a foot regiment, and his ensign, Edward Wilson, both of Rochdale; they were admitted as free burgesses of that town 8th March, 1642. In 1663 an official letter was addressed to Robert Holt of Castleton, a Deputy Lieutenant of the county, informing him that "the Anabaptists, Independents, Presbyterians and many soldiers" would rise the 12th October next, and that he was to be ready to "prevent their horrid designs, for they will destroy all who do not come to their assistance."[2] This appears to have been a false alarm.

After the Restoration the manufacture of fustian and other cotton goods, which had mostly been confined to Manchester and Bolton, began to be carried on in other towns, but there is no evidence to prove that in the seventeenth century Rochdale had taken it up. In the early days of the cotton trade the processes of spinning and weaving were carried on in the same cottage, and it often happened that the weaver was unable to keep himself supplied with weft, and not unfrequently he had to walk many miles in a day to collect the required quantity. To record the later development of the cotton trade in Rochdale, if the materials were procurable (which they are not), would be to write a history of that trade, which is not within the province of this work; but it may be safely said that as the various improvements which now rapidly followed one another came into general use, so step by step the weaving and spinning of cotton obtained a firmer footing in the parish. It was not until 1795 that a cotton mill was built in Rochdale; this was called the Hanging Road factory (and is still known by that name), and was erected by Mr. Holmes. It was to this mill that Jacob Bright, the father of John Bright, came in 1802; he commenced as a weaver, but was afterwards book-keeper and salesman for Messrs. J. and T. Holmes. He subsequently took an old mill called Greenbank, which formed the foundation of the firm of John Bright and Brothers. Very shortly after the building of Hanging Road factory (in 1804) another mill was erected in Collinge Street, by Mr. J. Pilling; the machinery was turned by a horse. About the same time a factory was built at Clough in Walsden, and in other parts of the parish.

At the end of the seventeenth century a stranger passing through Rochdale described it as a "pretty neate town built all of stone."[3]

At the beginning of the eighteenth century there were, according to

[1] State Papers (Record Office, 7 Dom., I. 95). [2] Chet. Soc., lix., 123.
[3] Through England on a Side Saddle in the Time of William and Mary.



THIS PLAN OF THE ROCHDALE GLEBE IN 1754-57 IS FROM A MAP NOW IN POSSESSION OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS.

Bishop Gastrell,[1] 130 houses in two of the best streets in Rochdale, and they belonged to the glebe; these were Church Lane and the Packer. The plan of the glebe estate taken in or about 1755 supports this statement. This map has also another point of interest, as it shows at a glance the way in which the course of the river has been altered; assuming, as we well may do, that the original northern boundary of the glebe was the water of the Roch. In 1783 there were on the church's land 200 houses, mostly on lease for 99 years.[2]

Defoe's journey over Blackstone Edge has already been referred to [p. 9]. He described Rochdale as "a good market town, and of late much improved in the woollen manufacture, as are also the villages in its neighbourhood, it is a more populous town than Bury."

Dr. Richard Pococke, the learned eastern traveller, has left on record a description of the town of Rochdale in 1751, which forms a strong contrast to its present appearance. He writes: "It is situated on both sides of the river, and to the south very pleasantly up the side of a hill, where the situation of the church and parsonage are most beautiful. Dr. Tonsall [Dunster], near ninety, has built a handsome house and improved the charming situation of the garden on a heighth, and there is a mount over the river in such a manner as to make it one of the most delightful parsonage houses in England. They have a large manufacture here of blankets, baies and shaloons."[3]

The rebellion of 1745 does not appear to have disturbed the peace of this parish, although it is true that a very small detachment of the rebels passed through the town, they did not receive either sympathy or support. There is a tradition, however, that they found one recruit, named Valentine Holt, who, having joined the main body at Manchester, went on to Scotland, and on 28th October, 1746, was executed with six others at Penrith.[4] An exact account of the visit to Rochdale of the followers of the Pretender has fortunately been preserved in an official letter written by Thomas Ferrand, and dated Rochdale, 31st November [1st December], 1745. He wrote (evidently to some person in office):

"Your emissaries are here and can give you no farther acc[t] of the Scotch than that 23 of 'em on horseback came to the town yesterday [30th November, 1745] and staid ab[t] three hours. They made no demand for anything but arms, and have left orders with our Constables to produce them all the militia arms ag[t] this day at noon. They behaved

[1] Chet. Soc., lix., 123. [2] Church Terrier.
[3] Dr. Pococke's Travels through England, 1751.—Surtees Soc., xlii., 205.
[4] Rochdale in 1745 and 1746, by an old Inhabitant [Samuel Brierley].—Rochdale, 1874.

well, payd for what they called for, and did not plunder any body, only one of 'em took a horse from Robinson the L[d] Lord, but upon his application to one of their chiefs it was restored. The whole body of 'em is at Manchester, and there's no certainty when or which way they design to march. The Chevalier went thro' the town of Manchester yesterday in public. A good many of the townsmen have joined 'em. I am,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FERRAND.[1]

This visit to Rochdale was on a Sunday (St. Andrew's Day), and that same evening the Prince's forces commenced their march towards Macclesfield, so Rochdale saw no more of them.

Formerly there was a considerable amount of land in the parish on which oats were grown; in 1794 there were 889 acres, and in the year following 925 acres thus used.[2]

The following descriptions of the town may be taken to be generally correct, and to furnish a picture of it as it then was.

1777.

"We soon arrived [coming from Halifax] at a very lofty ridge of the most desolate and forlorn appearance, called Blackstone Edge, continuing for several miles. The road level, hard and straight, and on that score pleasant; the land waste and of russet hue, covered with furze; not a tree, shrub, plant, hedge or wall to be seen. From thence we descended into the low grounds, well inhabited and improved. In one respect this part of England is more pleasant than the others; the grounds are covered with houses, and each manufacturer having a small farm or parcel of land besides his trade to depend on, there being more freeholders[3] or owners of small farms and plantations here than in any county of the kingdom. We arrived at Rochdale about two o'clock, engaged dinner and took a ramble. The church stands on a hill to which the ascent is by a hundred stone steps. This town is remarkable for many wealthy merchants; it has a large woollen market, the merchants from Halifax, &c., repairing hither weekly; the neighbourhood abounds in clothiers."

The diary of Samuel Curwen, an American refugee, furnishes another description.[4]

1778.

"This place is famous for its manufactories of cloth, kerseys, and shalloons [woollen goods]. Every considerable house is a manufactory, and is supplied with a rivulet or little stream, without which the business cannot be carried on. The water, tinged with the dregs of the dyeing fat, with the oil, soap, tallow or other ingredients used by the clothiers, enriches the land through which it passes beyond imagination. The place seems to have been designed by Providence for the very purpose to which it is allotted, viz., the carrying

[1] Raines' MS., xxxiv., 80. [2] Vicar Hay's MSS. (Rochdale Vicarage).

[3] Many of these were merely copyholders.

[4] Journal, &c., of the late Samuel Curwen, Judge of Admiralty, &c., an American refugee in England, from 1775 to 1786, by G. A. Ward.—New York, 1842.

on a manufacture which can no where be so well supplied with the conveniences necessary to it. The women and children are all employed here, not a beggar or idle person being to be seen.[1]

The Hon. Mrs. Murray, in her "Companion to the Lakes," published in 1799, writes:

"There are no great beauties in Rochdale, and the town (most part of it) is very dirty and the streets very narrow; but from experience I know some of the inhabitants to be very kind, hospitable and truly friendly; and besides the Rochdale women are in general handsome. Avoid passing through Rochdale on Mondays; it is market day, and you may be detained in the streets without being able to pass through the crowd for an hour or two. From Rochdale to Manchester thirteen miles, a rough road of broken pavement."

The streets are certainly not so dirty nor so narrow as they then were, but the women are as handsome as ever.

Anciently the market day was Wednesday, but in the time of George III. it was changed to Monday. The annual cattle fairs on 14th May and 7th November were greatly resorted to. There is now a cattle market every fortnight.

In 1788 the canal between Rochdale and Sowerby Bridge was opened, but it was not continued to Manchester until 1804.

The first stage coach, the "High Flyer," commenced to run from Rochdale to Manchester in 1790.

From the diary[2] of a bookseller (Josiah Lancashire), who had his shop near the Butts, we get a short account of the Volunteer Corps raised in 1794. "28 May (1794).—Found shop just opened, the cows gone. The volunteers returned through the Butts; some had great coats; saw them dismissed at the Cross. 30 May.—The Corps of the Royal Rochdale Volunteers is complete. It consists of 4 companys, 50 rank and file each. The following gentlemen have commissions:—John Entwistle, Esq., col.-commandant; John Walmsley, junr., of Castle Hill; James Hamer, of Hamer; ..... Royds, of nr. Rochdale, captains; ..... Lodge, of Oakenrod, Esq., lieutenant; Thomas Drake, D.D., chaplain. One half of the corps equip themselves at their own cost."

Notwithstanding the evidence of the worthy diarist, the corps had not at this time obtained its full complement of volunteers, as is proved by the following placard:

[1] Beauties of England, 4th Edition, 1778.

[2] Now in possession of J. H. Lancashire, Esq.

G. R.

ROCHDALE INDEPENDENT VOLUNTEERS.

Such persons of the parish of Rochdale who are willing to serve in the above corps, and can produce proofs of good character for loyalty, honesty and sobriety (and under forty years of age), may apply to the officers appointed by the King for the command of the said corps; those who are approved are not to receive pay, but they will be furnished at the expence of a subscription with a hat, black stock, scarlet coat, faced with blue, and gold lace button holes, blue jacket, two waistcoats, two pairs of breeches and two pairs of stockings, with gaitors, arms, and other accoutrements. To contradict a report that the Volunteers may be ordered to serve as soldiers in any part of the kingdom, where government shall order them, it is necessary to subjoin an abstract from a paper on the subject, received from the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State: "Not to be removed more than five miles from home, unless ordered by His Majesty on the appearance of an invasion, when they are to be called out and paid like other militia, but not to be removed out of the county." God preserve the King and our glorious constitution. Success to the publick and private undertakings of the Volunteers.

HARROP, PRINTER, MANCHESTER.

JUNE 20, 1794.

The earliest record of a printing press in Rochdale is in 1796, when "Mr. Nield, Blackwater street," appears as printer of a broadside containing the "articles to be observed" by a sick and burial society which met at the "Tim Bobbin" Inn at Milnrow, kept by John Sutcliffe. A copy of this very scarce specimen of the first Rochdale press is in the local Free Library. [See Chap. XX.]

During the eighteenth century not only did the woollen and cotton trades become rapidly developed, other industries following in their train, but churches, chapels, schools, and other public buildings sprung up all over the parish. A subscription library was opened as was also a theatre. [See Chap. XX.]

From the beginning of the present century (except during 1826 when there was a great depression in the woollen trade and in the time of the cotton famine) the commercial prosperity of the town and parish has been very great; mills and workshops of every description having been built in every part of the district. Todmorden, Milnrow, Littleborough, Smallbridge, Whitworth, Facit, Shawforth, Castleton, Norden, and other smaller villages all sharing in the onward progress. In 1832 the steam engines within the parish were of the aggregate horse power —in Butterworth, 104; Spotland, 461; Castleton, 689; and Hundersfield, 929; total, 2186. The following exhibits the amount of horse power

(steam and water) in the various departments of factories and works within the Rochdale Union, in November, 1867 :[1]

TOWNSHIP.	COTTON.	WOOLLEN AND FULLING.	WATER—PART WOOLLEN & COTTON.	MACHINE AND OTHER WORKS.	TOTAL.
Blatchinworth and Calderbrook	429	229	131	97	886
Butterworth	321	299	212	342	1174
Castleton	2328	214	50	932	3524
Spotland	4307	672	565	540	6084
Wardleworth	776	337	30	284	1427
Wuerdle & Wardle	635	321	180	30	1166
	8796	2072	1168	2225	14,261

Connected with the trade of the town riots took place in 1808 and 1829, on both occasions the military being called out. The increase of manufacturing industry led to the extensive opening of coal mines and stone quarries. The mountain mine, yard mine, and forty yard mine were got wherever they could be reached, not unfrequently pits of 126 to 130 yards deep being sunk. The stone quarries of Facit, Todmorden, Walsden, and other parts of the parish furnish stone of superior quality for building.

Previous to 1837 the poor law was administered by the vestries and overseers, but in this year the Rochdale Union was formed, which comprises in its district the whole of the old parish of Rochdale, except Todmorden and Walsden.

In 1838 the Manchester and Leeds railway was opened as far as Littleborough.

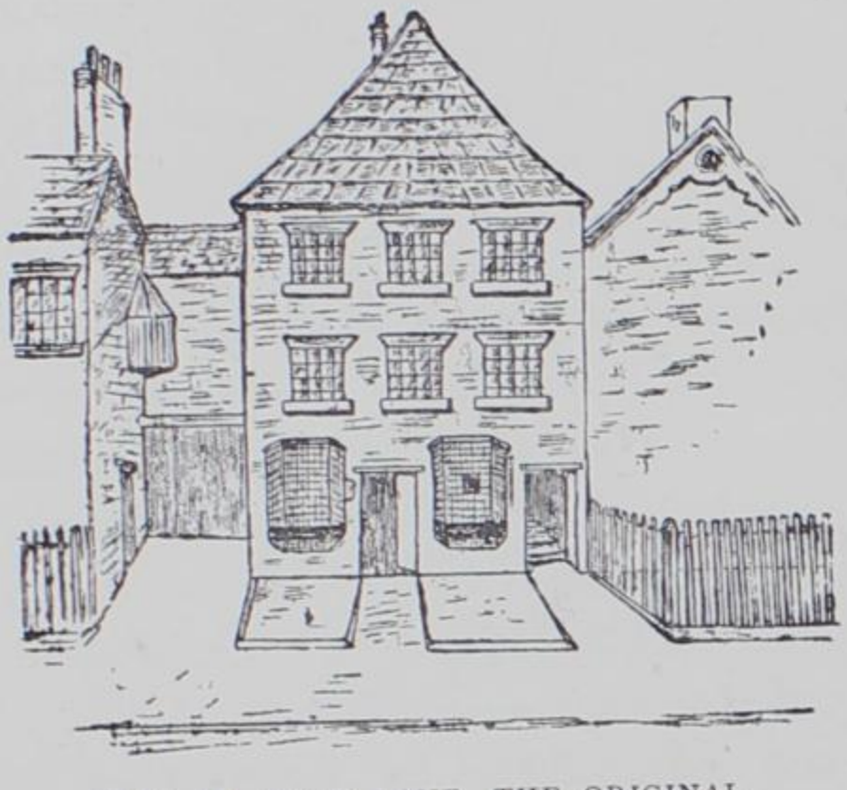
During the last fifty years very great improvements have been made in the town of Rochdale—notably the pulling down of the west side of "The Packer" and the erection of the town hall on the adjoining land, the erection of two bridges over the river, the opening of the park, baths, free library,[2] and cemetery.

In 1844 the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers' Society was established, and commenced business in humble premises in Toad Lane, with 28 members; it is now one of the most flourishing institutions in the north of England. An idea of the rapid development of this society may be

[1] Baines' Hist. Lanc., 1868, Vol. I., 502. (This does not include Todmorden and Walsden.)

[2] The "Public Libraries Act" was adopted in 1870. The library was first opened in the town hall, but after the fire there the present building was erected. The library contains over 41,000 volumes.

formed from the following details: in 1845 the society numbered 74 members, having £181 capital, the business done amounting to £710, which had resulted in a profit of £22; in 1888 there were 11,278 members, with funds amounting to £344,669, the business for the year representing £267,726, which (including interest) made a profit of £47,119. In addition to the central store the society has branch shops all over the parish; it has also a central reading room, seventeen branch newsrooms, and a reference and lending library.



SHOP 31, TOAD LANE, THE ORIGINAL "STORES," 1844.[1]



CENTRAL STORE, BUILT IN 1867.[2]

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1825 the town of Rochdale was defined by a circle with a radius of three-quarters of a mile from the old market place, and under this Act the Commissioners of Police managed most of the affairs of the town; previously the town was governed by the magistrates, parish constables, and the manor court. By an Act of 1844 the Commissioners became an elected body (by the £10 householders), and the chairman was styled the High Constable. In this year the gas works were purchased for the town. In 1760 the only water reserve was a small reservoir in Leyland Brow, near the Church Steps, which was in private hands and quite inadequate to the wants of the place; this led to the formation of a water works company, which purchased this small reservoir and in 1809 obtained parliamentary powers to make other reservoirs to supply the town. The Rochdale Corporation purchased the

[1] From a block supplied by the Proprietors of the "Rochdale Star."
[2] From a block lent by the Pioneers' Society.

water works in 1866, and have since constructed Spring Mill and Cowm reservoirs.

By the Reform Act of 1832 Rochdale was created a borough, and obtained the privilege of returning a member to the House of Commons. The following are the results of the elections since 1832:

1832 Dec.	John Fenton	(L)	277
	John Entwisle	(C)	246
	James Taylor	(L)	109
1835 June	John Entwisle	(C)	369
	John Fenton	(L)	326
1837 April	John Fenton	(L)	383
	Clement Royds	(C)	339
1837 July	John Fenton	(L)	374
	Capt. A. Ramsay	(C)	349
1841 July	W. S. Crawford	(L)	399
	James Fenton	(C)	338
1847 June	W. S. Crawford	(L)	
	[No contest.]		
1852 July	Edward Miall	(L)	529
	Capt. A. Ramsay	(C)	375
1857 Mar.	Sir A. Ramsay	(C)	534
	Edward Miall	(L)	486
1859 April	Richard Cobden	(L)	
	[No contest.]		
1865 April	T. B. Potter	(L)	646
	W. B. Brett	(C)	496
1865 July	T. B. Potter	(L)	
	[No contest.]		
1868 Nov.	T. B. Potter	(L)	4455
	W. W. Schofield	(C)	3270
1874 Feb.	T. B. Potter	(L)	4498
	R. W. Gamble	(C)	3998
1880	T. B. Potter	(L)	5614
	R. W. Gamble	(C)	3716
1885	T. B. Potter	(L)	5552
	E. Lees	(C)	4417
1886	T. B. Potter	(L)	4738
	J. B. Marriott	(C)	3481

The Market Company was formed in 1822, and obtained an Act of Parliament 23rd May, 1823, and by virtue thereof acquired from Lord Byron for £500 the old market, and "the bell used by the cryer or bellman and the profits thereof." The old stalls in the streets, which were said to be dangerous to the public, were then done away with. Under this Act the lord of the manor reserved the right to hold fairs, &c., and as late as 1872 the horse fair was held in Cheetham Street; the right was then purchased by the Corporation, who have provided ground for fairs and cattle markets.

On 9th September, 1856, the town received a charter of incorporation, under which the town council was to consist of forty burgesses who were to elect ten aldermen. In 1871 the borough was extended, whereby the borough boundary became co-terminous with the parliamentary borough and it was made to consist of ten wards. It is now a county borough. The following is a list of mayors from the time of the incorporation:

Jacob Bright - - -	1856-7
Robert Taylor Heape	1857-8
Andrew Stewart - -	1858-9
Thomas Ashworth -	1859-60
Joseph Hamilton Moore	1860-1
John Thompson Pagan	1861-2
Geo. Leach Ashworth	1862-3
Samuel Stott - - -	1863-4
John Tatham - - -	1864-5
Samuel Stott - - -	1865-6
John Robinson - - -	1866-7
Charles Whitaker - -	1867-8
George Mansell - -	1868-9
T. B. Willans - - -	1869-70
G. L. Ashworth - -	1870-1
W. T. Shawcross - -	1871-2
W. T. Shawcross - -	1872-3
Charles Whitaker - -	1873-4
Samuel Tweedale - -	1874-5
J. S. Littlewood - -	1875-6
Robert Taylor Heape	1876-7
James Tweedale - -	1877-8
W. J. Petrie - - -	1878-9
Thomas Schofield - -	1879-80
William Baron - - -	1880-1
William Baron - - -	1881-2
John Harley - - -	1882 to March, 1883
William Baron - - -	1883
Thomas Schofield - -	1883-4
J. S. Hudson - - -	1884-5
J. R. Heape - - -	1885-6
J. R. Heape - - -	1886-7
J. E. Petrie - - -	1887-8
J. E. Petrie - - -	1888-9

As illustrating the growth of the district in three hundred years the following comparison is interesting:

	BIRTHS.	MARRIAGES.	DEATHS.
1583 - -	152	45	96
1883 - -	3478	869	2381

The figures for 1583 represent the christenings, weddings and burials at the parish church and therefore included the entire parish; the 1883 figures refer only to the Rochdale Union and do not include Todmorden and Walsden.

POPULATION OF THE TOWNSHIP IN 1841 AND 1881.

	1841.		1881.
Butterworth - - - - - - - - - -	5088	-	8410
Blatchinworth and Calderbrook - - -	4466	-	7891
Castleton - - - - - - - - - - -	14,279	-	35,272
Spotland - - - - - - - - - - -	18,469	-	40,139
Wardleworth - - - - - - - - - -	11,400	-	19,711
Wuerdle and Wardle - - - - - - -	6875	-	10,487
Todmorden and Walsden - - - - -	7297	-	9235
Totals - - - - - - - - -	67,874		131,145

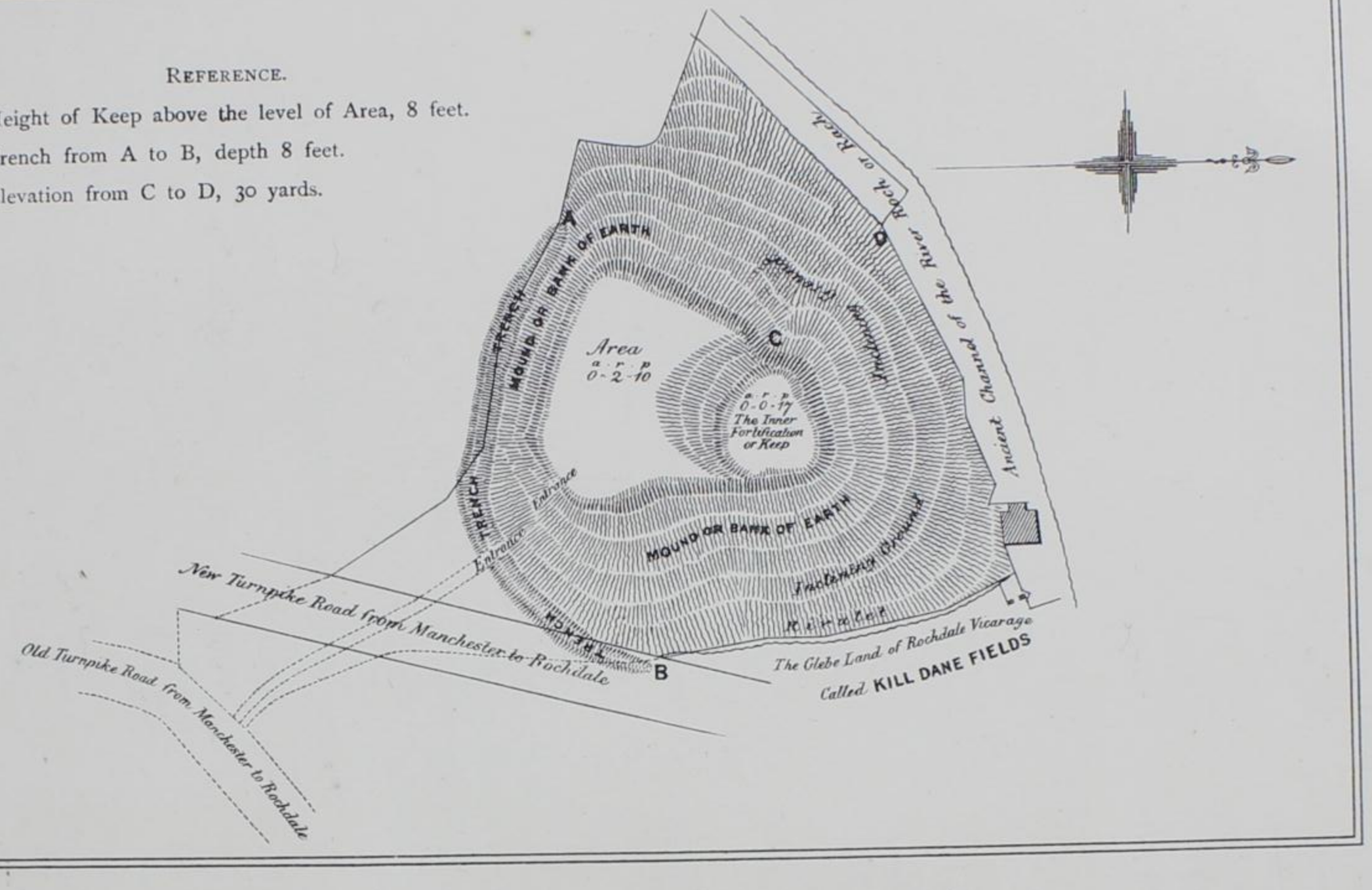
The population of the borough in 1881 was 68,865 who lived in 16,808 houses.

REFERENCE.

Height of Keep above the level of Area, 8 feet.

Trench from A to B, depth 8 feet.

Elevation from C to D, 30 yards.



PLAN OF CASTLE HILL AS IT WAS IN 1823. FROM ACTUAL SURVEY.

CHAPTER II.

Township History.—Castleton.

THIS, the oldest of the divisions into which the parish was at a very early date divided, took its name from a Saxon castle which once stood on the raised ground still known as Castle Hill. As the castle is not named in the Domesday Book it may be assumed that it was then in ruins. That its destruction was brought about by a war between the Saxons and the Danes (as has been often suggested) is mere conjecture, there being no evidence whatever bearing on the subject. Towards the end of the twelfth century we find frequent mention in charters of that date of the "vill of the castle of Rachedal." The castle ditch, or foss, and the "place of the castle" are also named more than once. In the Manor Survey of 1626 Gabriell Taylor held on lease for thirty-one years from the Duchy a house and closes of land called Castle Hill, on the "reputed scite of a castle standing there, but now clean defaced." The general appearance of Castle Hill [see plan] as it was before the new turnpike road was made, and the evidence just adduced, render it clear that it was on this spot the ancient castle stood.[1]

In the twelfth century John de Lascy granted to the abbot of Stanlawe four bovates of land in Castleton, two of which had belonged to Umfrid de Lascales, and two to Award Brown, a rental was to be paid of three shillings a year and four silver marks for the purchase;[2] he also relinquished all right which he had in the mill on the water of the Sothden for the payment of one mark.[3] By charter without date —but of the twelfth century—Adam, the son of Dolfyn de Heleye, sold to his brother Henry the two bovates of land in Castleton lying between the *assarts* of Alan, the son of Liolfus, and one called Wynestolus and

[1] The lands below, called "Kildane fields," are traditionally said to mark the place of Danish feuds; to this I attach no importance.—H. F.

[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 601.

[3] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 602.

the river Rach, at a rental of sixteen pence a year and two spurs. This deed was attested by John de Neubolt, Roger de Spotland, Alexander "de villa" of Castelton, Andrew de Worthull, and others. These lands were shortly afterwards granted to Stanlawe by Henry de Heleye, together with his rights connected with the mill at Sudden, for the rent above named; he also gave to the abbey, for the salvation of his soul, half a mark of silver and a bovate of land in Castelton which he had from Robert de ffleynesburgh.[1] This Robert de ffleynesburgh gave to the monastery two bovates of land in the "vill of the castle of Rachedam" which he had from Adam the son of Dolfinus, also his rights in the mill of Sudden, which he had from his ancestors. This charter was witnessed by Gilbert de Notton, Hugh de Eland, and others. About the same time Andrew, son of Alexander de Castelton, also relinquished his interest in Sudden Mill to the monastery.[2] By charter undated (but about the same period) Henry de Eland gave to Alexander, the son of Andrew the priest, four bovates in Castelton at a rental of twenty-two pence, payable at the feast of St. Martin annually. A little later (*circa* 1238) Andrew de Castelton, clerk, conveyed to Stanlawe lands in Castleton which are described as beginning between the high banks between great Bromyrode and little Bromyrode and extending west to the south of Bromyrode, thence to Sudden, and descending from Sudden to the water of "Rach," and so ascending the "Rach" to the dead water called Twofoldhe [See Chadwick], and then following the water to the south part of the "Buth," and across the "cliff" back to the high bank; this was to be held in exchange for the land lying between his field and the ditch of the castle (*fossatum castelli*) with the meadow on the west, saving free ingoing and exit to the place of the castle (*locus castelli*), and right of footway to his lands in Castelton in the north part of Smythecumbesrode and to an "assartum"[3] called Sethe; excepting as well certain lands, part of two bovates which William, the son of Margaret, held, being another "assartum" called Thistilirod on the banks of the Rach. This charter was witnessed by William, vicar of Rachdale, Galfrid de Buckley and Robert his brother, William de Haworth, William de Berdeshall, Roger de Berdeshall, Richard de Butterworth, and others.[4]

[1] Possibly a son of Robert de Lacy, who held the manor of Flamborough.
[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, pp. 601, 606.
[3] A place which has been cleared of wood, &c., and turned into arable land.
[4] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 608.

The locality of the land granted above is easily identified. The high bank is the bank near Primrose Mill, and from thence a line to Sudden behind Castleton Hall, down the stream to the river, and then up the river to where there is a double bend and the boundary between Castleton and Spotland is "undefined;" here it is quite clear the course of the Roch has altered, and as it originally ran there would be here a large piece of "dead water" covering the open plain. The Buth or Booth was (as the word expresses) a temporary building, and the cliff was the rising ground on the river bank; from it the boundary line returned, passing to the south of West Hill back to the high bank. In this land was included therefore the Brimrod of the present day.

Before the close of the twelfth century Roger de Lacey, Constable of Chester and lord of the manor of Rochdale, conferred upon Stanlawe four oxgangs of land in Castelton free from all service. [See Spotland.] This is supposed to form the present glebe lands.

A little later, John, the son of Reginald le Gynour, gave to the same religious house his lands at Castelton called Bromyrode, subject to a rent of eightpence to the chief lord. This was attested by Galfrid de Cheetham, then sheriff of Lancashire,[1] Galfrid de Buckley, Michael de Clegg, Roger de Berdeshall, Henry de Haworth, and others. About the same date Hawysia, the widow of Henry le Gynour, quit-claimed the abbot of Stanlawe of certain lands which she had as dower; this Henry was the son of John le Gynour of Castelton, as appears by another charter, whereby he confirms what his father had done as to Bromyrode.

By charter dated at Whalley 12th September, 5 Edward I. [1277], Henry de Lascy, earl of Lincoln, gave, for the salvation of his soul and the souls of his ancestors and successors, to God and the blessed Mary and the monastery of Stanlawe five bovates of land in the "vill of Castelton in Rochdale," free from all rent except *salutaria suffragio orationum.*[2] Shortly afterwards Emma de Achedon, widow, sold a bovate of land in Castelton (which she had inherited) to the abbot at a rental of twelve shillings and sixpence per year, and her sister Eugene, at one time wife of John de Milnehouses, quit-claimed the monastery of the same land, and in 20 Edward I. [1293-4] Cecilia, widow of Andrew Wordelword, likewise released her claims by inheritance on the death of her brother John, the son of Eugene.

[1] Sheriff from 1256 to 1261.

[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 595.

By charter dated at Rochdale on the Sunday after the feast of St. Bodulph, 1311, Adam de Berdeshall granted to the abbey lands in Castleton which descended to him from Adam his father.[1]

In 1329 most of the grants just named were confirmed to the monastery by Edward III.[2]

Another donor to Stanlawe was Adam, son of Adam de Berdeshall, who gave certain messuages which he held in fee in the vill of Castleton. This deed was dated 1311 and witnessed by Adam de Bellfield and others.[3]

From the great De Lacy Inquisition, taken in 1311 [see p. 19], it appears that amongst the Earl's possessions were six messuages lying waste in Castleton, and a rental of sixpence per annum which the Abbot of Whalley paid for one oxgang.

In the sixteenth century everything in Castleton still appears to be falling into the hands of the house of Whalley (formerly Stanlawe); amongst others the grantors were Agnes, the daughter of Henry de Whitelegh, who quit-claimed the Abbot of her rights in Castleton, as also to a cow and twelve and a half pounds of wool per year; and Henry, the son of Randulph le Hayward, who conveyed to the monastery all his lands in Castleton to hold of the chief lord by accustomed service. This latter charter was dated at Castleton on the feast of St. Michael in the Mount [October 14], 1331; two years later, by charter dated at the church of Rochdale on the day of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr [7th July], 1333, Richard, the son of Randulf of Castleton, and Johanna his wife, quit-claimed the Abbot of the same premises. Amongst the witnesses to these deeds were Henry de Belfield, William del Slakk, Thomas, the vicar of Rochdale, and Roger de Berdeshall. Certain lands called "Kilwardecroft" in Castleton, with the buildings thereon, were in 1321 conveyed by Robert, the son of Robert le Hayward, to Geoffray his brother, who by charter dated Merlond, the Sunday next after the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, 1340, granted them to Whalley, and in the same year Henry, the son of Robert le Hayward, released to the monastery every right which he had in the same premises; to this latter one of the attesting witnesses was John de Scolefield.[4]

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, pp. 630, 631. [2] Do., p. 272. [3] Do., p. 629. [4] Do., pp. 634, 636.

Marland.

Marland—or, more correctly, Merland—derives its name from the large mere which covered a large area in Castleton until quite modern times. Like the other parts of the township much of its soil passed to the religious houses of Stanlawe and Whalley; the following charters are taken from the Coucher Book of Whalley:—Alan de Merland conveyed to Roger [de Lascy],[1] Constable of Chester, all his lands in Merland for 100s., an annual rental of 40d. from Hugh de Eland, and service to the King; this estate was shortly afterwards given to Stanlawe. Adam de Bury, about the same date, granted to the abbey, for an annual rent of 22d., half the "vill" of Marland, which Edwin de Bamford for 100s, had quit-claimed before the Wapentake of Rachedam; this is witnessed by Hugh de Eland, John de Newbolt, Michael de Hunresdefeld and others. William, the son of Roger de Lightolres, by charter dated at the church of Rochdale in 1304, quit-claimed the abbot of Whalley of all his right or title to the grange of Merland, and in all the "vill" of Castleton and in all its divisions; amongst the witnesses to this deed were Richard, the son of Roger de Butterworth, and Henry his brother, and Adam Belfeld.

At the Lancaster gaol delivery, 13th June, 1302, William del Clegg was found to have been imprisoned for theft from the grange of Merland.[2]

Edward II., by commission dated 7th December, 1324, appointed John de Lancashire and Gilbert de Syngleton to enquire whether the seneschall of Blackburnshire, when they went into the Rochdale district, received "puture" (that is, if they made the tenants provide their men and horses with provisions during their visit) from the abbot of Whalley on account of his grange at Merland; from the Inquisition taken on 12th January following it appears that neither during the time of the King nor of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, nor of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, had the abbot provided "puture," neither was he called upon to do so.[3]

The mere was at this time well stocked with fish, as appears from the fact that Henry de Barlowe and Hugh de Tetlowe were, at the Lancaster assizes of June, 1343, indicted for taking 100s. worth of fish from the lake ("stagumn") of the abbot at Merland; and at the same assizes Thurstan de Holland was charged with a similar offence, he having

[1] Roger de Lacy died in 1211.
[2] Ass. Rolls, Lanc., M. 3, 2, 4, M. 3 dorso.
[3] Add. MS. 10,374, f. 141, and f. 141 B.

caught and taken away forty breams ["bremes et bremiculos"].[1] Three hundred years later (in 1652) one William Leach was fined by the Manor Court for fishing with a net in Marland mere.

The question of "puture" occurred again in another form at the assizes at Preston, 1st April, 1353, when John, abbot of Whalley, and others were called upon to show if they had not unjustly disseised John de Radeclyffe, senior, of two "putures" to be taken in Spotland and Castleton, where the said John was bailiff of the bailiwick of the sergeancy of the manor of Rochdale; and he claimed for his two sub-bailiffs a "puture" a day in every week of the year, and also on two days in each year at nine o'clock and at supper, at the abbot's table as his servants had.[2] At the assizes on 27th September, 1353, John de Radeclyffe was called upon to answer why he took and detained the cattle of the abbot, who complained that on 19th December, 1352, in the "villa" of Castleton, in a place called Merland, the defendant had taken two of his bullocks and detained them until a fine was paid. John de Radeclyffe's reply was that Adam, formerly abbot of Stanlawe, not long ago held the manor of Marland from Henry de Lacy, Constable of Chester (from whom the Duke inherited), for 6s. a year, and he had seized the cattle because the rent was four years in arrear. A jury, 21st April, 1354, declared that the Duke was not seised of the 6s. rent, and therefore the abbot did not owe it to him.[3] The "puture" question was settled by an indenture dated 8th November, 1360, by which John de Radecliff, bailiff of the court of Rochdale, released to the abbot and convent his right to bailiff's "putures" in all the "ville" of Castleton and the grange of Whitworth in Spotland, the consideration being 12s. a year to him and his heirs.[4]

After the dissolution of the monastery, Whalley, by letters patent dated 1st July, 32 Henry VIII. [A. D. 1541], conveyed all the abbey possessions in Marland to Thurstan Tyldesley and Edward Jackson, Esqs,, who on 9th December, 1565, sold the same to Richard Radcliffe of Langley Hall, gentleman,[5] and Henry Radcliffe his descendant died seised of the "manor of Marland," as appears from his "Inq. Post Mort.," taken 10 Car. I. [A. D. 1634-5]. He died 15th December, 1630. Langley went to his son Richard, but the Marland estate passed by purchase to Robert Holt of Stubley.[6]

[1] Ass. Rolls, Lanc., M. 3, 4, M. 16 and 29.
[2] Do. ,, M. 3, 4, 5, M. 34. Whitaker's Whalley, ii., 452, 4th edit.
[3] Do. ,, M. 11 dorso. [4] Add. MS. 10,574, M. 116, 117.
[5] Manor Survey, 1625. [6] Duchy Records, Inq. P. Mort., xxvii., 25.

Before 1626 Castleton was divided into four divisions, viz.:—Castleton (which was chiefly Castleton Moor), Marland, Newbold, and "Bewerdsall." Marland was held, as before stated, by Henry Radcliffe, and it consisted of 720*a*. 2*r*. 40*p*., which were valued at £229 17s. 8d. per annum. There were several undertenants. The mere was described as "well stocked with fish" and covering nearly eight acres of land; there were over 120 acres of the 720 which were moss and rough ground.[1]

Subsequently, but at what date is uncertain, Marland was made to include Castleton Moor. There are two detached parts of Marland, one in the centre of the town near the river, and another lying to the south of Hartley. In 1641 the adult male population of Castleton was 401.[2]

Buersill.

Buersill was anciently called Beurdsholm, Berdesile, Berdeshall, or Berdishull.

In several local twelfth and thirteenth century charters in the Whalley Coucher Book occur as attesting witnesses Geoffry de Berdeshull, Andrew de Berdeshull, Roger de Berdeshull, Nicholas Berdeshull, William de and Adam de Berdeshull.

By deed without date, but of about A.D. 1342, Henry de Baldeston gave to "Dominus" Richard de Byron, knight, all his wastes and moors in Castleton. The witnesses to this were Robert de Trafford, John de Scolefield, Roger de Boterworth, and others.[3] In 16 Edward III. [1342-3] William de Sclake granted to Richard Burun, knight, his lands in Buerdsall moor in Castleton for the accustomed service. In 1 Edward III. [1327-8] Henry de Baldeston conveyed to Richard de Buron all the lands which he had in the hamlet called Berdesile in Castelton, for an annual rental for ten years of one peppercorn and afterwards ten pounds at the feast of St. Martin. The witnesses included Adam and Robert de Berdishill.[4]

In the fifteenth century Barnard the son and heir of Alexander Butterworth of Belfield, married Eliza, the daughter and heiress of Ellis Burdshall, and doubtless some part of the Buersill lands then passed to the Butterworth family, but a great part of the soil was still held by the lord of the manor.

[1] Manor Survey, 1626. [2] "Protestation."—See Appendix.
[3] Black Book of Clayton (Townley Transcript). [4] Kuerdon's MSS.—Raines' MSS., xxv, 7.

At a very early date the knights of St. John of Jerusalem were landowners in Buersill, and as late as 1626 a chief rent of thirteenpence halfpenny was paid by some of the tenants to the Earl of Derby, who formerly paid it to the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.[1]

A suit in the duchy court which was held at the Easter Term, 5 Edward VI. [A.D. 1552],[2] furnishes some details of interest. The plaintiffs were the King's tenants at Crompton, and the defendant Sir John Byron. The complaint was that whereas the King was seised of the manor of Crompton, whereof a great waste called Hathershaw moor was a part, and Sir John Byron being seised of the manor of Buersill, wherein there was also a great waste called Buersill moor; but Sir John "minding to get part of Hathershaw moor to himself and to disinherit the King" caused one of his majesty's clerks to make out a writ of *perambulacione facienda* directed to Sir John Atherton, knight, the sheriff of Lancashire, who, being friendly with the defendant, caused his "special friends" to make the said perambulation and after this was completed Sir John Byron caused "divers great stones, every stone as much as twenty oxen could draw," to be set up much within the boundary line of Hathershaw moor, and if not removed will soon be taken to be the "meres" rightly set up between the two wastes. Sir John Byron's reply to this was to the effect that he was seised as of fee of his "own severall enherytance" in Buersill moor, which was divided from Hathershaw by certain "meyers" which by the informers or other "evilly disposed persons" have been removed, and to remedy this he had obtained the writ as set forth by the plaintiffs, and by virtue of it Sir John Atherton caused "certain honest persons" to make the perambulation and set the "meyers" in such places as they had always been; since then he had caused to be placed on his own lands certain stones that the boundaries might be the better known.

Two of these large stones remain to this day and are marked on the ordnance maps. One of them which is worn quite smooth and round is close to the door of a farmhouse called Moorgate, near Burnage, and the other is in a field a short distance to the south. Over one of the doors of Moorgate is a stone on which are the remains of some initials [H.M.M.(I.?)], and there are people now living there who remember that when the perambulation of the parish was made this stone was always

[1] Manor Survey, 1626.

[2] Duchy Records, iv., C. I., 5 Edw. VI.

struck with a hammer, as the perambulators could not climb over the house, through the centre of which passed the boundary line between Oldham and Rochdale.

In 1578, by deed dated 18th February, 20 Elizabeth, John Talbot of Salesbury, in the county of Lancaster, Esquire, and Robert Talbot, his bastard son, granted to Charles Holt of Stubley, and his heirs for ever, 72 acres of land in Balderston with several messuages thereon.[1] In the beginning of the reign of James I. Sir John Byron (then lord of the manor) made many grants of land in Buersill to various people, amongst others to Francis Holt, Roger Whitworth, Francis Clegg, John Butterworth, James Halliwell, William Greave, James Milne Taylor, John of Lady-house, and Robert Mayall.

