

CHAPTER XI.

Dr. Lynacre—Dr. Wyott—Wages and Prices—Earl of Balcarres—Monasteries—The Marklands of Wigan—Catholicism in Mary's Reign—Rectors—Wynwick Chantry—Funeral Customs—M.P.'s—Parish Church—Cotton Lavo.

IN all ages there have been great men who, like terrestrial luminaries, are justly admired as extraordinary examples to their fellow-creatures. Sometimes it is but a special quality in one that is admired, and sometimes the whole genial intellect, or exemplary morality. Wigan, too, can lay claim to one, not a native but a sojourner, whose name should never be omitted from the list of examples in unflagging perseverance, scholarship, scientific research, and hard-earned honour. Honours were by no means more easy of attainment in the sixteenth century than in the nineteenth, and he that works, hoping only for honour, seldom succeeds, for lasting glory has generally been the result of brilliant deeds of duty. The new rector, Thomas Lynacre, presented by the patron, Ralph Langton, to the living on October 10th, 1519, is the oldest known physician in Wigan, although it is not known whether he practised gratuitously or otherwise as a physician in his parish, but, as he had been trained to that high profession and was a lover of the work, the likelihood is that his abilities and acquirements were not allowed to lie dormant in such an extensive field. His character, human sympathy, and love of science exclude all ideas of indolence, negligence, and inaction. Though educated far above the average English gentleman of this day, and laden with honours before he came to Wigan, he went about doing good according to his genial and lofty ideas of Christianity. As an example to old and young Wigan has had no nobler citizen. Although pecuniarily assisted by his parents, he fought the battle of life by himself, reaped the rewards, and, by his far-seeing intelligence, founded an institution which to this day is one of the most praiseworthy societies of our island. As a student he had no equal in painstaking assiduity, and as a scholar he earned for himself the unique reputation of being the first Englishman who read Aristotle and Galen in the original Greek. He was not all selfish conceit, crediting no one's good efforts, except when he himself had a share of the profitable claims, disparaging

and discountenancing, like little-minded men, but he rather encouraged good intentions and well-directed, even if feeble, efforts: not grumblingly desiring others to share and to bear his responsibilities; not labouring under the impression that all men were born to help him, whilst he should scorn others who asked simply for the advice of experienced men. It was purely by his own genuine ability and unflagging perseverance that he rose to honour and distinction.

He, although of a Derbyshire family, was born at Canterbury, and educated there under the celebrated schoolmaster, William Tilly, who was afterwards the ambassador of Henry VII. to the Court of Rome. He was a youth of promising ability, at Oxford a distinguished student, and was chosen a fellow of his college (All Saints) in 1484. Whilst in residence there he continued to be an ardent and successful student, but the knowledge he acquired only stimulated in him the desire to know more, so he determined to study at the best schools on the Continent. He travelled into Italy for purposes of self-improvement, mixed with learned members of society, and was generally well received. He studied under the best masters, Demetrius and Politian, at Rome and Florence, and took his degree of M.D. at Padua, which had then a school celebrated in medicine. Having returned to this country and his *alma mater* with his Italian laurels, he was incorporated doctor of physic at Oxford, after which he read his *shagling* lecture. A shagling lecture was an extraordinary, or temporary, one "allowed either by public authority, common consent, or recommendation." He afterwards became a distinguished tutor, physician, divine, and author, of the highest authority and honour. He was tutor to Prince Arthur and the Princess Katherine, and afterwards physician to Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and was the first President of the College of Physicians. To this society he gave his house in Knight-riding Street, London, and there their meetings were held until the beginning of the sixteenth century. Having attained honour and wealth in the scholastic and medical professions, he took holy orders, and was admitted chantor of the church of York in 1519, which post he resigned in November of the same year. At the same time Dr. Wiott, Wiote, or Wyat, Rector of Wigan, resigned his living there, and Dr. Lynacre was appointed his successor, whilst Dr. Wyat immediately entered on his duties as chantor of York on the 13th November, and thus a "fair" exchange was made; the Rector of Wigan became Chantor of York, and Dr. Lynacre, Chantor of York, became Rector of Wigan. Wyat was a doctor of divinity, and Lynacre a doctor of medicine, and in Wigan, no doubt, his medical skill did not altogether give place to his knowledge of divinity. He was always held in high esteem by his former pupil, Sir Thomas More, as well as by Erasmus, Latimer, Tonstall, and others of note, and his university was proud of him. He died in 1524, regretted by all, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral,

