

CHAPTER VII.

Derby—Bradshaigh—Balcarres—The King—King's Evil—Patients from Wigan—Bishop Cartwright—General Election—Sixsmith Charity—Rebellion—Mr. Baldwin—Repair of Roads—Petitions—Dr. Layland—Bishop Stratford—The Church—Mayor's Gallery—New Member—Lancaster Plot—Blundell—Dr. Kuerden—Town described—Assault and Battery on Gatewaiters—Cases before the Grand Jury of 1697—Minutes of Court Leet from 1640.

THE direct connection of the Derby family with Wigan was severed by the martyrdom of that Earl who was the great hero of Wigan history during the Commonwealth period. At that time Derby's was undoubtedly the most distinguished family in Wigan. Wigan history was part and parcel of theirs. Considering the social position and power of the Bradshaighs of Haigh, they cannot be complimented on having, at this time, taken any part in guiding, restraining, or inciting Wiganers, or in any direct manner whatever influencing, for good or evil, either the political history or commercial development of Wigan. They were undoubtedly eclipsed, like the Standishes, by Derby. At the Restoration, however, the representative of that ancient family again came to the front, and from that day to this the history of the house of Haigh forms a part of the history of Wigan. Sir Roger, the head of the family then, was created a baronet in the thirty-first year of the reign of Charles II. (1679-80). The eldest sister of the fourth baronet (who died without male issue) inherited the estate, and was married to John Edwin, Esq., son of Sir Humphrey Edwin, and their daughter and heiress, Elizabeth Edwin, afterwards became the wife of Charles Dalrymple, Esq., of North Berwick, and mother of Elizabeth Dalrymple, with whom the estate of Haigh passed into the possession of Alexander Lindsay, sixth Earl of Balcarres, when she was married to him in 1780. The same right honourable family of Lindsay and Balcarres are still in possession of the estates, and have always been closely and kindly associated with the history of Wigan.

The pilgrimages to our Lady of Lourdes in modern times seem to those who do not believe in such things to be absurd in the extreme, but they cause no more excitement than did the pilgrimages of afflicted persons, to be touched for King's Evil, from Wigan to Chester in the seventeenth century. The public of Wigan defrayed all expenses; the Rector, churchwardens, or other influential persons in the town chose the "victims" of their own superstitious beliefs. The wonder is that in believing so much they did not believe much more, and send their blind, maimed, deaf, and dumb to be touched by the Lord's anointed. It needs no great stretch of imagination to see the procession of 21 persons assembled at the old Parish Church, and, after a solemn religious service, doubtless full of faith and fervour, starting with the heartfelt "God bless you" of the assembled inhabitants, and then wending their weary but hopeful way towards old Chester, with faith as great as that of the Jews who went down to the pool of Siloam. If implicity of faith in itself deserves any reward, surely these suffering wretches deserved to have their infirmities removed, for so great was their faith that if they unhappily remained uncured, as for the most part they certainly did, they blamed themselves with keen remorse for the unbelief of their habitually hardened and wicked hearts. It is not difficult to imagine that enthusiastic thought brought temporary relief to many, just as hypochondriac thoughts produce illness, and such convalescents, no doubt, would return with joyful thankfulness to Wigan, and offer praise with gratitude and sanctity in the church of their fathers.

Tyranny, blood, reckless rule, and blind bigotry were the constant allies of the Stuarts. James the Second could learn no lesson from the history of his ancestors. He showed the very same disposition which had roused the people to assassinate, dethrone, and plot against his forefathers. He was persecuting and putting to death witches and loyal subjects by Jeffreys, his proxy, and yet, in the pride of his heart, he believed he was humbling himself to go about doing good, and, strange to say, that, although civilisation had certainly made great progress, there were few in the land who did not believe that there lay in his royal touch the virtue to heal miraculously. Wigan was not the only town that believed in his miraculous power. It held the superstition in common with other towns. The king proclaimed it was his royal pleasure to make a tour through the land, but it was the timidity natural to a tyrant's mind that made him seem to be brave with scowls and angry words. He feared the people, and, whilst he trembled at heart, he made his gay progress, bullying those that hesitated, and favouring or destroying those that boldly braved him, while, to impress the nation at large with his greatness and power, he yielded to the national superstitious prejudice, and condescended to touch and so heal the scrofulous. He did not come to Wigan, but the incurable will go far to a

healing physician. A special order was required to enable the diseased to approach his presence at Chester. The Mayor, Rector, churchwardens, and burgesses issued these special licences, and there was a great demand for them. Special letters of introduction were written to the local authorities, describing the worthiness of the patient, and the licence holders themselves had special friends whom they wished to be made whole. Some were willing to give their wealth, and all earnestly prayed that they might be licensed to go, so firmly did they believe in the efficacy of the King's touch, but the number was limited. It was a time of election enthusiasm in the hot days of August. Twenty-one persons of both sexes and all grades of society were elected to go to Chester to receive the royal doctor's touch. Accompanied by their friends and music, and an important deputation with an introductory loyal address, the feeble pilgrims set out on their march, were touched, and returned, in many cases, the worse for their trouble. Their names are written in the Register (August 26th, 1687).

The following is extracted directly from the Parish Register:—"1687. August 26.—An Account of Certificates given to Persons within this Town and Parish of Wigan to be touched for the King's Evil by King James the Second att Chester City." Here follow the names of 21 persons—men, women, and children.

James II., as Sovereign of England, did not by any means consider himself out of the sphere or above and beyond all parties in politics. Instead of having no impartial leanings, but an honest determination to rule for the good of the country in a manner determined upon by his responsible advisers, he was a strongly biased politician. He was the leader and taskmaster of his own ministers, and those who were unwilling to be subservient to him were by him disqualified to serve him. Powerful and privileged as British Sovereigns justly are, yet each is but one against a nation, and must, as the true representative of the nation, either quietly adopt its views or oppose them with tyrannical force, which may for a time succeed, although ultimately must inevitably succumb to the Constitution. A dogged tyranny was enforced by the Stuarts and their minions, lives as precious, if less noble, were sacrificed to their prejudiced personal convictions about divine right, the fundamental principles of which were that the Constitution was a mere accidental adjunct of the people and the people the personal property of the king. The Constitution and the individual king, with his minions and engines of war, were opposed, and, for a time, at dreadful cost, the latter won; but from the wreck and ruin of demolished properties and exhausted tyranny the Constitution reared its healthy head and peacefully maintained its rights. Thus James II. defied the national feeling, and was a tyrant, both personally and by proxy. His proxy in Wigan was the Rector, Bishop Cartwright, who, himself bearing the message of peace and good will to all men, favoured the king's severity, applauded his inhumanity, and extolled his zeal

for religious and political persecution that sowed broadcast misery in all the land. He, himself a bishop, rejoiced at the persecution and arraignment of his own brethren whom Christianity honoured. He approved of the brutality of Jeffreys simply because the king approved, and he looked with complacency and unchristlike satisfaction on the punishments of those who had broken neither the moral nor divine law, but who had simply violated the superstitious prejudices of the age or dared to think and act inoffensively for themselves.

The king was by no means particular in the choice of his adherents, for necessity is obedient to the law of circumstances. Cartwright, from the mere fact of his being a clergyman, was a man of influence with some classes of people, and was, therefore, likely to be serviceable to the king, and thus royalty itself, so far degraded as to have to pretend to be trustful, made a tool of Cartwright without putting any faith in him or trusting him with any State secrets. The king had no respect for his morality and no faith in his religious belief. He believed he was neither Papist nor Protestant, but it answered his purpose to receive him into his household as a Protestant, believing he was the ordinary type of a clerical place seeker, and one far more capable of and willing to lay down his principles than sacrifice his life for his religion. Whatever Cartwright's end might be, he would certainly not be a martyr. Religion may bring success in life, but success is by no means a proof of religion. Cartwright went on from one preferment to another after the Restoration as if the gods were regardless of his ungodliness. Like all who are not determined to cling to truth and right, he became unstable in all his ways and unhappy in mind. He was constant only in his indecision, and decided only in his endeavours to walk in the ways that seemed to lead to worldly wealth. Even on his death-bed, it is said, although the statement is not confirmed, he secretly acknowledged he was a Papist, and yet publicly declared himself a Protestant, like a condemned murderer who seeks to ease his conscience and obtain pardon by secretly confessing his crime to heaven while denying it to man.

Cartwright can neither be called a good Christian, an able bishop, nor an admirable man. Obsequiousness in any man is despicable, but much more so is it in a clergyman who seeks worldly preferments through it. He was a learned man, but of no steadfast principle or creed in religion. If Mahomedanism could have brought him position in life, there is no reason for believing he would not have been a Mahomedan. It is an easy matter to find fault and condemn, but when a human being has starvation staring him in the face, which a slight wavering of principle alone can avert, one humanely feels there is more room for pity than blame; but when an educated man—already well off in life and a minister of the Gospel—scorns principle, daily acts the hypocrite, and is a constant turncoat for momentary pleasure, the selfishness is so great that one can scarcely repress the

feeling of contempt. Cartwright was a politico-religious weather-vane, and that, too, in boisterous times. His principle was subservient to his interest. His own profit guided his vision and acts. He was the direct contrast of his predecessor, Pearson, who was constant in all things. He had clung to the Monarchy through the dark times of the Great Rebellion because he believed that in the end royalty would win. Like modern Tories, he had no faith in popular revolutions. That the king should have his own again seemed to be his creed, and accordingly he clung to the king, who had no faith in him, but could not afford to dispense with his services. He accompanied the self-exiled tyrannic-coward king to France, and was there chaplain to such of the Royalists as were Protestants. Obsequious professions of loyalty were his instruments of success.

He had been made domestic chaplain to Henry, Duke of Gloucester, Prebendary of Twyford in the Church of St. Paul, of Chalford in the Church of Wells, chaplain in ordinary to the king, and rector of St. Thomas the Apostle, London, and created Doctor of Divinity, although he had not the requisite qualifications to receive that title. In 1672 he was made Prebend of Durham, in 1677 he was made Dean of Ripon, and nearly obtained the bishopric of St. David's. The bishopric of Chester was the direct fruit of his sycophancy and subserviency to the king for boldly asserting in one of his sermons that the king's promises to Parliament were not binding. The Duke of Sunderland, in the king's name, issued a warrant requesting the archbishop to appoint the newly-made Bishop of Chester to the Rectory of Wigan in 1686. The letter was in all respects similar to that issued in favour of Pearson. Copies of both letters may be seen in Local Gleanings, Part VII., Vol. I., p. 264. He was the most prominent ecclesiastical commissioner appointed by James to compel the Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, to accept a Roman Catholic chief. He shared the exile of the king and fled to Ireland to escape the persecutions of his many enemies, begotten by his bitter Jacobite proclivities. He died in Dublin 15th April, 1689, and was buried there.

The following ecclesiastical letter is from an original document in the Tanner MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Vol. 144, f. 34), and published for the first time in the first volume of Local Gleanings:—

James R.