Buersill moor was anciently a common or waste and included parts of Buersill, Balderstone, Newbold and Butterworth, and it was the cause of some considerable contention as to the ownership. The portion owned by Henry de Baldeston passed, as already stated, to the Byrons in the fourteenth century. James Garside, Esquire, claimed another portion which, by charter dated 23th April, 30 Henry VIII. [1540] he conveyed to Sir John Byron. In 1555 Sir John Byron, by a final *concordat* at Lancaster, acquired twelve messuages and gardens and about three hundred acres of land in Buersill which had belonged to Jordan Stafford and others. In or about the year 1520 Sir John Byron, as "steward of Castleton," enclosed part of the moor "with a dyke" and certain women in "peaceable manner did cast down the said dyke" and were thereupon indited.[2] The question of trespass on Buersill moor again proved a subject of litigation in 1553 between Sir John Byron and Gilbert Buckley and others.[3]

In the Manor Survey of 1626 Buersill hamlet is said to consist of "Bewerdsall towne" and "encroached on Bewerdsall moore." In the former were seven tenants who held as freeholders 98 acres of land which was worth £48 8s. od. a year, the only rent paid being the thirteenpence halfpenny to the Earl of Derby; on the moor were thirty freehold tenants who held 582 acres worth £201 os. 4d. a year.

In this hamlet is the village of Lowerplace.

[1] Manor Survey, 1626. [2] Manor Survey, 1626.
[3] Duchy Pleadings, I., B. 1 (1st Mary).

NEWBOLD.

Newbold was a recognised division of Castleton certainly in the thirteenth century, as about the year 1287 Geoffrey, the son of Robert de Newbold, conveyed to the Rochdale church and the abbot of Stanlawe a plot of land in Newbold, which was on the north side of the way which led to Butterworth, was forty-four feet long and thirty-eight feet wide, and upon which a barn was to be built; for this the abbots were to give him their prayers.[1] A family of the name of Newbold remained in the hamlet for several centuries. [See Chap. XVI.]

Dr. Whitaker states[2] that he had seen an old Rochdale charter attested by an anchoress of Newbold (*filii monialis*). The Buckleys of Buckley at as early, or possibly an earlier date than the Newbolds, held lands here, which they sold to various persons; this is shown by four charters without date, which in 1626 were in possession of Richard Scoffielde of Newbold, yeoman.[3] The Survey of 1626 gives in Newbold twelve tenants holding 295 acres, of an annual value of £128 12s. 4d.

LOWER LANE.

The hamlet of Lower Lane is comparatively speaking a modern division established for rating purposes, and its history is therefore not of historical interest. After the dissolution of the monasteries Robert Holt of Stubley obtained a large portion of Castleton by letters patent from Henry VIII., and it appears from his "Inq. Post Mort." taken in 1 and 2 Phil. and Mary [1555], that he died seised of the so-called "manor of Castleton," which he held of the Crown. [See Chap. XVI.] In 1626 the part of the township known as Castleton was held by nine tenants (freeholders), who had 1130 acres, worth £555 14s. per annum, beside 398 acres taken out of the moor and valued at £149 3s. 4d. a year; of copyholders there were only eight, who held 205 acres, and the leaseholders had three acres, for which a rent of 6s. 8d. was paid to the King. The free tenants were Robert Holt, Roger Brierley, Edward Leigh, Roger Chadwick, Charles Holt, Robert Haiwood, Edmund Cowper, Robert Holt of Lower Place, and the Vicar.

CASTLETON (BLUE PITS).

In the south end of Castleton Moor in the early part of the present century arose the village of Blue Pits, which is now called Castleton. It is managed by a Local Board. In 1881 the population was 4077.

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 161. [2] Hist. of Whalley, 4th Edit., p. 102. [3] Manor Survey.

CHAPTER III.

Township History.—Spotland.

THE ancient divisions of this township were:—Spotland proper, or as it was called in the Manor Survey of 1626, "Spotland towne," Chadwick, Falinge, Wolstenholme and Whitworth. It is now further subdivided[1] [see p. 2]. As in Castleton, a very large portion of Spotland at a very early date passed into the possession of the abbots of Stanlawe. The following grants of lands in Spotland were all made to the monks of Stanlawe, and where the date is not specified they were executed in the early part of the thirteenth century. Adam de Spotland, near the end of the twelfth century, endowed the Rochdale church with lands in Spotland [see Chap. VI.], which in the charter are called "Watlondewod." Andrew, the son of Alan de Merland, gave all the lands in the "vill" of Spotland which he had inherited from his brother Adam, and directed that his body should be buried at Stanlawe.[2] Alexander de Brodehalgh gave all his lands of Brodehalgh which he got from William the Sergeant[3] and Alexander, the son of Robert de Spotland, in exchange for an "assart" called "Parysrod," and also his lands called "Longerung;" for this was to be paid to the chief lord annually, two iron spurs at the feast of St. Martin in the Winter, the donor only to receive the benefit of the prayers of the monks.[4] Michael, the son of Robert de Spotland, conveyed a bovate of land (except one acre) for the consideration of a silver mark, also his right to certain wastes between Grymmesleysik and the forest of Rossendale, and between Naundenbrok and Heleyden. Another bovate was conceded by Hugo de Thellewall for eight silver marks and a rental of one shilling and sevenpence farthing,[5] this was witnessed by William,

[1] For rating purposes it is Spotland and Brandwood, Spotland Nearer Side, and Spotland Further Side.
[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 790.
[3] An officer connected with the manor.
[4] Do. ,, ,, p. 758.
[4] Do. ,, ,, pp. 743, 750.

the vicar of Rochdale. By charter witnessed by Geoffrey de Buckley, Michael Lightowlers and others, Henry, the son of Geoffrey the dean of Whalley [see Chap. VI.], for a certain sum paid to him by the abbots, granted four bovates in Spotland, which are described as constituting a fourth part of the "vil." Adam, the son of Suaniside, with the approbation of his wife, sold four acres of land in Donyngbothes [Donnisbooth] for three silver marks and an annual rent of one silver penny; this was executed about 1238, as it was attested by William the vicar and others. About the same time Henry, the son of Martin de Spotland, and Margaret his wife conveyed all their waste land in Spotland lying between Blakeclogh and Dreuetclogh, near Naueden [Naden], which he had from Alan de Merland, and which was part of a bovate exchanged for lands called Broderod [Brotherod]; this was also witnessed by William the vicar.[1] Diana, Matilda and Cristiana, the daughters of Michael, the son of Robert of Spotland, conveyed all the rights which they had in a bovate of land which their father had sold to the monastery, and also in certain parcels of land between Spotland and the Redbroke; the consideration was two shillings.

At the assizes at Lancaster in June, 1292, John de Lacy of Cromwelbotham sued Robert de Whitworth for fifteen acres of pasture and five acres of wood in Spotland, of which Robert unjustly disseised John de Lacy, father of the plaintiff; the defence was that Robert de Whitworth held in common with the abbot of Stanlawe and Robert, the son of Henry; as this could not be refuted the plaintiff was fined for making a false claim. At the same assizes John de Lacy sued Robert de Whitworth, Robert, the son of Henry, and the abbot, on the same premises, and after an adjournment was again defeated. John de Lacy, not yet satisfied, sued the abbot at the same assizes for thirty acres of pasture and half an acre of wood, the abbot pleading that these were part of the wastes of Spotland which he held in common with Robert de Whitworth, Robert, the son of Henry, and Richard, the son of Ivone; the plaintiff was again fined.[2]

As will presently be seen there were several landowners in Spotland in the thirteenth century. The subsidy roll of 1332 gives the names of nine. [See page 32.] To the poll tax of 1380, thirty-nine inhabitants of the township paid their quota. [See page 34.]

From the *Inquis. Post Mort.* of Thomas Holt of Stubley, taken at Ormskirk on the Thursday after Palm Sunday, 15 Henry VII. [A.D. 1500],

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, pp. 744, 730, 752.

[2] Ass. Rolls, M. 3, 2, 3, M. 47, M. 34 dorso, M. 65 (See Whitaker's Whalley, 4th Edit., p. 453).

it appears that he died seised of five messuages, four acres of meadow, and one hundred and sixty acres of pasture in Spotland, which he held of the King by knight's service and which were worth ten marks a year. ..... de Belfeld held of him by fealty and forty shillings a year a messuage and twenty acres of land, also in Spotland. [See Stubley.]

Whalley Abbey shared the fate of other religious houses and its last abbot, John Paslew, was executed for treason, 10th March, 1536-7, when the monastic possessions in Spotland passed to the crown, and Henry VIII., by letters patent dated 19th March, 1541, sold the same to Thomas Holt, "by our own special grace, as also for the sum of £641 16s. 8d. paid into the hands of our chief treasurer for our use by our chosen subject, Thomas Holt of Grizslehurst, have granted to the said Thomas Holt our manor of Spotland, with all the messuages, land, &c.," with the lands in Whitworth, Tongend, Rawcliffe and Brandwood, which "said manor came to our hands by reason of the attainture of John Paslew." The manor was to be held to Thomas Holt and his heirs for ever by knight's fee, *i.e.*, the quarter part of a knight's fee and a yearly payment of £3 11s. 4d. at the feast of St. Michael the archangel.[1]

Two years after this grant Sir John Byron and Thomas Holt were at variance as to their respective rights, the former accusing the latter of holding an illegal court leet and taking stray sheep to the injury of the King's court of Rochdale.

In 1560 Thomas Holt, then become Sir Thomas Holt, and a "man of great might in those parts" was charged by Sir John Byron with retaining an annual rental of twelve shillings and eightpence for some twenty years which ought to have been paid to him in right of his bailiwick and sergeancy of Rochdale and as collector of the Queen's rents therein. He further states that he was unable to distrain upon the lands "without great trouble and unlawful assemblies as they were kept in a forceable manner;" he also denies that the manor was conveyed to Thomas Holt or that the ground called Whitworth was ever part of such manor.[2] These arrears were unpaid in 6 Elizabeth [1563-4], when Francis Holt, son of Thomas Holt, was sued for them.[3] Thomas Holt and Francis his son were several times plaintiff and defendant

[1] Copy of this is in Raines' MSS., xiii., 360.
[2] Duchy Pleadings, Vol. IV., 3 Eliz., B. 2.
[3] Duchy Pleadings, 18, 6 Eliz., B. 28.

in the Duchy Court respecting their rights to various parts of Spotland. The general bearing of the evidence is against the right set up by the Holts to hold a court for Spotland. That they did for a time hold courts is certain. One such court was held at "Nattworthe" on 30th May, 15 Elizabeth, 1573, and was styled "the court baron of Francis Holt, gentleman, for the manor of Spotland, with members." The jury consisted of Joseph Ashworth de Greues [in Brandwood], Adam Holden, Robert Ashworth, Jamas Walsden, Andrew Shepherd, Lawrence Shawe, Edward Hallowes, James Hallowes, James Smith, John Lord, John Casson, James Brerelegh, John Clough and Richard Ainsworth. The special business transacted was to decide a dispute between John Holt and James Holt and William Ashworth. The court decided that "for the adjusting of all old malice, rancorre, hateryd and evyll wyll," all the "ways and gates" which John Holt had heretofore used from the walls "beneath the kilne" up to the fold, and from thence to the barn should no longer be used, but that he (John Holt) should "carry, fetch, and drive" to and from his dwelling-house upon and down the "hollowe" to and from "moss markets" at his pleasure, and he was also to retain a "garden-stydde" at the west end of James Holt's barn and a parcell of land called "Cattlebanke" in occupation of William Ashworth. If either of the parties failed to carry out this arrangement he was to pay the "lord of this manor," £iii. vis. viiid.[1] From the names of this jury and other details it appears probable that the "kilne" referred to would be one of those furnaces used by the Ashworths for their cutlery business. In 1543 it was clearly an acknowledged fact that Spotland formed part of the manor of Rochdale and in a case of dispute between Thomas Holt and one of his tenants, Sir John Byron was appealed to as the high steward. [See Chap. XIX, Oakenrod.]

The surveyor for Sir Robert Heath [Manor Survey, 1626] reports that Mr. Holt then held "his courts for the pretended manor of Spotland" and that Naden Head was the reputed manor house. [See Chap. XIX.] There were at that time in the entire division of Spotland fifty-nine freeholders and one hundred and forty-two copyholders and several thousand acres of common land.

[1] Original parchment in possession of Mr. E. Ashworth of Staghill, Waterford, amongst the title deeds of Boarsgreave Farm.

Like the rest of the estates which descended to Thomas Posthumus Holt, the Spotland "reputed manor" was sold to various persons as its owner required money, and long before his death in 1667 it had all passed into other hands.

The whole of the adult male population (which was 584) took the protestation in 1641. [See Appendix.]

Brandwood.

The higher and lower Brandwood form the northern and north-western parts of Spotland, and were included in the range of the forests of Pendle and Rossendale; at an early period the waste of Brandwood was part of the possessions of the Lacy family. Towards the end of the twelfth century Roger de Lacy, Constable of Chester, gave to the blessed Virgin and the monks of Stanlawe the pasture called "Brendewod" to feed their animals there, the boundaries of this pasture being thus described, "from Gorsichelache to Cuhupeved and as the Cuhope descends to the Irewell and so following the Irewell to Fulbachope, then going up to Saltergate and Hamstaleslogh and so to Denesgreve and across the moss to Cumbehop and Gorsichelache," in this the abbots were to have pasture for 100 cows with the offspring of two years old.[1] The outline of this pasture may easily be traced on the ordnance map. Gorsichelache was near to if not identical with Old Sink Slack on the south-east corner of Brandwood Lower End,[2] from thence to Cohupeved [Cowpe-head] is not many hundred yards, the Cowpe brook then forms the western boundary and runs into the Irwell and ascending this brings us to Bacup [ffulebachope], and from thence a road at that time called Saltergate led across the moss towards Todmorden, on reaching the Whitworth boundary, and turning to the south brings us to Deansgreave, and then following the Brandwood boundary across Lee Moss and we are back at Old Sink Slack. This grant of the pasture of Brandwood was subsequently confirmed by Henry the Earl of Lincoln. According to an Inquisition taken 18 Edward III. [1344-5] there was not in the time of King John [1199-1216] a manor or mansion in Brandwood, the land was lying waste and uncultivated and formed part of the forest of Pendle.[3] Like many

[1] Coucher Book, p. 153.

[2] "Withens" is described as being between Bagden and Gorsichelache in a twelfth century deed.—Coucher Book, p. 675.

[3] Baines's Hist. Lanc. (1868 edition) ii., p. 510.

of the places in Rochdale this district gave its name to a family long ago extinct. In the thirteenth century Geoffrey de Bukkel [Buckley] gave lands in Whitworth to Thomas de Brentwood, and subsequently his son Richard conveyed to the abbot of Stanlawe other lands in Whitworth, near the Tunfeld, which his father had purchased from Jurdan de Whitworth.[1]

In 1626, Theophilus Holt held 2,382 acres in Brandwood said to be worth £244 a year, he had also a water corn mill, he was the only freeholder, and there were besides six copyholders who held between them some two or three hundred acres which were only valued at £13 15s. 0d. per annum.

The value of coal in Brandwood in the seventeenth century may be estimated from the contents of a lease dated 20th February, 1667, whereby Thomas Posthumus Holt let for twenty years to Thomas Lord of "Greaueclough in Brandwood in the manor of Spotland," husbandman, all the mines of coal and coalpits sunk within the tenements of the said Richard Lord and James Hoyle of Tonge, and then in the tenure of Edward Hoyle of Tonge; the rental was fixed at £9 0s. 0d. a year, in two equal payments, one on the day of the annunciation of the Virgin Mary and the other at the feast of St. Michael the archangel, which were to be made in the porch annexed to the south side of the chapel in Spotland (Whitworth Chapel).

At the Lancaster assizes in March, 1833, a trial of a suit took place which created much interest at the time. The plaintiff was James Dearden, Esq., the lord of the manor, and the defendants were James Maden of Greens and other freeholders. The process was an act of ejectment to recover certain lands in Brandwood which had been enclosed by the freeholders. It appears from the evidence brought forward that in 1814 when Lord Byron held the manor, the freeholders had enclosed with a stone wall certain parts of the common containing about one hundred and forty-five Lancashire acres; a part of this enclosure was made the cause of the suit. The main portion of the common or waste was described as Tooter Hill and Reaps Moss. The question at issue was whether Brandwood formed part of the manor of Rochdale and the plaintiff produced evidence to show that occupiers of land in Brand-

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, pp. 645, 647.

[2] Deed in possession of E. Ashworth, Esq., of Staghill.

wood had paid customary rents to him; and that he had let coal mines under the wastes, impounded cattle belonging to strangers and exercised other rights as lord of the manor. The defendants produced the chartuary of Whalley containing the grant from Roger de Lacy to Stanlawe [see p. 17] and the confirmation by Edward III., and it was further proved that the abbot of Whalley had sold the waste of Brandwood to the freeholders before the dissolution, so that the crown never had a right of conveyance, consequently the lord of the manor had no *locus standi*. After a trial of three days the jury returned a verdict for the defendants.

A large portion of this district is still common land upon which extensive stone quarries have been and are being worked.

The top of Tooter Hill is 1419 feet above the sea.

Some information about the ancient road from Rossendale to Sowerby in Yorkshire is afforded by a Bill lodged in the Duchy Court, 24th November, 1608, wherein John Feilden, Robert Whitely, James Durden, Richard Heape, Edmund Bothomley and Robert Feilden, on behalf of the inhabitants of "Sowerbie, Yeland and Rachdale," certified that there had been "tyme out of mind of man a usual and common highway" for the inhabitants of the said places "to pass about their trades, being clothmakers, and other business over a common called Troughe" in the parish of Rochdale to a place called Rossendale. This road one James Hill is said to have stopped by virtue of his office as constable of the town of Rochdale.

The course of this road may still be traced, commencing at Tong near Bacup, and proceeding in a south-westerly direction to Slack-gate, past Causeway House to Trough Gate and Trough, thence to Hades, Lower Hades and Lower Slack (in Wardle lane). A little north of this is the road still known as "the long causeway" going to the north; the traveller to Sowerby from Lower Slack would then proceed to Town-house and on to Littleborough.

WHITWORTH AND FACIT.

On a fly leaf of the Coucher Book of Whalley is a memorandum written in French to the effect that—"time out of mind, as far back (it is said) as the reign of Henry II. [1154-1189] the lordship of Whitworth, which is a hamlet in Spotland, was held in equal partnership

between the ancestors of Eland and Lyuersegge, as is shown by ancient documents. After which the lordship descended to John de Eland and Robert de Lyuersegge who divided it, and subsequently John de Eland gave his moiety to the Abbey of Stanlawe at a rental of four shillings a year. The other moiety was given by Robert de Lyuersegge to the abbey of Sally in Yorkshire, at a rental of four shillings a year; twenty years after, the abbey conveyed it to the prioress and convent of Hanepol,[1] as half a carucate of land in Whitworth, at a rental of ten shillings to the convent and four shillings to Robert de Lyuersegge. After the lapse of forty years from the date of this latter grant, dame Johan de Cressy, prioress of Hanepol, gave to Robert, the son of Randulph de White the half of Whitworth, at a rental of sixteen shillings a year, on the condition that at his death one third of his goods were to go to the said convent. After his decease Randulph, his son and heir, conveyed his moiety to Thomas de Newbold, chaplain, for ever, who shortly afterwards conveyed it to Whalley abbey, subject to the payment of sixteen shillings a year to Hanepol; this being confirmed by Edward II. the abbey of Whalley became seised of the entire lordship.

The Coucher Book of Whalley contains nearly one hundred charters referring to land in Whitworth, some of which confirm the memorandum just quoted.[2] The charter of John de Eland is without date, but from internal evidence was executed about the year 1238. Robert de Lyuersegge's grant was made about 1222. John de Eland by other charters conveyed to Stanlawe all his wastes in Whitworth, as well as his lands called Hallestedes and Swynesheued, and the eighth part of the waste between "Horsecroft and Longacres, and extending westward between the lands of the convent of Hanepol to the Someraikis, and so up to the higher part of Someraikis to the ditch of Kotgreues, and from this ditch to the north across Colleclogh [Cowclough] and Kumbebrok [Cowm Brook], in the direction of Croipidhaik, to the waterfall where the hedge of Tonge goes down to great Cumba in the west part *domus agnetis de ffloresta*." William de Eland, the father of John, held a bovate of land in Whitworth, which the latter conveyed to Andrew, the son of William Akemon at an annual rent of twelve pence. The family of Whitworths also were landowners here at an early date, and were likewise grantors to the abbey of Stanlawe.

[1] A nunnery near Wakefield.

[2] Coucher Book, p. 637 et seq.

In a deed without date (but of the thirteenth century) Henry, the son of Andrew de Whitworth, granted to William de Holden for homage and service and the payment of one half mark and twopence annual rent, an acre of land and a house in Whitworth in Harstandescroft; this also was passed on to the abbey.[1] About the same time Jordan de Whitworth gave to Thomas of the Forest a meadow which formed part of a bovate of land near Harewythnes [now called Withens], to wit between Bikeden [Bagden] and Gorsichelache, and a field near the house of Andrew Whitworth, which Randulphus White de Whitworth formerly held; the rent of this was to be one penny per annum.[2]

The place now known as Cowm appears to have been given a family name, as Jordan de Cumba gave to Stanlawe all his lands in Whitworth which he had from Andrew the son of Hugh de Whitworth in exchange for nine acres of land in Whythinfeld [Withins] in Spotland, the annual rent to be six silver pennies payable at the feast of St. Martin for all service except "forensicum servitium."[3] Amongst the donors to the Abbey of Whitworth lands about this period were John del Schagh, who gave all his part of the waste of Withens, and Cecilia, the widow of the son of Henry the son of Mose. The latter grant is dated at Rochdale the day of the invention of the holy cross [3rd May], 26 Edward I. [1298].

By charter dated on the feast day of Peter and Paul [29th June], 1299, Hugh de Holt and Marie his wife conveyed their lands in Whyteworth to the abbot of Whalley.[4] The year following, by deed dated at "Rached," Richard the son of Thomas de Whyteworth granted to Nicholas of the M'chargh all his lands in Qyteworth.[5] In 1321 Randolph the son of Robert de Whitword conveyed all his lands in Whitword to Thomas de Newbold, chaplain.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the family of Whitworth must have been an extensive one. The following are all named in the Coucher Book of Whalley:—Suanus de Whitworth, Aldred (probably son of Hugh), who had a son Richard living in 1325; Andrew de Whitworth had sons Clement and Geoffrey; Quenilda, the daughter of Allan de Whitworth. Golda de Whitworth, formerly wife of Andrew, the son of

[1] Coucher Book, p. 663. [2] Coucher Book, p. 675.
[3] Service which a lord of a manor pays to the King or a superior lord.
[4] Howorth Evidence.—Raines' MSS., xi., 21.
[5] Do. ,, ,, ,,

Hugh, gave her right of dower in lands at Whitworth to Stanlawe, as did also Quenilda de Whitworth who held land at Tunwalcliffe [now Tunnicliff]. Dande de Whitworth occurs in the court roll of 1335.

A very interesting case was brought up at the York assizes on 1st July, 1338, which proves not only that the inhabitants of this district knew that some of the shales overlying the coal measures contained iron ore but that they actually smelted it on the spot; and to this period may be attributed some of the "bloomeries" which are known to have been worked in the neighbourhood. [See Cutler's Green, p. 78.] The following report of the case has been preserved:—

John, son of Adam de Bukelegh, William and Geoffrey, brothers of the said John are attached to answer to the abbot of Whalley why with force and arms they took and carried away the goods and chattels of the said abbot at Whyteworth, to the value of one hundred shillings and committed other enormities to his great damage. Whereupon the said abbot, by Robert de Plesyngton his attorney, complains that the said John and others with swords and bows and arrows on Monday next before the feast of Pentecost, 5 Edward III. took and carried away his goods, to wit, three hundred pieces of iron *(pecias ferri)*, cloths—woollen and linen, whereby he is damaged to the amount of twenty pounds.

The said William denies having done this.

John and Geoffrey declare that they are not culpable in this matter.

As to the carrying away of iron, they say that the said John is lord of the thirtieth part of the town of Whyteworth, that Geoffrey is lord of the other thirtieth part of the town, and that the said abbot and others are lords of the residue of the said town. And that the abbot, likewise John and Geoffrey, in the waste of the said town were wont to dig at an iron mine, and smelted from the mine aforesaid up to the iron *(et de minæ predicta usque ad ferrum combuserunt)*. They also say that the iron was divided among them, so that of the aforesaid iron so smelted eight pieces were assigned as the share of the said John and eight pieces to Geoffrey, and they further say that they took the iron as their own proper chattels without doing anything contrary to peace.

The abbot denies that John and Geoffrey had anything in the lordships of the said town as they alleged.

The sheriff is commanded to cause twelve men to come within fifteen days from the day of St. Martin, by whom the matter was to be settled.[1]

Two years after this trial [in 1340] John de Bucklegh released all his right in the thirtieth part of Whitworth to the abbot of Whalley.[2]

At the dissolution of the monastery (as already stated) Whitworth was purchased by Thomas Holt of Grizzlehurst.

[1] Brit. Mus. Add. MSS., No. 10,374, f. 3B.

[2] Coucher Book, p. 686.

About the middle of the thirteenth century Andrew the son of Andrew the son of Hugh de Whitworth quit-claimed the abbot of Stanlawe of all his land in Whitworth which consisted of a meadow which at one time had belonged to Adam de Paytesyn and John de Eland and conveyed by them to the donor's father; at the same time he released to the monastery a yearly rental of fourpence arising out of his lands in ffagside. This charter was witnessed by John de Blackburne, vicar of Rachedal, and others.

In another deed about the same date this land was called ffagheside; three hundred years later and the name is changed to Faceside, Faside and Facyde, the pronunciation in each case being nearly identical.

In the Subsidy Roll of 1380 appears Thomas Fawside. [See p. 34.]

In the Duchy Court in 1566 James Marland set up a claim to a house, two barns and ten acres of land, and to thirty acres in Spotland "commonly called by the name of ffaceside or facide; two-thirds of the thirty acres he claimed as "tenant in copercener" with Richard Milne, and the other part as tenant in common with Francis Holt.

These lands his father William Marland had died seised of and they had descended to him as next heir, but he asserts "of late by casual means certain evidences of right belonging to him" had got into the hands of Francis Holt, Esq., who had entered into the premises and expulsed him therefrom. To this Francis Holt replies that he held the manor of Spotland by descent from his father, Sir Thomas Holt, and the premises called "Facyde" were from time immemorial parcel of such manor and denies that William Marland was ever seised of the estate in fee tail.[1] From this transaction it appears that the now populous district of Facit was at this time represented by a house, two barns and some forty acres of land.

The Whitworth Local Board of Health as at present constituted comprises the wards of Whitworth, Millgate and Shawforth.

Whitworth was for a long time best known as the village where lived the celebrated "Whitworth doctors." William Howitt after a visit to Whitworth about the year 1819 describes them as "the most remarkable men of the class that ever perhaps appeared in England.

[1] Duchy Pleadings, 8 Eliz., Vol. 8, M. 8 and M. 8A.

For originality and eccentricity of character there are few of those many varieties of singular personages with which the lower walks of English life have abounded which may be compared with them."[1]

The first of these doctors was John Taylor, who was a farrier but who did not confine his surgical operations to horses and gradually obtained a wide spread reputation as a skilful surgeon, particularly in cases of cancer or broken or contorted limbs. So great was his fame that he was sent for by George III. to attend the Princess Elizabeth. William Howitt on the occasion just referred to, found the village "an assemblage of poor cottages and the inhabitants living chiefly on dry oat-cake, milk and potatoes," and all over the place "were wretched invalids walking, some with patched faces, some with an arm or a leg fast bound to a board . . . . others moving slowly along like spectres in the lowest state of physical exhaustion." John Taylor, the first of these doctors, died 26th January, 1802, aged sixty-two years; he was buried at Whitworth, as was also his brother George Taylor, who died 24th December, 1804. James Taylor, surgeon, of Todmorden Hall, was the son of this George Taylor. James Taylor, eldest son of John Taylor, succeeded to the practice at Whitworth; he died 12th March, 1826, and was succeeded by his son George. The last of the long line of Whitworth doctors was James Eastwood Taylor, son of Dr. James Taylor, who died 8th April, 1876, aged 53 years. One branch of this family went to Todmorden [See Chap. XVIII.] and the other became the "Oldfield Lane Doctor."

The Manor Survey of 1626 furnishes the following details referring to Whitworth and Facit:

					£	s.	d.
6 Freehold Tenants	held	2587	acres,	annual value	538	16	0
47 Copyhold	,,	726	,,	,, ,,	86	9	6
5 Tenants at will	,,	3	,,	,, ,,	2	7	8
Common land	,,	515	,,	,, ,,	35	0	0

Of this land Theophilus Holt held no less than 2387 acres; he had a water corn mill, and held Tonge End, Hall Fold, Cowclough, &c., &c. A tenement called Leavengreave was held by Richard Entwistle. The other freeholders were Richard Milne, who had a close of land called Croshaw and two other closes; Jordan Chadwick had the half of certain closes

[1] Tait's Mag., 1839.

called "Tunnicliffe ffoulde," and a tenement called "Robinbanke;" Robert Holt of Stubley a house called "Whood Clough" [Hud Clough], and a tenement known as the "Crey;" and Charles Nuttall, who had a pasture called "Horswood" and a moiety of Horswood Knoll, also a close called "Longeacres."

Healey.

During the vicariate of William de Dumlington [*circa* 1238] John de Eland had a rental from half the "ville de Heleye and Faleng" of four shillings a year.[1] About the same period two bovates of land in Heley formed the marriage portion of Wymarka Eland [see p. 20], which her descendants conveyed to Stanlawe.

A family of the name of Heley were in the district at an early date. [See Chap. XIX.] One of these, Clement de Heleye, in the thirteenth century sold to the abbot of Stanlawe two bovates of land in Heleya, one part of which he had from Hugh, the son of Jordan de Mitton, and the other from Anchetillus his brother; to the same religious house Peter de Heleya gave his interest in Heleyhalghes, which is described as extending from Shore to Henese in Balschagh, and thence to the Brok and on to Falengesik, and so to Spotbrok," he also conveyed the assarts of Arnolderode, Heliesrode and Lightheseles. Heleyhalghes may possibly be what is now known as as the Hollows, near Shawclough; the three assarts are unknown.

Andrew Kay de Heleya about the same time granted to Stanlawe his fourth part of the land in Halghes, for which he asked no payment except the prayers of the abbot; sixpence, however, had to be paid annually to the chief lord for all services. Adam de Heleya also granted to them his moiety of the Halghes.[2] Another bovate of land was granted to Stanlawe from Robert, the son of Anketillus, the son of Andrew, chaplain of Rochdale. Anketillus had a brother Clement, to whom he conveyed a bovate of land in Heley and an assart which his other brother, Alexander, had made.[3] The monastery of Stanlawe did not get possession of the whole of the hamlet of Healey, but what they did hold passed to the Holt family [see p. 79].

In 1626[4] Theophilus Holt only claimed 106 acres, and there were besides him ten other freeholders, who had amongst them 108 acres,

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 638. [2] Do., 777, 778. [3] Do., 781, 782.
[4] Manor Survey.

valued at £13 15s. 8d. a year; the commons of Monston Edge and Healey Stones covered 240 acres, and were estimated at £30 per annum. What is now known as Ending was then called Henden, and there Jordan Chadwick held three acres of land, by copy of Court Roll dated 27th March, 37 Elizabeth [1593], granted to John Chadwick his grandfather, also lands improved out of Monston Edge and out of "Heley Stones or Whinhill," and Hendon Holes and Rake Head, lying between Healey-dene water and the highway between Whitworth and Healey. Healey-dene is evidently what is now known as the "thrutch," which picturesque glen was made the scene of Roby's "Fairy Chapel."[1] The Rev. Richard James, B.D., Fellow of Corpus Christi, Oxford, when on a visit to Heywood Hall in 1636, wrote a short poem,[2] "Iter Lancastrine," in which he refers to this picturesque glen:

"To Sander Butterworth,[3] who ledd me cleane
Through all y^e^ cataracts of Healō Dene."

And he describes the house where he was staying as "Heywood hall, to trading Rochdale neere." Heleyden is mentioned in a charter of the thirteenth century.

In 1626 the Healeys were still owners of lands in the hamlet, as were also the Stotts, Hamers, Woolfendens and Buckleys; Hugh Brooks, the curate of Ashworth chapel claimed six closes of land belonging to his chapel, but he appears only to have been a "tenant at will." [See Healey and Chadwick Families, Chap. XIX.]

FALINGE.

The Elands had an interest in the moiety of Falinge early in the thirteenth century. [See p. 20.] Adam the son of Henry de Feld conveyed to the house of Stanlawe a house in "ffalenge" with the curtilage thereto by charter without date, and Robert the son of Henry "de Campo" made a grant of land and house in the "villa de ffalenge" at about the same period, both deeds being witnessed by William de Salisbury who was living about 1250.[4]

This hamlet gave its name to a family which disappeared early in the fifteenth century.

[1] Traditions of Lancashire.
[2] Chet. Soc., Vol. vii.
[3] Alexander Butterworth of Belfield.
[4] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 774, 775.

Orm de ffalenges was living in the twelfth century and appears to have had at least six sons, most of whom held lands in the hamlet. These sons were Thomas, Robert, Andrew, Ranulp, Dobbe and Louekok.

Andrew de ffalenges, about the year 1238, gave to Stanlawe an annual rent of elevenpence which his brother Thomas paid to him for lands in ffalenges and the homage and "relevium"[1] of his brother Robert. In a charter dated at Rochdale on the day of St. Thomas the martyr (29th December), 1270, Andrew de Spotland granted to the abbey the homage and service, viz., fourpence a year, due to him from Andrew the son of Orm de le ffalinges; about the same time Ranulp the son of Orm conveyed to Stanlawe for the salvation of the soul of his father and mother an annual rent of elevenpence which Dobbe and Louekok his brothers paid to him for land in ffalinges with homage and relief.[2] A Geoffrey de ffalenges was living about the middle of the thirteenth century and had a son Adam, who for the salvation of his own soul and those of his ancestors, conveyed to Stanlawe the homage and service due from William the son of William, viz., one silver penny per annum, and also for a similar payment the homage and service of Adam the son of Henry del ffeld; this charter was executed about 1250. Adam de ffalenge had a son Robert who some thirty years afterwards conveyed to the same religious house all his lands in "le Faleng" which he had inherited from his father.[3] No doubt the son of one of the above-named was Gilbert de ffalenges, whose son Randulph, by charter dated at ffalenges the day after the feast of St. James the apostle (26th July), 1330, gave to the abbot of Whalley all his lands in ffalenges with the buildings thereon, to be held by the abbots for ever of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed service.[4]

Coal mines were worked here as early as 1576. [See p. 43.]

In 1626[5] Robert Heywood had walk-mill in this hamlet on a plot of land called Houroade near the River "Roch," which land was sold, 1st August, 1 Henry VIII. [1509], to Peter Heywood, son and heir of Robert Heywood and Robert Worstenholme [Wolstenholme.]; at that time there were two mills there. The other freeholders (besides Theophilus Holt) were Robert Holt, Abraham Hanson, John Strenger, Edmund Lyney, James Pares, Arthur Butterworth, Edmund Holland,

[1] A payment by a freehold tenant on taking possession. [2] Coucher Book of Whalley, pp. 769, 788.
[3] Coucher Book, pp. 771, 794. [4] Coucher Book, p. 799. [6] Manor Survey.

Edward Lee, Ellis Clegg and Abell Buckley. Edmund Holland held "colde walle shutte" by grant dated 9th February, 10 James I. [1613], whereby James Marland of Marland conveyed the same to Ralph Holland (father of Edmund). This is now known as Coldwall Brow. There was no common land or copyholders in Falinge, the waste having been enclosed before 1626. The freeholders held 255 acres which was valued at £176 17s. 8d. a year. [Brown Hill, Falinge, Coptrod, &c., see Chap. XIX.]

The greatest part of the hamlet of Falinge is now owned by the Royds family.

At the north end of Falinge is the village of Shawclough.

CHADWICK.

The name of this hamlet is clearly of Saxon origin, the first syllable "chad" refers to the patron saint of the church and "wick" to a dwelling place, which was probably fortified. As in the rest of Spotland the abbots of Stanlawe in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries acquired a share of the soil here. The following grants to them are recorded in the Coucher Book of Whalley, viz., Adam de Spotland, an acre of land in "Chaddewyck" with common of pasture in Spotland; Andrew the son of Henry de Spotland, all his land in Chadewyk between the house of Andrew the son of Ellote and Litelchadeswyk; Andrew de Chadwick, for the benefit of his own soul and the souls of his ancestors and successors, an *assart* or clearing in Irefford in Chadewyk near to Chadewikford upon the waters of the Rach, also half an acre which he had by exchange with John the son of Robert the bailiff of Spotland; Robert the son of Andrew de Chadewyk, an *assart* in Ireffordheges which was called Blakepughull near the Rach; Alexander de Spotland a clearing in Ireffordheges near to the last named.

The identity of this ford over the Roch is now lost.

The boundaries of Chadwick are exactly defined in the charter of Robert the son of Adam de Spotland (without date but early in the thirteenth century) whereby he conveys to Henry the son of Peter de Haworth for his service and homage and the payment of four marks of silver certain lands in Chadewyk forming part of two bovates, one of which he purchased from John de Lascy and the other he inherited from his father. The land is described as across the water of the Roch on the west of his *assart* called Redebrok and then ascending

to Catteschagh [Catches], from Catteschagh to Scolefullelache [Shelfield], thence to Grymmeslee [now Grimes], ascending to Blackelache [Black Pits] and on to Naueden, descending from thence between Chadewyk and Bamford and so to the Rach and then going up to the starting point; he also conveys to him two *assarts* near Irinford; the whole to be subject to an annual rental of nineteen pence. This land appears to have reverted to Michael the son of Robert de Spotland, who sold it to his brother Alexander who conveyed it to Stanlawe, excepting thereout "Redfern" and "Twofoldhee," both of which had previously been granted to the monastery. "Twofoldhee" was somewhere near the river Roch and part of the possessions of John de Lascy.

An early landowner here was Adam de Bamford who conveyed to Richard de Byron, knight, all his lands and buildings in Chedwycke, to be held of the chief lord by the accustomed service; this charter was dated at Chadwycke the Sunday next after the feast of the purification of the Virgin 12 Edward II. [1319].[1]

The whole of Chadwick passed into the hands of the monks and at the dissolution it went with the other portions of Spotland, but in 1626 [Manor Survey] the descendant of the original grantee of the abbey lands only held 113 acres in Chadwick, which were said to be worth £55 a year, and upon them stood a walk mill called "the hill house," and a messuage in Bagslate called Shelfield. There were in all eleven freehold tenants, who held amongst them close upon 500 acres; there were also seventeen copyholders, having 121 acres worth £47 11s. 6d. a year. The common or waste land, viz., Bagslate and Whitaker Moss, contained 114 acres, valued at £22 16s. od. per annum. On Bagslate Moss the races established in 1826 were run for many years. [Oakenrod, Chadwick Hall, Broadhalgh, &c., see Chap. XIX.]

Clay Lane.

Clay Lane is quite a modern subdivision, and has no separate history of interest.

Catley Lane and Woodhouse Lane.

Anciently both these formed part of Spotland proper, or, as it is termed in the survey of 1626, "Spotland towne." In 1418 [see Fisher-field, Chap, XIX.] certain lands are described as lying between the water

[1] Black Book of Clayton.

of the Spodden and Cutsungate [Cutgate] and the Redebroke and the Catcloghgate, which last can be no other than what is now known as Catley Lane; and in a Manor Court Roll, 18th January, 39 Elizabeth [1597], Shore Moor in Spotland is described as being above Catley Lane. The Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem anciently held lands in Woodhouse Lane.[1]

In these two divisions of Spotland in 1626 [Manor Survey] were twenty-nine freeholders, holding 1263 acres, valued at £552 a year, forty copyholders whose 312 acres were estimated at an annual value of £77 14s. 10d., and the open commons of Dinge (where the copyholders had an interest), Shore Moor, Hunger Hill and Gorsie Leach consisted of nearly 700 acres worth £56 a year. Amongst the free tenants were the following, viz.:—John Chadwick, who held by deed granted to Roger, his grandfather, and dated 8th May, 4 Elizabeth [1562], from Robert Saville, Esq., and Ann his wife, lands called the Cut-hays (hence Cutgate); James Chadwick, another grandson of Roger Chadwick, held Longfield and a walk-mill on the "river of Spotland," he also held Ellenrod [See Chap. XIX.]; . . . . . Birch had a meadow and pasture called Spotland Bridge, and land called Marled Earth on Spotland top; Henry, the son and heir of John Hopwood, held by deed dated 1st November, 7 Jac. [1609], from Jo. Hopwood his father to trustees for his use, a close called Thurstills and a tenement known as Hollands, also a water corn mill on the "river of Spotland" and a dwelling house in Spotland fold lying north of John Chadwick's house, with the house he had twenty-six acres of land, worth (together) £14 a year; Robert Chadwick of Spotland gate had a close called New-fieldes, near Ellenrod; next to Henry Hopwood's in the fold was a tenement belonging to Jordan Chadwick [See Donnisbooth, Chap. XIX.]; John Whittaker had a "fayre tenement with closes of land and woodyground, adjoining west to Catley Lane and east on the river of Spotland," this must have been near where the White Lion Inn now stands in Spotland fold; John Shepheard, by charter 16th December, 3 Edw. IV. [1549], from James Shepeard, his grandfather, to Richard Langley, gent., Lawrence Newall and others as trustees, held two messuages called Crumphill and twenty-four acres in Woodhouse Lane; Theophilus Holt retained nearly two hundred acres in the hamlet, which were valued at £91 a year, he also held Greenbooth and Brotherod. (See Chap. XIX.)

[1] Manor Survey, 1621.

Passmans, in Catley Lane, is a comparatively modern name, and probably had its origin from a family which owned or occupied it; a John Passman was buried at Rochdale in June, 1637. Rooley Moor, which includes the Great Ding, the Little Ding and the Clegg Ding, and other common land, is in this hamlet, and some parts of it are over 1600 feet above the sea. [Redfearne, Kitbooth, Greave, Woodhouse, &c., see Chap. XIX.]

Wolstenholme and Cheesden.