London, where a monument, well executed, was raised to his memory by his faithful friend and admirer, Dr. Clay. On his monument was written the following epitaph:—"He was a most skilful critic in the Greek and Latin, and an excellent physician besides (being physician to King Henry VIII.), who in his generation did many miraculous cures, and restored several to life when help was past, and even at the very point of death. He translated Galen's works out of Greek into Latin with singular perspicuity and clearness. He also completed a most excellent piece for the rectifying of the frame and module of the Latin tongue. He gave two lectures to the University of Oxon and one to Cambridge. He was a perfect hater of all indirect or fraudulent dealings, being sincerely faithful to his friends, and well beloved of all ranks and degrees of men."—(Athenae Oxonienses, vol. I, col. 43). He wrote many books, held many livings, and was succeeded in Wigan by Richard Langeton.

Like all rude and illiterate people, the Wiganers devoted much of their spare time to boisterous revelry and the sports of the day. Wages and market prices were both low, although the latter were relatively dearer than now; a day labourer's wages were 3d. a day, and his favourite ale 2d. a gallon. Wheat was 11s. 3d. a quarter, a good horse £2 4s., a cow 15s. 6d., a fat sheep or hog 5s., a calf 4s. 1d., a cock 3d., and a hen 2d. In 1564 the price of ale was raised to 4d. a gallon if consumed on the premises, and 6d. if carried away. The publicans were compelled to hang out their sign board when they had a supply, and to take it in when the brew was consumed, under a penalty of 6s. 8d., the present amount of an attorney's fee. In 1573 drunkards were imprisoned all night and fined 6d. in the morning, which, if they were unable to pay, the publican who supplied the liquor had to pay, or be imprisoned and lose his licence, a wise plan, impracticable in the present day.

Mr. Froude writes:—"By the third of sixth Henry the Eighth it was enacted that master carpenters, masons, bricklayers, tylers, plumbers, glaziers, joiners, and other employers of such skilled workmen should give to each of their journeymen, if no meat or drink was allowed, sixpence a day for the half-year, and fivepence a day for the other half, or fivepence-halfpenny for the yearly average. The common labourers fourpence a day for the half-year; for the remaining half threepence. In the harvest months they were allowed to work by the piece, and might earn considerably more; so that in fact (and this was the rate at which the wages were usually estimated), the day labourer, if in full employment, received on an average fourpence a day for the whole year." Comparing this with wages of the present day, and allowing for the difference of value in money, a labourer's wages would be equal to one pound a week.

Free trade was mercantile madness in the opinion of the Wiganers of the sixteenth century. The science of political economy had not yet emerged from chaos. Then money, hard cash, was considered wealth, and not, as now, the representative of wealth. The Wigan fair was always a very large one, and a great deal of business was always done at it. Foreign traders filled the booths with their stocks, sold cheaply for ready cash, and supplied all the wants of customers at lower prices than those of local tradesmen who, consequently, had no customers. They never considered that opposition is the life of trade, or that markets are established for consumers, not for sellers or manufacturers merely. It was an axiom with the tradesmen that it was the duty of consumers to buy only from local tradesmen, even if their prices were much higher than those of "foreigners." The consumers would not see it, local tradesmen would not lower their prices, and consequently the foreigners carried away the money, but left the consumers supplied. They did not openly object to the carrying off of the cash upon selfish views, for they could not thus have raised the sympathies of their townsmen, but they represented that without protection the town would be drained of every coin. The reasons seemed plausible, yet the consumers could not help seeing that they had obtained good equivalents for their money, and, moreover, had made a money profit by selling to foreign traders their own productions. Local protection was good and reasonable they said, but still they purchased from the foreigners. By the charter the "foreigner" traders were protected, and no prohibition could legally keep them out of the market as long as they paid their tolls and dues. The tradesmen appealed to local men of influence, and club-law was resorted to. At the next fair (1534) Sir Thomas Langeton, William Gerard, Esq., and John Byrshell, with a large following of riotous friends, swooped down, like birds of prey, upon the booths of chapmen and foreign traders, overturned their tables, destroyed their booths, and drove them from the Market Place. As in duty bound, the Chief Seneschal, or Mayor, commenced an action at law against the offenders, which was tried at the Assize at Lancaster, resulting in a verdict against the law breakers.—(Duchy Records, vol. XIV., Pleas W., n. 2).