Our Will and Pleasure is, that you grant your dispensation to the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas, Lord Bishop Elect of Chester, to hold the Rectory of Wigan, in our County of Lancaster, and the Diocese of Chester, and the Vicaridge of Barking, in our County of Essex, and the Diocese of London, in Commendam, together with the Bishoprick of Chester, with all the Rights, Profits, and Advantages thereunto belonging. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given at the Court at Windsor the 29th day of September, 1686, in the Second year of Our Reigne.

By his Maities command.

SUNDERLAND.

To the most Reverend Father
in God, William, Lord
Arch-Bishop of Canterbury,
Primate of all England, and
Metropolitan.

Wiganers who were not yet old could remember the terrible times of the Great Rebellion and the jubilant state of the country at the Restoration, and again in 1688 they were forced to interpret with gloomy foreboding the darkening political sky. The infatuated James clung to the doctrines and deeds that had brought his father to the scaffold. He appointed sycophants and place-seekers to be his advisers, and, because they heartily applauded all his speeches and projects, he foolishly persuaded himself he could easily carry everything in the country before him. His injustice and tyranny made the timid tremble, but aroused, also, the unconquerable tempers of gallant men. The timidity of weaklings and the inaction of men who were willing to bear much before they arose against their king was interpreted by him as a sign of national submission and subjugation, and, as if gloating over his own tyranny, he grew still more tyrannous and unconstitutional in his mode of government. Never was there a more cruel, unjust, or bloodthirsty Lord Chancellor than his minion, Jeffreys. The folly of the king's wisdom was soon seen. His rebellious subjects invited the Prince of Orange to accept the crown, and then James, like every tyrant, was shown to be a coward at heart. In the only Parliament of James Wigan burgesses had sold or given themselves over to the royal party, the Tory, but they soon regretted their act. The cautious William, before he was proclaimed king, summoned a council of Lords and those who had been members of Parliament in the reign of Charles II., and, by their advice, called upon boroughs and counties to send their representatives to a General Convention, for he was careful not to use the word Parliament, although the Convention was afterwards constituted a Parliament. According to a proclamation made by William in the *London Gazette* of 7th January, 1688-9, the election war cry of "a fair field and no favour" went forth. All soldiers were to be withdrawn from the neighbourhood on the election days, and burgesses and other voters were to be left entirely to the freedom of their own will. They were not to be influenced in any way whatever. Writs were issued, but there were few contests, and yet most of the old members were ousted. In Wigan, as in most other places, political feeling ran high. There the government of the king had been condemned before his flight, although, as usual, Wigan staunchly adhered to the king personally. The inhabitants had long before determined to oust the two Tory members, Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Lord Charles Murray, the son-in-law of Lord Derby, and to return their own representatives. They had determined that neither money nor exertion should be spared to return two Whigs, and when the day of battle came the voters, like one man, went for and returned Sir Edward Chisenhall, knight, and William Bankes, both Whigs of their own choice. There was no corruption, and their votes had no market value, as on previous occasions. Conscience and a purity ticket

carried the day. It was the first election in Wigan by which two Whigs were returned, and that, too, at the humiliation of two Tories. The Convention was dissolved on the 26th February, 1688-9, and a general election for the first Parliament under William and Mary took place in Wigan on the 20th March, 1689-90, when a Tory, Peter Shackerley, and a Whig, Sir Richard Standish, Bart., were returned. This change in the representation was caused by the political reaction consequent on the general ill-feeling aroused by the vindictiveness of the Whigs. Not only were the seats contested in Wigan, but all over the country, with a decided Tory majority as a result.

Robert Sixsmith, by his will bearing date 4th January, 1688, devised two closes in Wigan and one in Ince-in-Mackerfield to the poor, indigent, and needful people in Wigan, for ever, at the will and discretion of his trustees, together with the overseers of the town, ten days before Christmas yearly. The receipts in 1839 were about £30 a year, one-half of which went to the poor of Scholes, and the remainder was divided amongst the indigent of Hallgate, Millgate, Standishgate, and Wallgate. Full particulars of this charity may be seen in the Report of the Commissioners (1839). The Commissioners found great objection to the manner in which the charity was distributed, especially in the case of the overseers, who gave a moiety of the sum at their disposal to every poor person. "Except the Rector," says the Report, "all the persons above-named (distributing overseers) have adopted nearly the same mode of distribution, and have given something to every poor person in their respective districts. As the population is very large, the sums given to each scarcely ever exceed one shilling, and are very frequently as low as twopence. This practice seems highly objectionable, and we think it is incumbent upon the trustees to meet together and decide upon a more useful system of application, and it seems desirable that they should unite in selecting the objects of charity instead of leaving the choice to any individual."

Mr. Baldwin, of Standishgate, was churchwarden in 1676 and mayor in 1689. His grandson was the Rev. Thomas Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, whose daughter, Mary Ann, was married to John Woodcock, of Newburgh. Their son, Thomas, founded the Wigan Bank in 1792. A detailed account of this prominent and esteemed family will be given in its chronological position.

Cromwell complained of the badness of the roads in the neighbourhood of Wigan in his day, and, although they were repaired, yet one could scarcely believe, without written testimony, how disreputable was their condition in the reign of James II. The worst country lanes of the present day are in a far better condition than the turnpikes of Wigan were in 1688. Had Wigan been a mere outside country village, this would not have been so very remarkable; but it was one of

the most important towns on the great highway to the North. King's messengers and troops to and from Scotland by the west coast route had to pass through it. Merchants with their carts, ladies and gentlemen in their carriages, and equestrian travellers traversed these roads, which were narrow and ill-kept, covered with rocks and hills, hollows and ruts like ditches right across, boggy, sinking, and soft. Groves, bushes, brooms, brambles, and gorse grew irregularly here and there, sometimes even in the very middle of the highway, whilst trees spread their great branches over to the danger of the traveller. It was decided at the Quarter Sessions of 1688 that a thorough renovation should take place, and, had the order then issued been carried out, roads of a most excellent description would have been made; but thirty-four years afterwards—1722—as lamentable an account as ever is given of the king's highway. It is evident that in 1688 the turnpikes were so disreputably and irretrievably bad that the expense of repairing them frightened the overseers from undertaking a thorough repair. Private enterprise was necessary, but found wanting, and no way of recouping the expenditure could be hit upon without a special Act of Parliament, which was certainly not applied for then. Tolls did not exist near Wigan then, nor could they be erected without the consent of Parliament. In the following order the condition of the road is well described. It is taken from the Chetham Society's Publications, vol. ix., p. 174 (the Norris Papers):—

Order of Sessions for Repair of Roads in the Hundred of West Derby. 1688.

At a General Quarter Sessions tent, per adjorn, apud Ormskirke, in the P. Com. Lanc., decimo sexto die Julii et majestatis Domini Jacobi secundi Angli, &c., quarto.

This Court, upon consideracon of the great decay of the King's high wayes, and the long neglect of the sufficient repaires thereof in this county, resolving to make a thorowe reformacon hereof in each Town and Vill., Doth hereby order that all and every the King's Highwayes in each parish, Towne, and place, within the hundred of Darby, shall forthwith be put in perfect and good repaire, that they may be made soe wide, soe smoothed from little rocks, little hills, hollows, and sloods, and all unevenesse, free from all boggie, sinking, soft, deep, and formed crouse places, ridd of all sorts of rubbish, and so sufficiently passable throughout that all coaches, carts, and carriages may safely, in all places, going by the calsey, meet and passe each other; that all ditches which convey the water crosse the highway be soughed with wall stone, and well covered throughout, from one side of the lane to the other; that the ditches running on each side of the lane be well secured, and the earth or sand cast thereout not left in heaps, but either spread to levell the way in lowe places or removed out of the way. That hedges on each side of the lanes be cutt, and the trees lopped that in any wise annoy the highway, and the loppings removed out of the way. That all trees, underwood, groves, bushes, brooms, brambles, gorses, and the like, be well ridd up, and totally removed out of the said lanes. And that all the holes occasioned by ridding the same, as also all pits, stacks and hollows, little hills, and heaps of earth and rubbish be levelled and made even. Where the said wayes are cumbered with loose stones or other rubbish, or knotty, uneven calseys, that such calsey be pulled up and new paved, and the unnecessary stones and rubbish removed, and that all calseys be made of the full breadth of one yard and a quarter, of round stones, and not of flaggs, and that all places where calseys are of flaggs, that if round stones may be had with a reasonable charge, that the flagged calseys be pulled

up, and new causeys with round stones made in the place or such other place of the lane as may be more convenient of the full length aforesaid, or a well gravell'd way in lieu thereof, and that there be no channel paved for the water to be drained crossed the causey, except such drains be souged, covered, and paved over, and that it be so covered the full breadth of the causey as may make it safe by day and night for horsemen to ride over. And all and every the overseers of the highways within the said hundred are hereby required to see this order duly and fully executed. And this Court, being of opinion that no gentleman will take it amisse to be intreated to promote and give his help to soe publique and soe good a worke, hath thought fit to noiate for each pish wthin this Hundred of Darby severall Gentlemen, and so desire them or any two or more of them to call before them the respective overseers of the highways within each township within the said pishes, and with them to inspect the severall Highways, and upon their view to direct each overseer within his particular precinct what reformatacon, according to the Court's direction before herein specified, is to be had in all points, and how and in what manner the said overseer, with the aid of the instructions, shall proceed. And that the said Gents., or some of them, will please to have sometimes an eye to the said workes whilst they are in doinge, and will at the next sessions after Michaelmas next certifie the Court how this worke is in all or in part performed, and which of the said overseers or Inhabitants have been remisse or faultie, and howe or what part of the wayes or workes is neglected or omitted, and why? that the Court may at the said sessions take such course thereupon as the case shall require, and to these ends the Court hath thought fit to noiate for the severall pshes the persons following, viz, for the parish of Wigan:—

Thos. Gerard, Esq. ; Wm. Standish, Esq. ; Philip Langton, Esq. ; Wm. Bankes, Esq. ; Thos. Ashton, Esq. ; Bertie Entwisle, Esq. ; Peter Adlington, Esq. ; Mr. Thos. Ince, Mr. Peter Worthington, Mr. Robert Markland, Mr. Peter Catterall, Mr. Wm. Blayborne, Mr. Lawrence Anderton.

And, lastly, it is ordered that the High Constables of other parishes then polling the Hundred of Darby shall forthwith send copies of this order at large, to be sent to some of the Gentlemen herein named of each pish within the said Hundred, to be communicated to the rest within his pish respectively.

KENTON.