The early history of Wolstenholme is so mixed up with the history of the family to which it gave its name that it will be most convenient to notice it under that head. [See Chap. XIX.] It may be here stated that the limits of the hamlet in 1107 were much as they are now; on the east the Naden Water and on the north-west the Cheesden Brook formed the boundaries, the southern line passing through Codshaw and back to Naden Water.[1]

In 1623 the reputed manor of Wolstenholme was sold to Samuel Bamford, and a large quantity of demesne lands with it; but a considerable portion of the hamlet had previously been sold, as there were at that time a dozen freeholders, amongst whom were Thomas Hardman of Marcroftgate, who held several closes of land; Jonathan Chadwick, who had a walk mill which had been conveyed to his grandfather, Ellis Chadwick, 1st June, 27 Elizabeth (1585), by Charles Holt of Stubley; William Meadowcroft had a messuage and land which had descended to him from his grandfather, William Meadowcroft, who had it conveyed to him by deed dated 4th February, 32 Elizabeth (1589); Henry Radcliffe had a small pasture on the side of the hill called Falster Clough (now known as Fester Clough). Thomas Hardman held on lease (for lives) from Sir John Byron, dated 13th November, 1611, the tenement which he then occupied, called "ffeniscolles." Amongst the copyholders were John Hardman, who had fourteen acres on Knowl Moor; Thomas Hamer, a close improved out of Knowl Moor, called Ramsgrave, adjoining north on Birchinhall. There were in all forty copyholders. The waste of Knoll Moor consisted of 833 acres, valued at £26 13s. a year. A subdivision of Wolstenholme is now known as Cheesden, and was as early as 22 Elizabeth (1580), divided into Higher and Lower Cheesden.[2] The village of Norden (formerly known as Blackpits) is in this hamlet; it is a Local Board District, with a population of over three thousand.

[1] Charter, 7 Hen. I.—Manor Survey, 1626.

[2] Duchy Pleadings, 22 Eliz., 79, A. 11.

CHAPTER IV.

Township History.—Hundersfield.

HUNDERSFIELD differs from the other divisions inasmuch as it does not give its name to any of the townships comprised within it. It contains a large area of moorland, some parts of which (as Blackstone Edge) lie more than one thousand five hundred feet above the sea and includes within its boundaries Todmorden, Walsden, Littleborough, Wardle, Smallbridge, and part of the town of Rochdale. Two sources have been suggested from which the name of Hundersfield or Honoresfield may have been derived, viz., from a Saxon chief called Honorius or from its having been the field of some victorious battle; neither explanation, from the absence of supporting evidence, is satisfactory. Baines, in his "History of Lancashire"[1] says that in the time of Stephen [1135-1154] the name of Michael de Hunrisfield, son of Suard, lord of Hunrisfield, appears in a deed without date, but as he omitted to inform us what the deed contained and where it was, the statement cannot be accepted as of much value. The name of Michael de Hunresdefeld does occur as a witness to a charter of about 1235[2] but there is no evidence to show that he held the possession of the lordship, and there can be little doubt but that it formed part of the manor of Rochdale held by the Lacy family, with the exception of portions, *assarts* and *rods* (for the most part) which had from time to time been granted (in some cases from the Crown) to various settlers.

At the Lancaster assizes, 28th October, 1202, there was a case brought forward between Thomas the son of Jordon and Hugh de Elande and Uhtred and Michael respecting two bovates of land in Hunnordesfelde, when it was decided that Thomas held the lands from

[1] In 1st Edition, and repeated in all the other editions.

[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 593.

Hugh de Eland by payment of two shillings and eightpence a year, but for this recognisance he had to pay to Hugh one mark of silver.[1]

A century later a jury at Lancaster had to inquire if Henry the son of Richard de Hiperum and John de Lacy had unjustly deseised Thomas de Langfelde of a tenement and two-and-a-half acres of meadow in Todmorden and Hunresfield, when John de Lacy produced a charter and claimed to hold jointly with his wife the land in question; Thomas de Langefelde was fined for making a false claim.[2] In 1319 John de Eland was found to hold a carucate of land here by service and homage and a payment of sixty shillings.[3] A little before this time, probably in the end of the thirteenth century, Robert de Liversegge granted to John de Buron, knight, and Johanna his wife, all his lands which he had in Hundresfeld, and which he held of Henry de Lascy, earl of Lincoln, lord of the manor, to whom he paid suit and service. This was witnessed by Adam de Prestwich, Dominus de Hopeton, constable of Pontefract Castle.[4]

By charter dated at the church of Rochdale, 5th October, 9 Edward I. [C.D. 1281], John the son of Elias de Hunresfeld gave to Robert de Stanrinkes all his lands in Hunersfeld called "le Stanringe rodde" which he had from Adam de Turnehagh; this was witnessed by Robert de Assheworth, Alexander de Stanringes and Mathew de Werdle; by another deed dated at Hunresfeld, 19th December, 9 Edward I. [A.D. 1281], Adam the son of Geoffrey de Turnehage gave to William the son of Roger de la Schore his lands in Hunresfeld; this was attested by Robert the son of Roger de Butterworth, William de Litholres, Roger de Berdeshill and others; shortly afterwards, by charter dated at Hunresfeld on Sunday, the feast of the nativity of the blessed Virgin, 20 Edward I. [8th September, 1292.], Elyas de la Stanrynghes gave to Roger del ..... one-fifth part of his lands in "le Stanrynrode," he doing due service and paying a rental of twopence a year; amongst the witnesses to this were Andrew del Ton and William de Haward; in 1307 "Magister" Robert, son of Thomas de la Staneringges gave to Roger del Shore all the land which he had from Elias de la Hunersfeld, one of the witnesses being Elias de Stobbelegh; in 1315 John the son of Henry the son of Elias de Hunresfeld conveyed to Adam the son of Geoffrey de Turnehagh all

[1] Feet of Fines, Lanc., John, No. 21. [2] Ass. Roll, Lanc., M. 3, 3—1
[3] Inq. Post Mort., 1319. [4] Black Book of Clayton.

the lands which he had inherited from his father Henry in the *vil* de Hunresfeld, and by charter dated on the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, 11 Edward III. [2nd February, 1344.], Thomas de Staneringes let for six years to Henry del Staneringes his lands and mill which he held of Alexander his father in Hunresfeld at a rental of two shillings of silver; the attesting witnesses are Roger de Dernelegh, Nicholas del Shore, Henry del Shore and Richard the son of Alexander de Wordel.[1] Adam del Cloghe and Matilda his wife, by fine made at Westminster, 13th October, 1361, gave twelve acres of land and six of meadow in Honeresfelde to John of Werdeshulle, with warranty to John and his heirs for ever; for this John paid twenty marks of silver.[2]

By fine made at Westminster, 15th April, 1374, between Henry de Scolefelde and Robert del Shore, chaplains, and Robert Lowe and Johanna his wife, concerning the fourth part of fifty-two acres of land and meadow in Honeresfeld, Robert and Johanna acknowledged that the land belonged to Robert del Shore and for this they received twenty marks of silver.[3] In 1378, by fine made at Lancaster (2nd August), Henry de Burton and Alicia his wife gave a messuage and five acres of land and a wood to William le Genour for ten marks.[4]

In 1332 there were only ten people in Hundersfield who contributed to the subsidy. [See p. 32.] In 1380 upwards of thirty were taxed. [See p. 34.] The gradual sub-division of the soil is shewn in the history of the hamlets which make up this division of the parish.

The manor Survey of 1626 gives 109 freeholders, 67 copyholders, and 5636 acres of common land.

This division of the parish in 1641 contained 738 adult males, all of whom took the protestation. [See Appendix.] The return of the payments made in Hundersfield in 1694 for the war tax has been preserved and is of some interest.

[1] Evidences of Edmund Bamford de Shore, Raines' Lanc. MSS., xi., 171.
[2] Feet of Fines, Lanc., Edw. III., No. 138.
[3] Do. ,, ,, ,, 189.
[4] Lanc. Fines, 1—6 John of Gaunt, No. 26.

TAX FOR RAISING MONEY BY A POLL, PAYABLE QUARTERLY FOR ONE YEAR, FOR CARRYING ON A VIGOROUS WAR AGAINST FRANCE.[1] [The authority to the collector for the township of Hundersfield was signed by Joshua Horton, Ric. Entwisle and Jos. Gregge.]

	£	s.	d.
Henry Howard, Esq., and for last Q^tr.	2	2	0
James Stott	0	1	0
Mr. Tho. Buckley	1	1	0
Mrs. Buckley, son and one daughter	0	3	0
Mrs. Holland and two children	0	3	0
Abraham Stott	0	1	0
A tabler[2] with Abraham Holt	0	1	0
Ed^9 Turner and his wife	0	2	0
Mary Eletcher, a tabler	0	1	0
Ed^9 Thorneley, clerc^9	0	1	0
Susan Scholfeild, widow	0	1	0
James Scholfeild	0	1	0
Margarett Whitehead	0	1	0
Arthur Whitehead	0	1	0
Eliz. Stott and two children	0	3	0
Jno. Travis and his wife	0	2	0
Jno. Lees	0	1	0
Jno. Heyward, his wife	0	2	0
James Taylor	0	1	0
Randal Butterworth, his wife and son	0	3	0
Alice Hodgson, a tabler	0	1	0
Wm. Hutton and his wife	0	2	0
Wm. Lord	0	1	0
Widdow Butterworth and one son	0	2	0
James Turner and his son	0	2	0
James Sharples and his wife	0	2	0
James Stott and his son	0	2	0
Dan. Bamford and one child	0	2	0
Jno. Buckley, miller	0	1	0
Robt. Shepard and his wife	0	2	0
Robt. Bolton and his wife	0	2	0
James Casse, his wife and two children	0	4	0
Wm. Holt and his wife	0	2	0
Joshua Chadwick	0	1	0
Jno. Butterworth and his wife	0	2	0
Widdow Wolfenden, one son and one daughter	0	3	0
Alice Crossley	0	1	0
Jno. Wild, a tabler	0	1	0
Jno. Cheetham, one son and one daughter	0	3	0
Ralph Smith	0	1	0
Susan Ashworth, a tabler	0	1	0
Jno. Howorth	0	1	0
Jno. Smith, his sister and one tabler	0	3	0
Jno. Lord	0	1	0
Ed^9 Lord and his wife	0	2	0
Ed^9 Milnes	0	1	0
Henry Taylor	0	2	0
Abel Brearley	0	1	0
Abraham Whitworth and his wife	0	2	0
Charles Stott	0	1	0
Jno. Hollows, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Jane Romsbothom	0	1	0
Alexander Kershaw, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Anne Grindroade	0	1	0
Jno. Kershaw and his wife, Ed. Mills and another tabler	0	4	0
James Milnes, his wife and two children	0	4	0
One woman tabler and her	0	1	0
James Stott and his wife	0	2	0
Mary Stott, widdow, and one daughter	0	2	0
Jno. Wolfenden	0	1	0
Jas. Grinderoade and his wife	0	2	0
Ed^9 Taylor	0	1	0
Jno. Stott, his wife and four children	0	6	0

[1] Parents or guardians of children under twenty-one were to pay for them, and masters and mistresses were to pay for their servants and deduct out of their wages.

[2] Tabler = a lodger or a boarder.

	£	s.	d.
Ed[9] Clegg	0	1	0
Wm. Milne, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Alice Milne, a tabler	0	1	0
Jno. Clegg and his wife	0	2	0
George Mill and his wife	0	2	0
Mary Walkden, a tabler w[th] Hoyl. wife	0	1	0
Jonathan Howorth	0	1	0
Wm. Cryer and Wm. Roydes	0	2	0
James Bamford and his wife and one daughter	0	3	0
Joseph Holroyde and his wife	0	2	0
Holden, a cloat[h] dresser	0	1	0
James Bamford, junr., and one child	0	2	0
Jno. Stott and his wife	0	2	0
Wm. Low	0	1	0
Eliz. Kershaw, a tabler	0	1	0
James Stott de High Barn	0	1	0
Vx[9] Jno. Milne and one son	0	2	0
Eliz. Chadwick and Mary Lord tablers	0	2	0
Tho. Stott and his wife	0	2	0
Joshua Lord and his wife	0	2	0
Nathan Stott	0	1	0
Anne Wolfenden	0	1	0
Arthur Millne	0	1	0
Jonathan Milne and his wife	0	2	0
Abraham Romsbothome	0	1	0
James Taylor, his wife and one child	0	3	0
James Grinderoade, his wife and one son	0	3	0
Eliz. Taylor, a tabler	0	1	0
James Greenwood	0	1	0
Wm. Byrom, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Jno. Mills	0	1	0
Henry Butterworth and his wife	0	2	0
Henry Howorth, his wife and two tablers	0	4	0
Robt. Roydes and his wife	0	2	0
James Roydes and his wife	0	2	0
Robt. Stott, his wife and one son	0	3	0
James Stott [Clesum?]	0	1	0
Jno. Stott, junr., de Bank	0	1	0
Jno. Bamford and two children	0	3	0
Jno. Roydes	0	1	0
Jno. Roades	0	1	0
Isacck Smith, his wife and one son	0	3	0
Richd. Whitehead and Robert Milne	0	2	0
Mary Milne, widdow	0	1	0
Tho. Stott, his wife and one daughter	0	3	0
Robert Walkden and his wife	0	2	0
Margret Butterworth, a tabler	0	1	0
Tho. Healey, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Jno. Butterworth	0	1	0
Ed[9] Mellor and his wife	0	2	0
Holdsworth's daughter and Alice Bridge	0	2	0
Abraham Crossley	0	1	0
Mr. Jno. Chadwick and his wife	0	2	0
Jno. Bamford, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Andrew Rigg, a webster	0	1	0
Jno. Ashworth	0	1	0
Eliz. Shore and Mary Butterworth	0	2	0
Tho. Shore, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Susan Kershaw, a tabler	0	1	0
Jno. Lord and his wife	0	2	0
Jno. Stansfield and his wife	0	2	0
Mary Shaw, a tabler	0	1	0
Jeffry Kershaw, his wife and one son	0	3	0
Ed[9] Kershaw	0	1	0
Rich[9] Hill, his wife and two sons	0	4	0
Eliz. Dearden, a tabler	0	1	0
Eliz. Stansfield, widdow	0	1	0
Adam Hill, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Ed[9] Holt, his wife and one child	0	3	0
James Whitehead, a tabler at Ad. Hill's	0	1	0
Robt[9] Holt and his wife	0	2	0
James Kershaw and his wife	0	2	0
Sara Lord and her three sons	0	4	0
Jane Wyld, a tabler	0	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Abraham Kershaw	0	1	0
Ed[9] Kershaw	0	1	0
Jane Kershaw and Anne Kershaw, tabl[rs]	0	2	0
Charles Howorth and his wife	0	2	0
Sara Low, widdow	0	1	0
James Clegg, his wife and two children	0	4	0
Dan. Bearstall	0	1	0
Jno. Whitehead	0	1	0
Michael Utley and his wife	0	1	0
Anne Stott, a tabler	0	1	0
Charles Hamer, s[r]	0	1	0
Charles Hamer, junior, and wife	0	2	0
Mary Kershaw and Judith Butterworth	0	2	0
Samuel Hamer and his wife	0	2	0
Andrew Rigg and one child	0	2	0
Jno. Sladen	0	1	0
Wm. Roades and his wife	0	2	0
Jno. Lord, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Jno. Belfeild, s[r], and John Belfeild, jun[r]	0	2	0
Charles Belfeild and his wife	0	2	0
John Halliwell and his wife	0	2	0
Jno. Clegg, his wife and one child	0	3	0
Abel Butterworth and his wife	0	2	0
Mrs. Halliwell and one child	0	2	0
Charles Dearden and his wife	0	2	0
Tho. Buckley, his wife and two children	0	4	0
Jno. Butterworth, his wife, one son and one daughter	0	4	0
James Lord and his wife	0	2	0
Edward Hawkerd	0	1	0
Charles Dearden and his wife	0	2	0
Arhur Lomax, a tabler	0	1	0
Abel Kershaw and his wife	0	2	0
James Wilde and his wife	0	2	0
Rich[d] Knutsford	0	1	0
James Scolfeild de Hamber	0	1	0
Eliz. Butterworth, tabler	0	1	0
Jno. Lord and his wife	0	2	0
Richard Dearden and John Butterworth	0	2	0
Laurence Newall, Wm., Margarett and two children	0	5	0
Sara Chadwick, widdow	0	1	0
Simeon Newall and his wife	0	2	0
Ralph Butterworth	0	1	0
Anne Buckley	0	1	0
Alice Kershaw s[r], Alice Kershaw jun[r], and one child	0	3	0
Alexander Scolfeild and Jane Scolfeild	0	2	0
Rich[d] Halliwell, gent.	1	1	0
Mary Stott and two children	0	3	0
Richard Scholfeild	0	1	0
Alexander Kershaw	0	1	0
Mich[9] Buckley	0	1	0
Jno. Stott	0	1	0
[1] Total	£20	4	0

WARDLEWORTH.

Very early in the thirteenth century "Wordeworth" is named in a charter whereby Margerie the daughter of William Newbold gave a portion of her land to the church of "Racheld." The land was defined as extending from a ditch which was the division between the one Wordeword and the other to a brook, and ascending this brook to Miralache [a place not now known], and returning from thence to the said ditch. This gift was made for the salvation of the souls of King

[1] MS. in the Rochdale Free Public Library.

John, Roger the constable of Chester, and the ancestors and successors of the donor.[1] About the end of the thirteenth century two bovates of land in Wordelword became the marriage portion of a daughter of Hugh de Eland [see p. 20] and afterwards Gilbert de Notton (who married a daughter of John de Eland and took the name of Barton) conveyed the same lands in Wordelword to the abbots of Stanlawe.[2] This land no doubt remained in the possession of the monastery until the dissolution, but it only formed a part of the hamlet of Wardleworth. In 1626 there were twenty-eight freeholders and ten copyholders in Wardleworth, the former holding over 600 acres of land valued at £639 a year, the common or waste being forty-nine acres worth £12 annually.[3] At this date a considerable part of the town of Rochdale was built on the southern side of Wardleworth. Amongst the freeholders were Thomas Holmes, who lived in the house on the high street which was "vulgarly reported to have been anciently the Milne House:" he held this by deed dated 3rd March, 6 James [1606]; James Duerden, by grant dated 30th May, 20 James [1622], from Edward Holt, gentleman, had a house, late the inheritance of Ottawell Smith of London, merchant; Anthonie Lancashire lived on the south side of the high street;[4] James Hellewell held a house in the same street which had been conveyed to James Hallywell, his grandfather, by James the son of Richard Chadwick on 6th November, 3 Elizabeth [1561].

A Thomas de Wordworth was fined in the Manor Court in 1356, and a Richard de Wardleworth had a fulling mill and lands in Ashworth.[5] Towards the end of the century there were several Wardleworths in the parish. In this township is Cronkeyshaw, formerly a large waste or common; in a deed dated 1470 it is called Crankshaw; in the time of Elizabeth it was known as Crankeyshaw; a large portion of it is now enclosed and the remainder is vested in the Rochdale Corporation. [Buckley Hall, Foxholes, &c., see Chap. XVIII.]

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 162. [2] Do. pp. 46, 684. [3] Manor Survey.

[4] By deed dated 14 Edw. IV. [1474-5] the house which Lancashire held is shown to be next to "Roger of Milnes."—Manor Survey.

[5] Inq. Post Mort. of Robert Holt of Ashworth.

Wuerdle and Wardle.

These two hamlets were distinct in 1626, and no doubt for some time before that date, but in early records it is impossible to distinguish between them; they now form together one township.

A family which took its name from this place was settled here at an early period. The Coucher Book of Whalley contains many deeds which were attested by Wardles or Wordhulls; the following appear at the end of charters without date, but of the twelfth or thirteenth century, viz.:—Matthew de Werdle, Alexander de Werdull, Michael de Werdull, and Hugh de Werdhull. About the year 1238, William Mercator, the son of Seyn de Wardhull, granted to Stanlawe part of his lands in Wardhull,[1] lying next to his house. Nicholas de Werdul, in the reign of Edward III., gave to the abbots of Stanlawe his lands in Haword; and Adam de Saleburge also granted to them five perches of land in the vil de Werdel, viz., in Hallestudis,[2] saving to himself an assart and field, which he wished to use for an airie and for deer.[3] This Nicholas de Werdhull is no doubt the same individual who got into trouble about the deer in Rossendale [see p. 17]. One of this family, Henry de Werdull, was described about this time as "clericus."[4] By another charter, of probably a little earlier period, Award, the son of Suanus de Wordehull, gave to God and St. Chad, and the church of Rachdale, an assart called "Choo," with such common rights as belonged to the vill of Wordehull; this is witnessed by Peter de Haword, Henry de Wordehull, Hugh de Wordehull and others, and by John "clericus," who wrote the charter. To make the last-named grant good in law, it required the confirmation of Suanus, the son of Ailsus de Saleburie, who in giving the necessary grant described Suanus de Wordehull as "his man." Henry, the son of Peter, the son of Orme, of Little Wordehull, granted to Stanlawe for two marks of silver and an annual rent, all the right which he had to one moiety of Little Wordehull and other lands, with the homage and service of Michael Hunton de Wordehull. The lands in Wardle were held of Lyuersegge, at a rental of twelvepence a year for all service except foreign service.[5] In 1315 Thomas de Wardell attests a deed, and in 1344 appears in a similar capacity Richard, the son of Alexander de Wordill. In 1335-6 Margota, the daughter of Thomas

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 783.
[2] Probably what is now known as Stid Fold.
[3] Do. ,, p. 625.
[4] Do. ,, p. 660.
[5] Do. ,, pp. 156, 159, 160.

de Wordhill, was fined by the Court Leet for trespass. A charter dated 16 Edward II. [1322-3] describes certain lands in Hundersfield which formerly belonged to the Deanes, who conveyed them to Wardhulls,[1] and the same lands were in 38 Edward III. [1364-5] conveyed from Henry de Stones to William Radcliffe.[2] [See Todmorden.] In the Subsidy Roll of 1380 [see p. 35] Adam Wordal is the only one of the family mentioned, but the name lingered long in the district, the early Church Registers showing several families of the name of Wardle. From the "Inq. Post Mort." of John Holt, taken in 13 Henry VI. [1434-5], it appears that he held from John, Duke of Lancaster, a tenement called Litlworkdell (Little Wardle), and on 23rd March, 9 Henry VII. [1493], Thomas Holt died seised of in fee five messuages 140 acres of land in Litlewordull, which he held of the King, as of his Duchy of Lancaster, by knight's service and an annual rent, and they were estimated as being worth six marks a year.[3]

The Manor Survey of 1626 shows that in Wuerdle there were then fourteen freehold tenants, who held 943*a.* 2*r.* 20*p.*, worth £486; there was no common land nor copyholders, but the inhabitants claimed an interest in the common land of Wardleworth and Wardle.

In Wardle there were sixteen freeholders, who held 1125 acres, worth £477 a year; and twenty-three copyholders, who held 358 acres, valued at £66 a year. Of common land there were 880 acres, estimated at £44 per annum; the latter consisted of Monston Edge, Brown Wardle Hill, Middle Hill, Hades Hill, &c. Of the 1125 acres of freehold land Robert Holt held more than one half; Edmund Whitehead held by deed dated 23rd September, 12 James [1615], the Hollinghirst, the bank, the walker bank and the crooked lands, which Abell Kaye, son of Laurence Kaye, conveyed to Edmund Whitehead his grandfather; John Stott held a house and meadow called the "Crye," which was conveyed to him by Charles Stott of High Wardhull in 1616. John Milne by copy of Court Roll 7th March, 1624, by surrender of Edward Butterworth, Esq., held the house called Nickroad or Whorlestones. There are now (1888) two houses, one called Nickroad and the other Whostones. Alice Wolstenholme had a lease for twenty-one years from the Duchy, dated 10th November, 20 James [1623], which empowered her to "search, myne, digg and drayne for coals" within parts of Shore Moor (in Wardle) which were

[1] Bamford Deeds.—Raines' Lanc. MSS., xvi., 172.
[2] Manor Survey, 1626.
[3] Inq. Post Mort., Vol. iii., No. 45.

part of the copyhold lands of the late Henry Bamforthe, and she was entitled to sell the coals to the "most profit and advantage, the better to enable her to bring up the children of the said Henry Bamforthe, who are manie and meanly provided for;" a marginal note in the Survey adds that the lease was not enrolled, and that she had destroyed much timber for "supporting of her pits."

The following extract from a poor rate book for about the year 1680 is of interest as showing the rates then paid for the various properties in Wardle and Wuerdle:—[1]

	£	s.	d.
Samuel Hamer de Hamer	1	6	0
Richard Scholfield	0	8	6
Mr. Tho. Buckley	0	11	10
The occ^{9} of Haworth	0	6	0
Isaac Dawsonne et occ^{9}	0	5	2
James Shoare for Bench Carr	0	3	4
Isaac Lord et occ^{9}	0	4	0
Ralphe Hamer for all	0	4	8
Vx Tho. Lord	0	7	0
James Wolfenden for Hades all	–	–	–
Edwd. Rydings	0	5	2
Edm. Lord, senr., for Est. et Edm. Lord, junr.	0	6	10
John Cheetham	0	1	3
Rob. Butterworth and James Byrom	0	4	4
John Walkden et Mater	0	4	2
Jas. Stott de Yate	0	2	4
John Bamford	0	3	2
John Stott de Banke	0	5	10
Robert Roides et occ^{9}	0	2	4
Vx Jas. Stott et fil.	0	1	0
Vx Jas. Kay et occ^{9}	0	1	0
John Taylier, on occ^{9} for Alexander Ground	0	4	4
George Milne et occ^{9}	0	0	6
Peter Boulton	0	0	8
Robert Butterworth	0	5	8
Edm. Howarth	0	4	6
Alex^{r}. Whitehead et occ^{9} Robert Hill	0	6	0
Edm. Whitehead	0	0	8
Jas. Fielden de Wuerdle et occ^{9}	0	0	8
Edw. Byrom et occ^{9}	0	1	4
Mr. (or Mrs.) Chadwick et Fil.	0	6	0
John Smith for Birchau^{9}	0	3	4
Edm. Howard	0	7	0
Alex. Turnough	0	1	4
Wm. Kershaw de Hamer Mill	0	4	0

In Wuerdle is situate the village of Smallbridge and close to it lies the cluster of houses known as Wuerdle.

The Local Board district of Wuerdle and Wardle in 1881 had a population of 4,707.

In Wardle is the village of Wardle (or as it was formerly called, Wardle Fold) which contains several large mills. Here is annually held an agricultural show, which attained its jubilee year in 1888 and is one of the oldest in the county. [See Stubley Hall, Howorth Hall, &c., Chap. XVIII.]

[1] Raines' Lanc. MSS., xiii., 340. It is not quite clear whether this is a complete list or only an abstract.

BLATCHINWORTH AND CALDERBROOK.

To neither of these subdivisions can be assigned the antiquity which most of the other hamlets may claim.

In 1626 Calderbrook as a hamlet was unknown, and Blatchinworth included a great part of the district now covered by the two. At that time Blatchinworth was put down as covering 3591 acres; the area of the two hamlets is now 4780 acres, but as Todmorden and Walsden were said to contain 7560 acres, whereas by the present arrangement they only contain 7000 acres, it is pretty clear that part of what is now Blatchinworth and Calderbrook was then part of Todmorden and Walsden; if this was not the case then the acreage given in 1626 was not correct.[1] Blatchinworth is bounded on the east by the high ridges of Blackstone Edge, which forms part of the chain of mountains running from Inverness to Cardigan in South Wales and known as the backbone of England; over this hill formerly have been at least three roads: the Roman road (already noticed), the old pack-horse road and the turn-pike road; the latter is still used but its route has more than once been altered; in 1734 an Act of Parliament was passed for widening and repairing the road over Blackstone Edge, which was described as a "certain craggy mountain," the road over which, "by reason of the nature of the soil and the narrowness of the road in several places and the many and heavy carriages frequently passing through the same, had become so exceedingly deep and ruinous that in the winter season (and often in summer) many parts thereof were impassable for waggons, carts and other wheel carriages, and very dangerous for travellers," and it was asserted that it could not be "effectually mended and kept in good repair by the ordinary course and method;" under this Act trustees were appointed with power to place toll-bars, &c., given to them for twenty-one years [see p. 8].

On the top of Blackstone Edge is a large reservoir for supplying the Rochdale Canal, about half-a-mile south of which is a craggy part of the hill which is known as "Robin Hood's bed." In 1579 the Queen, as of her Duchy of Lancaster, leased certain coal mines and stone quarries on Blackstone Edge to John Blackwaye for a term of years. [See p. 43.]

[1] Manor Survey.

Extract from Poor Rate Book for (about) the Year 1680. [See p. 103.]

Blatchinworth.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. James Halliwell de Pikehouse	1	6	6
John Halliwell, for all	0	6	6
Abell Kershaw	0	9	2
Robert Newall cum Filio	0	9	2
Jeremy Dearden	0	8	0
Rob. Shore cum Filio	0	8	0
Jas. Bamford cum Filio	0	11	10
Henry Scolfeld cum Filio	0	6	4
Edm. Kershaw	0	0	6
Charles Hill	0	4	2
Robt. Halliwell et Jas. Dearden for Hoult ground	0	4	2
James Dearden	0	5	6
James Kershaw	0	4	6
Tho. Dawson	0	4	2
Henry Kershaw	0	2	6
Chas. Hamer	0	2	6
Henry Dickson, for all	0	4	6

	£	s.	d.
John Roades	0	1	6
Jonath. Chadwick de Sladen	0	1	1
Edw. Leech et occupier	0	0	10
James Butterworth	0	1	8
John Belfield	6	1	0
John Wolfenden	0	1	0
Sam. Milne	0	6	10
Adam Whitehead et occupier	0	9	0
Alex. Kershaw, for all	0	9	0
Edm$^{d.}$ Butterworth	0	10	3
Jos. Romsbottom	0	3	4
Ux John Stott et Filio	0	2	4
Geo. and Jas. Hill et occu^{p}	0	3	0
James Roades de Lightowlers	0	1	1
Jos. Scolfeild	0	0	6
James Scolfeild	0	1	0
James Roades	0	0	0½
The occup^{r} of Arthur Smith ground	0	0	4

Caldermoor and Calderbrook are small villages on the highway which leads from Littleborough to Calderbrook Moor and which joins up to the very ancient pack-horse road called Reddyshere Scout Gate. Under Calderbrook Moor is the Summit tunnel of the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway. Near Dean Head the river Calder rises. In the Manor Survey of 1626 there are said to be twenty freeholders having 1528 acres, of an annual value of £608, in Blatchinworth [and Calderbrook]; there were also eighteen copyholders with 1134 acres and 929 acres of common land. Robert Holt had become possessed of 470 acres, of which 250 acres had belonged to Whalley Abbey. William Roades, by deed dated 22nd May, 30 Elizabeth [1588], held a messuage and pasture called Lower Swaine road [now Lower Swainrod]. Catherine Holt, widow of Francis Holt, Esq., Mary Greenhalgh, wife of John Greenhalgh, Esq., and Joshua Radcliffe, son and heir apparent of Saville Radcliffe, Esq., by copy of Court Roll dated 21st October, 21 James [1624] and by surrender of Theophilis Ashton, Esq., held 474 acres on Blackstone Edge, open and unenclosed and reaching to the top, which were worth £12 a year. Jordan Chadwick held, by deed dated 12th February, 1615, granting to Robert his father from John his grandfather,

fourteen acres on Blackstone Edge and two messuages called Codshaw Leach [now known as Leach] and Snoddle Hill. James Hill, Lightaseles [now called Light Hazzles], had by deed dated 11th April, 42 Elizabeth [1600], his house and twenty-six acres improved out of Blackstone Edge. Jeffrey Kershaw de Long Clough held, by copy of Court Roll dated 10th October, 40 Elizabeth [1598], twenty acres of land. [Pike house, Windy Bank, Lightowler, &c., see Chap. XVIII.]

The town of Littleborough stands partly in Calderbrook and partly in Blatchinworth, and a small portion is in Butterworth township; it owes its rapid extension in a great measure to the development of the woollen and cotton trades as well as to its coal mines and stone quarries; a considerable business has also been carried on here in the manufacture of fire-bricks and tiles.

The village of Littleborough derived its name from a small estate, which in 1563 was described as "a freehold tenement and certain acres of land, meadow and pasture, lying in the townships of Hundersfield and Butterworth, within the parish of Rochdale and commonly called Litlebrough." This property must have been situate between the church and the railway station. About this property Henry Skoffeld of the "white-acre" [Whitaker] appeared in the Duchy Court, 6, Elizabeth [1563-4] against Thomas Belfeild of Cleggswood, who was, it is stated, lawfully seized of the same, with remainder to John Belfeild and his heirs male, and in consideration of fifty-two marks paid to them by Thomas Skoffeld the said Thomas and John Belfeild had agreed to grant to him a lease of the premises for eighty years after the death of Alice Haghton, widow of James Haghton; but for some reason the defendants declined to carry out the agreement.[1] In a will dated 29th June, 1593,[2] the name is spelt "Litlebrucke." In 1626 [Manor Survey] John Belfeild, gentleman, held a "small tenement called Litlebrough." The affairs of Littleborough are now managed by a Local Board of Health.

TODMORDEN AND WALSDEN.—TODMORDEN.

The name of this hamlet has been variously interpreted, but whilst all authorities do not agree as to the meaning of the "Tod" it is admitted by everyone that "morden" is a corruption of "dene" and "mere"—that is, the valley of the lake; whether this valley abounded in toads

[1] Duchy Pleadings, xxi., 6 Eliz., S. 15.
[2] Will of John Buckley, Preacher of Col. Ch., Manchester.

or in foxes is a point not yet decided. The name has many variations in the spelling, amongst others Toddemoredene, Todmardene and Todmaredene. At the time when the manor of Rochdale passed to the De Lacy family [see p. 17] no doubt Todmorden formed part of it, but it is clear that very shortly afterwards grants of land had been made to several other families; one of these was the De la Deanes, a member of which, Thomas de la Deane (Thomas of the Valley), gave by deed without date his lands in Todmorden to his son William, paying ten shillings annually for all service.[1] The names of Stephen de Todmarsden and Elias his brother appear as witnesses to a grant of land in Whitworth made in the thirteenth century,[2] but no subsequent trace of a family of the name has been discovered. Late in the thirteenth century, William the son of Henry de Haword granted to the abbey of Stanlawe a portion of his lands in Todmorden, measuring eighty feet by sixty feet.[3] In 22 Edward I. [1293-4], John the son of William de la Deane (probably the William last named) gave to Alice the daughter of William Radcliffe, "in pura virginitate," all his lands in Todmorden. Another early landowner was Henry the son of Richard de Hipperholme, who, by charter bearing date 27 Edward I. [1298-9], granted to John de Lacy and Margaret his wife the fourth part of the vill of Todmorden, together with the rents, moors, reliefs and escheats to be held of the chief lord (the Earl of Lincoln); a few years later [1302] he also released to John de Lacy all the right which he had in a rent which he had from Andrew de Wardhull for homage and service. Certain other lands in Todmorden, as appears by a deed dated 16 Edward II. [1322-3], were conveyed by the de la Deanes to the Wardhulls, from whom they passed to Henry de Stones, who conveyed them in 38 Edward III. [1364-5] to William Radcliffe of Langfield.[4] Notwithstanding this the Radcliffes claimed in the fifteenth century to hold the manor of Todmorden from the King, as of the manor of Rochdale, and it is several times in the "Inq. Post Mort." mentioned as a manor; it is, however, quite clear that no grant for it was ever issued. In the "Inq. Post Mort." of Richard Radcliffe, taken 9 Henry VII. [1493-4], he is said to have held the manor of the King in socage and of the lord of Rochdale, and a century later the holding is described as in socage from Sir John Biron, by fealty and service and a rent of 37s. 4d. per annum.[5] It is therefore

[1] Manor Survey, 1626.
[2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 660.
[3] Do., p. 625.
[4] Do., ,,
[5] Inq. Post Mort. Charles Radcliff, 35 Eliz.

evident that the so-called manor of Todmorden was merely a sub-manor of Rochdale, and that there was no court leet or baron held in connection therewith. [See Manor Records.] The Radcliffes held estates here for several centuries. [See Todmorden Hall.]

In 1595 a case was heard in the Duchy Court referring to a right of way to Rochdale; the plaintiffs were Richard Michell of Shorey and Anthony Crossley of Scaitcliffe, yeomen, on behalf of themselves and other copyholders and inhabitants of Rochdale, Scaitcliffe, Shorey, Brunley [Burnley], Clidrawe [Clitheroe] and Colne. They complained that whereas they had a right of way "for cart and carriage and on foot" between these various places, on a road "diverted from the High Street between Burnley and Halifax," at or near Shipden, through the land of James Crabtree and through a gate called Lydgate, and then following the water to Thrutchley Holme and on to Scaitcliffe (close to the house) and to Adamroyhey, and from thence to the town of Rochdale; but James Crabtree and Richard Crossley, "seeking only their private lucre and gaine," had stopped the way and taken away the gates, plaintiffs being thereby debarred from all trading. The defendants replied that the road in question ought of right to go through Todmorden, over Godpley, and and thence to Rochdale; this, they asserted, was nearer than the other way, which they did not deny having stopped up.[1]

In 1626 (Manor Survey) there were only fourteen freeholders in Todmorden, who held 1151 acres, worth per annum £344; of this over 400 acres belonged to Saville Radcliffe, and was valued at £134 a year. There were five copyholders, holding 748 acres, worth £40 per annum, and the 975 acres of common was estimated at £38 a year. George Lanfield, by a deed dated 7th May, 19 James [1621] from Thomas Lanfield his father, held certain lands here, as also by another deed dated 2nd November, 2 James [1604], whereby Crosly Fishwick of Preston in Lancashire conveyed to him a messuage and lands called the moiety of Closehead; Anthony ffielden held a house where he then lived; Nicholas ffielden held a messuage called Cowbanke, which was conveyed to him in 23 Elizabeth [1580-1] by Edmund Milne of Butterworth, who purchased it for . . . . . Saville in 6 Elizabeth [1563-4]. The heirs of James Lummax, by deed dated 1st September, 18 James [1620], from Jo. Jackson of Blackley, co. Lanc., to James, father of the said Richard, held sixty-five

[1] Duchy Pleadings, Eliz., cxxxii., M. 4 and 4A (original MS. partly defaced).

acres and a messuage called "Besinghaw," which is no doubt intended for Bernshaw. [See Chap. XVIII.] Charles, the heir of Henry Lord, held from Charles Lord his grandfather, messuages called Godpley, the Hill House, the Mowroyde and Hesselgreave (now Hazel Greave), and a fulling mill. Priestbothe was owned by Gilbert Holden. [Scaitcliffe, Migeldon, &c., see Chap. XVIII.]

The town of Todmorden, like the other villages in Rochdale, sprang up very suddenly, following the rise and development of the woollen and cotton trades. In the seventeenth century woollen looms were common enough in the Todmorden valley, but it was not until after the canal was opened in 1798 that anything like manufacture on a large scale arose in the place.

In 1816 the village of Todmorden[1] consisted of the hall, the chapel, a few public houses and shops, and a score or two of cottages; the town as it now stands is partly in Yorkshire, and extends also into the hamlet of Walsden. At the beginning of this century the wearing of calicoes, fustian, satteens and velveteens, with the manufacture of lastings and worsted goods, formed the staple trade of the place. About the year 1828 the cotton yarn spun in Todmorden weekly, amounted to 60,000 pounds in weight, and 7000 pieces of calico were manufactured in the same time.[2] The largest manufacturers in Todmorden are the Messrs. Fielden Brothers.

In 1838 Todmorden was formed into a Poor Law Union, much to the dissatisfaction of some of the inhabitants. Serious riots in consequence took place, mills and houses were broken into and much damage done, the military were called out and special constables sworn in; Todmorden Hall suffered considerably at the hands of the mob.

Todmorden Town Hall was erected in 1875, at the cost of the Messrs. Fielden. Todmorden is a district under a Local Board of Health.

The annual Fairs are on the Thursday before Easter and on the last Thursday in September. At the beginning of this century there was a large attendance on these occasions.

Walsden.

This is another of the "Denes" in Rochdale and is a large tract of land containing over 4000 acres. It is bounded on the west by the Walsden Edge which extends to the division line between Yorkshire and Lancashire.

[1] Map of Todmorden, in possession of Mr. Richard Robinson of Belfield.

[2] Published 1828.

One of the early freeholders here was Robert Henshaw who, by charter dated 1st December, 9 Henry VI. [1430], conveyed to Richard Radcliffe, Esq., all his lands in Walsden, which included Henshaw, Janeroide [? now Deanroyd], Knoll and Gauxholme, with 236 acres of land ;[1] this estate continued in the Radcliffe family's holding for centuries.

The Manor Survey [1626] furnishes the following details of the tenure of the land in Walsden : there were seventeen freeholders who amongst them held 1378 acres [annual value, £359];[2] of copyholders there were eight ancient and three new tenants who together had 507 acres worth £80. On Inchfield common there were 480 acres "stinted" and 308 acres "unstinted;" the common in Walsden itself contained 2015 and was only valued at £11 8s. od. a year. The stinted portion of Inchfield common was let in beast gaits, that is, only a limited number of beasts were allowed on it. The custom of letting the land by sheep or beast gait continues to the present day. Amongst the freeholders were Sir John Biron, who had Lower Romsden by purchase from J. Saville of Dodington, Esq. ; Upper Romsden belonged to Robert Holt, who inherited it from his grandfather Charles Holt of Stubley, who had it granted to him in the 20 Elizabeth [1578] by John Talbott of Salsbury and Robert Talbott his bastard son ; he had 155 acres of land. Amongst the copyholders were Abraham Scolfield, who held by copy of Court Roll dated 21st May, 23 James (1623) by surrender of Thomas Clegg, a messuage called Readyshore ; Michael Roide and Susan his wife, by copy 4th May, 1625, by surrender of Joshua ffeildinge, Mary his wife, and William Clegg, his wife, and Abraham Scolfield and his son, held a home at Little Ridings. John Butterworth of Low House in Butterworth held by deed dated 13th July, 16 Elizabeth [1574], by which Charles Radcliffe, Esq., and Henry his son and heir conveyed to Richard Butterworth, his grandfather, a messuage called Hollingworth in Walsden and sixty-seven acres of land which formerly belonged to Jo. Bradshaw, who demised them to Richard Radcliffe of Todmorden, 5 Henry VII [1489-90]. This Hollingworth must not be mistaken for the place of the same name in the hamlet of Clegge. There are two Hollingworths in Walsden (north and south), and one of these was conveyed to John Greenwood by Charles Nuttall of Nuttall, by deed

[1] Manor Survey.

[2] Seven of these were freeholders of Inchfield, holding 664 acres of the total 1378.

dated 8th April, 1 Charles [1625], together with a close of land called Barcroft. Nicholas Fielding [see Inchfield] had lands called Horsham and a proportionable part of the "beast gaits in the ox pasture" at "five shillings le gate." [Bottomley, Allerscholes, Inchfield, Warland, &c., see Chap. XVIII.]

From the answers of Nicholas, Oliver and Edmund Kirshaw to the complaint of Sir John Byron in 1587-8 [see Chap. XVIII.] it appears that he had sold to them the reversion of certain parcels of land in Inchfield which they had in lease and that the reversion of other lands with their consent had been sold to others, and that before this had been done the land did "lie mixed one by and with the other" and that the tenants did yearly put on their cattle "ratablie," but they preferred that the said lands should be set out into two parts and if they could so agree that "each man should have a part set in severaltie" and George Travers and Edward Kershaw were appointed so to "set it out," but several of the tenants "brake off and did dislyke thereof" and wished the land to be in common among them. This is no doubt the origin of the "stinted" and "unstinted" common lands.