At the disastrous battle of Flodden Field one of the most distinguished and successful generals was Sir Edward Stanley, who, at a moment when the day seemed favourable to the Scots, attacked, turned, and routed the enemy's flank, after killing John Lindsay, fifth Earl of Balcarres. For his gallant bearing and great and timely success on that day Stanley was created first Lord Monteagle.

An original document of a grant by deed of land and burgages in Wigan and Hindley in 1525 from James Dyke, of Wigan, to Rauff Standish, Esq., is in the possession of Mr. Peeke, London. The name Dyke does not anywhere occur in the annals of Wigan.

Monasteries were the most useful and charitable institutions of the country at one period of their history. They were the seats of learning, science, and art. The arts practised by the monks were, unfortunately, used to deceive the people, for, as the priories and monasteries grew in power, they grew in abuse. They were but minor types of the great licentious papal court of Rome, where all manner of evil and immorality was practised. Whilst at many of these wealthy institutions the monks doled out scanty charities to the poor, and took the benighted wayfarer in, they daily committed ecclesiastical robberies on the deluded rich or well-to-do. Pilgrims flocked to their shrines, and were deceived into giving all they had for absolution from sin. Figures were artfully designed to act, like a marionette, before the amazed penitent. Machinery was placed within the figures of sacred saints, by which they were made to kneel and nod or supplicatingly pray; tears trickled down the cheeks of saints as they seemed to pray for rich sinners; sham miracles were wrought before the penitent until every penny came out of his pocket. The inmates were men of God in the opinion of the poor and superstitious, but when they were left alone revelry and licentious immorality frequently filled up their time. Such was the disgraceful state of monastic life at the beginning of the Tudor period, when men's eyes were being opened by reformers to the delusions. Some were comparatively pure, but merely to be so was to be bad. Twenty-eight mitred abbots had seats in the House of Peers. Their enormous revenues were great incentives to their suppression, yet, as ignorant people still believed in them, it was necessary to persuade the nation at large of their evil power. The feeling against them spread with the enlightenment of the age, like fire in combustible matter, and everyone was mad for revenge for the deceits that had been practised upon them. As no rule can govern a panic-stricken people, or national rage, so all England, with one mad will, determined on the destruction of everything connected with monastic life. Their cry for destruction was insatiable, and over the whole length and breadth of the land the united rabble, irrespective of noble and artistic architecture, levelled monastic edifices and destroyed everything that had the semblance of an image. Whether the Wigan College fell in the general havoc I am unable to find, but Upholland Priory fell a prey to the ruinous crase, and the Parish Church of Wigan is supposed to have been ransacked and burned. The Priory had been built and endowed by Sir Robert de Holland in 1295, being the year in which Wigan first returned members of Parliament. It was afterwards changed into a Priory of Benedictine Monks by Walter de Langeton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. The ancient church still stands beside the ruins of former greatness, and consists of tower, nave, aisles, and chancel. The windows contain a rich profusion of stained glass.

The Marklands settled in Wigan in 1539 (29th Henry VIII.), and became

prosperous and distinguished as tradesmen and citizens. Their house was a "fair hall," at that end of the Hallgate nearest the church, now called Bishopgate. This house afterwards became a specially historical one in connection with the last efforts of the Jacobites to regain the sovereignty of England for the Stuarts. Seven members of the family were mayors of the town, and one, Raufe Markland, of the Meadows, was member of Parliament for the borough in 1669, and the last who received parliamentary wages. Matthew Markland was mayor in 1664, and in 1665 Oliver Markland devised certain of his estates for the use of the poor of Wigan. These estates were sold for £25 in 1706.