The three following petitions for 1689 are of great interest. The first one shows clearly what an immense hold the Common Council had over the ordinary inhabitants of the town. The Prussian military system of the present day can scarcely be more disagreeable or strict. A man could neither go out of the town nor go into it without the consent of the Council. If one wished to go to another borough, he had first of all to report himself before the Common Council, there make known his intentions, and receive a certificate testifying to his abilities, conduct, and social and monetary condition. No sort of work, however menial, could be performed without the consent of the local viceregal government, and even Crouchley and Taylor, the petitioners, could not undertake to awaken the workpeople during the dark wintry mornings for a few odd coppers a week without a special licence from the overseeing body. In the other two petitions the most remarkable thing is the difference of amount of payment for being sworn a burgess. Why James Ashcroft, the mason, had only to pay forty shillings, whilst Richard Marand or Macand had to pay ten pounds for the same privileges can scarcely be imagined. They were both most unlikely to become burdensome to the town. Ashcroft, of

course, was a naturalised Wiganer, whilst the other hailed from Warrington at the time of his application, and this is undoubtedly the reason of the difference, although it is probable that the great Common Council wished to discourage making burgesses of bachelors :—

To the Wo^d the Maior, Aldermen, Common Concill, and Burgesses at the Leette assembled.

The humble petition of Thomas Crouchley and Lawrence Taylor,

Humbly sheweth,—That whereas your pet^{rs}. for severall years Last past have gone thorrow the Streets to call on people in a morning during the winter time. And also sheweth that your peticoners are Laborious men, and able and willing to serve this Corporation, as formerly they have done, in calling on people of the Towne as aforesaid.

Therefore your peticoners humbly pray that your Worpps. will be pleased to admitt them to go thorrow the Towne as formerly they have done. And your peticoners, as in duety bound, will ever pray.

The answer given by the jury to the petitioners' prayer was :—

Wee allow this petition, and order syd pet^{rs}. to begin on Monday next, and continue till syd 14th of february.

The next petition of the same date is as follows :—

To the Wo^d. the Maior, Aldermen, and Common Council att this time assembled.

The humble petition of James Ashcroft, Mason,

Sheweth,—That whereas your petitioner for the space of seaven years Last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of a Mason, and hath demeaned himself well therein, and also sheweth that your petitioner for the space of ffoure years last past hath served as Journeyman to the said trade of a Mason, and hath maryed a wife in this town, and hath lived in it ever since for the space of ffoure years last past, and hath behaved himselfe honestly within this said town. And hath a legall settlement within this Corporation. And as he, your petitioner, is informed, cannot be removed out of the Corporation lawfully. And further sheweth that your petitioner was fined at the last Leet by the Jury then sworne.

Therefore he humbly prayeth the said fine may be remitted, and your petitioner sworne a freeman of this Corporation, paying some small sum of money as your Worpp^s. in your discretion shall thinke fitt. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

The order of the Court was :—

Wee order him to bee sworne a freeman, paying ffourty shillings, and his ffine remitted.

Wee order Jonathan Standish to have his ffine remitted him.

JOHN LOW, Juryman.

The next petition was :—

To the Worpp^s. the Major, Aldermen, and Common Council att this time assembled.

The humble petition of Richard Marand (Macand?) of Warrington, Cutler,

Sheweth,—Whereas your petitioner for the space of four years last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of Cutler . . . hath worked for himselfe, and being a single man, and not likely to become chargeable to the Towne. And desirous to serve the same according to his power.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays your Worships to admitte him a freeman of this Burrough, paying such reasonable sume as your Worships shall thinke fitt. And your petr. will ever pray.

The decision of the jury was :—

Wee order the petr. to bee sworne a freeman forthwith, paying the sume of ten pounds before he bee sworne.

Dr. John Leland, who was born in Wigan 13th October, 1691, was a man of great ability and extensive learning, and so tenacious was his memory, and so extensively had he read, that he was commonly called "The Walking Library." His memory and intellect formed a most peculiar gift. Whilst yet a lad, in his sixth year, his parents were so pecuniarily embarrassed in Wigan as to have to give all they had to their creditors and remove to Dublin in search of work, where, although the parents were successful, young Leland unfortunately had a virulent attack of small pox, which loathsome disease, if it makes not a victim of its subject, almost invariably deprives it of some faculty or limb, and it was the misfortune of Leland to be totally deprived of intellect and memory. He forgot even the letters he had been taught, and was literally unconscious of his unhappy existence. He remained so for a year, after which he not only recovered his faculties, but was found to possess such a retentive memory that he remembered everything he afterwards read only once, although he never recalled anything of his previous existence. He was educated for the dissenting church, distinguished himself in literature, received the well-earned and honourable degree of D.D. from Aberdeen University, lived a useful life, and died at the age of 75 on the 16th January, 1766.

Perhaps no man was better known in Wigan at this period than Dr. Stratford, the rector, who was also bishop of Chester. His closely-shaven face, open countenance full of sympathetic expressions, marked him as a sincere Christian, who went about continually doing good. His complacent smiles, like the rays of the sun, were welcomed at every poor man's door. When people saw him in the streets there was no running away, skulking round corners, nor anxiety to avoid him, but, on the contrary, all, like loving children, sought his smiles and condolences as if he were indeed their affectionate father. He was rector of Wigan, and not rector of the Parish Church only. Yet he lived in days of persecution, when it was no easy matter to win the confidence, esteem, and affection of all sects. Then it was the fashion to trample upon small dissenters, but the rector, like his Lord and Master, would not believe the dissenters were sinners above all others, but gave them credit for having reasoning powers and consciences of their own, and he refused to persecute them, although he had the power, and would certainly have received honours of men for acts of zealous bigotry. To him drunkenness was far more abhorrent than dissent. He knew the subtleties and deceits of life, as well as the unreasonableness of sectarian bigots, and, although a bishop, he walked humbly before God in the sight of his fellow-men. He could, and did, adapt his language to any society: to the poor and uneducated he talked freely and convincingly in the most homely words, and to those of a superior education he conversed with ease and versatility, being at all times exemplary in his actions, sincere and devout in his language. He was beloved both by his

clergy and people, yet, although he never used threat, intimidation, or force, as he might lawfully have done, against dissenters, he was strictly orthodox in his views—a strong believer in Episcopacy and a firm supporter of the English Church.

The plainness of the bishop's style, and his zeal for men's welfare, may best be known from the following letter, written in November, 1699, to a country squire. The original letter is in the possession of the Rev. J. Clowes, Broughton :—

Your request was easily granted, for I am myself inclined to give the best encouragement I can to the poor curates as long as they continue diligently in the discharge of their duty. But I have now, sir, a request to make to you, which I heartily pray you may as readily grant me—and this is, that you will for the future abandon and abhor the sottish vice of drunkenness, which (if common fame be not a great liar) you are much addicted to. I beseech you, sir, frequently and seriously to consider the many dismal fruits and consequences of this sin. Even in this world how destructive it is to all your most valuable concerns and interests; how it blasts your reputation, destroys your health, and will, if continued, bring you to a speedy and untimely death, and, which is infinitely more dreadful, will exclude you from the kingdom of Heaven, and expose you to that everlasting fire where you will not be able to obtain so much as one drop of drink to cool your tongue. I have not leisure to proceed in this argument, nor is it needful that I should, because you yourself can enlarge upon it without my assistance. I assure you, sir, this advice now given you proceeds from sincere love and my earnest desire to promote your happiness, both in this world and the next, and I hope you will be pleased so to accept it from, sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

A more exemplary or conscientious man than Dr. Stratford never walked on the streets of Wigan. He felt that a great spiritual charge had been committed to his trust, and he was sincerely anxious to do his duty to God and man. The desire he had for the moral welfare of his diocese, and for the good of his clergy, may best be gathered from the following letter of his to the Archbishop of York, proposing to make a visitation :—

To ye Archbishop of York.

May it please yr. Grace,

I thankfully acknowledge yr. Condescension in returning an Answer to my last Letter. I humbly crave leave to trouble yr Grace but this once more. Whether yr Grace intends a metropolitical visitation this year, I know not; I fear you are not in so good a state of health (wch I heartily pray for) as to visit in yr own person, my humble request therefore to yr Grace is, yt you will be pleas'd to give me leave to visit this year. That I may not seem impertinent in this Request, I humbly offer to yr Grace's consideration, yt for thirteen years last past (as my Chancellor tells me), no visitation has been made by any bishop of this diocese; that by reason of this long neglect many things are scandalously amisse, and very much need correction; yt I have endeavour'd to gett ye best information I can of what is amisse, and if yr grace permitt me to visit I shall by God's assistance endeavour to ye utmost of my power to reform and correct all disorders.

I hope yr Grace's Officers will have no just reason to complain, because their fees will only be deferr'd till ye next year, wch they can't think hard if they consider, how much money they have had in six months space out of this Diocese (as appears by ye Paper enclos'd, subscrib'd by my Chancellor). However I shall humbly acquiesce in yr Grace's judgement & pleasure & if you judge it not fitt to give me this Liberty, it will be a satisfaction to my own mind, yt I have discharg'd my duty in requesting it.

I formerly signified to yr. Grace, yt your Mandate for ye Election of Proctors for ye Convocation came too late to my hands (I being then attending upon ye Parliament) yt I could not send a Commission to Richmond before ye time appointed for ye Election was pass'd; if therefore yr Grace will be pleased to issue forth another mandate for ye choice of a Person to serve for ye Archdeaconry of Richmond, I will take care to see it executed in due time. I earnestly beg your Grace's blessing. I am sincerely

Yr Grace's humble & obedient Servt.

Chester Jan. 19. 1690.

N. CHESTER.

It requires either a good deal of honest zeal or an unlimited amount of vain-glorious hypocrisy to bring parishioners four or five miles in cold and stormy weather to hear a conventional sermon. There are many places in England, Scotland, and Ireland where this is done at the present day; but about this period the majority of parishes had their boundaries far away from the church. The district of Wigan was exceptionally well supplied, for Blackrod, Standish, and Upholland Priory were all comparatively near; but the Hindley people had no place of worship nearer than the mother church of Wigan, and it is not to be wondered at that great efforts were made by them to get a sacred edifice of their own. Judging from the wills and indentures still extant, the more prosperous tradesmen of Hindley must have been tailors, tanners, and weavers. The inhabitants, Conformists and Nonconformists, with their voluntary contributions, in 1641, erected a chapel, just after the passing of the Act of Uniformity, and 21 years after the founding of Hindley Grammar School. The inhabitants generally took the advice of the Wigan clergy about the choice of their pastor, and especially is it mentioned that they consulted Mr. Roe, the curate of the Bishop of Chester as well as Rector of Wigan, afterwards Doctor of Divinity and Warden of Manchester. In 1698 they were in great trouble, as they were not unanimous whether to have a conforming or nonconforming clergyman. The Commissioners who tried this ecclesiastical dispute met at the Town Hall at Wigan. The very interesting evidence of John Prescott, of Hindley, should be perused by the reader. It is given in the "Documents relating to the Township of Hindley," by John Leyland, Esq.