The following extract of the will of a Walsden leaseholder is of interest:—

In the name of God, &c. 9th September, 1587. I, James ffeldinge, sick in body and weak in mind, &c. First, I commit my soule into the hand of Almighty God, and my body to the ground, to be buried in the churchyard of Todmorden. Then, whereas I am possessed of a tenement by lease from the right worshipful Mr. Charles Ratcliffe and his son and heir apparent Mr. Charles Ratcliffe, for certain years yet unexpired, I give this tenement to Grace my wife and James my eldest son, to be occupyed jointly. If Grace marry (or should die) before the expiration of the said term, then I give the residue of yeres unto Edmond, Edward Jennett and Alice, my younger children. But if sayd James will not be content to occupy the said tenement together with his mother or the said children but will have it divided, then I will that the said James shall have one-half and his mother the other half during her widowhood and afterwards her children. If James have one-half the tenement then he shall give unto every one of his brothers and sisters xx. s. at the daye of his [or her] marriage. My goods I dispose of in three parts: one to Grace my wife, another to my children; the other part, commonly called the dead part, after my funeral expenses are paid, I give to Edmond, Edward Jennett and Alice, my children. I constitute Grace my wife and James my son the executors.

Debts I owe:

To Edmond Lord - - - - - - - - - - -	x. s. xj. d.
„ My Stepmother - - - - - - - - - - -	vj. s.
„ Ottiwell Hill - - - - - - - - - - - -	xxxviij. s. iiij. d.

INVENTORY OF GOODS AND CHATTELS OF JAMES FFEILDINGE OF WALSDEN.

	li.	s.	d.
It'm iiij kine	viij		
,, ii steares	iij	viij	viij
,, iij young beasts	iiij		
,, i calf		x	
,, i mare		xxx	
,, vj lambs		x	
,, xx sakes of otes, by estimac[9] on	iiij		
,, arkes and cheses		xxx	
,, bedding		xxx	

	s.	d.
It'm his apparell	xv	
,, paire of lomes	viij	
,, iron gear	xx	
,, pewter and brass	xvj	
,, woodden vessels	vi	viij
,, bedstocks		iv
,, i pack-saddle		xii
,, i salet,[1] i bill and a sheaffe of arrowes	v	

This will was proved at Chester, 4th October, 1587.

Walsden is now an ecclesiastical parish and in it are several large manufactories; Clough Hall mill is said to have been the first erected in the neighbourhood. In Ramsden Clough there is evidence of the existence of ancient "bloomeries," the iron-stone for which the shale of the coal measures would produce.

[1] A "salet" is a light helmet.



ARMS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE.

CHAPTER V.

Township History.—Butterworth.

THIS forms the south-eastern portion of Rochdale, and was no doubt included amongst the possessions of Gamel the thane, and passed with the rest of the lands to the De Lacy family. There is an early charter without date by which John, the son of Gamel, quit-claimed Thomas, the son of Henry de Butterworth, of all the right which he had to a rental of fivepence in silver and an iron arrow, which Hugh de Belefeld paid to him for an acre of land lying between Stannybroc and Blacklache. This John the son of Gamel may possibly have been descended from Gamel the thane; the same name occurs as a witness to a charter conveying lands to Sir John Byron [see p. 116].

An early landowner here was Mathew de Bromhall, who by fine at Lancaster, 17th May, 1235, gave to Reynar the son of Henry two bovates of land in Butterworth, for which he was to pay forty shillings a year.[1]

In the time of Edward I. the prior and knights of St. John of Jerusalem held lands in Butterworth and other parts of the parish, and when called upon in 2 Edward I. [1274] to show by what right they claimed the trial of thieves, the holding of assize of bread and ale, and the erection of a gallows in their fee, they produced a charter dated 37 Henry III. [1253] whereby the King had granted to them these privileges within their domains at Berdshall (Buersill), Boterworth and Wordhall.[2] Tradition has it that in early times a gibbet stood at a place called Cross Gates, near Gallows Hill in Butterworth, where a few years ago stood two large stones, said to have been used to support the beams of the gallows; in all probability they belonged to a much more modern date than the above grant refers to. The knights of St. John, although they were large landowners in

[1] Feet of Fines, Lanc., Hen. III., No. 51.

[2] Plac. de Quo. Warranto.

Butterworth, did not hold the township, and the privileges granted by Henry III. only referred to their fees in this and other divisions in the parish.

One of the thirteenth century owners of land in Butterworth was Baldwin de Thyers[1] [alias Tehutonicus], who by charter without date granted to Henry Smith [Faber] of Botterwort six acres of land between the land which belonged to Roger Smith and the water of Bel and Hakden broc (Ogden brook), at an annual rental of two shillings (this was witnessed by Geoffrey de Bukelee, Robert his brother, Adam de Salisbury and others), and to Robert de Botterworth two acres of land in Buchleyker. The same Baldwin de Thyers conveyed to Robert de Holland, on his marriage with Johanna his daughter, all the lands which he had in Rachdale, viz., in Botterworth, Clege, Gartside, Okeden and Holynworth, together with a mill and the appurtenances, except suit and service, to John de Lacy. Johanna, the widow of Robert de Holand, conveyed to William de Rishward three parcels of land in Botterworth, called Moterode, Crokerode and Horsfalenge, to be held in fee except service to the "religious men" and to the chief lord of the fee. Before his death Robert de Holand had conveyed to Thomas, the son of Adam de Birghon (Byron) for homage and service a bovate of land in Botterworth, viz., the bovate which John de Haworth formerly held of Dominus Bawdin Teutonicus and Margery his wife.[2]

About this Baldwin de Thyers and his daughter, Baines[3] and Whitaker[4] have given such contradictory accounts that it will be well now to correct them. Whitaker states that De Thyers lived in the time of John [1199-1216], whilst Baines asserts that he lived in the reign of Edward I. [1272-1307], and was secretary to John o' Gaunt, who was not born until 1340;[5] he further goes on to say that Johan., the daughter of De Thyers, survived her husband and married Sir John de Byron.[6] Now the facts are these:—there was a Robert de Holand, one of the household servants of Thomas Earl of Lancaster, who was promoted to a position of trust by his master (whom he afterwards betrayed to Edward II.), and who was certainly living in 1312; and as the names of "Dominus John de

[1] Baldwin Tehutonicus was living in 1230. In the chapel of Lede, near Aberford, co. York. are still some monuments to this family.

[2] Black Book of Clayton.

[3] Hist. of Lanc., 1st, 2nd and 3rd Editions.

[4] Hist. of Whalley, 2nd Ed. II., 449

[5] In Baines' Byron Pedigree (1st Ed.) he gives "Secretary to Thomas Earl of Lancaster.

[6] Canon Raines repeats this.—Not. Cest., 139.

Byron and Dominæ Johanna his wife" occur frequently in charters dated twenty-five years before that date, it is clear that if Byron's wife was the widow of Robert de Holand (of which there is no proof) she could not possibly be the relict of the betrayer of the Earl of Lancaster. The Robert de Holand who acquired the land in Butterworth probably died towards the close of the thirteenth century, and it is not unlikely that his widow did marry John de Byron.

The following charters (without date) are taken from the "Black Book of Clayton," and are all grants to John de Byron and his wife.

Richard de Gartside granted all his land in Wallesan, in Botterworth, and a perch of land between Copedcliff and the Wallesan for ten shillings of silver. Witness, Adam de Prestwych [1] and others.

William del Cliff conveyed a bovate in Botterworth near the Bele. Witness, Adam de Prestwich, &c.

Robert le Wyld, all his land between Beele and Stanibroc for three marks.

Geoffrey, the son of Thomas de Botterworth, all the land in Butterworth which he inherited from his father and Henry de Botterworth his uncle, reserving an annual rent of one root of ginger (radum zinceberis). The witnesses to this are Adam de Bury [living in 1272] and Adam de Turnehache.

John, the son of William de Ruseword, granted all the land which descended to him from his father.

Agnes, formerly wife of Geoffrey de Botterworth, conveyed all her claims and right of dower to her late husband's lands.

Christiana, the daughter of Andrew Cheverell, sold all her land in Botterworth called the "Halet."

Eugenia, formerly wife of Richard the son of Edusa de Gartside quit-claimed William the son of Richard de le Cliff of all her right of dower in lands in Gartside belonging to her late husband.

John, son of Louecocke de Hakeden, all his lands in Guttfordacres in Hakeden, subject to payment of a peppercorn. Witnesses, William de Hopwood, William de Liuesey, and others.

Henry, the son of Louecocke de Hokeden, all his land in Okeden, rental a root of ginger.

Richard, the son of Gilbert de Botterworth, all his land between Bradeleghbroc and the ditch of Geoffrey de Turnhate and the Hulls and field of Ralph del Rode, with a house upon the Hulls.

Geoffrey, the son of Award de Botterworth, one bovate of land in Botterworth.

Henry Wylde de Botterworth the homage and service of Richard, the son of Roger de Butterworth, for lands which he held in Botterworth, viz.: an annual rent of twopence in silver and fourpence.

[1] Adam de Prestwych was living in 1293.

Thomas Wyld grants the rent which Richard de le Birchinlegh is accustomed to pay, viz.: sixpence a year and a pair of white gloves. Witnessed by Will de Hopwood, Adam de Prestwich, &c.

Henry, the son of Thomas de Botterworth, gave for three pounds all the lands which he had from Andrew del Halgh called Litullhalgh. Witnessed by John, Vicar of Rachdale.

Wagner, the son of Adam de Slaueden, a bovate of land in Okedon and half of Quickley.

Richard de Gartside granted all the lands which he had of Geoffrey de Botterworth called the Barketbothirst, paying a yearly rent of one barbed arrow for all service. Witnessed by (amongst others) Dominus Adam de Bury,[1] Alexander Pilkyngton, and John the son of Gamil.

Swayne, the son of Adam de Slaueden, conveyed to John Byron, Knt., a rental of twelve pence a year arising from his land in Botterworth which he had from his father.

Richard Gartside[2] quit-claimed Sir John Buron and his son of his lands in Botterworth which formerly belonged to Roger, the son of Gilbert de Botterworth, amongst the witnesses is Geoffrey de Turnehawe [living in 1287].

The following grants of land to John de Byron and Johan. his wife (also from the Black Book of Clayton) are dated and may be taken as of later date than the preceding ones.

Alexander de Beelefeld, all his lands in Hokeden for eight marks and a peppercorn rent, dated A.D. 1288.

Hugh de Eland quit-claimed all his rights to lands in Botterworth except the service and homage and twenty-two shillings a year due from Richard, the son of Gilbert de Botterworth, dated at Lancaster, on feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, 20 Edward I. [24th June, 1292].

John, the son of Jordan de Oldham, conveyed a bovate of land in Botterworth, and the year following [21 Edward I., A.D. 1293], William de Cliff granted all his lands called ffernyhull except four acres near the house of Richard de Gartside.

Thomas the son of Ralph de Rhodes granted, by deed dated on the Sunday next before the feast of the nativity of the blessed Virgin, 23 Edward I. [September, 1295], all his lands in Okeden which he (Rhodes) had in exchange for lands formerly held by Hugh del Halgh. There are several other grants from Rhodes [or Rodes] to Byron, and in each case the latter is bound to render due service to the chief lord of the fee.

Germanus de Okeden, by charter dated 24 Edward I. [1295-6], two portions of a bovate of land in Okeden.

William, the son of Alexander Herdmon, conveyed in 26 Edward I. [1296-7], his lands in Okeden to be held of the chief lord.

[1] Adam de Bury was living in the time of Hen. III.

[2] This charter is in French.

Edusa, formerly wife of Henry le Serjeant, widow, conveyed her right and title to lands in Okeden (which she had as dower), dated at Botterworth, the day of the conception of the Virgin Mary, 26 Edward I. [8th December, 1297].

Adam de Prestwich released to Richard Byron, Knt., all his right and title to houses and lands in Botterworth which he had inherited on the death of his father, Thomas de Prestwich. This was dated Botterworth, Monday next after the purification of the Virgin Mary, 12 Edward II. [1319], and was attested by Richard de Radcliffe, parson of Bury, and others.

Early in the fourteenth century Sir John Byron died and his son John did not long survive him. The two next deeds refer to his grandson, Richard Byron, lord of Clayton.

Adam de Botterworth conveyed to Richard de Buron, Knt., all his lands in Botterworth, subject to a peppercorn rent for the first 200 years, and afterwards twenty shillings per annum: dated at Botterworth, Monday the next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 18 Edward III. [November, 1344]. Amongst the witnesses were John de Schofield, Adam de Belefeld and William le Wyld.

Agnes, formerly wife of Geoffrey de Heley, conveyed to Richard Buron, Knt., all her right of dower in lands in Botterworth: dated at the church of Rachdale, on Sunday next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 18 Edward III. [November, 1344], and witnessed by John de Scholefeld, Adam de Belefeld and others.

The Black Book of Clayton also furnishes the following grants of lands from the family which took its name from the township:—

Reginald de Botterworth[1] granted to William de Ryshward[2] all his lands between the following divisions, viz.: beginning at the house of Award Burder and following his boundary to the house of Adam Pinchard, and from thence by the ditch to the Drutherrode, and again following the ditch to Simcardres (?) of Bank and to Hokedenbroc, and following the course of that brook to the starting point: this charter was witnessed by Michael de Kleg and Geoffrey, the son of William del Halgh; the same Reginald Botterworth granted to Michael his son, for homage and service, all his lands within the following bounds, beginning at the mill race [radum molen'] at the Bele following the highway up to the ditch following which to Stambroc, and from thence to le Blacklach, from thence following a footpath to the bridge of Kirkest, then following the Bele to the starting place: this was witnessed by Adam de Turnhagh, William of the Cliff, Michael de Gartside, Thomas Wild and others.

Michael, the son of Reginald de Botterworth, quit-claimed to the the said Reginald all his lands in Botterworth. This was executed in the presence of Adam de Turnagh, Roger de Botterworth, Geoffrey his brother, Richard de Gartside and others.

[1] This is no doubt the Reginald de Botterworth who, Whitaker in his History of Whalley says, was "the first lord of Butterworth, and lived in the time of Stephen." Both these statements are wrong—he was not lord of Butterworth, and he lived in the time of Edw. II.

[2] See charter from Johan., widow of Robert Holand, to W. Ryshword.

Robert,[1] the son of Alexander de Butterworth, gave to Robert, the son of Thomas the clerk of Butterworth, lands in Butterworth: witnessed by Nicholas de Clegg, Adam de Berdeshill and others.

Henry, the son of Thomas de Botterworth, and Richard his brother, relinquished all their interest in the mill of Bele opposite the house of Andrew Brun, which they had from Baulwin Thyes: witnesses, Geoffrey de Buckley, Ralph de ffalings, Henry Wilde and others.

Henry, the son of Thomas de Botterworth, quit-claimed John de Holland all his right in the mill of Bele, and in a pool on the water called Bele: witnessed by Michael Clegg, and others.

By another deed Thomas, the son of Henry de Botterworth, releases his claim to the mill and pool to John de Holland.

Andrew de Butterworth and Christiana his wife, granted to John de Byron twenty acres of land in Butterworth for twenty pounds.[2]

From the same source are the following charters referring to various early settlers in Butterworth:—

Adam, the son of Henry Smith (Faber), conveyed to Thomas, his son, certain lands in Botterworth.

Henry Smith of Botterworth, gave to William, the son of Award de Botterworth for homage and service six marks of silver, all his lands and buildings in Butterworth except "le Bonk" near Tunneshelfe lode.

Richard de Gartside granted to William de Rushward three acres of land in Botterworth; amongst the witnesses to the last were John de Eland and Michael de Clegg.

Richard, the son of Adam, the son of William de Hakeden, granted to Adam his elder brother all his rights which he had in Hakeden, to lands which were given to him by Adam his father; this charter was dated on the day of Epiphany, 1287, and was witnessed by Geoffrey de Turnagh, Richard his son, and others.

Lugeria or Agnes [both names in the charter], formerly the wife of Geoffrey de Gartside, conveyed to William de le Cliff all her right of dower which she had in certain land in Gartside; this is attested by William de Salesbury [living in 1280] and Nicholas and Adam Berdeshull [living 1280].

Alexander, the son of Robert de Spotland, conveyed to Andrew, the son of William del Okencliffe, all his land and buildings in Gartside adjoining the land which the Hospital of St. John [of Jerusalem] held, to be held of the said hospital at an annual rental of twelvepence of silver.

Eugam [? Hugh], the son of Robert de Belefeld, granted to William de Cliff his land and buildings in Gartside which were given to him by his brother John.

Adam, the son of William de Okeden, with the consent of Cecilia his wife, granted to Adam his son, for his homage and service, certain lands in Okeden comprised in the following divisions, viz., beginning at Okeden, ascending to the Mereredeyott, following which

[1] Matilda, the daughter of Robert de Botterworth, conveyed a bovate of land in Botterworth to Robert, the son of Thomas Clericus de Botterworth, by deed s. d.

[2] Feet of Fines, Lanc., Hen. III., No. 171.

to the Lese Clogh [? Hanging Lees Clough], and taking in all his portion of Bynns, and thence descending to Okeden-broc; this was subject to a rental of eighteenpence in silver. This charter was witnessed by Richard de Turnagh, Alexander de Belefeld, William de Salisbury, William del Halgh, Clement de Okeden and others; he also granted lands in Okeden to his son Richard on similar terms.

Robert, the son of Geoffrey de Whitworth, and Agnes, the daughter of Thomas the son of Danioe, and Alice his daughter, quit-claimed Richard de Byron, knt., of their lands which formerly belonged to Thomas the son of Danioe in the hamlets of Okeden and Botterworth; dated at Botterworth, Ash Wednesday, 1320.

The monks of Bretton or Monkbretton in Yorkshire,[1] which was founded in 1157 by Adam Fitz-Suaine, had lands in the township, as appears by the following grant, whereby Adam, the prior of Bretton,[2] gave to Adam Slaueden [see p. 116], for his homage and service and eight marks of silver, a bovate of land in Okeden which Gilbert de Notten gave to the church of Bretton, with a reserved rental of iij. s. a year. This was witnessed by Geoffrey de Buckley, Michael Kleg, Ralph de Faling and Adam de Wordhull.[3] Adam de Slaueden conveyed this bovate of land to his son Swayn, who subsequently sold it to John de Byron, a rent charge arising out of it, and it was no doubt about the same land that William, prior of Monkbretton,[4] was fined at the Lancaster assizes, 15th July, 1292, for not prosecuting a writ against John Byronn respecting a house and lands in Okeden.

Not much of Butterworth went to Stanlawe or Whalley, but the Coucher Book contains two charters whereby the abbots obtained estates in this division. Henry de Butterword (about the end of the thirteenth century), with the assent of his son Thomas, gave to Stanlawe, for the the salvation of his soul, the sum of six shillings in cash, a perch of land called Flaxpughill, upon the banks of the Bele between Butterword and Gartside about which he and the abbot had been in dispute; and Nicholas the son of Roger de Berdeshull gave to St. Chad's church and the monastery of Stanlawe an acre of land in Butterword out of the field near the house of Roger the son of Richard de Butterword, viz., one acre which his father purchased from the knights of St. John of Jerusalem; this was witnessed by William de Salesbury and others and was made about A.D. 1280.[5]

[1] A priory of the Cluniac Order.
[2] Adam is the first monk of Bretton recorded in Dugdale's *Monas. Angli.*, and was in office *ante* 1267.
[3] Manor Survey, 1626. [4] William was prior in 1291. [5] Coucher Book, pp. 611, 622.

By fine at Westminister, 27th January, 1310, Richard the son of Gilbert de Butterworth gave a house, forty acres of land and twenty of meadow in this township, to William the son of Richard de Butterworth for ever, subject to a yearly rental of one penny and doing service to the chief lord, with remainder to Thomas brother of William and his heirs, and Adam brother of Thomas.

In the Subsidy Roll of 1332 [see p. 32.] only six names appear for this township, the largest ratepayer being Richard de Byron. The Poll Tax of 1380-1 gives twenty-two names.

In 1397 Richard de Byrun died seised of lands in Ryton [Royton] and fourteen houses, two hundred acres of land, one hundred acres of meadow, forty acres of wood and four hundred acres of pasture in Butterworth, which he held of the Duke by military service. John de Byron was his son and heir and aged ten years.[1]

In 1505 it was found that Sir John Byron, knight, died, January, 1489, seised of Clayton Manor in fee, lands in Ogden held of the King and also the "manor of Butterworth" of John Saville, knight, by service, fealty and the yearly rent of one rose. Nicholas Byron, his brother, aged forty years, was heir.[2] Notwithstanding this statement Butterworth was not a manor.

In the Manor Survey of 1626 the only sub-divisions of the township are Butterworth, Hollingworth and Clegg, and in the beginning of this century, although both Clegg and Hollingworth were recognised as Hamlets, the division for rating purposes was simply the "freehold side" and the "lordship side." The following details are from the Survey just referred to.

BUTTERWORTH HAMLET.[3]

The tenants were all freeholders and amongst them were the following: Jordan Chadwick claimed by ancient deed dated 22 Edward I. [1293-4], wherein Richard the son of Hugh de Belfeld gave to Henry de Belfeld, his brother, all his lands (45 acres) lying between Dole and Stonneybek and three cottages in Belfeld fold, to hold of the chief lord by service and rent; Richard Milne, by deed dated 20th Henry VIII., from Richard Milne, his grandfather, all his messuage and lands: a

[1] Inq. Post Mort. (Chet. Soc., xcv., 65). [2] Inq. Post Mort.. Duchy, Vol. iii., No. 70, *travers*.
[3] Including all the Division except Clegg and Hollingworth.

close called Shore bank, two closes, part of a common called Milnrow Heyes, and a "faire new house with court and back yard;" William Butterworth, by deed dated 16th June, 16 James [1618], granted from James Butterworth of New Hey, held Hades Hill and Lowe Head near Milnrow, also land called Nook and Cook Holt; this William Butterworth is described as "the rich butcher;" Henry Butterworth, by "meane conveyance" from Francis Morrice, Esq., and Francis Philipps, gentleman, by virtue of the King's letters patent under the great seal of England, dated 3rd July, 9 James [1611], had amongst other things a cottage and garden in Butterworth; James Hamer held by grant from Sir John Byron in 1609 to James Hamer, his father, a tenement in Tuneshill and a tenement called the Rough Bank [see Roughbank, Chap. XVIII], with forty-seven acres of land valued at twelve pounds a year; the Great Bradley, the Little Bradley, the Lower Wood, the Lower Hey and the Middlemost and Uppermost Heys in Butterworth Hall belonged to Charles Chadwick by deed dated 2nd May, 15 James, 1617, by grant from John Crompton of Butterworth Hall and Parratt Crompton his son and heir; James Halliwell held Bradley Bottoms, a messuage called the Old House, a sixteenth part of the "foulde kilne," one-and-a-half acres north of the chappel, and other land amounting in all to 120 acres; Adam Brereley held from James Turnough of Binns, by deed dated 20th April, 20 James [1622], land called "the holme" and "the win-roades" [now Rhodes Barn?]: he also had the close called "the Intake" (in Ogden) and three acres in Henging Lees [Hanging Lees]; James Butterworth of Raghill [Raghole] had the place where he lived by grant from Sir John Byron made in 1612; John Rigley [Wrigley] by grant from Anthony Rigley of Saddleworth, made in 1610, held six closes of land with a "laithe" or barn in the Haigh and Haigh Bottom; William Greave, by deed dated 10th August, 30 Elizabeth [1588], from Edward Milne of Garside, held lands in Garside; Edward Atkinson also had lands in Garside; James Brierley of the Haugh, by grant from Sir John Byron, made in 1608, held a messuage and land in the Haugh then in the occupation of the said James and his son James.

There is a memorandum at the end of the Survey to the effect that nearly all the occupiers in Butterworth "pretend to hold in free and common socage, by virtue of an ancient deed without date, wherein

Geffrey Butterworth granted to Jo. Byron all his lands in Butterworth with waifs and stray's estreats, wards and marriages; the said Geffrey reserving the rental of a root of ginger annually." [See p. 115.] There were then (1624) six cottages in Milnrow, nine in Butterworth and four in Ogden; there was also Sir John Byron's tithe-barn.

The common land (stinted pasture)[1] was the Haugh Heyes and consisted of 232 acres and Coldgreave and Ogden Edge, containing nearly 600 acres. The unstinted common began near Colegreave and "so as the boundery of the parish leadeth to Blackyate foot and so up the waye to Blackyate Topp and so along as the boundery turneth to Colegreave," also a waste adjoining Ogden Edge and the Haugh Hey called Cratnow. It is noted that in the Haugh Hey there were two coal mines which were "very beneficial to the occupiers."

There were eighty-two freehold tenants holding 3591 acres, worth annually £1263.

The village of Milnrow (in the sixteenth century called Mylnrawe) did not increase very much until the dawn of the woollen trade. There are now in it several cotton and woollen mills. There was a corn mill on the Beal in the thirteenth century and on its site a woollen mill was built in 1798. Milnrow has obtained some notoriety as being the place where "Tim Bobbin" lived for many years. [See Chap. XIV.] Milnrow is now a Local Board district and contains the wards of Bellfield, Haugh and Milnrow. In 1881 the population was 8410.

Extensive coal mines have been worked in this district and for a short time iron stone was smelted near Tunshill; this was in 1744, but the quality of the stone was not good enough to be remunerative. [Butterworth Hall, Ladyhouse, Lowhouse, &c., see Chap. XVII.]

The villages of New Hey and Ogden are in this township.

CLEGG HAMLET.[2]

There is little information extant about the early history of this hamlet except as associated with the family to which it gave its name and with the various old houses. [See Chap. XVII.] Occasionally the place name occurs in early undated deeds, as in the grant of Thomas

[1] The stinted pasture was in the joint occupation of several freeholders.
[2] Exclusive of Hollingworth, which was then called a hamlet.

the son of William de Behent to Richard Turnagh, for his homage and service and twelve shillings and sixpence, of all his lands which Andrew de Cleg gave to him in the vil of Cleg, viz., a bovate in "Nethercleg," "Hebriches" and half an acre in Bromfeld and the meadow called Wininswall near the house of the said Richard. This charter was attested by Geoffrey de Buckley and Michael and William de Cleg.[1]

The Belfields were also large owners of land here at an early date. [See Belfield.]

The Manor Survey of 1626 furnishes some information not to be found elsewhere. There were then twelve freeholders in the hamlet who held 872 acres, estimated as worth £374 a year; of this Robert Holt, the son of John Holt of Stubley, had 109 acres; Calliards was held by Edward Butterworth by deed dated 30th June, 1568; Francis Warburton, gentleman, held, by old deed, in Butterworth certain lands and a moiety of "Clegg fould," in all 62 acres; Pennock was the property of John Belfield, gentleman; Thomas Warburton had a close of land called Waymore on the "north side of the lane." The hamlet was divided into the Great and Little Clegg. [Clegg Hall, Cleggswood, &c., see Chap. XVII.]

A list of the constables for the early part of the seventeenth century of "the one side of the township of Butterworth," appointed by Sir John Byron and nominated by the jury of the Court Leet, has been preserved, from which the following are taken :—

1607 Richard Hill, vx[9] James Kershaw, vx[9] James Standring, all of Dyggyate.
1608 James Mytton, of Lanehead.
1609 Geoffrey Turner, Richard Haworth of Normanhill, and Robert Gartside of Pythorne.
1610 James Milne, aboue the Yate of Ladyhouses.
1613 Robert Hill for Gartside.
1614 Cuthbert Myllne, of Ladyhouses.
1615 Richard Cheetham, of Upper Ogden.
1616 Vx[9] Robert Brearley, of Newhey.
1617 Cuthbert Butterworth, of Townehillholes.
1618 The Heyres owner or occupier of the demesne of Holte.

The constables of the parish, or Court Leet, must not be confounded with the modern policemen, although they had many duties to

[1] Black Book of Clayton, Townley Transcript.

perform in connection with the peace of the district. Female overseers were not uncommon, but it may be presumed that the female constables found suitable substitutes to perform the duties of the office.

In 1641 the male adult population of Butterworth was a little over 370; they all took the Protestation. [See Appendix.]

HOLLINGWORTH.

Though now reckoned as part of Clegg it was anciently a district hamlet and was probably the land to the east of Hollingworth brook and included part of what is now called Lowhouse. In the thirteenth century certain lands here were held by a member of the family of Rilandes or Rylands of West Houghton in the parish of Dean. The documents, of which the following are abstracts, refer to John de Riland, whose father, John son of Robert de Rilandes, was possessed of one-fourth part of the vill and lordship of Westhalghton in the year 1262; an account of this Robert will be found in "Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Notes,"[1] where he is identified with Robert, son of Madock, son of Blethyn de Halghton, the ancestor of the family of Hulton of Hulton Park in this county. John de Riland, who is called John de Halton [*i.e.*, Halghton] in the fine of 6 Edward I., probably married Cecilia the daughter of William de Sale and Cecilia his wife, and after the death of William de Sale his widow appears to have resumed her maiden-name of Holingworth. Thomas de Rilandes, the brother of John the younger, inherited the estate in Westhalghton, and his family retained that property until the end of the fifteenth century.[2]

Know all men, &c., that I John, son of John de Riland, and Cecilia my wife have given, &c., to John de Byron and Joan his wife, all our lands, &c., in Hollinworth, that is to say, the lands which we had of the gift of William de Sale and Cecilia his wife, rendering one peppercorn at the feast of St. Martin in winter, and for this he has given me eight marks. Witnesses: the lord Geoffrey de Bracebridge, Roger de Midleton, Geoffrey de Chatterton, Alexander de Pilkington, Adam de Prestwich and others. [not dated].

By charter without date, William de Sale and Cecilia his wife granted to "Dominus" John de Burun and Joan his wife all his lands in Hollinworth, for fourteen marks and rendering a rose at the feast of St. John the Baptist; amongst the witnesses were Richard de

[1] Edited by Mr. W. D. Pink.—No. 169.

[2] The Genealogist, edited by Dr. Marshall.—Vol. iv.

Chaderton, Adam de Prestwich, William de Hopwood, W. de Sherwend the clerk, and others.

Cecilia de Holinworth, widow, released, by deed dated 26 Edward I. [1297-8], to Sir John Byron two bovates of land in Hollinworth in Butterworth, which William de Sale, her late husband, had formerly sold to him.[1]

By fine levied at Westminister the Quinzaine of St. John the Baptist, 6 Edward [8th July, 1278],

Between John, son of John de Halthon [*i.e.* Halghton or West Halghton] and Cecilia his wife plaintiffs, and William de Sale and Cecilia his wife deforciants, of one messuage and half a bovate of land with the appurtenances in Holyenworthe, whereupon a plea of warrant of charter was summoned between them, to wit that the aforesaid William and Cecilia his wife acknowledged the aforesaid tenements with the appurtenances to be the right of the said Cecilia wife of the said John, as that which the same John and Cecilia his wife have of the gift of the aforesaid William and Cecilia his wife, to have and to hold to the said John and Cecilia his wife and the heirs of the body of the said Cecilia begotton, of the aforesaid William and Cecilia his wife and the heirs of the said Cecilia for ever, rendering yearly thirteen-pence at the feast of St. Martin in Winter for all services, &c. And the aforesaid William and Cecilia his wife and the heirs of the said Cecilia will warrant acquit and defend to the said John and Cecilia his wife and the aforesaid heirs of the said Cecilia the aforesaid tenement with the appurtenances, &c., against all men for ever. And if by chance it should happen that the aforesaid Cecilia wife of the said John should die without heir or heirs of her body begotton then the said tenement, &c., after the decease of the said John shall entirely revert to the aforesaid William and Cecilia his wife and the heirs of the said Cecilia quit of other heirs of the said Cecilia wife of the said John, to hold of the chief lord of that fee for ever by services accustomed.[2]

The wife of William de Sale was probably Cecilia the daughter of Matthew de Holynworth to whom Adam de Tournihate conveyed lands in Holynworth, subject to a yearly rental of eightpence; the charter is without date, and was witnessed by Roger de Botterworth and others.[3] [Whittaker and Cleggswood, see Chap. XVII.]

On 7th September [20th July, 1565], Sir John Byron appeared in the Duchy Court against Cuthbert Scolfeld, Robert Whitley, Gilbert Whitley, Arthur Whitley and James Whitley, who he alleged had got into their possession wrongfully certain writings and conveyed to them-

[1] Kuerden MSS., College of Arms, quoted in Raines' Lanc. MSS., xxv., 26, and in the Black Book of Clayton.

[2] Lanc. Feet of Fines.

[3] Black Book of Clayton, Townley's Transcript.

selves certain lands, part of the "great waste called Holleworth hamell" and had built sundry houses thereon.[1]

The Manor Survey [1626] treats Hollingworth as a district hamlet and furnishes the following particulars: Gerrard Scoffielde held a tenement called "Both hollings" (Booth-hollings); Richard Milne had closes called "Lower Burr Hill" and "Catleach;" Richard Lord, by deed dated 6th May, 1565 from Henry Scofeild of Whittaker and Jane his wife to Arthur Lord, father of the said Richard, a messuage and four acres of land, and by another deed (5th March, 1623) from John Clegg of Hollingworth, lands called Hollingworth holme, Thornhill, &c.; Ralph Strengthfellowe, the heir of Thomas Strengthfellowe, held by deed bearing date 10th March, 1614, from Abraham Scoffeild, John Helliwell and James Stotte, the farm called Bryerlye with "moors, wastes and commons," in all twenty-six acres; Sheapbank was held by Isaac and John Scofeilde, brothers to Abraham Scofeilde of Whittaker, by rent and service, and at that time Margaret their mother was living there; John Belfeild claimed a tenement called Shore (Shore lane now) adjoining west to Salmon well. The common land was said to be claimed exclusively by the inhabitants of Hollingworth, Scoffield and Whittaker and it began at Blackyate foot and extended to "Rokinge stones" and thence to Salmon well, and included Longdean, Upper Hoar Edge, Lower Hoar Edge, "ye Nab" and Middlehurst; it contained 1270 acres. In the hamlet there were twelve freehold tenants who held 596 acres worth £183 a year. [Schofield Hall, Hollingworth, &c., see Chap. XVII.]

Partly in this hamlet and partly in Clegg is the large reservoir (constructed for the canal) known as Hollingworth lake, which has of late years become a great place of resort, not only to the people of Rochdale but also from the surrounding towns. A farm house called Round House stood near what is now the centre of the lake.

[1] Duchy Pleadings, Eliz. xxii., B. 8.

CHAPTER VI.

Ecclesiastical History.—The Parish Church.

AT the time of the Domesday Survey it is not improbable that on the site of the present church, which was not far from the ruins of the castle of the Anglo-Saxon thane, there stood a Saxon church, or it may be only the ruins of one. No evidence however can be brought to prove that such was the case; but the presumption is very strongly supported by the fact that the church of Rochdale was dedicated to St. Chad, an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Lichfield in 673. One of the oldest churches in Lancashire, Poulton-le-Fylde, had a similar dedication. It is also well-known that one of the requisites which entitled a commoner to be made a thane was the possession of five hides of land and a church.[1] During the extensive alterations of the church in 1816 several fragments of masonry were discovered which had undoubtedly formed portions of a very early Norman structure; amongst these were a zig-zag moulding of an arch and the stones forming a single Roman light less than six inches in diameter, and widening inwards; on the north side of the nave and choir was found an almost shapeless stone (but approaching to a circular form) with an excavation eleven inches in diameter and about eight inches deep, with rivets on the outside to fasten some metallic lining; this Dr. Whitaker (who saw it) believed to have been the original font;[2] in the Trinity chapel was exhumed a small lachrymatory, which would point to a still greater antiquity.[3]

Roger de Lascy, on 2nd February, 1194, succeeded to the Honor of Pontefract, and he then found Geoffrey the dean of Whalley holding the

[1] Early England and the Saxon English, W. Barnes, 1869; and Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, 1805.

[2] Whitaker's Whalley, 3rd Edition, li., 411.

[3] Raines' MSS., i., 23. The lachrymatory was given in 1827 by the parish clerk to the Rev. George Dodds, then curate.

church of "Rachedham" for his life; how long he had thus held it is unknown, but very shortly afterwards, Roger de Lascy granted the reversion of it to the Blessed Mary and the abbot and monks of Stanlawe, for the salvation of his soul and for the souls of his wife and his father and mother and all his ancestors.[1] Roger de Lascy died 1st October, 1211, and the grant of the advowson to Stanlawe was confirmed by his son, and it was further confirmed by a Papal Bull of Honorius III, dated at the Lateran, 6th Kalends of July, the second year of his pontificate [26th June, 1217]. In this Bull the monks were authorized to enter upon the revenues of the church and devote themselves to relieving their own poverty, to hospitality and other good purposes, saving always a proper provision for the minister there.[2]

The confirmation, which was made about the same time as the papal one, by William de Cornhull (Bishop of Coventry) set forth more clearly that the monks were to set aside five marks per annum and four bovates of arable land[3] for the glebe and a residence for the vicar, who was to discharge all episcopal claims and archidiaconal fees and dues. The grant of the church and its appurtenances to Stanlawe, the bishop confirmed on account of the poverty of the monastery and to strengthen the cause of religion; at the same time he stipulated that whoever should be appointed as vicar by the monks should be presented by himself or his successors.[4]

Another confirmation was made by the prior and convent of Coventry which was dated in the octaves of St. Peter and St. Paul the apostles [6th July], 1222.[5]

Between 1224 and 1238 [see Chap. XII.] the monks became the owners of both the vicarage and the rectory and thus entitled to the great tithes in the parish.

Towards the end of the century a claim was set up by John de Lascy of Cromwelbotham and John de Eland to the patronage of the church [see p. 19] and was heard at the Lancaster assizes, 15th July, 1292, when they pleaded that Rochdale was neither a borough nor a town [*nec burgus nec villa*] and the church was called the church of Castleton-in-Rochdale and not the church of Rochdale.[6] The case was removed to Westminister and came on for hearing 16th January,

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 135.
[2] Do., pp. 138, 168.
[3] Probably the four bovates referred to on p. 65.
[4] Do. ,, ,, 139.
[5] Do., ,, 140.
[6] Ass. Lanc., 20 Edw. I., M. 31, in dorso.

1293, when the abbot called upon Henry the earl of Lincoln (then lord of the manor) to warrant his title against John de Lascy. The result of this trial is not to be found amongst the Duchy Records, but by a fine, made at Westminister 5th June, 1295, John de Lascy acknowledged that the advowson of the church of Castleton in Rochdale belonged to the abbot, who gave him £20 for the fine;[1] at the same time John de Eland also relinquished his right, or supposed right to the advowson.[2] The patronage of the church now remained in the hands of the monks until the dissolution.

Adam de Spotland about the end of the twelfth century,[3] for the love of God and the salvation of his soul and the souls of his wife and of his ancestors and successors, gave to God and all the saints, and to Saint Cedde and the church of Rachedam, three acres of land at Watlondewod and two acres at Donyngbothe and an acre at Chaddewyk, with common of pasture pertaining to the vil of Spotland; this was witnessed by Hugh de Eland, Henry de Eland, Henry de Werdull, Hugh de Werdull, Stephen his brother, Martin de Wolstoneholm, Robert his brother, Andrew de Wolstoneholm, Henry his brother, and many others.[4] This land was granted by Robert "persona de Rachedham" to Alexander de Spotland for the payment of an annual rent of eightpence at the feast of St. Cedde. In the time of William de Dumlington, who was vicar about the year 1238, John the son of Adam de Spotland surrendered any right which he might have to these lands to the abbot for the consideration of six marks of silver; in this quit-claim the land in Chadwick is called "Ireforde."[5] The same vicar was a witness to the charter whereby Robert de Stapylton confirmed to the mother church of Rachdale the tithes of "Sadelword" [Saddleworth] which had been granted by his father forty years before.[6]

In the thirteenth century a large number of grants of land [see Township History] were made to Stanlawe, and in not a few of these the church of "St. Cedde de Rach" was mentioned. Amongst them are the following: Nicholas the son of Roger de Berdeshull gave to God, St. Mary and the church of Saint Cedde de Rach, an acre of land in Butterword, situate on the crofts near the house of Roger the son

[1] Feet of Fines, Lanc., 23 Edw. I., No. 71. [2] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 141.

[3] As no mention is made of Stanlawe in the charter it must have been executed before Roger de Lascy's grant.

[4] Coucher Book, p. 727. [5] Coucher Book, p. 731. [6] Coucher Book, p. 146.

of Richard de Butterword, which land his father had purchased from the Hospitallers of Jerusalem; this was subject to an annual rental of six silver pieces; Gilbert de Barton conveyed to the church of Rachdale his lands in the western part of Hasponwalsiche, near the land of Baldwyn de Thyas, and with free exit on to the lands of William the vicar, together with common of pasture in Cromton.[1]

In the present building there are yet a few details which, in the opinion of an eminent ecclesiastical architect, belong to this period, such as the most easternly respond[2] on the south side of the chancel, the respond on the south side of the tower and the tower arch in the nave.

The grant of the church of Rochdale to Stanlawe was confirmed by a Papal Bull of Pope Innocent IV. [1243-54] and by three other Bulls of Alexander IV., the first of which was dated on the 4th of the Nones of August, 1255, and the other two on the 2nd and 7th of the Ides of January, 1258, respectively.[3]

Roger de Meuland, bishop of Coventry of Lichfield, by a brief dated at Heywood on the 14th of the Kalends of May, 1277, ordered that in future the endowment of the church of Rachdale should be four bovates of land and eighteen marks, together with a fitting manse or vicarage; the eighteen marks were to be paid by the abbot and convent. The vicars were personally to perform the duties of their office unless prevented by some legitimate cause; they were also to see that mass was duly said by fit priests in the chapels of the said church, and they were to pay all archidiaconal dues; this brief was confirmed in the same year by the prior and convent of Coventry and the dean and chapter of Lichfield, and in July, 1280, was further confirmed by the archbishop of Canterbury.[4] According to the *taxatio ecclesiastica* of Pope Nicolas, taken in 1291, the abbots received in rents from Rochdale three pounds a year, with six shillings and eightpence for pasture, &c., in Brendwode; the tithes were valued at two pounds six shillings and eightpence.

During the fourteenth century there is little to record about the parish church, except that its vicars were regularly appointed in succession, a few charters were executed within its walls, and here in

[1] Coucher Book of Whalley, p. 624.
[2] During recent alterations this has been slightly altered.
[3] Do., ,, pp. 169, 174.
[4] Coucher Book, p. 851.

1330 Roger Northburgh, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, held an ordination.[1] The abbots of Stanlawe (now removed to Whalley) had by this time become possessed of large estates in Rochdale, but no doubt the feeling which pervaded the county at the close of the fourteenth century had its effect here in arresting the rapid conveyance of lands to the religious house. The English had begun to resent the interference of the Pope of Rome and many statutes were passed to prevent ecclesiastics sending money beyond the seas as tributes to their religious superiors. This was fortunate for Rochdale as otherwise the house of Whalley might soon have had possession of the greater part of its soil.