In the second year of the reign of the Papal Mary, Richard Gerard, on the death of Richard Smyth, the incumbent, was presented to the living at Wigan by Edward, Earl of Derby. He died, after holding the office for four years, but they were perhaps the most memorable four years of England's history. It was providential that the ill-tempered, sour, jealous, bigoted, and infatuated Mary had but a short reign. During her time statesmen of the highest integrity and ability were beheaded on the block, and religious martyrs, the pride of England and the glory of their church, men of the most earnest zeal and steadfast faith, were burned at the stake because their creed was not her creed. Then Rogers, Ridley, Latimer, Cranmer, and 284 men, women, and children were burned in different parts of the country for their Protestantism, and thousands were tortured with sufferings worse than a hasty death. The blazing fagots were beacons that flashed throughout the land the intelligence of the martyrs' heroic sufferings and strengthened the faith they meant to destroy. Although Wigan was not a stronghold of papacy, the majority of the best local families were Roman Catholics; but they seem not to have been affected by the fanaticism of the age, and yet their leniency was forgotten in the reaction of Reformation enthusiasm when Vandalism was all the rage.

Langeton, Kyghley, Herbert, Smyth, and Gerard were the consecutive successors of Dr. Lynacre. Gerard died in 1558, and was succeeded by the Bishop of Sodor and Man, who was presented to the living by John Fleetwood and Peter Farington, patrons, by the grant of Sir Thomas Langeton.

In wills a concise and comprehensive history of the habits, customs, trades, and incidents of the time is often found. It is very clear from such wills that our forefathers held a very strong belief in purgatory, or, at least, they did not believe that "as the tree falls so shall it lie," for all chantries were founded and endowed for the express purpose of praying for the souls of the deceased, their friends, and all the faithful, and in many cases very valuable properties were left for this purpose in the "dead hand" of the Church. One of the most interesting local wills is that of Galfrid Legh, Esq., dated "Apryll 14, 1546."—(Ex. MS. Rev. James

Raine, M.A., *Lanca. Chancies*, vol. I, p. 72-3). By it he provides for the burying of his body at Wynwick, black and white gowns, tapers and torches, and orders that many masses be said and sung for the repose of his body and the salvation of his soul. He is also very considerate as to the temporal comforts of those who attend his funeral, which was, no doubt, a very large one, as he left to every householder in Wynwick and Hulme a legacy of 6s. 8d. On the day of his burial he ordered that "an honest dynner" should be given out of his estates to his friends, gentlemen, and priests. He left money for the repairing of churches and bridges and making of good and substantial roads, and was not forgetful of the poor of the neighbouring towns, the first mentioned of which is Wigan, whose poorest inhabitants received by his will £20. At funerals not only were the mourners feasted, but the horses that dragged the hearse were fed with currant bread, the superstition being that if they were not so fed they would never complete the journey to the place of burial.

For nearly two hundred years Wigan returned no representative to Parliament. In olden times, by the rights of purveyance, all the travelling and entertaining expenses of the king and his followers had to be paid by the inhabitants of the towns through which they passed, and this expense was so great that townspeople feared a royal visit more than political offenders now fear a royal commission appointed to inquire into cases of alleged bribery and corruption. Petitions were often drawn up by prosperous towns, fully describing their poverty, and beseeching the king not to come to them, and often offering him a handsome bribe to go another way. Thus, too, because of the expense, many boroughs entitled to the privilege of sending representatives refused to do so. Sometimes the merchants allowed their member to go upon condition that he would take his expenses out in goods from their shops.

The burgesses and the member generally had a written agreement about the expenses. In 1463, for instance, John Strange made a legal agreement with his constituents of Dunwich thus:—"John Strange granteth by these presents to be one of the burgesses for Dunwich, at the Parliament to be holden at Westminster, for which, whether it hold for longer time or short, or whether it fortune to be prorogued, the said John Strange granteth no more to be taken for his wages than a cade full of herrings and a half barrel full of herrings, to be delivered on Christmas Day next." The wages paid to the Wigan members were two shillings a day, and the burgesses of Wigan may have found this to be more than they could afford. Whatever may have been the cause, it sent up no member between 1306 and 1547, when Alexander Barlow and Giles Carus were returned. At this time Wigan contained 2,600 "howselynge people."—(E. libro B. Duch. Lanc.)