The bishop requested Mr. Bradshaw to read prayers, according to the usage of the Church of England, in Hindley Chapel, but Mr. Bradshaw refused, and so was turned out by the bishop, and for some time after Hindley had no minister. Mr. Dennis was afterwards ordained by the bishop and presented to the living there.

The enforcement of claims to earthly rights is perfectly compatible with Christian sincerity and conduct, and of this Bishop Stratford was an excellent example. Although altogether opposed to the doctrines of Dissent, he had no ill-feeling towards individual Dissenters, and, as a bishop of the Church of England, he felt it to be incumbent upon him, as a representative of Episcopacy in his diocese, to defend the Church against the encroachments of Dissenting bodies, whose

advancements he resolutely opposed, whilst sternly refusing to budge from his own standpoint or yield an inch of the Church's property. The following letters of his are given as illustrative of such conduct:—

To Mr. Goldsmith.

Honoured Sir,—I was a little surprised when I heard that Wettenhall Chapel was, by the order of the Justices of the Quarter Sessions of Nantwich, registered for a meeting place of Dissenters. I think they have invaded not only the Vicar of Over's rights, but mine too, it being a chapel of ease (as I am informed) belonging to the Church of Over, and under my jurisdiction. I entreat the favour of you to let me know, by a line or two directed to me at Wigan, upon what grounds the Justices proceeded, and what were the reasons and motives that induced them thereto. I heartily thank you and your lady (to whom and to your mother I present my humble service) for my very kind entertainment at Nantwich, and for your good company at Chester.

I am, sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 18, 1692.

To Mr. Sherrard.

Good Sir,—This morning I received your letter, with a certificate enclosed. The certificate was, I suppose, tendered to the Justices at the Quarter Sessions at Nantwich to procure their votes for the registering of Wettenhall Chapel for a meeting place for Dissenters. I am glad to find that Mr. Wilbraham, of Darfold, did not give his consent, and I wish I was as well assured that Sir Thomas Wilbraham did not. I a little wonder that the Justices should take upon them to dispose those places to Dissenters which were never intended by the Act of Indulgence, and which by the law of the land belongeth to other sons.

Wettenhall Chapel (as I am informed) is an ancient consecrated place, and a member of the Church of Over. If any of the members should have the impudence to certify your Parish Church of Tarpurley for a meeting place, I think the Justices might with as much justice and reason order it to be registered for that use. And (as I am told) some of them confidently say that they expect are long to be possessed of our churches. I have already sent out a citation for Mr. Barnett. I shall, when opportunity serves, take advice upon the case. I pray present my humble service and thanks to Mr. Wilbraham, and you may (if you please) communicate this letter to him. I beg the assistance of your prayers for, sir, your affectionate brother,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 22, 1692.

To Mr. Peter Wilbraham.

Honoured Sir,—Though I am already assured, by the information I have received from others, that you did not give your consent that Wettenhall Chapel should be set apart for a meeting place for Dissenters; yet because those who have usurped that chapel falsely affirm you did, and because it was recorded at the Quarter Sessions at Nantwich, upon a pretended certificate, that you and Sir Thomas Wilbraham had given your consent, I therefore entreat the favour of you that you will be pleased to signify to me in a line under your own hand that you did not consent to it. Considering it is a business in which not only my own right, but that of the Church is concerned, you will, I doubt not, excuse this trouble from, sir, your faithful and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 30th, 1692.

To Mr. Lee, of Darnhall.

Sir,—I heartily wish you had acquainted me with your design upon Wettenhall Chapel before you had proceeded to get it certified and recorded, since if you had done so I question not but I should have offered such matters to your consideration as would have diverted you from it. I cannot think (had you duly considered it) you would have attempted a thing which is likely to prove of such mischievous consequence to that national Church of which you own yourself to be a member, there

being no parish church in the nation (nor cathedral neither) which may not be usurped by the same methods which have been used for the obtaining this chapel, which is indeed no more than what some Dissenters expect, who (if I am truly informed) have not spared to say that they hope ere long to be possessed not only of our chapels, but of our churches too. I am persuaded that which chiefly moved you to this enterprise was the want of constant preaching in that chapel. This grievance I should have eased you of by providing for the future such a supply as should have given satisfaction to you and to all persons who are lovers of peace and truth (though the want of this could warrant no man to invade another man's rights). Could I, sir, obtain but an hour's discourse with you, I hope an end might be put to this dispute; but if not, you cannot justly blame me though I use such legal means as I think myself in conscience obliged to use for the vindicating the rights of our Church.

I am, sir, your faithful friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, August 11, 1692.

I entreat you return an answer by the bearer.

A great change, which was, perhaps, no improvement, was now made in the Parish Church. The ancient governing body of the borough had assumed greater dimensions and importance, and so wanted greater honours. A specially distinguished seat was wanted for the Mayor in the church, and it was proposed that, for this purpose, a gallery, to be afterwards called "The Mayor's Gallery," should be erected by a skilful artificer on the south side of the church. The seats in this gallery which were not occupied by the Mayor were to be sold or let to parishioners, and the proceeds to be given as salary to the organist. The necessary petition to obtain leave from Bishop Stratford to build this gallery was duly presented by the Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens. Leave was obtained, and the gallery built by the skilful artificer, Adam Cooper, in 1692.

It occupied "the space of one arch between the west end wall and the two first pillars in the middle aisle or nave of the church, whose front from north to south between the two pillars was in length nineteen feet and a half or thereabouts, and whose breadth or depth was the whole space reaching from the said front to the west end wall or window, and contained in it eleven seats in number, with a passage between them and the landing place at the head of the stairs leading up to it." When a dispute arose in 1847 as to the right of the Rector or others to remove this gallery, a committee was appointed, under the chairmanship of John Lord, mayor of the borough, to make enquiries. This committee found "that by a certain faculty or grant, dated the 13th day of March, 1709, the Lord Bishop of Chester for the time being granted and confirmed to the Rector (Edward Finch) of the Parish Church of Wigan that gallery."

Sometimes these seats were held at a yearly rental, and sometimes sold to families. One old indenture is still extant. It was drawn up on June 25th, 1729, "between William Parr, of Whitehaven, in the county of Cumberland, dyer, eldest son and heir of John Parr, late of Wigan, dyer, deceased, and Thomas Bannister,

of Wigan, linen weaver. William Parr sells for three pounds and ten shillings the sixth seat, numbered 38. Signed, William Parr. The seal is a naked boy with whip, carrying a lantern. Motto: Sans eglat sans brvii. The delivery and sealing witnessed by Thomas Royle, James Grayson, and Edward Roughsedge." Nicholas Parr was bailiff of Wigan in 1718, and Thomas Parr bailiff in 1721. This was the sixth seat, but John Parr had also purchased the fifth seat, numbered 37, which was, no doubt, retained by the representatives of the family then resident in Wigan. Adam Cooper, the architect of the gallery, also disposed of the seats, and that by documents of a somewhat pompous nature. The following document, certifying to the sale and purchase of seats 37 and 38, is written on parchment:—

To all Xtian people to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas the Right Reverend ffather in God, Nicholas, Lord Bishopp of Chester and Rector of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster and Dyocesse of Chester, did, by his Letters Testimoniall, under his seale episcopall, dated att Chester aforesaid the twenty-fourth day of March last past, and in the third yeare of his Consecracon, Grant his full Lycence, leave, and authority to the Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens of Wigan aforesaid, or any three of them, to contract with and appoint any such skilful Artificer as they should approve of to erect and build a Loft or Gallery on the south side of the body of the Parish Church of Wigan aforesaid, with a convenient staircase to the same to the end convenient seates or pewes might be made therein, and disposed of to the use of the inhabitants and parishioners there, at the discretion of the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens. And whereas the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens did therefore contract with and appoint mee, Adam Cooper, of Wigan aforesaid, Architecte, to erect and build the said Loft or Gallery and Staircase, and to dispose of the seates or pewes therein att the rates and prices in the said contract and appointment, limited and directed, which said Loft or Gallery and Staircase being now by me erected accordingly, and by the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens approved of. Now knowe yee, therefore, that I, the said Adam Cooper, for and in consideracon of the sume of Six pounds and Tenne shillings of lawfull money of England, to mee in hand paid before the sealeing and delivery of these presents by John Parr, of Wigan aforesaid, Dyer, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold, and disposed of (as much as in mee is), and by these prsents doe bargain, sell, and dispose of, the ffith and sixth seates or pewes in the seacond halfe Arch of the said Loft or Gallery (vizt) 37 and 38, together with the use, benefit, and advantage of the said staircase, and all the rights, priviledges, and advantages thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining to the said John Parr, his heires and assigns, to have, hold, use, occupie, possesse, and enjoy the same, to the use of the said John Parr, his heires and assignes, ffor ever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto putt my hand and seale this second day of November, in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred ninety and twoe.

(Signed, on the parchment)

ADAM COOPER.

(Signed, below pendant seal)

JO PARR.

The seal is a griffin, bearing in its beak an olive branch. The deed is endorsed "Sealed, signed, and del'ved in the presence of us, Thos. Banckes, Robt. Finch (?), Ra. (?) Banckes, Edward Herle."

John Byrom, who was elected member for the borough on the death of Sir Richard Standish, belonged to a very old local family. In 1695 there were three candidates for the two Wigan seats, and the lowest on the poll, Thomas Rigby, Esq.,

petitioned against the return of Peter Shakerley, but, either fearing expense or further defeat, withdrew. At the next election of 1698 he tried again to gain the seat, but failed, and, feeling aggrieved by the odds of bribery, he petitioned against the return of both members, but unsuccessfully. He seems to have been determined to win a seat in Wigan, and he did so in 1701.

The history of a country proceeds from its social centre of royalty, for the history of a king is the history of the country. Its annals literally fluctuate with every political breeze, and yet are obedient to the great tidal laws of progression and retrogression. The great wars and political movements of civilisation may take centuries to pass over a country whose progress is, nevertheless, increased or delayed by every internal or external national commotion.

The great revolution which was finally consummated at the abdication of James II. was but the climax of that in active existence at the beginning of the Plantagenet period. Because neither barons nor common Britons would be slaves, at the great risk of losing their lives and liberties they rebelled, and compelled John to sign Magna Charta. The whole nation, under the guidance of Leicester, craving for right and liberty, forced Henry III. to grant a Constitutional Government. In the very next reign (Edward I.) the people advanced their liberties and powers by literally purchasing the power of controlling taxation, and thereby gained the strongest hold over an otherwise absolute monarchy, and so were legally able to govern such of their kings as afterwards proved themselves unable to govern for themselves. Yet, though their power was strong, their conservative forbearance frequently tempted ambitious, tyrannical, and self-willed sovereigns to enforce illegal taxes or issue unjust laws until the might of the king was often arrayed against the right of the people, when, so stubborn were both parties, neither would willingly yield till one was forcibly made the victim of the other. The climax came with the arbitrary Stuarts, and the people gained their desire: thus the revolution was complete in its object, and protected liberty was attained. Thus the Constitution of England, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons, was irrevocably established peacefully, after centuries of struggling.