The following curious case illustrates the feeling at this time as to priority of places in the church, which it is noticeable are not referred to as places to sit in but to kneel at. It appears that "trespases and debats" had arisen between Edmund Howarth of Howarth and his wife and Margaret, wife of James Collynge, which they mutually agreed to refer to John Byron, Esq., and for this purpose all the parties were "sworn upon the holy evangelists to obey, abide, perform and fulfil the awarde, ordinance and dome" of the arbitrator, who, having investigated the merits of the case, gave his decision as follows:

"I award the said Margaret to knele at such fforme and place in the church of Rachedale as I the said John have lymitt[d] and merkyt for the said Margret, and I also awarde the sayd Issabel peacibly to suffer the said Margret to have fre entr' and asselle to the same place and service to come and goo at the will of the s[d] Margret wt'out int'uption or lettyng of the said Issabell or any p'son by her m'king 'pairing or assent. Provided always that yf the said Mergret be wedded, or diseasse, that then this myne awarde be voide, and that the said Mergret nor non other p'son by her ryght or tytle claym noo ryght at the said forme and place by any colour of this myne awarde."

This was dated 16th January, 12 Edward IV. [1473].[2] From this it is clear that at this time some part of the church was furnished with formes or benches.

In 1477 Geoffrey Buckley [see Chap. XVIII.], Rector of the Church of St. Albans, Wood Street, London, by will dated 28th June in that year, left forty shillings to the church of Rochdale. Considerable structural alterations were probably made in the church about this time, and possibly its perpendicular features may have now been introduced, but of this

[1] Reg. Northburgh, Lichfield.

[2] Haworth Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xi., 44.

there is no positive evidence. It is, however, certain that in 1487 was founded the Trinity Chapel at the east end of the south aisle. The following is a copy of the foundation deed:

This Indentor maid the xxiiii day of Septembre in the yeare of our lorde a thousand cccc l xxx vii., and the yeare of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the VII., after the Conquest of England, the iii$^{rd.}$ Berys wittnes that y^{r} y^{s} a Brotherhode maide and ord'nyd in the worshipp of Glorious Trinite in the church of Rachedale by Doctor Adam Marland, Syr Randull Bott'worth, Syr James Myddelton, Confondators of the said Brotherhode and fraternitie, to laist perpetuallie in the said Churche of Rachedale. We wyll that the (said) Syr James be the said Trynyte Prest duryng his lyf, or who he putteth in to occupy by him and rulars of the goods, and we will that the said Preste who that ever he be during hys tyme daylye off^{r} his masse, or after^{ds} at the ault^{r} say a commemoracion of the Glorius Trynyte, alsoe dayly in his masse saye a Collec, a Service,[1] with the post-coms for the fondators with all the Brethrene and Susters h'rof and all that they were bondon to pray for qwkike and deid. Alsoe ev'y weke ons [once] to say *Placebo* and *Dirige* with ix. lect's and the commendac'on, alsoe evry Friday to say in the worshipp of the blessed wondes that o^{r} Lorde J'hu Christ sufferyd fo' us, xv. p^{r}n'rs, xv. aves and one crede, alsoe every Satturdaye in worshipp of our Ladye qwhene of mercy to say qu'v and psanytor [? quinqueaves and paternoster]. Als as sone as the said Prest haith knowledge that any of the cofondat'ors is dep'ted owten of this worlde, they do begyn and say ye Tryntale of Saynt Gregore, continuyng ons yeare so that for ychet fondator he say on Trentall, and for the benefactors also every quarter, ons he say *Placebo* and *Dirige* with ix. lec. and the commendac'on with masse of Req'um, on the mornyng of the confondators and benefactors, and also that they whe^{r} bonde to pray for inespeciall with all oth^{r} soules in Purgatory in generall, also twyse in the weke the said Prest shall pray for the confondators of the said ffraternitie, wth all the brethren and susters, when he goeth to the lavatory, standyng at the ault^{r} ende with *de profundis*. Also the said Randull Dysyrith [? Bott'worth] that his father and his mother, Bernarde and Agnes, his broth^{r} Alexand^{r}, his wife Margaret, wth all the brethern and susters of the said Syr Randull, wth all oth^{r} good friends, wth the noble Prince Omffrey Ducke of Buckyngham, wth ladye Anne his wyf, our Prince be prayed for, and for the sauls of Rog. Haislyndon doctor of divinitie, also the said Syr Jamys will that his father Richarde and Agnes his moth^{r} c'u fratrib's and sorosib's, Geffray Sondeforth, isabell his wife in especiall, with all those y^{t} holpt hi' to y^{e} Scole in ge'rall be py'd for. Also it is our wych that this fondac'd indentyd be kept on p'te with the Abbotte of Whalley and Convent, and another with Barnardo Bott^{r}worth and his heyre, and the oth^{r} ptie Syr Jamys Mydelton and assignes. The wiche Abbot Bernards with assignes of the said Syr Jamys shall have pouer to chose the said Prest wth assynt of the Brethren of the said ffraternitie. Also it y^{s} the will of the said Syr Randull and Syr Jamys that if the saide Prest be evyll disposyd, auth^{r} [either] by lechary, Drunkenhode, couety, dyser or wakyng[2] out of time, that they monyshe hymn thre tymes betwn every tyme iiij weks, and

[1] The "collect," the "secret" and the "post-communion" were the prayers for various objects and occasions, according to the ancient English use of Sarum.

[2] A player with dice, or playing unseasonably.

if he amend not then, to putt owt of the said s'vice and to putt in anoth^r honest and well disposyd Prest. Also the said Prest shall kepe the groeet [? great] Sondays at Matyns masse and Owster [? Easter] and holydayes, w^th the Vicar or the parish Prest for the tyme being, and to have his p'lauhdyg [?] to ex . . . . . [?] said gods and service.

Indorsed, A Deed concerning Trinitie Chappell adjoyning to Rachdall Church.[1]

In 1665 this chapel became the property of Alexander Butterworth of Belfield, as on the 12th October in that year James Marland of Marland, yeoman, conveyed to him the moiety which he had inherited; it passed with the rest of the Belfield estate to Richard Greaves Townley of Belfield who on 8th August, 1823, sold it for £650 to James Dearden of the Orchard, whose grandson now owns it.

There was a second chantry founded about the same time in the east end of the north aisle, dedicated to St. Katherine; the foundation deed is not extant, but it is mentioned in 1516 in an award made by Thomas Holt of Stubley, wherein he directs that Henry Sale and Thomas Chadwick shall pay to William Node, upon "the auter of Saynte Katerine within ye p'ysshe church of Rochdale, xiii. s. iv. d. of gud ynglysse money;" this is dated 8th June, 8 Henry III.[2] In the same year Jeffrey Walsden and his sons, James and Perys, were by award ordered to pay iij. s. iv. d. to Randal Haworth to "open the hy auter at Rachdale kyrke," and to keep in repair certain ditches.[3] The custom of paying money in dispute on the altar appears to have been a common custom here. In 1535 the priest of the chantry was paid by Thomas Chadwick, gentleman, so possibly the Chadwicks of Healey Hall were the founders. All subsequent trace of this chantry is lost, except that it was in use in 1552, and in modern times the site of it was used partly as a vestry and partly as a "singing pew." In 1886 an organ chamber was built on the north of this chapel.

In 1478 the "spiritualities" of Rochdale Church were valued by the bursar of Whalley at £64 a year; in 1521 their value (with the chapelries) amounted to £111 0s. 1d.;[4] and according to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus,* taken in 1535, the clear value of the possessions, "spiritual and temporal," of the abbey in the parish were worth £550 4s. 6d. a year. The estimated value of the tithe of grain was £24, of wool and lambs £11 6s. 8d., and of oblations and Easter dues £14 6s. 8d. per annum. On 10th May,

[1] Raines' MSS., xv., 165. (Original in possession of J. Griffith Dearden, Esq.)
[2] Pike House Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xxvi., 13.
[3] Haworth Deeds.—Raines' MSS., xi., 52.
[4] Whitaker's Whalley, i., 116 (last edition).

1536, John Paslew, abbot of Whalley, was executed for treason, and immediately afterwards the Crown took possession. The forerunner of the downfall of this powerful monastery was the rebellion known as the Pilgrimage of Grace, in which the unfortunate abbot took a prominent part.

Henry VIII., by letters patent dated 20th May, 1538, let for twenty-one years the rectory and parsonage of Rochdale to Henry Parker, one of the pages of His Majesty's chamber, together with the tithes and all profits arising from the church and its chapels, and after the twenty-one years the same was to go to Cranmer, the archbishop of Canterbury. This reversion, at the desire of the King, the archbishop demised to Thomas Strete, gentleman, groom of His Majesty's chamber, for twenty-one years, at a rental of £120 6s. 7d. The lessee had to cause the cures of the church and chapels to be duly served, but the archbishop was to allow him £12 a year, the "pension of the vicar," and £10 for the curates of the two chapels, as had heretofore been allowed; Strete was to repair the buildings and maintain the chancel. After the death of Henry VIII. one of the first acts of Edward VI. was to confirm to the archbishop the rectorial rights and revenues of Rochdale, which he did by indenture dated 12th June, 1547, and in 1550 (27th May) the archbishop demised the reversion (after the expiration of the lease to Thomas Strete) to Sir John Byron[1] for twenty-one years, at a rental of £80 os. 7d.[2] From this time to 1814, when the rectory was sold, the archbishops were rectors and patrons.

In 1590 Archbishop Whitgift released Sir John Byron from the cures of the Parish Church and the cures of the chapels of Saddleworth and Butterworth, on condition that he paid (besides the £80 os. 7d.) £8 a year to the vicar, who was to have the herbage of the churchyard; to the curate of Butterworth he was to pay forty shillings, and permit him to have the herbage of the chapel yard. In 1597 the rectory was again leased to Sir John Byron for twenty-one years at the same rent as before, and continued from time to time to be re-leased to the members of that family until 1675, when Christopher Cratford had it for a few years, but in 1687 he assigned it to William Lord Byron; in 1642 the lease to Dame Anne Byron contained a covenant that the vicar for the time being

[1] In 1550 Sir John Byron, as sub-lessee, held the rectory, and in that year Nicholas Kershaw and other inhabitants of Walsden complained that he had failed to carry out the terms of Parker's lease to them, as to their tithes.—Duchy Pleadings, iv., K. 2.

[2] Abstract of Tithes, at Lambeth Palace. See also Raines' MSS., xi., 206.

should take all the church dues for marriages, christenings and burials without rendering an account to the lessee; in 1753 William Lord Byron surrendered his lease to the archbishop, who then demised the rectory to Thomas Parry, Esq., and on his surrendering it in 1769 it was demised to George Walmsley, James Walmsley, Benjamin Walmsley and John Walmsley of Rochdale, merchants.[1] In 1798 the rectory was held in trust for the benefit of John, lord archbishop of Canterbury, deceased. An Act of Parliament was passed 47 George III. [1806-7] for vesting certain estates of the see of Canterbury in trustees for sale and for applying the money to enable the archbishop to grant building and repairing leases; amongst other things it was enacted that the rectory of Rochdale, together with the glebe lands, tithes, &c. (the advowson and right of presentment excepted), should be vested in the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or Lord Keeper, or Commissioners for the custody of the Great Seal, the Lord Chief Justice for the Court of King's Bench, the Lord Bishop of London, and the Lord Bishop of Winchester, as trustees; and they were to sell the premises vested in them. After some little difficulties had been met as to the interest of the executors of the late archbishop of Canterbury, the estate was in 1813 sold by auction.[2] The announcement of the sale described the tithes of Rochdale and Saddleworth as extending over 33,000 acres enclosed and 14,000 acres of common. There were also sold nine pews in the parish church; the following is an extract from the advertisement, with the price each pew fetched and the purchaser:

An elegant Pew occupied by Mr. Walmsley, 10 sittings, £205, bought by Mr. Walmsley.
" " " " 8 sittings, £160, bought by "
A Seat occupied by Mr. Holland - - - 3 sittings } £135, bought by Mr. Elliott.
" " - - - 3 sittings }
" Mr. Fielding - - - 5 sittings, £75, bought by "
" Widow Ashworth - - *2 sittings, £22, bought by "
A Pew occupied by Mr. Vavasour - - 8 sittings, £155, bought by Mr. Vavasour.
" Mr. Walmsley - - - 2 sittings, £24, bought by Mr. Walmsley.
A Seat occupied by " - - - 3 sittings, £35, bought by "

* A right of way through these two seats on Communion days.

Amongst the purchasers of the tithes were Messrs. Crossley, Dearden, Elliott, Farrand, Hill, Holt, Bamford, Lee and Maden.

Reverting to the church, when the chantries were suppressed a silver chalice is named as belonging to the chantry here, but from the

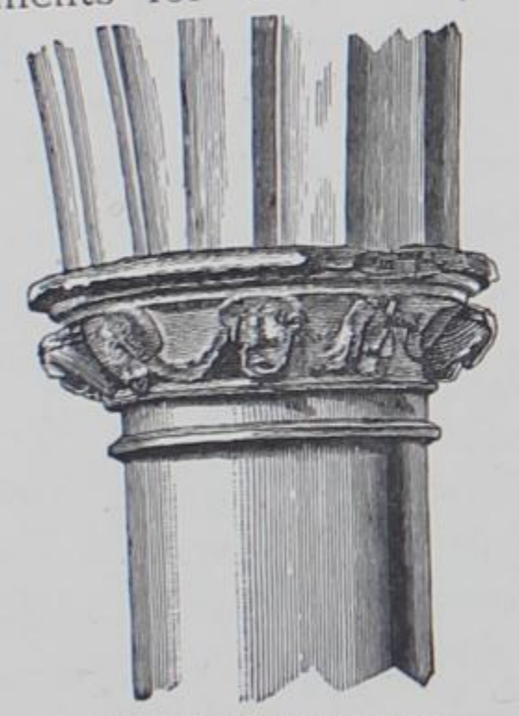
[1] All these leases were for the same rent and on the same conditions.

[2] Raines' MSS., xl.

inventory of church goods in 1552[1] it is clear there were then two chantries; as to the vicar and Richard Chadwick, Robert Tetlowe, Thomas Wolstenholme and Ellys Scofeld, churchwardens, were delivered "too coopes, six vestments, three alters furnysshed of all manner of auther clothes, two candylstyckes brasse, one sensure, one crosse brasse percell gyld, a payre of orgaynes, three chalisses, fyve grete bells and two belles belongyng to ye said p'she church."

The organ of the sixteenth century had two manuals, hence the term "a pair of organs," which were at this time freely used in the abbeys in England but were not common in the churches; besides Rochdale in 1552 there were only two Lancashire parishes, Ormskirk and Middleton, which possessed this instrument. In 1580 a sum of one hundred pounds was deposited in the hands of Cardinal Allen by the executors of Thomas Houghton "to bye a payre of organs" and music for the parish church of Preston "when the time should serve," but as the revival of Roman Catholicism did not take place the money went to the English college at Rheims.[2]

We have now evidence that a partial rebuilding of the church was contemplated, and towards this several sums of money were bequeathed; Robert Holt of Stubley, in his will dated 18th December, 1554, left four pounds "towards the mendyng of the church and byenge of ornaments for the same;" in 1558 Arthur Scolfeld of Scolfeld bequeathed "to the highe aulter at Rachdale iij. s. iv. d." and towards the "raparacions iij. s. iv. d.," and Ralph Belfield of Clegg by his will dated 11th August, 1557, gave to the re-edifying and necessary sustentation of the parish church vi. li. xiii. s. iv. d. to be paid by his executors "yearlye as the church wardens shall reasonably require." It was about this time that the south aisle was repaired and the present clerestory added and in all probability as the span was lessened the pitch of the roof of the nave was lowered. Some of the arches in the south aisle are of much earlier date than this; one of them which has a much defaced ornamental capital[3] may possibly date back to the fourteenth century.



CAPITAL OF PILLAR IN SOUTH AISLE.

[1] Lanc. Chantries.—Chet. Soc., lx., 270, S. cvii., 49.

[2] Orig. holograph by W. Allen.—Haydock Papers, p. 17.

[3] Probably injured by the erection of the gallery.

In October, 1582, the earliest volume of the parish register[1] begins. It was now quite a common custom for money to be paid by agreement at a set time in the porch of the church. The way in which vicar and churchwardens originally granted rights to individuals to appropriate particular parts of the church is well illustrated by a document dated 12th March, 1621, whereby they "with the free consent of the gentlemen and cheefe yeomen" of the parish, gave their "approbacion and allowance to Edward Leighe of Rachdale towne for to erect and set by a forme in a vacant place overagainst the litell doore of the south syde" of the church and on "the outside of the chancell, to the use of the said Edward Leighe, his wife and familie, theire to sit and heare divine service and sermon;" this form was there "erected and bilded at the proper costs and charges" of Edward Leigh, and the wardens found that it was done "decentlye and in no sort offensive" to any of the inhabitants; this was duly signed by the vicar and wardens.[2]

In the Manorial Survey the church yard in 1625 was said to contain *1a. 2r. 30p.* The chancel of the church was kept in repair by the farmer of the rectorial tithes, and we find that in 1635 its floor was paved and the seats in it were "uniformed quirewise, and the rest decently repaired and adorned."[3] Some thirty years later Richard, lord Byron, gave free "libertie and leave unto Samuel Garside of Oakenroade to erect a pew or seate to his own use and at his own charge in the chancel."[4]

From the following account of an incident which occurred on 6th July, 1682, it appears that it was then the fashion to line the pews with green baize, a custom which in some places has only just died out. Mr. Butterworth of Belfield and Mr. Pigot the vicar had disagreed about a particular seat and the latter had locked the church doors, but Mr. Butterworth was equal to the occasion and ordered his man to go through the window, which he did and proceeded to "nayle green beas" in the seat in question. On the Sunday following the vicar attempted to enter this seat but was kept out by Butterworth whereupon a scene took place which was ended by the vicar taking the congregation into the churchyard and conducting the service there.[5]

[1] The Registers have been printed from 1582 to 1641. [2] Raines' MSS., i., 2.
[3] Cal. State Papers.—Dom. Ser., 1635. [4] Original grant in possession of Mr. W. Law, Littleborough.
[5] Oliver Heywood's Diary, p. 290, Edit. 1881.

In 1693 a faculty was granted for building a west gallery, and under another faculty dated 9th November, 1699, the south gallery was erected, with a "convenient staircase from the chancel end." These two galleries remained until 1855. In the same year that the south gallery was put up (1699) the back of the communion table was "wainscotted" at a cost of thirty pounds.[1]

The churchwardens accounts only go back as far as 1640, but they contain a few items illustrating the history of the church.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT.				£	s.	d.
1642.	Paid for	getting out Rishes and sweeping Church	- - -	0	5	0
1643.	"	" Ringing the 5th of November	- - - - - - -	0	5	0
1643.	"	" A pound of Candles	- - - - - - - - - - -	0	0	4
1643.	"	" Three hedge hodgs	- - - - - - - - - -	0	1	0
1644.	"	" Mending ye Clocke[2]	- - - - - - - - - - -	0	5	0
1644.	"	" Thomas Haslame for sweepinge cobwebs and pillars of ye Church	- - - - - - - -	0	3	0
1645.	"	" Knowlinge at all Sermons	- - - - - - - - -	0	5	0
1645.	"	" Carreing off plate in to Yorkshire in tyme of danger	- - - - - - - - - - - - -	0	1	4
1649.	"	" Ringinge on the Rushbering Day	- - - - - -	0	1	0
1660.	"	" For setting up the King's Arms in ye Quire, and for repairing some point ov[r] ye pulpit y[t] was defaced by raine, &c.	- - -	0	1	0
1661.	"	" ffive Register books and other things left in ye hands of the Clarke	- - - - - - - - -	.	.	.
1661.	Paid	John Fenton for making the churchyard hedge and getting thornes to beard[3] withall	- - -	0	3	4
1683.	Paid	Mr. Holt for 2 ottar heads	- - - - - - - - - -	.	.	.
1689.	"	John Spottland for Mouldewarpes[4]	- - - - - - - -	.	.	.

In 1696 William Fielden acted as, what in some parishes was called the "bang-beggar," and for keeping order received five shillings; for instruction of several "poor boys" in singing, one pound was paid; for "tenting the clock," ten shillings.

In the Rochdale Free Public Library is preserved the original church-lay list for 1693 for the hamlets of Wuerdle, Wardle and Blatchinworth, from which it appears that the "lay" was for the "reparation of the church and schoolhouse;" in 1664 the lay for the same districts

[1] Churchwardens' accounts.
[2] A new clock, with chimes, was ordered in 1789 from John Barnish of Rochdale, and cost £193.
[3] To beard = to trim a hedge.
[4] Mouldewarps = moles.

amounted to £3 15s. 3¾d. and was for "ye repaire of ye church and schoole and bread and wine."[1]

As already stated there was an organ in the church in 1552. What became of this instrument is unknown, but it may have become worn out with age, and the troubled times of the Puritan rule coming on, may not have been replaced; certain it is that towards the end of the seventeenth century the sacred music in the parish church was of the most primitive kind, and the churchwarden accounts contain no mention of an organ until 1703 when we find the item "paid to Mr. Heaynes for mending organ, 2s." At this time the organ had been there long enough to require mending; in the same year is an item for "locks and bolts for the organ." Probably the west gallery, built in 1693, was made for the organ. In 1706 Josia Gartside was paid forty pounds on account of the organ. During the eighteenth century the organist was frequently elected by a poll of the parishioners although the salary was only twenty pounds a year, and for this he had also to teach six boys to sing. In 1776 a small loft or pew over the seats near the organ was made for the use of the singing boys.[2] In 1854 the organ was removed to the north chancel aisle which had been lengthened partly for this purpose. A new organ by Messrs. Hill was substituted for the old one in 1885 at a cost of £1000.

There were probably bells in the tower of the church at an early period, but the first notice which we have of them is in 1552 [see p. 136], when there belonged to the church five large bells. This continued to be the number until 1719 when a sixth bell was added, and in 1787 two more were cast to complete the peal. What became of the old bells is unknown, but probably they were re-cast and now form part of those in use at the present time, but it must not be forgotten that in many parishes where a new bell was wanted the old one was sold and went to some other church, and this may have been the case here. The following are the bells now in the tower:—

1st bell (note E flat).—Is inscribed "John Rudhall, fect., 1787."

2nd bell (note D).—Was also cast in 1787. It has upon it "Robt. Bell, John Crosbey, James Longdon,[3] Laurence Lord, churchwardens, 1787."

[1] Memorandum in the MS. just referred to.

[2] Faculty granted 18th Jan., 1777.

[3] This should be "Crossley" and "Longden."

3rd bell (note C).—This is one of the old bells re-cast. It has on it "Prosperity to the trade of the town, A.R., 1752."

4th bell (note B flat).—Is an old one re-cast and bears upon it the words "Peace and good [to the] neighbourhood, A.R., 1752."

5th bell (note A flat).—Also re-cast and inscribed "Abel Rudhall of Gloucester, founder, 1752."

6th bell (note C). Also an old bell re-cast. It was, as the legend on it tells, given by "Samuel Dunster, D.D., vicar, A.R., 1752."

7th bell (note F).—This was another of the old bells re-cast. It has upon it "Thos. Wood, John Scholfield, John Smith, Edmund Redfern, churchwardens, A.R., 1752."

8th bell or tenor (note E flat).—This was the bell ordered in 1719. The inscription upon it tells its history: "This bell was re-cast by John Rudhall, Gloucester, 1812. Success to the town and trade of Rochdale. T. Drake, D.D., vicar; T. Steele, A.B., curate; S. Newall, J. Heape, E. Dawson, J. Chadwick, churchwardens; D. Nield, clerk, 1812."

In 1745 the question of a new bell was mooted, and considered of so much importance that a meeting of the inhabitants was called and finally a poll taken, when there voted for a bell 185, and 397 against it.

The following extracts from the Register Book will be of interest as showing the sum collected under briefs in the church and chapels for various purposes;

		£	s.	d.
1661.	For Scarborough	0	14	8
,, ,,	Reppon Minster (fire)	0	9	10
,, ,,	Mr. Henry Harrison, Marchant	0	10	9¾
,, ,,	Loss of a shipp	0	8	0
,,	Collected at Milnrow for a Milne and Kilne	0	3	5
,, ,,	,, for the inhabitants of Elmester	0	12	10
,, ,,	Whitworth ,, ,, ,,	0	7	5
,, ,,	Todmorden ,, ,, ,,	0	14	3
,, ,,	Littleborough ,, ,,	0	5	0
,, ,,	Todmorden for Scarborough	0	9	4
,, ,,	Milnrow ,,	0	4	1
,, ,,	Whitworth ,,	0	5	7
1673.	Collected at the Communion, 5th May	0	7	11
,, ,,	,, ,, 21st June	0	14	0

		£	s.	d.
1673.	Collected at the Communion, 20th July - - - - - -	0	5	2½
1678.	9th Nov., Paid to Mr. Nicklson, Registrar of Chester, being the Collection in the p'ish and all Chapples (except Todmorden), towards rebuilding St. Paul's Church, London - - - - - - - -	20	1	11½

In 1700 the then vicar (Henry Pigott) erected a new south porch to the church, upon which his initials were engraved; this porch was removed during the alterations in 1873. From the churchwardens' book it appears that in 1702 a new pulpit was placed in the church at a cost of £18 10s. 0d.; this has long since disappeared.[1] About this time several parishioners applied for and obtained faculties for the erection of private seats; amongst them were James Wilson and Robert Scholfield for a gallery at the west end of the church, a "pue" on the north side "behind the churchwardens' old seat" (in 1706); Thomas Leyland and Alexander Collinge two peus at the west end, one "behind the great church door" and the other near the north door (in 1707); Richard Holt a seat on the south side of the south aisle in 1730; and Thomas Holland and Jonathan Wolfenden at west end on north side of middle aisle (in 1720).[2]

The old church was now again not only very dilapidated but insufficient for the requirements of the parish, and in 1738 a vestry meeting was called to consider what should be done; the result was the building of a chapel of ease [see St. Mary's]. In 1717 the church floor was regularly covered with rushes, and the cost of carrying them in appears in the churchwardens' accounts, where also appears (in 1706) the following: Five pounds for casting candlestick; one shilling and fourpence for a new rope for candlestick; three shillings for planting young ashes in the churchyard; twelve shillings and sixpence for a new dial in the yard. The "candlestick" as it is here called was the chandelier which was suspended from the roof by a rope; in 1760 a new one was purchased.

About the year 1763 the open benches or forms in the church were nearly all removed and replaced by pews and a new copy of the royal arms (removed in 1864)[3] was set up, on the back of which was

[1] A part of the beautifully carved oak which formed this pulpit was found by the present vicar in the vicarage barn, in a very mutilated condition, and converted into a hat-stand which is now at the vicarage, and it is intended that it shall remain there as an heir-loom.

[2] Bishop Reg., Chester.

[3] This copy of the Royal arms has apparently been destroyed.

inscribed the names of the churchwardens, vicar, curate, parish clerk and sexton, and at the foot "John Collier, junr., *pinxit.*" This John Collier was the son of Tim Bobbin. The arms were on the north wall of the nave, over the arch near the west door.

On the night of the 13th April, 1773, the church was entered through a window and the communion plate, surplices, &c., stolen; the thief it appears lived (at all events temporarily) in a cave on the Yorkshire side of Blackstone Edge, and here he hid the stolen property; one of his accomplices shortly afterwards gave information which led to the recovery of the whole of the plate, &c., and to the capture and conviction of the thief, who was transported for the offence. In 1779 the church was again robbed of all its plate and surplices, this time by a whitesmith from Yorkshire, whose wife being seen by a neighbour making a shirt for her husband of finer material than usual led to suspicion and ultimately to the recovery of the plate. The robber was transported.[1]

There is in the church chest a "terrier" taken in 1783 which contains a complete list of the plate then in the custody of the churchwardens; it consisted of three flagons, five cups or chalices, two patines and one large dish, all of silver. On two of the flagons was engraved "Ex dono Alexandri Butterworth, armigeri" and on the bottom of one, the figures 63. 7. and on the other 63. 3. On the third flagon was "the gift of Thomas Wray, D.D., vicar of this parish, 1773." One of the cups was marked on the bottom $\frac{\text{M.}}{\text{H.B.}}$ and another $\frac{\text{R.B.}}{\text{M.H.}}$ and on the third was engraved "church." The others had no mark. On one of the patines "Ex dono Tho. Holden, filii Ric. Holden in usum ecclesiæ Rochdaliensis, 1696," and the other "Ex dono Sara Holden, filiæ Rich[d] Holden in usum ecclesiæ Rochdaliensis, 1702." On the bottom of the dish "The gift of Miss Sara Chadwick of Chadwick in the parish of Rochdale who died August 21st, 1722."

In 1829 the churchwardens exchanged two old chalices for two new ones which in Canon Raines' opinion were of "sadly inferior design." One of these was marked $\frac{\text{B.}}{\text{R.A.}}$ and the other C.[2] The three flagons above-named are still in use, as are also the two patines of the Holdens, and the large dish presented by Sara Chadwick. Of the three chalices

[1] Corry's Hist. of Lanc., p. 557.

[2] Raines' MSS., xiv., 291.

now in the vestry two are modern and one is old, but none of them have any inscription or initials on them. The two cups sold were those marked $\frac{M.}{H.B.}$ and $\frac{R.B.}{M.B.}$ which were bequeathed to the church by Mary Bradford, whose will was proved in London 22nd January, 1624-5. She was the widow of Robert Bradford of Rochdale and afterwards of London, and daughter of Robert Holt of Rochdale [Holt of Mosside, see Chap. XVI.]. The clause in her will referring to this bequest reads: "To the parish church of Ratchdale, my two greate white silver bowles weighing twenty-five ounces or thereabouts for use of holy communion. Mr. Vicker of Ratchdale, Mr. Holt of Stubley and Mr. Butterworth of Belfield to take security of the churchwardens that the bowles shall be used for no other purpose." She also left to the poor of Ratchdale ten pounds. It is much to be regretted that these interesting relics should have been parted with.

In 1786 the churchwardens, as part of their duty, paid for the repair of the stocks, the remains of which still stand outside the churchyard.

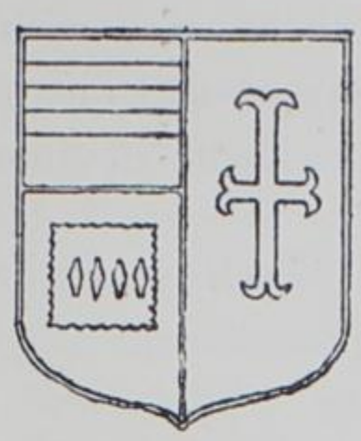
The "yeomanry seats" in the church were the cause of one of those bitter contests which were not uncommon amongst the parishioners of Rochdale. The details of the dispute are preserved in the case for the opinion of Dr. Alexander Croke, which was prepared by John Elliott, solicitor, of Rochdale, and submitted in 1799. After describing the position of the church and the rectory it sets forth that "at some time or other, but the time when we cannot ascertain (though much beyond the memory of man living), certain seats and pews were erected in the church [see p. 137]. . . . . Presumption leads to the belief that these seats were erected by Lord Byron, for on the upright pieces of timber constituting part of the pews there are various coats of arms; one in particular delineating the arms of that family in the first and fourth quarters of the shield, and the second and third quarters are filled up with the arms of some other family, probably his lady's. In another shield the arms of the Portland family appear on the sinister or lady's side, and this strengthens the probability of the Byrons building the seats, for William fourth Lord Byron, baron of Rochdale, had three wives, one of whom was daughter of the Earl of Portland." It is further shown that on the Vavasour seat the supporters of the Byron family and the Byron coronet are carved. Certain of these seats had from time immemorial been used by the "gentlemen, yeomen, freeholders, leypayers" of the parish; to these seats there

were no doors at the east end, but there was a door at the entrance opposite the clergymen's seats. These seats had always been free, and in them the "first gentlemen of the parish" were formerly in the habit of sitting; and beside them, it is added, there were a "prodigious number of yeomen, freeholders and leypayers" who had no seats belonging to them. In January, 1799, Richard Holt, attorney-at-law, of Rochdale, as agent to the archbishop or his grace's secretary, enclosed the whole of these seats and converted them to the use of private individuals, taking one of the best for himself; these alterations were carried out "sword in hand." This naturally caused great indignation in the parish, and the churchwardens called a meeting of freeholders and "leypayers," which declared that these seats were the property of the freeholders, yeomen and leypayers, and that Mr. Holt's action was illegal, and a committee (consisting of the churchwardens) was appointed to take such steps as might be necessary to get the seats re-instated. Under the direction of this committee, on the 15th February the seats were re-opened by sawing off the ends of the new extensions. Having the whole case before him, Dr. Croke gave his opinion. In the first place he assumed that Holt had acted under the orders of the archbishop, and states that doubtless the rector had the exclusive disposal of the seats in the chancel, and in the exercise of this right the Byrons had erected seats; but, he adds, seats may be acquired by prescription, which would "supersede and exclude the general right of the appropriator; besides this he adds "the right of the appropriator is not absolute and unlimited, but in the nature of a trust," and as it was clearly for the public good that these seats should be used as heretofore, he gave it as his opinion that the churchwardens were right in what they had done.[1] After this opinion was obtained Mr. Holt was asked to reinstate the seats, but as he did not do so the churchwardens did it themselves.

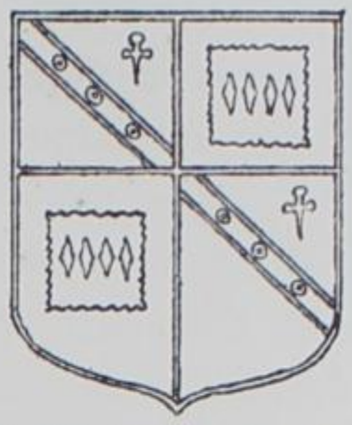
Of the arms carved on the "yeomanry seats" just referred to only two now remain; a third one has disappeared within the last twenty-five years.

In consequence of the removal of the baptistry in 1806 there was a space in the north-west angle of the church whereon the wardens built five pews which they sold for £264.[2] The vicar's pew in the

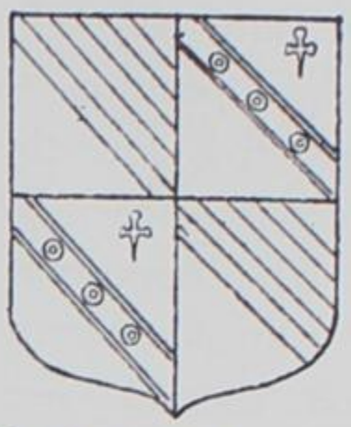
[1] A verbatim copy of this case and opinion is in Raines' MSS., xiv., 401.
[2] Wardens' accounts.



ARMS ON THE END OF SEAT IN THE CHOIR.[1]



ARMS FORMERLY ON ONE OF THE YEOMANRY SEATS.



ARMS ON THE END OF SEAT IN THE CHANCEL.[2]

chancel was erected in 1804 by the permission of the archbishop of Canterbury.[3]

The portion of Broad Field, now known as "the new burial ground," was consecrated 29th September, 1813, the old churchyard being quite inadequate. The Broad Field, part of which is now the public park, was in the beginning of this century used for pasturage by the vicar (it being part of the glebe), and in it were three gravel walks "kept in neat order" for the use of the vicar and his family and of "ladies and gentlemen who took the air there in fine weather," and on Sundays it was the "public promenade of the whole town, being the only open space in the vicinity; it was also ornamented with "plantations and clumps of trees." This was in danger of being destroyed by a Mr. Lodge of Oakenrod, who having opened a coal mine on his adjoining land, proposed to convey coals from it to the canal basin by means of a tramway. The vicar however refused consent.[4]

Shortly before the year 1814 the congregation of the church began to apprehend that the state of the building was such that it was dangerous to those who attended the services therein. In consequence several meetings were held to consider what was the best course to take, and on this there was a divided opinion. The vicar and his party contended that all that was required was to repair the church, whilst on the other side was arrayed a large number of the parishioners who declared that nothing short of a new church would be satisfactory and who proceeded so far as to introduce a Bill into Parliament for

[1] The cross moline doubtless refers to the daughter of Portland, who married the 4th Lord Byron in 1706.

[2] 1.—Byron—ar. 3 bends gules. 2.—Colwycke—ar. on a bend edged, 3 bezants in the sinister chief, a crosslet fitchie of the second.

[3] Vicar Hay's MSS.

[4] Vicar Hay's MSS.

that purpose. This Bill got into committee but there met with so much opposition that its promoters withdrew and allowed a Bill to be introduced for the building of a chapel of ease.[1] [See St. James's church.]

The opposers of the building of a new parish church stated that the "most eminent architect in that part of the kingdom" said that for £908 the old building could be repaired, and they complained that about forty years before that time the whole body of the church was free for the use of the parishioners; but since that time several principal families began to claim exclusive seats and "so well had they, by perseverance succeeded, that there was not then one single sitting to which the public were allowed to have access." Another argument they advanced why they should not be put to the expense of a new church, was that they had just made a new cemetery [Broadfield] which "was capacious enough for the purposes of the whole parish for *many hundred years*." They concluded their petition by expressing a wish that the "venerable structure which they had so long been accustomed to contemplate with reverence should not be destroyed without some clear and urgent necessity."[2] This dispute called forth a pamphlet entitled "An Address to the Town and Parish of Rochdale concerning the repairing and re-building of the Parish Church," published in 1815,[3] the burden of which was—let those who want a new church pay for it. Nothing now remained but to repair the building, which both parties agreed was in a ruinous condition. Accordingly a faculty was applied for, to perform divine service in the Free Grammar School during the repairs which were absolutely necessary, as the church could not be used without "real danger to the minister and congregation." This faculty was granted 16th December, 1814.[4]

The needful repairs were done in 1815-16 and on the 24th July of the latter year Sir Jeffrey Wyatt, the celebrated London architect, reported to the bishop of Chester that he had made a survey of the church and that he found the repairs had been done "in a workmanlike and superior manner," and he then gives the following details: The parts of the repairs "which did not appear to the eye" were the foundations of "the new piers[5] and buttresses, some of which were

[1] Vicar Hay's MSS. [2] Rochdale Church, Case of Petitioners against the Bill.—Rochdale, 1815.
[3] Manchester, 1815. [4] Bishop's Reg., Ches.
[5] In the opinion of a well-known church architect, these "piers" or pillars represent the present pillars of the chancel arch.

from seven to nine feet deep" and built "with solid stone;" a new wall had been built in Trinity chapel; the principal timbers of the roof having been found to be "sound hard oak except where they joined the stonework: the injured parts had been cut away and iron cramps inserted;" the pillars were standing on "solid stone plinths, two feet six inches square and a foot thick;" the roof had been partly re-slated; light iron pillars had been inserted to support the south gallery; and the "lumbering obtruding gallery that separated the nave from the chancel had been removed, and, Mr. Wyatt added, "it ought not to be replaced."[1] The "lumbering gallery" was a structure placed in front of the ancient rood-loft where, in pre-reformation times was placed a large crucifix; the screen which carried the rood remained until 1854. The chancel arch was now rebuilt. Shortly after this two new windows were inserted in the north wall, and in 1829, in consequence of a recommendation from the bishop, the pulpit which had heretofore faced the south gallery was removed to the next pillar and placed so as to face the main entrance.[2]

Butterworth,[3] writing in 1828, refers to "the splendid seats of the pews of the gentry, covered with rich cloth, carpets and cushions."

Trinity Chapel.

When this ancient chantry, in 1823 [see p. 132], passed to the Dearden family, it contained much which was of the greatest interest to the historian and antiquary, almost every vestige of which has long since disappeared. In 1829 there were in it two coloured windows; the south one bore the initials and date, $\overset{\text{B.}}{\text{A. G.}}$ 1602 (Alexander and Grace Butterworth), and the east window was also of the seventeenth century, and had upon it eight coats of arms, viz.:—1, Butterworth of Belfield; 2, Birdeshull of Birdeshull; 3, broken; 4, defaced; 5, arg. on a bend sa. three trefoils slipt, or; 6, Clegg of Clegg; 7, Butterworth repeated; 8, Berdeshull repeated. The date on it was 1633; there were also three figures representing "Moyses," "Jeremia" and "Malachii." On the roof, in Lombardic characters, were the initials H. M. (Henry Marland) and H. S. [?] On one part of the roof were the arms of Butterworth, Birdeshull, Ashton of Clegg, Belfield of Clegg, Eyre of Headon Grove (arg. on a

[1] Enrolment Reg. Book, Chester, Vol. xii., p. 545.
[2] Vicar Hay's MSS.
[3] History of Rochdale.—Manchester, 1828.

bend sable, three trefoils slipt of the field between three others of the second), Clegg of Clegg (sable a cross potent or crosslet crossed between four acorns erect and slipt, all or); on another compartment were the arms of Townley of Belfield, and a doubtful coat—impaling sa. a chev. or between two crescents in chief and a trefoil slipt in base of the last, with a motto "Orobitas Veres Honos."[1] On an oak boss in the roof was carved the design engraved at the end of this chapter. Before the alterations made by Mr. Dearden in 1847, the chapel presented the appearance of a comfortable sitting room, with its windows corniced and curtained, the floor carpeted and the seats cushioned.[2] What was then done to the chapel has been described by one who saw it not very long after it was completed. He says it was

"Surrounded with a handsome screen[3] profusely decorated with armorial insignia and other devices, amongst which are conspicuous the arms of the ancient family of Rachdale, which Mr. Dearden appears to have appropriated not only to himself but to his visionary ancestors. In the centre of the chapel lies the effigy of a cross-legged warrior, with the arms of Rachdale on his shield, but yclept a Derden or Dereden. Close by his side reposes a Bishop with crozier and mitre, who also has been pressed into the imaginary race of progenitors, and he, forsooth is Wallerus Durus, or Deus, or Durent, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (in the time of Stephen), of whom it has been reserved for Mr. Dearden to discover that he was of his race of Dereden, and buried at Rochdale, whilst other (perhaps less learned) authorities state that he was buried at Coventry. Incised slabs and brasses, all inscribed to the memory of Derden, Duerden, and Dearden, and in close imitation of the styles of the different eras, are placed here as commemorations of the ancestors of a man whose own inquiries failed to carry back these ancestors beyond the time of James I. .... the pedigree of the Dearden family was entered on the Books of the College of Arms in 1841, by Mr. James Dearden, of Handle Hall, in the parish of Rochdale, who proved himself to be the eighth in descent from Richard Dearden, or Dureden, of Whitefield [in Hundersfield], who died in 1630. Neither this gentleman nor his predecessors were entitled to arms, and none were to be found in the college of arms for any of the family, and it is needless to say that none of Mr. Dearden's ancestors were ever Lords of the Manor of Rochdale."[4]

The writer of the above concludes by saying that he did not suppose "that the late Mr. Dearden" (this was written in 1865) "or other persons for whose glorification they were invented had any complicity in the fraud." For this piece of vandalism three parties were to blame—the man who invented the fables, the man who paid for them, and the authori-

[1] Raines' MSS., i., 22. [2] Ecclesiologist, 1847, p. 59.
[3] A very small portion of this oak was what remained of the old screen, the rest was quite new.
[4] Popular Genealogists, or the Art of Pedigree Making.—Edinburgh, 1865.

ties who allowed the placing of the monuments in the church. This account is inaccurate on one point—the arms of the Deardens are not quite identical with the reputed arms of the Rachdales [see p. 16]. As has already been shown [see p. 16], there never was a family of Rachdale which can be proved to have borne these arms, and there certainly was at no time a lord of the manor called Rachdale.