Sir Thomas Stanley, second son of the third Earl of Derby, was one of the two members for the county when Barton, Gerard, and Berners were members for Wigan. He had previously been member for Liverpool from 1547-52, when Carus and Gerlington were members for Wigan. Of this name Gerlington only the first three letters are visible in the record, which are now generally believed not to be the first part of Gerlington, but Gerard, who represented Wigan in three Parliaments and afterwards distinguished himself as a Master of the Rolls, and was knighted. His son became member for Wigan in 1555. Sir Thomas Talbot and Sir John Holcroft were members for the county in 1557-8, when Barton and Smyth were members for Wigan. Sir Thomas Langeton, of Newton, was the member for the county with Sir T. Stanley. He was High Sheriff in 1536-7, and succeeded his brother, Ralph, in the barony of Newton in 1503. The Langetons were the patrons of the Parish Church of Wigan and were Barons of Newton for 300 years, the first Langeton having acquired the estates by his marriage with the grand-daughter and heiress of Robert Banastre early in the 14th century. Thomas Stanley was presented to the living of Wigan by Fleetwood and Farrington, patrons, on the grant of the above-named Sir Thomas, after which the next six rectors were presented by the king. In 1562 William Gerard was member for Wigan when Sir Thomas Gerard, of Ince, the fifth in descent from John Gerard, M.P. for the county in 1422, was one of the two county members. He was the eldest son of Sir Thomas, whom he succeeded in 1523. Sir John Southworth, his colleague as M.P. for the county, had been imprisoned in the New Fleet, Manchester, in 1584, as a Popish recusant.

An Act passed in 1552 directed that "All the cottons called Lancashire cottons, full wrought for the sale, shall be in length twenty-two yards, and contain in breadth three-quarters of a yard in the water, and shall weigh thirty pounds in the piece at least." The exciseman who examined the pieces was called the Aulnager, which name is first officially mentioned in the long charter of James II.

A peculiar example of mob law happened in Wigan in 1565—August 14th. John Crosse had inherited from his forefathers a close with other lands in Wigan. He quietly took possession, but was surprised to find there were counter claimants in the persons of John Barron and Margaret his wife, Thomas Starkey and Joan his wife, and Randle Rylands, who each and all were, according to the opinion of John Crosse, people of no principle, evilly disposed towards him and Wigan society, neither fearing God nor regarding man. Although possession is nine points of the law, the claimants first quietly requested, then insolently demanded, John to vacate the premises, and allow them to take possession. He expressed surprise at their demand, showed them the pedigree of his family, explained his own descent and possession, and firmly refused to budge. They sent in their ultimatum, and

threatened to put him out by force or pull the house down over his head if he did not quietly withdraw. He did not withdraw, but like a man, conscious of right, he referred them to the law, and defied their force. War was declared. The five rude claimants, regardless of laws, statutes, and the Queen's peace, assembled all the riotous and disorderly persons of their own degree, harangued them at length, and persuaded them of the justice of their claim, for when a mob but hears one side of a question it is unanimous in its verdict and instant in its action. There was hurry-scurry, hooting and yelling, groans for Crosse, and cheers for themselves. Men and women armed themselves with pikes, staves, bills, household utensils, and deadly weapons, marched in a disorderly body, and, besieging the house of John Crosse, drove him out in the most unceremonious manner. He appealed to their sense of justice and their feelings of sympathy, but they only laughed him to scorn. They were unreasonable when he sought to explain. He resorted to force, but their violence was too great, and there was nothing left, after strategy, force, and reason had failed, but to seek the assistance of the law, which he did by summoning them before the royal Judge.—(See Flower's Visitation of Lanca. in 1567). The following is a copy of the petition of the plaintiff, John Crosse :—