Like a frail barque on a stormy ocean, English freedom was often in peril, but at last brought into the constitutional haven. Yet it could not be expected that the whole nation would quietly agree with and accept the new state of affairs. There were such things as confiscations, gains, and losses to influence men's actions and principles. Those who had received honours and wealth at the hands of the abdicated king must support their king or lose their power. It must be a trying ordeal for men even of the highest principles to determine to cling to forlorn hope when their adherence is almost certain to cost power, possession, and title, which

they might retain by simply remaining inactive or neutral. In all revolutions there are turncoats, as well as men of principle who will yield to nothing but conviction, although it is accepted as right that the zealously adhering few should be forced to yield for the good of the many. In England William was opposed by many zealous Jacobites, and, urged to action by the obstinacy of similar opposing parties in Scotland and Ireland, he determined to put down all by the strong hand of the law. He had been invited to England with his troops; he had accepted the crown voluntarily offered by a grateful people, and now persons in high places were negotiating with the self-exiled king, to whom invitations to return and claim his own were sent, and favourable feelings towards him were fostered, while many had already taken up arms in his cause. Under such circumstances William must either have yielded in a craven manner or boldly determined to stem the rising and reactionary tide by force. He chose the latter, and offered rewards for the discovery of those inclined to show their discontent by action. When rich rewards are offered there are always many who are anxious to claim, and many even would be willing to betray their friends for the possession of the filthy representative of wealth, even at the price of perjuring their souls' happiness. It was so in the search for these Jacobites, local instances of which alone shall be mentioned here. Some of the best families in the neighbourhood of Wigan were suspected, apprehended, and tried, chiefly at the instance of one Lunt by name. This Lunt, who persecuted his superiors, held firmly to his only invariable and despicable principle that it was right to enrich himself by every method which his nefarious mind suggested. The lives of honourable men were nothing to him compared with his corruptible gain. He had been born poor, but had tasted the licentious pleasures of wealth, for which he had acquired an insatiable greed. As a young man he was a common labourer, at a shilling a day, but afterwards rose to the rank of coachman, and then, as the result of his unprincipled jobbery, he had a footman of his own, and lived at the rate of a thousand a year. He hired himself as a decoy or spy to a government that surely deserves no honourable mention for such work. This lying villain trumped up information, amongst others, against Lord Mollineux, Sir William Gerard, Sir Rowland Stanley, Bart., Sir Thomas Clifton, Bart., Bartholomew Walmsley, William Dicconson, Philip Langton, Esq., and William Blundell, Jun., Gent., Mr. Leigh Bankes, Mr. Legh, of Lyme, and three sons of Mrs. Culcheth, a local Popish lady.

An Englishman's house is his castle, but the results of the plot of 1694 proved that it was no protection to him. The royalist detectives were pilferers and robbers. In Wigan and its neighbourhood they broke into houses of loyal subjects who were often suspected simply because they were rich. Diamonds, jewels, articles of vertu, money were carried away by pretentious and indignant thieves protected by royal

warrants of special privilege, not indeed to rob, although sack the houses they did. The origin of this despicably-managed investigation was the Lancaster plot, which was concocted at Standish Hall for replacing the Stuarts on the throne. It was the ancient seat of the Jacobite and Catholic family of Standish.

It is true the accused were not innocent, but Lunt's evidence was in great part trumped up. The Catholics in the neighbourhood of Wigan secretly determined to support James. The plot was concocted at Standish, and preparations to help the exiled king were quietly effected. Soldiers were raised from such Irish labourers in London as were discontented with England, who enlisted because they had failed to find work. Accoutrements and ammunition were stored in many Catholic houses. Lord Delamere, however, counteracted the efforts of these enthusiastic Jacobites by raising 40,000 soldiers. For his timely service to the crown he was elevated to the peerage, with the title of Lord Warrington.

The family of Blundell came over with the Conqueror. As a Papist, the accused William was excluded from many of the advantages of education open to other Englishmen of his station, yet he was a distinguished scholar and soldier. He was saved from sharing in the licentious habits of young gentlemen of his time by marrying an amiable lady when he was only fifteen years of age. He was rendered a cripple for life at the attack on Lancaster (1642), under Lord Derby, whose lady, in her celebrated heroic defence of Lathom House, he assisted. He adhered to Prince Charles and lost his estates, which he re-purchased, and now, in the reign of William, when he is 75 years old, at the instigation of the unprincipled vagabond, Lunt, the Dutch troops enter his house by force at half-past five in the morning, with the intention of carrying him off as their prisoner. The son gave himself up in his stead, and thus old Mr. Blundell was tried by proxy, which was considered quite a legitimate thing by the authorities of the time.

These gentlemen were first imprisoned in London and carried to Manchester for trial, in which town public excitement had been fomented to a great degree. Both the characters of the accusers and the dangers of the accused were known. Lunt swore that he knew each of the prisoners, but on being asked to point out specially-named ones he was always wrong, proving thereby he knew not one from the other. His examination was but a series of perjuries, and the whole trials seemed ridiculous. When the prisoners were allowed to speak for themselves, Stanley finished by saying, "We shall show your lordships and the gentlemen of the jury that this is a bloody conspiracy against our lives for the sake of our estates, carried on by indigent and necessitous villains." The witnesses for the defence were called, one of whom alone, in one sentence, showed that Lunt should have stood at the bar. Lunt had said to him, "What I now do is for King James's service, for I am now more capable of

serving him than ever I was in my life, for I can command the Dutch troops now at Wigan, and if King James appears, they shall all stand for him." Lord Macaulay briefly says, "The prisoners at the bar were instantly acquitted; those who had not been tried were set at liberty; the witnesses for the prosecution were pelted out of Manchester; the clerk of the crown narrowly escaped with life; and the judges took their departure amidst hisses and execration."—(Abbott's Journal.)

The town of Wigan in 1695 stands before us like a photograph, so clearly is it depicted by Kuerden. The names of the families and the very spots on which their houses were built are accurately given. The appearance of the buildings was pleasing to the eye, being quite as good, and sometimes superior, to the average good houses of those times. Superiority and inferiority can only go by comparison. A man who travels all over the country, and literally sees everything, cannot praise everything, for if everything is alike excellent in his eyes, then his judgment is worth nothing. There were towns, houses, and scenery which Kuerden admired, and others which he condemned. The great argument in favour of the justice of his judgment is that he made it, not from any hope of pecuniary gain, but from admiration, and genuine admiration or love has no pecuniary or prejudiced value. The majority of the buildings that he noticed in Wigan were fair, which, according to him, was a highly favourable opinion, but others in the town were actually sumptuous. He names the old aldermen and gives their addresses, and notes the striking appearance of their houses in Wallgate and Standishgate. The old stone bridge at the end of Millgate across the Douglas, which joined Scholes, or the scale-like street, which one had to scale or climb as a ladder, to Wigan, and the entrance of the post road from Winwick, he clearly depicts. The bridge had been built in the reign of Edward, and, like a primitive bridge in a garrison town, had been the scene of many a dreadful and deadly strife. Many of the old aldermen whom he names had taken an active interest in the wars of Wigan, and watched with keen eyes the history of events during the Commonwealth and the Restoration. They had all been young men at the time of the battle of Wigan Lane, and most of them had seen the great Cromwell when in the town, and had interesting tales to tell of their "malignant fathers" and of the stubborn siege of Lathom House, as well as the mournful appearance of the town on the evening of August 16th, 1657, when the body of the martyred Lord Derby rested in Wigan after the execution in Bolton. There were few, if any of them, who had not lost near and dear friends in those stirring times, but in the comparatively quiet interval the trade of the town had prospered. One can almost see the Millgate of those times. Immediately on passing the bridge was the toll-bar, where the Rector's tolls were collected on market days, and the fixed charges made for the use of the road for horses and cattle. On the left hand side were the two newly-erected spacious

houses of Bailiff Hayes, which one cannot recal without thinking of the prosperous calling of bailiff and the hazardous times of his myrmidons. One house is occupied by the bailiff himself and the other by the more aged Alderman Robert Forth, who presented to the Grammar School the well-carved oaken desk, still preserved there in good condition, although still further carved or disfigured by many a miscreant youth who has tried the metal of his knife on the oak of old England. Just outside the toll was "the fair-built house lately styled a college, with officers of learning belonging to it, but since violently pulled down, and the ruins thereof still remaining, but neither Romanist master nor scholars are left." On the right hand side of the town were stately houses, inhabited by the oppidan gentry. The first on the opposite side to, but higher up than, Bailiff Hayes was the excellent house of Alderman Leatherbarrow (mayor in 1678), and then the aged Alderman Ford, and next to that the physician of the town, Dr. Ratclif. These were the houses of the important dignitaries of the town in that street, which was, although within the demolished walls, the suburbs of the borough. Each of these houses had a spacious garden attached. Passing the Market Place on the left, at an angle of about 100 degrees, the next aristocratic street, Standishgate, was entered, and the first house that was there specially attractive was that of Justice Entwisel, a name still locally common, though differently spelt. His house and gardens were on the left, and opposite it, although close to the much-frequented Wheatsheaf Tavern of Mr. Pennington, was the comely and spacious house of the respected Mr. Alderman Baldwin, a name still common in Wigan. On the same side were several other houses of the city burgesses, including those of Alderman Jolley, Banks, and Lawyer Morts, who must have been the great friend of the poor to whom he gave advice gratis, and gave the closes called the "Throstle's Nest" or Baron's fields as an endowment of a charity to pay for the binding of apprentices, the sous of the poor of Wigan, since appropriated, with other charities, for the education of promising sons of the poor inhabitants. Then came the house of Colonel Daniels, a veteran soldier of the Commonwealth period, then those of Bailiffs Master and Legh and then Alderman Joliffe's, and last of all, within the destroyed walls, and on the lower hill, the newly-built and most spacious house of Alderman Baldwin, who then resided at the top of Standishgate, next the Market Place. On the rising ground, and on the same right hand side, was the Hall of Orrell, occupied by Alderman Heile, and opposite the house of Mrs. Sumner, in which lived Mr. Langton of Low, Lord of Hindley. The above-named Alderman Baldwin, who seems to have been a prosperous burgess, devised to his son and heirs the messuage in Standishgate, with the close at the back, called "Barker's Croft," and a close in Wigan called the "Pilly Toft," charging the said premises with an annuity of £3 with which to bind one poor boy

apprentice. The hall-manor now standing in Bishopsgate Street was the property of Alderman Markland, who devised certain lands in Broughton-in-Furness, called Angerton Marsh, for the use of the poor in Wigan. These, about 1706, were sold for £25, in consideration of the receipt of which sum one Ralph Banks, whose house was the third from the Wheat Sheaf in Standishgate, granted 20s. a year for the use and behoof of the poor of Wigan. In 1839 it was reported that no payment had been made from that charity for years.