Besides the monuments above mentioned there were several others placed in the chapel, but most of them were a few years ago, under the instructions of the present lord of the manor, buried beneath the chantry floor; there still remains, however, a stone with foliated cross and sword carved upon it, and five imitation antiques, only two of which refer to the ancestors of the restorer of the chapel. One of these is thus worded:—"To the memory of Mr. Richard Dearden of Handle Hall, son and heir of Jas. Dearden of Whitefield, gent., in this parish, vpright and trew though long blind he managed his estates and added thereto, living well and dying y^e^ same on y^e^ 24 daie of May, anno dom. 1620, in y^e^ 63 year of hys age." This is surely about as poor an attempt at imitation as could well be conceived. Another is to the memory of James, the son of Richard Dearden of Whitefield, in Honoresfield, gent., who died 25th December, 1609, aged 63 years; a third to the memory of Richard Dearden of Whitefield, who died 12th January, 1585; the other stones refer to Oliver and Otiwell Dearden, and they might well have been buried with the bishop and the knight. At the same time, or shortly afterwards, the old windows were taken out and new ones inserted;[1] the east window, by Willement, contained in the centre the emblems of the Trinity, the side lights representing the blessed Virgin and St. John the Baptist. The south windows are still [1889] in the chapel, and contain the armorial bearings of the Belfields, Deardens and Inghams. The benches arranged stall-wise and the oak sedilia were now introduced, the floor was laid with armorial tiles, and the roof panelled with deal (not oak), on which were painted several armorial designs.[2]

In December, 1851, a new stained east window was put in the chancel, which was designed by Willement, at a cost £175. It was in five compartments, under four of which were the arms of four of the donors: the vicar James Dearden (the lord of the manor), R. G. Townley

[1] The south window is dated 1852.

[2] Ecclesiologist, 1847, p. 60.

(M. P. for Cambridgeshire), Mr. Newalls of Townhouse and Mr. Chadwick.[1] This window and that in the east end of Trinity chapel were sent to London in 1885 to be adapted to suitable positions in the new chancel and were destroyed by fire at the manufacturers; Mr. Dearden however gave a costly new window to replace the one belonging to Trinity chapel, the new east window being given by Mr. Thomas Dawson.

About this time Dr. Molesworth and the lord of the manor put a new roof (wagon shaped) on the chancel and otherwise altered its internal arrangements.

The next reparation of the church took place in 1854-5 in accordance with a resolution passed at a vestry meeting[2] on 10th August, 1854. The alterations now made were extensive and included the pulling down of the north aisle, the removal of the vestry at its east end and the rebuilding of the aisle to a line with the east end of the chancel. In the extreme end of this (eastward) part thus rebuilt a new organ chamber of small size was placed, and the floor between it and the nave, including the site of the old vestry and singing pew, was covered with open benches, and a new arch was opened into the chancel. The baptistry (then at the west end of the north aisle) was converted into a vestry and the font was placed near the south porch; parts of the south aisle and nave were re-seated and the floor covered with concrete.[3] There was before this alteration a door in the north side of the church. The vestry formerly at the east end of the north aisle was the site, if not the actual building, which constituted St. Katherine's chantry. This vestry is clearly shown in Physick's view of the church. [See Frontispiece.]

In 1855 or 1856 the south and west galleries were removed and a new west gallery put up.[4] A few years afterwards the remaining pews were removed and the nave was re-roofed by Mr. Clarke, architect, of London; this roof, though perpendicular in style, by the adoption of tie-beams in its construction has intersected the west arch of the tower and seriously interfered with the beauty and general proportions of the church. From marks still visible on the tower and which are plainly shown on Nicholson's view of the church, taken

[1] Rural Hist. Gleanings in South Lanc. (1852), p. 111.
[2] The expense was to be met by voluntary subscription.
[3] At this time the floor of the centre aisle was at least twelve inches below the level of the south aisle.
[4] Churchwardens' Books, 1855.

before 1828; it is clear that long before this latter alteration the roof itself had been lowered. [See p. 136.]

In 1873 the south wall (as far as the chancel arch) and the porch were pulled down and rebuilt with the old materials (as far as possible), and to the western end of the aisle was added what is now used as a choristers' vestry; the font was placed near the tower entrance; the battlements of the tower were removed and the tower itself raised several feet and the large louvre windows inserted.

The most recent alterations in the structure of the parish church, and also the most extensive, which have happened in its history were made from plans by Mr. J. S. Crowther of Manchester, architect to the cathedral, in 1884-5. The dignity of the fabric has now been greatly enhanced and the sombre character of the east end relieved by the continuation of the clerestory (which was added in the seventeenth century) throughout the chancel and by better provision in the matter of the sacrarium. Before the last alterations there was little, and that only on the south side of this part of the church that could lay claim to antiquity, nothing that had not been seriously tampered with by (so-called) "restoration," and the foundations had been so riddled with intramural interments that the walls were considerably out of the perpendicular and were incapable of being charged with any additional weight. Many of the arches on the north side were added in 1854 when the north chancel aisle was lengthened to form an organ chamber, and a new wagon-roof tended to greatly depress the chancel itself and to alter its character which was gloomy in the extreme and dwarfed in proportions. There being little or nothing to conserve, it was decided to pull down the whole "choir," including the chancel arch—an addition (as is supposed) in 1816—and to erect a new one, elongating at the same time the Trinity and Catherine chapels (in the south and north chancel aisles) and to build an organ chamber recessed from the latter at a point near the north end of the nave. The style adopted is that of the latter part of the fifteenth century (1485) and the choir consists of six bays, constituting the whole—there being six bays in the nave—into what is known as a "double apostles'" church. The font[1] was now put back

[1] The font now stands on one of the stone dial plates of the old clock; another dial is in the centre of the tower floor.

into its original position in the north aisle at its extreme west corner, formerly called the "christening house." The nave was subsequently lowered to the line of the original level, as remembered by old residents in the town and shewn by the gravestones along the aisles and under the pews. To carry out this effectually it was necessary to lengthen the pillars by the insertion of about ten inches of stone. The cost was defrayed by voluntary contributions and amounted to nearly £10,000.[1] The choir and aisles were filled with stained glass, chiefly from the works of Messrs. Burlison and Grylls, those at the north and east extremities being supplied by Messrs. Lavers and Westlake. Several of the arches were subscribed for by individuals and families, amongst whom were Messrs. Healey of Surrey, A. H. Royds, C. N. (and Mrs.) Beswicke-Royds, Clement Molyneux Royds, Joshua and Herbert Radcliffe, J. P. Brierley (and family), Henry Newall, A. and W. Law, G. T. Chadwick and the lord of the manor, Mr. J. Griffith Dearden, who gave several windows to the Trinity chapel, now lengthened some twenty-three feet. The roof of this chapel is greatly enriched as also that of the choir. The whole design is adapted admirably to the character of the nave, the tie-beam roof of which however —a modern innovation—cuts off the uppermost part of the chancel-arch, as indeed it also does that of the fine span of the tower arch, and requires to be raised or substituted by a roof of "hammer-beam" construction. There remain other details to add as for example a parclose screen for the choir. The old altar-table has been erected in the Trinity chapel which is fitted up for occasional services of all kinds, including the celebration of the holy communion. The last window inserted in the church, representing the "Te Deum," was dedicated to his parents by the late Mr. Thomas Dawson, in whose memory the choir-aisle window, nearest the organ, was erected by his sisters Mrs. Proffit and Mrs. Brandon. In the same aisle are two windows epitomising our Lord's teaching and miracles, the westward in memory of bishop Fraser (by subscription) and Mr. William Hastings (by his wife). The north-east window, "The Anointing of Christ's feet," was given by the late Mr. Pagan in memory of his wife and children. The south-east window, "The Last Supper," Mr. J. Griffith Dearden contributed, together with the two neighbouring windows, "Moses strik-

[1] The subscriptions were obtained by the vicar, and expended by a committee appointed at a public meeting.



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ROCHDALE PARISH CHURCH IN 1889.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MR. HENDERSON, ROCHDALE.

ing the Rock" and Moses lifting up the Serpent," in memory of his grandfather, James Dearden, Esq., lord of the manor, and William Griffith and Jane Elizabeth, his brother and sister. The windows in the clerestory of the choir represent the twelve apostles, and were dedicated as follows: On the north—1, in memory of his wife by Mr. Herbert Radcliffe; 2, "to the glory of God," anonymous; 3, to the memory of John Royds, 1754; Ann, Gilbert and Robert, obt. 1674; Jane Royds, obt. 1732; James Royds, 1787, and Mary Smith, by Mr. A. H. Royds; 4, "to the glory of God," by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Royds; 5, Mr. G. Taylor Chadwick to the memory of Mr. George Chadwick; 6, Mr. Henry Newall to his father. On the south side—1, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Beswicke-Royds to Mr. Halliwell of Pike House; 2, Messrs. Burlison and Grylls (the makers); 3, to the memory of Clement Royds, 1810; Jane Hudson, James Royds, churchwarden 1735, obt. 1759, by Mr. A. H. Royds; 4, Mr. J. Griffith Dearden to his father and mother, James and Jane Dearden; 5, to his first wife and daughter by Mr. J. B. Brierley; 6, Messrs. A. and W. Law to their sisters.

Besides the windows just enumerated there are the following, which are of various dates but all modern. In the north aisle is one to the memory of the Rev. J. E. N. Molesworth; a window subscribed for by the teachers and scholars of St. Chad's Sunday Schools; and one now hidden by the organ to the memory of Henry Farrand Poulden, a grandson of the last Dr. Molesworth. The east window bears the inscription:

"To the glory of God and to the Memory of Hugh Haslam and Ann Dawson, by their son Thomas Dawson. A.D. 1885. Edward Craig Maclure, M.A., Honorary Canon of Manchester, Vicar."

In the South Aisle.

"To the Memory of Richard Stott and his niece Elizabeth Stott. Placed by his son and daughter. A.D. 1877."

The West Window

Is "To the Memory of William Edward Royds and Mary Ann his wife. Erected by their son, Clement Molyneux Royds."

In Trinity Chapel.

"To Memory of William Griffith Dearden and Elizabeth Dearden. Dedicated 1886."

"To the Memory of Simon Dearden. Dedicated 1852. This window bears the Arms of Dearden, Belfelde, and Ingham."

"To the Memory of William Dearden, died 1842; Susanna Ada Dearden, died, 1848; and Francis Sydney Dearden, died 1847."

The above are all three-light windows.

MONUMENTS IN THE CHURCH.

SOUTH WALL.

"Sacred to the Memory of Thomas Hippon Vavasour, who departed this life the 24th of October, 1819, aged 69, sincerely beloved and deeply regretted. Also of Elizabeth his daughter, who died in London the 14th day of January, 1816, and was interred in a vault in Lewisham Church, Kent. Also of Penelope his wife, who died at Berwick Lodge, in the county of Gloucester, on the 29th of October, 1826, and was interred in the chancel of this church."

BAPTISTRY.

"Jacobi Holte, de Castleton, arm. et Dorotheæ Filiæ Tho. Grantham de Goltho, in Agro Lincolinensi, Arm. Uxoris carissimæ. Ipse Oxoniæ educatus et coll. Æn. Nas. Cooptatus socius, literis tum humanis tum divinis non mediocriter imbutus, pietate et amæno ingenio eruditionem ornavit, Regi subdites semper fidellissimus, Ecclesiæ Ang. Assertor strenuus, cujus quicquid sanctissime mandat sedulus observator, fanaticorum indocti Gregis quicquid delirant contemptor summus. Vir ad antiquæ probitatis, fidei ac pietatis norman factus, pietatem colluit sine fuco scientiam sine, fastu prudentiam sine asperitate, justiciam sine rigore, sui tantum rigidus censor. Illa Dei timens, viri amans, familiæ propiciens summa prudentia res omnes administravit, filias quas septem peperit, pie ac prudenter aduxit, moribus optimus suisque simillimis imbruens, exemplo direxit magis quam præceptis. Uterque pietate in Deum, comitate in amicos, hospitalitate in omnes, charitate in egenos insignes; ut pauperum ille pater, illa mater haberetur, pueros ille, illa puellas proprio sumptu curaverunt educandos. Ne tantarum virtutum memoriam indigna premerit oblivio quatuor filiæ superstites, in æternam memoriam, Marmora hæc æquis sumptibus posuere.

Natus Octobri, A.D. MDCXLVII.
Obit. VII.^{D} Idus Jan., A.D. MDCCXII.
Illa nata XVth Call. Majas, A.D. MDCLVIII.
Obijt. III.^{D} Nonas Martias, A.D. MDCCXVIII."[1]

NEAR THE WEST DOOR.[2]

"Here (within the quyre of Rochdale Church where his ancestors had been accustomed to be buryed) lies the body of John Chadwick, Esq., of Healey Hall (late L^{t}-Colonel R.L.M.; the 12th in descent from Nicholas de Chadwick and the 17th from John de Healey). He was the youngest son of Charles Chadwick, Esq., of Mavesyn, Ridware, in Staffordshire (who was the 22nd in descent from Malvesyn, the Norman), and youngest son of Charles Chadwick Sackeverall, Esq., of Newhall, in Warwickshire, and Callow, in

[1] Formerly on south side of the altar.

[2] Originally in the chancel.

Derbyshire; who was the 15th from Delalaunde, of Callow, baptised at Bidware, 25th of February, 1719-20; died 23rd and buried 29th November, 1800. An active officer, an impartial magistrate, and truly an honest man. He married Susannah, youngest daughter of Robert Holt, Esq., of Shevington, who was nephew of Alexander Holt, Esq., of Gristlehurst, and descended from the Holts of Stubley, latterly of Castleton. He died at Manchester 19th and was buried here the 22nd January, 1765, aged 54. Istud mulieris exemplar. They left issue one daughter, Mary, and one son, Charles, now of Healey, Ridware, Newhall, and Callow."

UNDER THE TOWER.—MARBLE TABLET.

"To perpetuate a memorial erected in the Church of St. Peter, at St. Alban's (perished by time) this marble is here placed to the memory of a gallant and loyal man, Sir Bertine Entwisle, Knight, Viscount and Baron of Brybeke in Normandy, and sometime Baliffe of Constantine, in which office he succeeded his father-in-law, Sir John Ashton, whose daughter first married Sir Richard le Byron, an ancestor of the Lords Byrons, Barons of Rochdale; and secondly, Sir Bertine Entwisle, who after repeated acts of valour, in the service of his Sovereigns Henry the Fifth and Sixth, more particularly at Agincourt, was killed in the first battle of St. Alban's, and on his tomb stone was recorded in brass, the following inscription: 'Here lyeth Sir Bertin Entwisel, Knight, who was born in Lancastershyre, and was Viscount and Baron of Brybeke in Normandy, and Baliffe Constantine, who died fighting in King Sixth party, the 28th of May, 1455, on whose soul Jesus have mercy.'"

ON THE NORTH WALL—MARBLE TABLET.

"In Memory of James Richard Elliott, who was wrecked on the Pegasus, off the Ferne Islands, July 20th, 1843, and who was interred at Holy Island, August 19th, aged 36 years; also of his nephew, William Bowen, son of Cap. Elliott, of 37th Reg., who was lost at the same time, aged 6 years."

A MARBLE TABLET.

"Sacred to the Memory of John Elliott, Esq., who died August 21st, 1847, aged 81 years."

A MARBLE TABLET.

"Frances Roach, Widow, deceased Jan. 17th, 1848, in her ..oth[1] year, to her memory this tablet is dedicated by her only son, J. E. N. Molesworth, D.D. Harriet, the beloved wife of J. E. N. Molesworth, and during thirty-five years his help and comfort both in prosperity and adversity, she died Dec. 7th, 1850. Harry Farrand, only child of George and Emma Frances Poulden, and grandson of J. E. N. Molesworth, departed this life Oct. 17th, 1853, aged 2 years and 4 months."

[1] Marble worn away.

GARTSIDE BRASS.[1]



ON THE SOUTH WALL—MARBLE TABLET.

"In Memory of James Royds, of Mount Falinge, Esq., who died 2nd Feb., 1842, aged 83 years; and Mary, his wife, who died 24th July, 1846, aged 49 years."

MARBLE TABLET.

"In remembrance of George Walmsley, of Rochdale, Merchant, who was born at Gooselane, on the 20th day of July, 1721, and departed life on the 6th day of November, 1800, in the 80th year of his age."

In the west end of the church, where the font used to stand, are the following inscriptions on marble tablets:

"To the Memory of Thomas Smith, of Castleton Hall, died 31st Dec., 1806, aged 63. Penelope Smith, his Widow, died December 29th, 1823, aged 73."

"To the Memory of John Hopwood, Lieut. in the 93rd or Rifle Regiment, who fell at Arcangues before Bayonne, December the 10th, 1815, æt. 22. He distinguished himself at the battles of Busaco, Salamanca and Vittoria, and at the sieges of Cuidad Roderigo and Badajos, where he received severe wounds, and fell commanding a company of the regiment to which he belonged, beloved and lamented."

"To the Memory of John Entwistle, Esq., of Foxholes, M.P. for this Borough; and Ellen, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Smith, Esq., of Castleton.

[1] Strictly speaking this is not a brass, the metal used being copper.

He died April 5th, 1837, aged 52 years, and was interred in the parish church of St. Marylebone, London; she died at Foxholes, Feb. 28th, 1838, aged 53, and was interred in this church."

In a vault under this seat[1] are deposited the remains of Benjamin Smith, of Heybrook, Merchant, born 1st July, 1730, died 11th June, 1800. Alice Forster Smith, Widow of the late Benjamin Smith, who died 7th Feb., 1814, æt. 58. James Lord, who died 6th Dec., 1788, aged 73. The Father and Mother of Alice Forster Smith are interred in this church.

IN THE TRINITY CHAPEL.

"M. S.
JACOBO. DEARDEN. ARMIGERO. HUJUSCE. MANERII. DOMINO
VIRO. PROVO. STRENUO
PRUDENTI. QUI. EXIMIA. IN. NEGOTIIS. PERAGENDIS. SOLERTIA
DOMUM. SUAM
AUXIT. COMITATE. IN. AMICOS. ORNAVIT. LARGITATE. IN
EGENOS. MUNIVIT. VIXIT
ANNOS. LIV. MENSES II. DIEM. OBIIT. SUPREMUM. XI. CAL. OCT
A.S. MDCCCXXVIII.
NECNON. FRANCESCÆ. UXORI. SUÆ. THOMÆ. FERRARD. DE. MERLAND
ARMIGERI. FILIÆ. FÆMINÆ. DE. CONJUGE. LIBERIS. AMICIS
OPTIME. MERENTI. QUÆ. MORIBUS
SUAVISSIMIS. INDOLE. MITISSIMA. OMNIUM. SIBI. AMOREM
FACILE. CONCILIAVIT
OMNIBUS. FLEBILIS. OCCIDIT. ID. FEB. A. S. MDCCCXXV. ANNUM
ÆTATIS. AGENS. LIII.
PARENTIBUS. SUIS. CARISSIMIS. H. M. P. C. LIBERI. SUPERSTITES."

IN THE MIDDLE AISLE.

"Joseph Brierley, died Feb. 25th, 1833, aged 65 years; Anne, his wife, died Mar. 10th, 1847, aged 80. Their children: Hannah died Sep. 22, 1807, aged 6 years; Alice died 25 July, 1811, aged 12 years."

IN THE CHANCEL—A BRASS.

"Susanna, daughter of James Royds, of Mount Falinge, died 22nd Feb., 1801, aged 14. Jane died 31 Jan., 1807, aged 4 years. Dauntesey died 13th March, 1807, aged 6 years. Mary, his wife, died 21st July, 1816, aged 49 years. James Royds died 2nd Feb., 1842. Jane, wife of Clement Royds, died at Cheltenham, 16th Feb., 1853. Clement Royds died 6th Sep., 1854."

GRAVESTONES IN THE CHURCH.

In 1834 the following were on the floor of the church; those marked with an asterisk (*) are still visible, the rest have either been destroyed or are covered over.[2]

[1] This has been removed from its original position.

[2] Copied by Canon Raines—see his MSS., i., 299, et seq. The inscriptions are not here given—merely the facts recorded.

IN THE CHANCEL.

"Marmaduke Vavasour, who died 27th July, 1752, in his 50th year. John Vavasour, his nephew, died 19th June, 1784, in his 60th year."

"Benjamin, son of John Walmsley, of Tentercroft, died 9th Sep., 1772, aged 1 year. Elizabeth, his daughter, died 27th Dec., 1775, in her 1st year. George, his son, died 12th May, 1778, in her 2nd year. James, his son, died 29th April, 1788, aged 8 years."

"Ann, wife of John Walmsley the younger, died 8th Aug., 1807, aged 30. John Walmsley, of Castlemere, her husband, died 15th March, 1822, aged 53 years."

"Mary Ingham, wife of John Ingham, Gentleman, and daughter of John Hollingworth, of Tintwistle in Mottram, Co. Chester, died 22nd Jan., 1726, aged 85 years. John Ingham, her husband, and son of Richard Ingham, of Cleggswood, Gent., died 25th Jan., 1726."

"Susanna, daughter of James Royds of Mount Falinge, died 22nd Feb., 1800, aged 14. Jane died 31st Jan., 1807, aged 5. Emily died 13th March, 1807, aged 11. Dauntsey died 13th March, 1807, aged 5. Mary, his wife, died 4th July, 1816, aged 49."[1]

MIDDLE AISLE.

*"Mary, the wife of John Scholfield, Bookseller, died 8th Feb., 1739; also John Scholfield, her husband, died 17th Dec., 1771, æt. 66. Alice Scholfield, their daughter, died 29th Nov., 1804, aged 74. Ann Lancashire [born 2nd July], 1795, aged 19."[2]

"Ann, the wife of James Newbold, late of Newbold, died 29th April, 1781, aged 86 years."

"Ellen Wild, died 8th May, 1726, aged 59 years. Elizabeth, the daughter of Ellen Wild, died 16th July, 1739, aged 48 years."

"Joseph, the son of Edmund Taylor, of Rochdale, buried 29th May, 1698, aged 14 days. James, his son, buried 29th Oct., 1698, aged 2 years."

"Edward Howarth, Smallbridge, died 11th Feb., 1795, in his 92nd year. Martha, his wife, died 20th Dec., 1806, aged 73."

"Susan Ormerod, daughter of Peter Ormerod, interred 17th March, 1711. Joseph Ormerod, gent., died 14th March, 1768."

"This Stone placed here by Henry Ormerod, M.D., 1802, to the memory of Laurence, his son, who died Feb. 6th, 1802, aged 17 months." The above Henry Ormerod, M.D., died April 7th, 1802, aged 36.

"Mary, daughter of Benjamin Healey, of Woodhouse Lane, died 28th March, 1747, aged 14 years. Benjamin Healey, father of the above, interred in 1747, in his 47th year. John, his son, died 8th Jan., 1749, in his 1st year. Hannah, his daughter, died 26th Feb., 1809, aged 75 years."

*"Martha, wife of Abraham Chadwick, of Halifax, and daughter of Thomas Holt, of Rochdale, died 14th Aug., 1764, aged 28 years. Martha, daughter of the above Abraham Chadwick, died 20th March, 1768, aged 3 years. Thomas Holt, died 6th Aug. 1772, aged 72 years. Martha, his wife, died 2nd Jan., 1783, aged 87 years. Mary Holt, their daughter, died 9th Dec., 1792, in her 61st year. James Holt Robinson, gent., died 29th Nov., 1799, aged 42 years. Hannah, his wife, died 11th Dec., 1801, in her 32nd year.

[1] Added, James Royds, died 2nd Feb., 1842, æt. 82.

[2] This is now near the south door.

Martha Ann, their daughter, died 14th August, 1813, in her 13th year. Maria, their daughter, died 15th Jan., 1821, aged 22 years." [This last on a Brass].

"Edmund Chadwick, apothecary, died 31st July, 1744."

* "Alice, daughter of James Holland, died July 19th, 1770, aged 1 year. Elizabeth, his wife, died 14th June, 1770, aged 34. John, his son, A.B., died 18th Sep., 1795, aged 25. The above James Holland died 22nd May, 1817, aged 79." [1]

North Aisle.

"Margaret, wife of the Rev. Thomas Bellas, M.A., died Oct. 13th, 1796, aged 38 years."

"Timothy Normanton, B.A., who was Curate of this Church 7 years and 8 months, he died Aug. 17th, 1767, aged 31 years."

"James Holland, of Birchenley, Gentleman, died March 17th, 1756, aged 71. William Holland, his son, died 6th Sep., 1762, aged 52 years. Alice, wife *to* James Holland, gent., died 7th Dec., 1770, aged 87 years and 5 months. Frances Holland, their daughter, died 6th Nov., 1792, aged 77 years."

"John Hamer, Gent., died 18th Nov., 1778, in the 73rd year of his age. Alice, his wife, died 8th March, 1774, aged 78 years. Alice, their daughter, died 5th May, 1772, in the 38th year of her age. Sarah, wife of John Hamer, gent. (son of the above John Hamer), died 6th Aug., 1800, aged 58 years. Also the said John Hamer, died 1st Dec., 1806, aged 68 years."

"Ralph Taylor, who was Clerk of this church for 40 years, died 24th Nov., 1783, in his 75th year. Ann, his wife, died 18th Jan., 1793, aged 77 years. Charles, his son, buried 12th July, 1752, aged 7 years. Mary Taylor, his daughter, died 26th Dec., 1807, aged 63 years. Ralph, their son, died 30th Nov., 1809, aged 69."

Cross Aisle from South Door.

"John Wolfenden, organist of this church, died 1st Feb., 1748-9, in his 60th year."

"Robert Ingham, Surgeon, died 7th April, 1773, in the 44th year of his age. Mary, wife of William Ingham, died 28th April, 1732, 'with 5 of *ther* children.' Alice, his daughter, died 24th Jan., 1762, aged 36. William Ingham, of Rochdale, Merchant, died 16th March, 1767, aged 82."

South Aisle.

"Hic jacet [corpus] Margaretti Gartside . . . [quæ fuit] uxor Jacobi Gartside de Rachdale, et . . . [filia Ricardi Chadwicke [gen'de] Spotland . . . et obiit . . . Novo die anno Dni, 1668." [2]

"Ellen Hartley, died 2nd Sep., 1807, in her 30 year."

"Thomas, the son Thomas Hippon Vavasour, died 8th Mar., 1771, in his 4th year. John, his son, died 6th July, 1781, in his 3rd year. Marmaduke Edward, his son, died 10th June, 1796, aged 6 weeks."

[1] Now in north aisle.

[2] The date is probably wrong, no one of that name was buried in 1668, but Margaret wife of James Gartside was buried 31 Dec., 1681.

"John Kenion, of Church Lane, died 19th Jan., 1718, aged 28. Jane, his wife, buried 1784, aged 60 years. Nicholas, son of Nicholas Shuttleworth, gent., buried 13th Nov., 1742, aged 3 weeks. Sarah, wife of Nicholas Shuttleworth and daughter of Jn. Kenion, buried 8th Nov., 1755, aged 39. Nicholas Shuttleworth, gent., died 21st Sep., 1763."

"Thomas Leach, of Cheetham St., Yeo., died 6th Feb., 1814, aged 68 years. Sarah Leach, Widow of said Thomas Leach, died 20th March, 1825, in her 72nd year."

"Mr. Samuel Stead, of Rochdale, died Feb. 7th, 1754, aged 69. Mary, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Stead, died 4th Oct., 1759, in her 10th year. Thomas Hindley, died April 14th, 1709."

"William, the son of Samuel Stead, of Rochdale, died 19th Dec., 1718, aged 1 year. Hindley, the son of Samuel Stead, died 13th July, 1736, aged 22 years. Judith, Widow of Samuel Stead, died 14th April, 1738, aged 59 years. Mary, the wife of Mr. Thomas Stead, died 25th Aug., 1775, aged 58. Mr. Thomas Stead, of Rochdale, gent., died 2nd Feb., 1780, in her 73rd year."

"Nancy, daughter of James Dunlop, M.D., died 5th April, 1806, aged 6 years. Margaret, spouse of the above James Dunlop, died 16th May, 1820, in her 51st year."

IN THE AISLE LEADING FROM THE LITTLE DOOR TO THE CHANCEL.

"Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Horrocks and wife of Thomas Ferrand, of Rochdale, gentleman. Christopher Horrocks, of Sparth, Castleton, died 19th Dec., 1743. Elizabeth, his wife, died .... June, 1724. John, his son, ..."

"Susan, the daughter of Mr. Robert Royds, of Turf House, gent., dec^{d}., she died 10th Dec., 1780, in her 41st year, wife of Thomas Ferrand."

["Thomas Farrand, of Marland, Attorney-at-law, son of John Farrand, of Hollinghurst, in the parish of Thornton Hill, Co. York, gent., he died Feb. 20th, 1789, aged .... Elizabeth, his daughter, spinster, died 12th April, 1808, aged 46 years. David, his 2nd son, died 19th Aug., 1792, aged 26 years. Ann, his daughter, died 4th July, 1795, aged 24 years. Susan, his daughter, died 14th June, 1795, aged 19 years. ..... his eldest daughter, died Aug. 12th, 1784, aged 24 years."][1]

CROSS AISLE FROM GREAT SOUTH DOOR.

"Sarah, daughter of Richard Holt, of Rochdale, gent., died 29th Sep., 1762, aged 4 years. Jane, his daughter, died 19th Jan., 1764, aged 2 years. Mary, their daughter, died 6th July, 1799, aged 34 years. Elizabeth, wife of [above] Richard Holt, died 28th June, 1797, aged 67 years. Richard Holt died 16th Aug., 1801, in his 69th year."

"Thomas, son of James Willson, died 30th January, 1708."

"Stephen Bellot, late of Rochdale, died ..... in the year of our Lord 1729. Also Ann Bellot, his daughter, died 22nd Sep., 1780, in her 98th year."

"George Chorlton, died 20th July, 1749, in his 50th year. Sarah, a child of George Chorlton, died 1st Sep., 1725. Mary and William, his children, died March 30th, 1733. Sarah Chorlton, sen., died 16th Jan., 1790, aged 60. Hannah Chorlton, died 3rd Nov., 1809, aged 69 years."

"Ellen, wife of George Chorlton, died 6th June, 1762, æt. 62."

[1] This is not in Raines' list, and as one of the children is stated on it to be "buried in this churchyard" it was probably placed in the church since 1834.

"Alice, daughter of Thomas Holme of Brown Hill, and relict of Marmaduke Vavasour, died Nov. 9th, 1770."

In 1834 there was a small piece of copper inserted in the wall of the north side of the chancel, which bore the following:

"In Memory of Robert Ashworth, of Castleton, died 23rd June, 1812, in his 74th year. Betty, the wife of Joshua Hilton, died 9th Dec., 1830, in her 32nd year. Mary Fletcher, of Butterworth Fold in Bamford, died 22nd April, 1834, aged 85 years."

This has disappeared. In 1834, on a large mural tablet, much defaced, near the Trinity Chapel, was this inscription:

"Hic requiescunt in pace Samuelis, Edmundus, Gulielmus, et Francisca filii et filia Edmundi Butterworth, de Windiebank, per Annam nunc uxorem ejus. Samuelus ob. 20th Sep., 1697, æt. 1 an. Edmundus ob. 2nd April 1700, æt. 5. Gulielmus ob. 7th Nov., 1709, æt. 3. Francesca ob. 11th Nov. 1709, æt. 1. Sarah, ob. 10th June, 1715, æt. 6."

On a square brass let into the stone was engraved,

"Hic inhumatur Dominus Edmundus Butterworth de Wyndiebank, ubi natus erat et obiit apud Oakenrode . . . . . 1725, æt. sua 63 . . . . hospitabilitate . . . . justus . . . . fidus . . . . et flebit . . . . Hic etiam cum conjuge semper adamato quiescat placens Vxor Anna, quæ mortem obiit 19th Junii, 1762. Mary Carr, of Oakenrode, died 29th Oct., 1787, in her 87th year. Ann Butterworth, of Oakenrod, Spinster, died 7th Sep., 1783, in her 84th year."

On the same monument:

"William Butterworth, of Wyndiebank, born 16th Nov., 1660.
John Butterworth, of Wyndiebank, born 20th Oct., 1666.
Elizabeth, wife of John Butterworth, born 4th May, 1714, aged 84."

On another monument:

"John Butterworth, of Ashbrookhey, died 29th Mar., 1709, aged 66.
Ann, his daughter, died 11th May, 1715, aged 19.
Isabel, „ died 10th Feb., 1721, aged 52.
Charles, his son, died 22nd Jan., 1736, aged 28.
Robert, late of Ashbrookhey, yeo., died 24th Feb., 1748, aged 52.
Edmund Butterworth died 5th Feb., 1775, aged 67.
Benjamin, son of Edmund Butterworth, Innkeeper, died 30th Mar., 1746, aged 2.
Betty, daughter „ „ died 18th Mar., 1748, aged 15.
Mary Butterworth, died 14th Sep., 1815, aged 83.
Alice Butterworth, of Bank, her daughter, died 10th Aug., 1831, aged 70."

In the Choir Vestry there are now [1889] the following :[1]

"Ann, daughter of William and Nancy Wyke, of Littleborough, died 1st May, 1769, aged 18 years. William Wyke died March 20th, 1797, aged 52 years."[2]

"Robert Riley, of Barrack Field, died Jan. 1st, 1847, in his 55th year."

IN THE BAPTISTRY. [1889].

"John Taylor, of New Wall, died 25th Dec., 1817, æt. 66 years. Hannah, his wife, died 28th Dec., 1811, aged 60 years. Sarah, their daughter, died 30th Nov., 1782, aged 2 years. Alice, their daughter, died 24th Dec., 1793, aged 1 year. Mary, their daughter and wife of John Schofield, died July 1st, 1818, aged 33. Sarah, their daughter, died 20th June, 1818, aged 10 days. Hannah, their daughter, died 20th June, 1818, aged 18 months. Ralph Taylor, son of the above John and Hannah Taylor, who died at .... field, Essex County, North America, 1st July." [The oak screen covers the remainder.]

"John Scholfield, late of Manchester, Innkeeper, died 27th Jan., 1772, in his 44th year. Mary, his wife, buried 29th July .... aged 49. John, son of John Scholfield, died 28th Dec., 1750. Richard, his son, died 10th Feb., 1758. Robert, his son, died June .... 1760."

CROSS AISLE FROM SOUTH DOOR. [1888.]

"James Longden, late of Rochdale, heretofore of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, died 16th Jan., 1792, in his 59th year. George, his son, died 20th Sep., 1794, aged 34 years. James, son of the above George, died 21st Aug., 1795, aged 4 years."

"Mary, daughter of Thomas Ball, of Spotland, Woolstapler, died 9th Aug., 1771, aged 25. John, their son, died 30th ..... 1776, aged 6 years.

"Joseph Scholfield, of Little Clegg, yeo., died 25th Mar., 1742, in his 67th year. Elizabeth, wife of the above, died 16th Aug., 1746, aged 64. John, their son, died Oct. 24th, 1770, aged 59. Alice, the wife of Joseph Scholfield, died 15th July 1798, aged 76 years. Elizabeth Scholfield, Spinster, died 16th March, 1816, aged 70 years."

THE CHURCH YARD.

There is nothing of special interest in the church yard, which is approached from Packer Street by one hundred and twenty-two stone steps, from the top of which on a clear day is obtained a fine view of the town and its surrounding hills. The gravestones of the seventeenth century are very few, the earliest of which is a flat stone, close to the east end of the church, the inscription is imperfect :

"Here resteth y^e .... of Lawrence Hard[man of] Marcrofte Yate in [this parish], was baptized .... 5, A.D. 1656, and [was buried] here June the 9th, A.D. ....."

[1] None of the succeeding inscriptions are included in Raines' list.

[2] Before the addition to south aisle this stone was in the church yard.

On the south side of the church is a stone on which in old fashioned letters is carved:

"Here lyeth the bodye of Samvell Wyld of Rochdale, the senior, mercer. Bvried the nynth day of Aprill in the yere of ovr Lord God 1659."

On the same side of the yard are the following:

"Jonathan Butterworth of Rochdale, mercer, died 26th Dec., 1675. Jane, wife of Jonathan Butterworth of Healey, buried 9th April, 1685."

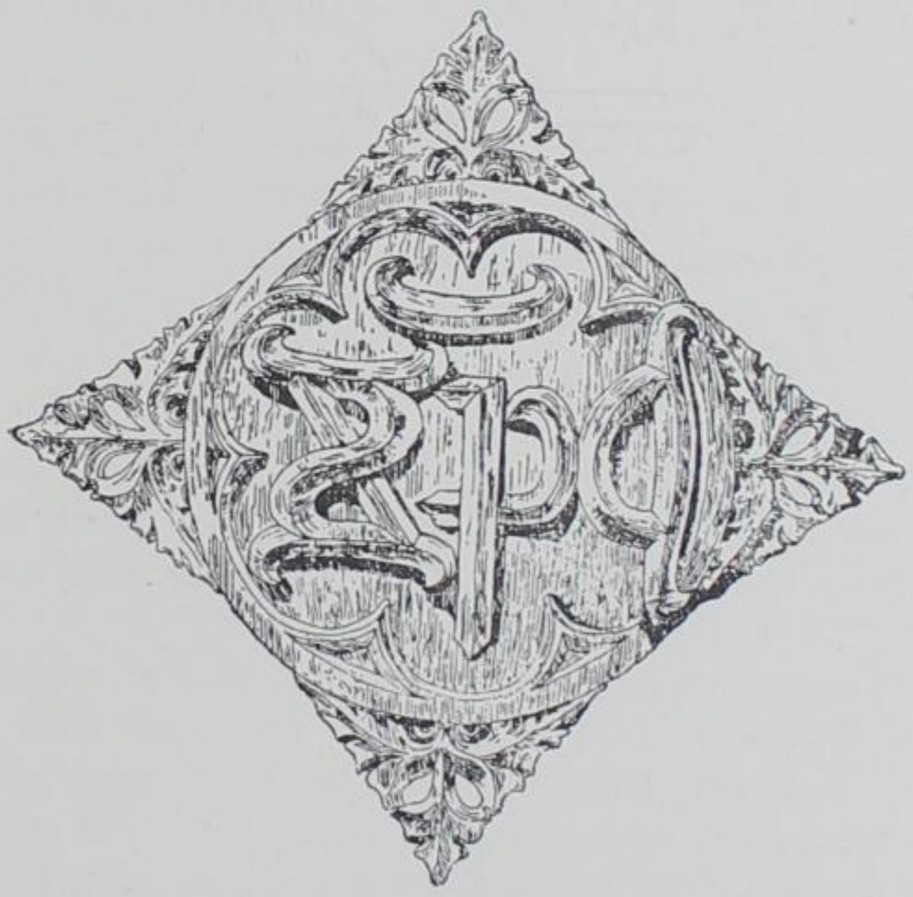
"A. B., 1680. Grace, the wife of James Brearley of Ogden, died ..... 1690. James Brearley of Ogden, died 25th October, 1699."

In the east end of the church yard is the grave of Tim Bobbin, which bears the inscription:

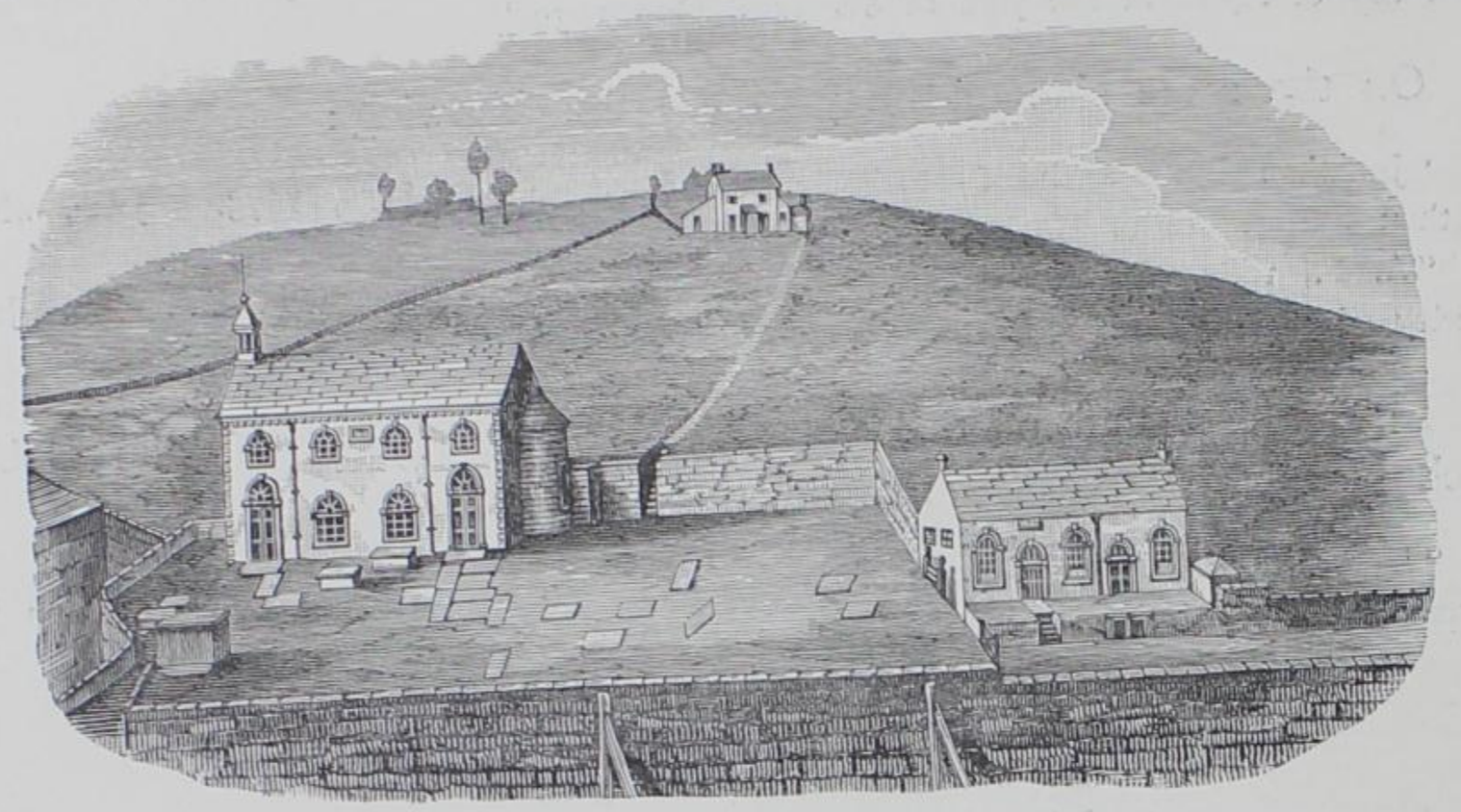
"Here lies the body of John Collier of Milnrow, who died 14th July, 1786, aged 75 yrs. Tim Bobbin.