"Lamentably complaining sheweth unto your good Honour your daily orator John Crosse of Liverpool in the County of Lancaster, Esquire, that whereas one Richard Crosse, grandfather to your orator, was in his lifetime lawfully seised among other lands of and in a close lying and being in Wigan in the said County of Lancaster, of an estate of inheritance, and so being seised died thereof seised, by and after whose death the said close descended and came as of right ought to descend and come to one James Crosse, father to your orator, as son and next heir of the said Richard Crosse, by reason whereof the said James Crosse entered into the premises and was thereof likewise of an estate of inheritance seised, and he so being thereof seised did in his lifetime by good and lawful conveyance assure and convey the said close with other lands to certain persons to the use of your orator and Alice, his wife, and to the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten, by virtue whereof your orator entered into the said close, and was thereof, together with his said wife, now deceased, seised of an estate of tail especial with reversion expectant, which descended after his father's decease, and hath ever since the same assurance quietly and without disturbance of any person occupied the same close, and hath converted the issues and profits to his use as lawful is for him to do. Nevertheless now so it is, if it may please your Honour, that one John Barrow and Margaret his wife, one Thomas Starkey and Joan his wife, and one Randle Rylands, being persons of very lewd and evil dispositions, not fearing God nor dreading and correction of the justice of the Queen's Majesty's laws and statutes, confederating themselves with divers other riotous and disordered persons to your orator unknown, of a wicked, lewd, covetous purpose, did, with riot and great disorder, assemble themselves together upon the 14th day of August last past, and then and there, some of them being armed with pike-staves, others with bills, and others with weapons of arms, did, with great violence and force of arms, and without all order of law, enter into the same close, being your orator's. And hath ever since kept the possession of the same with like force, and are minded, as their boasts and threatenings doth appear, still to keep the same, and to continue riot to the great disturbance of your orator's quiet possession and of the Queen's Majesty's peace and perilous example and encouragement of like offenders, and to your orator's disinheritance for ever, unless speedy remedy be therein had.

And albeit the same riotous persons divers times since their entering gently required by your orators quietly to depart from the possession of the same close, which they unlawfully have gotten, yet that to do they and every of them have denied, and yet do deny, to the perilous example of like lewd persons to attempt the like lewd offences, if this the lewd act attempted so boldly, contrary to the laws and statutes of the realm, may escape the due and condign punishment worthily deserved. In consideration whereof, may it please your Honour, the Queen's Majesty's writ of Privy Seal to be directed to the said John Barrow and Margaret his wife, to Thomas Starkey and Joan his wife, and to Randle Rylands, commanding them and each of them to appear before your Honour, and there to answer to the premises. And your orator shall daily pray for the long and prosperous success of your Honour's estate."

John Radcliffe, the eldest surviving son of Sir William Radcliffe of Ordsall, was appointed M.P. for Wigan, in the place of Richard Fortesque, Esq., in 1563, and afterwards (1571) as M.P. for the county. He was knighted in 1586, and succeeded to his father's title and estates in 1568. The names and dates of M.P.'s for the county may be seen in the "Lancashire and Cheshire Historian and Genealogical Notes." The grandson of the above-named Sir John Radcliffe was a zealous Royalist in the civil war, and was committed to the Tower for aiding the Earl of Derby at the siege of Manchester.

Hitherto all legal trials had been adjudged at the rector's court. Now the first public building, exclusive of the Parish Church, was built in the small space lying between the east and south entrances to the church. This was the Moot Hall, a representation of which is preserved in the borough arms. Here the Court Leet met and Common Pleas were tried. When it was built, in the sixteenth century, it was a work of superior excellence in local architecture, an adornment to the town, and a necessity for the proper transaction of legal affairs; but in the nineteenth century it was publicly voted an unseemly and gaunt obstruction, and, like despised old age, was hurried into oblivion by the usurpation of more youthful improvements nurtured by the advancements of time. In its latter days it was rented to the county magistrates for about as much as paid for the expenses of keeping it swept, but not garnished. For nearly three centuries law-breakers of every description had had their characters exposed within it; there they received their doom, and left as a legacy the smell of their polluted garments which had so accumulated until the premises smelt like the black hole of Calcutta.

In the first Parliament of Edward VI. (1547 to 1552) the two members for Wigan were Thomas Barlow and Thomas Carus. Thomas Carus, of Kirby Lonsdale, in the county of Westmoreland, was a barrister-at-law, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, and sat as member for Lancaster in 1552-3 and 1566. Thomas Barlow, of Barlow Hall, near Manchester, was returned a representative for the borough in five different Parliaments. He was the son of Elias Barlow, of Barlow, Esq. He died in August, 1584, seventeen years after ceasing to be representative for Wigan.