The following description of Wigan by Kuerden about 1695 is printed as an original document in the first volume of Local Gleanings. In describing the post road from Warrington to Wigan, Kuerden proceeds:—"Thro' a more open coach-way, passing on upon the right, leave the Brin Gate, a private way leading to the antient Hall of Brin, and upon the left another road by Garswood to the Hall of Par (Parr), a seat belonging to the Byroms, and to St. Ellen's Chapel. Having left these two sidling roads, you pass by a fair gate, with round balls, leading to the Hall of Hawkley, very near the road, which belongeth to the antient family of the Molineuxs, of Hawkley. Then leaving, we thought a quarry, you pass over a place called Goose Green, leaving on the right two fair brick houses, then over a bridge or through a ford or rivulet called Smithy Brook, from an adjacent smithy. Having pass'd the brook you presently leave on the left another sidling road leading towards Holland, and on the right a fair built house call'd Lea Hall. Then passing northward half a mile you leave on the left the transverse public road from Ormskirk to Wigan, and, turning eastward, pass over the Dugles Water, at a fair stone bridge of 2 arches, call'd Adam Bridge, half a mile from Wigan; then over a flat bridge, call'd Pool Bridge, from a pool of water close by it. After this you enter into Wigan, and, passing the Wallgate Bars, you go by the Town Hall, under which is a meal-house, and leave on your right a fair built house belonging to Mr. Tatles, and on the left the church, and a street called Hallgate, at the end whereof stands a sumptuous building called The Parsonage, and beyond the further end of that street another fair hall, an antient seat belonging to the Marklands, antient aldermen of this burrough. Having passed the Market Place on the right is the Millgate, where comes in the other road from Winquic to Wigan."

In describing the post road from Wigan to Preston, Dr. Kuerden says:—"Having passed the Standish Gate Bars about a quarter of a mile, a little below a place called Mab Cross, on the right hand you pass a lane called Wild Lane End, leading towards Haigh Park. Having passed the Monument erected by Captain Alex. Rigby, sometime High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mayor and Alderman of Wigan, and Governor of Chester Castle, in memory of his colonel, Sir Thomas Tyldesley, who was there

slain, with Lord Witherington and many others, by Colonel L. (Lilburne's) regiment of horse. Having passed Standish you come to the Quakers," &c., &c.

In his description of the other parallel road from Winquic to Wigan, Dr. Kuerden remarks:—"Passing Clivedon Brook into the liberties of Wigan, half a mile from the town, you next enter the street call'd Scoles, from *Scala*, *Scale*, and after this the Miln Gate, over the Dugles, by a bridge of 2 arches. This part of Wigan is said to be within Makerfield, and a rent is yearly paid for respiting their appearance at the Barons' Court at Newton. Passing the Miln Bridge on the left-hand are two spacious new-built houses, one belonging to Bailiff Heyes, and the other to the late Alderman Rob. Forth, and without the bars a fair built house, lately styled a College, with officers of learning belonging to it, but since violently put down and the ruins thereof yet remaining, but neither Romanist master nor scholars are left. Entering the Miln Gate Street thro' the bars are divers stately houses on the right, the first belonging to Alderman Leatherbarrow, the 2d to Alderman Ford, the 3d to Dr. Ratcliff. Passing into the Standish Gate is a fair house, built by Mr. Case, and having entered Standish Gate on the left-hand a sumptuous house belonging to the late Justice Entwisel, and over against it a spacious and neat-built house by Mr. Alderman Baldwin. On the right-hand the Wheat Sheaf, belonging to Mr. Pennington; Mr. Alderman Jolley's, Alderm. Banks, Lawyer Mort's, a most learned and conscientious peacemaker of law differences without a fee taking; Colonel Daniels', and on the right-hand Mr. Bailiff Marten's, Mr. Bailiff Legh's, Mr. Alderman Joliffe's, new and fair built houses; but below the channel on the right is a most spacious house, new built by the aforesd. Alderman Baldwin. And above the channel the Hall of Orrul, now belonging to Mr. Alderman Herle; and on the left Mrs. Turner's, the present residence of Mr. Langton, of Low, lord of Hindley. In this town are four open streets, a large Market Place, with the old Town Hall, the common prison and butchers' shops under it. A spacious church, well adorn'd with monuments, and is remarkable for the steeple standing near the west end, which was occasioned by the re-edifying of the church, which was drawn back more westerly, and the old steeple left standing where it did."

The poor of Wigan of the present day consider the bailiffs their sworn foes, and treat them accordingly, but Wiganers of the seventeenth century held the same class of men in the deepest detestation. The gatewaiters of the town seemed to them to be mean spies, who had the power of making from door to door visitations, whereby they could pry into the very privacies of houses, which is at all times, and under any circumstances, objectionable to English tastes. Cases of assault and battery were not unusual, but these men were the servants of the town, and had to be protected, although sometimes their prerogatives as "limbs of the law" made

them transgressors on private rights. The greatest enemies of the householder, robbers, and spies always have been the women, and to be attacked by the loose tongues of lower class women and brickbats very few men have the hardihood to bear. So determined were the magistrates to protect these servants that it was made an offence at common law to apply opprobrious epithets to them. Before a jury in 1697 Margery Worsley and her two daughters and Martha Jackson were found guilty of assaulting Thomas Bond, a gatewaiter, and of applying to him the foul and opprobrious names of *runagate* and *rogue*, for which offence Margery and her two daughters were duly fined twelve pence apiece. By the same jury Elizabeth Holland was fined one shilling and eightpence for calling the gatewaiter, Adam Catterall, *base rogue* and *theife*. It appears from the same records that the gatewaiter, Nathaniell Halliwell, was assaulted by Raphe Bancks, who denied the charge, and accused the gatewaiter of assaulting him. Both cases were tried, and each, being in his turn found guilty, was fined one shilling and eightpence (Jury Trials for 1697). The following petition in 1685 was presented to the Common Council by a gatewaiter :—

To the Worth. the Major, Aldermen, and Comon Council now att this time assembled.

The humble peticon of James Wood, cov^{er}let weaver,

Sheweth,—That whereas your pet^r. was fined in Ten shillings for the neglect of his your pet^r. office of a Gatewaiter or Leavelooker, and for that the said fine estreated to six shillings and eight pence, and distress made and taken for the said fine, to your petitioner's great damage and Loss. And also sheweth that your petitioner was fined in xxs. att Michs. Leet last past. And which was estreated to thirteen and flourpence, to your pet^r. Losse.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays that the said distress may be restored and the said fines remitted, and your pet^r. will ever pray.

The Grand Jury List of the Court Leet held in August, 1697, consists of 102 names. Many of these were jurymen in several cases. Previous to the prosecutions proper the conduct of the gatewaiters themselves was taken into consideration, and the following is a copy of the hitherto unpublished tabulated account of the scrutiny :—

GATEWAITERS.

Market Street	{ Adam Catterall Cuthbert finch }	{ Wee fine them for a default and neglect of their office in 3s. 4d. apiece.
Halgate	{ John Rothwell Thomas Barrow }	{ Stet. Rothwell fined in 2s. Stet.
Walgate	{ James Baron Roger Taylor }	{ Fined in 3s. 4d. apiece. Stet.
Standishgate	{ Wm. ffarbrother Hugh fforth }	
Millgate	{ Robert Moss Thomas Taylor }	{ Fined in 2s. apiece. Stet.
Scoles	{ Gilbert Wood James ffarbrother }	{ Wee fine them for a default and neglect of their office in 3s. 4d. apiece. Stet.
Woodhouses	Raph Waite	Fined in 2s. Stet.

The cases tried before this Court have not hitherto been published, and are, therefore, given here in full. The book that contains them is an interesting historical heirloom, and the records of the trials show how strong was the protective spirit in Wigan. Particulars in each case are followed by the verdict or award of the Jury.

PRECEDED BY LIST OF JURY, &c.

Qui Dicunt.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wm. Farbrother,
Hugh Forth,
Gatewaiters.
Mct. ad. 20s.
Stet ordr. | } And that Daniell Swifte, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner, contr. et.
We fine him in fortye shillings, and order him to remove forthwith, upon paine
of fortye shillings p. month soe long as he doth continue. |
| Mct. ad. 20s.
Stet ordr. | } And that Anne Baldwine, widow, for harbouring of the said Daniell Swifte, contr. et.
Wee fine her, ye sd. Anne Baldwine, in forty shillings, and forty shillings p. month
soe long as she doth soe harbour ye sd. Dan. Swift. |
| Mct. ad. 20s.
Stet ordr. | } And that Nathaniell Sale, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner, contr. et.
Wee fine him in fortye shillings, and forty shillings p. month soe long as he doth
con. |
| Mct. ad. 20s.
Stet ordr. | } And that Thomas Worthington the elder, for harbouring the said Nathaniel Sale,
a fforaigner, contr. et.
Wee fine him in fortye shillings, and fortye shillings p. month soe long as hee doth
continue to harbour ye sd. Nath. Sale. |
| Mct. ad. 2s. | } And that Margery Scott, widow, for suffering one swyne to goe att large in the
streete foure severall times, contr. et.
Wee fine her in four shillings. |
| Mct. ad. 2s. | } And that Gilbert Letherbarrow, for the like, contr. et.
Wee fine him in foure shillings. |
| | } And that John Wilde, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner, contr. et.
Con. |
| | } And that Robert Worsley, for the like, contr. et.
Con. |
| | } And that Edward Hoile, Esq., for harbouring of the said Wilde and Worsley,
fforaigners, contr. et.
Con. |
| Mct. 20s. | } And that Elizabeth, the wife of James Roger, for inhabitting in this towne, being
a fforaigner, contr. et.
Wee fine her in 40s., and 40s. p. month soe long as she doth continue. |
| Mct. 20s.
Stet ordr. | } And that Henry Laithwaite, for harbouring of the said Elizabeth Roger, contr. et.
Wee fine him 40s., and order him to remove the said Elizabeth Roger upon paine
of 40s. p. month soe long as he doth continue to harbour her. |
| Ja. Baron,
Rog. Taylor,
Gatewaiters. | } And that Thomas Tatlocke, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner,
contr. et.
Con. |
| | } And that Thomas Butler, for harbouring of the said Thomas Tatlock, contr. et.
Con. |
| | } And that Charles Whiteley . . . for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner,
contr. et. |