Here lies John and with him Mary,
Cheek by jowl and never vary;
No wonder that they so agree,
John wants no punch and Moll no tea."

Other monumental inscriptions in the church yard will be referred to under the head of family history.



OAK BOSS FORMERLY IN ROOF OF THE TRINITY CHAPEL.



WHITWORTH OLD CHAPEL, PULLED DOWN IN 1849.[1]

CHAPTER VII.

Ecclesiastical History.—Whitworth Church.

THE chapel of Whitworth was built in 1529 at the expense of a few of the inhabitants. The following "articles" have never been printed and as they contain a full history of the foundation of this chapel they are now given in extenso:—

Articles, indented the Twentyeth day of August, in the four and Twentieth of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord King Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the most true, Antient, Catholick, and Apostolick faith, &c. [A.D. 1532].

2nd Article. Witnesseth that at the earnest motions and requests of the Inhabitants of Whitworth, That I, Robert Holt, of Stubley, Esq., did move the Gentlemen and Freeholders to give them fifty faule of Land to Build them a Chapell on with a Chapell yard which the said Gentlemen and Freeholders did give them and promised that they should have a fine for or of the same the next assizes after.

[1] From a painting in possession of the vicar of Whitworth.

3rd Article. These are the names of the Inhabitants which the said Gentlemen and Freeholders gave it too, Imprimis—Edward Leach, Randal Howarth, Lawrance Smith, Adam Holt, Barlyn Hollows, James Scholfield, Thomas Clegg *alias* Walsden, Thomas Fletcher, Nicolas Smith, James Smith, Richard Chadwick, Richard Hill, James Butterworth, and John Whitworth.

4th Article. These men above named were content to build the said Chapell and their would no more Joyn with them.

5th Article. These four next and named first, Edward Leach, Randal Howarth, Lawrance Smith and Adam Holt, were appointed to fore see that every one of the rest of the builders above do their portions towards the Buielding, everyone of them above said are content of the same.

6th Article. After the said Chapell is buielded, Formes and Seates therin made, we are content further, that these four men shall take formes and Seates for themselves and their famileys, and Likewise to place all the rest of the buielders or Incomers, and Asess the wages.

7th Article. Also we are all fully agreed that these four men last above rehearsed and their Successors, shall ever have the placeing and setting of ye priest.

8th Article. Also we are all agreed that none of the Inhabitants shall receive any manner of Stranger or Strangers into there formes or seates passing one day.

9th Article. We all agree that after the said Chapell is furnished and our easements and Seates therein, Know, first they to belong to ourselves and then to our Successors, which is to say next to us in kindred, or to such as we shall appoint by our last wills and testaments and not to our Farmes, because we know not how long our Lords will suffer us to enjoy them if these men be put of their formes, and having no convenient place to inhabit on whereby they might enjoy their Easements in the said Chapell, they shall pass away their rooms to no manner of persons but to the builders, therefore to their Successors.

10th Article. Seeing we are but few towards these Great Charges and have laboured many both of Whitworth, Healy and Wardle, to joyn with us towards the building and they refused, therefore we being but few and poor men, and withall little able to mentain Servis there without some other trade or help which wee know none.

11th Article. Therefore if it shall please the king's majesty or his successors that service there shall not be had because we are poor men and little able to mentaine the same, then all payments to end and no longer to be paid.

12th Article. Then, whosoever doth give any Goods or Stocks to mentaine Service, then the four men, or their Successors, shall distribute back again so much of their Goods or Stocks which are remaining to those which were the givers thereof, if they be living, if not to their Successors being of their name, which ye aforesaid four men or their Successors shall know to stand most need off.

13th Article. Also the said four men or their Successors shall apoint every year Two Rives to Colect and gather the priest's wages, and bring it to the said four men and their Successors with a just account.

14th Article. Also it is fully concluded* and agreed that the builders and their Successors shall have one side of the article, and the said four men and their Successors the other side of the article.

15th Article. Three years after the said Chapell was built and Divine Service there had, James Fielding, James Fletcher and Thomas Hill, these three men, in the Names of all the inhabitants of High wardle, made Earnest motions to the said Robert Holt, of Stubley, Esq., that he would do so much as send for the said four men of Whitworth and make some motions between them and us that we might come there to Service.

16th Article. Wee, the said four men, because we being thus earnestly moved by the said Robert Holt, at his request told him there were twenty Formes made whereof they should have six of them, three of the South Side and three of the North Side, paying six shillings for making of them.

17th Article. And for that easments they should pay every third penny both for mentaining of Divine Service and all other Ornaments, Charges, Repairation thereto belonginge.

18th Article. Also the said Wardle men for the easment of the said six formes therewith, to be content and make no Claime or title to any more.

19th Article. Also the aforesaid Wardle men to be ready with their third peny, and without anything else therein to meddle.

20th Article. Also if they be any more Incomers, whether of Whitworth or Healey, they shall ever be content, either to abide the Asessment of the said four men or their Successors, or else avoide the Chapell.

These Articles confirmed by me Robert Holt, in the presence of Alexander Collinge and Robert Gorels, Yeoman.[1]

These articles were drawn up in 1532, and from article 15 it appears that the chapel had then been built three years, so this fixes the date of erection as 1529. The following memorandum is taken from a copy of a parchment which in 1808 was in possession of Colonel Chadwick:

After the Deacease of James Leach, father to the said Edward Leach that now is, Edmund Entwistle did take a portion of ground from Jane Leach, wife of the said Jameses, called leven Greave, and did claim a third part of the easments in the said Chapell which did belong to Edward Leach, Junior. But after Adam Holt, being one of the four men with others, made said S^{r} Thomas Holt, of Girstloss [? Griselhurst], Knight, and Robert Holt, of Stubley, Esq., Acquainted with their Covenants, and the said Edmund Entwistle left of his suit after him one Thomas Fletcher being one of the Builders, was put out of his Forme by said S^{r} Thomas Holt, Knight, and sold his easments in the chapell to James Shephard by the consent of the within named four men, and the said four men did help the said James Hollows to buy the said easment again which the said Edwin Hollows now enjoys.

Moreover the said S^{r} Thomas Holt, Knight, took a portion of Ground of James Shephard into his own hands, and did set to one Lawrence Etenfield to dwell there, and he came to the Easment in the said Chapell, and then the said four men did make Mr. Holt Acquainted with it, and they told S^{r} Thomas Holt, Knight, as he had done afore-time, that it was against their Covenants, and then S^{r} Thomas did give the said four men timber to make more formes, and bad them place the said Etenfield and Asess wage.

[1] The original parchment in 1808 was in possession of Colonel Chadwick; the above is from a copy preserved amongst the Whitworth church documents.

And they set him on a form at North Chapell door and asessed him to pay fourpence a year.

After came in Laurence Shaw, and he had ground which did belong to two men of Whitworth, and he made Clame to the easments which they did use, and after he was perswaded of our Covenants by the said four men, and they did find him a Room in another place, and they did asess his wage.[1]

In the inventory of church goods taken in 1552, Whitworth chapel is returned as having "one chales, one vestment and auter clothes." For nearly a century there are no records concerning this chapel except the appointment of its curates from time to time, and the fact that in 1625 the chapel and chapelyard occupied twenty-five perches of land, valued at one shilling and eightpence a year.[2]

The Parliamentary Commissioners in 1650 reported that in their opinion Whitworth ought to be made into a parish church, and they recommended the following boundaries:—"From Hadies downe to the Clough House, and so allonge after the water called Knowsike, past Stid and so betwixt Stid and Rydings, includinge wthin the chappelry the houses of John Milne, the wife of James Stott, and Robert Royds of Hundersfield; and from the Stid to a place called Haslewode, and soe to Smalshawe and to Sike Bancke, and from thence to Naden Head; and thence to Trough Yate, soe to Vgshull [Hogshead], and thence to the said Hades."

The chapel was either rebuilt or enlarged in the time of William the third as appeared from the royal arms with the initials W.M.R. being cut in stone on the front of the old building. This stone is built into the wall of the churchyard.[3] This chapel was sixty-six feet long and forty-five feet wide.

There is still in the church tower a bell which appears to date back 1656; it has upon it the following inscription:—

Sonabo t tuo noiē. Duc^{9}e dinē Vois, 1656. Capella de Whitworth. Primo erecta Anō 1532[4] funditus reœdificabatur Anō 1775 in quo iferū etiā fundebarutu: Populo gaudente:

Rev: E^{dm}: H: A: M: Cur: Ioh: C: arm: Thesaur: Ro: E: Jun: arm: eta I Curator: Ia: CI: ej^{s}d: C. Anō xv^{mo} Regis "O sonare-vivat R: G III., S: C: E: et Hâc casti maneāt ī Relligione nepotes."

[1] Copy amongst Whitworth church documents.

[2] Manor Survey.

[3] Another stone placed close to this is marked "G. 3 R., 1775." It was formerly over the door of the chapel, which was rebuilt in that year.

[4] Date of articles has been taken as date of erection.

In 1770 a brief was obtained for the erection of a new chapel and subscriptions raised, but it was not until 1775 that the rebuilding was effected.

The chapel yard was not consecrated until 28th July, 1794.[1] It appears that the question of interment at Whitworth was in the meantime strongly agitated, as great inconvenience was experienced by the funeral parties being obliged to come to the parish church: tradition says that in defiance of the law interments occasionally took place in the unconsecrated ground, and that the clerk or singing master read the service.[2] In commemoration of one of these irregular funerals a stone was placed in the yard bearing the following inscription:—

Here resteth the body of James Stott, the son of John Stott of Brown Wardle, who departed this life, September, 19th, 1781, in the 28th year of his age.[3]

One hundred years it now appears
Since corpse was first interred here;
When vicars christian faith did hold,
And minded bibles more than gold.
My funeral rites to solemnize
The priests refused with specious lies;
Yet time by death shall soon declare
How vile their worthless ashes are.

In 1717 Bishop Gastrell reported that the value of the Whitworth cure was £6 6s. 8d. a year, arising from a house and croft worth £1 6s. 8d. and £5 the interest of £100. The close of land and tenement was stated in the Manor Survey of 1625 to be encroached from the waste and valued at £1 6s. 8d. per annum, and on this land formerly stood the cottage where the curate lived; it is still known as "chapel house." In the beginning of this century it was said to be "inhabited by three families, in perfect ruins, and situate on the summit of a bleak hill." This house is shown in the view of the old chapel [see p. 164]. It could not be repaired nor could any clergyman bear to live there.[4] The five pounds per annum arose from a sum of eighty pounds given by James Wolfenden of Hades (by deed dated 25th December, 1686) to the four men who had the appointment of the

[1] Vicar Hay's MSS.

[2] The Registers between Jan. 1784 and Sep. 1794 record several burials, but there is no record of any of earlier date.

[3] This Stott was a bone-setter, and known as Dr. Stott. It is said that when the bishop consecrated the ground he ordered this stone to be turned over.

[4] Vicar Hay's MSS.

curate in trust to put out at interest until it should come to one hundred pounds, and then to purchase lands on a rent charge for the use of the preaching minister at Whitworth chapel, he being a master of arts, a bachelor of arts, or an approved orthodox divine and university scholar.[1]

About 1710 the vicar of Rochdale nominated a curate to Whitworth without the consent or approbation of the four trustees, who thereupon refused to pay his "wages." The question was submitted to counsel and ultimately settled in 1720 by John Starkey of Rochdale, attorney-at-law, agreeing to give two hundred pounds towards the augmentation of the living on condition that he had the right to nominate the curate.[2] The patronage continued in the Starkey family until 1846, when on the death of James Starkey, Esq., it became vested in Joseph Langton of Liverpool, Esq., and the Rev. William Hornby, vicar of St. Michael's-on-the-Wyre. The present patron is the Rev. Edwin Brierley (the vicar). In 1720 the inhabitants having raised £100 toward the school, a corresponding sum was obtained from Queen Anne's bounty; for the chapel another £400 was subsequently received from the same source.[3]

In 1866, under the Rochdale Vicarage Act, Whitworth was made a parish and its church a vicarage, but being in private lands no augmentation was made to its endowment.

The church registers begin:—christenings, 1763; weddings, 1845; burials, 1784.

The present church was built in 1849 and consecrated 3rd January, 1850. It is dedicated to St. Bartholomew. There are no monuments within the church but there are the following memorial windows:—In the south chancel aisle—to the memory of Samuel Bamford, sellers clerk, Corp. Christi College, Cambridge, died 11th May, 1849; in the east end of the chancel aisle—to the memory of Mary, late wife of the Rev. I. Gaitskell, great grand-daughter of the late Rev. Robert Walker of Seathwaite, died 3rd February, 1841; the east window—to the memory of Ralph Rawstron;[4] the west window is in memory of Mary Jane, wife of James Henry Scholfield, died 12th September, 1881; a three-light window in the south aisle is to the memory of Nancy

[1] Original deed.
[2] Gastrell's Not. Cest., ii., p. 157.
[3] Vicar Hay's MSS.
[4] Window inserted 1858.

relict of James Butterworth, died 6th January, 1876; Lavinia, wife of William Jameson, surgeon, died 7th December, 1875, and James Butterworth, died 19th November, 1865.

The exterior of the church is remarkable from the number of carved figures with which it is ornamented. One of these on the north-east angle of the chancel represents a boy wearing a cap of the period and holding an open book in his hand, and is a likeness of John Gaitskill, the late vicar's only son, who died whilst a student of St. John's College, Cambridge. Another figure on the south-east corner is an effigy of an old man called Edmund Lord,[1] who was the first to teach singing by note at Whitworth; on the same corner of the church is the figure of an old man with a baby in his arms; this was intended to represent "old Barnes," by which name was known an old man who used to daily watch the progress of the erection of the new church. The carver of these figures was deaf and dumb. He presented to the church its handsome font, which was also carved by him.[2] The following is a list of persons nominated as feoffees for Whitworth chapel at a vestry meeting held the 18th day of December, 1806:—

For Spotland—Cha[s] Chadwick, Esq.; Tho[s] Lloyd, Esq.; James Taylor, doctor; John Clegg, Long Acres; James Hey, Horsecroft; James Schoffield, Tongend; Jn° Lord, Cowm; Simon Lord, junr., Facit.

For Hundersfield—Jn° Entwistle, Esq.; Rob[t] Stott, Brown Wardle; Jn° Chadwick, Hades; Edmund Bamford, Shore.

Rob[t] Chadwick, Warden.

In the churchyard near the school formerly stood the stocks (see view, page 164), the upright stones of which still remain.

CURATES AND VICARS OF WHITWORTH.[3]

DOMINUS THOMAS HOLT is named as priest of Whitworth in a Subsidy Roll of 1535, and he answered at a visitation of about 1547.[4]

SIR JAMES REDFERNE witnessed a deed referring to lands in Littleborough, dated 3rd June, 1547, and he was then minister at Whitworth.[5]

[1] For several generations this family has been officially connected with Whitworth church.

[2] Mr. Egglesmere. He died in Natal a few years ago.

[3] In this account of the curates, although I have made free use of Raines' MSS., I have accepted none of his statements without consulting the original source of information.—H. F.

[4] Piccope's MSS., x., 151.

[5] Bishop's Register.

Laurence Wallwork from 1535-1541 was chantry priest at Prestwich (in Cheshire). On 22nd September, 1543, he was ordained subdeacon on the title of Sir Thomas Holt of Grisslehurst and is believed to have been appointed to the curacy of Whitworth, but the evidence is not conclusive.

John Yate on 12th October, 1552, appears as one of the priests at Rochdale.[1] In 1565 he was minister of Saddleworth and subsequently curate of Whitworth. His will, in which he is described as of "Whytworth, clerk," was proved at Chester 13th June, 1574. He desired to be buried in Rochdale churchyard and left "vi. s. viii. d. to the powre folces of Wardle." The value of the whole of his goods did not amount to twenty shillings.[2]

Richard Frith.—On the 24th December, 1593, the bishop of Chester granted to Richard Frith, about whose "faith, fulness and ability and competent knowledge of the holy scriptures" he was "well-assured," the authority to "exercise the office of reader" in the parish of Rochdale, on the recommendation of the vicar; and he was also authorised to "read publicly within the chapel of Whitworth such portions of the morning service and the appointed lessons as shall be required," and also to read "such godly homilies or discourses" as the vicar might approve of, and for his services he was to receive "the accustomed wages." On 21st April, 1594, a Richard Frith was married at Rochdale "cum vxor," as was another of the same name in February, 1607-8. The latter had several children.

Laurence Ambler.—In 1596 he was curate of Colne; in 1610 curate of Rochdale; and on the 11th January in that year he was cited for not wearing a surplice and as he did not appear was fined, but the fine was afterwards remitted.[3] According to Piccope,[4] Ambler was curate of Whitworth in May, 1615. He was many times cited in the Consistory Court of Chester for acts of non-conformity, and he was either deprived of his curacy or resigned some little time before his death. On 15th July, 1610, his daughter Margaret was christened at Rochdale Parish Church, and on 17th September, 1633, his daughter Dorothy was there married to Daniel Stocke. Lawrence Ambler was

[1] Church Goods.—Chet. Soc., Vol. 107, 49.

[2] Elias [Elizeus] Wallwork was ordained at Chester 17th April, 1557, on title of Sir Thos. Holt of Grisslehurst, and may have been temporary curate here, as was Richard Holme, who was at Whitworth in 1565.

[3] Chester Visitation Book.

[4] MSS. in Chet. Library.

buried at Rochdale 25th October, 1623. His wife survived him many years and was buried with her husband, 11th November, 1640.

SAMUEL MILNES, clerk, curate of Whitworth, occurs 16th May, 1623.[1]

THOMAS HAMBLETON was here in July, 1622.[2]

THOMAS BROWNE was the "reader" at Whitworth in 1623 and described as the minister in 1624. One of his children was buried at Rochdale 1st October, 1622.[3] In 1625 he was curate of Todmorden [see Chap. VIII], and he also held the post of head master of Rochdale Grammar School. [See Chap. XIV.]

GILES CLAYTON was curate of Whitworth chapel, 31st March, 1631.[4]

JAMES STEVENSON, in February, 1641-2, was curate of Whitworth,[5] and he was also master of the Rochdale Grammar School. [See Chap. XIV.] He had a child buried at Rochdale 26th August, 1642, and his wife was buried there 3rd March, 1646. He died in February, 1648-9, and the Rochdale registers record that he was buried "from Whitworth" 3rd March.

GEORGE STOTT was the minister here in 1650, when he was reported to be "well qualified," with the reservation "for anything wee knowe" added by the commission. He had a small house and an acre of ground, worth about twenty shillings a year.[6]

JOHN BULLOUGH.—His name appears in a Parliamentary Inquisition, 1658.[7]

THOMAS DEWHURST was here in 1662, as on June 3rd in that year a license was issued to the vicar of Rochdale and "Mr. Dewhurst, curate of Whitworth," to marry Arthur Hallowes of Rochdale and Jane Howarth.[8] In 1650 he was minister at Newchurch in Rossendale, and Calamy says that whilst at Whitworth (in 1662) he "conformed."

ROBERT SMETHURST succeeded Mr. Dewhurst at Whitworth but in what year is uncertain. He died in 1679 and was buried at Rochdale (8th September), the entry in the register being "Robert Smethorst, clarke, 8th September." His widow married Mr. Stansfield of Stansfield Hall. His son Robert was curate of Milnrow.[9]

[1] Piccope's MSS., xviii., p. 239.
[2] Piccope's MSS., iv., 15, p. 239.
[3] "Thomas Brown" was buried 13th Oct., 1637, at Rochdale; this may possibly refer to the above.
[4] Piccope's MSS., iv., 238.
[5] Protestation oath.—See Appendix.
[6] Church Survey, 1650.—Record Society, i., 20.
[7] Raines' MSS., ii., 118.
[8] Marriage Act Book, Chester.
[9] Raines' MSS., xxxvii. (no authority given).

Abraham Butterworth was appointed curate of Whitworth 4th March, 1678-9. Nothing is known of him except that he took a B.A. degree at Emanuel College, Cambridge in 1673.

Joseph Whitworth, son of Abraham Whitworth of Rochdale, surgeon, and grandson of the Rev. Abraham Whitworth, B.A.,[1] was the next curate. He came to Whitworth in 1670-80. He afterwards turned Presbyterian and in 1696 removed to Cockey Moor chapel (Ainsworth) in the parish of Middleton. He was educated at Frankland's academy at Rathmel[2] where he entered 17th August, 1676, and left 20th January, 1679-80. He married Abigail, daughter of Abraham Stansfield of Rochdale, and died at Cockey Moor, where a tombstone records "Here lyeth the body of Mr. Whitworth who dyed February the 13th, 1721, in the 66th yere of his age, having beene minister of Cockey neare twenty-five years."

James Whitehead was the son of James Whitehead of Saddleworth. He matriculated at Oxford, 8th April, 1692, aged fifteen years, and graduated B.A. Lincoln College, 23rd January, 1695, and M.A. St. Mary's Hall, 15th October, 1690.[3] He was appointed curate of Whitworth about the year 1698-9 on the nomination of the vicar of Rochdale, against the remonstrances of the inhabitants who claimed the right of patronage. He married Sarah, a daughter of Seth Clayton of Scholfield Hall. [See Chap. XVI.] They had nine children, christened or buried at Rochdale. He was curate of the parish church from 1706 to 1724 and during that time was more than once elected chaplain of the Rochdale mock corporation over "a bowl of punch and a barrel of oysters."[4] He resigned the curacy of Whitworth before 1716. He was appointed Rector of North Meols 28th December, 1726, and was buried there 3rd September, 1733. He had a son Seth baptized at North Meols 31st March, 1727.

Jonathan Hanson is mentioned as the curate of Whitworth in a letter from the vicar of Rochdale to the bishop in 1717. The Rev. Jonathan Hanson was elected chaplain of the Rochdale mock corporation in 1716, but he was probably here some years before this.

Edmund Holme, B.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, 1720; M.A. 1723. He was the son and heir of Thomas Holme of Brownhill,

[1] Raines' MSS., xxxvii. [2] Dickenson's Registers and Evans' List.
[3] College Books. The father is described as being "poor." [4] A Jacobite club.

Rochdale, gentleman. He was nominated to the curacy of Whitworth by John Starkey, 10th April, 1723.[1] He married 17th December, 1730, Dorothy, daughter of the Rev. Roger Maisterton, M.A., rector of Radcliffe. His wife died in child-bed, 5th July, 1738, and was buried at Rochdale; at this time her husband was tutor to Sir Edward and Sir Thomas Grey Egerton, and he lived at Park House near Heaton; he afterwards removed to Brownhill. Edmond Holme died at Brownhill, and on his death-bed expressed a wish to be buried in his garden, observing that "his sons would not sell the estate as long as their father's body remained in it;" he had disinherited both his sons. He died in 1777 and his wishes were carried out, the vicar (Dr. Wray) refusing to preach his funeral sermon because he had been buried without Christian rites. [See Brownhill, Chap. XIX.]

WILLIAM CURRER, the only surviving son of Henry Currer of Skipton, by his second wife Jane, daughter of William Banks, attorney-at-law. He was baptized 8th March, 1717. He went to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A., 1738, and M.A. 1743. In 1755 he was presented to the vicarage of Clapham, in Yorkshire. He married Ann the daughter of John Stokoe, lieutenant R.N., of Blackburn, and on 10th November, 1778, was appointed to the curacy of Whitworth on the nomination of the Starkeys.[2] He died 11th November, 1803, aged 87, and was buried at Clapham. He left issue, a son William and three daughters:—Janet married Roger Swire of Halifax, Esq.; Ann married Rawden Briggs of Halifax; Ellen married Thomas the son of Thomas Langton of Kirkham, Esq. William Curren married—first, Elizabeth daughter of John Swire of Skipton, Esq.; second, Fanny daughter of Abraham Mellin of Halifax; he had issue by both wives.[3]

HUGH HORNBY, the son of Hugh Hornby of Kirkham, was born 22nd August, 1765. B.A. Christ Church, Cambridge, 1787, and M.A. 1790. On the 19th October, 1789, he was instituted vicar of St. Michael's-on-the-Wyre and having married (9th August, 1792) Ann the daughter of Joseph Starkey, M.D., of Redvales in Lancashire, he was

[1] Bish. Reg., Chester. [2] Bish. Reg., Chester.

[3] He had a curate who acted as his *locum tenens* in Whitworth, called John Kelly *alias* Stafford. A monument to his memory is in the church. He died 8th June, 1808, aged 67; he was educated at St. Omer's as a Roman Catholic, and for some years was a Roman Catholic priest. He lodged in Cheetham Street, Rochdale.

appointed to the curacy of Whitworth, 31st January, 1804, by James Starkey, William Langton, Mary Langton, Ann Hornby and Hugh Hornby, the patrons. He resigned in 1829. Hugh Hornby died at St. Michael's, 3rd January, 1847, aged 81. As he was non-resident at Whitworth the duties of the cure were performed by curates, the name of one of whom (S. Popper) frequently appears in the registers between 1794 and 1812.[1]

George Heron, the eldest son of Peter Heron of Moor Hall in Cheshire and Catherine his wife, daughter of Edmund Hopwood of Hopwood Hall, Esq., was born in 1804, was educated at the Rochdale Grammar School and took his B.A. at Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1825. He was licensed to Whitworth, 20th October, 1829. He only officiated there once and then resigned the living.

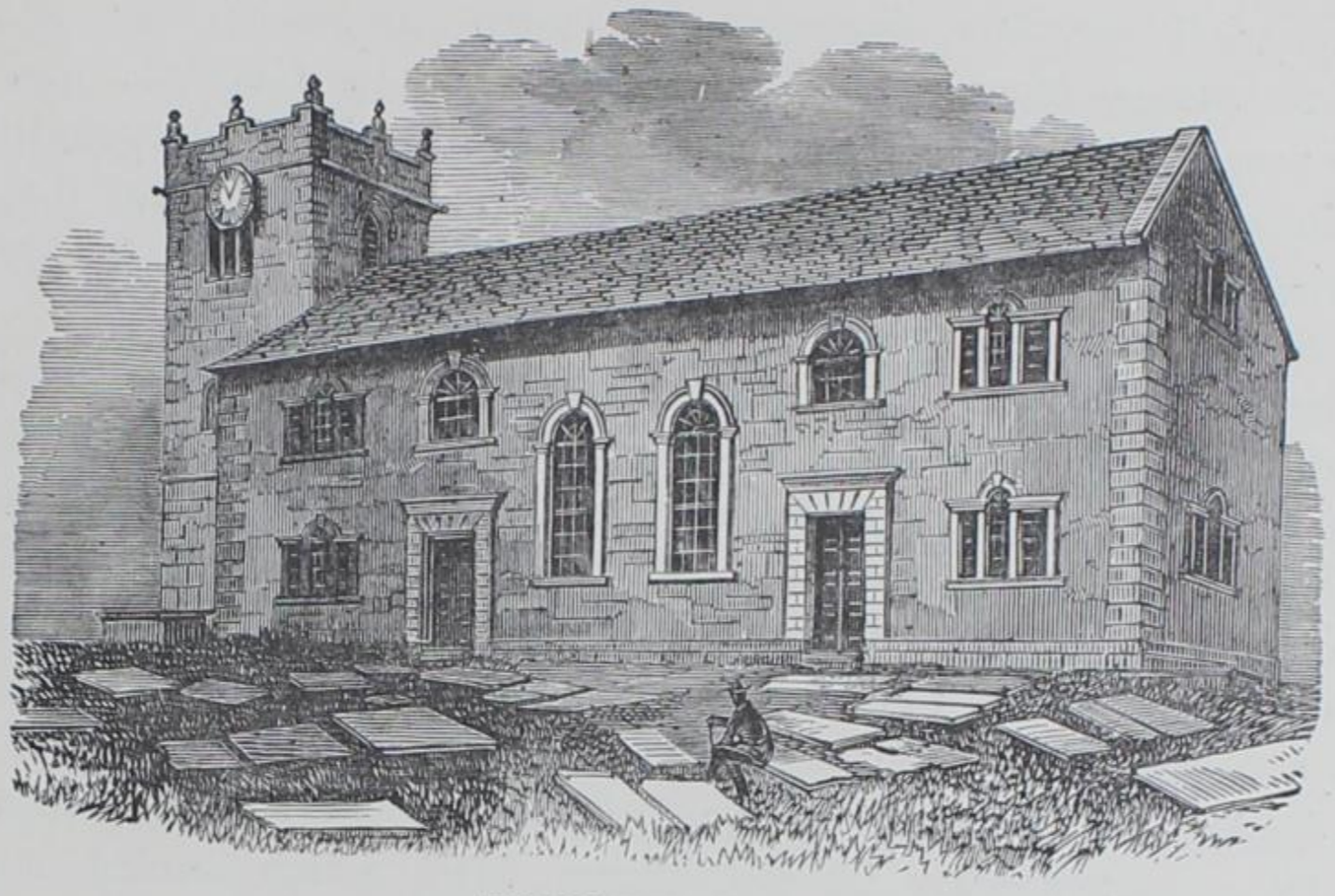
Richard Parkinson, B.D., the son of John Parkinson of Woodgates near Chipping, was born 17th September, 1797. He was sent to Chipping School and afterwards to Hawkeshead Grammar School and finally to the Grammar School at Sedbergh, from whence he proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was admitted as a sizar, 28th December, 1815, and in 1824 took his M.A. degree. On leaving the university he was appointed master of the school at Lea near Preston, and whilst there he was editor of the "Preston Sentinel," a Conservative journal which only lived twelve months. In 1823 he became curate of St. Michael's-on-Wyre under the Rev. Hugh Hornby. In 1826 he was appointed theological lecturer in St. Bees' College, and in 1830 he was presented to the curacy of Whitworth which he held until 1841. He was installed as fellow in the Manchester Collegiate Church 27th May, 1833, and in 1846 became principal of St. Bees' College, where he died 28th January, 1858. Canon Parkinson was one of the original promoters of the Chetham Society and the author of a volume of sermons entitled "Points of Doctrine and Rules of Practice," a volume of "Poems, sacred and miscellaneous," several volumes of "Hulsean Lectures" and a number of minor works, but he is perhaps best known as the author of that charming book "The Old Church Clock."[2]

[1] Vic. Hay's MSS.

[2] A life of Canon Parkinson will be found in 5th edition of the Old Church Clock, edited by Mr. John Evans and published in 1880. He was appointed Hulsean Lecturer in 1836.

ISAAC GAITSKELL was the son of John Gaitskell, a yeoman of Irton near Whitehaven in Cumberland, where he was born, 7th January, 1797. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1825, M.A. 1837. He was licensed as stipendiary curate of Whitworth (under Mr. Parkinson) in April, 1825, and from that time to 1832 he kept a school. Canon Parkinson resigned the living to him 1st November, 1841. Mr. Gaitskell was twice married; first, to a great grand-daughter of the Rev. Robert Walker of Seathwaite by whom he had one son, who died in 1858; Mrs. Gaitskell died in 1841; on 26th September, 1843, Mr. Gaitskell married a daughter of Joseph Casson of Mobberthwaite, Cumberland, another descendant of "wonderful Walker's;" she died in 1864; she had four children, but only one daughter survived her parents. To the death of the first Mrs. Gaitskell Canon Parkinson feelingly and gracefully alludes in his "Old Church Clock;" he concludes by saying "she was proud of her descent from Robert Walker; and Robert Walker would have been proud of her." Isaac Gaitskell died 5th February, 1877 in his eighty-first year, having lived at Whitworth for half-a-century. He was a man of great natural energy and zeal, and worked unremittingly in the duties of his parish. The present church was built during his incumbency, the money for it being entirely raised by his personal efforts. In the churchyard is a monument which records that he was curate of Whitworth for fifty-one years.

The REV. EDWIN BRIERLEY is the present vicar.



TODMORDEN CHAPEL.

CHAPTER VIII.

Ecclesiastical History.—Todmorden Church.

FROM the meagre evidence existing as to the early history of Todmorden chapel, it appears certain that it was erected sometime in the fifteenth century, but probably before this the Radcliffe family had a private chapel or oratory here. There was a chaplain of Todmorden in 1489 [see p. 181], and in 1553 the chapel was reported to have in it "a chales, one vestement, a cross cop. and gyld." The inhabitants got back their chapel after the dissolution of the chantries on payment of vi. s. viii. d.[1] Shortly after this we have evidence that the chapel yard was used for interment, as James Fielden of Walsden, in his will [see Chap. XVIII.]

[1] Lanc. Chantries.—Chet. Soc., lx., 277.

dated 9th September, 1587, desired to be buried "in the churchyard of Todmorden." The Parliamentary Commissioners,[1] in July, 1650, recommended that Todmorden should be made into a parish, comprehending within its boundaries "from Salter Rake[2] to the Rooeinge Stone (rocking stone), from thence to Dove Lane Stone (Dovelawe), from thence to the Hallowe Pinne, from thence to Addingden (Allenden) Sike, and from thence to Stuble (Stubley), crosse from thence to Goodhill, and from thence to an old ditch on the east side of Vggshute [Hogshead] and from thence to Sherneyford, from thence to Healden, from thence to Willowinge Coates, from thence following the water to Toddmerden and from thence by Lower Swyneside to Salterake again."

There is (or was a few years ago) amongst the manor records an inquisition taken at Rochdale, 18th January, 1658, in which the jurors say that in the chapelry there are upwards of 117 families, that the tythes are worth £21 10s. 0d., and they think that Todmerden should be a separate parish; they also report that the chapel is well built and "convenient to hold the inhabitants," and that there is a chapelyard "wherein the inhabitants have, time out of mind, buried their dead." This report is open to some doubt as there is a note, made by a contemporary in the Manor MS., which denied much of what the jurors said, *i.e.*, the tythes were only worth fourteen pounds a year, the walls of the chapel, so far from being well built, were "cloven asunder, and the church ready to fall to the ground for want of repairation." In the beginning of the next century Bishop Gastrell[3] stated that there was a small house for the curate worth one pound a year, for a charity sermon on New Year's Day [see Chap. XIV] one pound, and fourteen pounds a year in contributions; the clerk, in lieu of wages, begged wool through the chapelry. The inhabitants formerly contributed £20 a year, but there were many Quakers who refused to pay. [See XIII.]

In 1753 the minister of Todmorden in a presentment to the bishop, [see *post*] amongst other things complained that the churchwardens did not repair the windows and other things about his house, that they failed to provide on three sacrament Sundays for the minister and his clerk according to custom, the cost of which was three shillings

[1] Church Survey, 1650 (Lambeth Palace Library), printed by Lanc. & Ches. Record Society.

[2] Part of the highway to Burnley was called Salter's Gate. A place is still known on Blackstonedge as Salter's Edge.

[3] Not. Cest., Chet. Soc., xix., 147.

and sixpence for the three days. This custom of providing these dinners remained until 1832.

In 1770 the chapel had become so ruinous that its restoration became imperative, and the inhabitants, led by Anthony Crossley of Scaitcliffe, set about its re-building. Not only were subscriptions raised, but many of the congregation found free labour and materials. There were however some dissentients, as in the churchwardens' book for 1775 is an order to prosecute all those who had not paid their "ley for re-building the church."

The tower (which is sixty feet high) was not pulled down; it probably dates back to the beginning of the seventeeth century. Built into the wall at the east end of the chapel are some stones bearing several deeply cut quatrefoils, which Whitaker[1] considered had been portions of tombstones of the time of Henry VIII.

In 1829 the churchwardens called a meeting "of the landowners and lay-payers of the township" to consider two schemes—one for taking down and re-building the church on its present site and the other for building a new church (in lieu of the old one) in the new cemetery. At this meeting a resolution "that there is no necessity for a new church" was carried by fifty-three votes against sixteen. Many meetings followed this at which a strong feeling was shown against the erection of the new church. Nevertheless Christ Church was commenced and, being completed, was opened at Easter, 1832. To it was removed the organ from the old chapel, which for some time after this was only used on the occasion of baptisms, marriages and funerals; it was also for a period used as a Sunday School.

In 1853 another agitation was begun, having for its object the re-opening of the old chapel; the bishop and archdeacon of Manchester, the incumbent of Todmorden and the vicar of Rochdale[2] all taking part in it, when it was discovered that the living or endowment with its privileges had not been transferred to the new church, and that the marriages which had been celebrated there were illegal. All these difficulties were subsequently arranged by Act of Parliament and Christ Church was made the parish church of Todmorden, the ancient chapel

[1] Hist. of Whalley, ii., 443 (last edition).

[2] Dr. Molesworth issued privately a pamphlet entitled the "Case of Todmorden Chapelry, and the correspondence thereon."

being retained as a chapel-of-ease, and under the Vicarage Act of 1866 Todmorden became a distinct parish and its curate a vicar.

In 1860 the old building was again repaired.

As it now stands it presents few architectural features worthy of note except its tower, which is some two hundred years old. The interior is simplicity itself, there being nothing to break the uniformity of its four bare walls except an ugly western gallery. There are no coloured windows, but in the corner of one of them is a piece of coloured glass representing the Stanley eagle and child, but how it came to be here is unknown.

On the north wall are three marble tablets [one to the memory of Joseph Atkinson, see page 186] inscribed—

"To perpetuate the Memory of Anthony Crossley[1] of Scaitcliffe, gent., who died February 26th, 1779, in the 77th year of his age, after having re-built this church, A.D. 1770, at an expense of £605, a great part of which he defrayed himself. He served as a private gentleman in the Horse Guards and afterwards as an officer in the militia of the county, during the rebellion in the years 1745 and 1746. Also Elizabeth Crossley his wife, who departed this life January 14th, A.D. 1767. Also John Crossley, son of the above, who died at Scaitcliffe September 29th, 1799, aged 62 years. Also Mary, relict of the said John Crossley, who died July 15th, A.D. 1804, aged 66."

"Sacred to the Memory of Radcliffe Scholefeild of Henshaw, Esq., who departed this life 11th January, 1708. Mary, relict of the said Radcliffe Scolefeild, who was buried 25th day of March, 1738. Also Luke Crossley of Henshaw, gent., cornet of Light Dragoons, under the immediate command of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland in the year 1745, who departed this life at Alkrington, September 11th, 1764, in the 53rd year of his age. Alice, relict of the said Luke Crossley, gent., and one of the daughters of the above-named Radcliffe Scolefeild and Mary his wife, who died at Rochdale, June 19th, A.D. 1779."

The oak beams of the roof of the church probably formed part of the building before its restoration in 1770. The floor is boarded except in the aisle, and all traces of monumental inscriptions on the flags are gone (or covered over).

In the churchyard there are very few gravestones of earlier date than 1700, but it is said that some (of the seventeenth century) referring to the Radcliffe family were many years ago removed to Todmorden Hall and have since disappeared. Near the church door is

[1] In Christ Church is a piece of oak which was removed from the chapel; on it is cut, "This pue belongeth to Anthony Crossley at Skaitclif."

a handsome granite obelisk erected to the memory of "John Howell, a working man and vice-president of the Todmorden Botanical Society for fifteen years . . . . . he died October 28th, 1867, and was interred at Cross Stone." The chapel of Todmorden is dedicated to St. Mary.

Christ Church was enlarged in 1886 by the addition of a handsome chancel.

Curates and Vicars of Todmorden.[1]

Sir Edmund Howarth [? Howorth] occurs 4 Henry VII [1489] when Richard Radcliffe of Todmerdine gave to Dominus Edmund Howarth, chaplain of Todmerdine, and Thomas Whitehead an annual rental of ten shillings arising from land in le Stones called le Hogh, to be held in trust for the use of William Radcliffe for the term of his life.[2]

Robert Turnough, no doubt one of the Turnoughs of Turnough [see Chap. XVII], was priest here 12th October, 1552 and he or another of the same name officiated at Littleborough. [See Chap. IX.][3]

Richard Holme of Todmorden. This name occurs with the vicar of Rochdale's in 1565 and those of three other curates;[4] the probability is that he was then curate here.

Gilbert Astley, clerk, curate of Todmorden, is mentioned in a fine levied by Anthony Crossley of Scaitcliff[5] in 1590; he was cited by the bishop for not observing holy-day.[6] In 1596 he was curate of Turton near Bolton and died there. His will was proved at Chester in 1626.

William Norcotte signed the transcript of the registers in 1654-35 as curate of Todmorden.[7] In 1650 he "supplied the cure" at the West Derby Chapel and was described as a "godly minister."[8]

[1] The late Canon Raines prepared a rough list of curates of the four chapelries which has been of much service to me; nothing, however, has been now printed which I have not verified by reference to the original authorities.

[2] Thomas Marshall on 4th Sept., 24 Hen. VI. [1445], was described as a chaplain, and became with the vicar of Rochdale possessed of lands in Todmorden, but there is no evidence that he was curate there.

[3] Inventory of Church Goods.—Chet. Soc., cvii., 49.

[4] John Stubbs, or Stubs, answered the visitation in 1530 at Rochdale church, and the late Canon Raines writes, "As he was not at the other chapels I conclude he was at Todmorden;" this, however, does not warrant the assumption that he was there, he might have been curate at the parish church or a removable priest.

[5] Raines' MSS., xxxvi., 518. [6] Piccope's MSS., xviii., 15.

[7] Transcript at Chester, printed in Vol. ii. of Rochdale Church Registers.

[8] Church Survey.—Record Soc., i., 83.

THOMAS BROWNE was here towards the end of 1625[1] and was succeeded by

THOMAS WHALLEY, was here in 1633-34,[2] but nothing is known about him. In 1641 (February) the cure was vacant as everyone signed the Protestation [see Appendix], but there appears no curate of Todmorden.

ROBERT TOWNE was minister in 1643 and left before 1650.[3] In 1652 he was at Elland in the parish of Halifax. The Rev. Oliver Heywood calls him "the famous antinomian who writ some books;" and adds "he was the best scholar and soberest man of that judgment in the county, but somewhat unsound in principles."[4] From Elland he went to Haworth where he was ejected, 24th August, 1662, being then about seventy years of age. His son, Daniel Towne, was minister at Heptonstall, Yorkshire.[5]

FRANCIS CORE in 1650 was the minister of Todmorden, and was "living in a little house built by the inhabitants" and enjoying a salary of six shillings and eightpence a year, and was "not well qualified, but scandalous in lyffe and conversation."[6] He was doubtless the successor of Mr. Towne.