William Gerard and Thomas Bromley were the Wigan members in the first Parliament of Elizabeth, 1558-9. Gerard was the younger brother of Sir Gilbert Gerard, the Queen's favourite Master of the Rolls. He sat for Preston in 1553, and died 15th April, 1583. Thomas Bromley, Esq., was related to the member for Liverpool of 1553-4, and is supposed to have been Thomas Bromley, of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law, who sat for Bridgnorth in 1558, Guildford 1562, and who was elected Recorder of London in 1566, Solicitor-General 1569, and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal 26th March, 1569. He died in office 12th April, 1587, aged 57 years.

Unhappy indeed is the country which is involved in religious war. Lancashire at this period was the arena of such a strife. Romanism seemed to be predominant, and men acted as if the furies had decided that each man should be the judge of his neighbour's conscience and the executioner of his heretical friend. Wigan was imbrued in the strife, for there both parties were well represented. Toleration was unknown. The winning side raised its standard of presumptive infallibility, and gave no quarter. The zeal of religion drove enthusiasts beyond the bounds of mercy. Papacy *v.* Protestantism: These were the two sides, to one of which everyone had to declare himself an adherent. The beautiful and unfortunate Queen Mary, living in exile in the land to which she was the apparent heiress, was the representative of Romanism, and Elizabeth, the queen regnant, the defender of the Protestant faith. Mary had many adherents in the neighbourhood of Wigan. The local landed proprietors, as has been said, were chiefly of the Roman Catholic faith, but Protestant townsmen had still fresh in their memories the annals of bloody Mary. In the name of religion the parties determined to save the country from spiritual death and consequent political ruin. In the long reign of Elizabeth this, the Rebellion of the Earls (1569), was the only notable rising in the North. Northumberland and Westmoreland were the chiefs, and Lord Derby was also expected to join, as his two sons had already done, but the queen had already appointed him Lieutenant-Governor of the county, and he had taken the oath and so conscientiously fixed his determination. It was chiefly by his indefatigable efforts that the rebellion failed, although the crafty Cecil suspected his fidelity. Of course, there followed the usual public executions, confiscations, and rewards. Eight hundred were publicly gibbeted, and fifty-seven noblemen and gentlemen were attainted.

In the third Parliament of Elizabeth, 1571, the colleague to William Gerard was Owen Radcliffe, of Middleton and Langley, in Rochdale. He was descended from a younger branch of the Radcliffes of Radcliffe Tower, and was eldest son of Richard Radcliffe, of Middleton, whom he succeeded on August 1st, 1576. He died 30th September, 1599.

In 1550 (3rd Edward VI.) an issue was tried between Miles Gerard, Mayor of Wigan, and Sir Thomas Worsley, Sheriff of the county, as to the right of the Mayor of Wigan to sit with the justices of the county and to exercise the authority of a county magistrate in taking recognizances and granting sureties.—(Duchy Records, vol. VI., Placit g. n. 2.) Speaking of the charter of 16th February, 2nd William IV., Baines says (vol. III., p. 536):—"By the previous charter the mayor and ex-mayor (styled the justice) were alone justices of the peace for the borough, &c." This is incorrect. The charter of James II. expressly makes the recorder (as well as the mayor and ex-mayor) a justice of the peace for the borough.

Queen Elizabeth died in the 45th year of her reign, during which time there were 44 Sheriffs of Lancashire. The following is a list in regular rotation:—John Talbot, Rob. Worsley, Joh. Atherton, Joh. Southworth, Tho. Hesketh, Tho. Houghton, Edw. Trafford, Ric. Mollineux, Tho. Laughton, Edw. Holland, Joh. Preston, Tho. Butler, Edw. Trafford, Fran. Holt, Rich. Holland, Will. Boothe, Fran. Holt, Rich. Bold, Rob. Dalton, Johan. Fleetwood, Rad. Ashton, Edw. Trafford, Joh. Byron, Rich. Holland, Joh. Atherton, Edwar. Trafford, Tho. Preston, Richard Asheton, Johan. Fleetwood, Tho. Talbot, Rich. Mollineux, Rich. Bold, Jac. Asheton, Edw. Fitton, Richard Asheton, Radulp Asheton, Tho. Talbot, Richard Holland, Rich. Mollineux, Richard Asheton, Rich. Houghton, Robert Hesketh, Cut. Halsall, Edward Trafford.