- Mct. ad. 20s. Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. month soe long as he doth continue to inhabit in this towne.
- Mct. ad. 20s. And that Ellin Wainwright, for the like, contr. et.
Stet ordr. Wee fine her in 40s., and order her to remove forthwith.
- Mct. ad. 20s. And that Elizabeth Marsden, widow, for harbouring of the said Ellin Wainwright, a forraigner, contr. et.
Stet ordr. Wee fine her in 40s., and 40s. per month soe long as she doth continue to harbour ye sd. Ellin Wainwright.
- Mct. ad. 6s. And that John Waterson, for suffering three swyne to goe att large in the streete foure severall times, contr. et.
Wee fine him in 12s.
- Mct. ad. 2s. And that John Unsworth, for suffering one swyne to goe at large in the street foure severall times, contr. et.
Wee fine him in four shillings.
- Robert Mosse, }
Tho. Taylor, }
Gatewaiters. } And that Richard fezackerley, Ald. Reast, for harbouring of Elizabeth Callan, she being a forraigner and with child, cont. et.
Wee order him to remove ye sd. Elizabeth Callan forthwith, upon pain of 40s. per month soe long as he doth harbour ye sd. Elizabeth Callan.
- John Rothwell, }
Thos. Barrow, }
Gatewaiters. } And that Robert Hollinshead, brazier, for not setting upp and placing a gate and twoe gate stubbs in his close called the Westacres, for want thereof are pr. judiciall to all his neighbours.
Wee order him to get a suffitiant gate and two stubs as formerly hath been betwixt and the tenth of June next upon pain of forty shillings.
- 15th May, 1697. And that John Laithwaite, for suffering twoe swyne to goe att large in the streete one time, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 1s. Wee fine him in two shillings.
- Mct. ad. 1s. And that Margaret Leigh, widdow, for the like, contr. et.
Wee fine her in two shillings.
- Stet. And that Calvely Markeland, for not ditching his ditch betwixt the close called Myrie lean Meadows and the Myrie leane, haveing had notice to doe the same, contr. et.
Wee order him to ditch ye sd. ditch betwixt and the eighteenth of this instant upon paine of thirteen shillings and fourpence.
- Gilbert Wood, }
Ja. farbrother, }
Gatewaiters. } And that Edward Pemberton, for inhabitting in this towne, being a forraigner, contr. et.
Mct. ad. 20s. Wee fine him in 40s., and order him to remove forthwith, upon paine of 40s. p. month soe long as he doth con.
Stet ordr. And that Gilbert Ashton, for harbouring of the said Edward Pemberton, a forraigner, contr. et.
Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. month soe long as he doth continue to harbour ye sd. Edward Pemberton.
- And that Richard Duckeworth, the younger, for inhabitting in this towne, being a forraigner, contr. et.
- Con.

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- And that Richard Duckworth, the elder, for harbouring of the said Richard Duckworth, the younger, a forraigner, contr. et.
Con.
- And that Thomas Wood, for suffering three swyne to goe at large in the street three severall times, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 4s. 6d. Wee fine him in 9s.
- And that Jane ffarbrother, widow, for suffering twoe swyne to goe at large in the street two severall times, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 2s. Wee fine her in four shillings.
- And that Raphe Langshawe, dyer, for suffering one swyne to goe att large in the street twoe severall times, contr. et.
Quitt.
- And that James Langshawe the younger, for suffering one swine to goe at large in the street one time, contr. et.
Quitt.
- And that Alice Bancks the younger, for the like, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 6d. Wee fine her in one shilling.
- And that Catherine Glover, widow, for suffering her yard to lye downe betwixt her and Thomas ford, contr. et.
Con.
- And that Thomas ford Badder, for not dressing and cleanseing his house of office, the same being noysome to Catherine Glover, widow.
- Mct. ad. 3s. 4d. Wee fine him in 6s. and 8d.
- Adam Catterall, }
Nathaniell }
Halliwell, }
Gatewaiters. }
- And that Margery, the wife of Robert Worsley, and her 2 daughters, and Martha Jackson, for foule and approbrious words given to Thomas Bond (vizt.), *Bunagate, Rouge*, and for an assaulting the said Bond, contr. et.
Wee fine ye sd. Margery and her two daughters in twelvecence apeece.
- And that Raphe Bancks, for an assault and affray on Nathaniell Halliwell, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 10d. Wee fine him in 1s. and 8d.
- And that Nathaniel Halliwell, for the like on the said Raphe Bancks, contr. et.
- Mct. ad. 10d. Wee fine him in 1s. and 8d.
- And that Elizabeth, the wife of John Holland, for many foule and opprobrious words given to Adam Catterall (vidlet), *base rogue and theife, &c.*
- Stet. Wee fine her in 1 & 8d.
- 10th of Aprill, 1697. Adjourned untill this day ffornight.
- Hugh fford, }
Wm. ffarbrother, }
Gatewaiters. }
- And that Margaret and Mary Walthow, for inhabitting in this towne, being forraigners, contr. et.
Wee fine them in 40s., and 40s. p. mounth soe long as they continue.
- And that Richard Holme, for harbouring of the said Margaret and Mary Walthow, forraigners, contr. et.
Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. mounth soe long as he harbours them.
- And that Henry Laithwaite, for keeping of a grayhound, not being qualified, contr. et.

- Stet. Wee fine him in 3s. & 4d.
 And that Margaret ffooster, widdow, for the like, contr. et.
- Stet. Wee fine her in 3s. 4d.
- Stet. fine. And that James Young, for the like, contr. et.
- Stet. ordr. Wee fine him in 3s. 4d., and for non-payment thereof to sitt in ye stocks att ye
 Markett Cross 3 hours.
 And that Raphs Bancks, for the like, contr. et.
- Traverse. Wee fine him in 3s. 4d.
 And that Richard Naylor, for keeping of a setting dogg, not being quallified,
 contr. et.
- Stet. Wee fine him in ten shillings.

Ten other cases go by default or the accused are discharged.

The following orders were made by the same Jury:—

Wee doe order the overseers of the high ways for the Woodhouses to make a good foot bridge, with a raile and sloop, over the brooke call'd Barneley Brooke, in the high lane neare unto Alderman Markland's house, before midsomer next; or if Alderman Markland doe cause the said bridge to be done, hee to have the charge thereof allowed him in his Leys for ye high ways untill hee shall be reinburst for the same.

And wee doe likewise order ye occupiers of the great Trump^m field to fix and repaire ye bridge lying betwixt ye sd. close and a close belonging to Mr. William Daniell, called the Page Field, before midsomer next, upon paine of 13s. 4d.

Wee doo order that ye late overseers of ye town's mill, Miln Forde and Miln finch, doe upon Satturday, ye twenty-nynth instant May, att four of o'clock, in ye Town's Hall, make their accompts unto so many of this Jury as doe then and there appear, and pay in what money they have in their hands unto Mr. Gilbert forde, ye floreman, upon paine of £5.

Ordered that the present bailiffes doe pay unto Gerard Banck, Church Clark, out of their next Leys three pounds for tending the clock and ringing of Nynne* (p'vided y^t hee grind all his malt at ye town's mill).

In the time of George I. there was drawn up, direct from the minutes of the Court Leet from 1640 to the tenth year of George I., a summary of the elections of burgesses and transactions of the Court. In itself the paucity of the members elected is sufficient to show the Conservative spirit that has down to modern times adhered to the town. The summary—hitherto unpublished—is as follows:—

Michaelmas Leet, held before James Mollineux, Maior, 3rd Octr., 1640, was adjourned from that time to the 8th of Octr., and from then to ye 22nd of the same October.

Att Easter Leet, held 8th May, 17th Carol. primi, six burgesses were elected, viz., John Harvey, Thomas Patrick, James Astley, James Rigbye, Henry Mason, R. Legh (all dead since).

Att the same Leet, it being required of the Jury by the Mayor to elect four aldermen, it appears that four aldermen were then elected, viz., Mr. Alxr. fford, Lawrence Lord, James Scott, and Edward Lloyd.

Att Easter Leet, held 9th May, 1650, one burgess was elected, viz., James Banks (but since dead).

Att Easter Leet, held 23rd Apr., 1652, eleven burgesses were elected (dead).

* Eight has first been entered here and scratched out, and no doubt refers to the ringing of the Curfew Bell.—(D. S.)

Michaelmas Leet, held 6th Oct., 1655, was adjourned from that time until Tuesday, the 23rd of that instant October.

Michaelmas Leet, held 4th Oct., 1656, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 23rd of that instant October.

Michaelmas Leet held 4th October, 1656, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 23rd of that instant October.

16th October, 1656, Peter Adlington, Esq., sworn an in-burgesse by the mayor without election, only the approbation of the aldermen and burgesses as *then stood*.

Michaelmas Leet, held 3rd October, 1657, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 22nd of the same October; and at the same time a majority of the whole Jury did not appear upon the last case.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 10th Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 23rd of the same October.

Easter Leet, held 20th April, 1661, was adjourned to the 8th May (. . . ?) and 4 aldermen were elected at this Leet, viz., Sir Roger Bradahaigh, Knight, Col. Wm. Daniel, Mr. Ralph Markland, and Mr. Matthew Markland; and 20 burgesses were also elected at the same time (but all dead).

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 1661, was adjourned from that time to Tuesday, the 21st of the same October.

Michaelmas Leet, held 4th October, 1662, was adjourned from that time to the 23rd of that instant, and thence to the 25th of that instant.

Easter Leet, held 25th April, 1663, 9 burgesses were re-elected, whereof there is only one living, viz., Mr. Adam Bancks (underlined and marked in margin, *if living!*); and amongst those elected was 2 who lived in Haigh, viz., one James Partington and one Thomas Turner, elected in-burgesses.

At Easter Leet, held 1st April, 1665, no majority of the Jury appeared upon the last call.

Mich. Leet, held 6th October, 1666, was adjourned from that time until Monday, the 8th of the same October, at 8 o'clock, and from thence to the 25th of the same October.

Easter Leet, held 13th April, 1666, adjourned from that time to Saturday, the 20th of yt instant, and thence to the 8th of May then next.

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 1670, was adjourned from that time until Monday, the 3rd of the same October, and thence to Saturday, ye 22nd of the same month.

Easter Leet, held 29th April, 23rd Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 13th of May then next.

Mich. Leet, held last of September, 23rd Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 21st of the same month, and thence to ye 28th of the same month, and thence to the 4th of November.

At a Session, held in 1671, John Baldwin was (upon his petition) elected and sworn a burgesse, as also were Mr. Law. Anderton (dead).

Michaelmas Leet, held 5th October, 1672, was adjourned from that time to the 24th of the same month, and thence to the 26th of the same instant.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 26th Carol., 2di., adjourned from that time to the 22nd, and thence to the 26th of the same month.

At a Session or Meeting day, 19th December, 26th Carol., 2di., two burgesses were elected.

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 30th Carol., 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 21st, and thence to the 23rd of the same instant.

Att Easter Leet, held 6th April, 30th Carol., 2di., 14 burgesses were elected, of which there are only 3 living, viz., Mr. Browne (blank) and John Rowe.

Easter Leet, held 26th April, 31st Carol., 2di., was adjourned from that time to Thursday, then next come severnights, thence to the 22nd of May, thence to the 14th of June.

Mich. Leet, held 4th October, 36th Carol., 2di., 1684. The Jury elected 14 burgesses, of which only 4 of them are now living, viz., William Baldwin, pewterer, James Leyland, tanner, William fford, and Thomas Locke; and also at the same time elected 3 aldermen (since dead). And also upon the petition of William Rollin the Jury elected him a Burgess, paying ten pounds, remitting all other fines.