THOMAS SOMERTON minister at Newchurch in Rossendale in 1653,[7] and on 18th January, 1658 (and probably before) he was at Todmorden, where it was alleged that he was maintained by some of the inhabitants against the wills of the rest, and it was said that he had been a "blacksmith or farrier and preached strange doctrines."[8] Whilst he was at Newchurch he asked William Dewsbury, one of the pioneers of the Society of Friends, to preach in his church, and after the sermon himself confirmed the words of the Quaker.[9]

HENRY KRABTREE [or Crabtree] was here in 1662 and signs the registers as "H. Krabtree." No connection has been discovered between him and William Crabtree the friend of Horrocks the astronomer, although he was a mathematician and astronomer. In 1685 he published an almanack entitled "Merlinus Rusticus," and describes himself as curate

[1] Transcript at Chester, printed in Vol. ii. of Rochdale Church Registers. [2] Do.
[3] Raines' MSS., xxxvii. [4] Hunter's Life of Heywood.
[5] Haworth's Past and Present, p. 40. [6] Parl. Survey.—Record Soc., i., 19.
[7] Cal. State Papers.—Dom. Soc., 1658, p. 422.
[8] Memorandum on "book kept in Court Baron of Rochdale."—Chet. Soc., xix., 148.
[9] Marsden meeting minutes.

of Todmorden. He died before 1695. His widow, Mary, was buried at Todmorden 15th December, 1718. Henry Krabtree appears to have kept the registers and frequently entered therein astrological details, such as the following: "1685. November 1st. James, son of James Taylor of Todmorden. He was born, 2nd October, near sun setting and also near a full moon, w^ch^ is a sure sign of a short life." Occasionally he added caustic remarks such as in 1667, "William, son of John ffielden, *well* buried."

THOMAS INGHAM.—The exact time when he took hold of the cure is uncertain. On 30th January, 1682-3 he authorized Anthony Crossley of Scaitcliffe and Gilbert Holden of Priestbooth to "collect of y^e^ inhabitants within Todmorden and Walsden the wages due unto him for a quarter ending January 28th last past,"[1] from which it would appear that he then held the appointment. Yet Henry Krabtree in 1685 describes himself as curate. Possibly the latter employed Ingham as his assistant. In the will of Susan Mitchell of Littleborough, dated 17th December, 1682, she appoints Thomas Ingham, her brother-in-law, to be her executor,[2] but she does not describe him as the curate.

THOMAS GRIMSHAW'S name occurs in the registers in 1693 and in the Scaitcliffe account book is entered under 2nd December, 1694, "paid Mr. Grimshaw his chappel wage, £0 4s. 7d."

DANIELL PIGHELLS was here in 1695-6 and afterwards became incumbent of Denton (early in 1697).[3] He appears to have come from Marsden, as he signed a memorandum dated 18th February, 1695, in which he describes himself as "of Marsden, clerke," and agrees to officiate as a "reading, praying and preaching minister" at Todmorden for "one whole yeare."[4]

ROBERT WHITEHEAD was the son of Robert Whitehead of ——— in the county of Lancaster. He entered Brasenose College, Oxford, 26th March, 1693-4, being then seventeen years old.[5] He took a B.A. degree, 14th October, 1697, and was appointed curate of Todmorden on 17th May, 1699, and he was then described as of Oldham.[6]

[1] Scaitcliffe evidences. [2] Bent house evidences. [3] Hist of Denton.—Chet. Mis., Vol. ii.

[4] Raines' MSS., xxvi.

[5] In the College Book the place where he came from has been erased and corrected; it now reads "Lisend," but there is no place of that name in Lancashire.

[6] Bish. Reg., Chester.

ROBERT BUTTERWORTH, the son of Robert Butterworth of Bamford, was baptized at Bury in 1676. He was a student at Jesus' College, Cambridge, but does not appear to have taken a degree. He was nominated by the vicar of Rochdale to the curacy of Todmorden, 29th November, 1704, and his testimonials were signed by the vicar of Bury and Alexander Butterworth of Belfield.[1]

JOHN WELSH.—The register contains the following note: "There was no minister here from 24th January to 26th July, 1713, when I [John Welsh] was ordained Deacon. I preached my first sermon at Todmorden, 26th July." He also acted as assistant master of the Free School [Clegg's] in Todmorden, and he held both positions for seventeen years. John Welsh was twice married—first (at Todmorden, 5th June, 1716) to Mrs. Mary Lacy; second to Betty, the daughter of James Gibson of Brigroyd, Halifax, by his wife Ann, daughter of John Crossley of Scaitcliffe. He resigned the living in July, 1726, on his appointment to Newchurch in Rossendale where he died in 1767.[2]

JOSEPH SUTCLIFFE was here for a few years, his name appearing in the registers between 1726-31. [See Chaps. IX and XIV.]

WILLIAM GRIMSHAW.—As the life of William Grimshaw has been more than once published it is unnecessary to say much about him here.[3] He was the son of a farmer of Brindle near Preston, where he was born 3rd September, 1708. He was appointed to Todmorden 17th September, 1731. In the Haworth parish registers is the following note in his handwriting: "Rev. W. Grimshaw, A.B., of Christ College, Cambridge, succeeded the Rev. Isaac Smith, M.A., deceased, in the parochial curacy of Haworth, May 16th, 1742, having been minister of the parochial curacy of Todmorden ten years and nine months. He was born at Brindle near Preston; some time educated at the Free School of Blackburne by Mr. George Smith, head master thereof for some years, but afterwards removed to the Free School of Heskin . . . . from thence was sent to be admitted a member of the university and college above-named." He married—first, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Cockroft of Mayroyd, in Wadsworth in the parish of Halifax; she died S.P.; second, in 1735, Sarah the daughter of John Lockwood

[1] Bish. Reg., Chester.

[2] The Newchurch registers are defective from 1761 to 1775.

[3] Myles' Life and Writings of W. Grimshaw, London 1813, and William Grimshaw incumbent of Haworth, by R. Spence Hardy, London 1861. Raines also gives a long account of his religious opinions, &c., in MSS., Vol. xxxvii. See also Newton's Life of the late William Grimshaw, London 1799, many times reprinted.

of Ewood, Todmorden (she had already had two husbands—first William Sutcliffe of Stansfield Hall, second John Ramsden). William Grimshaw died 7th April, 1763, at Sowdens near Haworth. He had issue. He had a strong sympathy with the followers of Wesley. [See Chap. XIII.]

Robert Hargraves the son of Robert Hargraves, head master of the Whalley Grammar School, was born in 1693 and went to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1714. He was appointed to Todmorden 21st December, 1742, having previously been curate of Elland and Turton. During his incumbency (in 1750) a severe contest took place in Todmorden as to the right of appointing churchwardens. The inhabitants claimed a right to meet on Good Friday annually, to elect three persons whose names were to be sent to the vicar and churchwardens of Rochdale "in vestry assembled on Easter Tuesday," when one of these three was chosen to serve the office of churchwarden for Todmorden. Mr. Hargraves resisted their claim, denying the ancient custom and maintaining that he and his predecessors had always attended the meeting and nominated the first of the three names, and then sent the list to the vicar, and that invariably the first person named was chosen to be warden. The inhabitants charged the curate with using bad language and abusive behaviour towards the congregation, calling them rogues, knaves, rebels and scabbed sheep, and refusing to examine some of them for the sacrament, on the ground that they were schismatics, enthusiasts and dissenters; others he is said to have put out of the church by their shoulders on the Lord's Day because they had been sometimes to hear the Methodist preacher. It was further alleged that his language had been "grevious and ireful to the family of Crossley's of Scaitcliff, the chief family of the chapelry." Whilst these disruptions were going on the curate had an attack of paralysis and in May, 1752, he went to Buxton, having first given orders that the church doors should be shut against all preachers until his return, except the Rev. Joseph Keighley, incumbent of Littleborough. In 1754 (7th February) a petition was sent to the bishop, when the curate's political heresies were made the ground of appeal by the parishioners and he was also said to be unfit for duty owing to paralysis. It was not until 1757 that the bishop insisted on his finding an assistant, which he did by appointing the Rev. John Law, M.A., who was then

minister at Cross Stone Chapel; at the same time he wrote to the bishop setting forth that the whole revenue of the chapel, exclusive of the five shillings a week which he would have to pay Mr. Law, would not pay for his board and lodgings, whilst the surplice dues did not amount to forty shillings a year, and he requested that Mr. Law should be ordered to preach only once a month (and receive five shillings for his services). Mr. Law continued to act for the curate till his death in 1768. Mr. Hargraves some years before his death became totally blind, but though he still continued to baptize, marry and bury his parishioners he did not preach, and the bitter discord between him and his flock continued to the end. He died in the summer of 1770, but does not appear to have been buried at Todmorden. During the early part of Mr. Hargraves' time "penance" was frequently done in the chapel and duly recorded in the churchwarden's book, the record being signed by the curate, churchwarden and sidesman.

JOHN CROSSE was a native of London where he was born in 1739. He went to school at Hadley near Barnet, in the county of Herts.; graduated B.A. and M.A. in 1768 at St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford. In 1765 he was doing duty at the Lock Chapel and afterwards went abroad as tutor to John Thornton, of Clapham, Esq. He was appointed curate of Cross Stone, 27th August, 1770, and on the 26th of the following month to Todmorden, which he only held until the 11th March, 1775, when his health compelled him to resign. He was afterwards vicar of Bradford in the county of York. Whilst at Todmorden he married Grace the daughter of Edmund Gibson of Brigroyd, Halifax, gentleman, and widow of John Sutcliffe of Hoohole in Todmorden; she had already had two husbands, the first one being John the only son of the Rev. William Grimshaw. [See p. 184.] The Rev. John Crosse survived her and married a second time a Miss Hokinson. He died 17th June, 1816 having been thirty-two years vicar of Bradford.[1]

JOSEPH ATKINSON was born about the year 1747 on the banks of the Bassenthwaite lake in Cumberland, and was educated at St. Bees' College. He was appointed to Todmorden 25th May, 1775, and at the same time to the incumbency of Cross Stone; he preached in the morning at the latter and in the afternoon at Todmorden, and after-

[1] See "The Parish Priest, portrayed in the life, character, &c., of the Rev. J. Crosse, M.A., vicar of Bradford. By the Rev. W. Morgan." Bradford, 1841.

wards frequently went to the Methodist meeting-house with a large number of his congregation. A marble slab in the Todmorden old church reads thus: "This monument was erected by the Crossleys of Scaitcliffe to the memory of the late Reverend Joseph Atkinson, whose faithful labours for forty-five years in the chapelry have endeared him to the recollections of many who profited by his ministry. He died 20th August, 1819, aged seventy-four years." His wife survived him. He had issue, a daughter and a son whose only son became a Roman Catholic and died without issue in 1843.

Robert Seatle was born at Blawith in the parish of Ulverston, 22nd October, 1791, and was the son of the Rev. Henry Seatle, incumbent of Finsthwaite near Ulverston. In 1813 he was at St. Mary's Chapel, Rochdale [see Chap. XI.], and was appointed to Todmorden 27th August, 1819, where he died, 24th July, 1821, and was buried at Finsthwaite. He was not married.

Joseph Cowell was not originally designed for the church, but was in business in Leeds. He was the son of Thomas Cowell of London, surgeon, and he married the daughter of the Rev. William Hammerton of Tonge, near Bradford. In 1820 he was curate of Ackworth in Yorkshire, which he relinquished on his appointment to Todmorden, 13th September, 1821. During his curacy the new church was built. [See p. 179.] A monument at Todmorden records that he died 4th February, 1846, having been more than twenty-four years incumbent, and that "through his zeal and perseverance the church, parsonage house and national schools were commenced and completed."

John Edwards was the only son of Thomas Edwards of Halifax, a well-known bookseller. He graduated at Lincoln College, Oxford: B.A. 1838, M.A. 1841. He was for a short time curate of St. George's Church, Hulme, and afterwards incumbent of South Shore, Blackpool, and in 1845 curate of Rochdale, where he married the youngest daughter of Dr. Molesworth. In February, 1846, he was licensed to Todmorden. In January, 1864, he resigned his incumbency and retired to Bedford, where he died 16th June, 1864.

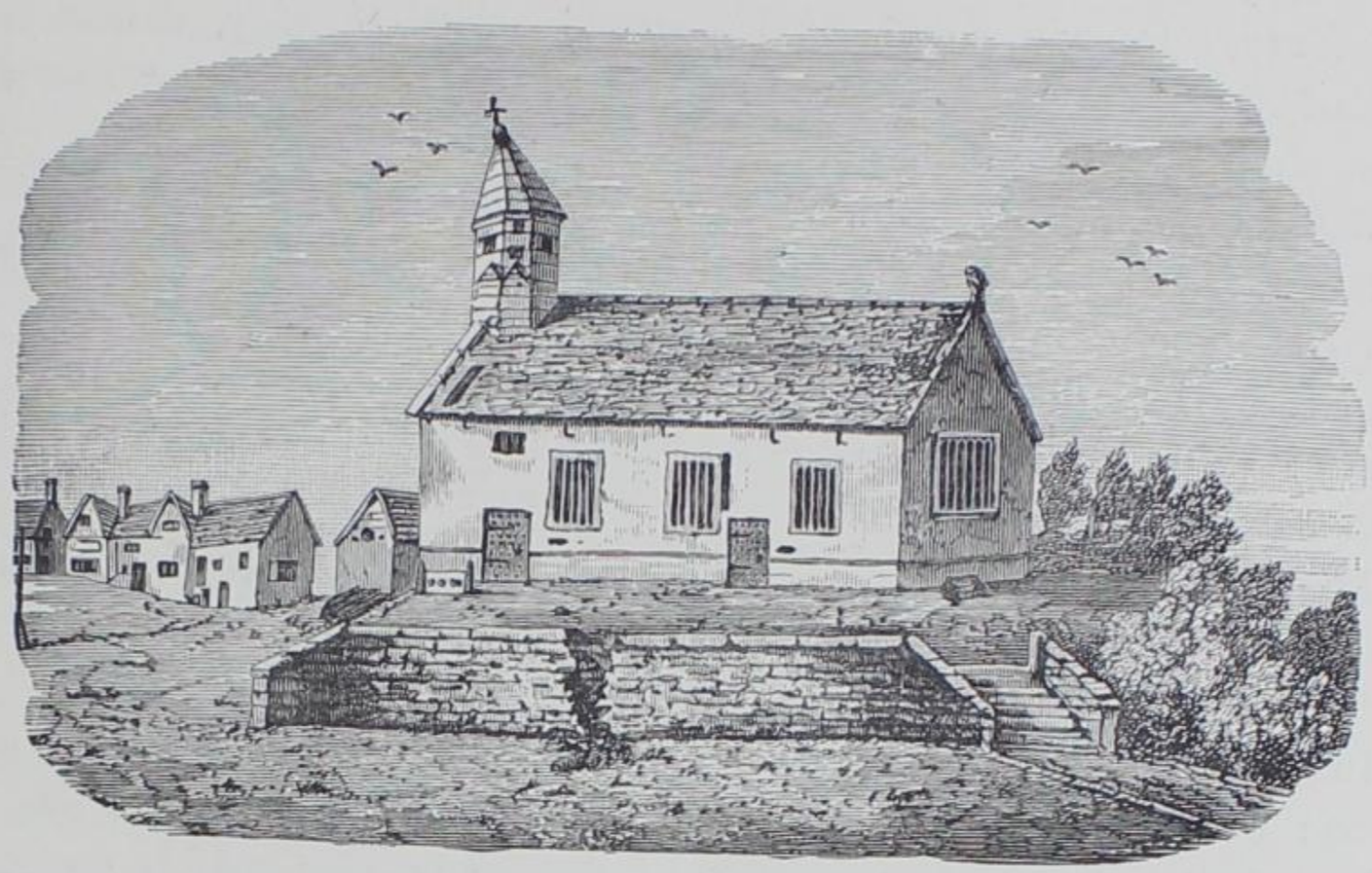
Anthony John Plow was the son of the Rev. Henry Plow, B.D., F.R.S., rector of Bradley, in the county of Hants. He was successively curate of St. James', Rochdale, and the parish church. He married Harriet Louisa Bridges, a daughter of the second wife of Dr.

Molesworth by her first husband Thomas Bridges, Esq. The vicarage, on 2nd March, 1868, was the scene of a dreadful murder, when Jane Smith, one of the servants, was killed by her sweetheart Miles Weatherill, who also attempted to murder Mrs. Plow, at the same time inflicting such injuries upon Mr. Plow that he died from their effects, 11th March following. Mrs. Plow died in 1869 at Wantage in Berks. They left issue one child. There is a window to the memory of Mr. Plow in the church.

RENNELL FRANCIS WYNN MOLESWORTH, son of the vicar of Rochdale, of Brasenose College, Oxford, was instituted at Todmorden, 22nd April, 1868, and resigned in 1875.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS CONWAY, M.A., the son of John Maurice of Astrad, Denbighshire, Esq., was born at Norris Green, near Liverpool. Before coming to Todmorden (in 1875) he had been vicar of St. James', Heywood, for twenty-three years. He died 23rd September, 1883. In Christ Church, Todmorden, is a handsome reredos erected to his memory.

The REV. EDWARD JAMES RUSSELL, M.A., is the present vicar.



LITTLEBOROUGH CHAPEL IN 1770, FROM A SKETCH BY THE REV. B. SHUTTLEWORTH, CURATE OF LITTLEBOROUGH.[1]

CHAPTER IX.

Ecclesiastical History.—Littleborough Church.

BEFORE the erection of this chapel there probably was a private oratory at Stubley, to which were attached the chaplains whose names appeared in deeds of prior date. The abbot of Whalley granted a license, dated at the Chapter House of Whalley, on the feast day of St. Chad the Bishop [2nd March], 1471, to the inhabitants of Boterworth and Honorsfeld that they should have in their chapel within Honorsfeld, "honourably built and newly erected," private masses celebrated by a proper chaplain to be licensed by the bishop, provided that no injury was done to the mother church, to which the chaplains had to pay two tenths of the oblations and other dues. The abbot provided that the vicar of Rochdale was to be exonerated from in-

[1] Original in the possession of William Law, Esq. This was taken down in 1815.

stituting or providing of such chaplain; it was further provided that if any tithes, oblations or obventions due to the mother church were withheld by the inhabitants, the license was to terminate.[1]

In 1477, by will dated 23rd July, Geoffrey Buckley, rector of St. Alban's, Wood Street, London [see Chap. XVIII], left a "vestment" to the chapel of "Littleburgh."

William Newall of Lower Town House, in his will dated 17th September, 1550, acknowledges a debt due to "the refs [the Reeves] of ye Lytlebrogh Chapel" of viii. s., and Laurence Newall of the same place left by his will dated 2nd April, 1557, iii. s. iv. d. to buy "a chalis or vestment to ye Lytlebrogh Chapel," adding that he owed the chapel viii. s. and in wages xii. d.

The inventory of church goods taken 12th October, 1552 shows that in this chapel there were a chalice, a vestment, a bell, and auter [altar] clothes.

In 1553 the king's commissioners seized the chapel of Littleborough and one bell there for the use of his majesty, and delivered the same to Edward Parker, gentleman, who in the same year sold it to Robert Holt of Stubley, the younger, Thomas Hill, Edmund Kershaw, Richard Lightollers, Thomas Shore, Laurence Newall and other inhabitants to the intent that divine service might be administered therein.[2]

Having thus obtained again possession of their chapel the inhabitants agreed amongst themselves how they were to use it, and in 1556 the following seats or forms were allotted by the order of Mr. Holt of Stubley, Mr. Bellfield and the freeholders belonging to the chapel:—

PLATFORM OF SEATS.

Mr. Holt of Stubley, fifth form on south side of chancel.
Mr. Belfield, the fifth form on north side of chancel.
Thomas Hill, the highest form on north side of chancel.
Richard Lightowlers and Laurence Newall, the second form.
Edmund Kershaw, the third form.
Robert Holt and James Belfield, the fourth form.
Edmund Whitehead and Thomas Warburton, the highest form on the south side of the chapel in the chancel.
Henry Scolefield and Ralph Shore, the second form in the chancel.
Bernard Scolfield, Edward Taylor and Richard Milne, the third form.

[1] Pike House Evidences. Raines' MSS., iv.
[2] Vicar Hay's MSS. The deed in 1801 was in possession of Edmund Kershaw of Townhouse.

Beneath the Chancel.

Thomas Hill and his tenants, two excepted, to the highest form on the south side.

Richard Lightowlers, Laurence Newall and Mary Scolefield, second form on south side.[1]

Edmund Kershaw, John Taylor and William Tate, the 3rd form.

Oliver Wolstenholme, James Belfield, Alexander Clegg, Michael Clegg, one for the Calliards, Agnes Roades, Richard Dearden and Ellis Milne, fourth form.

Edmund Farrough [? Turnough] Alexander Bridge, Gyles Wolstenholme, Humphrey Butterworth, Adam Wolstenholme, William Lightowlers, Richard Scolefield and Ralph Kershaw, the fifth form.

John Hamer de Shore, Laurence Scholfield, Richard Belfield, John Belfield, James Matthew, Charles Hill, Peter Smith, Alexander Butterworth, Richard Hill and Adam Hill, the sixth form.

William Roads, wife of James Kershaw, Robert Leach, Richard Leach, Edmund Kershaw, John Wardle, Richard Clegg, Alexander Kershaw, the seventh form.

The other side of the Chapel [the north side].

Edmund Whithead, Thomas Warburton and Ralph Shore, to highest form.

Barton Scholfield, Robert Holt, Richard Milne and William Bridge, the second form.

Mr. Holt's maids, the Stone House and Mooroade, the third form.

James Hallewell, John Hallewell, Robert Stott, wife of William Stott, James Shore, Henry Stott, ux^{o} of James Stott and Robert Stott the fourth form.

Henry Kershaw, James Halliwell, John Kershaw, William Kershaw, Thomas Milne, John Stott, John Lord, James Fletcher, James Stott and Laurence Bridge, fifth form.

William Roads, John Milne, Thomas Leach, Robert Harris, John Hamer, Ralph Lightowlers, William Lightowlers, Richard Bridge, Henry Taylor and Ralph Sale, the sixth form.

Edmund Smethurst, Bernard Milne, John Clegg, Henry Leach and Townhouse maids, the seventh form.

And also on the other side of the chapel three or four forms, beneath the forms above written, left for maids to kneel on; and also it is appointed that the said forms shall remain over to the house and ground above written paying the duty and wages to the said chapel, and ever as the old men and women die the younger to enjoy the said place and forms.[2]

From this interesting list a fair idea may be formed of the size and shape of the original building; it was evidently a plain four-walled building with a raised chancel where there were ten formes. Below this platform were fourteen platforms, seven on either side, and behind them three or four other formes for the "maids." Giving a liberal estimate of seven seats on a form the chapel would scarcely furnish sitting accommodation for two hundred people. A controversy arose

[1] From a note in the MS. it appears that this form was claimed by the owner of "Whitaker."

[2] Vicar Hay's MSS.

about these seats in 1628 when James Hallywell, junior, of Pike House, was cited to appear at Chester at the suit of Robert Holt of Stubley and Thomas Shore, when it was alleged that he had set up a bench or stall, six or seven years before, in the south chancel "for youth and younger sons" who had always previously knelt in the alleys at the end of the forms; and this it was argued was done to the injury of the plaintiffs, whose ancestors had for fifty years enjoyed the same. It was proved in evidence that James Hallywell, father of the defendant, paid in "leas and cesments towards the curate's wage and reparacions as much as any of the plaintiffs;" nevertheless the bishop ordered the bench to be removed. The case was removed to York, but Hallywell was again defeated.[1]

A fragment of the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1621[2] has been preserved and presents a few items of interest.

	£	s.	d.
May 5th.—For dinner when sworn at Rachdale	0	1	2
My deutie to the vicar of Rachdale	0	1	0
J. Buckley, who br[t] Wynne from Rachdale against Pentecost and for bread	0	3	4½
Mast[r] Tylston [the vicar] for his dinner when he came to preche and y[e] enterteynment	0	1	9
M[r] Browne who came to preche when M[r] Marcroft was sicke	0	1	8
For mossinge and for heire, for printinge and paintyng chappell	0	4	0
One pore schollar from Rachdale sch. to Cambridge, by order of M[r] Holte	0	2	0
An anncient wayfaring minist[r]	0	1	0
When Butterworth wyffe was excom[c]	0	0	6
An houre glasse and fixinge	0	2	0
A boke of prayers sett forth in y[e] time of syckness	0	0	6
An hedgeog [hedgehog]	0	0	2
Robert Butterworth beinge o[r] share tow[ds] a new pish coffine at Rachdale	0	3	4
When Rich. Cleg and Mary Travis was excom[c] for not submitting themselves to the Bishop's Co[rt.] being charged with fornication	0	2	0

In the seventeenth century it was the custom to bury the dead in a winding-sheet. The above allusion to the parish coffin shows that at Rochdale the custom had not died out in 1621; the body in some

[1] Pike House Evidences. Raines' MSS., ii. 19.
[2] ,, ,, ,, ,, xv. 370.

cases was carried to the grave in the coffin, but buried without. It is curious to note that the vicar of Rochdale, having preached at Littleborough, had provided for him "dinner and entertainment" at a cost of one shilling and ninepence.

The commissioners who made the Church Survey in 1650 recommended that the chapel called "Little Brough" should be made a parish. There were, in 1717, ninety-three families who paid amongst them (in proportion to their seats) ten pounds a year, which made up what was called "the chapel wage;" there were then in the chapelry 182 families, of which only four were dissenters.[1]

In 1774 a subscription was raised to meet a grant from the Queen Anne's Bounty for the augmentation of the curacy, and an estate called Bardsley's Tenement in Shaw was purchased for £600, the annual rent being £24. In 1884 it was let for £113.

The vicar of Rochdale in 1800 noted[2] that the chapel was in "the most wretched condition that can be conceived, dangerous to the people and in everything correspondent." In the old chapel there was some very old oak; amongst other things a carved oak screen bearing the initials I.H. All this has disappeared. An addition to the churchyard was consecrated, 28th July, 1794.[3]

The old church at length became untenable and was pulled down and the present church was erected, which together with a further enlargement of the yard was consecrated, 3rd August, 1820. It is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It is not on the exact site of the old building, but stands about fifteen yards to the north of it.

In the present churchyard there is a group of gravestones which evidently were once in the chapel; in one of these [to the memory of the Rev. Edmund Thornley] is a square hole in which rested a pillar supporting the western gallery. Over the west door of the church is a small stone on which is inscribed "Hæc Œdicuta fundata fuit A.D. MDCCCXV. Faveat Deus operique adsit. Joh. Rutter pastore de Littlebro. Joh. Beswicke. arm. Isa. Marsden gent, Œdif." The interior, to say the least of it, is painfully plain; it consists of an oblong building with galleries on three sides. The east window was put in by subscription in 1842, and contains the following arms:—

[1] Gast. Not. Cest.—Chet. Soc., xix., 135.
[2] Vicar Hay's MSS.
[3] Vicar Hay's MSS.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS IN THE EAST WINDOW.

Kyrshagh de Town House. Or. on a chief per pale gules and sable three bezants.

Lightollers de Lightollers. Vert. a lion rampant, or, charged with galtraps sable.

Buckley of Little Haworth. Sable, a chevron, between three bull's heads, caboshed arg. quartering Butterworth of Little Haworth, arg. a Lion couchant azure, between four Ducal Coronets gules. A crescent for difference.

Bamford of Shore. Arg. a fess wavy, gules.

Newall of Town House. Per pale gules and azure three covered cups, within an Orle or, quartered Kyrkshalgh and Lightollers. [See above].

Chadwick of Healey Hall. Gules, an inescutcheon within an orle of Martlets, argent, quartering Kirskshagh and Heley de Heley gules, four lozenges engrailed in a bend ermine. Butterworth. [See above.]

Holte of Stubley Hall. Argent, on a bend engrailed sa. three fleur de lis of the first.

Arms of the See of Chester.

Vicar of Rochdale, J. E. N. Molesworth, D.D. Vair, on a bordure gules eight crosses crosslets or.

Pastor de Littleborough, Thomas Steel, B.A. Argent, a bend counter-compony sable and ermine, between two lions' heads erased gules; on a chief azure, three billets or.

Dearden of Handle Hall. Argent, an inescutcheon within an orle of Martlets sable, quartering 2 Ingham of Clegswood and Belfeld of Clegswood.

Belfeld of Clegswood. Ermine, on a chief gules, a label of five points argent.

Ingham of Clegswood. On a cross moline gu. quartering Belfeld. [See above.]

Stott of Bent House. Sable, three pales or. on each a pellet; on a chief argent a human heart gules.

Halliwell of Pike House. Argent, on a bend gules three antelopes passant of the first attired.

Smith of Starring. Azure, two bars wavy, on a chief or, a demi-lion rampant issuant, gules.

Beswick of Pike House. Gules, three bezants or, a fess in chief or, quartering 2 and 3 Halliwell of Pike House.

There is a reredos of stone with marble panels which was placed there to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Carter.

The following are the only monuments in the church and these are all of marble:—

IN THE CHANCEL.

"Sacred to the Memory of the Rev. Thomas Steele, B.A., twenty-seven years the faithful and beloved pastor of this chapelry. Ob. 30 Oct., 1844, æt. 59 years."

ON THE SOUTH WALL.

"In Memory of Margaret, daughter of John Smith, Esq., of Manchester, who died at her residence, Townhead, Rochdale, July 30th, 1856, aged 78 years, and was interred in this churchyard."

On the East Wall.

"Sacred to the Memory of John Halliwell Beswicke of Pike house, Esquire, only son of the late Major Beswicke of that place. He departed this life January 18th, 1842, aged 32 years."

"In Memory of Smith Newall of Rochdale, who died February 14th, 1826, aged 56 years."

"Sarah, his wife, died January 24th, 1841, aged 63. She was the daughter of William Emmet of Halifax.

The church is now being enlarged by the addition of a chancel, organ chamber and vestries.

Curates and Vicars of Littleborough.

Adam Buckley, chaplain of Littleborough, occurs in a deed whereby John the son of Richard de Sale settles his personalty on the vicar of Rochdale; it is dated at Hundersfeld 23rd April, 12 Henry VI.[1] [1434]. He was brother and legatee of Geoffrey Buckley, rector of St. Alban's, in Wood Street, London. [See p. 131.] His brother Richard was priest at Butterworth. [See Chap. X.]

Adam de Marland, chaplain appears in a deed as feoffee of Ralph de Belfeld, 6th April, 11 Henry VI. [1433], and on 6th October, 3 Edward IV. [1464] he is described as "clericus," and an Adam de Marland, D.D., vicar of Buckland, Berkshire, is named in a re-lease of land from Laurence the son of William Newall, and others in 1479.[2] These probably refer to the same man; he was a relative of Henry Merland, vicar of Rochdale.

Although both Adam Buckley and Adam Marland were chaplains and connected with the district there is no evidence to justify their being included in the list of curates; indeed the fact that the chapel was *newly erected* in 1471, and then first licensed appears to furnish positive evidence to the contrary.

The first curate of whom there is any reliable information was

Sir Roger Lynney. His name occurs in a deed of re-lease, dated 6th April, 8 Henry VIII. [1516] and referring to lands in Hundersfield. [See Chap. XVIII.] On 4th June, 1516, a license was issued

[1] Town House Evidences. [2] Town House Deeds.

to the curate of Littleborough to marry Richard Holte, gentleman, and Elizabeth Gaukroger *alias* Plate, for which he was to receive a fee of ii. s. iv. d. [1]

ROBERT TURNOUGH, chaplain of Littleborough, on 24th June, 32 Henry VIII. [1541] was appointed attorney to give seisin of lands in Heghlegh [Ealees] in Hundersfield, purchased by Ralph Shore from James Bamford of Halifax; the name again occurs in 1535,[2] and Robert Holt of Stubley, by will dated 18th December, 1554, left to "Sir R. Turnough, priest," xl. s. to be paid him in three years.[3] In 1552 he accounted to the commissioners for the church plate, &c. [See p. 192.]

SIR JOHN DYGLE, clerk, attested the will of Robert Holt of Stubley, 12th May, 1556. He was probably curate of Littleborough.[4]

SIR BERNARD HAMER was present at a visitation about 1547 and answered for Littleborough, and Sarah Chadwick of Townhouse, by will dated 3rd June, 1547, left x. s. to Sir Bernard Hamer, priest of Littleborough, to pray for her soul; and he is also named in the will of William Newall of Townhouse, dated 17th September, 1550.

SIR JOHN CHETHAM, clerk, is a witness to the will of Robert Holt of Stubley, 20th April, 1561, who left viii. s. "to ye service of Littleborough."[5] As there was at that time a private chapel at Stubley, it is by no means clear that this clerk was curate of Littleborough. His name occurs again as witness to a bond dated 20th February, 1563.[6]

WILLIAM SCOLFELD, clerk, is party to a deed dated at Townhouse in 1565, and in the same year appears at a visitation at the Parish Church.[7]

WILLIAM MARCROFTE, clerk of Littleborough, is named as supervisor of the will of Richard Holt, master of the Rochdale Grammar School, 8th December, 3 James [1605].

WILLIAM GREAVES,[8] clerk, was living at Littleborough in 1582 as appears from several deeds of that date, and John Buckley, preacher of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, by his will, dated 26th June, 1593, left to "Mr. Greaves, mynister of Littlebrucke," a Latin commentary, and directed his executors to "deliver unto hym a booke that he borrowed of hym called Loci comunes Augustini Marlorat." The

[1] Bishop's Reg., Chester.
[2] Raines' MSS., xvi., 218, and xiv., 43.
[3] Lanc. and Ches. Wills.—Chet. Soc., li., 14.
[4] Lanc. and Ches. Wills.—Chet. Soc., li., 18.
[5] Chet. Soc., li., 171.
[6] Raines' MSS., xxv., 37.
[7] Bishop's Reg., Chester.
[8] Pike House Deeds.

Rochdale Registers contain the names of several of his children and record his burial on 6th January, 1596-7.

Richard Knowles was curate here in November, 1602.[1]

Joseph Marcrofte was the son of the Rev. William Marcrofte, a former curate [see p. 196], and brother to James Marcrofte, clerk. He was educated at the Rochdale Grammar School. He was at Littleborough in 1604, and was married at Rochdale 22nd February, 1608-9.[2] The Registers do not give her name but it appears from the lease of a messuage which he held at Dernley (in Townhouse) in her right, that her christian name was Alice.[3] In 1611 he was cited before the rural dean for not wearing the "surples," and in 1620 for not observing a fast day.[4]

Thomas Crompton appears as clerk of Littleborough 27th March, 1524.[5] In 1646 he signed the paper called "The Harmonious Consent of the Ministers, &c." His signature appears to "The Agreement of the People;" in both instances as "minister of Astley near Leigh, in Lancashire," where he was officiating in 1650 (Parliamentary Survey) and from whence he was ejected in 1662. He died 2nd February, 1691. Calamy describes him as a "great scholar, well acquainted with the fathers."

William Walker, curate of Littleborough, July 1627.[6]

Mr. Scolefeld, clerk of Littleborough, had a license issued to him 23rd December, 1636, to marry John Halliwell of Pyke House and Elizabeth Belfeild, widow.[7] This was in all probability the Jonathan Scolefeld who was at Heywood in 1648 and appointed to Whalley 12th September, 1653.[8] He signed "The Harmonious Consent" in 1648 and "The Agreement of the People" in 1649, in both cases as minister of Heywood. He was afterwards at Douglas Chapel in the parish of Eccleston, whence he was ejected in 1662. He died in 1667, aged 70.

. . . . . Constable.—He had a marriage license issued to him on 17th February, 1636-7. The Rochdale Registers record that on 9th March, 1638-9, a christening was performed by him at Littleborough.

[1] Raines' MSS., xxii., 75, and Piccope's MSS., xviii. [2] Rochdale Registers.
[3] Townhouse Evidence. [4] Bishop Reg. Chester. [5] Raines' MSS., xxxvi.
[6] Piccope's MSS., iv., 239. [7] Do.
[8] State Papers, Dom. Sen., 1653. Parl. Survey, 1650. Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, p. 41.

ROBERT DUNSTER[1] signed the "Protestation" on 19th February, 1641, as curate of Littleborough. [See Appendix.]

RICHARD THORPE.—His name appears in the Rochdale Registers as officiating at Littleborough in 1644-5.

THOMAS BRADSHAW; in 1650 the Parliamentary Commissioners found him at Littleborough and reported that "for anythinge wee knowe, he is well qualified." He was buried at Rochdale, 6th March, 1659, and his widow 1st April, 1678; she died in very poor circumstances, as appears from the account book of John Stott of Bent House:—"Paid Mrs. Bradshaw 6d. at her dore; paid for her rent 4s.; paid for her chist [coffin] 3s.; for her grave on Easter Monday 4d."[2]

. . . . . NUTTALL appears in the Rochdale Registers as officiating here in 1658. He may however only have been acting for the time.

THOMAS PARREN or PARRY was curate in 1669 (30th November), when his daughter Mary was baptised.[3] He was only here a very short time, as he was buried at Rochdale 27th January, 1669-70.

THOMAS GUY was curate at Rochdale in 1670, and probably earlier, but between then and 1672 (May) he was appointed to Littleborough. With him the course of true love did not run smooth, as Matthew Butterworth, of Crownest in Butterworth, by his will dated 12th August, 1665, directed that if his daughter Jane should marry Mr. Thomas Guy, or any other person not to his liking, or without the consent of her uncle, Gabriell Garside, and Robert Walkden the elder, all her lands were to go to John Butterworth, his nephew's eldest son.[4] In 1688 he was named in the will of Theophilus Helliwell of Ealees, who bequeathed him £3. He was buried at Rochdale 13th February, 1692, and his widow 27th June, 1714.

EDMUND THORNLEY was a native of Bury, where he was born in 1654. He went to Cambridge and took his B.A. degree at Jesus College. His name occurs in the taxation in 1694 [see p. 97]. Alexander Butterworth by his will dated 9th January, 1724, bequeathed to him £20. Very little is known of this curate. He died unmarried and was buried at Littleborough 8th December, 1727.[5] A letter from him to John Halliwell of Pyke House, dated from Benthouse, 15th February, 1717, shows

[1] Church Survey.—Record Soc., i. 19.
[2] Raines' MSS., xxxvii.
[3] Rochdale Registers.
[4] Crownest Deeds.
[5] A monument to his memory is in the churchyard which records that he was "vir satis erudius, sorti, humili, contentus, meliore dignus."

him to have been a man of moral courage, as in it he admonishes the squire to leave off his habits of intemperance, and that in no measured terms.[1]

John Kippax, the son of the Rev. John Kippax, head master of the Rochdale Grammar School, was appointed 10th April, 1727. [See Chap. XIV.]

Joseph Sutcliffe was also a head master of the Grammar School [see Chap. XIV.] and curate of Milnrow. J. Halliwell's diary, under 30th April, 1730, contains the following entry:—"To Mr. Sutcliffe, for three quarters of chapel wage, 14s." He resigned 2nd November, 1745, and went to Milnrow. [See Chap. X.]

John Keighley in 1743 was assistant curate of Colne, and in 1745 was appointed to Littleborough;[2] he had also been assistant curate of Milnrow. He has been described by one who knew him as "a poor preacher and a poorer man."[3] A stone in the church of Littleborough records:—"Here rests interr'd the remains of the Rev. Joseph Keighley, who was curate of this place 24 years. He died 9th day of November, 1769, in the 57th year of his age." His wife died 12th February, 1773.

Barton Shuttleworth was the third son of Ralph Shuttleworth of Rochdale, who was grandson of Nicholas Shuttleworth of Clitheroe (brother to Sir Richard of Gawthrope). Ralph Shuttleworth lost much of his property through the Rebellion of 1715 and settled in Rochdale as an innkeeper, though educated for an attorney.[4] He was brother-in-law to Richard Townley of Belfield. Barton Shuttleworth was licensed to Littleborough in 1770, his certificate for fitness being signed by Thomas Maddock, Thomas Fishwick,[5] lecturer of St. George's, Liverpool, and others. He was buried 31st October, 1793, in the north aisle of Rochdale Church. He had surviving issue. Several of his sons were buried in Littleborough churchyard, where there is a monument to their memory, on which is a long Latin inscription.

John Rutter was a schoolmaster at Ormskirk where, in 1784, he married the daughter of Thomas Yates. He was licensed to Littleborough 29th September, 1794, and he remained there until his death. He published a sermon preached at St. Mary's Chapel (Rochdale) 12th

[1] Raines' MSS., xxxvii. [2] Bishp. Reg., Chester. [3] Raines' MSS., xxxvii.
[4] Do. ,, ,, [5] Son of James Fishwick of Bulsnape Hall, Goosnargh, gent.

July, 1807, on the occasion of the funeral of "Brother John Matthews" (a free mason). [See Chap, XI.] A gravestone in the churchyard bears the following inscription:—"Sacred to the Memory of the Rev. John Rutter, 22 years incumbent of Littleborough. He was born 28th April, 1763, and died 15th October, 1816." He left issue; one of his sons was coroner for the Manchester district.

THOMAS STEELE, born 4th August, 1785, was the son of Alexander Steele, farmer, near Halifax. He was educated at the Manchester School, and having obtained an exhibition he went to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1809. It appears that his father was steward to the Rev. Dr. Drake on his estate at Quarry House, Halifax, and probably through this connection he was appointed in 1816 to the incumbency of Littleborough, having since 1809 been curate of the parish church. Mr. Steele published a "Collection of Psalms and Hymns" in 1816, which were for many years exclusively used in the churches in the district. He has been described as a man of great simplicity of manners and an almost imperturbable cheerfulness of temper. He died 30th October, 1844, aged seventy-five, and was buried at Littleborough, having held the living for twenty-seven years. He left issue, an only daughter who married William Balfour of Kirkwall, Esq., brother to Thomas Balfour,[1] M.P. for Orkney.

THOMAS STURGESS MILLS was the eldest son of Mr. Mills of Whitchurch, Salop. His father was the crier of the Court of Chester, but removed to Oxford. T. S. Mills entered St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, in 1790, but did not take a degree. He was shortly afterwards an officer in the Wiltshire Militia. In 1819 he was curate of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, and was successively curate of Rochdale, Dobcross (Saddleworth) and Littleborough; to the latter he was appointed in 1844. He was a justice of the peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire and the county of Lancaster, and was chairman of the Oldham Petty Sessions. His portrait (painted at the expense of the magistrates of the county) was placed in Prestwich asylum; he was chairman of the visiting committee. He married, in 1816 (at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, London), the daughter of the Rev. Henry Goddard, D.D., rector of Castle Eaton, Wiltshire. He died 1st October, 1864, aged 75 years, and was buried at Littleborough. His widow died 3rd August, 1866, and was buried with her husband.

[1] Chet. Soc. lxxii, 231.

Thomas Carter was the son of Myles Carter and Frances his wife. He was born at St. Bees in Cumberland, 29th September, 1830 and was educated at the Grammar School there, and having taken the Hastings Exhibition he went to Queen's College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. and M.A. He was successively curate of Garstang Parish Church, curate of Ulverston Parish Church, incumbent of Calder Vale, and curate of Rochdale; he was nominated to Littleborough, 5th November, 1864. Mr. Carter married Sarah the daughter of Mr. George Murray Chadwick of Lightowlers, Littleborough; he died 21st July, 1872, aged forty-one years.

The Rev. Alfred Salts, LL.D., is the present vicar.