26th October, 1689, Sir Richard Standish and William Banks, Esq., elected aldermen (since dead).

At Mich. Leet, 5th October, 10th William and Marie, the Jury fined Ralph Deane and (?) in 5 guineas apiece for not coming in to be sworn burgesses, being formerly elected, of which number 15 came in and were sworn, and of which 6 only are now living, viz., Robt. Hollinshead, Wm. Baldwin, pewterer, James Langshaw the elder, Wm. fford, and Wm. Banks.

Att Easter Leet, held 26th of Aprill, 1690, 27 burgesses were elected, whereof 8 only are now living, viz., John Sumner, Wm. fford, Mr. John Markland, Ra. Deane, dyer, James Leyland, Hum. Legh, Thomas Mollineux, and Ralph Baldwin. At the same time Peter Shackerley, Esq., was elected an alderman.

25th Ocr., 1690, Peter Shakerley, Esq., re-elected an alderman.

27th June, 1691.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd Oct., 1691, was adjourned to the 24th of Oct., thence to the 7th of Nov. then next, and from thence to that day sevensnight.

At Easter Leet, held 2nd Aprill, 4th William and Mary, two aldermen were elected, viz., Mr. Gerard fford and Thomas fford (since dead), and the Court was adjourned thence to that day sevensnight, viz., ye 9th, and thence to that day sevensnight (viz., 16th), at which time twelve burgesses were elected, of which three only are living, viz., William Langshaw, junr., Richard Heyes, and Robert ffoester, and was adjourned from thence to the 7th of May then next, and thence till Saturday next before the feast of St. John Baptist.

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 4th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 8th of that instant, and thence to the Saturday after the faire (viz., 22nd), and thence to Tuesday the next following, at which time Thomas fford was elected alderman (dead).

Mich. Leet, held 30th September, 5th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 5th of November.

Easter Leet, held 22nd April, 5th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 29th of the same Aprill, and from thence to that day fortnight (viz., 13th of May), and thence to the 29th of that May.

Mich. Leet, 6th October, 6th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time till that day fortnight (viz., 20th October), and from thence to that day sevensnight (viz., 27th), and thence to the 31st, and thence till Saturday then next following.

Easter Leet, held 14th April, 6th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 21st of Aprill, thence to the 5th of May next after.

Easter Leet, held 18th April, 8th William 3rd, was adjourned from that time to that day three weeks, and three aldermen were then elected, of which only one is living, viz., Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Bart.

Easter Leet, held 10th April, 9th William the 3rd, was adjourned from that time till that day fortnight.

Mich. Leet, held 2nd October, 1697, was adjourned from that time to ye 23rd of October, and thence to the 6th of November following, when the Jury elected 3 aldermen, viz., Wm. Daniel, Esq., Wm. Gilbert fford, son of Thomas, and Mr. John Markland (the last only living).

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 1698, was adjourned from that time and place to Wm. Smith's, thence to the Town Hall, thence to the 8th of October then instant, thence to the 22nd of the then instant, at which 26 burgesses were elected, of which only 11 are living, viz., John Bullock, Thos. Langshaw,

Ra. Ashton, James Banks, son of Catherine, James Hollingshead, Peter Green, George Mawdesley, Tho. Lythgoe, Peter Platt, Richard Barns, and James Layland.

At the same Court Mr. Anthony Hilton was elected a burgesse upon payment of £8, and Mr. Gilbert ford and Mr. John Markland were now also elected aldermen.

Easter Leet, held 30th April, 10th Will 3rd, was adjourned from yt time to the 21st of May then next, thence to the 18th of June, thence to the 12th of July, thence to the 6th of August, thence to ye 15th of August, thence to the 5th of September, thence to the 12th of September, thence to the 19th of September, thence to the 23rd of September.

Mich. Leet, held 30th September, Wm. 3rd, was adjourned from yt time till Monday, ye 2nd of October, from thence to Saturday fortnight, at which time 9 burgessees were elected, of which four only are living, viz., Thos. Legh, Christopher Brown, James Walton, and Gilbt. Longshaw, son of James.

Easter Leet, 6th April, 12th Wm. 3rd, was adjourned from that time till that day three weeks, viz., 27th of April, and thence for 3 weeks longer.

At Mich. Leet, held 4th October, 13th Wm. 3rd, six burgessees were elected, of wch. only two are living, viz., Gilbert Hollingshead and Matthew Rosbottam.

Easter Leet, held 11th April, 1st Anne, adjourned from that time till Saturday then next after Michaelmas.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 1st Anne, was adjourned from thence till Saturday then next, thence to that day fortnight.

Easter Leet, held 3rd April, 2nd Anne, was adjourned from that time till the 15th of May then next, when 14 burgessees were elected, of wch. only 8 are now living, viz., Wm. Robt. Holt, Robt. Wakefeild, Thomas Latham, son of John, James Lord, Thomas Leatherbarrow, son of James, Wm. Ralph Winstanley, and Hugh Platt. At Mich. Leet, 2nd October, 2nd Anne, his election was confirmed, and for clearing all doubts concerning it the same (?) were re-elected.

Att Easter Leet, held 23rd April, 3rd Anne, the Court was adjourned from that time to the 6th of May then next, thence to the Saturday next after the fair, thence to the 15th of June, thence to the 4th of July, thence to the 5th of August, at which time 14 burgessees were elected, of wch. only 8 are living, viz., Henry Fleetwood, Thomas Kearsley, George Winstanley, Mr. Edward Mondy, Ra. Green, son of Robert, Richard Leatherbarrow, son of James, Robt. Hollingshead, son of Robt., Hugh forth, son of Alexr. 2 aldermen were also then elected, viz., Geo. Kenyon, Esq., Mr. Robt. Hollingshead (both living).

Easter Leet, held 30th March, 5th Anne, was adjourned from that time to the 13th of April.

Easter Leet, held 10th April, 7th Anne, 10 burgessees elected, of wch. only 7 are living, viz., James, son of Adam Banks, James Acton, James Browne, Robt. Hollingshead, son of John, Robert Locker, son of Thomas, Mr. Calvert, and Mr. Owen.

Mich. Leet, 2nd October, 7th Anne, 6 burgessees were elected, and are all living, viz., Mr. Wm. Hayhurst, Mr. Ra. Peters, Wm. Rogerson, Thomas Langshaw, son of James, John Nightingale, Wm. fairbrother, son of Richard.

Easter Leet, held 30th April, 8th Anne, 8 burgessees were elected, upon paying 3 guineas apiece, of which only 6 are living, viz., John Rigby, Thomas Mather, Thomas Serjeant, James Hodgkinson, Peter Winstanley, and Wm. Glazebrook.

Easter Leet, held 15th April, 9th Anne, 14 burgessees were elected, of which 7 only are living, viz., Tho. fairclough, Richd. Monks, Roger Grimshaw, et Little Roger, John fairclough, Thomas Rothwell, Wm. Leyland, son of James, and John Walmesley, junr.

Easter Leet, held 26th April, 11th Anne, was adjourned from that time to ye 10th May, thence till that day 3 weeks.

Mich. Leet, held 4th October, 11th Anne, 9 burgessees were elected, of which 6 only are living, viz., Jonathan Johnson, Ra., son of Adam Banks, L. Ashton, Mr. Richd. (MS. decayed), Wm., son of Thomas Langshaw, and John Carter.

Mich. Leet, held 2nd October, 1st George I., was adjourned from that time till the 22rd of that instant, when 3 burgesses were elected, viz., James Wood, weaver in Millgate, William Higham, and John Leyland, haberdasher (all living).

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 4th George I., one burgess was elected, viz., Mr. James Tempest, now living, and 2 aldermen, one being alive viz., Mr. James Browne.

Easter Leet, held 4th April, 5th George I., was adjourned from that time till that day three weeks.

Att Easter Leet, held 23rd April, 6th George I., upon the resignation of Mr. Shackerley, one alderman was unanimously elected, viz., Roger Bradshaigh, Esq. ; and 6 burgesses were then also elected, viz., Christopher Baldwin, Thomas Parr, Mr. John Richardson, Richard, son of William fairbrother, Richard Hoolon, and James Ascroft.

At Easter Leet, held 15th April, 7th Geo., 5 burgesses were elected, of wch. 3 are living, viz., Mr. John Baldwin, Ra. Baldwin, son of Christopher, and Thomas Whalley.

Easter Leet, held 30th March, 8th George I., was adjourned from that time till the 5th of May then next.

Att Easter Leet, held 20th April, 9th Geo., the Court was adjourned from that time till that day 3 weeks ; adjourned from thence for one week, when 3 aldermen were elected, viz., John Baldwin, gent., James, Earl of Barrimore, Thomas Willis, Esq. (all living).

At Easter Leet, held 11th April, 10th George I., one alderman was elected, viz., Mr. James Tempest (living).

Nicholas Stratford had been presented to the living in Wigan and the bishopric of Chester in 1689 by the trustees of Sir Orlando Bridgeman. He died on the 12th February, 1706-7, and was buried at Chester, and on his memorial tombstone there there is to be seen the following inscription :—

Nicholas Stratford, S.T.P., Natus est Hempstead, in com. Hartf., anno 1633. Factus est Coll. S.S. Trinitatis Oxon, Socius, 1656. Collegii Christi apud Mancunium in com. Lancastriæ Guardianus, 1667. Sanctæ Margarietæ Leicestriæ, in Eocl. Lincoln. Prebendarius, 1670. Ecclesiæ Asaphensis Decanus, 1673. In ecclesia de Aldermanbury Lond. Concionator, 1683. Ecclesiæ de Wigan Rector et Cestriæ Episcopus, 1689. Mortuus est 12mo die Februarii, 1706-7. Ex vitâ per 18 annos hic sanctissime instituta memoriam sui reliquit omni marmore perenniorem, Reformatum fidem eruditus contra Pontificios Scriptis strenue asseruit. Ecclesiæ defensor prius quam pater. Illorum quos adeptus est honorum nullos ambit ; nonnullos sponte deposuit. Divitiarum adeo erat non cupidus, ut post 40 annos inter dignitates Ecclesiasticas exactos rem sibi relictam non solum non auxerit, sed in Fuendis Ecclesiæ ipsi creditæ juribus eam libentissime imminuerat. Morum simplicitate, charitate in omnes. Pietate in Deum erat plane primævâ. Episcopali munus eâ fide administravit, ut qui ordinem non agnoscerent, virum faterent esse revera apostolicum. Laboribus magis quam annis fractus occubruit, a Christo, cui solo serviebat, promissum dispensatori fido præmium laturus. *Gulielmus Stratford, S.T.P.*, filius unicus, Archi-Diaconus Richmondæ, Ædis Christi, apud Oxon Canonicus, Optimi Patri.